

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE2228

Varley, Gwendoline

(1896 - 1975)

Born 8 November, 1896, Melbourne Victoria Australia

Died 24 May, 1975, Melbourne Victoria

Occupation Broadcaster, Journalist, Radio Journalist, Sports administrator, Sports Journalist

Summary

An athletic student, Gwendoline Varley went on to be sports mistress at the Hermitage school in Geelong, Victoria, before moving to Sydney, where she became organizing secretary of the City Girls' Amateur Sports Association. She inaugurated Girls' Week as a fundraising initiative, and caught the attention of local radio stations. In 1928, Varley began broadcasting with radio station 2BL and was founding secretary of its Women's Amateur Sports Association. The wireless was an invaluable tool for the promotion of sports activities for women, and the Association grew rapidly. It was placed under the auspices of the Australian Broadcasting Commission on the establishment of that body in 1932. Varley continued broadcasting for the ABC. In addition, she was involved with the City Girls' Amateur Sports Association; the New South Wales (NSW) Lawn Tennis Association; the NSW Women's Hockey Association; the NSW Women's Basketball Association; and the NSW Women's Cricket Association.

Varley continued an active involvement in sport by captaining an A-grade tennis team, and – according to the ADB's Marion Consandine – by swimming, rowing, running, fencing, skating, and playing golf, hockey and croquet. She married Hector Maximus Greig, a widower and father of two sons, in June 1938.

Events

1928 - 1940

Published resources

Site Exhibition

The Women's Pages: Australian Women and Journalism since 1850, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2008, <http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/cal/cal-home.html>

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

Resource Section

Varley, Gwendoline (1896 - 1975), Consandine, Marion, 2006, <http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A160531b.htm>

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Author Details

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