Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE2260

O’Neill, Susie

(1973 -)

Born	19730802, Mackay Queensland Australia
Occupation	Commonwealth or Empire Games Gold Medalist, Olympian, Swimmer

Summary

For an entire decade, Olympic swimmer Susie O’Neill won a medal at every single international swimming competition. She holds a record 35 Australian titles and eight Olympic medals. Dubbed ‘Madame Butterfly’, O’Neill achieved world number one ranking in both the 100m and 200m butterfly events. She was also ranked world number one in the 200m freestyle from 1999-2000.

Details

Susie O’Neill launched her competitive swimming career at the age of fourteen, when she narrowly missed selection for the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul. Two years later she won both gold and silver medals at the Commonwealth Games. At the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, O’Neill won gold, silver and bronze medals, making her Australia’s most outstanding Olympic performer since Shane Gould in 1972.

At the 1998 Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur, O’Neill once again outperformed her peers, winning a record eight medals, including six gold. At Sydney in 2000, she swam at her last Olympic Games, winning one gold and three silver medals. With Dawn Fraser and Petria Thomas, O’Neill holds the Australian women’s record for her Olympic medal tally.

Events

1992 - 1992
Swimming – 200m Butterfly

1996 - 1996
Swimming – 200m Butterfly

2000 - 2000
Swimming – 200m Butterfly, 4 x 200m Freestyle Relay, 4 x 100m Medley Relay

2000 - 2000
Swimming – 200m Freestyle

1994 - 1994
Swimming – 200m Freestyle, 200m Butterfly, 4 x 200m Freestyle Relay

1998 - 1998
Swimming – 200m Freestyle, 400m Freestyle, 200m Butterfly, 4 x 100m Freestyle Relay, 4 x 200m Freestyle Relay, 4 x 100m Medley Relay

1990 - 1990
Swimming – 4 x 100m Fresstyle Relay

1996 - 1996
Swimming – 4 x 100m Medley Relay

1996 - 1996
Swimming – 4 x 200m Freestyle

Published resources

Book
Choose to win: achieving your goals, fulfilling your dreams, O'Neill, Susie, 1999

Susie O'Neill: our champion, O'Neill, Susie, 2000

Journal Article
The butterfly has landed: Susie O'Neill, Collings, H., 2003

A Fairytale Career: Susie O'Neill, Halloran, J., 2000

Mind Games: Susie O'Neill, Harms, J., 2000

Susie's fairly simple path to greatness: Susie O'Neill, Smith, W., 1999

Total Immersion: Susie O'Neill, Alexander, R., 1998

Susie O'Neill: Madame Butterfly, Fittall, K., 1998

Madame butterfly mark 2: Susie O'Neill, Gray, S., 1996

Class of 94 - Susie O'Neill and Rebecca Brown, Alexander, R., 1994

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

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

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

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