



City of  
KINGSTON

KINGSTON  
*Women of the Year*  
AWARDS 2023

Nominees

# Our NOMINEES

(IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

## ADRIANNE FLEMMING OAM

Adrienne is a board member of the Regional Aviation Association of Australia and the AMDA Foundation with over 30 years of experience in the aviation industry. Adrienne has held many leadership roles in a broad range of aviation-related and community not-for-profit organisations like the Women in Aviation Australian Chapter, Australian Women Pilots' Association, Moorabbin Airport Chamber of Commerce, Monash City Council's Empowering Monash Women Steering Committee and more. She was appointed by the Deputy Prime Minister to the Future of Aviation Reference Panel and awarded with Order of Australia Medal for Service to the Aviation Industry.

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## CAROL CHARTERS

Carol has been a member of the Dingley Tennis Club Committee for 10 years. She is the Secretary of the club, a Child Protection Officer and supports the Mid-Week Ladies Tennis program. She is tireless in her commitment and always volunteering her time going above and beyond. She is motivated by a great team of dedicated committee members to make the Dingley Tennis Club a success. She loves to make people feel special, safe and valued when playing the sport and as members of the club.

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## CAROLINE BROWNLEES

Caroline is a dedicated volunteer at Farm Road Preschool in Cheltenham. She has made a significant contribution to her community by dedicating several years to the committee as President. Having completed a Bachelor of Teaching (birth to 5 years) and with a background in early childhood education herself, she has been an invaluable source of information and support to the staff at Farm Road Preschool particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. She is passionate about her work and a great mentor to new staff.



# Our NOMINEES

(CONTINUED)

## DR CAROLYN BEAUMONT

Dr Carolyn Beaumont is a general practitioner known in the community for her work as an advocate and educator for tobacco harm reduction. Since 2020, Carolyn has been involved in this field and has recently engaged with students, parents and teachers from secondary schools to raise awareness and inform about the dangers of teenage vaping. Carolyn also made a significant contribution to help mature-age students become doctors after she challenged a discriminatory policy by an Australian university in 2011, which would otherwise have prevented her from gaining entry to medical school.



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## CLAIRE ELIZABETH CANTOR GOMO

Despite only being in her mid-30s, Claire is recognised as one of Australia's leading commercial insurance lawyers. She has represented some of Australia's largest corporations in both the banking and resources sectors and worked on disputed insurance claims worth more than \$40 million. Claire has reached these milestones whilst raising her four young children, one of whom has additional needs. From a diverse cultural background herself, Claire is dedicated to supporting diverse women lawyers and insurance professionals and has been a champion of sustainable business practices and the legal industry's 'Equitable Briefing Policy'.



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## CLANCY SEMMLER

Clancy is a full-time working mum and has over the past 10 years dedicated her spare time to raise money through various fundraisers to support young Cystic Fibrosis patients. The funding supports a specialty physiotherapy program helping patients lead a better quality of life. Clancy has helped to raise a total of \$80,000 and nothing holds her back including having her first child during a pandemic, working full-time or caring for her own family whilst still finding time to manage the fundraising events.



# Our NOMINEES

(CONTINUED)

## EMILY DANIEL

Emily is dedicated to making a difference to the Kingston community's health and wellbeing whilst promoting sustainability. She is the founder of the Parkdale Pantry, which is a free, outdoor pantry that can be accessed by anyone in our community. Emily has a long-term goal to have a Pantry in every suburb so many more people can benefit from the service. 'Give what you can, take what you need' – with this mantra, Emily's Pantry promotes community collaboration, spreads happiness, alleviate families' hardship, while also reducing waste and landfill.



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## HARINI KARTHIKEYAN

Harini is a Transformational Technology professional with more than two decades of software engineering experience. She has worked across the globe (India, China, UK and Australia) for global companies such as Igate, Kodak, Carestream, Telstra and delivered multi-million-dollar programs. Harini now leads the Community of Excellence practice for Telstra and delivers complex IT transformation programs across the globe. She is also the treasurer for STEM Incubators Inc, a charity focused on creating a thriving innovation platform for young Australians by providing them opportunities to learn critical thinking tools and skills to solve real world problems.



