



— WA WOMEN'S —
HALL OF FAME

2024

WA WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME



WALGA

PRODUCTION PARTNER

Cultural warning: This document includes names of people that may cause sadness and distress to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples'



WA WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME 2024 COMMEMORTIVE BOOKLET PRODUCTION PARTNER

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

The Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) is proud to partner with the WA Women's Hall of Fame in the production of this 2024 commemorative booklet.

WALGA exists to deliver better outcomes for WA Local Governments and their communities.

We know that success in our sector relies on diverse and inclusive leadership across the 139 Local Governments in the State.

Women have always played a vital part in that leadership, but their impact has not always been acknowledged; it wasn't until 1975 for example, that Evelyn Parker became the first female mayor (in

Subiaco). But I'm pleased to say that her trailblazing led the way for many more in the decades since.

In last year's local elections, 40% of all those standing to become Councillors were women, and we now have 48 female Mayors or Presidents in the State.

Elevating the stories and achievements of our female leaders is vital in inspiring future generations to contribute to our communities, in whatever shape that may take. As President of WALGA, and as a female President myself, I am proud to help shine a light on our women leaders, and to support them in achieving their aspirations.



Cr Karen Chappel AM JP
President WALGA



WA WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME 2024 COMMEMORTIVE BOOKLET PRODUCTION PARTNER

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMITTEE

The WA Women's Hall of Fame acknowledges Aboriginal people as the traditional custodians of these lands, their unique cultural and spiritual relationships to the land, waters and seas, and rich contribution to Western Australia.

First established in 2011 in recognition of the Centenary of International Women's Day, this acknowledgement ceremony is still held annually to celebrate IWD, standing as a flagship West Australian event.

Our purpose is to recognise and celebrate the social, economic, historical, scientific, cultural, and political achievements of women, who have helped to build this great State.

The WA Women's Hall of Fame now stands as an incredible record of the diversity in life for women around Western Australia and their leadership.

The recognition of women through this event encourages and empowers the community to be progressive and persuasive in advancing the status of women in society, helping to foster greater respect for women, and progress the conversation for gender equity.

This is a reason to celebrate, and we thank our valued sponsors, partners, and supporters, without whom, this would not be possible.

We are delighted to introduce you to the 2024 WA Women's Hall of Fame Inductees.



Fiona Reid, Chairperson
WA Women's Hall of Fame



WA WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME
2024 INDUCTEES

Arts	Jessica Gethin
Arts	Kankawa Nagarra
Business	Esme Bowen
Business	Libby Lyons
Community	Dr. Sandy Chong PhD
Community	Rachael Hain
Culture	Di (Dianne) Ryder OAM
Culture	Sandy Dann
Education	Associate Professor Lorraine Hammond AM
Education	Rebecca Prince-Ruiz OAM
Health	Emeritus Professor Elizabeth Rakoczy PhD
Health	Sue Morey OAM
Sport	Celia Waugh
Sport	Colleen Kluwen
STEM	Captain Carol Dooley
STEM	Emeritus Professor Carolyn Oldham
Roll of Honour	Katharine Susannah Prichard
Roll of Honour	Mary (Mollie) Louise Skinner
Roll of Honour	Dr. Rosemary van den Berg PhD
Roll of Honour	Dr. Judyth Watson OAM



WA WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME 2024 INDUCTEES



Jessica Gethin

CONDUCTOR, EDUCATOR, PRESENTER & AMBASSADOR

Award-winning conductor Jessica performs internationally with orchestras, moving effortlessly between core symphonic works to mainstage ballet, opera, and film score. Jessica is Principal Conductor of the West Australian Ballet and Head of Orchestral Studies and Conducting at WAAPA. A fierce advocate for women in music, Jessica is Ambassador for Perth Symphony's Women on the Podium initiative.

Photographer: Karen Wheatland

Arts category proudly sponsored by RTRFM 92.1



Kankawa Nagarra

ARTIST AND TEACHER

Kankawa is a Gooniyandi, Walmajarri Bunaba woman, a Respected Elder, teacher and international blues and gospel singer-songwriter who performs in Walmatjarri, Kimberley Kriol, English, and the known languages of her area. Her music carries an underlying message she wishes to share with the world: that of protecting the environment and connecting families to their traditional land.

Photographer: First Block Sounds

Arts category proudly sponsored by RTRFM 92.1



WA WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME
2024 INDUCTEES



Esme Bowen

DEPUTY CHAIR, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, AND INDUSTRY WA

With 30+ years background in nursing, caring, disability, and volunteering, Esme has significantly contributed to the business of for-purpose sectors for over 35 years. She is recognised for her outstanding impact as a WA Director and awarded the 2023 Director Award for the Excellence in the WA Not-for Profit Sector, by the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Photographer: Karen Wheatland

*Business category proudly presented by
the Department of Communities WA*



Libby Lyons

NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

An experienced executive, with decades of leadership in corporate affairs and issues-based advocacy, Libby brings strong regulatory and governance experience and a deep understanding of diversity and inclusion to her roles. As Director of the Workplace Gender Equality Agency, she actively promoted the business case for gender equality in Australian workplaces for the betterment of all.

