Women’s Honour Roll 2009

**Recipients:**

* Kathleen Brown
* Lisa Jane Gervasoni
* Kathy Elizabeth Watt
* Margaret Laurus Grenfell (Posthumous)

**Kathleen Brown**

Kath Brown was born in Trentham and has lived there all her life. She has always been a “battler,” raising a large family of ten boys and several of her grandchildren. Despite these family commitments, Kath has done outstanding community service, particularly on the Trentham Swimming Pool Committee and the Trentham Fire Brigade.

While her children were growing up, she was involved mainly in sporting activities. For many years she was a volunteer with Trentham Junior Football team, and for approximately 20 years she did voluntary work with Trentham Swimming Pool Committee. In order to do the latter, she took a course in Melbourne to learn about pool operation and maintenance. Her work at the swimming pool only stopped when management of the pool was handed over to the YMCA. At a time when its future was often in doubt, her work kept the swimming pool open and demonstrated what a valuable asset it is to the community, especially for children.

Kath Brown has also been involved in the Trentham Fire Brigade since the 1980s. From 25 October 1983 until it disbanded on 26 September 2000, she was Secretary of the Ladies Auxiliary, raising money to buy essential supplies and equipment. From 7 October 1995 until 30 June 2002, she was also secretary of the Brigade, so for five years she was Secretary for both organizations simultaneously.  In April 1990 she became a full member of the Brigade, and from July 1990 Communications Officer. She has been Communications Officer during all the major local fire emergencies, including Ash Wednesday, and in nearly 19 years has only taken one, short holiday. She has been a pioneer woman in the Trentham Brigade, leading by example.

**Lisa Jane Gervasoni**

Lisa is a dedicated member of the community who uses her skills and expertise to the benefit of those around her and to encourage the protection of local community and heritage assets. Lisa has utilized her professional skills as a town planner to help the local community, both in a voluntary and professional capacity.

Lisa’s local involvement was triggered by the introduction of the new format planning schemes across Victoria, a task she was involved with at the State level. This led to her taking leave to ‘re- write’ the draft Hepburn Planning Scheme, and her version was described by the independent panel as the best example they had seen.

Lisa is a former member of the Hepburn Football Club Committee, and has provided an example to young females, showing them that they can have an important role in local sports management. Her involvement in the Club included preparing a successful funding application for the Hepburn Football Club multipurpose room.

Lisa’s work in the area of heritage, planning and urban design had been integral in preserving significant sites, especially the Hepburn Pool.

Lisa has also volunteered as a coach for primary and secondary students in numeracy and literacy.

**Kathy Elizabeth Watt**

Education is the field in which Kathy Watt has expanded, broadened and developed the lives of members of the community. She has been a constant in the life of the Daylesford community and Primary School for over thirty-five years. Her aim in education is to give her students confidence, skills, stability and empowerment.

Kathy builds links between students and the community. Lessons from “Town Outings” teach students about behaviour, friendliness and mutual respect.  She also builds links between parents and the school, and between people in the school community. She is described by a former Principal as the glue that keeps the team together. Past students, parents and staff describe her as a fun loving teacher who calmly and patiently trains independent learners.

As part of the Daylesford Primary School Early Years Team, Kathy worked on an exciting research project that resulted in improved delivery of Literacy Programs, and improved student results from those programs. She has worked as a Reading Recovery Teacher to assist the progress of students experiencing difficulty with reading.

Kathy Watt has quietly supported many families through difficult times and adjustment periods. She claims thousands of readers and well-rounded citizens have been her proudest contribution to the local community.

**Margaret Laurus Grenfell (Posthumous)**

Margaret Grenfell devoted her life to her family and fellow citizens in the Clunes community. Her lifetime involvement with the Clunes area has contributed to it becoming a better place to live.

She was a natural leader yet was able to fully involve all members of groups and organisations. During her 90-year involvement with the Presbyterian Church, she was the first woman appointed to her Church’s Board of Management. She was also the first female member of the Clunes Hospital Board of Management, a position which she held for over 20 years. Her community involvement included service with the Red Cross, the Clunes Horticultural Society, Clunes Museum and the Agricultural Show Committee. She was the founding member of the Clunes Agricultural Society Ladies Committee.

Through her involvement with the Presbyterian Church, she was part of the Board that allowed Wesley College to building on the Church’s land. Margaret was an effective negotiator and communicator during the initial phase of the Wesley project. In later years, even when over 90 years of age, she was very involved with the Wesley students and shared her local, historical knowledge with them.