

Entry type: Person  
Entry ID: AWE0577

# Sutherland, Selina Murray Macdonald

(1839 - 1909)

Born	18391226, Parish of Kildonnel Sutherland Scotland
Died	19091008, Melbourne Victoria Australia
Occupation	Nurse, Philanthropist, Welfare worker

## Summary

Selina (also spelt Sulina) Sutherland was the first person in the State of Victoria to be licensed under the 1887 Neglected Children's Act. The Act sanctioned private licensed individuals to remove children from unfit homes and take them under their own guardianship. The daughter of Baigrie and Janet (née MacDonald) Sutherland, Selina Sutherland was born in Scotland, spent some time in New Zealand before settling in Melbourne, Australia, in 1881. Initially she worked as a nurse and, along with Mrs Maria Armour, founded the Scots' Church Neglected Children's Aid Society in 1881. For the next 28 years Sutherland was involved with helping Melbourne's poor. Following her death on 8 October 1909 a public appeal was held to erected a granite memorial for her grave.

## Events

### **1886 -**

Appointed by the Presbytery of Melbourne the first Lady Missionary to the Presbyterian Churches in Victoria

### **1864 -**

Emigrated to New Zealand on the *Eastern Empire*

### **1894 - 1894**

Established the Presbyterian Neglected Children's Aid Society

### **1883 -**

Established the Society in Aid of Maternity Hospital Patients

### **1895 - 1895**

Established the Victorian Neglected Children's Aid Society

### **1885 - 1885**

Founded the Melbourne District Nursing Society

### **2010 - 2010**

Inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women

### **1892 - 1892**

Interrupted a meeting of the Melbourne Ladies' Benevolent Society, with a group of poor people whose needs she felt the Society was failing to meet.

### **1879 -**

Matron of Wellington Hospital

### **1879 - 1879**

Principal founder of Masterton Hospital

### **1881 - 1881**

Settled in Melbourne, Victoria

### **1888 - 1888**

The first person to be appointed in Victoria to receive children under the Neglected Children's Act, part 8

### **1897 - 1897**

Visited the United Kingdom during the Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee and presented to Queen Victoria

### **1891 - 1891**

Wrote a paper on slum life in Melbourne for the second Australasian Conference on Charity

## Published resources

### Book

John's Notable Australians, 1906, Johns, Fred, 1905

Selina's legacy: from VCAS to Oz Child, Hilton, Della, 1931-, 1993

Selina M. Sutherland : her life story and work, Jessop, J. C., 1967

### Book Section

Selina Sutherland: Child Rescuer, Swain, Shurlee, 1985

### Thesis

The Victorian Charity Network in the 1890s, Swain, Shurlee, 1977

### Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

### Site Exhibition

The Encyclopedia of Women and Leadership in Twentieth-Century Australia, Smart, Judith and Swain, Shurlee (eds.), 2014,

<http://www.womenaustralia.info/leaders>

## Archival resources

### State Library of Victoria

Records, 1893-1993 [manuscript].

### Author Details

Anne Heywood

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