Women’s Honour Roll 2007

**Recipients:**

* Phyllis Pollard
* Kathie Hollis
* Laurice Newman
* Alice Foley (Posthumous)
* Maude Glover-Fleay (Posthumous)
* Rev Jeanne Dara DeMurashkin (Posthumous)

**Phyllis Pollard**

Phyllis Pollard started up the famous Creswick Brass Band bringing music to the town like never before. By doing so she was a forerunner for the liberation movement as she led with an idea which she saw through to be a great success. She was aged 37 at the time the band was formed.

Fifty six years later she is still encouraging budding musicians and has formed partnerships far and wide through the band with other organisations in the town and around the Shire.

One of her main intentions in forming the band was for equal opportunity for women to be involved and this has taken place very successfully with women as directors and conductors of the band and many female band members going on to pursue a musical career.

She took care of every aspect of the band including keeping it equipped with instruments, uniforms and ensuring performances were at the highest level. She encouraged everyone to join and not being able to read or play music was never seen to be an obstacle. People joined and quickly learned to play even if they had no prior music knowledge or interest.

To ensure the band’s ongoing success she also organised the fund raising including bingo nights and even catered for wedding and functions to raise money. The Band is known state wide with appearances including the 2001 Federation Celebrations where the Band played in Swanson Street, Melbourne. Phyllis was raised in Red Hill and as the eldest of nine did most of the cooking and housework. She was schooled by correspondence and then helped her father on the farm. She married and had six children and she ensured their education included music lessons. As a mother, grandmother and great-grand mother and great-great-grand mother her input into family and the community has been nothing less than incredible. Along with the Band she was involved in many aspects of community but most of all she is known as founder, patron, benefactor, fan, supporter and band-mother of the Creswick Brass Band.

**Kathie Hollis**

Artist Kathie Hollis is a long term, committed and enthusiastic community volunteer and as well as this her spectacular artwork has permanently changed the outlook of Trentham forever. Her many celebrated artworks include landscapes, streetscapes, murals and   botanical illustrations.

Her work includes the well-known historical Trentham Town Square mural depicting local history and the Trentham Railway Forest Walk artwork, (commissioned by the Hepburn Shire Council), Trentham Primary School mural and the Trentham streetscape drawing used in the 2005 Centenary celebrations.

Her work in recent times has included the bush scene paintings and assisting with other backdrops used for the Trentham Community Play, *Through the Mist.*

Her artwork is featured throughout the town including the Mechanics Institute, primary school, and kindergarten. Her scientific artwork has been used in specific illustrations in the Australian Government Department of Arts, Heritage and Environment for the Australian Biological Resources Study, Canberra.

Her love for children has led to the self-esteem of many being increased as Kathie always encourages children to do their best and Kathie has mentored many children with an interest in art.

Her volunteer work in the community is extensive including working as a volunteer for Meals on Wheels, St George’s Anglican Church, Neighbourhood Centre, Friends of Trentham Falls, Girl Guides and Pony Club.

**Laurice Newman**

Lou Newman represented the Clunes surrounding communities by becoming involved in local government as a Councillor and Mayor and her leadership empowered other women to be involved in local government and other roles.

She was first elected to the Shire of Talbot and Clunes and later to the Hepburn Shire Council where she became the first female Councillor for two terms and first female Mayor. Lou recorded many achievements and set an example for the need of women in local government to provide a balance and bring their own skills and qualities to the table. She has and continues to be active in the community and this has included working with the Wesley College teaching students to cook, involving members of the community. This works by each student house having a member of the community to come in and teach the students to prepare their own meals and the helpers are then invited back the following week for a meal prepared by the students.

Lou’s dedication to the community and women has included Executive Member and Public Officer of ALGWA and, public officer of National Council of Women. She has also been and continues to be involved in many local groups including Clunes Agricultural Show, Clunes Pre School Group, Red Cross, Regional Library Service, Hepburn Shire Heritage Committee, Central Highlands Water and Clunes Community Centre.

Lou was successful in a community bid to gain more money for local roads and providing the town with infrastructure and employment through the initiation of two new industries, a bakery in 2001 and a steel fabrication works in 2002.

**Alice Foley (posthumous)**

During her lifetime Alice Foley was always willing to take on the leadership role as president, chairperson or general organiser of any event or committee she was involved in.

Her excellent memory and local knowledge was invaluable and she readily offered this information. Having lived in the Clunes area for over 60 years she had much to offer and was involved in numerous town and school reunions. Dating back to the 1950’s when many migrants were arriving to the area Alice was actively involved in finding the newcomers accommodation and employment and sponsored several families. She remained lifelong friends with many of the families even after they left the area.

