

Susan Costin

Australian backstroke champion

I swam every morning and afternoon at Granville pool. When you're young, it's your social life as well, it's all-consuming. We had fun and none of us regretted the training schedule.

Susan Costin (born 1944) is the daughter of Australian rowing champion Angela Mann. After the Costins moved to Baulkham Hills in 1954, Susan and her sister Prudence began swimming at Granville pool, and competing with the Parramatta City Amateur Swimming Club.

Susan won her first western Sydney title in 1959. She represented NSW at the Australian championships in 1960, and a string of record-breaking swims followed. At the 1961 State championships, Susan won both the 110 yards (beating Ilsa Konrads) and 220 yards open backstroke titles. At the Australian championships in Brisbane a month later, Susan clocked the fastest time for a resident Australian swimmer for her win in the 110 yards backstroke.

At the 1962 State championships, Susan set new Australian and NSW records in the 110 yards backstroke, and a NSW record in the 220 yards backstroke. That year Ilsa Konrads said that Susan was 'undoubtedly Australia's best stylist in backstroke.' She represented Australia at the 1962 British Empire and Commonwealth Games in Perth, but retired from competition after missing out on selection for the 1964 Tokyo Olympic Games swim team. The Parramatta City Swimming Club record for girls (16 years) 50m backstroke set by Susan in 1958/59, remained unbroken in 2005.



Above: Susan Costin (left) aged 15, and her sister Prudence aged ten, at a Parramatta Amateur City Swimming Club awards night

Below: Susan at Granville, aged 11



Above: Susan Costin being presented with a trophy, about 1955

Right: Susan at the Australian swimming championships, Brisbane 1961

Below: Susan Costin and English swimmer Linda Ludgrove at the 1962 Commonwealth Games in Perth
All photos courtesy of Susan Bridie