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## JACINTA MEYERS

Jacinta has operated her small business for over 10 years whilst also working as a research scientist in the pharmaceutical industry. As a scientist she has been awarded several honours and awards. Her small business, Essential Essence Aromatherapy Oils makes use of her scientific talents where she makes her own essential oils and other herbal products. In her spare time, she runs practical workshops to pass on her knowledge about distillation, aromatherapy and cosmetic manufacturing to others.

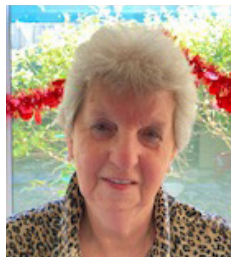


# Our NOMINEES

(CONTINUED)

## JANET ARNFIELD

Janet's tireless commitment to helping others is an inspiration. As Team Leader at Matt's Place community meals program in Cheltenham, she has been a key player in ensuring approximately 6,000 meals a year are served and the volunteers on the floor are welcoming and hosting guests. Janet is the President of the Brighton Evening VIEW Club, which is closely aligned with The Smith Family. They raise money for disadvantaged children to help them with their education and essentials. She is also an active Committee member of Middle Brighton Probus Club.



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## JESS MCKENNA

Jess has played an integral part in the growth and development of the Mordy Flyers Basketball Club. A passionate and exceptional basketballer herself, Jess played for the Melbourne Tigers as a junior and at 17 years of age began volunteering as a basketball coach for the Mordy Flyers, a role she continues today. Jess is a strong advocate for women and girls in sport and enjoys supporting and mentoring them in their basketball development. She also positively contributes to the ongoing recruitment and development of young people.



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## JOY FRIGHETTO

Joy has worked with children with special needs at Parkdale Secondary College for 26 years, providing care and devoting her time to ensuring they reach their full potential, changing the lives of many children. She is also a dedicated volunteer of St Kilda Mums in Clayton where she prepares and bundles donations to go out to families in need. Spending many hours each week collecting, sorting and receiving donations in her home. Joy was recognised as the most valued volunteer by the staff at St Kilda Mums.



# Our NOMINEES

(CONTINUED)

## JOY HANSEN

Joy is the founder of Emergency Resources at Kingston City Church - a food relief agency she established in Heatherton in 1994. The program has grown from a team of five volunteers serving six families to now 30 volunteers serving over 160 families. She sacrificed a full-time income for her family to develop Emergency Resources so others worse off in our community could benefit. She is a devoted, selfless and giving person and has been making a significant difference to people's lives for the last 28 years.



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## REV. JUDITH TURNHAM

Judi is the Minister of Chelsea Community Church of Christ and has a wide range of skills including counselling, Masters in Science and Masters in Theology. She has been in her Ministry role for nine years and has increased the level of support to those within the Kingston community who are struggling to manage on low pensions, low incomes, sleeping rough, experiencing family violence and addictions. Judi is also an active member of Kingston Emergency Relief Group, and the Chelsea and District Inter Church Council.



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## JULIE BUICK

Before retirement, Julie was a paediatric physiotherapist and was awarded Victorian Paediatric Physiotherapist of the Year. She was a member of Kingston Council's Access and Equity Advisory Committee for 12 years. Julie always acts with the highest integrity and has spent her entire personal and professional life supporting and advocating for others in her communities. In her role as a paediatric physiotherapist, she continually strove to break down the barriers that stood in the way of children and their families receiving the care and support they needed.



