

## MULTICULTURAL IDENTITIES WHO CHANGED MELBOURNE

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### **My name is Haneen Zreika, Australian Rules footballer**

I was the first person of Lebanese descent, and the first Muslim to play in the AFL. Actually, I started first as a rugby player but at 15 switched to Australian Rules Women's football (AFLW) when my high school sports teacher invited me to a footy clinic. After competing in the 2016 AFL Youth Girls National Championships I made my AFLW debut in the 2019 where I was nominated for the AFL Women's Rising Star award in round seven



### **My name is Bachar Houli, three-times premiership AFL player**

My parents came from Lebanon to Melbourne in the 1970s. I am best known as a three-time premiership player with Richmond and was named All-Australian half-back during my 2019 premiership season. I am a devout Muslim and am the third Muslim to play in the AFL. Read all about me in my book: *Bachar Houli: Faith, Football and Family*. Go Tigers!



### **Carboni, Raffaello, Italian Eureka rebel, linguist, traveller, author and composer (1817–1875)**

I came from to Ballarat in 1852 after fighting for Garibaldi in Italy and struck gold. Peter Lalor, asked me to organize the foreigners at the Eureka stockade. Afterwards I was acquitted by the Melbourne jury of the charge of treason and wrote a history of the revolt. I continue travelled the world as a revolutionary, translator of many languages, composed musical theatre, books and plays. Repeat the Miners Oath after me: : *'We swear by the Southern Cross to stand truly by each other to defend our rights and liberties'*.



### **Anastasia Hayes – Irish Eureka rebel (1818 - 1892)**

On October 1852, I arrived at the Ballarat Diggings. Ever tried to raise 6 children in a tent? I began teaching children (90 of them!) in another tent at Bakery Hill. They say I was blue-eyed, red-haired, good looking, fiery temper and politically active. They were right! I sewed the giant Eureka flag with Anastasia Withers and Anne Duke. When Peter Lalor was shot at Eureka, I helped to amputate his left arm and then threw it down a mineshaft. When my husband was arrested I told those damned troopers: *'If I had been a man, I wouldn't have been taken by the likes of you.'*



### **Eliza Cobb, Founding Pioneer 1800-1879**

For 51 years I was the devoted partner of John Fawkner, a founding settler of European Melbourne. We built our house on the corner of Flinders Lane and Williams Street. I was sentenced to 7 years transportation to Tasmania in 1818 for kidnapping a baby. Men rushed to my ship to choose a wife. My husband said he chose the plainest woman on board because someone stole his first choice. However when he finally died I became a wealthy woman, plain or not!



**Fawkner, John Pascoe (1792–1869), founder of a City**

I may have been the son of a convict but in 1835 I chartered the Enterprize ship to settle at Melbourne near today's Immigration Museum. I don't care what people say, I was 'numero uno' to settle Melbourne! Don't let that drunken oaf John Batman, take the credit! I also opened the first hotel and newspaper and became a member of Parliament' to look after the little bloke and stop the 'squattocracy'. Beware - you don't want to make an enemy of me! My dear plain wife Eliza Cobb was with me for 50 years.



**My name is Anthony 'The Man' Mundine Jr, champion boxer and rugby player**

In 2000 I was Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Person of the Year. I converted to Islam in 1991. From being the highest paid national rugby player in Australia, I switched to professional boxing in 2000, winning many championships including the super-middleweight and super-welterweight titles. I was inspired by Muhammed Ali and my father who was also a boxer. I often protest against racism in sport which made me unpopular with some people! Some say I am too opinionated but mate, ya gotta be true to yourself!



**My name is Jessica Smith, OAM Para-Olympian, speaker, and author**

I born without my left arm and then suffered burns to 15% of my body in an accident. Not a great start to life! But aged ten I discovered swimming! I swam for Australia for seven years including the 2004 Paralympic Games in Athens. In 2019 I was awarded an Order of Australia Medal for services to the community including motivational speaking. It's not what you physically look like but what's inside that counts! My children's book *Little Miss Jessica Goes to School* is about a young girl with only one arm and the challenges she faces on her first day at school.



