

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE2180

Kirkby, Norma Emmeline

(1901 - 2006)

Born 1 March, 1901, Moree New South Wales Australia

Died 31 December, 2006, Moree

Occupation Cattle Farmer, Charity worker

Summary

Norma Kirkby was 105 years old when she died. With her husband, Gordon, she built up the Success Poll Hereford Stud and Reno Poll Merino Stud. She supported numerous charitable organisations in the Moree district for over fifty years.

Details

Born to Arthur and Annie Louise Eather, Norma was the eldest of five children including Athol (who died at Gallipoli), Eugene, Arthur and Ella. She was educated in Moree before studying at Sydney's Conservatorium of Music. Norma married Gordon Kirkby, son of a local grazing family, in 1924 and the couple settled at 'Success' on the Goondiwindi Road. They were to have three children: Merle, Fred and Mary.

By 1935 the family had moved to 'Wilga' on the edge of Moree. Here Norma began creating a magnificent garden, and entertained guests ranging from World War II evacuees from Hong Kong to Rotary exchange students, governors-general and state governors.

While running the Hereford and Merino Studs with her husband, Norma became involved with numerous charitable organisations including the Country Women's Association, Inner Wheel, Torchbearers for Legacy, the Royal Blind Society, the Australian Red Cross, Moree Hospital Ladies Auxiliary, Moree Girl Guides Association, the Handicapped Children's Association and Far West Children's Health Scheme. She used her musical talent to accompany silent movies at the Moree picture theatre, and played the organ in the Anglican Church. A passionate rugby union supporter, Norma was also president of the Moree Golf Associates.

Gordon Kirkby died in 1973. The following year, Norma was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire. Gordon had received his own MBE in 1966.

Published resources

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Author Details

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