

# The Australian Women's Register

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**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** AWE0350

## Jackson-Nelson, Marjorie

(1931 - )

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**Born** 19310913, Coffs Harbour New South Wales Australia

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

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### 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

#### 1985 - 1985

Admitted into the Australian Sporting Hall of Fame

#### 2002 - 2002

Appointed Commander of the Royal Victorian Order (CVO)

#### 2001 - 2001

Appointed Companion of the Order of Australia (AC)

#### 1953 - 1953

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

#### 1998 - 1998

Athletes Liaison Officer for the Commonwealth Games, Kuala Lumpur

#### 1952 - 1952

Athletics – 100m and 200m (world record)

#### 1954 - 1954

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

#### 1950 - 1950

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

**2000 - 2000**

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

**1990 - 1992**

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

**1977 - 1977**

Founder of the Peter Nelson Leukaemia Research Fellowship

**1994 - 1994**

General Team Manager for the Commonwealth Games Victoria (Canada)

**1954 - 1954**

Gold medal winner at the Commonwealth Games, Vancouver

**2001 - 2001**

Governor of South Australia

**1998 - 1998**

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

**1995 - 1995**

Legend for Australian Sport

**1953 - 1953**

Married Peter Nelson (deceased 1977)

**1997 - 1997**

Member of the South Australian Olympic Council

**1998 - 2000**

Member Sydney Organising Committee of the Olympic Games

**1998 - 1998**

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

**1952 - 1952**

Outstanding Athlete award from the Helms Foundation United States of America

**1986 - 1986**

Outstanding Athlete award from the International Amateur Athletics Association

**1995 - 1995**

Paul Harris Fellow Rotary

**1952 - 1952**

Recipient of the Australian Sportsman of the Year

**1999 - 1999**

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

**1982 - 1982**

Women's Section Manager for the Australian Commonwealth Games Team

**1986 - 1986**

Women's Section Manager for the Australian Commonwealth Games Team

## 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

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