Judy Playfair '71

Judy grew up in Rose Bay with her parents, Morna and David Playfair, siblings John, Angus and Louise '80 and a series of family dogs. She attended Kambala from 1958 to 1971. Around the age of 4 Judy learnt to swim at Watson's Bay Baths and just 'kept swimming', training there 2 to 3 times a day. From 1965 to 1969 Judy was the NSW Junior and then Senior Breaststroke champion and record holder. She was the Australian 100m and 200m breaststroke champion from 1967 to 1969, and held both Australian and Commonwealth records.

In 1968, when Judy was only in Year 9, she was selected to represent Australia at the Olympic Games held in Mexico City. She won a silver medal for the four by 100m Medley Relay. She was away from home and school for three months and had her 15th birthday whilst overseas.

In 1970, before the National titles, she was injured and did not swim to her peak. As a result, she was not selected for the Commonwealth Games and retired from competitive swimming. She did, however, continue to represent Kambala. In 1971 Judy became a Prefect and was elected School Deputy Head and Captain of Wentworth.

After leaving Kambala Judy went to the University of Sydney where she completed a Bachelor of Arts and a Diploma of Education. She started her teaching career at Liverpool Girls' High School. She taught in both the Physical Education and HSIE faculties across numerous comprehensive public schools including Concord and Sydney Girls' High School. In the mid 1980s she became a Head Teacher at Moorefield Girls' High School and then Leichhardt High School. In 2003 she became Deputy Principal at Canterbury Girls' High School and retired in 2009. Judy now works as a Casual Academic for the Master of Teaching degree at the University of Sydney. She mentors students on practicum placements in schools.

Her interests include walking her black Labrador Frida, keeping fit with ocean swimming, gardening and yoga. She is a member of North Bondi Surf Life Saving Club and works for a number of charities.