

Founded 1902 ~ Celebrating 120 years in 2022

Newsletter

March 2022

QUOTE: "Gender Equality today for a sustainable tomorrow" - The International Council of Women's objectives are definitely in line with this theme chosen by UN WOMEN to mark the International Women's Day 2022, a topic of primary importance for the building of a more sustainable future for all. Despite the many formidable challenges, women have a critical role to play in all the Sustainable Development Goals; the need to recognize gender equality is represented in Goal 5, known as "the stand-alone gender goal". This is dedicated to achieving gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, and detailing within the single goal a full range of issues of general concern. Effective actions have brought some positive change. However, all too often the hard-earned achievements in the field of Gender Equality have suffered from a serious backlash; particularly in the last two years of a worldwide pandemic and an increase of violence and unrest in parts of the globe, as Afghanistan has shown, and now the crisis in Ukraine.

<http://www.icw-cif.com/>

From the President, Ronniel Milliken

Message received from Jungsook Kim, President of ICW:

Dear NCW presidents and sisters,

Different people have different understanding of the justification, or lack thereof, for the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The causes of war are always complex. My focus here is ... to emphasize the growing number of those who suffer. We cannot help but feel enormous sympathy for all the casualties, particularly for all the innocent women and children whose lives have been turned upside down if not destroyed. As members of the International Council of Women, our hearts ache for them. When we see clips of fleeing moms with babies in arms, it hurts us deeply. We can literally feel their fear and anguish. When we see women hand in hand with their young family, walking mile after mile to safety in tears, we cry with them. Regarding neighboring countries which have taken in hundreds of thousands of refugees, potentially millions, we express our gratitude and appreciation for their kindness.

Our strongest hope is that there can be a peaceful, just and speedy resolution of the conflict. But as we move toward that goal, it is imperative that we remain vigilant to the plight of women and children.

They need and deserve our strongest support. Humanitarian action is an important role that national councils of women can play in influencing policy. As members of the global community, we at the International Council of Women will redouble our efforts to enforce the international humanitarian and human rights laws and conventions that protect the rights of women and girls during and after conflicts. We will also do our best to stop the war and take the lead in establishing permanent peace with the power of women's cooperation and unity.

March Council Meeting - Thurs 3 March, 4:30-6:00

We celebrated the 100th + 1 Anniversary of the Australian Federation of Women Voters (AFWV), the 75th+2 anniversary of the League of Women Voters Victoria (LWVV) and the 120th Anniversary of NCWV.



Elisabeth Newman AM, Pam Hammond, Sheila Byard OAM

Our Speaker was Professor Marilyn Lake AO, who spoke about the history of voting in Victoria, and how in the 1900s Australia – and Victoria - led the world, inspiring the right for women to vote and stand for election at multiple levels across the globe. Professor Lake gave an example of this international influence by detailing a lecture tour by Vida Goldstein across America in 1902. Vida spoke so passionately and inspirationally about Australian women's political achievements and ambitions and the emergence of women as a new force to be reckoned with, that in 1909, a trip to Australia was funded for an American delegation to see Victorian suffrage activity first-hand. A strong trans-pacific movement was formed during this time, with one of the delegates (Maud Wood Park) later becoming the inaugural president of the American National League of Women's Voters, leveraging the work of Australian women observed on this trip.

What were women's interests and values at that time? What did they want? Goldstein's speeches from this tour – and positions of women candidates standing in the 1909 Victorian election - demonstrated women wanted equal rights and protection against sexual violence, a legal age of consent, joint guardianship of children by both parents,

equal pay and appointment to roles and positions such as police officers, doctors, prison officers and other roles where women may otherwise fall under the purview of - and be at risk from - men. Women wanted women truancy and sanitary officers and school inspectors and particularly important today, settlement of international disputes through peace and arbitration. Many of the women standing for election in 1909 remained non-partisan, encouraging independent voters. Around the world the impact of this was felt deeply. Changes were evident in many other countries following these elections, resulting in improved school and sanitary inspections and other general women's and children's rights and conditions.

These topics, however, were now defined as 'women's issues' which crossed party boundaries. Women candidates through history are often portrayed as 'idealised' women standing on 'women's agenda' concerns who are later caught in machinations of party idealism. Vida Goldstein was one such case. Despite her great achievements, she failed each time she stood for election.

