

# KNOW A WOMAN MAKING IT HAPPEN IN THE CITY OF MELTON?

SHARE HER PHOTO\* & STORY AT [FACEBOOK.COM/HEALTHYMELTON](https://www.facebook.com/HEALTHYMELTON) OR BY USING #MELTONWOMEN



In Australia, men and women should be equal. Women can do anything.



Women need to be part of decision making. Women need to be proud of what they deliver to this community. Everything they do is vitally important.



Women across the world make enormous contributions. It's important to acknowledge women in the community.



Women need to uplift, engage, empower and stand strong beside each other.



I want my daughter to be a tough woman and maybe one day, the Prime Minister!



We need inspiring women doing good things in the community.



All women should live safely. They should be respected as individuals and walk freely and independently.



To elevate the status of women in our community, we need the respect of men.



Women supporting other women needs to be part of everyday life.



Anything can be done, bit by bit. Find your niche. Never be afraid!



There needs to be opportunities for girls in schools throughout the City of Melton to encourage them to go on to bigger things.



When women have a passion, they should not give up. They should keep working on it and keep the faith!

\*Please ensure you seek permission from the person before posting about them on social media



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**“WOMEN SUPPORTING  
OTHER WOMEN  
NEEDS TO BE PART  
OF EVERYDAY LIFE.”**

**KATHY RUDKINS**



## **CITY OF MELTON WOMEN MAKING IT HAPPEN!**

Inspector Kathy Rudkins is a Victoria Police member in the City of Melton. She believes it is important to look at how far women have progressed in the last 50 years and for women to continue to support each other every day. She thinks it's fantastic that Melton City Council has a female Mayor and so many female Councillors. Her vision for the City of Melton is for improved social cohesion and tolerance.

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BIGGER THINGS,”**

**MADDISON WOOD**



## **CITY OF MELTON WOMEN MAKING IT HAPPEN!**

Maddison was the recipient of the City of Melton's Young Citizen of the Year award in 2014. She is an active volunteer in the Whitten Project aimed at encouraging young people to participate in sport. Maddison describes herself as determined and plans to travel the world in future.

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“  
I WANT MY  
DAUGHTER TO BE  
A TOUGH WOMAN  
AND MAYBE ONE  
DAY, THE PRIME  
MINISTER! ”

MARY ANWAT



## CITY OF MELTON WOMEN MAKING IT HAPPEN!

Mary is a Sudanese woman who has called Australia home for the last fourteen years. Mary's grandmother taught her how to basket weave and she now teaches other women her craft. She is very thankful for this skill as it helps her to stay connected to her culture and pass this on to future generations. Mary named her youngest daughter Julia, after Julia Gillard, because she wants her to be a strong woman.

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**“IN AUSTRALIA,  
MEN AND  
WOMEN SHOULD  
BE EQUAL.  
WOMEN CAN  
DO ANYTHING,,**

**NGO HNA**



## **CITY OF MELTON WOMEN MAKING IT HAPPEN!**

Ngo Hna came to Australia eight years ago from Myanmar. She is passionate about helping new mothers and their children and about the opportunity for education in Australia. She is a playful person who is inspired by her church leaders and attempts to lead her life by following their example.

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**“ALL WOMEN SHOULD  
LIVE SAFELY. THEY  
SHOULD BE RESPECTED  
AS INDIVIDUALS AND  
WALK FREELY AND  
INDEPENDENTLY.”**

**REETA VERMA**

## **CITY OF MELTON WOMEN MAKING IT HAPPEN!**

Reeta arrived in Australia from India on 27 June 1986. She remembers the exact date because her daughter took her first steps that day. Reeta has been part of the Melton Family Violence Network for the last four years. She provides support for women who have escaped or are currently experiencing family violence. Reeta's biggest role model is her mother and she believes we can learn from our sisters to make the world better for our daughters.

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Never see disability or gender as a barrier to achieving your goals



Anyone can achieve the goals they set themselves if they really want it



To achieve or make a difference in life, it's about determination and focus



Teach young women to value and respect their ideas



Offer support to women to step outside their comfort zone



Use the differences that women bring to the table as strengths



Men and women need to speak up and challenge gender roles



Lots of minds create lots of ideas which lead to success



Encourage women to embrace their passion and follow their dreams



Encouraging women to achieve their goals can make a huge difference to the status of women and girls in Melton



You are special, there is only one of you in this world, so believe in yourself



Don't give up, try to speak up



I want to tell other women on their journey to never give up, just keep going



We need to have respect for each other and lots of love

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**“I WANT TO  
TELL OTHER  
WOMEN ON  
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UP, JUST KEEP  
GOING”**

**DAWN DAVIES**



## **CITY OF MELTON WOMEN MAKING IT HAPPEN!**

Dawn is a proud member of the Melton Aboriginal Parent's group and the Melton Aboriginal Marla Women's group. She is a mother of six and has been on her own journey to discover her family history, this has been difficult at times but she is learning a lot about herself and her culture. Dawn likes to keep busy and is very involved in her community because she believes it is important to help people.

