

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE2277

Roche, Dorothy

(1928 - 2021)

Born	26 March, 1928, Sydney New South Wales Australia
Died	11 November, 2021, Bateau Bay New South Wales Australia
Occupation	Commonwealth or Empire Games Gold Medalist, Lawn Bowler

Summary

Dorothy Roche became Australia's oldest gold medal winner when she competed in the women's fours at the Auckland Commonwealth Games at the age of 61 years and 10 months.

Details

Dorothy Roche took up competitive lawn bowls in 1975 when she was nearly fifty years of age. In 1979, she won the Champion of Champions (singles) competition and the Alpha Romeo Sport-Star of the Year. In 1984 she played a round-robin match with Merle Richardson against the leading male players, beating world champion David Bryant. Throughout her career, Roche won a State-level game every year. In 1988 she was captain of the gold medal-winning team at the Melbourne World Championships. Two years later she competed in the women's fours in Bowls at the 1990 Auckland Commonwealth Games and won gold, becoming Australia's oldest gold medal winner. That year, Roche was granted the 'Freedom of the City of Paramatta' and was awarded the OAM for services to lawn bowls.

Events

1990 - 1990
Lawn Bowls – Fours

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>

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

Resource
Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

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