Marilyn posed the question: Was this because childcare and social hygiene were primarily seen as 'women's concerns', and therefore not popular among the voting majority? It wasn't until the 1980s that women candidates gained any significant degree of success. Since then, women have attained every level of office, however this has mainly been due to being endorsed as party nominated candidates for political parties. Many prominent women attached to mainstream political parties have now been successful at all levels from Ministers and shadow ministers at federal and state levels through to PM of Australia. Fairer representation was needed of women at all levels of politics to reflect today's society (closer to 50/50 gender split) and that women have a right to have careers as politicians.

In response to a question on diversity, Professor Lake spoke on how one of the key problems with 'women's interests' is 'which' women? By the 1960s and 70s diverse women's groups were objecting to 'White Women's' organisations speaking on their behalf. It can't be a simple case of white women's groups responding by being inclusive, it's more complex. Different groups have different issues. For example, aboriginal issues for Pat O'Shane and women like her were land rights in 1976.

So, the issue might be land rights, the taking of the children away and the stolen generations, aboriginal languages and culture. These don't immediately ring as women's issues at all.

Professor Lake concluded by posing a curious question to the group: Is the new wave of independent women candidates standing on gender neutral topics such as climate change and the way to go for future success or is a focus on 'women's issues and goals' needed for further advancement?

Prof. Marilyn Lake AO



Elisabeth, Beverley, Pam, Helen, June, Judith Smart in back
We all enjoyed drinks and finger food after Marilyn's talk.

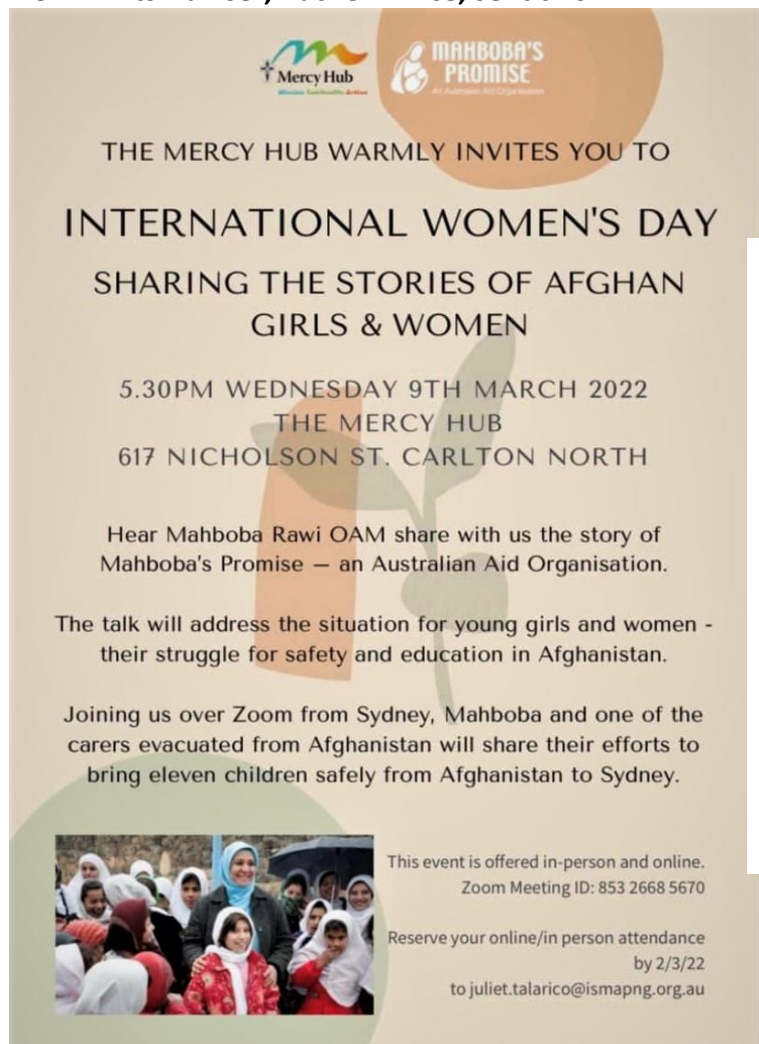


League of Women Voters, Victoria (LWVV)

Women's History Month Roundtable, 15 March, 10am-12:00 at Royal Historical Society, Victoria:

'Girl wanted: Physics, Maths, and Chemistry Required', talk by Robyn French, providing perspective on STEM approach. This event will include plans to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Education Act, reflecting on delivery of gender equality. RSVP to leaguewvoters@gmail.com by noon 10 March.

