Women’s Honour Roll 2008

**Recipients:**

* Patricia Ann Tinetti (Trish)
* Mary Catherine Walsh
* Marjorie White
* Susan Marguerite Cunningham (Posthumous)
* Deaconess Georgina Marines Harvey (Posthumous)
* Elizabeth Sewell (Posthumous)

**Patricia Ann Tinetti (Trish)**

Trish Tinetti is a major achiever who prefers a low public profile. Her tireless efforts have helped improve local agriculture, farm management and sustainability, education, emergency services, the arts and culture as well as indigenous affairs and the annual Swiss Italian celebrations.

Her work for the disabled and families of Vietnam Veterans and her support of charitable causes and community health and well-being have provided valuable assistance to countless people in the community.

Trish married pioneer descendant Ian Tinetti and has raised four children out at Shepherd’s Flat. There as a family they have created Cricket Willow: a sustainable willow plantation, workshop where hand crafted cricket bats are made from the willows, museum of cricket memorabilia, sporting complex and tourist attraction. During her adult life Trish has spent 35 years working for St Vincent de Paul and district nursing, with special emphasis on the needs and wellbeing of older women. Through an Outreach program she visits older widowed women to help them through loneliness, depression and coping with the death of loved ones.

In addition to working with the local Funeral Director and the Church to assist widows coping with bereavement, Trish has worked with Dr. Greg Malcher on Men’s Health and was a driving force in obtaining the Gold Health Card for Vietnam Veterans.

Climate change and decreasing water supplies have long been concerns for Trish. She and Ian were amongst the first in the district to acknowledge the benefits of recycled water and use it at Cricket Willow. Trish Tinetti is a great role model for the young mothers of today and an inspiration to the whole community. She now sees climate change and the decline of the farming community as her greatest challenge of the future.

**Mary Catherine Walsh**

Mary Morgan of Railway Farm, Trentham, was born in County Rosscommon.   It was after working there and in England that her adventurous spirit was attracted to an advertisement that led her to a job in Kyneton. In 1958 she arrived in Australia aboard the *Fairsea*as a “£*10 Pom*”.

In her 25 years with Kyneton Hospital she worked as staff member and midwife before being invited to take the role as Matron. Instrumental in the hospital’s growth and development she was an active member of the Trentham Bush Nursing Hospital Committee.

She met Tom Walsh at a St Mary’s country dance but not ready to settle down she first went to outback Australia where she worked for the Royal Flying Doctor Service in Cloncurry. They finally married and although Mary and Tom had nine children within 12 years, Mary still found time to serve the community.

Mary Walsh is acknowledged as a born leader and an inspiring role model within the medical profession, the church and the community. Compassionate, understanding and with a love of life, her 50 years of nursing has led her on many paths, possibly her most appreciated being in palliative care.

Not only has she helped her patients during their last days but has counselled and helped their loved one’s cope with their grief and has provided spiritual and cultural support to all those in need.

Mary has provided an ongoing welcome and encouragement to strangers in the local community, particularly women of foreign cultures. She has helped them to find friends and employment and adjust to life in country Australia. There is a lighter side to Mary Walsh. Catch up with her at the Trentham Hotel where she regularly attends with husband Tom as MC at Irish nights on the fourth Friday of very month.

**Marjorie White**

When born in Creswick in 1924, Marj Harris was a fourth generation Creswick girl. Her father was a well-known hairdresser and her mother the local baker of ‘Harris’ legendary pies and pasties’.

Brought up at 32 Albert Street, Marj helped in the shop, went to Creswick State School, became involved with the Victoria Street Methodist Church Sunday School and the local tennis Club. An avid swimmer, she gained her Bronze Medallion for swimming, diving and life-saving and, at age 15, received a “Valour Award” for rescuing a man.

With the outbreak of World War II, Marj and friends formed the “Creswick Girls Patriotic Younger Set” to raise comfort funds for soldiers overseas. She later joined the Australian Women’s Army Service: AWAS.  In March 1945, still in uniform, Marj married Don White, who was serving in the RAAF. They had four children and during the 1950s Marj became involved not just with raising a family but with the building of the Scout and RSL Halls, catering for the RSL Auxiliary and establishing the toddler’s pool at Calambeen Park.

Of her many achievements her major one could be considered the founding of the preschool centre in St John’s Hall in 1959 and her four years as foundation secretary.

To supplement the family income, she became a journalist for the *Ballarat Courier*for nine years providing continuous Creswick news, and wrote articles for the RSL Magazine *Mufti.*

In 1978 Don’s health collapsed and, at the age of 55 she had to become Carer and learnt to drive. Then, tragically, she had to face the death of two sons in war service: Neill died in 1981 and Don in 1983.

