



## INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY 2025

In celebration of International Womens Day 2025 NCACL has created a bibliography of biographical works on Australian women. Included are scientists, military heroes, sportspersons, politicians, First Nations women, authors, early convicts and many others.

There is a famous quote from former Chinese Communist party leader Mao Zedong 'Women hold up half the sky.' Whilst this needs to be seen within its cultural and historic context, taken more broadly the words carry the weight of the contribution particularly the unpaid contribution women make to society.

The books listed here carry stories of inspirational women who have made significant contributions to Australia across many fields of endeavour.

Links have been provided to titles that have entries in the NCACL's databases.

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1. ALEXANDER, Goldie  
*Surviving Sydney Cove. The diary of Elizabeth Harvey.* (My Australian Story series). Scholastic Press, 2000. ISBN: 1865048577
  2. ANDREW, Glenda  
*River Girl: growing up around the Murray River.* Black Ink Press, 2005. ISBN: 1863340130
  3. BORTOLI, Skye  
*Eco-warrior.* ABC Books, 2008. ISBN: 9780733323652
  4. BRIAN, Janeen. Illustrated by Claire Murphy  
*Meet...Nellie Melba.* (Meet... series) Random House Australia, 2016. ISBN: 9780143780298
  5. BURNE, Cristy  
*Suzy Urbaniak: Volcano hunter and STEAM warrior.* (Aussie STEM Stars series). Wild Dingo Press, 2023. ISBN: 9781925893786

6. BURNE, Cristy  
*Fiona Wood: Inventor of spray-on skin.* (Aussie STEM Stars series) Wild Dingo Press, 2020.  
ISBN: 978192589328281
7. CAMPBELL, Cate and CAMPBELL, Bronte  
*Sister Secrets: Life lessons from the pool to the podium.* Allen & Unwin, 2021. ISBN:  
9781760525910
8. COLE, Diana Marlay  
*Annette Kellerman.* Little Red Apple Publishing, 2018. ISBN: 9781875329496
9. COLE, Diana Marlay  
*Elizabeth Macarthur.* Little Red Apple Publishing, 2017. ISBN: 9780995410251
10. EDWARDS, Hazel. Illustrated by Angela Grzegorzolka  
*Edith Cowan: A Quiet Woman of Note.* (Aussie Heroes series) New Frontier Publishing, 2014.  
ISBN: 9781925059021
11. ELLIS, Liz  
*Netball Heroes.* Allen & Unwin, 2005. ISBN: 17411143594
12. FISHER, Jo  
*Caroline Chisholm to the Rescue.* Little Red Apple Publishing, 2008. ISBN: 9781875329700
13. FITZPATRICK, Deb  
*Maddy McAllister Shipwreck detective.* (Aussie STEM Stars series). Wild Dingo Press, 2024.  
ISBN: 9781925893823
14. FREEMAN, Cathy. Illustrated by Charmaine Ledden-Lewis  
*Born to Run.* Puffin Books, 2021. ISBN: 9781761043802  
[https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi\\_resource/born-to-run/](https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi_resource/born-to-run/)
15. FREEMAN, Pamela. Illustrated By Sophie Beer  
*Amazing Australian Women. Twelve Women Who Shaped History.* Lothian Children's Book,  
2018. ISBN: 9780734418456  
[https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi\\_resource/amazing-australian-women-twelve-women-who-shaped-history/](https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi_resource/amazing-australian-women-twelve-women-who-shaped-history/)
16. GALE, Emily  
*Gisela Kaplan: Bird and primate scientist.* (Aussie STEM Stars series) Wild Dingo Press, 2021.  
ISBN: 9781925893465
17. GEASON, Susan  
*Great Australian Girls.* ABC Books, 1999. ISBN: 0733307582

18. GOULDTHORPE, Peter  
*The White Mouse. The Story of Nancy Wake*. Omnibus Boks, 2015. ISBN: 9781742990910  
<https://www.ncacl.org.au/pbor-database/the-white-mouse-the-story-of-nancy-wake/>
19. HATHORN, Libby  
*Georgiana: Woman of Flowers*. Hachette Children's Books, 2008. ISBN: 9780733609169
20. HATHORN, Libby. Illustrated by Phil Lesnie  
*Miss Franklin: How Miles Franklin's brilliant career began*. Lothian Children's Book, 2019. ISBN: 9780734417879  
<https://www.ncacl.org.au/pbor-database/miss-franklin-how-miles-franklins-brilliant-career-began/>
21. HAWKINS, Tracey. Illustrated by Jacqui Grantford  
*Nancy Bentley: The First Australian Female Sailor*. New Frontier Publishing, 2011. ISBN: 9781921042768
22. HOLDEN, Robert and BRUMMITT, Jane  
*May Gibbs: More than a Fairy Tale. An Artistic Life*. Hardie Grant Books, 2011. ISBN: 9781742701509
23. KER WILSON, Barbara. Illustrated by Arthur Boothroyd  
*Daisy Bates*. Hodder & Stoughton, 1986. ISBN: 0340377240
24. KNIGHT, James. Illustrated by Jules Faber  
*The Amazing Ash Barty*. Welbeck Publishing, 2022. ISBN: 9781922853004
25. KNIGHT, James. Illustrated by Jules Faber  
*The Amazing Sam Kerr*. Welbeck Publishing, 2022. ISBN: 9781922853035
26. LAMOND, Margrete  
*Going for it! Success Stories of Women in Sport*. Allen & Unwin, 1995. ISBN: 1863738126
27. LIBERMAN, Cassy  
*Wildflower. The Life and Art of Ellis Rowan*. Brolly Books, 2016. ISBN: 9781925386257
28. MARIN, Gabiann. Illustrated by Rae Dale  
*Dame Nellie Melba (Aussie Heroes)*. New Frontier Publishing, 2010. ISBN: 9781921042645
29. MARIN, Gabiann. Illustrated by Angela Grzegorzolka  
*Mary MacKillop: Australia's First Saint*. (Aussie Heroes series). New Frontier Publishing, 2012. ISBN: 9781921929192
30. MARSDEN, Phillip  
*Boss Ladies of Sport*. Lothian Children's Book, 2021. ISBN: 9780734421197