NCWV Arts Adviser, Rachel Prince, sent this:



Our friends at Jewish Care in Melbourne have produced a new campaign in support of International Women's Day, called Women of Valour. It celebrates the achievements of eight extraordinary Jewish women from throughout history, many of whom are little-known, or who were unsung in their lifetime. The campaign includes a poster as well as a conversation toolkit with information about each of these incredible women, plus reflection questions to inspire discussion about gender equality and women's empowerment.

A copy of the poster file can be seen by clicking on the link below, and you're welcome to share the direct link here: https://www.jewishcare.org.au/icms_docs/330776_women-of-valour-conversation-toolkit.pdf



NCWV Multicultural & Migration Adviser, Nurcihan Ozturk:

I recently received information from the VMC where mortality rates of Covid-19 was discussed. This prompted me to check the ABS website and I was extremely alarmed at the rate of mortality amongst the CALD communities. At the same time, I am also not surprised, given that all levels of government were very slow in reaching out to these communities in their languages. I am sharing this information as it goes to show that there is still loads of work that needs to be done in keeping all levels of community informed and updated with information.

Country of birth	No. of deaths	Age-standardised death rate	Median age at death (years)
Australia	907	2.3	84.3
Overseas born	1,640	6.8	83.0
Oceania and Antarctica	141	8.2	70.7
North-West Europe	220	2.3	85.5
United Kingdom and Ireland	158	2.1	85.6
Other North-West Europe	62	3.1	85.0
Southern and Eastern Europe	732	11.1	85.8
Southern Europe	244	8.3	86.6
South Eastern Europe	410	14.5	84.1
Eastern Europe	78	8.2	91.8
North Africa and the Middle East	288	24.7	78.7
North Africa	39	13.4	79.5
Middle East	249	29.3	78.6
South-East Asia	94	4.8	74.0
North-East Asia	45	2.9	84.3
Southern and Central Asia	58	4.9	78.0
Americas	35	4.9	77.2
Sub-Saharan Africa	27	3.4	71.5

a. This table only includes information on registered deaths due to COVID-19. Numbers of deaths will differ to disease surveillance system



Last call for Gala Dinner tickets – open to all
Saturday 19 March 2022, 6:00 PM, Melbourne
Room 1 & 2, Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre, Level 2, 1 Convention Centre Pl, South Wharf VIC 3006
Any assistance, contact our Events Team at vmcrsvp@itproductionmanagement.com
You can **purchase up to ten ticket(s)**. This is the final release of tickets. **[Purchase ticket\(s\)](#)**



Our Child Wellbeing and COVID surveys are closing on Sunday 20 March.

[Take the survey for children and young people](#)

[Take the survey for parents, grandparents and carers](#)

61st Annual Pioneer Women's Ceremony, Saturday. March 26th 2022, 10:00–12:00pm

Given the surge in covid omicron infections - NCWV have rescheduled the Pioneer Women's Ceremony to **Saturday 26 March 2022** from 10 am to 12 noon, relocated from Kensington to **the Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden in the Kings Domain, Melbourne.** **Melways Map: 2G, A10**

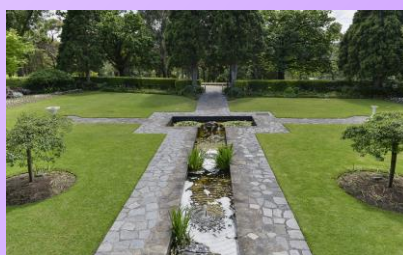
This once again will celebrate Victorian Pioneer Women, conducted annually by the NCWV to acknowledge past and present women pioneers.

As 2022 is the 120th Anniversary of NCWV, focus will be on pioneer women who established Victorian women organisations and who have continued these organisations up until today. Dr Judith Smart AM, co-author of the history of the NCW Australia, *Stirrers with Style* will give an overview of the history of women's organisations, then a panel of speakers from some of the founding groups of NCWV will talk about their beginnings and where they are today. Those who met on 19 March 1902 were:

- the Austral Salon of Music, Literature and the Arts;
- the Melbourne Jewish Women's Guild;
- the Young Women's Christian Association – Y.W.C.A; and
- the Women's Christian Temperance Union – WCTU.

The Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden is a garden of remembrance created in Kings Domain as part of the 1934 celebration of the Centenary of Melbourne. A variety of fundraising ventures occurred, including producing and selling a commemorative book, and receiving public subscriptions to have a particular woman's name inscribed on a "sheet of remembrance", buried beneath the sundial in the garden. The garden was designed by [Hugh Linaker](#) and is a formal, symmetrical garden traversed by a watercourse. This flows into a grotto which contains a [bronze](#) statue of a woman by the sculptor [Charles Web Gilbert](#).

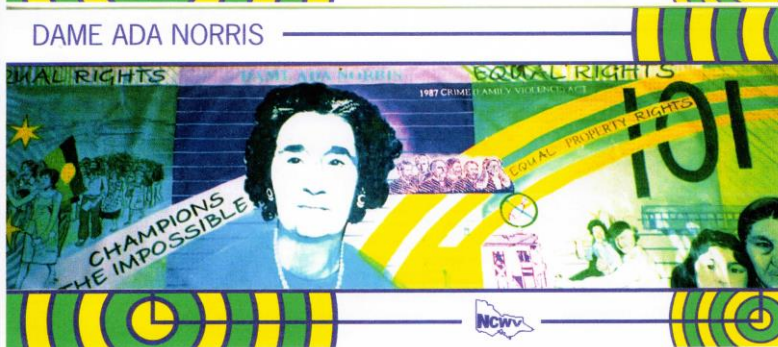
This is a COVID safe event, with distancing and sanitising. Please bring own water bottle, water will be available. Please notify NCWV of your attendance on info@ncwvic.org.au



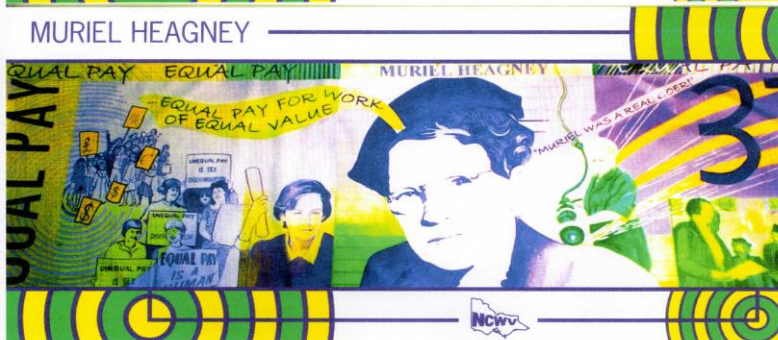
VIDA GOLDSTEIN



DAME ADA NORRIS



MURIEL HEAGNEY



NCWV Banners

As part of the 120th Anniversary celebrations, the Royal Historical Society of Victoria (RHSV) has enabled NCWV to display the banners created for the 2001 march: OUR NATION ON PARADE which celebrated the Centenary of Federation.

NCWV was one of only a few women's groups who were invited to march.

There were around 300,000 people who watched the two-hour parade through the streets of Melbourne.

The reaction of the crowd was overwhelming as NCWV was cheered for its history of action on women's issues.

The banners will be on display for the month of March in the gallery of the RHSV.

Soroptimist International of Melbourne Inc

Centenary Celebration Luncheon

William Angliss Restaurant, 16 March 2022

Introduction: Sophie Arnold, Executive Manager - UN Association of Australia, Vic.



Guest speaker, Tanja Kovac, CEO - Gender Equity Victoria

All proceeds from the luncheon will be donated to SisterWorks.

Booking details:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/soroptimist-international-centenary-celebration-luncheon-tickets-265557899827>

ALGWA Vic prepared a submission to the State Government's Local Government Culture Project with input from its membership. The Culture Project has an objective, *'to make local government a safer space for women and to encourage more women to nominate for election as the Government aims to reach gender parity in local councils by 2025.'* Watch for the full submission in April.

