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### John Francis Treloar - Olympic Athlete.

John Treloar, one of the fastest men in the world at his peak, first Australian to make the final of the men's 100 metres sprint, was more than a tad unlucky in the 1952 Helsinki Olympics. He was one of six runners who finished within 0.1 seconds of each other. The winner, Lindy Remigino, thrust his shoulder forward to beat three others who recorded the same time and Treloar, recording the same time as the runner awarded fifth spot, had to settle for sixth.

The photo-finish system was rudimentary and there was no time for tactical planning he said later. It was just a matter of going "hell for bent" and it was a great thrill for this triple Empire Games gold medallist.

One of the greatest sprinters the country has ever produced he was part of Australia's golden age of sprinting that included Marjorie Jackson, Shirley Strickland and Betty Cuthbert.

John Francis Treloar was born in Sydney on January 19, 1928, son of an engineer, William Treloar and his wife, Dorothy (nee Oakley). He showed early athletic prowess, winning the Roseville Public School's championship aged 11. At North Sydney Boys High he played rugby, was a fast bowler for the first eleven and excelled at athletics..He went on to the University of Sydney to do electrical and mechanical engineering but kept up with his athletics..Receiving coaching to speed up his starts, he emerged to win six national championships in the 100 and 220 yard events.

Treloar was chosen for the Australian team for the 1948 Olympics in London. His parents provided a professional coach for him and sent him to the United States for special training.

Once in London Treloar saw that the city had hardly recovered from the battering it had received from German bombs. The athletes were housed but things were rather rudimentary. There was no tailoring of food to athletes' needs. 'We were told there was a giant crate of juicy Aussie steaks but they 'went missing' at Tilbury Docks" he said. I seem to remember it was kippered herrings for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Treloar came fourth in the semi-finals of both the 100 and 220 yard sprints.. but he was far from finished. Chosen for the Empire Games on Auckland. He won the 100 yards in 9.7 seconds, the 220 yards in 21.5 seconds and was part of the Australian team that won the 4\*100 yards relay in 42.2 seconds. The Australian team was triumphant, winning 34 gold medals against second-placed England's 19.

After the Olympics, Treloar returned to engineering, working for his father in W. J. Treloar and Sons, making equipment for the petroleum and related industries. In 1951 he married he married a physiotherapist, Patricia Law. Treloar was chosen for the Australian Olympic Team for the 1952 Olympics in Helsinki, an extraordinary games in which the Soviet Union was making its Olympic debut. Treloar said, "We had plenty of opportunities of getting to know athletes from all over the world including

the iron curtain and to us the cold war was a non-event. But obviously with the politicians it was more important than that.”

Treloar continued in his father’s business and in 1962 made the company public. But athletics was never far from his mind. When he stopped competing, he turned his attention to administration and served a term as president of Athletics N.S.W., an organisation that later made him a life member. In 1987 he formed a new company that supported the LP gas industry developing strong markets in Australia and overseas.

Patricia died of cancer in 1967 and in 1988 Treloar married a company director, Jan Bryant. In 2006 he was awarded the Australian Sports Medal and in 2001 he became an AM. In 2011 North Sydney Boys High School named its newly refurbished gymnasium in his honour. Treloar died suddenly in Sydney on July 23 2012.

His son, John said “Dad passed away exactly as he ran. Quickly.” His funeral was held at North Sydney Boys High School on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2012.

He was survived by Jan, his children, John, Philip, Geoffrey and Patricia, two stepsons 18 grandchildren and his brother, Hugh.

John Francis Treloar was initiated, passed and raised on 4/3/1948, 27/3/1948 and 15/4/1948 in Lodge Lindfield No. 362 UGL of NSW. He was a Lewis and special dispensations must have been given for the three degrees to have been conferred so quickly. He called off Lodge Lindfield on 3/12/1959. A Foundation member of Lodge Olympus No. 861 on 22/5/1953, W.M. Olympus 25/5/1956. Olympus became Olympus with Prosperity on 6/3/1996. He was awarded a 50 year medal on 16/3/1998 and called off on 3/3/2004. His M.M. Certificate No. Was 191504. He was also a Foundation Member of Lodge Falconian on 7/7/1960 and called off that Lodge on 21/8/1966.

Ref: Malcolm Brown, SMH 1/8/2012.  
Records of UGL & NSW.



Dual Olympian ... Australian sprinter John Treloar at home at Taren Point in May

## Biography

John Treloar had the following podium finishes at major championships: 1st in the 1950 British Empire Games 100 yards, 1st in the 1950 British Empire Games 220 yards, 1st in the 1950 British Empire Games 4x110 yards Relay (with the non-Olympians Scotchy Gordon, David Johnson, and Bill de Gruchy).

