

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE0350

Jackson-Nelson, Marjorie

(1931 -)

Born 13 September, 1931, Coffs Harbour New South Wales Australia

Occupation Commonwealth or Empire Games Gold Medalist, Governor, Olympian, Track and Field Athlete

Summary

Sprinter Marjorie Jackson-Nelson was commonly known as 'The Lithgow Flash', after the New South Wales town in which she was brought up. Jackson-Nelson became the Governor of South Australia on 3 November 2001. She won two Olympic gold medals (Helsinki 1952) and seven Commonwealth Games gold medals for athletics. Jackson-Nelson also founded the Peter Nelson Leukaemia Research Fellowship, for which she has fund-raised since 1977.

Details

The daughter of William Alfred and Mary (née Robinson) Jackson, Marjorie Jackson was the first Australian woman to win an Olympic gold medal for track and field and the first Australian (male or female) to win an Olympic gold medal on the running track since 1896. During her athletic career Jackson broke world sprint records on ten occasions. In 1953 Jackson married Peter Nelson, an Olympic cyclist. Following his death from leukaemia in 1977 she launched the Peter Nelson Leukaemia Research Fellowship and has since dedicated herself to raising funds to sponsor research into fighting this disease.

In 1988, Jackson was nominated by the Governor-General and the Prime Minister as one of 20 living members of the '200 Great Australians' recognised by the Australian Bi-Centenary Committee. In 2001, Jackson-Nelson was appointed a Companion of the Order of Australia and, as Governor, was appointed a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order by Her Majesty The Queen on the occasion of the Royal Visit to Adelaide in February 2002.

Events

2053 - 2053

Appointed Member of the British Empire (MBE) for services to women's athletics

2001 - 2001

Appointed Companion of the Order of Australia (AC)

2002 - 2002

Appointed Commander of the Royal Victorian Order (CVO)

1997 - 1997

Member of the South Australian Olympic Council

1998 - 2000

Member Sydney Organising Committee of the Olympic Games

1990 - 1992

Deputy Chairperson of the Adelaide's bid to host 1998 Commonwealth Games

1998 - 1998

Athletes Liaison Officer for the Commonwealth Games, Kuala Lumpur

1994 - 1994

General Team Manager for the Commonwealth Games Victoria (Canada)

1986 - 1986

Women's Section Manager for the Australian Commonwealth Games Team

1982 - 1982

Women's Section Manager for the Australian Commonwealth Games Team

2000 - 2000

Bearer of the Olympic Flame at the Opening Ceremony Olympic Games, Sydney

1998 - 1998

Nominated by Governor-General and Prime Minister as one of the 200 Great Australians

1999 - 1999

Voted as one of the Australians of the Century *Herald Sun*

1998 - 1998

Honoured by Australia Post on a postage stamp titled 'Olympic Legends'

1995 - 1995

Paul Harris Fellow Rotary

1985 - 1985

Admitted into the Australian Sporting Hall of Fame

1952 - 1952

Recipient of the Australian Sportsman of the Year

1952 - 1952

Athletics – 100m and 200m (world record)

1954 - 1954

Gold medal winner at the Commonwealth Games, Vancouver

1950 - 1950

Athletics – 100y; 220y; 440y Medley Relay; 660y Medley Relay

1977 - 1977

Founder of the Peter Nelson Leukaemia Research Fellowship

1995 - 1995

Legend for Australian Sport

1986 - 1986

Outstanding Athlete award from the International Amateur Athletics Association

1952 - 1952

Outstanding Athlete award from the Helms Foundation United States of America

1953 - 1953

Married Peter Nelson (deceased 1977)

2001 - 2001

Governor of South Australia

1954 - 1954

Athletics – 100y, 220y and 4 x 110y Relay

Published resources

Edited Book

Who's Who in Australia 2002, Herd, Margaret, 2002

S.A.'s greats: the men and women of the North Terrace plaques, Healey, John, 2001

Resource Section

Governor of South Australia, South Australian Government,
<http://www.governor.sa.gov.au/>

Resource

Australia at the Games, Australian Olympic Committee, 2006,
<http://corporate.olympics.com.au/index.cfm?p=25>

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Site Exhibition

She's Game: Women Making Australian Sporting History, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2007,
<http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/sg/sport-home.html>

Faith, Hope and Charity Australian Women and Imperial Honours: 1901-1989, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2003,
<http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/honours/honours.html>

The Encyclopedia of Women and Leadership in Twentieth-Century Australia, Smart, Judith and Swain, Shurlee (eds.), 2014,
<http://www.womenaustralia.info/leaders>

Author Details

Anne Heywood

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