A HISTORY OF AUSTRALIA'S FIRST FEMALE HEADS OF MISSIONS AND POSTS AROUND THE WORLD

PORTRAITS & MIRRORS

EXHIBITION

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE
INTRODUCTION
FROM THE SECRETARY

Australian women of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade have made a major contribution to advancing and protecting Australia’s national interests overseas.

Our Portraits & Mirrors Exhibition builds on a 2019 Mirror Challenge set up by the United Kingdom’s Foreign & Commonwealth Office. The Australian women featured in the DFAT Exhibition are the first female Heads of Mission or Post across Australia’s overseas network. They are exemplars of determination and courage, paving the way for Australia’s female diplomats today and into the future.

The mirrors reflect the posts where we have not yet had a female Head of Mission or Post. As female Heads of Mission or Post commence at their missions, the mirrors will be replaced with their portraits. Until then, let this exhibition inspire more DFAT officers, to aim higher and seek to represent Australia at the highest levels overseas.

Frances Adamson
Secretary
THE HON. DAME ANNABELLE RANKIN DBE
HIGH COMMISSIONER TO NEW ZEALAND
1971 – 1974
RUTH L. DOBSON OBE
AMBASSADOR TO DENMARK 1974 – 1978
AMBASSADOR TO IRELAND 1978 – 1981
MARIS E. KING MBE
HIGH COMMISSIONER TO NAURU 1977 – 1979
HIGH COMMISSIONER TO TONGA 1980 – 1984
MARY McPHERSON
HIGH COMMISSIONER TO CYPRUS
1982 – 1985
E. JOAN NORWOOD
HIGH COMMISSIONER TO VANUATU
1983 – 1985
M. ROSALEEN McGOVERN PSM
AMBASSADOR TO SWEDEN 1983 – 1988
HIGH COMMISSIONER TO SINGAPORE 1988 – 1990
THE HON. PENEOPE WENSLEY AC
CONSUL-GENERAL, HONG KONG 1986 – 1989
AMBASSADOR & PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN, GENEVA 1993 – 1996
AMBASSADOR & PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN, NEW YORK 1997 – 2001
HIGH COMMISSIONER TO INDIA 2001 – 2004
AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE 2005 – 2008
DIANE K. JOHNSTONE AM
AMBASSADOR TO NEPAL
1986 – 1989
SUSAN J.D. BOYD
HIGH COMMISSIONER TO BANGLADESH 1986 – 1989
AMBASSADOR TO THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM 1994 – 1998
HIGH COMMISSIONER TO FIJI 1999 – 2003
TONIA L. SHAND AM
HIGH COMMISSIONER TO SRI LANKA
1988 – 1992
STEPHANIE K. DALY
CONSUL-GENERAL, BOMBAY (NOW MUMBAI)
1989 – 1992
VICTORIA M. OWEN
AMBASSADOR TO SYRIA 1990 – 1992
AMBASSADOR TO EGYPT 1998 – 2002
RUTH L. PEARCE
HIGH COMMISSIONER TO SOLOMON ISLANDS 1992 – 1994
AMBASSADOR TO THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION 1999 – 2002
AMBASSADOR TO THE PHILIPPINES 2002 – 2005
MARY L. McCARTER
HIGH COMMISSIONER TO MAURITIUS
1993 – 1997
ZENA J. ARMSTRONG
CONSUL-GENERAL, GUANGZHOU
1996 – 1999
LISA K. FILIPETTO
CONSUL-GENERAL, HO CHI MINH CITY 1997 – 2001
HIGH COMMISSIONER TO KENYA 2007 – 2010
AMBASSADOR TO ETHIOPIA 2010 – 2014
LYNDALL A. McLEAN AM
AMBASSADOR TO BURMA (NOW MYANMAR)
1997 – 2000
SUSAN E. TANNER
AMBASSADOR TO CHILE 1997 – 1999
AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN 2003 – 2006
KARINA H. CAMPBELL
AMBASSADOR TO LAOS
1997 – 2000
JOANNA M. HEWITT AO
AMBASSADOR FOR APEC 1998 – 2000
MARTINE L. LETTS
AMBASSADOR TO ARGENTINA
1998 – 2000
PORTRAITS & MIRRORS

