

## Edith Ridge

Edith was born on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1928 in Sydney and was educated at Fort Street Girls' High School. She and her late husband, Rev. Barry Ridge, had a family of three daughters, one son and seven grandchildren.

A member of the Uniting Church, formerly Methodist, Edith was a leader of Methodist Girls' Comradeship. She was chairperson of women's meetings over 36 years as a minister's wife, and Secretary of Australian Federation of Methodist Women (national level). She is a member Synod Committee Adult Fellowship, former contact person and chairperson of two Presbytery committees for Adult Fellowship. She is also a member of mission support groups and has served one term as a Uniting Church in Australia Elder.



In Australian Church Women Edith was Vice President and then President in the Act Unit. Edith was President of ACW NSW Unit 1984-1986, and has held office as Minute Secretary, Secretary, Convener for Special Days and Winifred Kiek Scholarship. She has attended most ACW National Conferences since 1979. As member of National Executive 2003-05, Edith served as Publications Editor.

Edith has worked at the local level for ACW, both at Blackheath and at the Strathfield/Homebush Branch 1983-1989 where she was President twice. Edith's interests range widely, and she has been a delegate from ACW to National Council of Women, a former delegate to PPSEAWA NSW, and she edited and produced a Newsletter for UCAF in NSW.

The value of Edith's work and witness with ACW is immeasurable. Edith has many natural talents, one of which, the retaining and communicating of information relevant to the work in hand, has often benefited the NSW Unit. The catch-cry, 'ask Edith', would not be uttered lightly, but in a genuine acknowledgement that Edith's recall, and generosity of spirit to give and to share whatever information or advice was required, would be readily forthcoming. Not only has the NSW Unit benefited from her knowledge and expertise, but also at National Conference, Edith has been called on, and has responded positively.

Edith's untiring enthusiasm and willingness to be involved has set a very high example. She has been prepared to work beyond the normal boundaries, prepared to make stern decisions when necessary, able to uphold the integrity of her denomination in an ecumenical setting, and to give credence and value to Australian Church Women, both within and outside its activities.

Edith was made an ACW NSW Life Member in May 1999 and a National Life Member in 2007.