

# The Australian Women's Register

---

**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** IMP0073

## Alley, Diane Berenice

(1927 - )

---

**Nationality** Australian

---

**Born** 12 December, 1927, Ballarat Victoria Australia

---

**Occupation** Community activist, Community worker, Human rights activist, Women's rights activist, Women's rights organiser

---

### Summary

Diane Alley has worked in a range of organisations to ensure that women gained equal opportunity in society and for the achievement of social justice for all members of the community, both in Australia and internationally. She was appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire in 1981 for her community 1923-24 work.

### Details

Daughter of (Dr) Frederick Reginald Edward Duke and Eva Reeves, née Collins.

Diane Alley was educated at Clarendon Presbyterian Ladies' College Ballarat, Victoria, Methodist Ladies' College Melbourne and Girton Church of England Girls' Grammar School Bendigo. She completed her tertiary education at the University of Melbourne where she gained a BA Honours in 1948. She later completed a Diploma of Criminology in 1976.

She married (Mr Justice) Stephen George Alley in 1949 and had four children; two sons and two daughters.

Apart from rearing her children, she has devoted her life to working for equality for women and social justice for all. She held the position of president of the National Council of Women of Victoria from 1977-1980. She was convenor of Family Policy Sub-committee Victorian Consultative Council of Social Development from 1979 and member of the Fairlea Women's Prison Council. She was a member of the Victorian Premier's Equal Opportunity Advisory Council in 1978 and chair, National Status of Women Committee, United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA) from 1980. She has been an honorary magistrate of the Children's Court from 1972. She has travelled overseas to represent the National Council of Women (NCW) at conferences of the International Council of Women. From 1986-1994, she held the position of international convenor of the Child and Family Standing Committee of the International Council of Women. In 1993 Diane Alley received a testimonial from the United Nations Co-ordinator for the International Year the Family (IYF), designating her an IYF patron for exemplary support to the UN program on IYF. On her retirement from the Board of the Children's Protection Society in 1999, she was made a life vice-president, only the second since its formation in 1896.

### Events

**1970 -**  
Lady Gowrie Child Centre

**1999 - 2000**  
Women's Rights Action Network of Australia

**1980 -**  
National Status of Women Committee, United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA)

**2001 - 2001**  
Inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women

## Published resources

### Book Section

Alley, Diane Berenice, OBE, Community Worker, 1982

### Edited Book

A decade of Mary Owen dinners, Waterfield, Dorothy, 1995

Who's Who of Australian Women, Lofthouse, Andrea, 1982

### Site Exhibition

Faith, Hope and Charity Australian Women and Imperial Honours: 1901-1989, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2003,

<http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/honours/honours.html>

Stirrers with Style! Presidents of the National Council of Women of Australia and its predecessors, National Council of Women of Australia, 2013,

<http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/ncwa>

### Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Victorian Women's Roll of Honour: Women Shaping the Nation, 2001,

<https://herplacemuseum.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/2001-Honour-Roll-Booklet.pdf>

## Archival resources

### State Library of Victoria

Papers, 1939-1974. [manuscript].

[Records, 1896-1985. \[manuscript\]](#)

[National Council of Women of Victoria](#)

### National Library of Australia, Manuscript Collection

[Records of the National Council of Women of Australia, 1924-1990 \[manuscript\]](#)

[NCWA Board Minute Books and NCWA Papers](#)

### Author Details

Rosemary Francis

**Created** 7 August 2002

**Last modified** 5 September 2017

## Digital resources



**Title:** Diane Alley

**Type:** Image

**Date:** 3 May, 2023