31. McCARTNEY, Tania. Illustrated by Pat Reynolds  
*Caroline Chisholm; the Emigrant's friend.* (Aussie Heroes series). New Frontier Publishing, 2013. ISBN: 9781921928482
32. McCARTNEY, Tania  
*Dorrie. The creator of Blinky Bill.* Angus & Robertson, 2023. ISBN: 9781460760109
33. McCARTNEY, Tania  
*Mamie.* Angus & Robertson, 2018. ISBN: 9781460755860
38. McINERNEY, Kunyi June Anne  
*Kunyi.* Magabala Books, 2021. ISBN: 9781925936575  
[https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi\\_resource/kunyi/](https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi_resource/kunyi/)
39. MURPHY, Sally. Illustrated by Sonia Martinez  
*Meet... Mary MacKillop.* (Meet... series) Random House Australia, 2013. ISBN: 9781742757216
40. O'DONOGHUE, Lowitja  
*Lowitja.* Working Title Press, 2003. ISBN: 9781876288402
41. PURDIE, Shirley  
*Ngaginybe Jarragbe – My Story.* Magabala Books, 2020. ISBN: 9781925936131  
[https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi\\_resource/ngaginybe-jarragbe-my-story/](https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi_resource/ngaginybe-jarragbe-my-story/)
42. REEDER, Stephanie Owen  
*Marvellous Miss May. Queens of the Circus.* NLA Publishing, 2018. ISBN: 9780642279156
43. SAXBY, Claire  
*Georgia Ward-Fear: Reptile biologist and explorer.* (Aussie STEM Stars). Wild Dingo Press, 2020. ISBN: 9781925893342
44. SAXBY, Claire. Illustrated by Lizzy Newcomb  
*My name is Lizzie Flynn. The story of the Rajah quilt.* Black Dog, 2015. ISBN: 9781922179913  
<https://www.ncacl.org.au/pbor-database/my-name-is-lizzie-flynn-a-story-of-the-rajah-quilt/>
45. SIMPSON, Kate. Illustrated by Jess Racklyeft  
*Anzac Girl; the War Diaries of Alice Ross-King.* Allen & Unwin, 2020. ISBN: 9781760637019  
<https://www.ncacl.org.au/pbor-database/anzac-girl-the-war-diaries-of-alice-ross-king/>
46. TIDY, Samantha. Illustrated by Aśka  
*When Grandma burnt her bra.* EK Books, 2023. ISBN: 9781922539465  
<https://www.ncacl.org.au/pbor-database/when-grandma-burnt-her-bra/>
47. WEETMAN, Nova  
*Michelle Simmon: Quantum computing scientist.* (Aussie STEM Stars series) Wild Dingo Press, 2023. ISBN: 9781925893496

48. WHITE, Dee  
*Emma Johnston: Marine biologist and Tv presenter.* (Aussie STEM Stars series). Wild Dingo Press, 2022. 9781925893762
49. WILSON, Mark  
*Caroline.* Windy Hollow Books, 2023. ISBN: 9781922081018  
(A PBOR database entry will be available soon)
50. WILSON, Mark  
*Rachel's War. The story of an Australian WW1 nurse.* Lothian Children's Books, 2021. ISBN: 9780734420114  
<https://www.ncacl.org.au/pbor-database/rachels-war-the-story-of-an-australian-ww1-nurse/>
51. WILSON, Mark  
*Votes for Woman! The story of Nellie, Rose and Mary.* Lothian Children's Books, 2022. ISBN: 9780734420138.  
<https://www.ncacl.org.au/pbor-database/votes-for-women-the-story-of-nellie-rose-and-mary/>
52. WORTHINGTON, Michelle. Illustrated by Katrin, Dreiling  
*Granny Smith.* Little Pink Dog Books, 2022. ISBN: 9780648964100
53. WYLD, Karen. Illustrated by Jaelyn Biunaiwai  
*Heroes, Rebels and Innovators. Inspiring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People from History.* Lothian Children's Books, 2021. ISBN: 9780734419835  
[https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi\\_resource/heroes-rebels-and-innovators-inspiring-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-people-from-history/](https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi_resource/heroes-rebels-and-innovators-inspiring-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-people-from-history/)