## AUNTY KATRINA AMON

Aunty Katrina is a proud Quandamooka woman from the Noonuccal tribe. Aunty is from Minjerribah or you may know it as North Stradbroke Island. With over three decades of experience in the education sector, Aunty Katrina has been inspiring the community through her leadership and continued commitment to the Aboriginal community. In particular, she has worked in Kingston and co-founded Derrimut Weelam Gathering Place and the Kingston Koorie Mob. She is also the Indigenous Development Manager at the St Kilda Football Club, helping support its Indigenous fraternity and educating the entire club through the enrichment of Indigenous culture with multiple initiatives.



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## KELLIE PERYMAN

Kellie has been a long serving President of the Chelsea Heights Football Netball Club. She has led a strong and united club and has been responsible for financial management turnaround when the club was facing financial extinction. She was awarded Southern Football Netball League Chairman's Award. Kellie is an outstanding advocate for women in business and in sport as she displays her strong leadership qualities, values, and recognises the importance of inclusivity.



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## KELLY SCURRAH

Kelly is the Director of Sponsorship at Mordialloc Life Saving Club. She has developed and maintained relationships with local businesses, raising more than \$80,000 for the club. Kelly assists as a Volunteer Patrolling Life Saver (Bronze Medallion), Water Safety Officer and a Technical Official. She ensures safety requirements are met for the Life Saving Victoria Carnivals and Nipper Programs, along with her regular involvement and assistance where needed for every day running of the club, its facilities and all the programs and pathways offered by the club.



# Our NOMINEES

(CONTINUED)

## KIM CULPIN

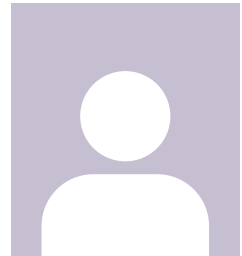
Kim has devoted her working life to making a difference to the lives of others within the community. Starting out in the Victoria Police Force, Kim rose to the rank of Senior Detective and after 12 years of service, she began a new career in community services. She commenced in a not-for-profit organisation more than 23 years ago in the homelessness and family violence sector. Kim began as a case manager before stepping into management and ending her career as general manager of a welfare organisation. Kim now works as a volunteer with Central Bayside Community Health Services.



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## KYM BRADLEY

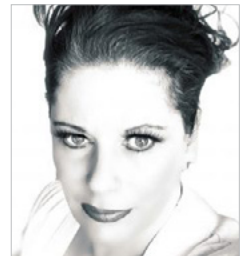
Kym is a foster care social worker and always goes above and beyond in her role at Mackillop Family Services, working with children with special needs, vulnerable children and foster care children. Kym has successfully engaged in multiple household situations, so that the underprivileged children may flourish in difficult circumstances. She shows excellence every day while managing other people's lives, as well as her own family. She has repeatedly inspired others in the community by keeping families intact.



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## LISA KINROSS

Lisa is a leader in the water and civil industries and Chief Executive Officer of Civil Contractors Victoria, being the first female CEO in the organisation's 79-year history. She is a highly qualified, values driven executive and transformational leader with 20 years' experience as an executive and leader in strategic and transformational change spanning across several industries. Lisa is a passionate advocate and has held multiple advisory roles within peak industry bodies to support the development of workforce skills development, mental health and safety.





# Our NOMINEES

(CONTINUED)

## LOUISE FISHER

Louise is the founder of LunchFox, an innovative new app that allows parents to order healthy school lunches from local cafes. The aim is to support busy families and local communities: taking minimal commission themselves, they give schools 5% from every order and leave cafe owners with 85% of their revenue. This app has opened a whole new market for cafe owners at a time when they needed it most. Louise has been instrumental in setting up a strong community relationship between the schools and cafes and continues to foster these relationships as the business grows.

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## MASHA WEIJERS

Masha is a full-time working mum and Head of Finance and IT. This year Masha opened her heart and her home to Ukrainian refugees. She tirelessly supported newly arrived Ukrainians with finding shelter and work, navigating through various challenges of integration in Australia. So far, Masha has helped over 60 families. She has made a real difference to the community and inspired many. Masha is a kind and dedicated person who continues to help and work around the clock to improve lives of newly arrived adults and children scarred by war.

