

Judith Black

Often the only woman in a man's world

Judith was a City of Campbelltown Councillor from May 1997 to November 2010 and was Deputy Mayor from 2003 to 2005. Her community involvement has been wide reaching and her passion remains encouraging women to be involved in all levels of management and government. Judith's family was closely involved in politics, which set the scene for Judith's involvement with the Council.

Judith was born in Tranmere, the eldest of five children. Notable ancestors include her great grandfather John McConnell Black, his sister Helen D'Oyly Carte, the first woman to be allowed to complete degree studies in mathematics at the University of London and, her great aunt Dorrit Black, local Magill artist, women's rights campaigner and political activist. Both her parents were strong influences in her life. Judith's father was a CSIRO research scientist and being very practical, encouraged his children to build chicken coops, a kayak and a sailing boat. Judith's early ambition was to study law but it was not until later in life that she was awarded a scholarship at Melbourne Law School.

Judith's first job was as a nanny in outback Queensland. She commenced working for the Commonwealth Public Service in 1966 in a range of positions, eventually finding her way to employment with the Northern Territory Branch of Government. It was in these positions she found that she was often the only woman in the workplace. Judith was in Darwin in 1974 when Cyclone Tracy hit. During the subsequent years she remembers that 'everyone did everything' to rebuild the community. She was a member of the Darwin Reconstruction Committee.

In 1981 Judith and her daughter returned to Adelaide and Judith's career included managing a rock band as well as work with the Taxation Department.

Judith and Jane moved to Tranmere in 1988 when she studied for a Bachelor of Education and taught Yoga; and to Hectorville in 1995. Judith's legacy from her period as Councillor (1997-2010) is wide reaching and includes that more women stood for Council, hard refuse collections commenced, gym equipment was added to public spaces, aged care actions became a priority, Campbelltown ARC, Function Centre and Lochend redevelopments were undertaken. She actively supported the Italian community to ensure their voice was heard and their contribution to the Campbelltown community was valued.

Judith has been involved in Neighbourhood Watch since 1989 and volunteering with Helping Hand and Meals on Wheels, the Waste Warrior project and the Campbelltown Public Library Local History room.

She is a regular walker and a member of the Brilliant Support walking group comprised of women and men from all walks of life. She was a participant in several local Community Weight Loss Challenge courses and 10 years later, the participants are still providing support for each other. Judith loves travelling and has travelled across Australia and overseas. She is frequently seen swimming at the ARC Centre and is a keen gardener.

"Our experiences and the people we meet provide the strength, resilience and courage to start anew."

Celebrating International Women's Day with the 'Women of Campbelltown' project – inspiring stories of local women, their achievements and contributions to the Community.

To see the full stories visit: www.campbelltown.sa.gov.au/iwd

Thank you to the women who participated and volunteer interviewers Di Booker and Katrina Spencer.