

## **NOTICE OF MOTION NO 2/2013 PASSING OF MRS ISA WYE MBE OAM**

Submitted by: Councillor Vincent De Luca OAM

### **MOTION**

1. That this Council notes:

A. That on Friday 4 January 2013, Mrs Isa Wye MBE OAM passed away.

B. Mrs Wye and her family have been the backbone of our community since the early 1920s helping to establish some of the northern beaches most successful sporting and community clubs.

C. Mrs Wye's father, Mr Peter Holburn was one of the founders of the Dee Why RSL Club with her assisting him extensively with the club's administration and her brother, Alex Holburn serving as a club Trustee for decades and her relative, the late Ted Jackson BEM OAM serving decades as the Club's President.

D. Mrs Wye, with her younger sister, Jean Gee OAM was in the first ever Manly Y Women's Basketball (now netball) Team in the late 1930s that travelled to the city to play, because at that time there was no local netball competition, she was also involved in the foundation in the 1950s of the Dee Why Swimmers Netball Club.

E. Mrs Wye went on to be a founding member of the Curl Curl Youth Club who with her family (the Holburns and Gees) helped build the Curl Curl Youth & Community Centre which was officially opened in 1967, and served on the Centre's Management Committee from its inception to last year, she also served as foundation President of the Youth Club's Soccer section.

F. Mrs Wye was also dedicated to veterans, particularly as her late husband had been a prisoner of war and she contributed extensively to War Widows and served for several years as the local President of War Widows Guild.

G. Mrs Wye dedicated her life to swimming, became involved with Dee Why Ladies Amateur Swimming Club (Australia's oldest ladies swimming club) at 5 years of age and by 16 became the youngest person to hold office as Honorary Secretary, in 1961 she was elected Club President, serving in the role for over 50 years until her passing. She was the second woman in National history to Referee at the elite swimming championships level.

H. At the district level, Mrs Wye assisted with the foundation of the Warringah Amateur Swimming Association in 1964/65 with the merger of the Men's and Ladies Associations and was a foundation Executive Member, she later served many years as President, Senior Vice President and as the Convenor of the Officials Technical Committee and was Patron of the Association up until her passing.

I. For years, Mrs Wye together with others lobbied for an Olympic pool to be built in Warringah and in 1979 as Association president, officially opened the Warringah Aquatic Centre - In 2009 she was inducted into the Inaugural Warringah Aquatic Centre Hall of Fame.

J. Mrs Wye in 1964/1965 became a foundation member of NSW Amateur Swimming Association after assisting with the merger of the Mens and Ladies Associations, was a veteran of the Association's Officials Technical Committee serving for over 40 years (that Committee tested and allocated officials to elite swimming championships).

K. At national and international levels, Mrs Wye was an accredited Referee, Judge, Starter and Time Keeper officiating in Australia and internationally at the World Championships, National Championships, Pan Pacs, International meets and State Championships (as well as thousands of district and club championships across the state and nation).

L. In 1980 she again became part of history when selected to manage the Australian Women's Olympic Swimming Team in Moscow. This was an extremely difficult time for swimmers and officials who were lobbied to boycott the Olympics because of the Cold War. Swimming great, Olympian Lisa Forrest wrote a book on the games, "Boycott" and in December at the Dee Why Ladies Amateur Swimming Club's 90th Anniversary spoke lovingly of Isa and the support she gave to the athletes.

M. In honour of Mrs Wye's outstanding service to the community in 1973 she was appointed by the Queen a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE), in 2000 the Australian Sports Medal, in 2002 the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM), conferred Life Memberships of the Dee Why Ladies' Amateur Swimming Club, Warringah Amateur Swimming Association, NSW Swimming Association, The Australian Union of Old Swimmers, the Australian Union of Old Swimmers National Natatorial Award and the Warringah Council Outstanding Community Service Award and in 2012 the NSW Parliament's Upper House resolved to congratulate her on her 90th birthday, 50 years as President of the Dee Why Ladies Amateur Swimming Club and outstanding service to swimming and the community.

## 2. That this Council

A. Acknowledges the outstanding contribution by Mrs Isa Wye MBE OAM of the last seven decades and requests Council staff to furnish a report in the next three months as to naming the Dee Why Rock Pool the "Isa Wye Pool" in honour of her extraordinary service to the community.

B. Extends its sympathy to Mrs Wye's family on their loss.