**Sir Redmond Barry, Irish founder library and university (1813–1880)**

I was a hard-working young man who arrived just after settlement and rose to the very top of Marvellous Melbourne. I helped founded Melbourne University and the State Library and became a judge of the Supreme Court. I worked long hours and endured the arduous travel by coach, train or horseback to country courts. I died only not long after Ned Kelly cursed me when I sentenced him to death for murder. Go see my statue is on the front lawn of the **State Library**, corner Lonsdale and Swanston streets.



**Ned (Edward) Kelly, Irish Bushranger (1855–1880)**

I have been described as a horse thief, bushranger and rebel and was captured in my home-made armour at the siege of Glenrowan. I was sentenced to death by Judge Sir Redmond Barry for the murder of three policemen but after they put my mother in jail, they had to pay! I cursed the Judge 'I will see you where I go!' and he died 12 days after my execution at Old Melbourne Gaol. Every man must come to judgement some day. Many films and books are about my controversial life.



**John Chun Sai So 苏震西; Chinese-born Lord Mayor of Melbourne**

In 2001, I served as the 102nd Lord Mayor of Melbourne. I was the first ever to be directly elected by the people - previously they were elected by councillors - and the first of Chinese descent. When re-elected in 2004, I became the longest-serving Mayor in history – 7.5 years! I made people happy. They formed for me my own fan club – ‘*John So, he’s my Bro!*’ In 2006, I also won the World Mayor Award

**My name is Carmen Marton, World Taekwondo champion**

My parents were Polish refugees to Australia. I became Australia's first ever world taekwondo champion when I won the women's lightweight gold medal at the 2013 World Taekwondo Championship. I have also qualified for three Olympics. My partner Safwan Khalil, my brother and my sister all won Gold in taekwondo at the 2015 Pacific Games. My motto is ‘hard work and ambition overtake natural ability’. I was raised Catholic but converted to Islam in 2009. To me the great religious stories are the same.

**Steve Bracks 44th Victorian Premier (Lebanese descent), (1954 - )**

When I first ran against Jeff Kennet in 1997, no-one expected me to win. Yet I went on to become the second longest-serving Labour Premier in Victorian history. I went on to win two more elections, only the second time in history for the Labor Party! I was always prepared to talk to people and was careful about the finances! I never lost an election because I resigned to focus on my family life in 2007. Some say I spent too much time consulting with people. You can't consult too much!

**Julia Gillard, Welsh-born 27th Prime Minister of Australia (1961 - )**

I migrated with my family to Australia in 1966 and graduated from Melbourne Uni in 1986 as a lawyer. I was elected the 27th Prime Minister of Australia when Kevin Rudd resigned. The 2010 federal election saw the first hung parliament since in fifty years so I was forced into minority government with bitter battles against many opponents. Perhaps some people didn't want a female PM in a common law marriage and without children, but I worked hard and got a lot of reforms done. My rant ‘*I will not be lectured on misogyny by this man*’ is still popular on YouTube! On 26 June 2013, I lost the leadership of the Labor Party to Kevin Rudd.

**John Monash, German/Jewish General (1865-1931)**

I was raised in a Jewish German family in country Victoria and became an engineer. They say my command of the Australian Army WW1 won brilliant victories in France. I created a new form of warfare to win battles and to save as many Australian lives as possible. After the war I was a leader of civic institutions such as the SEC and Luna Park in Melbourne. During the Great Police Strike of 1923 I took control of Melbourne with vigilantes or ‘specials’ at the **Melbourne Town Hall** on Collins Street.



