

# The Australian Women's Register

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**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** AWE2237

## Gilbert, Karla

(1975 - )

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**Born** 19750228, Southport Queensland Australia

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**Occupation** Ironwoman, Surf Lifesaver

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### Summary

Karla Gilbert's record speaks for itself. She has won back to back world Ironwoman championships (2000 and 2002), seven consecutive Ironwoman series wins (1996-2002), sixteen Australian championships, seven Queensland titles and numerous other championship events. There is absolutely no doubt of her dominance in the sport throughout the 1990s and early 2000's. Furthermore, through her involvement at the highest level, Gilbert has helped to raise public awareness of surf lifesaving in the community.

Gilbert entered the sport in 1980, when her parents joined her in the Nippers program at Palm Beach. She won her first attempt at a professional ironwoman event (the first even professional ironwoman race in Australia) ten years later in 1990. She was only fifteen years old.

### Events

#### 2003 - 2003

Inducted into the Gold Coast Sporting Hall of Fame

#### 2005 - 2005

Inducted into the Sport Australia Hall of Fame

### 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>

#### Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

### Author Details

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**Created** 31 December 2006

**Last modified** 20 November 2018