Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE2212

Akhurst, Daphne Jessie

(1903 - 1933)

Born	19030422, Ashfield New South Wales Australia
Died	19330109, Burwood New South Wales Australia
Occupation	Tennis player

Summary

A promising pianist in her school days, Daphne Akhurst attended the State Conservatorium of Music in New South Wales, becoming a music teacher and performer. While studying, she became an enthusiastic tennis player, winning the schoolgirls' singles championship in 1917-20. In 1923 she won the County of Cumberland ladies' singles, and two years later, the Australasian championships. She went on to win the Australasian championships a further four times. Akhurst travelled to the United Kingdom, where she competed at Wimbledon, reaching the singles and doubles semi-finals and the mixed doubles final (with Jack Crawford). Akhurst out-performed all of the Australian men in the competition and was ranked third in the world by *Ayres' Almanac*.

Akhurst married Royston Stuckey Cozens, a tobacco manufacturer, in 1930, and retired from serious competition in 1931. The pair had one son. Akhurst died of an ectopic pregnancy in 1933.

The trophy for the women's singles winner at the Australian Tennis Open is named in her honour.

Events

2006 - 2006
Inducted into the Australian Tennis Hall of Fame

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 Section
Akhurst, Daphne Jessie (1903 - 1933), Regan, Kerry, 2006, http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A070028b.htm

Resource
Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

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Created 13 December 2006
Last modified 26 April 2026