**My name is Mustafa Kemal Atatürk 1881-1938, Turkish general and founder of modern Turkey.**

I defeated the ANZACS at Gallipoli and then became the first President of Turkey but your sons are our sons. Of course, Australia and Turkey have now been friends for 100 years. Anzac Cove now holds our message to Australian mothers: *is no difference between the Johnnies and the Mehmets to us they lie side by side here in this country of ours. You, the s who sent their sons from faraway countries, wipe away your your sons are now lying in our bosom and are in peace. After lost their lives on this land they have become our sons as well.'*



**My name is Mona Shindy, Navy Officer, engineer, businesswoman**

I was born in **Egypt** in 1968 and migrated to Australia with my family at the age of three. I was a Captain in the Royal Australian Navy and their Strategic Advisor on Islamic Cultural Affairs. I try to be a leader to young Muslims and remove barriers between communities. In 2015 I named National Telstra Business Woman of the Year and awarded a Conspicuous Service Cross.



**My name is Charley Khan, ANZAC soldier, World War One**

I was just another Aussie soldier doing my bit for King and country even if I was born in **India**. I served in Gallipoli, Belgium, Egypt and France. I was popular with my digger mates because when things got bad, I always tried to cheer them up! I came home after being badly wounded at Bullecourt in 1917. Our great general John Monash praised me in despatches and I was proud when the King was pleased to award me the Meritorious Service Medal. I hope you repeat the Ode on ANZAC Day for the diggers like me! *They shall grow not old/ As we that left grow old/ Age shall not weary them /Nor the years condemn/ At the going down of the sun/ And in the morning/ We shall remember them/ Lest We Forget.*



**My name is Mariam Veiszadeh, lawyer and human rights advocate**

I was born in **Kabul, Afghanistan** during the Soviet War in 1984. After years of jumping countries, my family finally got asylum in Australia in 1991. I am a well-known fighter for Muslim rights in this country including Ambassador for Welcome to Australia and Participate Australia. I also sit on the board of Our Watch, a national organisation to stop violence against women and their children. In 2015 Elle Magazine Malaysia listed me amongst the 12 most influential women helping to change the world for the better alongside Michelle Obama and Angelina Jolie.



**Simcha Baevski, Jewish founder of a retail empire (1878-1934)**

I was born in Russia, youngest of eleven children. When I came to Melbourne I was just a street peddler with no English. I still managed to build up a great store in Bendigo with 200 employees. In 1914 I changed my name to Sidney Myer and opened **Myers** - Melbourne's greatest department store in Bourke Street. In 1957 our family created the Bourke Street Xmas windows to celebrate the Olympic Games. Our family has given huge donations to Melbourne arts, science, medicine and culture. We believe in everything Melbourne!



**St Joan of Arc, French Military leader 1412 – 1431**

I was the national heroine of France known as the Maid of Orleans. I was just a teenager when I was inspired by God to lead the French army to heroic victories over the English. Unfortunately I was captured and burned at the stake when I was only 19 years old. However the Pope later pronounced me a Saint of France - so all is good. My statue is at the **State Library**, corner Lonsdale and Swanston Streets. Go girl!

**Gog 1898 – 2014 Greek devil**

My brother Magog and I are seven-foot Trojan (Greek) robotic giants from Guildhall, England that defend the city of Melbourne. We have guarded **Royal Arcade** since 1893 and strike the hour. We are descended from 33 evil daughters that murdered their good husbands to marry demons. It's great to have a grandfather who was a Trojan demon - you get to scowl at everybody.

**My name is Randa Abdel-Fattah, best-selling book author and lawyer**

I am born Muslim in Australia from Palestinian and Egyptian parents. I have published several popular books including for children and teenagers, dealing with issues of race, identity, cultural stereotypes, and adulthood. My books include *Ten Things I hate about me*, *Noah's Law* and *Does my head look big in this?* I have been a regular on ABC's *Q&A*, and often visit schools around Australia discussing social justice and inequality with students.

