

## **Launch of ELDERS INTERVIEW by Ku-ring-gai Mayor JUNE 20, 2010**

Good morning. It gives me great pleasure to be here this morning for the launch of the first ever Elders Interview as part of the Respect for Seniors campaign.

In a society seemingly obsessed with youth, the contributions of elders are all too often overlooked.

We need to change attitudes towards the older members of our community – and this is where the Respect for Seniors campaign is playing such an important role.

The campaign aims to shift the image of older people from “seniors who are a burden on society” to “elders who have created the society we now enjoy”.

Ku-ring-gai Council was pleased to be involved in establishing this campaign at the very start by working with members of St Ives Uniting Church.

It has now grown to include 18 Uniting Churches across Sydney – which is a clear sign of its growing success.

The Elders Interview concept is a great way to acknowledge local older people for their contributions to the community.

It also provides an opportunity for young people to learn from elders and perhaps find out the secrets of their success.

Judith Wheeldon, who is the subject of today’s inaugural Elders Interview, needs no introduction to the Ku-ring-gai community.

As former headmistress of Abbotsleigh, Judith has been a well known identity in our community over many years.

Today we have students from Abbotsleigh and St Ives High School to help us get to know Judith and her views on ageing in our society.

I’m pleased to officially launch this inaugural Elders Interview, which I’m sure will be a very interesting and illuminating event for everyone here this morning.