

# Cassandra Kell



Cassandra would have to be one of Central Coast unassuming champions. She is multi-talented and a very determined person. She sets her goals and goes for it. In her football life, she attained the ultimate by playing for Australian Matildas during the years of 2002 - 2005. She had 30 games altogether and 24 of those were full internationals. Being goalkeeper, there is only one place for her on the field. She had strong opposition against her for that role in Melissa Barbieri, who was the chosen number one generally, but that did not hinder Cassandra nor was she ignored by the selectors. She was given every opportunity to demonstrate her ability. During her career she was coached by Allan Bourke, John Crawley and Ron Jackson in her climb to stardom.

Cassandra was born in 1980 in Gosford started her career with Budgewoi U6s in 1986 but did not re-register until she played for Ocean Beach U14 in 1990 under Cheryle and Owen Burns. The team had success by winning League Championship and Premiership. It was a good start and it was a sign that better things were ahead. The next year, the same team in the U16s were League Champions and Joint Premiers. She played until 1993 when she had a 2 year spell. In 1996 she returned to play in the U16 Friday night



Inter District competition in Sydney. After that, it was up, up and away. She was chosen for the NSW Institute of Sport 1997 and that lead her to be chosen to play in the National U18 and later U21 sides. As well she played as a NSW State side "Sapphires" team in the National League where she played for 5 years. In 2000 and 2001 she was voted as the best Keeper in the League. In 2002 she was chosen for



the Matildas squad where she stayed for 4 years. In 2007 after her last game against China she returned to Central Coast 1<sup>st</sup> grade in the NSW State league, and also started on the road to transfer her attention to cycling. After that year, she made the huge decision to throw her football career away and take up cycling at the top level. Something, we should not be surprised with, she is doing very well. She hopes to reach out for an Olympic Games and World Cup berth in the near future. We wish her luck.

In her football travels around the world, she has visited Netherlands with U18s in 1998, Iceland with the U21s in 2000 and USA for the World Cup in 2003. Cassandra has developed into a great sports person and is a great ambassador for the Central Coast.

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