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**My name is Sabrina Houssami – Model (Miss World Asia Pacific), TV & Radio presenter, Mensa member**

I was born in Australia of Lebanese and Indian parents. In 2006 I won the Miss World Asia Pacific title in my role as Miss World Australia. In 2009 I was a contestant on the first Australian season of 'The Apprentice' and was Ambassador for the 2007 Australian Grand Prix. In my role as a charity ambassador, I have helped raise over \$5 million for world charities. Mensa made me a member. You have to have an IQ in the top 2% of the global population. Concentrate on your intelligence first and you will go far.



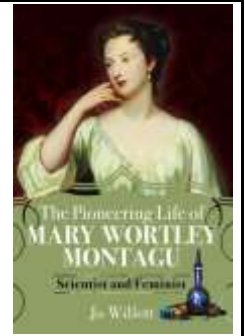
**Nonda Katsalidis, Architect, Greek-Australian, (1951 - )**

Some people talk about 'reaching for the sky' but I actually do it! Born in Athens, I graduated from the University of Melbourne in 1976. Until 1983, I did small projects such as the Cafe Byzantium in Carlton. My company now is Fender Katsalidis. I have changed the skyline of Melbourne with buildings such as the Argus Centre (1991), Ian Potter Museum of Art (1998), HM@S Lonsdale (2003), Eureka Tower (2007) Republic Tower (1999). I am aiming for 108 stories: the 'Australia 108' building on Southbank!



**My name is Mary Wortley Montagu, poet and pioneer in Islamic vaccine**

When I lived in Istanbul, Turkey as the wife of the British ambassador. I met many Muslim women there who inoculated their children against smallpox by using very small amounts of live disease. I used this save my own daughter in 1721 and then took this incredible inoculation method back to England where I saved many lives. Unfortunately many English people even doctors were extremely ignorant and called me horrible names but Islamic science was eventually proved correct! Inoculation has saved hundreds of millions of lives and is used against the corona virus today. Read a recent book about my life *The Pioneering Life of Mary Wortley Montagu* by Jo Willett.



**My name is Monga Khan 1862-1930 Street Art Hero**

I became famous when street artist Peter Drew put up 1000 posters of me all over Australia in 2016. He was exploring the idea what is a true-blue Aussie anyway? Then a book about me followed where 36 writers and illustrators imagined my life. I was born in **India** I lived, worked and died in Australia in the 1900s. My job was travelling all over Victoria as a hawker selling goods from my horse and cart. Like a travelling milk bar! I had to apply for an exemption to the White Australia Policy so I could visit home in India without fear of being kept out of Australia upon my return. It was not fair. That is why Peter had this idea of turning me into a folk hero!



**Kaldi goat herder, Inventor of coffee**

I was herding my goats in **Ethiopia** 1200 years ago when I noticed when they chewed the bright red berries of a certain bush, they began to dance around. I tried it myself and wow! So I gave some to monks in a nearby monastery who said they were bad and threw them into the fire. The beans were roasted and produced a beautiful smell so they boiled them and made the first ever cup of Arabic 'quawa' or coffee. People began using it to stay awake during Ramadan prayers. It spread from Yemen to Mecca and Medina and then Cairo, Damascus, Baghdad, and Istanbul. Ahh Turkish coffee! It reached Europe in 1591. Coffee in the Melbourne cafes is worth hundreds of millions of dollars every year. They should pay me!

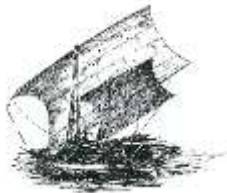


**My name is Scheherazade from *One Thousand and One Arabian Nights*.**

The fabulous Forum Theatre is an Arabian Nights fantasy cinema. Magic! Ever heard of Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves, Sinbad the Sailor and Aladdin? My stories are regularly performed in Melbourne in films, theatre and musicals. I am the storyteller in one of the world's most famous story books *One Thousand and One Arabian Nights*. A Sultan married a woman each day and beheaded her the next morning. So I told him one story each night but never finished by morning. After 1001 nights the Sultan had fallen in love with me. Weird and wonderful! In 2020, the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra performed my symphony Scheherazade at the Melbourne Town Hall.

