

# Val Amber

## *Always involved*

Val has lived in the City of Campbelltown for more than 60 years, bringing up three children and supporting her husband Max as Mayoress.

Val was born in Gumeracha where her father was a farmhand and her mother worked in the local school supporting the teachers. She remembers that her mother and the headmaster at her primary school were the main influencers in her early life.

Val was 15 years old when she started work at the North British Insurance Company. She has fond memories of five years in the office with the group of women who worked with her. Val loved sewing and bought a sewing machine with her first pay. Cooking and gardening remain other passions and her grandchildren look forward to her meals when they get together for a family dinner each week.

Both Val and her husband have been actively involved with the Gorge Methodist Church and later, the Athelstone Uniting Church. Their activities included supporting youth groups and catering for church events and community weddings. She also volunteered with Meals on Wheels for over 15 years.

Val's husband Max was elected as a Campbelltown Council member in 1969, becoming an Alderman in about 1973 and the Mayor from 1982-1991. As Mayoress, one of Val's activities was to cater for each Council meeting and also attending more than 30 functions a month, particularly during June and July each year.

Val has enjoyed travelling, including caravanning with family or friends over a period of 55 years all around Australia and regular overseas travel for more than 30 years.

**“The family is the centre of my life – the happy memories and enjoying being with family are critical factors in my life.”**

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.