The Australian
Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE1088

Freeman, Catherine (Cathy) Astrid Salome

(1973 -)

Born	19730216, Mackay Queensland Australia
Occupation	Commonwealth or Empire Games Gold Medalist, Olympian, Track and Field Athlete

Summary

Catherine (Cathy) Freeman was born in Mackay in Queensland in 1973. As a very good runner, she won a scholarship to boarding school where she was able to have professional coaching. In 1994 she became the first Aboriginal sprinter to win a gold medal at the Commonwealth Games, going on to win a silver medal in the 1996 Olympic Games and then gold at the Sydney Olympics in 2000.

She is very proud of her Aboriginal heritage and has carried the Australian and Aboriginal flags around the track after winning a race, which at times has resulted in public controversy.

She was made Young Australian of the Year in 1990 and Australian of the Year in 1998. She is the first person to receive both awards.

In the 2026 Australia Day Honours she was appointed Companion of the Order of Australia (AC) ‘for eminent service to athletics as an international competitor and ambassador, to positive social impact across the community, to the reconciliation movement in the spirit of unity and inclusion, and as a role model to youth.’

Events

1994 - 1994
Athletics – 200m and 400m

1990 - 1990
Athletics – 4 X 100m Relay

2002 - 2002
Athletics – 4 x 400m Relay

1996 - 1996
Athletics – 400m event

2000 - 2000
Athletics – 400m Event

1992 - 1992
Competed at Barcelona

2001 - 2001
Inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women

Published resources

Resource
Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

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

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

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

Archival resources

John Oxley Library, Manuscripts and Business Records Collection
Collection of posters on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. Set 1.

Author Details
Leonarda Kovacic

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Digital resources



Title: Mrs Sarah Powell
Type: Image
Date: 3 May, 2023



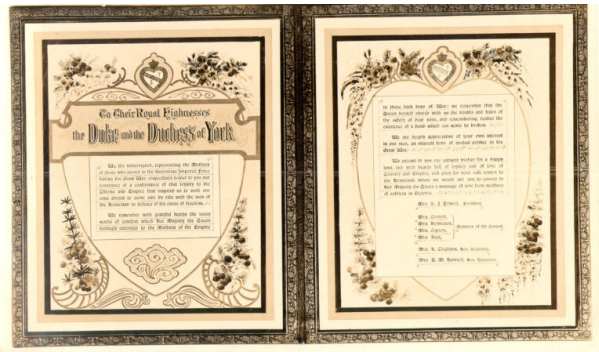
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Date: 3 May, 2023



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