



Jeanne Pratt AC

Jeanne Pratt is a distinguished Australian who has made her mark in business, philanthropy, the arts, and public service.

Born in Lowicz, Poland, she migrated to Australia in 1939 with her Jewish refugee parents as World War II threatened in Europe. Educated at Sydney Girls High School and the University of Sydney, she worked as a journalist in newspapers and television.

After her marriage to Richard Pratt in 1959 she became a director of Visy Industries which the Pratt family had established in Melbourne in 1948, and which has since become the world's largest privately owned packaging, paper and recycling company.

During the 1980s, Richard and Jeanne acquired the National Trust classified property *Raheen* in the Melbourne suburb of Kew. Jeanne spent the next 15 years restoring and extending the property to make it one of Melbourne's most recognisable and significant historic mansions. By regularly opening their home for functions, Richard and Jeanne have helped raise many millions of dollars for hundreds of charities and causes.

Jeanne has devoted much of her life to active community service through her support of an extensive variety of philanthropic and arts activities.

In March 1998 Jeanne established The Production Company, a not-for-profit theatrical company which performs Broadway musicals -- now in its 15th season -- to sell-out audiences, thus providing employment and stimulating the music theatre industry. As Chair of the Board, Jeanne is hands-on in all facets of the company.

Amongst her many roles, Jeanne is Life Governor of the Australian International Opera Awards, Patron of the Melbourne Theatre Company, a former Chairman of Opera Foundation Victoria for 20 years, and a director on the Board of Melbourne Theatre Company for 10 years.

In addition she is committed to the Combined Emergency Services Victoria, and a Patron of the Australian Council of Christians and Jews.

Amongst her many awards, Jeanne received the Order of Australia in 1989, the B'nai B'rith International Gold Medal in 1998, she became a Companion of the Order of Australia in 2002, and in 2007 the United Israel Appel-Keren Hayesod honoured her with the Lion of Judah medal for her support of education in Israel.

Jeanne has been a long time supporter of the Carlton Football Club, and after Richard's death in 2009 was made Patron of the Club. In March 2011 she became Senior Vice President.

In August 2011, Melbourne's Swinburne University of Technology awarded Jeanne an honorary doctorate for her contribution to the arts, Australian society, and the university. She joined the National Gallery of Australia Council in October 2011.

Jeanne was awarded Victorian of the Year in July 2013.

Jeanne has three children and nine grandchildren.