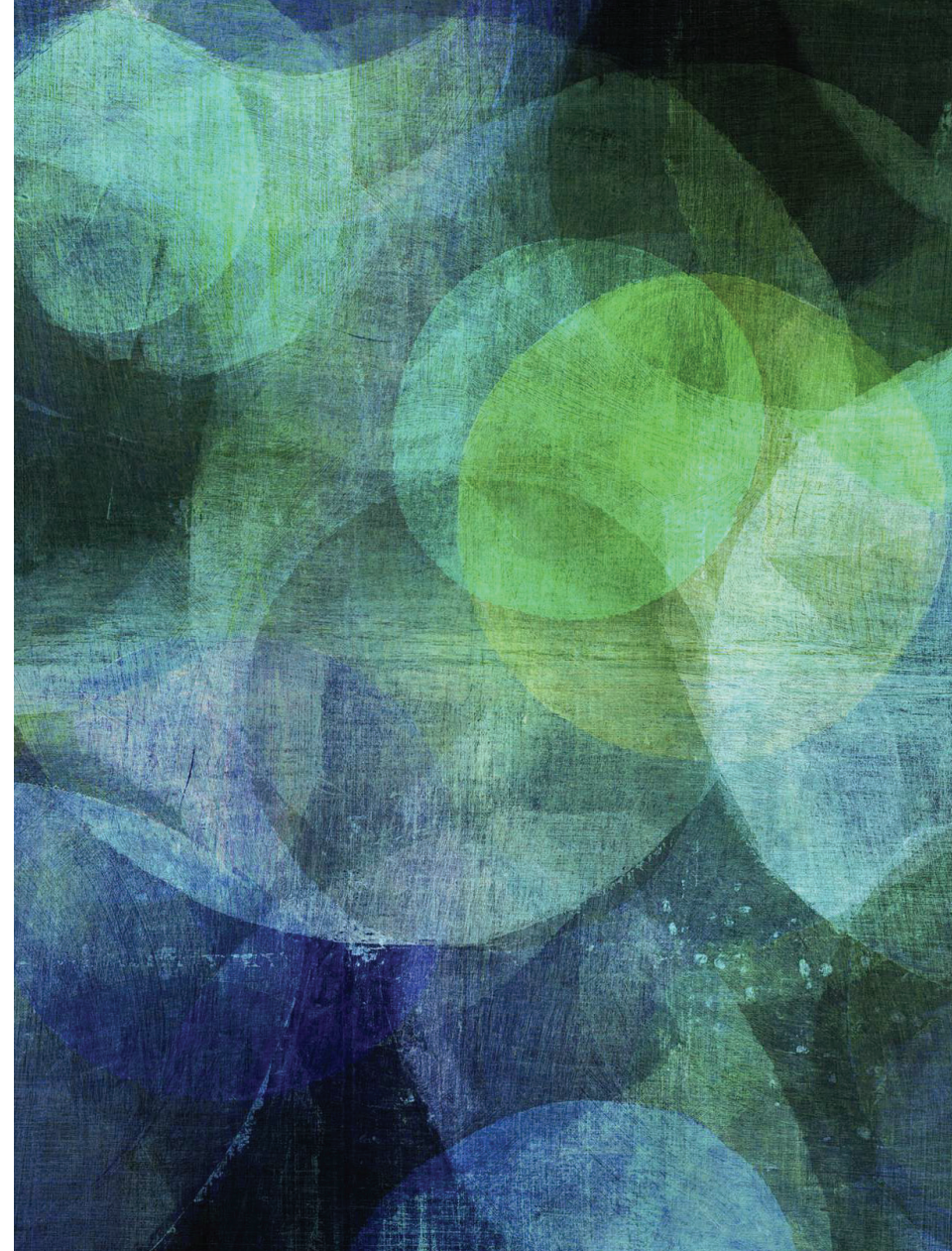


INFORMATION PANELS



INFORMATION PANELS



Pateygerang

Language keeps culture alive. The local First Nation language was protected by Pateygerang, a Gamaraigal woman.

She shared her language with Lieutenant William Dawes of the First Fleet. He wrote down the local language.

This is the only known first-hand recording of the language.

Pateygerang told Dawes that her name meant 'grey kangaroo' her animal totem.

INFORMATION PANELS



Florence Elizabeth Lahiff

Over the years, many volunteers have served the local community, such as Betty Lahiff.