OTHER NEWS

Reflections from the Chairperson of the Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC)

My thoughts recently have been with the people of Ukraine and the Ukrainian and Russian diasporas. For Ukrainian-Australians, this is a time of great anxiety and fear. I also appreciate the terror that people living in Ukraine are feeling right now, and I give my sympathies to the families of those who have already died in this violent invasion. I ask that you all spare a thought for what Ukraine and its people are going through. The situation is changing by the day, but we are continuing to work with Ukrainian communities in Victoria to support them. If there are ways that Victoria's broader multicultural communities can contribute, we will be in touch. It is also a stressful time for all refugees and former refugees of any background, so please keep reaching out and supporting one another. **Viv Nguyen AM**

Pioneer girls and flappers: An International Women's Day event



Have you booked in for our International Women's Day free online talk yet? Katie Wood from La Trobe University and Peter Haffenden from Melbourne's Living Museum of the West will explore the five decades that were a whirlwind of disaster, war and strikes and shed light on the transformational and often surprising ways in which the women of the Colonial Ammunition Company broke through bias.

WHEN: 6.30pm-7.30pm, Wednesday 9 March 2022

WHERE: Online via Zoom

**Book
Now**

IWD lunchtime panel: Tuesday 8 March, 12:00 AEST, by ZOOM

Join **Victorian Women's Trust** in partnership with Thrive by Five this IWD for a discussion about childcare reform in the lead-up to this year's federal election. Featuring **Jay Weatherill**, **Nyadol Nyuon**, **Angela Jackson**, **Jacqui Emery** and moderated by **Mary Crooks AO**.

Register now >

**THRIVE
BY FIVE**



Jay Weatherill, CEO of Thrive by Five

2022 is a defining year for early learning in Australia. **COVID-19 is creating a crisis in early learning**, exacerbating workforce shortages, causing centre closures and leaving families scrambling to find adequate early learning and childcare so they can go to work - which is why it's more important than ever for decision makers to be taking up our call for reform. And with the Federal Budget and Federal Election set to take place within the next three months, we have two enormous opportunities for change. That's why we've written to the leaders of the major parties, Prime Minister Scott Morrison, Opposition leader Anthony Albanese and Greens leader Adam Bandt, **to tell us what they're doing to fix the early learning system - and we need you to add your powerful voice to this call.**

[Click here to send an email to our federal leaders now and ask them what they're doing to reform early learning and make early learning high quality, universally accessible and affordable.](#)

With their own jobs on the line in the Federal Election, our leaders are listening more carefully than ever to what voters - like you - want. Which makes it such an important opportunity to put pressure on them, and to make sure they know that fixing early learning is a matter of urgency for people right across the country.

Omicron has intensified the long-running problems within the early learning and childcare system, so fixing them has never been more important. Educators are exhausted and overworked, parents struggling and children are missing out.

Our new Friends of Thrive by Five video was developed with the help of early childhood educators across the country, to help spread the word about our Friends of Thrive by Five program. The program is designed for educators and centre directors who are keen to step up their involvement in the campaign.

[Click here to watch the video and find out more now, then sign up to be a Friend of Thrive by Five.](#)

UNAA South Australia: Adelaide International Women's Day Breakfast, Friday 11th March

Virtual International Women's Day (IWD) event on Friday 11th March, 7am-8/8:15am.

With special guest Grace Tame, hosted by Senator the Hon Penny Wong and MC'd by Sonya Feldhoff, ABC Radio Adelaide, we are looking forward to a wonderful event.

The pandemic has significantly disadvantaged millions of women and as a result we need your support more than ever to help us raise funds to support UN Women Australia's projects in the Asia-Pacific region. We encourage you to use this as an opportunity to fundraise for UN Women Australia by hosting smaller events and watching the live stream with your friends and colleagues.

From the 2021 Adelaide IWD Breakfast we were able to donate \$60,000 to UN Women Australia. This was a significant achievement and we hope to continue that strength this year. For more info and tickets, visit [here](#)

ROSS HOUSE - STAY CONNECTED

NCWV's display in the front window of Ross House for the month of March, celebrating 120th Anniversary

Includes photo of Ukrainian delegates, with 'We Support Ukraine, We Support Democracy, We Support Peace'



Amazing Women! By the National Council of Women Victoria, article was in the Ross House March newsletter.