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**“MEN AND  
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UP AND  
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GENDER ROLES”**

**KATE BARTA**



## **CITY OF MELTON WOMEN MAKING IT HAPPEN!**

Always looking for an adventure, Kate has been an active member of community group Linking Melton South and is particularly passionate about encouraging people to be proud of where they live and what they do. Kate has found her artistic passion lies in creating mosaic, and she is thrilled watching strangers come together and form lasting connections and friendships while celebrating their local community.

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**“TO ACHIEVE  
OR MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE IN  
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DETERMINATION  
AND FOCUS”**

**FE DOROSON**



## **CITY OF MELTON WOMEN MAKING IT HAPPEN!**

Friendly, positive and open-minded are just some of the words that friends use to describe Fe – a passionate advocate for the environment and sustainably harnessing the earth's natural resources. Since being involved in community group, Friends of Toolern Creek, this was the catalyst for Fe's to replicate the project overseas to form Friends of Laguna Lake – the biggest lake in the Philippines.

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IN MELTON”**

**FELICITY ANTONY**

## **CITY OF MELTON WOMEN MAKING IT HAPPEN!**

Felicity has been chasing her dreams around the world. Studying abroad, getting involved in local community projects and helping others has given Felicity a sense of pride about living in Melton. Her work with the Festival for Healthy Living, a school based initiative promoting mental health and wellbeing, has allowed her to be involved in local schools and focus on building confidence and resilience with students (especially young women) so they can be courageous in pursuing their dreams.

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 <p>"GENDER IS NOT A BARRIER."</p>	 <p>"YOU ARE STRONGER THAN YOU BELIEVE, YOU ARE SMARTER THAN YOU THINK, YOU CAN DO ANYTHING YOU CAN IMAGINE ... JUST GIVE IT A TRY."</p>	 <p>"WE NEED EVERYBODY WORKING TOGETHER."</p>	 <p>"KEEP WORKING TOWARDS YOUR GOALS."</p>
 <p>"WOMEN SHOULD BE RESPECTED, ENCOURAGED, EMPOWERED AND TREATED EQUALLY."</p>	 <p>"ULTIMATELY WE OURSELVES CAN MAKE A CHANGE. BE PROUD OF WHAT YOU'VE ACHIEVED SO FAR AND NEVER BE AFRAID TO DO MORE."</p>	 <p>"I HAVE HIGH HOPES WOMEN WILL BE TREATED AS EQUALS AND EMPOWER EACH OTHER."</p>	 <p>"EVERYONE NEEDS TO TAKE PART IN THE CONVERSATION ABOUT RESPECTING WOMEN AND TACKLING VIOLENCE."</p>
 <p>"JUST DO IT! ASK THE QUESTION, MAKE THE COMMENT, TAKE THE RISK."</p>	 <p>"NEVER GIVE UP. IF IT GETS HARD, KEEP PUSHING."</p>	 <p>"BELIEVE IN YOURSELF AS THE SKY'S THE LIMIT."</p>	 <p>"IF YOU LOOK FORWARD, YOU'LL MOVE FORWARD."</p>

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OTHER."**

**STAVROULA GOUROS**

## **WOMEN MAKING IT HAPPEN**

Stavroula is known as the outgoing and free spirited Stavi by her friends. Stavroula is always willing to help in every way she can. Born in Australia, Stavroula has lived in Melton for 4 years and thinks it is a wonderful place with a great sense of community. Stavroula has been volunteering with the Northpoint Food Pantry in Melton South, she is proud to be part of the Northpoint family who work tirelessly to do all they can to make sure people do not go hungry. Loren Pratt, the founder of the Northpoint Food Pantry is one of her greatest role models. Stavroula is a proud woman, proud to be different and proud to be herself.

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**SUMEYYA ILANBEY**

## **WOMEN MAKING IT HAPPEN**

Sumeyya is a storyteller, currently working as a journalist at Melton Star Weekly. Sumeyya has been inspired by the Melton community and the number of selfless individuals doing their bit whether it be through planting trees, cleaning up their neighbourhoods or putting their heart and soul into an event to raise funds. Sumeyya believes women are powerful and they deserve every opportunity to live a meaningful life, regardless of race, religion or colour. Born to Turkish migrants, Sumeyya's biggest role model is her mum who has taught her a lot about compassion and patience. Sumeyya knows there is a lot of work ahead, but it is worth it for mums, sisters and daughters to feel strong, determined and powerful.

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**"WE NEED  
EVERYBODY  
WORKING  
TOGETHER."**

**DOROTHY PERRY**

## **WOMEN MAKING IT HAPPEN**

Dorothy, also known as Dot to her friends has lived in Australia all her life and has been a Melton resident for 46 years. Dorothy is very active in her community. As well as the Western Bulldogs and her family, community is one her greatest passions in life. Dorothy is most proud of seeing Melton grow and flourish into the vibrant city it is today. A member of the Melton and District Historical Society, Probus, Linking Melton South and walking groups, Dorothy is an active woman celebrating all that is great about her community. Dorothy believes International Women's Day is about recognising women from all walks of life. A woman Dorothy considers a role model in her community is Moira Kelly for her work ethic and compassion. She believes it is important to recognise women and all they have to offer.

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