

# The Australian Women's Register

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**Entry type:** Person

**Entry ID:** AWE0577

## Sutherland, Selina Murray Macdonald

(1839 - 1909)

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**Born** 26 December, 1839, Parish of Kildonnel Sutherland Scotland

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**Died** 8 October, 1909, Melbourne Victoria Australia

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**Occupation** Nurse, Philanthropist, Welfare worker

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### Summary

Selina (also spelt Sulina) Sutherland was the first person in the State of Victoria to be licensed under the 1887 Neglected Children's Act. The Act sanctioned private licensed individuals to remove children from unfit homes and take them under their own guardianship. The daughter of Baigrie and Janet (née MacDonald) Sutherland, Selina Sutherland was born in Scotland, spent some time in New Zealand before settling in Melbourne, Australia, in 1881. Initially she worked as a nurse and, along with Mrs Maria Armour, founded the Scots' Church Neglected Children's Aid Society in 1881. For the next 28 years Sutherland was involved with helping Melbourne's poor. Following her death on 8 October 1909 a public appeal was held to erect a granite memorial for her grave.

## Events

### **1891 - 1891**

Wrote a paper on slum life in Melbourne for the second Australasian Conference on Charity

### **1897 - 1897**

Visited the United Kingdom during the Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee and presented to Queen Victoria

### **2010 - 2010**

Inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women

### **1864 - 1864**

Emigrated to New Zealand on the *Eastern Empire*

### **1879 - 1879**

Principal founder of Masterton Hospital

### **1879 - 1880**

Matron of Wellington Hospital

### **1887 - 1887**

The first person to be appointed in Victoria to receive children under the Neglected Children's Act, part 8

### **1881 - 1881**

Established the Presbyterian Neglected Children's Aid Society

### **1894 - 1894**

Established the Victorian Neglected Children's Aid Society

### **1881 - 1881**

Settled in Melbourne, Victoria

### **1883 - 1883**

Established the Society in Aid of Maternity Hospital Patients

### **1885 - 1885**

Founded the Melbourne District Nursing Society

### **1886 - 1886**

Appointed by the Presbytery of Melbourne the first Lady Missionary to the Presbyterian Churches in Victoria

## Published resources

### **Book**

John's Notable Australians, 1906, Johns, Fred, 1905

Selina's legacy: from VCAS to Oz Child, Hilton, Della, 1931-, 1993

Selina M. Sutherland : her life story and work, Jessop, J. C., 1967

### **Book Section**

Selina Sutherland: Child Rescuer, Swain, Shurlee, 1985

### **Thesis**

The Victorian Charity Network in the 1890s, Swain, Shurlee, 1977

### **Resource**

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

### **Site Exhibition**

The Encyclopedia of Women and Leadership in Twentieth-Century Australia, Smart, Judith and Swain, Shurlee (eds.), 2014,

<http://www.womenaustralia.info/leaders>

## Archival resources

### **State Library of Victoria**

Records, 1893-1993 [manuscript].

### **Author Details**

Anne Heywood

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