



PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT**

**Community Recognition Statement**

8 June 2021

**MELVA HANCOCK**

**Ms SONIA HORNERY ( Wallsend ) :**

The Wallsend electorate has lost a pioneer of women's sport and an absolute sporting icon. Tarro resident and basketball legend, Melva Hancock, passed away recently.

Melva led a long and illustrious career, both on and off the court, playing in the Australian Women's basketball team that participated in the second World Women's Championships in Brazil in 1957, and managing the first NSW Women's team to participate in the 1955 Australian Women's Championships – repeating this feat in 1956, 1960 and 1962.

Melva was an advocate for women's basketball, becoming the first secretary of the ABA's Women's Council and remaining as such for a decade.

She organised the Australian Women's Championships in 1961 when the event was held in Newcastle.

In 1958, she was instrumental in promoting women's sport via a very successful radio show on local radio 2NX, running for a historic 13 years.

In addition to the rest of her achievements, she also played and became an administrator for netball, golf and lawn bowls and was awarded life membership of the Newcastle Netball Association.

While Melva will be sorely missed, she has left behind a legacy that will not soon be forgotten.