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## MEGAN THORNTON

Megan inspires others, especially women, to keep believing in their passions and working hard to achieve them. Having started Mordialloc Florist and volunteering as the Mordialloc Traders Association President, she has been a local influence on Mordialloc for over 13 years. As Mordialloc Florist's Operations Manager she was instrumental to twice winning Melbourne's Best Florist in the Herald Sun awards and continues to show leadership working with the Traders Association and 'Main Street Mordialloc' with her passion for 'shop local' and to keep growing 'Mordi' into the most vibrant destination in the City of Kingston for the benefit of all.



## MICHELLE KORBERG

Michelle has touched many lives through her work as a therapist, educator, and facilitator. She has been a volunteer on the Crisis Support Line, Suicide Help Line and Mens' Line Australia. In 2011 she developed the Caring Mums Program powered by the National Council of Jewish Women Australia Vic (NCJWA VIC). She has trained 200+ volunteers, matching over 600 mums with a Caring Mum. Since it began, the program has received 700+ referrals for women covering 42 different nationalities. Her passion, understanding and acceptance of differences makes her an inspiring and motivational leader.



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## MILLIE UNWIN

As a 17-year-old, Millie runs and operates the administration function at Dingley Tennis Club. She uses her network and social media to promote, attract and support new members, in particular females, to the club. Thanks to her efforts, the club increased its social presence, which helped attract 30+ members last year. By developing the digital footprint for the club Millie helps the business grow while promoting health and wellbeing through the practice of sports.



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## NIKKI KAUR

Nikki is a volunteer champion who goes above and beyond to help people in need. From teaching dance, Hinduism and Sikhism to children, to help raising money for Monash Children's Hospital and many other activities in between. Nikki has demonstrated values of care, community service and community involvement during pre and post COVID times by organising essential item hampers for those in need as well as organising performances for aged care residents. She is an understanding, empathetic person who gives attention to people in need and in such a way that makes them feel valued and worthwhile.



# Our NOMINEES

(CONTINUED)

## ODRI FERNANDES

Odri is an award-winning business coach, mentor, and speaker. The proudest accomplishment of Odri's career has been the self-awareness and massive personal transformation she experienced and is now able to translate to the personal development of clients, which creates a ripple effect within their businesses and family lives. She thoroughly believes and lives by the principle that "your business and success will grow only as much as you personally grow as a human".



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## PAM CROSSLEY

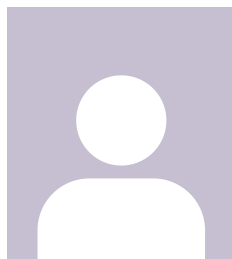
Pam is the Kiln Coordinator at the Clarinda Clayworkers Inc. Her expertise and knowledge in the field of kiln operations, management and OHS is highly sought from the ceramic and pottery industry. She has an extensive understanding of the different types of kilns and firing techniques. Pam's skills, knowledge and expertise is not readily available and yet she offers her time to support the Clarinda Clayworkers. She goes above and beyond the expectations of her role and is an unsung hero of the creative world.



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## REBECCA TAYLOR

As a mother, and after stepping away from a corporate career, Rebecca endeavoured to create something community minded and inclusive. She is the founder of her small business, 'Tree Country', a unique gift store and relaxing space in the seaside suburb of Chelsea. Being a self-employed woman and taking a risk in opening a small business, she has inspired many and supported other small businesses. She has also brought the Kingston community together with initiatives such as 'Backyard Growers' where excess produce grown by locals is shared.



# Our NOMINEES

(CONTINUED)

## SAHAR GHOLIZADEH

Sahar is a registered nurse with a background in community health and education. She has been inducted onto the Victorian Honour Roll of Women 2022, Leading Through Disaster. Sahar is the voluntary Treasurer and past President of the Australian Iranian Society of Victoria. During this time, she delivered more than 60 community programs per year including health, social, family, business support, and cultural. She uses technology and social media to forge strong community connections and provides essential information on health issues and services to the Australian Iranian community.