****Breaking news:** Weekend papers have focussed on women. Several articles worth a read:

The Age Sunday Magazine, p10, has an article by Eliza Reilly with extracts from her book *Sheilas: Badass Women of Australian History*, focussing on Catherine Hay Thomson. Catherine was revered as an undercover journalist known for exposing corruption and abuse. In 1886 she published five stories that changed the way Australians saw the 'insane'. These included treatment of the blind, 'infant asylums' (unmarried mothers and their babies) and the Kew Asylum. Her's is an amazing life working tirelessly to better the plight of women everywhere. She was one of the founders of the Austral salon in 1890 and the NCWV in 1902.

The Weekend Australian Review, p14, article by Sue Smethurst 'Speaking up to get respect for women' is an interview with Wendy McCarthy about her 50year battle for women's rights and her new book 'Don't be Too Polite, Girls'.

Our Purposes: to provide a non-party political, non-sectarian, not-for-profit, umbrella organisation with broadly humanitarian and educational objectives, empowering women and girls; raising awareness of gender equality; act as a voice on issues and concerns of women and girls at State level; develop policies and responses on behalf of women and girls on a State-wide basis; maintain and strengthen the Association's relationship with all members; link with women in Australia and International Council of Women through the National Council of Women of Australia and contribute to the implementation of their plans of action and policies.

Our motto: The Preamble to the original ICW Constitution said "We, women of all Nations, in the conviction that the good of humanity will be best advanced by greater unity of thought, sympathy and purpose, and that an organised movement will serve to promote the highest good of the family and of the Nation, do hereby band ourselves together in a federation of women of all races, nations and creeds, to further the application of the Golden Rule to society, custom and law: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

The NCWA conference by ZOOM will be on Friday 1 April 2022 from 9:30 to mid-afternoon.

NCWV Dates for 2022, venue/ZOOM to be notified for each meeting

March	Thursday 3	Council Meeting, 4:15-6:30pm. RHSV Gallery, Prof Marilyn Lake AO
	Monday 21:	Standing Committee Meeting, 4:30pm – 6:00pm
	Thursday 17:	Committee Meeting, 10:00am-12:00pm
	Saturday 26	Pioneer Women's Ceremony – 10:00-12:00pm, Dr Judith Smart AM FRHSV Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden, Kings Domain
April	Thursday 7	Individual Members and Council Meeting 12:15 – 2:15
	Monday 11	Standing Committee Meeting, 4:30-6:00pm
	Thursday 21	Committee Meeting, 10:00am-12:00pm
May	Thursday 5	May Forum: 10:00am, Council Meeting, 12:15pm
	Monday 9	Standing Committee Meeting, 4:30pm – 6:00pm
	Thursday 19	Committee Meeting, 10:00am-12:00pm
June	Thursday 2	Individual Members and Council meeting, 12:15-2:00pm
	Monday 20	Standing Committee Meeting, 4:30-6:00pm
	Thursday 16	Committee Meeting, 10am-12 noon
July	Thursday 7	Council Meeting, 5:15-7:15pm
	Monday 11	Standing Committee Meeting, 4:30pm – 6:00pm
	Thursday 21	Committee Meeting, 10am-12 noon
August	Thursday 4	Individual Members Meeting, 10:15-11:30am, Council Meeting, 12:15-2:00pm
	Monday 8	Standing Committee Meeting, 4:30-6:00pm
	Thursday 18	Committee Meeting, 10am-12 noon
September	Thursday 1	NCWV AGM, 12:15-2:00pm
	Monday 12	Standing Committee Meeting, 4:30pm – 6:00pm
	Thursday 15	Committee Meeting, 10am-12 noon
October	Thursday 6	Individual Members Meeting, 10:15-11:30am, Council Meeting, 12:15-2:00pm
	Monday 10	Standing Committee Meeting, 4:30-6:00pm
	Thursday 20	Committee Meeting, 10am-12 noon
November	Thursday 3	Council Meeting, 5:15-7:15pm
	Monday 14	Standing Committee Meeting, 4:30pm – 6:00pm
	Thursday 17	Committee Meeting, 10am-12 noon
	Thursday 24	End of Year Celebratory Luncheon, 12.00, Angliss Restaurant, 550 Little Lonsdale St Melbourne, nr Spencer Street.