**My name is Pak Baso, Captain Makassar fleet**

In 1803 I met Captain Matthew Flinders the first British explorer to circumnavigate Australia. In fact the name *Australia* was his idea. But he got it wrong, the real name was *Marege*. I was Captain of a fleet of Islamic fisherman from Indonesia. We had been coming to *Marege* for generations. A thousand fishermen a year! In the same year 1803 French explorer Captain Nicholas Baudin also met a fishing fleet of 26 Makassar ships.

**My name is Shaniera Akram, the 'Aussie Princess of Pakistan'**

I was born in Melbourne and am now a social worker in Pakistan where my husband is a famous Pakistani cricketer Wasim Akram. I have a celebrity following on social media and You Tube because of my fashion career, my social comments and my charity work for the Askram Foundation assisting the disadvantaged. In Pakistan they call me the 'Aussie Princess of Pakistan'. I believe in exploring new worlds and ways to help your community wherever you live.

**'Madam Ghurka', Russian Fortune Teller 1872-1953**

My name was Julia Glushkova but I called myself 'Madam Ghurka'. I claimed I left Russia because I was wounded by the Tsars guard as a British spy. Actually I was accidentally shot by my husband Zac in our circus. In Melbourne I was known as the 'Queen of Fortune Tellers' at the Eastern Market in Bourke Street. They banned fortune telling so I became a 'phrenologist' telling people's futures from the bumps on their heads.

**Walter Burley Griffin, American architect (1876 -1937)**

I was an American architect credited with the designing the L-shaped floor plan, the carport and ingenious reinforced concrete. Most people remember I designed Canberra, Australia's capital city. They forget that I designed the Palais Theatre and the Capital Theatre in Bourke Street. But did they have to tear down the ground floor? With my wife Marion Mahony Griffin, we designed 350 buildings, landscapes and projects as well as designing construction materials, interiors, furniture and other household items. Only took us 28 years!



**Marion Mahony Griffin, American architect (1871 – 1961)**

I worked with the great Frank Lloyd Wright but he got the credit for my beautiful watercolors of buildings! I married Walter Burley Griffin in 1911 and we worked together for 28 years including coming to Australia to design Canberra, Australia. Our famous Capitol Theatre is still in Swanton Street. I lived to 90 and once oversaw the design of 100 buildings in India in less than a year!

**Eliza Callaghan, English Convict and City founder 1802-1852**

In 1820 I was caught using counterfeit money and was sentenced to Australia for 14 years. My jail report describes me simply as 'Bad'. Rubbish! I escaped into the bush in 1823 and met John Batman who hid me. Together we helped found the City of Melbourne. We had six daughters and one boy who tragically drowned in the Yarra. We built a house for our children where today Young and Jacksons pub stands opposite Flinders Street Station

**My name is Delina Darusman – Australian Fashion blogger**

I am the creator of Muslim Street Fashion, a fashion blog for Muslim women and get a lot of traffic online with followers from Malaysia and Indonesia as well as Australia. All my friends used to ask me where I purchased my clothes from so I decided to set up the blog to help them out. I also wanted to let them know that Muslim women can be stylish as well with garments such as Muslim swim wear and wedding hijabs. Media publications worldwide that have featured me include Frankie, Grazia, Laiqa and the Daily Telegraph. I was also listed in the top 18 Badass Australian Bloggers on BuzzFeed.

**My name is Fatima al-Fihri, founder of the world's oldest Uni**

I used my wealth to create a mosque in Fez, **Morocco** that became the University of Qarawwiyin in 859. The Guinness World Records describes it as the oldest University in the world. Yes, for over 1000 years students have been coming to study at my university. You can still come today! One of my students was even Pope Sylvester II. He brought the Arabic numerals which we use today to the western world i.e 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9. Your phone, computer and any electric or digital communication all use code based on Arabic numerals.