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## SAMITA BHATTACHARJEE

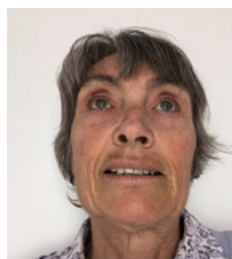
Samita is an eco-entrepreneur and an advocate for sustainability, handmade and ethical production. She disseminates information about sustainability through her YouTube channel, Learn with Samita and is a mentor for Australian start-ups, lectures at international conferences and writes articles on sustainable and ethical lifestyles. She introduced eco-toys and homewares that support a circular economy. Samita has won the Ausmumpreneur silver trophy for Sustainability and was a finalist in the Sustainability Champion of the Year category at the National Retail Awards, Australia in 2021.

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## SANDRA JOY CHAN

Sandra is a volunteer English tutor with the Melbourne Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) Volunteer Tutor Scheme at Melbourne Polytechnic. Sandra is dedicated and goes above and beyond her volunteer duties having developed personalised materials for her students to practice outside their scheduled lessons. She also helps with student's confidence and empowerment while giving them hope. Sandra became a volunteer after she retired as a primary school teacher and has received recognition for 35 years of service to Education by the Department of Education and Training.



# Our NOMINEES

(CONTINUED)

## DR. SHWETHA SHANKAR

Shwetha is a leadership and business coach, and an advocate for mental health and wellbeing. Having worked with incarcerated women and via her suicide intervention skills she has been able to understand body language and change perspectives through applied psychology and public health interventions. She also empowers business leaders and their teams to gain greater self-awareness and helps them build a cohesive culture to gain focus and productivity through proven scientific tools to boost performance and increase sales. Shwetha was a finalist for the 2022 Australian Women's Small Business Champion Awards.

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## SUE DOHERTY

Sue has demonstrated commitment to the Dingley Tennis Club as a volunteer for over 20 years. She previously held the role of Vice President and is now committed to keep the Mid-Week Ladies Tennis program a viable activity within Kingston. The average age of the ladies she encourages to play is 70-75 years. Her goal is to encourage mature women to keep active and healthy while doing something they like.

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## UMA KRITHIKA MURALIDHARAN

Uma's humanitarian efforts are as diverse as her abilities. They include assisting migrants, elderly people, students, community workers, and others in need. Her generosity, unconditional love, motivating speech, encouragement and trust inspires everyone in the community. She helps victims of abuse and domestic violence by guiding them in right direction; helps migrants by connecting them with relevant networks; teaches technical skills to senior citizens; organises social gatherings and is key to bringing people together; and provides support at difficult times.



# Our NOMINEES

(CONTINUED)

## VANESSA MIRANDA

Vanessa is a mother of four and owner operator of Miranda Accounting services. After losing her premature daughter, she set up the Miranda Foundation, a charity dedicated to raising funds and awareness for Monash Children's Cancer Centre and Hospital. Since then, Vanessa has raised over \$162,000 to improve the care given to bereaved families who lose their babies and children with cancer. She is also the Treasurer of Bonbeach YCW Junior Football Club, Team Manager of St Joseph's Basketball Team, Treasurer of the Cricket Club and sponsor of Chelsea Heights Footy Club among her various volunteering roles.

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## VICKI BEAVAN

Vicki is an artist and founding member of the Clarinda Clayworkers Inc. She leads by example with innovative ways for the group to function and continues to be a wonderful support in all aspects of the studio's organisation and maintenance. Her willingness to assist others and her enthusiasm has helped to keep the studio viable and a pleasant place for all. Vicki is one of the unsung heroes of the creative industry, working tirelessly and voluntarily to keep the craft alive.



# Join us for the International Women's Day Celebration

Friday 11 March 2022

9.45am – 12.30pm

at Kingston City Hall

The event is free however bookings are essential.

[kingston.vic.gov.au/kwa](http://kingston.vic.gov.au/kwa)

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