Despite her loss she continued to work tirelessly for the community and became the Coordinator of the wreath making project for Anzac and Remembrance.

**Susan Marguerite Gunningham (Posthumous)**

She was such a quiet, selfless person that the depth of the amazing work of the woman now referred to as “the Glue that held the Glenlyon community together” was not recognised until after her death.

Born during World War ll Susan carved out an accountancy career for herself and was one of the first women to work in a senior position for the Australian Tax Office. Married in 1978 she moved to Glenlyon in 1983 and it was here that she became part of a community she loved and where she nursed her husband through a long illness.

Unable to work full time and also be a Carer, Susan found time to put her accountancy skills to work helping Glenlyon’s Sports Club, Pony Club and Progress Association.

Sue’s quiet acts of altruism and self-sacrifice included daily acts of humanity in supporting the elderly, the disabled and neighbours in need.

She was determined to assist members of the community to remain living at home by providing transport to medical and hospital appointments and assistance with shopping.

Her little green car became “the local bus for anyone in need of transport.”

It was the hundreds of little things she did that added up to a major contribution: babysitting for families in need, flowers from her garden for the church, collecting mail, walking numerous dogs for their owners, looking after pets if people were away, helping in a garden, delivering Meals on Wheels, welcoming a newcomer to the district.

She would not accept payment for any of her community work, even though she was of limited income and often unwell herself and never complained about her own hardships.

Sue died far too young in 2007 at the age of 65. The community are still coming to terms with their loss and wish to honour her decades of caring for them.

**Deaconess Georgina Marines Harvey (Posthumous)**

Born in Yarraville in 1910, Georgina was the daughter of Mary Jane Iverson of Ballarat and Robert Marines Harvey who came from Ireland.

In 1940 she was ordained as a Church of England Deaconess and from that day until her death at the age of 96 she spent her life in the service of God and his people. Described by some as ‘saintly’, all her adult life Deaconess Harvey’s main purpose was to look after those in need of care, compassion, counselling, respite or spiritual advice.

In 1961 this caring woman moved to the Daylesford Parish and Hepburn Shire and in that year with her friend, Deaconess Mavis Rogers, established the Pilgrims Respite Home as a holiday venue for Melbourne mothers and children who needed a break they could not afford.

Her church work included presiding over church services, establishing a bible study group, providing Pastoral care and Outreach services to Lumeah Lodge Aged Care and working with members of the Ladies Guild. The Deaconess helped to improve the lot of women by tackling matters of gender equity and equality and worked towards the ordination of women.

As is the Christian way, the Deaconess reached out to the wider community. She set up a community of women singers who sang for pleasure and to give joy to the elderly. Her love of nature led her to establish the annual Daffodil Show at St Matthew’s Anglican Church and a garden of fresh vegetables shared with those in need. She also assisted women to learn the skills of administration, public speaking and fund raising. It has been said of her: “As a Deaconess, working for God, the light she shone on the world, is also called a State of Grace. This grace provided an inspiration to those in need.”

**Elizabeth Sewell (Posthumous)**

Credited with being the first white woman to live in Creswick, Elizabeth Falla was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1833, the daughter of Robert Falla (1801-1860) and his wife Elizabeth Neill (1803-1876). Falla, his wife Elizabeth and children Robert, Alexander, Mary, Elizabeth, Ellen and Andrew left for Australia on 13 June 1849 on board the *Tasman* but spent two months in quarantine in Plymouth when cholera broke out amongst the passengers.

Descendant Noel Webb discovered that whilst in Plymouth the family was accused of stealing sugar from another passenger, were charged and sentenced, their punishment to pump water from the galley for a week. The Fallas arrived in Geelong in October 1849 and within a year Elizabeth was working in service on properties in the Ararat district.

Towards the end of 1851 she returned to her parents in Geelong where she met and married Jonah Andrew Sewell (1828-1892).  Gold had been discovered in the Ballarat area and Sewell wanted to go to the Ovens diggings with Cousin Richard Tyson, so Elizabeth joined them, and they set off via Ballarat and Creswick. When their horses were stolen they were stranded in Creswick and so began a hard life on the diggings.  While there they met Captain Hepburn and her husband later worked for him.

Elizabeth lived to have her experiences recorded in 1912 giving a valuable insight into the early life of Creswick. It is this record that allows us to understand the incredible hardships of life in the goldfields and how ordinary women lived lonely, extraordinary lives, of life and death on the diggings, having children without medical help and creating family homes under canvas. Elizabeth died in 1915 and her descendants are proud of her pioneering spirit while Creswick historians are delighted to have a record of the 1850s.