



# Olympic Athletes now Governors

Two Australian Olympians, both former holders of world track records, have been appointed as Governors of Australian states. John Landy began his term as 27th Governor of Victoria at the beginning of this year, and Marjorie Jackson becomes the 33rd Governor of South Australia on October 31.

Landy, who represented Australia and the 1952 and 1956 Olympic Games, winning a bronze medal in the 1500 metres at the latter, broke the world mile record at Turku, Finland, on June 21 1954. He bettered Roger Bannister's mark when he ran the distance in 3:57.9, rounded up under the rules of the day to 3:58.0. Landy took the oath on behalf of all competitors at the Melbourne 1956 Games, but is best remembered for his chivalrous gesture after a rival competitor, Ron Clarke, fell in the 1956 Australian mile championship. Landy stopped running, returned to the fallen Clarke, ascertained that he was not badly hurt, began to chase the field, which was 40 metres ahead, and still managed to win.

Jackson represented Australia at the 1952 Olympics, where she won the sprint double. She set two world records (23.6 and 23.4) in the early rounds of the 200 metres, and equalled Fanny Blankers-Koen's record of 11.5 in the final of the 100 metres. In October 1952, in Gifu, Japan, she lowered the 100 metres mark to 11.4. After the death of her husband Peter Nelson (a cyclist at the 1952 Olympics) from leukemia in 1977, she devoted much of her life to the Peter Nelson Leukemia Research Foundation, raising more than \$A3 million.

Governors in Australia are Vice-Regal representatives of the Queen, appointed on the recommendation of state premiers. They have executive and statutory responsibilities, but their duties these days are largely ceremonial. A long time ago, they were imported from England. Traditionally, many of them have been drawn from the ranks of judges, generals and admirals. One of Marj Jackson's predecessors was the eminent scientist Sir Mark Oliphant.

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