Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE2190

Dennis, Clare

(1916 - 1971)

Born	19160307, Burwood New South Wales Australia
Died	19710604, Sydney New South Wales Australia
Occupation	Commonwealth or Empire Games Gold Medalist, Olympian, Swimmer

Summary

Clare Dennis dominated breast-stroke swimming from 1931 to 1935, becoming the first Australian woman to win a gold medal in the British Empire Games in 1934. An outstanding junior swimmer, she broke the world record at 15 years of age in the 220 yards breast-stroke, ensuring her selection in the team to represent Australia at the 1932 Olympic Games in Los Angeles. She was the youngest member of the team, but still came home with the gold medal in her event – the first female Olympic Champion since Fanny Durack in 1912 and the last Australian swimmer, male or female to win Olympic Gold until 1956. She was the youngest Australian to win Olympic Gold until Shane Gould in 1972. She was inducted into the Sport Australia Hall of Fame in 1985.

Events

1932 - 1932
Swimming – 200m Backstroke

1934 - 1934
Swimming – 200y Breaststroke

Published resources

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

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

Resource
Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Resource Section
Dennis, Clara (Clare) (1916-1971), Raszeja, V. M., 2006, http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A130687b.htm

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