

Judith (Judy) Russell was born and raised in the Sutherland Shire, South of Sydney, attending Sunday School, from the age of 3 years, at Sylvania Heights Congregational Church, subsequently the Uniting Church. At the age of 16 she joined the choir at the Sylvania Uniting Church, which began her long and continuing love of and participation in the great music of the Christian Church. Following her marriage in 1968 and her children's arrival (Steven in 1970 and Karyn in 1973), Judy took on the position of Kindergarten Sunday School Superintendent, transferring to the Sylvania Congregation when her children reached Junior and Youth Fellowship age.

Judy is the great granddaughter of Maud (nee Lucas) and Donald McBean, Donald being a Light Horseman (1st Australian Light Horse) who saw service in Palestine (now Israel) in 1917, in particular Beer Sheba. Judy's delight in knowing her great grandfather was involved in the liberation of Jerusalem from Ottoman rule, thus paving the way for the rebirth of Israel in 1948, enhances her zeal for and love for Israel and the continuing covenants all made by God with Israel. Judy has led four tours to Israel and looks forward to others, as the Lord leads. Her tours are specifically tailored to see what the Lord is doing today in Israel and interacting with the Jewish people. Judy muses often about the times she and her sister as infants played on the floor with a box of old sepia photographs. These photographs have now turned out to be prize possessions as these old photographs were discovered to be those taken by Donald McBean in WW1 in Palestine and Egypt, particularly, Rafah, Gaza, Beersheba and Cairo.

Judy and her sister have recently made another amazing discovery concerning their heritage with the First Fleet, via the Lucas line (through their great grandmother Maud Lucas). Nathaniel Lucas (First Fleet convict transported on the *Scarborough*) married Olivia Gascoyne (First Fleet convict transported on the *Lady Penrhyn*). A third convict connection is James Squire (First Fleet convict transported on the *Charlotte*).

Prior to her appointment as Rev Nile's secretary, Judy worked as Private Secretary to the Director of Intensive Care in Sutherland Hospital. Prior to that Judy performed part time secretarial duties with various medical organisations, being at home before and after school for her children. Judy gives praise to God for her Christian mother and her loving father who raised their children in a home without too many luxuries but abounding in love and nurture.

As Parliamentary Secretary to the Rev Hon Fred Nile MLC since 1994, Judy works closely with Rev Nile in all aspects of his Parliamentary work and many other areas of his Christian service. Judy has seen many people come and go whilst working in the Parliamentary office, and whilst recognising that sometimes the Lord brings people together only for a season and then moves them on to other areas of service, she continues to bear witness to the fact that only people and ministries raised up by the Lord endure through the spiritual battlefield of Christian politics. She rejoices in the work and witness of the Christian Democratic Party and the faithfulness of those who continue to work solely to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ through this ministry.

Judy has a passion for the Scriptures and in particular seeing the Lord's prophetic plans come to pass. Through her private studies she has found the entire Bible is a love story

between God and His chosen people, Israel. The Church, born after the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, had to wait until Acts 10 where the gentiles were grafted in to the Jewish root, via the precious blood of our Jewish Messiah.

Judy gives thanks and praise to God for placing her in the strategic position in the NSW Parliament. It is with gratitude to Rev Fred and Hon Elaine Nile whose dedication and faithfulness opened the way for the CDP to have a place in the NSW Parliament that we have such opportunities to host so many Christian, pro Israel functions and activities.

Judy's other great loves are her children Steven and his wife Robyn, her daughter Karyn and her husband John and her four beautiful grandchildren – Rebekah, Sarah, James and Mark. She delights in her two granddaughters named after Old Testament matriarchs, and her two grandsons, named after two mighty men of the New Testament.

Judy's singing career has seen her singing from caves to cathedrals (literally). She has sung with various wonderful choirs since the age of 16, and continues today singing with two specialist choirs - The Cathedral Singers and The Mater Chorale.

Nowadays Judy resides in the beautiful Blue Mountains, from whence each day she can truthfully sing in her heart "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills whence cometh my help, my help cometh from the Lord the maker of heaven and earth". Psalm 121.



Judy Russell holding her NSW Parliamentary Long Service Award for fifteen years serving as Parliamentary Secretary to the Rev Hon Fred Nile MLC.