

Evonne Goolagong Cawley Story

During the 1970s, Goolagong won the women's singles title at the Australian Open four times. She was also the runner-up at Wimbledon three times. At the U.S. Open, she lost in the final four consecutive years (1973-1976), never winning the title.

Goolagong's final Grand Slam title came at Wimbledon in 1980. By this time, she was a 29-year-old mother and surprised the tennis world by beating Tracy Austin in a semifinal and Chris Evert in the final, to win her second Wimbledon and seventh Grand Slam singles crown. She was the first mother in 66 years to win the Wimbledon singles title, the previous one being English woman Dorothea Lambert-Chambers in 1914.



Evonne Goolagong Cawley is one of Australia's most successful Tennis players. Evonne was born in July 31st, 1951, Griffith, N.S.W. She grew up in a wheat town called Barellan. Her father Kenny was a shearer and her mother Linda worked at home looking after Evonne and her seven brothers and sisters. They were the only aboriginal family in the town. Their house was a tin shack with dirt floors, but Evonne says they were the happiest days of her life. They loved little games and swimming in the irrigation canal. Evonne won most of the games. The Goolagongs were the only aborigines at their local school. At the age of 11 she was given the chance to go to Sydney to train seriously to become a champion tennis player. She grabbed that opportunity and never looked back. Before she was 13,

Evonne had won more than 80 singles and doubles age titles. When she was 14, she moved to Sydney and lived with her coach (Vick Edwards) and his family became her guardians. She went to school at Willoughby High where she enjoyed numerous sporting opportunities. In 1970 Evonne left to go on her first overseas tour to Britain. At 19, she met the man she would marry, Roger Cawley. When she came back to Australia she was elected to play for Australia in the 1970 Federation Cup. In 1971 she won the French Open in the same year she won Wimbledon she was now No.1 in the world. In 1972 she was awarded an MBE (Member of the British Empire title, she was also Australian of the Year.

Following her marriage to Roger Cawley in 1975, Goolagong settled in the United States (in Naples, Florida). This led to some criticism in Australia. After living in the U.S. for eight years, the couple bought a home at Noosa Heads, Queensland, in 1991, where they settled with their two children — daughter Kelly (born 1977) and son Morgan (born 1981). In 1988, Goolagong was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame. Goolagong was awarded an MBE in 1972 and made an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in 1982.

Goolagong was a member of the Board of the Australian Sports Commission from 1995 to 1997 and since 1997 has held the position of Sports Ambassador to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities.

Since 2000, Goolagong has made an increasing commitment to Australian women's tennis, which has fallen on hard times in terms of the glamour international events, and was appointed captain of the

Australian Fed Cup team in 2002. In 2003, she was winner for the Oceania region of the International Olympic Committee's 2003 Women and Sports Trophy.

Grand Slam Record

- ▶ **Australian Open:** Singles-1974-77
- ▶ Singles finalists-1971-73
- ▶ Doubles-1971, 1974-76, 1977
- ▶ **French Open:** Singles-1971
- ▶ Singles Finalists-1972
- ▶ Doubles-1972
- ▶ **Wimbledon:** Singles-1971, 1980
- ▶ Singles Finalists-1972, 1975-76
- ▶ Doubles-1974
- ▶ Doubles Finalists-1971
- ▶ Mixed Finalists-1972
- ▶ **U.S. Open:** Singles Finalists-1973-76
- ▶ **Tournament Record**
- ▶ **Italian:** Singles-1973
- ▶ Doubles Finalists-1979
- ▶ **Federation Cup:** 1971-76, 1982