

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person

Entry ID: AWE2215

Jones, Nina Eva Vida

(1882 - 1966)

Born	30 January, 1882, Ultimo, Sydney New South Wales Australia
Died	2 March, 1966, Darling Point Sydney New South Wales Australia
Occupation	Motor Racing Driver

Summary

The seventh child of William Henry Harris, gentleman, and Susan Mary (née Clarke), Vida Jones was educated at home. She married John Alexander Stammers Jones, a keen sportsman with a talent for cycling and horseriding, in Darlinghurst, Sydney, in April 1910. At their home in Lithgow, Vida Jones began driving, and in 1923 toured northern New South Wales and Queensland. She participated in a number of events organized by the Royal Automobile Club of Australia (R.A.C.A.), and in 1925-26 drove her Crossley at an average of 78 miles (125 km) per hour to win the 'Weekender Trophy', one of several events along the new Maroubra Speedway. She won a gold medal in a 24-hour event in 1927 – one of few women to do so.

In 1929, Vida Jones drove the family's new Alfa Romeo in the Sydney Bicycle and Motor Club's hill climb at Prospect, and the R.A.C.A. Kurrajong hill climb, gaining the fastest time in both events. The following year, she beat sixty-seven male rivals in the Light Car Club's acceleration test on Bondi Promenade, making 18.4 seconds for the quarter mile.

Vida Jones gave up competitive driving after her husband died of cancer in 1933. She died thirty-three years later at her home in Darling Point.

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>

Resource Section

Jones, Nina Eva Vida (1882 - 1966), Johnson, K. A., 2006, <http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A090515b.htm>

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Author Details

Barbara Lemon

Created 13 December 2006

Last modified 12 April 2019