

# The Australian Women's Register

---

**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** AWE2238

## Gill, Eunice Elizabeth Perrott

(1918 - 1987)

<b>Born</b>	19180115, Armadale Victoria Australia
<b>Died</b>	19871204, Canterbury Victoria Australia
<b>Occupation</b>	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

#### 1945 - 1946

Member of the Victorian State Netball Team

#### 1946 - 1947

Captained the All Australia carnival team

#### 1948 - 1948

Member of the national team to tour New Zealand

**1953 - 1953**

Appointed to a permanent position in the Department of Physical Education at the University of Melbourne

**1959 - 1959**

Awarded Life Membership of the Victorian Netball Association

**1954 - 1960**

Appointed coach of the Victorian team

**1960 - 1960**

Appointed coach of the Australian team

**1966 - 1966**

Received a service award from the Australian Netball Association

**1959 - 1967**

Vice-president International Federation of Netball Associations

**1968 - 1968**

Organised the 1968 Biennial Conference of the Australian Physical Education Association

**1975 - 1975**

Appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire for services to sport (especially netball), recreation and physical education

**1976 - 1976**

Foundation Member of the the Board of Directors of the Confederation of Australian Sport

**1977 - 1977**

Member of the Sports Advisory Council

**1982 - 1982**

Appointed vice-president of the Confederation of Australian Sport

**1975 - 1983**

Senior Vice-President International Federation of Netball Associations

**1983 - 1983**

Received a service award from the International Federation of Netball Associations

**1983 - 1983**

Retired from the University of Melbourne

**1982 - 1985**

Chaired the Fifth Women's World Bowls Tournament

**1985 - 1985**

Patroness of the Victorian Lawn Bowls Association

**1986 - 1986**

Awarded the Australian Coaching Council's certificate of merit for outstanding service

**1986 - 1986**

Appointed a Fellow of the Confederation of Australian Sport

**1983 - 1987**

Vice-president International Federation of Netball Associations

**1995 - 1995**

Inducted into the Sport Australia Hall of Fame

## 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