

NEIDRA MAEVE HILL AM

1935 – 2024



Neidra Hill was a GFS member for 64 years.

Neidra was born in Cessnock and was the eldest of 4 children. Her parents were Elsie Margaret and James Thurston Hill. Neidra grew up in Nelson Bay. It was here she enjoyed going out into nature with her sisters and brother and it was at this time she developed a love for the outdoors. When she was 12 her father passed away. She was the first student from Nelson Bay Primary to go to Newcastle Girls High School and then went on to Teachers College. In 1959 she heard Dr. Billy Graham speak and from then on, she devoted her life to Christ. She served her Lord in every area of her life from that time on.

Neidra was a natural leader and had a God-given enthusiasm for the nurture of children and young people.

Neidra's involvement with GFS began in 1960. She was a leader in Granville, Corowa, Wagga Wagga and Liverpool branches. Since 1975

she was the Leader-In-Charge of the thriving GFS branch at St John's Camden.

During her membership of GFS, she has been elected to the GFS Executive Committee of Sydney Diocesan Council, to the position Vice Chairman for 6 years and was also District Chairman for many years.

Apart from her involvement in GFS she became an instructor for the Second Outward Bound to be held in Australia. She was employed by Anglican Youth Department, as Director of Camp Howard in the early 1960's. After returning to teaching she became a voluntary member of the Counselling team and voluntary Director for School Vacation Camping at Port Hacking camp sites.

Her ability as a facilitator enhanced the GFS Leader Training Programme over many years. Leaders also gained from her expertise as an instructor in abseiling, caving and canoeing. Girls enjoyed camps which Neidra led. Adventurous activities were incorporated into each camp and helped girls learn new skills like archery and canoeing or overcoming fears like with abseiling or just having fun like singing around the campfire. Some specialised camps that were held were: the annual GFS Snowy Mountains Hike summer camp held for some years at the end of the school year, the annual Bike Camp in Canberra and for 40 years Neidra led the annual Caving Camp on the June long weekend at Bungonia.

In 1994, GFS Sydney Council conferred Neidra the honour of Life Membership of GFS in recognition of her nurture, encouragement and inspiration to countless young women and girls in their physical, mental and spiritual development into womanhood.

Neidra throughout her life gave all her talents and possessions to God. She opened her home to so many especially to those who were in need. She was determined to share God's

love with every child or adult she made contact with and she made contact with so many in her community. Even the week before she died, she taught 9 scripture classes.

For over 60 years in GFS, Neidra unwaveringly witnessed to young women and girls in their spiritual walk with our Lord Jesus Christ. As a teacher, she was equipped with many skills and her aim was always to help young people reach their full potential as they come to know Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour.

Her ability to build relationships through her work at branch, district, diocesan and camping levels is a testimony to the fact that Neidra was indeed blessed so that she might be a blessing to others. Her dedication to the ministry of GFS and the witness of her personal faith has over decades added to the lives of so many members of GFS in the Diocese of Sydney and for this we praise God!

May our great God bless this humble servant now she is with him in Heaven.

