



PRIME MINISTER

PRESS STATEMENT NO. 462

7 March 1975

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR

The Prime Minister will give the opening address at an International Women's Day reception to be held in Melbourne tomorrow night.

The function will begin at 7.30 p.m. in the Melbourne Custom House Ballroom.

It is in honour of Victorian women pioneers in many fields of endeavour formerly the province of men.

They include Dr J. Daws, first woman President-elect of the A.M.A.; Ms N. Preston, first woman bus conductor; Rev. C. Ling, first woman ordained in Methodist Church and Rev. M. Thalheiver, first woman ordained in Presbyterian Church; Ms A. Polis, first woman editor of a suburban newspaper; Ms K. Polgrase, first woman apprentice motor-mechanic and Ms K. Perrin, first woman Governor of Fairlea Women's Prison.

A full list of notable Victorian women "firsts" is available from the P.M.'s Press Office.

CANBERRA, A.C.T.

NAMES OF FIRSTS in numerous fields - for PRESS RELEASE - INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION TO BE HELD - CUSTOM HOUSE BALLROOM- MARCH 8th. at 7.30 pm.

M E D I C A L

DR. LORNA SISLEY: 1st woman to be admitted as a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons as a general Surgeon in Victoria.
(24-6860) 1st. and only woman to be awarded Craig Travelling Scholarship of Royal Australian College of Surgeons. Only woman member of Urological Society of Australasia. Now Senior Surgeon of Queen Victoria Hospital.
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Dr. J. DAVIS 1st. woman President-elect, Aust. Medical Association

P R E S S

(cannot attend-sending message)

Miss M. Maxwell 1st 'Women's Section Editor Melbourne Herald (98 years old -crippled)
Ms. A. Polis 1st. Women Editor - Suburban Newspaper (Melbourne Times)
(419-3037)

E D U C A T I O N

Ms. N. Findley 1st woman Fullbright Scholarship award in Victoria & most likely Australia. Now Principal Emily McPherson School of Domestic Economy.
(58-4659) (h)
.....
Dr. E. MESSER First Ph.d. Now employed Dept of Labour - Librarian.
(63-0361) (w) 96-5624 (h)
Ms.K.Grant-Stevenson 1st.Principal Co-ed Secondary School (Collingwood High School)
(328-1796)

I N D U S T R I A L

Ms. T. Prior Shop Steward I.C.I. for 26 years.
Ms. Y. Smith 1st Claims Officer - Butchers Union - only one known in Vic.
Ms. D. Sonenberg 1st woman Secretary - Insurance Staff Association, only one known Vic.
(38-5056) (h)
Ms. M. Tipping 1st ^{woman} Personell Officer - Cyclone Factory 1950's
(24.7133) (h) 1st. ^{woman} Vice-Pres. then Pres. Royal Historical Society (Vic.)
Ms. A. Newton 1st. Woman Conductor Trams (prefer no interviews)
Ms.N. Preston 1st. Woman Conductor (Buses)
(29-6485)
Ms. A. Morton 1st. woman bus cleaner Fitzroy Depot
Ms. N. Owens 1st. woman timber worker still employed Bruthen Vic.
Ms. M. Henderson 1st woman Concrete Technologist
Ms. M. Fegan 1st woman Overhead Electrical Crane Driver
(42-4368) (h)

A P P R E N T I C E S

Ms. G. Whitelaw 1st woman apprentice-gardener - Melb.City Council
(57-4472)
Ms. K. Polgrase 1st woman apprentice motor mechanic - John Oulc Motors
1st woman apprentice State Electricity Commission (Morwell)

C H U R C H

Rev.C. Ling 1st woman to be ordained in Methodist Church (Buckley St. Methodist Ch.)
Rev.M. Thalheirer 1st woman to be ordained in Presbyterian Church (The Manse Romsey)

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT (Police)

Ms. Ms. G. Brabner 1st woman to be appointed to C.I.B.
Ms. (874-5584)
Ms. K. Perrin 1st woman Governor 'Fairlea Women's Prison. Formerly Matron at ~~Penitentiary~~

NAMES OF WOMEN FIRSTS - PRESS RELEASE - INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION -
CUSTOM HOUSE BALLROOM - MARCH 8th 7.30 pm.

M I S C E L L A N E O U S

- Ms. F. Edwards Great Granddaughter of Mrs. E. Davis - the first Registrar of Births, Marriages & Deaths in Melbourne - office was in kew. Mrs. Davis was also in Royal Society of St. George.
- Ms. C. Ball 1st woman to be granted a liquor licence for a grocery business (836-6578) (although married)
- Ms. I. Lics 1st woman to open a Gent's Hairdressing salon Melb. (18 yrs. ago)
- Ms. P. Perry 1st woman to open a Theatrical Agency - still in business. (36-1565)
- Ms. I. Plowman Woman Cyclist rode Sydney to Melbourne 1938 - beat the then best male cyclist Hubert Opperman - on the Razor Back stretch.
- Ms. D. M. Brady 1st woman Commercial Traveller employed by large firm. (93-1631)
- Ms. E.M. Tracy 1st woman in Melbourne to be employed selling radio sets 1932. (29-4926)
- Sister Burchell 1st woman Australian Inland Mission - wrote book 'Imamincka' is now in its 5th edition and translated into Braille- all proceeds from book goes to 'Homes for the Aged Darwin'. (878-8746)
- Ms. Z. D'aprano 1st woman in Melbourne to chain herself to the railings at the Arbitration in protest re their judgement in equal pay case Later chained herself to Commonwealth Building in same cause. (387-2318)
- Ms. M. Doring 1st women Building Student R.M.I.T. Working at present on a Building site full time - necessary to work 2 years on site to receive Diploma. (86-5462)
- Cr. N. Barbour 24 years as a Councillor (90-2000)
- Ms. J. Bates 1st woman 'Hansard Writer for Victorian Parliament - still employed. (81-4612)

Organisations to be represented (as guests)

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| Women's Christian Temperance Union | <u>Unions</u> |
| Housewives Association | Tramway's Union, Butcher's Union |
| League of Women Voters | Aust. Metal Workers Union |
| Girl Guides Association | Postal Workers Union |
| Women's International League for Peace & Freedom | Furnishing Trades Union |
| Women's Health Collective | Liquor Trades Union |
| Abortion & Contraceptive Advisory Centre | Plumber's Union |
| Council for Aboriginal Rights | |
| Victorian Council for Aboriginal & Island Women | |
| Victorian Aboriginal Advancement League | Clothing Trades Union |
| Women's Electoral Lobby | Gippsland Trades & Labour Council |
| National Council of Women | Australian Railways Union |
| South Melbourne Community Chest | Miscellaneous Workers Union |
| Rape Crisis Centre | |
| Half-way House for Women | |
| Union of Australian Women | |
| Country Women's Association | |
| Women's Centre (Melbourne) | |
| Unitarian Church C'ttee. | |
| Council for Single Mother & Child | |