From 1975 to 1999, she volunteered with Holroyd Community Aid and Information Service.

She raised funds for local nursing homes and served on the Women's Health Western Sydney Area Committee.

For decades of volunteer work she was named Holroyd's Citizen of the Year in 1999.

INFORMATION PANELS



Margaret Gong

Margaret Gong graduated from Merrylands High School and at 17 joined the Army, serving in south-east Asia.

Margaret was a dedicated community volunteer who worked with the Merrylands Returned Service League Youth Club and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Veterans Association.

In addition to serving on NAIDOC and ATSIC, she volunteered on several site committees for King Park, Prospect Creek, Boral and CSIRO sites.

INFORMATION PANELS



Lucy Woodcock

In this black and white photo is a peace activist.

After the death of her brother in World War One, she became an early anti-racism advocate and peace activist.

She also helped establish the New South Wales Teachers Federation in 1918 and was its vice president for many years.

As a teacher, she fought tirelessly for equal pay for women and opposed the rule requiring women teachers to resign if they got married.

INFORMATION PANELS



Margaret Devlin

Women have run businesses for years! Margaret Devlin moved to Merrylands in 1908 to run the Merrylands Hotel.

After her husband's death, she continued the business until she built a new Merrylands hotel on Pitt Street and Merrylands Road in 1922.

She was a supporter of local charities and owned a racehorse she named 'Merrylands'.

INFORMATION PANELS



Yvonne Tattersall

Over 35 years ago, Yvonne volunteered to help Holroyd's children, the elderly, and new arrivals.

In addition to teaching English conversation classes, she volunteered on several council committees and with Friends of Linwood.

She also worked in schools to improve literacy and connect retirees with local schools as classroom volunteers.

She was named Holroyd Citizen of the Year in 2003.

INFORMATION PANELS



Lilian Taliana

Lilian Taliana migrated to Australia from Malta at the age of 19.

She volunteered with the Maltese Community Council for many years, with the La Valette Social Committee and ran the Maltese Senior Social Group. Her day job was with Centrelink and many from the community would go to her for help.

Lilian acted as a valuable and much respected community connector, helping and supporting the Maltese community in the LGA. Miriam from the community council speaks of Lilian with high regard, noting the council still says today 'What would Lilian do?'

INFORMATION PANELS



Philomena Bechara

Philomena was born in Blouza, North Lebanon in 1936 and migrated to Australia in 1955. She passed away in 2022.

She lived in Granville for 30 years. She had been actively involved in the community including raising funds for many causes over the years. Philomena founded the Australian Blouza Association's Ladies Auxiliary. This auxiliary raised funds for cancer research, and for the Blouza village. The Auxiliary led charity work for orphans, sick and poor in Lebanon. She also supported the St Rita Foundation which worked with orphaned children in Italy.

In 2019 she was recognised in the NSW Women of the Year Awards as Granville's Woman of the Year for her community and charity work.

INFORMATION PANELS



Susan McCredie

On moving to Linwood House in 1891, Susan and her husband George became active in the community.

As Mayor and member of state parliament, George supported female suffrage.

Susan owned land in the area in her own name, which she sold gradually for a steady income. The family donated land for the Presbyterian church and Susan donated land for returned soldiers from World War One.

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Doing the dirty work

Volunteer Aid Detachment women washed patients, scrubbed floors, and cleaned bedpans, including these women from Merrylands. They helped the qualified nurses tend to the wounded of World War One. Some trained in first aid and served overseas in Australian field hospitals. Many worked in their local communities supporting returned soldiers or helping during the influenza pandemic of 1919 to 1920.

INFORMATION PANELS



Creating a legacy

Students with their teacher from Auburn Infants School are pictured here in 1950. As leaders of their profession and in the classroom, many women teachers made, and continue to make, valuable contributions to their local community and the next generation.

INFORMATION PANELS



Working on council

Prospect and Sherwood Council aldermen and staff members are proudly pictured outside their newly built chambers, 1920 to 1921. Photography was still expensive and rare then. At the time, taking this photograph was a significant occasion. Based on what we see in the photograph, how many women were on staff then?

INFORMATION PANELS



Times they are changing!

Holroyd Council Staff are photographed on the outside of Town Hall, Arcadia Street Merrylands.

It is 1966 when this photograph was taken.

What's changed since 1920? There are more women on staff now!