

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person

Entry ID: AWE2272

Rolton, Gillian

(1956 -)

Born 3 May, 1956

Occupation Equestrian, Olympian

Summary

Gillian Rolton is Australia's first female equestrian gold-medallist. She has won or placed at the Olympic Games, the World Championships, the Trans-Tasman's and international competitions in Europe and Australia.

Details

A schoolteacher from Adelaide, Gillian Rolton was a Show and Dressage rider from the age of ten until her early twenties. She began Eventing and Showjumping at twenty-one, and has been competing at an international level since 1984. Rolton was long-listed for the Olympic Games at Los Angeles and Seoul, but missed out on both due to injury (to the horse in the first instance, and to herself in the second). In 1992 she was a late inclusion the Australian equestrian team competing at the Barcelona Olympic Games after she beat all male members of the team in the final selection trial at Savernake, England. Competing alongside Matt Ryan and Andrew Hoy, Rolton rode an excellent round on *Peppermint Grove* on the final day of competition, and became the first Australian female equestrian to win a gold medal.

Rolton achieved even greater notoriety after the Olympic Games in Atlanta in 1996. Thrown twice from *Peppermint Grove* in the cross-country section, Rolton remounted and finished the course despite a broken collar-bone and two broken ribs. The Australian team, comprised of Andrew Hoy, Wendy Schaeffer, Phillip Dutton and Rolton, won gold.

Since 2003, Rolton has been coordinating and coaching the EFA National Young Eventing Rider Squad. She is an FEI International Eventing judge and is on the Board of Adelaide International Horse Trials.

Events

1996 - 1996

Equestrian – Three Day Event (Team)

1992 - 1992

Equestrian – Three day Event (Team)

Published resources

Book

Free Rein, Rolton, Gillian, 2003

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>

Edited Book

The Oxford Companion to Australian Sport, Vamplew, Vray; Moore, Katharine; O'Hara, John; Cashman, Richard; Jobling, Ian, 1997

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