

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: IMP0073

Alley, Diane Berenice

(1927 - 2021)

Born	19271212, Ballarat Victoria Australia
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Died	20210802, Melbourne Victoria Australia
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Occupation	Community activist, Community worker, Human rights activist, Women's rights activist, Women's rights organiser
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Summary

Diane Alley 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 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 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 to 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 was an honorary magistrate of the Children's Court from 1972. She travelled overseas to represent the National Council of Women (NCW) at conferences of the International Council of Women. From 1986 to 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

2001 - 2001

Inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women

1970 -

Lady Gowrie Child Centre

1980 -

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

1999 - 2000

Women's Rights Action Network of Australia

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

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Digital resources



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