Photographer: Karen Wheatland

*Business category proudly presented by
the Department of Communities WA*



WA WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME
2024 INDUCTEES



Dr. Sandy Chong PhD

**LEADER, EDUCATOR, BUSINESSWOMAN,
FOUNDER, CHANGEMAKER**

Dr Chong is a changemaker who is dedicated to advancing women's empowerment. She is committed to creating opportunities for women to thrive personally and professionally by raising funds on an annual basis for organisations such as UN Women, UN Association of WA, Special Olympics Australia, RUAH Community Service, and Zonta House Refuge.

Photographer: Karen Wheatland

*Community category proudly sponsored by
Family Access Services*



Rachael Hain

**CO-FOUNDER DRESS FOR SUCCESS
WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

Driven by her passion for advancing the status of women, Rachael co-founded Dress for Success Western Australia, a global movement of change to empower women. This grassroots charity with 85+ volunteers, provides professional clothing, career development workshops, and one-to-one job-readiness support to women through its Subiaco-based 'boutique', and through its regional and remote outreach program.

Photographer: Karen Wheatland

*Community category proudly sponsored by
Family Access Services*



WA WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME
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Di Ryder OAM

RESPECTED NOONGAR ELDER

Former Australian Army Non-Commissioned Officer, Dianne Ryder OAM is a Respected Noongar Elder who has dedicated her life to serving her community and promoting reconciliation. She has been a part of many committees, boards and programs that aim to improve the lives of Aboriginal Peoples' and involve Non-Aboriginal People in their culture and history.

Photographer: Karen Wheatland

Culture category proudly sponsored by IGO Ltd



Sandy Dann

RADIO BROADCASTER

Sandy Dann is a Nyul Nyul woman born and raised in Broome, and her country is the Dampier Peninsula. As a child she contracted congenital Rubella leaving her vision impaired, but despite limited eyesight, Sandy achieved her Advanced Diploma in Broadcast Journalism. In 2022, she celebrated 30+ years in radio, supporting community, and culture.

Photographer: Coolarri Media Enterprises

Culture category proudly sponsored by IGO Ltd



WA WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME
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*Associate Professor
Lorraine Hammond AM CF*

TEACHER LITERACY

Professor Hammond has served the WA community for all her life. As a teacher her moral compass was piqued early when she met adolescents who could not read. This motivated her to dedicate her career to evidence-based reading instruction which resulted in changes to how universities prepare teachers.

Photographer: Karen Wheatland

*Education category proudly sponsored by
Edith Cowan University*



Rebecca Prince-Ruiz OAM

**FOUNDER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
PLASTIC FREE JULY**

Rebecca Prince-Ruiz is the founder of a leading global social change movement, which grew from a grassroots initiative that began in Perth in 2011. Her vision of a world without plastic waste led to a global movement, and public education awareness campaigns, involving millions of people and organisations taking action to reduce single-use plastic in 190 countries.

Photographer: Trev Hill Photography

*Education category proudly sponsored by
Edith Cowan University*



WA WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME
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*Emeritus Professor
Elizabeth Rakoczy PhD*

MOLECULAR BIOLOGIST

Hungarian-born molecular biologist Professor Rakoczy founded the Department of Molecular Ophthalmology at the Lions Eye Institute and was the first in Australia to apply molecular techniques to investigate eye diseases. Her group developed the gene therapy treatment for wet Age-Related Macular Degeneration. Elizabeth received the prestigious CSL Florey Medal in 2017 for her achievements.

*Photographer: Karen Wheatland
Health category proudly sponsored by
St John of God Health Care*



Sue Morey OAM

**NURSE PRACTITIONER
RESPIRATORY MEDICINE**

Nurse Sue Morey's career has many firsts including being the youngest charge nurse at her time of appointment, and the first nurse practitioner in respiratory medicine in Australia. She holds a Bachelor of Health Sciences and a Graduate Diploma in Clinical Specialisation (Nurse Practitioner) and has been actively involved in research in her field of respiratory medicine.

*Photographer: Karen Wheatland
Health category proudly sponsored by
St John of God Health Care*



WA WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME
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Celia Waugh

LIFE MEMBER SURF LIFESAVING WA

Celia Waugh has been involved in the surf lifesaving movement in WA at the highest level for more than 30 years. She was awarded a Life Membership in her local Albany Club, and Surf Lifesaving WA for her years of service and passion for education and training in surf lifesaving.

Photographer: Karen Wheatland

*Sport category proudly sponsored by the
Department of Local Government, Sport and
Cultural Industries*



Colleen Kluwen

AEROBICS AND CALISTHENICS PIONEER

Colleen is a pioneer, and a trailblazer for both the sports of Aerobics and Calisthenics. As a foundation coach of Calisthenics, she was instrumental in taking WA to the top of the sport in the 1960's, then moved into Aerobics where she dedicated 50-years, teaching, and mentoring.