Personal Bests: 100 – 10.5 (1948); 200 – 21.1y (1946).

## Results

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Games	Age	City	Sport	Event	Team	NOC	Rank	Medal
<a href="#">1948 Summer</a>	20	London	<a href="#">Athletics</a>	<a href="#">Men's 100 metres</a>	Australia	<a href="#">AUS</a>	4 h2 r3/4	
<a href="#">1948 Summer</a>	20	London	<a href="#">Athletics</a>	<a href="#">Men's 200 metres</a>	Australia	<a href="#">AUS</a>	4 h2 r3/4	
<a href="#">1948 Summer</a>	20	London	<a href="#">Athletics</a>	<a href="#">Men's 4 × 100 metres Relay</a>	Australia	<a href="#">AUS</a>	3 h2 r1/2	
<a href="#">1952 Summer</a>	24	Helsinki	<a href="#">Athletics</a>	<a href="#">Men's 100 metres</a>	Australia	<a href="#">AUS</a>	6	
<a href="#">1952 Summer</a>	24	Helsinki	<a href="#">Athletics</a>	<a href="#">Men's 200 metres</a>	Australia	<a href="#">AUS</a>	AC h2 r3/4	

## Men's 100 metres

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Games	Age	City	Sport	Country	Phase	Unit	Rank	ATM	T(H)	T(A 1/10)	T(A)	L
<a href="#">1948 Summer</a>	20	London	<a href="#">Athletics</a>	<a href="#">Australia</a>	<a href="#">Semi-Finals</a>	Heat Two	4	at 0.14				
<a href="#">1948 Summer</a>	20	London	<a href="#">Athletics</a>	<a href="#">Australia</a>	<a href="#">Quarter-Finals</a>	Heat Four	2	QU	at 0.04	10.5		
<a href="#">1948 Summer</a>	20	London	<a href="#">Athletics</a>	<a href="#">Australia</a>	<a href="#">Round One</a>	Heat Seven	1	QU		10.5	10.6	
<a href="#">1952 Summer</a>	24	Helsinki	<a href="#">Athletics</a>	<a href="#">Australia</a>	<a href="#">Final</a>		6			10.5		10.91 6
<a href="#">1952 Summer</a>	24	Helsinki	<a href="#">Athletics</a>	<a href="#">Australia</a>	<a href="#">Semi-Finals</a>	Heat Two	3	QU		10.6		10.76
<a href="#">1952 Summer</a>	24	Helsinki	<a href="#">Athletics</a>	<a href="#">Australia</a>	<a href="#">Quarter-Finals</a>	Heat One	2	QU		10.7		10.84
<a href="#">1952 Summer</a>	24	Helsinki	<a href="#">Athletics</a>	<a href="#">Australia</a>	<a href="#">Round One</a>	Heat One	1	QU		10.7		10.92

## Men's 200 metres

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Games	Age	City	Sport	Country	Phase	Unit	Rank	ATM	T(H)	T(A 1/10)	T(A)
<a href="#">1948 Summer</a>	20	London	<a href="#">Athletics</a>	<a href="#">Australia</a>	<a href="#">Semi-Finals</a>	Heat Two	4	at 0.39			
<a href="#">1948 Summer</a>	20	London	<a href="#">Athletics</a>	<a href="#">Australia</a>	<a href="#">Quarter-Finals</a>	Heat Two	2	QU		21.5	
<a href="#">1948 Summer</a>	20	London	<a href="#">Athletics</a>	<a href="#">Australia</a>	<a href="#">Round One</a>	Heat Nine	1	QU		21.7	21.8
<a href="#">1952 Summer</a>	24	Helsinki	<a href="#">Athletics</a>	<a href="#">Australia</a>	<a href="#">Semi-Finals</a>	Heat Two	AC	DNF			
<a href="#">1952 Summer</a>	24	Helsinki	<a href="#">Athletics</a>	<a href="#">Australia</a>	<a href="#">Quarter-Finals</a>	Heat Six	1	QU		21.6	21.86
<a href="#">1952 Summer</a>	24	Helsinki	<a href="#">Athletics</a>	<a href="#">Australia</a>	<a href="#">Round One</a>	Heat Eighteen	1	QU		21.5	21.75

## Men's 4 × 100 metres Relay

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Games	Age	City	Sport	Team	NOC	Phase	Unit	Rank	T(H)
<a href="#">1948 Summer</a>	20	London	<a href="#">Athletics</a>	Australia	<a href="#">AUS</a>	<a href="#">Round One</a>	Heat Two	3	41.5



John Treloar competing in 1947.