

# Yolane's Star heads west to shine over Arena Swim Club

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It's official! Yolane Kukla, gold medallist at the 2012 London Olympics has selected Arena Swim Club as her new home base.

Yolane, 17 has relocated from Brisbane to continue training under coach Mick Palfrey who has recently commenced a High Performance Network Program Coaching role with WAIS.

Born in Brisbane 29<sup>th</sup> September 1995, Yolane took up swimming with her sister Gabrielle at the age of 12. She joined St Peters Western Swimming Club, one of the largest swim clubs in Queensland, based at St Peters Lutheran College Indooroopilly. Prior to swimming, Yolane competed in State representative level gymnastics from 6 – 10 years of age.

A butterfly and freestyle swimmer, Yolane's star rose quickly. She has been a regular on the Australian team since claiming gold and National Titles in 50m Freestyle and 50m Butterfly at the 2010 Telstra Australian Swimming Championships in Sydney – a performance which earned her selection for the Commonwealth Games team in Delhi. All at the tender age of 14, making her the youngest Australian to qualify for the national team since Ian Thorpe in 1997.

Yolane went on to achieve a career highlight claiming gold in Delhi in the 50m Freestyle, 4<sup>th</sup> in the 50m and 100m fly events.... just 9 days after her 15<sup>th</sup> birthday.

2010 proved to be a very busy and very successful year for Yolane, with 2 silver medal relay swims, as well as other personal bests achieved at the Pan Pacific Swimming Championships. You can check out all of Yolane's PBs [here](#).

Performances at the 2011 National Championships qualified her for her first World Championships in Shanghai.

In 2012, as a 16 year old, Yolane made her Olympic debut, travelling to London as the youngest Australian team member to compete with the best in the world. At 16, Yolane swam her country into prime position in the heats of the women's 4 x 100m freestyle relay alongside Emily Seebohm, Brittany Elmslie and Libby Trickett. Our Australian women went on to claim gold in the final.

Yolane's swimming has taken her all around the world attending competitions in China, India, England and the USA.

We caught up with Yolane recently to see what makes this awesome swimmer tick. Check out our "Interview with an Olympian" in the Xmas edition of Marlin Matters. If you see Yolane around pool deck, don't forget to give her a great big Arena welcome!