



Ruth Baird



1955-1959

Ruth Baird has been hand crafting jewellery for 42 years, and looking back, she says her life has taken a completely different route to what she thought it would. During her time at EGGS, Ruth worked hard at her academics and strived to be top of the class. Her family supported her determination to succeed, and after leaving EGGS, Ruth went on to study Latin and Greek at University. Ruth enjoyed studying languages, and graduated with an MA in Latin. However she didn't see herself becoming a teacher or a librarian.

Ruth moved to London when she married, and whilst there she began taking night classes in jewellery making and found she thoroughly enjoyed it. Ruth and her husband returned to New Zealand to start a family, and Ruth was approached by a jeweller who wanted to set up a cooperative. In 1974, Fingers, the cooperative, was started.

Ruth is proud of the fact that she successfully raised two young children whilst still making jewellery and made a living out of it. At 75 years old, Ruth is still working for Fingers, and still enjoys it just as much.

"Don't rush into anything that you're not totally committed to. Follow your dream - if there is something you really like doing, try and do it even if it's difficult."