Alice was a teacher and married a Clunes farmer, settling in Clunes in 1943. It wasn’t long before she became involved in the local area and many of its organisations.

As a member of the Catholic Women’s League and became a state delegate and treasurer and fought tirelessly for the abolition of Probate Tax for farmers following the death of a male partner. She had seen too many widows forced to sell the family farm in order to pay this tax.

In the 1960’s she became the first woman elected to the Clunes Primary School Committee and later the same at the Maryborough High School Council.

She always encouraged other women to do the same and become a spokesperson on women’s issues. Alice was much loved for her ability to treat everyone as equal, and never criticise. She always looked for the good attributes in others. Alice raised a family of six children on the farm despite not coming from a rural background herself, and Alice was an excellent mother.

Alice loved swimming and was the instructor for the Learn to swim program at the Clunes Pool and she taught three generations from some families the skill of swimming. Alice continued swimming herself until the age of 80. She also loved knitting and crochet and loved to enter her craft in the local show and sometimes in the Royal Melbourne Show, with much success.

Alice was a member of numerous local groups and organisations including education, welfare and sporting clubs. In 1993 Alice was awarded the Shire of Talbot and Clunes Citizen of the Year award for her community work.

**Maude Glover-Fleay (posthumous)**

Maude Glover-Fleay, known as the *Girl from Sulky Gully*, lived life leading by example and what a fine example she set. This wonderful woman had an unrivalled zest for life, excellent sense of humour and an abundance of perseverance and she will long be remembered as an exceptional artist.

Her love of art, which began at the tender age of three, could not be dampened despite the expectation that women were destined for a life of domestic duty.

She never wavered from her desire to become an artist and she went on to become a successful artist and an art teacher and taught for 10 years at the Daylesford School of Mines, after attending the Melbourne National Gallery Art School.

Maude was dedicated to her career and her motto was ‘if you want to achieve, just persevere until you do.’ She taught many women to strive to the same opportunities as available to men and not to let gender, or anything for that matter to be a deterrent or hindrance. Maude lived in an era where women were having no place in the art world, yet she achieved high accolades throughout her career including many successful exhibitions and many awards.

She married and had three children and she continued her art career throughout. She created a large collection of drawings and paintings in water colour and oils and her work included portraits and still life but particularly Australian flora and fauna and landscapes.

The collection is uniquely Australian. She did not paint by commission making it clear she needed to have a passion for whatever it was she chose to paint and would say ‘I please myself as to where and how I paint. Her style was distinctly her own and she would say ‘it might not suit the art critics, but it suits my friends!

Maude battled lack of funds to pay for her studies and material, but it was not an obstacle that prevented her from achieving her goals.

 On her death Maude bequested finance to the Victorian College of the Arts for bursary for art students and to the Ballarat Fine Art Gallery for a memorial trust fund the bulk of her paintings were left to her son David Fleay of Healesville Sanctuary Fame, to be kept together for all time.

**Rev Jeanne Dara DeMurashkin (posthumous)**

In her three decades of work as a spiritual leader and teacher Reverend Jeanne Dara DeMurashkin, better known by her spiritual name, Ananda Tara Shan provided strong and inspirational leadership and was dedicated to spiritual education and service for peace and the helping of humanity and the Earth.

Her work in this field began in Denmark in 1975 and she emigrated in 1982 moving to Daylesford in 1991. She established three spiritual organisations and founded two churches all which have the goal of educating people to work together in peace and harmony for the good of others and the earth.

The spiritual tradition for which she stood for was Theosophy which acknowledges that there is truth in all faiths and all can be learned from. She invited people of all faiths to work together for peace, out of the goodness of the heart and for the good of all.

Ananda encouraged this through her teaching and writing and established a mediation system and healing system. She dedicated herself and her time to individuals, the community and the world. Her teachings and ideas were practical, and she led by example whether it be raising her children or working in the community.

Ananda made sure that women had roles of responsibility within her spiritual organisations as it concerned her that in many religious traditions, women did not have the opportunity to take key roles. She was also an advocate for women and men to have equal key roles in all areas of life including taking care of the family and children. She taught that every person has a special key role in life to fulfil.

Ananda encouraged environmentally sustainable living and building the church in Daylesford, the Sanctuary of the Heart, out of rammed earth using solar panels for electricity.

The work of the Theosophical Fellowship which Ananda established is dedicated to bringing about peace and healing of humanity and the earth. Ananda established bases in the Hepburn Shire including Daylesford and Glenlyon and affiliated centres, based on her work, are located in Melbourne, Canberra, New Zealand, Iceland, Norway and Denmark. Many visitors come to the Hepburn Shire to study in the establishments she created.

Her legacy will continue as she left thousands of texts and audio recordings and the Theosophical Society is preparing Ananda’s extensive work for publication.