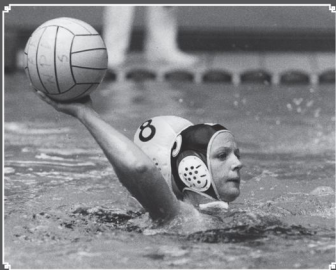


DEBBIE HANDLEY

TUGUN (QLD)

- Gold Medalist - FINA Women's World Championship, Madrid (1986)
- Gold Medalist - FINA Women's World Cup, Irvine (1984)
- Silver Medalist - FINA Women's World Championship, Guayaquil (1982)
- Bronze Medalist - FINA Women's World Cup, Sainte Foy (1983)
- Bronze Medalist - FINA Women's World Cup, Brisbane (1981)
- Bronze Medalist - FINA Women's World Cup, Merced (1979)



Debbie Handley (Cummins) was a pioneer of women's water polo in Queensland and for Australia. She began her playing career with the Tugun club and was a continuous representative in the Queensland State team from 1974 to 1988, an impressive span of 15 years (14 years as captain). She was selected in the first Australian women's team in 1976 and accrued 93 caps for Australia over the next 13 years, the latter 10 years (69 games) as the national captain, leading the Australians in two World Championship campaigns with a FINA silver medal at Guayaquil (1982) and a FINA gold medal at Madrid (1986). Debbie also competed in six FINA Women's World Cup tournaments at Merced (1979), Breda (1980), Brisbane (1981), Sainte Foy (1983), Irvine (1984) and Christchurch (1988), and was without doubt one of the greatest female water polo players of her time. At the international level Debbie was regularly voted the 'Player of the Tournament' and was the recipient of no fewer than six FINA medals as well as being awarded the AWPI 'Harry Quittner' medal. Debbie also led the Maroons to six women's national titles in the Australian Championships. Photo - AAWPA Archives.