

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE2250

Pirie, Daphne

(1931 - 2022)

Born	12 December, 1931, Brisbane Queensland Australia
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Died	1 April, 2022, Gold Coast Queensland Australia
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Occupation	Hockey player, Sports administrator, Track and Field Athlete
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Summary

Daphne Pirie was a nationally ranked track and field athlete who captained the Queensland women's athletics and hockey teams and represented Australia in hockey. She then became a world-ranked Master's Athlete, winning eight gold medals in international competitions. In 1989 she was awarded an MBE for services to hockey and appointed an Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia in June 2012.

Details

One of eight children – six boys and two girls – Daphne Pirie came to love sport at an early age. Her father, President of the Queensland Rugby League and a former champion sprinter, lost a leg as a Lighthorseman in the First World War and turned to sports administration on his return home. On Sunday afternoon outings the family would hold potato races by the creek. Daphne's mother, who grew up on a farm in Rockhampton and worked hard to look after her children and her crippled husband, encouraged her daughter to get out and about and be involved in sport. School sport mostly consisted of air raid drills, but Daphne would swim at the Milton School swimming pool and run at the Exhibition Ground at State Primary School Athletics days.

When the Queensland Women's Amateur Athletic Association re-formed after the war, Pirie began running. Serious training began at the age of seventeen when she was sent with a junior team to Sydney by the Mayne Harriers' Athletic Club in 1948. By 1955 she held 40 open championships in her State and was unbeaten in all events.

In the early 1950s Pirie and others re-formed the Valley Women's Hockey Club (disbanded during the war) as a social activity alongside the Valley men's team. In her second year in the game Pirie made the State team, and by 1955 was in the Australian team. She enjoyed the team game, finding it easier than running – 'running is tougher, and it's individual' – and was happy to switch between the two; playing hockey in the winter, running in summer, and working at Whatmore's Sports Store in between. Daphne Pirie was married in 1958 and had her first child soon afterward. The family lived at the Gold Coast and Pirie began playing hockey at Murwillumbah.

Not content only to spectate when her elite career was over, Daphne developed a career in sports administration. On Ruby Robinson's retirement she was appointed to the Queensland Olympic Council, becoming its first female vice-president. She was founding president of Womensport Queensland and is a director of Gold Coast Events Management. She was awarded life memberships with Hockey Australia, Women's Hockey Australia and Hockey Queensland and is a Hockey Queensland Hall of Fame Inductee. She was a board member of the Queensland Academy of Sport and President of the Gold Coast Sporting Hall of Fame. She was honoured by Womensport Queensland who, in 2006, granted her their inaugural 2006 contribution to sport award.

Events

1989 - 1989

Services to Hockey

2003 - 2003

Inducted into the Queensland Hockey Hall of Fame

2002 - 2006

Vice Patron of Hockey Queensland

1987 - 1993

President of the Queensland Women's Hockey Association

1991 - 1991

Queensland Women's Hockey Association

1962 - 1962

Captain – Queensland Women's Hockey Team

1988 - 1988

Australian Women's Hockey Association

1961 - 1961

Appointed an Australian Umpire

1951 - 1952

Queensland Track and Field Championships – winner 100 yards

1952 - 1952

Queensland Track and Field Championships – winner 440 yards

1956 - 1956

Queensland Track and Field Championships – winner 440 yards

1951 - 1952

Queensland Track and Field Championships – winner 880 yards

1949 - 1949

Queensland Track and Field Championships – winner High Jump

1952 - 1952

Australian Women's Track and Field Championships – Finalist 220 yards

1952 - 1952

Australian Women's Track and Field Championships – Member of the Queensland relay team to win run in third place in the 4 X 110 yards event.

1956 - 1956

Australian Women's Track and Field Championships – Third Place 440 yards

1956 - 1956

Australian Women's Track and Field Championships – Fourth Place 880 yards

1954 - 1954

Australian Women's Track and Field Championships – Second Place 440 yards

1954 - 1954

Australian Women's Track and Field Championships – Second Place 880 yards

1950 - 1950

Australian Women's Track and Field Championships – Finalist 220 yards

1950 - 1950

Australian Women's Track and Field Championships – Finalist 880 yards

1989 -

Board member (since inception) of the Queensland Academy of Sport

2006 - 2006

Recipient of the Inaugural award

1993 - 1993

Founding President of Womensport Queensland (then named the Queensland Women's Sports Foundation)

2000 - 2000

Pan Pacific Master's Games Competitor -winner of the 60m, 400 m and High Jump events in the 65 years category

1950 - 1950

Australian Women's Track and Field Championships – Finalist High Jump

1950 - 1950

Australian Women's Track and Field Championships – Finalist Long Jump

1953 - 1957

Member of the Queensland Women's Hockey Team

1960 - 1962

Member of the Queensland Women's Hockey Team

1955 - 1955

Member of the Australian Women's Hockey Team

1993 - 2000

Queensland Olympic Council Committee member

1997 - 1997

Elected Vice President of the Queensland Olympic Council Committee (The first woman to be elected to the position)

Published resources

Resource Section

Interview with Daphne Pirie, Jenkins, Lesley, 2000,

http://pandora.nla.gov.au/nph-arch/2000/S2000-Mar-2/http://brisbane-stories.powerup.com.au/women_sport/women_frames.htm

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

Author Details

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