Entry type: Person
Entry ID: IMP0258

Thompson, Freda

(1906 - 1980)

Born	19060405, South Yarra Victoria Australia
Died	19801211
Occupation	Aviator

Summary

Freda Thompson, a pioneer aviator, was the first Australian woman to fly solo from the United Kingdom to Australia. She completed the journey in a Gypsy Moth Major in 39 days flying time. After qualifying for her private pilot licence in 1930 and her commercial licence two years later in 1932, she became the first woman instructor in the British Empire on gaining her instructor rating in 1933. Finally, in 1934 she obtained the Great Britain Air Ministry Private Pilot Certificate, which enabled her to ‘fly all types of machines’. During the 1930s she became the first woman president of the Royal Victorian Aero Club and was made a life member in 1941. She was a foundation member of the Australian Women Pilots’ Association. Thompson was appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire in 1972 for services to aviation.

Events

2001 - 2001
Inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women

Published resources

Book Section
Freda Thompson, OBE, 2001

Book
Goggles and God help you: pioneer airwoman Freda Thompson OBE and some of her contemporaries., Palmer, Joan Austen, 1986

Resource Section
Thompson, Freda Mary (1906-1980), Dennis, Val, 2006,
http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A160462b.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

Archival resources

National Library of Australia, Manuscript Collection
Papers of Freda Thompson, 1918-1985 [manuscript]

National Library of Australia
[Biographical cuttings on Freda Thompson, aviator, containing one or more cuttings from newspapers or journals]

Author Details
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