Entry type: Person
Entry ID: IMP0124

Walton, Nancy Bird

(1915 - 2009)

Born	19151016, Sydney New South Wales Australia
Died	20090113, Sydney New South Wales Australia
Occupation	Pilot

Summary

Nancy Bird Walton was Australia’s youngest female pilot. She was awarded imperial honours for her work with the Far West Children’s Health Scheme.

Details

Nancy Bird Walton was born in Sydney in 1915. In 1933, at the age of 17, she became the youngest Australian woman to gain a pilot’s licence. One year later she obtained her commercial licence.

In 1937-1938 Walton operated a charter service in Queensland followed by a two year world tour studying civil aviation. In 1950 she founded the Australian Women’s Pilots’ Association. She won the Ladies Trophy in the South Australian Centenary Air Race from Brisbane to Adelaide in 1936 and came fifth in the All Women’s Transcontinental Air Race, America, in 1958.

Walton was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (Civil) in 11 June 1966 for her work as pilot to the Far West Children’s Health Scheme. She was also appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia on 26 January 1990 for ‘service to aviation, particularly the participation of women in aviation’.

Events

2001 - 2001
Inducted into the Australian Surfing Hall of Fame

Published resources

Edited Book
Who's Who of Australian Women, Lofthouse, Andrea, 1982

Book
Nancy Bird [videorecording] : born 1915 : aviatrix, Hughes, Robin and Heimans, Frank, 1992

Nancy Bird, born to fly, Flynn, Randal, 1991

My God! its a woman : the autobiography of Nancy Bird, Walton, Nancy Bird, 1990

The Complete Book of Great Australian Women: Thirty-six women who changed the course of Australia, De Vries, Susanna, 2003

Resource
Nancy Bird-Walton (1915-), Australian Pioneer Aviatrix, Naughton, Russell, 1999, http://www.ctie.monash.edu.au/hargrave/nancy_bird_walton_bio.html

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Site Exhibition
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

Archival resources

State Library of South Australia
Yarn spinners [sound recording]

Mitchell and Dixson Libraries Manuscripts Collection
Jean Fleming Arnot - personal and professional papers, 1890-1995

Shirley Anderson - papers, 1928-1997

Series 01: Nancy Bird Walton further papers, 1933-1995

Edwards and Shaw (Firm) - further records,1945-1984

Series 02: Nancy Bird Walton further photographs, ca. 1930-1991

Collection 05: Nancy Bird Walton scrapbooks, 1938, ca. 1997-2001

Nancy Bird Walton further papers, 1935-1984, including diaries and scrapbooks of press cuttings

Ros Bowden - interviews conducted for radio programs and documentaries, ca.1975 - 1989

Nancy Bird Walton aggregated collection of papers and pictorial material

National Library of Australia, Manuscript Collection
Papers of Lady Helen Blackburn, 1944-1990 [manuscript]

Papers of Nancy Bird Walton, [1933?]-2005 [manuscript]

Australian War Memorial, Research Centre
Walton, Nancy B (Commander, Women's Air Training Corps (WATC))

Walton, Nancy-Bird (Women's Air Training Scheme)

Mrs Nancy Bird-Walton with Lady Wakehurst, wife of the Governor of NSW, in front of Squadron Leader F.C. Mackillop and Gwen Stark

Miss Nancy Bird, Aviatrix with Flight Lieutenant McKillop and Gwen Stark

Lady Wakehurst, wife of the Governor of NSW, Squadron Leader F.C. Mackillop and Gwen Stark

Miss Nancy Bird Walton, wearing the uniform of the Australian Women's Flying Club, with Squadron Leader F.C. Mackillop, Gwen Stark and Lake Wakehurst, wife of the Governor of NSW

The Women's [Australian] Flying Club

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Created 24 September 2002
Last modified 21 November 2018