

THE MAGNIFICENT LIFE OF MISS MAY HOLMAN

AUSTRALIA'S FIRST FEMALE LABOR PARLIAMENTARIAN

by **LEKKIE HOPKINS**

Preface by **CARMEN LAWRENCE**

Foreword by **JUDYTH WATSON**

ABOUT THE BOOK

Throughout the 1930s May Holman was a household name and an inspiration to the women of her generation. She made history in 1925 when, at age thirty-one, she became Australia's first female Labor parliamentarian, holding the seat of Forrest until her untimely death on the eve of the 1939 elections.

A woman who fought tirelessly for the rights of those in her electorate, her accidental death received national coverage with thousands of Western Australian mourners lining the streets to pay tribute.

May Holman charted new territory for women, but the barriers she encountered and her methods of overcoming them still resonate today.

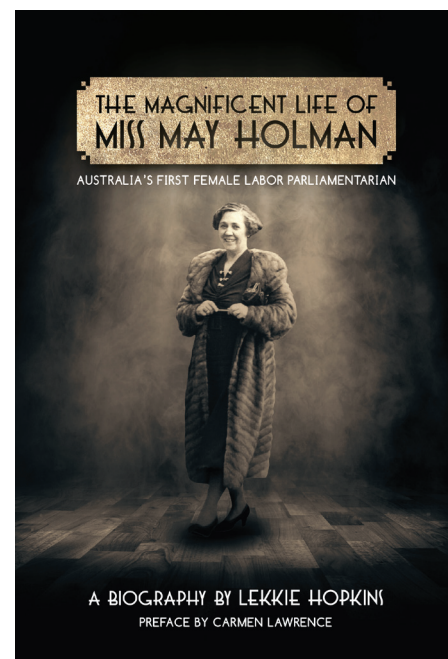
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr Leckie Hopkins is a feminist academic who researches the history of social protest and the lives of activist women. In 2010 she co-authored *Among the Chosen. The life story of Pat Giles* with Lynn Roarty. She coordinated the women's studies programme at Edith Cowan University for twenty-five years and has received local and national teaching awards. In 2011 she was among one hundred women to be inducted into the inaugural United Nations Western Australian Women's Hall of Fame, to celebrate the centenary of International Women's Day.



KEY POINTS

- Carmen Lawrence's preface is an excellent overview of one woman's response to confronting challenges to equality and human dignity.
- This is a long overdue biography of a woman who made an enormous contribution to Australian political life.
- The book provides insight into the life of a female parliamentarian who overcame the same obstacles and challenges facing women in politics today.



Pub. Date	January 2016
ISBN	9781925163353
ePUB	9781925163377
eMOBI	9781925163384
ePDF	9781925163360
RRP	\$27.99
Genre	Biography
Format	PB, B format
Extent	228 pp



CONTACT: Claire Miller
MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS
MANAGER

M +61 (0)419 837 841

T +61 (0)8 9430 6331

F +61 (0)8 9430 5242

E cmiller@fremantlepress.com.au

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