

RUTH HACKNEY MEMORIAL AWARD - Background Information

These awards were introduced in memory of Ruth Hackney who died November 27, 1988. Ruth Hackney attended SCEGGS and represented NSW in sprinting, high jump, hurdling and javelin events. She was also her school hockey captain, a very good tennis player and a fencing champion.

She commenced her teacher training at the Australian College of Physical Education (ACPE) in 1936. After college she was Sports Mistress at St Gabriel's Waverley and Audley, Killara, and she also taught at ACPE. During World War II, she joined the services and spent much time as a driver.

In 1944 she returned to teach at ACPE and to further her studies at Sydney Teachers College. She was also a Gymnastics official at the 1956 Olympics in Melbourne.

For nearly twenty years with Miss Hackney as Principal of ACPE, the College fulfilled its aim – to provide exceptional athletes the opportunity to influence children to love sport and to excel at it. Through Miss Hackney's pursuit of excellence the College gained a reputation for teachers of a high standard, dedicated to physical education.

She was an amazing woman, a fine athlete who demanded high standards and achieved an influence over many young people's lives. She retired from the College in 1970.