

Colleen Pettiford

NSW breast stroke champion

We were all terribly determined and it was all quite adventurous



Above: Colleen at Granville Pool wearing her cotton Speedo swimming costume with the Parramatta City Amateur Swimming Club logo, about 1956

Below: Colleen being presented with an award, about 1958
Photos courtesy of Colleen Pettiford



Colleen Pettiford (born 1943) began swimming with the Parramatta Amateur City Swimming Club in 1956, when she was 12. In the 1957/58 season Colleen was the State champion in the Under 14 years 110 yards breast stroke, and also placed in the Junior and Open 110 yards breast stroke. The same year, she represented NSW at the Australian championships in Canberra. In 1958/59 Colleen was placed third in the State championships in both the Junior and Open 110 yards titles.

Colleen trained at Granville Pool every morning and afternoon. Under amateur coach Bruce McDonald, Colleen participated in gruelling winter training sessions at White Bay power station, alongside fellow swimmers Rob Griffiths, Julian Carroll, Susan Costin and Nick Whitlam. The Parramatta City Swimming Club record for girls (16 years) 50 metres freestyle set by Colleen Pettiford in 1958/59, was still unbroken in 2005.

Colleen became a qualified first-class instructor for the learn-to-swim program at Granville pool. She was also a qualified life saving award instructor and examiner, teaching and examining schools at the pool. When she stopped swimming in about 1960, Colleen Pettiford continued to coach and teach Parramatta City Swimming Club members for many years.



Above: Colleen Pettiford diving into Granville Pool

Below: Colleen aged 13, wearing her NSW swimming team blazer and medal

Right: Colleen, about 1956
Photos courtesy of Colleen Pettiford

