

# Jill Whittaker

## *Think globally, act locally*

Jill is a long-standing elected member of the City of Campbelltown Council and the first female Mayor of Campbelltown in 150 years.

Jill was born into a Yorke Peninsula farming family and grew up as a member of a strong and active community. Her early memories include the freedom of country life; growing up with cousins and friends, weekend tennis and netball, attending barn dances, helping with the sheep and driving the family ute from a young age.

Jill completed her schooling and went on to study teaching at the University of Adelaide. She commenced her teaching career at Unley High School and then taught for 10 years in New Zealand in a range of positions from early childhood to secondary schools. On her return to South Australia she initially worked in a range of roles from relief teaching to gardening and roustabout before taking the public service examination and securing a position in the then Commonwealth Employment Service (CES).

Jill moved into Campbelltown approximately 30 years ago when she was looking for a home in an affordable suburb with trees and nature.

Jill has seen positive developments over this time in the maintenance and facilities in the local parks and the greater inclusion and involvement of migrant families within the broader community.

Jill commenced her work with the Campbelltown Council initially as a ratepayer seeking to get greater access, inclusion and connection for her family. Despite having multiple roles as a mother, supporting ageing parents and working full-time Jill realised if she wanted change, it was up to her to lobby for it.

Jill was first elected to Council in May 2003 with strong support from her daughter who encouraged her to build on the achievements she had made as a local citizen. Jill was elected as Mayor in 2018, the first female Mayor in Campbelltown's history. Jill values a strong local community and the positive impact that local government can have on the lives of friends, neighbours and family.

**“Be kind to others as we all have our own journey and stories; a conversation often shows us that we have more in common than what separates us.”**

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](http://www.campbelltown.sa.gov.au/iwd)

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