Photographer: Karen Wheatland

*Sport category proudly sponsored by the
Department of Local Government, Sport and
Cultural Industries*



WA WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME
2024 INDUCTEES



Captain Carol Dooley

FOREIGN-GOING UNLIMITED SHIP MASTER, PILOT AND MARINE MANAGER

Carol has had the courage to go where other women had not previously ventured in the male dominated maritime industry. She was the first female International Ship Master from WA, working as a Foreign-Going Unlimited Ship Master, Pilot, and Marine Manager. In 2014 Carol was appointed as a Director of the Board of the Australian Maritime College.

Photographer: Karen Wheatland

*STEM & Technical Trades category proudly sponsored
by IGO Ltd*



Emeritus Professor Carolyn Oldham

TEACHER ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

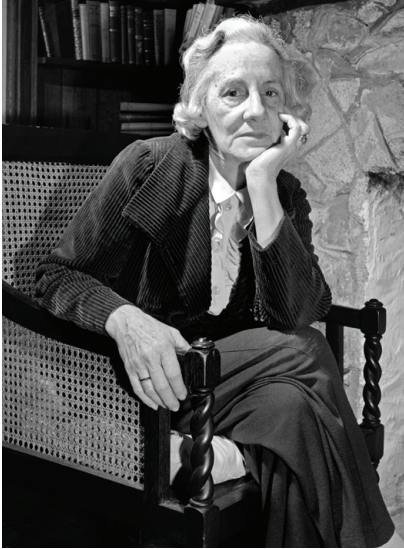
Emeritus Professor Carolyn Oldham has made sustained contributions to preventing surface and groundwater water contamination. Working at the interface between industry and university, Carolyn has specialised in cross-disciplinary research in environmental engineering. She has won national awards in engineering education and for 15 years has led UWA's gender equity initiatives.

Photographer: Karen Wheatland

*STEM & Technical Trades category proudly sponsored
by IGO Ltd*



WA WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME
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*Katharine Susannah
Prichard (1883-1969)*

AUTHOR

Katharine Prichard was one of the most significant Australian novelists of the inter-war period and beyond. Described in 1928 in an influential British journal as 'Australia's greatest living novelist', she was Western Australia's first major writer, taking WA to world literature. Her success was reflected in her nomination for the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1951.

*Photograph: D. Glass, 1949,
National Archives of Australia*

*Roll of Honour proudly sponsored by the
Metropolitan Cemeteries Board*



*Mary (Mollie) Skinner
(1876-1955)*

AUTHOR

Mollie Skinner was a woman of independent thought and courage who lived her life dedicated to the service of others. She was also a WA author best known for the novels "The Boy in the Bush" co-authored with D.H. Lawrence, and "Black Swans." Her stories were drawn from her work as an outback nurse and midwife.

Photograph: State Library of Queensland

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Dr. Rosemary van den Berg PhD (1939-2022)

**NURSE, ACADEMIC, AUTHOR,
UNIVERSITY LECTURER**

Dr Rosemary van den Berg is a Nyoongar/Palyku (East Pilbara) woman. She was one of the most remarkable and accomplished Aboriginal Elders in WA. Devoted to her family as the Matriarch of a large, tight knit family of five generations, Rosemary was the first Nyoongar woman to graduate with a PhD from Curtin University.

Photograph: van den Berg Family Collection

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Metropolitan Cemeteries Board*



Dr. Judyth Watson OAM (1940-2023)

POLITICIAN

Dr. Watson was a voice for the vulnerable. She was a pioneer of significant reforms to Workers' Compensation, Occupational Health, and Safety Legislation in the West Australian Parliament prior to her election. She served in the Legislative Assembly for more than a decade. Dr Watson helped establish women's health projects including Breastscreen (WA).

Photograph: © Western Australian Parliament

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STRATEGIC PLAN SUMMARY 2023-2026

VISION

WA Women's Hall of Fame's vision is to recognise, promote and celebrate WA Women

PURPOSE

As stated in the Model Rules for the WA Women's Hall of Fame (WA WHOF) 2017, the objects of the Association are:

1. To recognise and promote the contribution of women to Western Australia
2. To celebrate women's contribution to WA through the WA Women's Hall of Fame
3. To advance gender equality through advocacy and collaboration
4. To provide a platform for the ongoing contribution of the WA Women's Hall of Fame Alumni to the advancement of gender equality

KEY RESULT AREAS

Annual recognition of new inductees into the Hall of Fame

GOAL: Highlight and celebrate women's contribution to WA through induction into the WA Women's Hall of Fame

Community awareness and engagement about the contribution of women to Western Australia

GOAL: Raise the profile of the Hall of Fame as a primary source of information about women's achievements

Organisational development

GOAL: Achieve good governance and strong business practices that enable activity throughout the year

For more details visit www.wawomenshalloffame.com.au



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The WA Women's Hall of Fame would like to thank our 2024 Commemorative Booklet.
Production Partner WALGA.



WALGA

Thank you to all our supporters, partners, and sponsors



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Communities**

**BROOKFIELD
PLACE**



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