

# The Australian Women's Register

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**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** AWE1088

## Freeman, Catherine (Cathy) Astrid Salome

(1973 - )

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**Nationality** Australian

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**Born** 16 February, 1973, Mackay Queensland Australia

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**Occupation** Commonwealth or Empire Games Gold Medalist, Olympian, Track and Field Athlete

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### Summary

Catherine (Cathy) Freeman was born in Mackay in Queensland in 1973. As a very good runner, she won a scholarship to boarding school where she was able to have professional coaching. In 1994 she became the first Aboriginal sprinter to win a gold medal at the Commonwealth Games, going on to win a silver medal in the 1996 Olympic Games and then gold at the Sydney Olympics in 2000.

She is very proud of her Aboriginal heritage and has carried the Australian and Aboriginal flags around the track after winning a race, which at times has resulted in public controversy.

She was made Young Australian of the Year in 1990 and Australian of the Year in 1998. She is the first person to receive both awards.

### Events

#### 2000 - 2000

Athletics – 400m Event

#### 1996 - 1996

Athletics – 400m event

#### 1992 - 1992

Competed at Barcelona

#### 2002 - 2002

Athletics – 4 x 400m Relay

#### 1990 - 1990

Athletics – 4 X 100m Relay

#### 2001 - 2001

Inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women

#### 1994 - 1994

Athletics – 200m and 400m

## Published resources

### Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

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

### 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>

The Encyclopedia of Women and Leadership in Twentieth-Century Australia, Smart, Judith and Swain, Shurlee (eds.), 2014,  
<http://www.womenaustralia.info/leaders>

## Archival resources

### John Oxley Library, Manuscripts and Business Records Collection

Collection of posters on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. Set 1.

### Author Details

Leonarda Kovacic

**Created** 24 September 2004

**Last modified** 6 March 2019

## Digital resources



**Title:** Mrs Sarah Powell

**Type:** Image

**Date:** 3 May, 2023



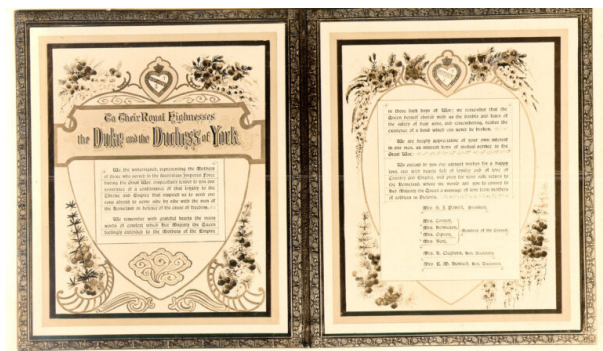
**Title:** Representatives from the Fathers and Mothers' Sailors' Soldiers and  
**Type:** Image  
**Date:** 3 May, 2023



**Title:** Acknowledgement of support  
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