Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE1278

McGill, Edna Betty

(1927 - 2016)

Born	19271026
Died	20160824, Bayview New South Wales
Occupation	Migrant community advocate, Political candidate, Public Education Advocate

Summary

Although she only stood for election once (Council for the Defence of Government Schools candidate for Heathcote in 1971), Edna McGill spent a lifetime campaigning for public education.

Details

At the time of her campaign, Edna McGill had lived in the Heathcote area for more than two decades. She had been the Secretary of the Heathcote Progress Association for six years, the Heathcote Bush Fire Brigade, and the Parents and Citizens Associations of primary and secondary schools in the area over 15 years.

Her interest in public education did not wane. In 2003, she was a member of the Board of the NSW Community Language Schools. In 2004, she shared the first Meritorious Service to Public Education award with Professor Tony Vinson and Mr Jim Harkin. The citation on the award stated that “for more than 40 years, Edna McGill has made an outstanding contribution to education in NSW …her contribution covers such areas as curriculum, support for multicultural education, the education of indigenous students and for anti-racism programs”

She was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in 1986 for services to education and the community. She was a former Chair, Treasurer and member of Ethnic Communities’ Council, and in 2005 was a member of the Management Committee.

She died at home on 24 August 2016 at home in the company of her beloved son Peter and friend, Julie.

Published resources

Resource
Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Site Exhibition
Putting Skirts on the Sacred Benches: Women Candidates for the New South Wales Parliament, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2006,
http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/pssb/home.html

Author Details
Annette Alafaci

Created 25 August 2005
Last modified 9 September 2016