

SUZANNE HELEN FAIRHURST

Category: Elite

Classification: Sport - Softball

Suzanne Helen Fairhurst was born in Ashton-Under-Lyne near Birmingham, England on 9th July, 1974 while her parents were on a return visit. They returned to Australia when Suzanne was a few months old. They moved to Muswellbrook in 1984.

Her successful career in softball began in 1986 when she captained the Hunter Region Primary Schools to win the NSW Championship, the Muswellbrook Public School to win the NSW Knockout and then the NSW Primary School team to become Australian Champion in Brisbane in 1987.

Having moved to high school, Suzanne represented Hunter Region Combined High Schools at NSW Championships and Muswellbrook High in the finals of the State High Schools Knockout in 1987. While playing for Newcastle City Steelers (Under 15 Major Premiers) and Neutral Bears, Sydney (Under 16 Minor & Major Premiers) she represented Newcastle at Under 15 and open age at State Championships and was selected as reserve for NSW Under 16 team for Australian Championships in Adelaide, in January 1988.

During 1988, aged 14, Suzanne represented Newcastle (Under 15), Hunter Region CHS, Newcastle Open Women and NSW (Under 16). She was also selected in the Hunter Region Under 19 All Stars to play visiting US team Oklahoma City (OKC). Suzanne found it necessary to travel from Muswellbrook to play with Newcastle City Steelers, Kotara and Neutral Bears, Sydney. She also represented the Lake Macquarie Association (Under 15) at the NSW Country Championships and became titleholders.



Highlights of Suzanne's outstanding sporting career include:

- 1989** Member of NSW Under 16 Team – Australian Champions
Selected to represent NSW Combined High Schools –National Champions
Member Muswellbrook High School Team – State Knockout Champions, also 1990 and Runner-up 1991
Awarded Hunter Region High Schools “blue” for outstanding achievement for school softball.
- 1990** Member NSW Open Women's Team – Australian Champions
Suzanne is one of the youngest players ever to be selected in the State Open Team
Winner Gold Scholarship – Hunter Academy of Sport
Represented Australian Youth Team, Trans-Tasman Challenge vs NZ
Toured USA with NSW Rebels – won 3 of 4 tournaments
Selected NSW High Schools Cricket Team to tour New Zealand
- 1991** Member Arncliffe Scots Softball Team – Winner NSW Club Championship
Represented Australia at Youth World Championships (Australia finished 4th)
Selected by NSW Ladies Golf Union for Talent Identification Camp
Represented Country 1^{sts} Softball Team vs City 1^{sts} Country won for the first time
Selected NSW CHE Open Girls Cricket Team for All School Carnival
- 1992** Captain Hunter Region High Schools Open Softball Team. Won NSW State Championship for the first time. Selected Tournament “Most Valuable Player”. Selected Vice Captain NSW CHS Team which won Australian Schools Championship. Selected in Australian Schools Merit Team.
Represented Australia in Open Women's Softball Team, Challenger Cup Tournament, Beijing, China. Australia finished second.
Selected finalist in Caltex Sportsperson of the Year – Telegraph/Mirror
Selected semi-finalist NBN – St. George Sport Star of the Year
Awarded “Special Sports Award” by Muswellbrook High School for “Outstanding contributions to High School Sport” during 1987 – 1992
- 1993** Enrolled at Oklahoma City University as student on Softball Scholarship studying Sports Science
Assistant pitching/batting coach, at summer coaching clinic run by UCLA head coach Sharon Bachus
Represented Northern Territory at Australian Open Women's Championships – special arrangement while studying overseas – also 1994 & 1995

- 1994** Member OKCU Conference Champions
 Set OKCU records: most home runs 28, most RBIs 78 in a regular season
 Winner with OKCU, National Collegiate Softball Championships
 Selected Finals “All Star Team”
 Selected Collegiate 1st Team all American
 Awarded Certificate of Commendation by Oklahoma State Legislature for outstanding sporting achievement with OKCU
 Selected “all Star Team” US Open Women’s Nationals, also 1995
- 1995** Selected Australian Olympic Squad for 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games
 In National Softball League voted MVP and winner of Best Batter, Most Home Runs and Most RBI’s
 Member “Decatur Pride” winner of 6 US Tournaments.
 Selected, “All Star Team” Canada Cup, Vancouver
 Represented Australia at “Superball” Pre-Olympic Tournament, Columbus, Georgia (Bronze Medal) and in Test Serves against USA
 Member NSW Academy Team, winners NSW State League
- 1996** Member NSW Open Team – Australian Championships at Brisbane
 Finalist NBN TV Sport Star of the Year
- 1999** Member NSW Open Team – Winner National Championship – Batter of Series Award
 Represented Australia: Qantas Challenge – winners
 NZ Invitational – winners
 De Bilt Challenge in Holland – winners
 Haarlem Softball Week in Holland – runners up
 Canada Cup in British Columbia – runners up
 San Diego Olympic Cup – USA – runners up
- 2000** Represented NSW Open Team – Australian Championships winners – Awarded Tournament “Most Valuable Player”
 Represented NSW in Qantas Cup – runners up
 Represented Australia: International Invitational Challenge – runners up
 NZ Invitational – winners
 Canada Cup, Vancouver - winners
 Represented Australia at Sydney 2000 Olympic Games and is the proud recipient of a Bronze Medal
 Awarded the Australian Sports Medal by the Federal Government

During Suzanne’s outstanding sporting career she has won Muswellbrook Shire Sportsperson of the Year twice, has represented at State level continually from 12 years of age and represented Australia in open international competition over 90 times.

Inducted December 2001