

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE2272

Rolton, Gillian

(1956 - 2017)

Born 19560503, Adelaide South Australia Australia

Died 20171118, Adelaide South Australia Australia

Occupation Equestrian, Olympian

Summary

Gillian Rolton was Australia's first female equestrian gold-medallist. She won or was placed at the Olympic Games, the World Championships, the Trans-Tasman's and international competitions in Europe and Australia.

Details

A schoolteacher from Adelaide, Gillian Rolton was a show and dressage rider from the age of ten until her early twenties. She began Eventing and Showjumping at twenty-one, and competed at an international level from 1984. Rolton was long-listed for the Olympic Games at Los Angeles and Seoul, but missed out on both due to injury (to the horse in the first instance, and to herself in the second). In 1992 she was a late inclusion to the Australian equestrian team competing at the Barcelona Olympic Games after she beat all male members of the team in the final selection trial at Savernake, England. Competing alongside Matt Ryan and Andrew Hoy, Rolton rode an excellent round on *Peppermint Grove* on the final day of competition, and became the first Australian female equestrian to win a gold medal.

Rolton achieved even greater notoriety after the Olympic Games in Atlanta in 1996. Thrown twice from *Peppermint Grove* in the cross-country section, Rolton remounted and finished the course despite a broken collar-bone and two broken ribs. The Australian team, comprised of Andrew Hoy, Wendy Schaeffer, Phillip Dutton and Rolton, won gold.

From 2003, Rolton coordinated and coached the EFA National Young Eventing Rider Squad. She was an FEI International Eventing judge and on the Board of Adelaide International Horse Trials.

Events

1992 - 1992

Equestrian – Three day Event (Team)

1996 - 1996

Equestrian – Three Day Event (Team)

Published resources

Book

Free Rein, Rolton, Gillian, 2003

Resource

Australia at the Games, Australian Olympic Committee, 2006,
<http://corporate.olympics.com.au/index.cfm?p=25>

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

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>

Edited Book

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

Author Details

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