

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE2238

Gill, Eunice Elizabeth Perrott

(1918 - 1987)

Born	15 January, 1918, Armadale Victoria Australia
Died	4 December, 1987, Canterbury Victoria Australia
Occupation	Netball Coach, Netball Player, Sports administrator, University teacher

Summary

Eunice Gill was an All Australian netball player who had a long term and profound influence on the development of Australian women's sport and sports administration in general. A graduate of the University of Melbourne (B.A. 1940, Dip. Phys. Ed. 1945), her views on the importance of sport and physical education were influenced by another netball player, Lorna McConchie, who helped to establish the physical education course at the University of Melbourne, and who was one of Gill's teachers at university.

It became obvious very quickly that Gill not only had a talent for sport, but for teaching, coaching and administration, talents that her paid work and community interests allowed her to express and explore to the maximum. Gill eventually went on to obtain a permanent position teaching in the Department of Physical Education. She used study leave in 1972-73 to undertake a Master of Arts coursework degree in physical education at Leeds University, from which she graduated in July 1973.

While studying and teaching, Gill remained closely associated with the game of netball. She was appointed coach of the Victorian team in 1954, the same year she was appointed president of the All Australia Women's Basketball Association. In 1960, she was appointed coach of the Australian team, while still being the coach of the state team. She served on the executive of the International Federation of Netball Associations through the 1960s, 70s and 80s, contributing to the drawing up of an international code for the game in 1960.

She was influential outside of netball, too. Her reputation and qualifications led, among other things, to her appointment as a foundation member of the board of directors of the Confederation of Australian Sport in 1976. The following year she was the only woman on the Sports Advisory Council established by the Federal Government. In 1980 she was appointed to the committee established by the Victorian government to investigate the teaching of Physical Education in schools. As chair of the Australian Council in the early 1980s, she was responsible for the policies and procedures of the National Coaching Accreditation Scheme overseeing 33,000 registered coaches.

Eunice Gill died in 1987 and was posthumously honoured by the Australian Sports Commission, who created and named an award for excellence in coaching and coach development after her. Most recently, she was inducted into the Sport Australia Hall of Fame as an associate member. Those who knew her well praised her for her personal qualities of 'charm', 'dignity', 'diplomacy' and 'her delightful sense of humour' along with her legacy of improving the standard of coaching and administration and 'rais[ing] the profile of women in the community.

Events

1946 - 1947

1985 - 1985

1986 - 1986

1986 - 1986

1995 - 1995

1982 - 1982

1966 - 1966

1983 - 1983

1953 - 1953

1968 - 1968

1975 - 1975

1976 - 1976

1977 - 1977

1983 - 1983

1982 - 1985

1983 - 1987

1975 - 1983

1959 - 1959

1948 - 1948

1954 - 1960

1960 - 1960

1959 - 1967

1945 - 1946

Published resources

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>

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Archival resources

The University of Melbourne Archives

University of Melbourne. Board of Studies in Physical Education

University of Melbourne. Department of Physical Education

Private hands (These records may not be readily available)

Netball Australia - Papers

State Library of Victoria

Victorian Netballer: Victorian Netball Association Official Newsletter

Author Details

Nikki Henningham

Created 1 January 2007

Last modified 20 November 2018