

Edna Pritchard

Edna Pritchard was born in Newtown on 8th August 1910. Her father was then the Mayor of Newtown and owned a Jewellery shop. Edna had a sister Hazel and brother Norm.

Edna began playing basketball, as netball was then known, at Enmore Public School at age 12. She played club basketball until she was selected on the first NSW State Basketball side in 1928. Edna captained this team and remained a member of the team and captain, for the next four years, Edna says it was difficult for NSW to have any success against the Victorian team in those days as players were so big. She says the spectators called the the southern state's goalie "Mt. Lofty."

In 1927 Edna's family moved to Brighton-Le_sands and Edna became a member of the Brighton Life Saving Club which marched across the Sydney Harbour Bridge for the bridge opening in 1932. Edna retired from representative basketball in 1932 to join a baseball club but successive chipped ankles ended this career.

While Edna was representing NSW in basketball she was also representing her State in cricket during the years 1928 to 1935. She captained the firsts during the 1928-1929 season. Edna Pritchard and Evie Carpenter were reported as being the star interstate cricketers during this time.

Edna's sister, Hazel, joined her in the NSW basketball team from 1930 to 1932. Hazel also was in the State cricket team from 1930 till 1936 and was selected in the first Australian women's cricket team in 1936, being named the "woman Don Bradman". Hazel was also an "A" grade tennis player. Sadly Hazel died of cancer in 1967, aged 51.

Meanwhile, Edna went on to marry Alan Ridley, one of Australia's great representative football players. Alan toured England with the "kangaroos" in 1933, playing 27 matches and scoring 25 tries. Edna and Alan moved to Orange in 1936 where they had two children a boy and girl. Edna's daughter, Yvonne, known to all as "Toot", also represented NSW in netball in 1961 and 1962. Edna took up golf in Orange and is still playing twice a week.