SALLY MANSFIELD
CONSUL-GENERAL, NOUMEA
1998 – 2001

PORTraits & MIRRORS
DENISE M. FISHER
HIGH COMMISSIONER TO ZIMBABWE
1998 – 2001
MARGARET A. ADAMSON
CONSUL-GENERAL, BERLIN 1993 – 1996
AMBASSADOR TO POLAND 1998 – 2002
JANET M. GARDINER
AMBASSADOR TO PORTUGAL
2000 – 2003
LOUISE H. HAND PSM
AMBASSADOR TO THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA 2000 – 2003
HIGH COMMISSIONER TO CANADA 2012 – 2015
PENEOPE A. RICHARDS
CONSUL-GENERAL, SHANGHAI
2001 – 2002
FRANCES J. ADAMSON
REPRESENTATIVE, TAIPEI 2001 – 2005
AMBASSADOR TO THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA 2011 – 2015
STEPHANIE A. SHWABSKY
AMBASSADOR TO LEBANON
2002 – 2006
CAROLINE J. MILLAR
AMBASSADOR FOR PEOPLE SMUGGLING AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING
2003 – 2005
PAMELA J. FAYLE
AMBASSADOR TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY
2003 – 2006
JANE MADDEN
AMBASSADOR & PERMANENT DELEGATE TO UNESCO
2003 – 2007
DEBORAH A. STOKES
AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRIA &
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN, VIENNA 2003 – 2006
HIGH COMMISSIONER TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA 2013 – 2015
ANNKA C. GEORGE
AMBASSADOR TO CROATIA
2003 – 2006
JEAN M. DUNN  PSM
AMBASSADOR TO TURKEY
2004 – 2007
CORINNE D. TOMKINSON
AMBASSADOR TO FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA
2004 – 2007
MARGARET E. TWOMEY AM
AMBASSADOR TO TIMOR-LESTE
2004 – 2008
VERONIQUE INGRAM PSM
AMBASSADOR & PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE OECD, PARIS
2005 – 2008
ANNMAREE O’KEEFFE AM
AMBASSADOR FOR HIV/AIDS
2006 – 2007
ANNE M. QUINANE
HIGH COMMISSIONER TO KIRIBATI 2006 – 2009
HIGH COMMISSIONER TO MALTA 2009 – 2012
CLARE L. BIRGIN
AMBASSADOR TO HUNGARY 2004 – 2010
AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA 2007 – 2010
PENNY WILLIAMS PSM
HIGH COMMISSIONER TO MALAYSIA 2007 – 2010
GLOBAL AMBASSADOR FOR WOMEN & GIRLS 2011 – 2013
AMBASSADOR TO INDONESIA 2021 – CURRENT
ELIZABETH A. SCHICK
CONSUL-GENERAL, CHICAGO
2008 – 2011
GILLIAN E. BIRD PSM
AMBASSADOR TO ASEAN
2008 – 2013
KATRINA A. COOPER
AMBASSADOR TO MEXICO
2008 – 2012
LYDIA MORTON
AMBASSADOR TO THE NETHERLANDS & PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ORGANISATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS, THE HAGUE
2008 – 2011
LYNDALL J. SACHS PSM
AMBASSADOR TO IRAQ 2011 – 2015
AMBASSADOR TO IRAN 2019 – CURRENT
JOANNA M. ADAMSON
HIGH COMMISSIONER TO GHANA
2013 – 2015
NANCY L. GORDON
CONSUL-GENERAL, CHENGDU
2013 – 2017
MAJELL M. HIND AM
CONSUL-GENERAL, BALI
2014 – 2015
MELISSA L. HITCHMAN
AMBASSADOR TO THE HOLY SEE
2016 – 2019
FRANCES M. LISSON PSM
AMBASSADOR & PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE WTO, GENEVA
2017 – 2020
SOPHIE DAVIES
AMBASSADOR TO COLOMBIA
2017 – 2020
BERENICE OWEN-JONES
AMBASSADOR TO MOROCCO
2017 – 2020

PORTRAITS & MIRRORS
MELISSA O’ROURKE
AMBASSADOR TO UKRAINE
2017 – 2020
KARYN MURRAY
HIGH COMMISSIONER TO TUVALU
2018 – CURRENT
SUSAN GRACE
CONSUL-GENERAL, CHENNAI
2018 – 2020
JEFFIE KAINÉ
CONSUL-GENERAL, ISTANBUL
2018 – CURRENT
JANE M. HARDY
CONSUL-GENERAL, HONOLULU
2018 – CURRENT
NICOLA GORDON-SMITH
AMBASSADOR TO AFGHANISTAN
2018 – 2019
KERIN AYYALARAJU
AMBASSADOR TO ESTONIA
2018 – CURRENT

PORTRAITS
& MIRRORS
CLAIRE IRELAND
HIGH COMMISSIONER TO NIGERIA
2019 – 2020
AMANDA L. GORELY
AMBASSADOR FOR ARMS CONTROL & COUNTER-PROLIFERATION
2019 – CURRENT
RICHELLE TURNER
AMBASSADOR TO PALAU
2020 – CURRENT
STEPHANIE A. WILLIAMS
AMBASSADOR FOR REGIONAL HEALTH SECURITY
2020 – CURRENT
JULIE-ANN GUIVARRA
FIRST INDIGENOUS FEMALE HEAD OF MISSION
(AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN 2018 – 2020)
AMBASSADOR FOR GENDER EQUALITY 2020 – CURRENT
BRONWYN ROBBINS
CONSUL-GENERAL, MAKASSAR
2020 – CURRENT
CATHERINE RAPER
AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
2020 – CURRENT
JAN ADAMS AO PSM
AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN
2020 – CURRENT
ROWAN AINSWORTH
CONSUL-GENERAL, KOLKATA
2021–CURRENT
CLAIRED SCOTT
CONSUL-GENERAL, PAPEETE
2021–CURRENT

CLAIRE SCOTT
CONSUL-GENERAL, PAPEETE
2021–CURRENT
THIS COULD BE YOU

AMBASSADOR TO THAILAND
AMBASSADOR TO BRAZIL
AMBASSADOR TO QATAR
AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF
THE MARSHALL ISLANDS
AMBASSADOR TO KUWAIT
CONSUL-GENERAL, LAE
HIGH COMMISSIONER TO THE UNITED KINGDOM OF
GREAT BRITAIN & NORTHERN IRELAND
CONSUL-GENERAL, NEW YORK
CONSUL-GENERAL, PHUKET
HIGH COMMISSIONER TO TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
AMBASSADOR TO SAUDI ARABIA
CONSUL-GENERAL, SHENYANG
CONSUL-GENERAL, SURABAYA
AMBASSADOR TO MONGOLIA
AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AMBASSADOR FOR COUNTER-TERRORISM
AMBASSADOR FOR CYBER AFFAIRS
HIGH COMMISSIONER TO COOK ISLANDS