



Aussie Hearts Women's Baseball

The Aussie Hearts were founded in 2005 with the purpose of giving international baseball opportunities to women and junior girls who otherwise might not have the chance. The purpose is to help women and girls to learn the game they love and to provide them a chance to chase their dream on a bigger stage.

In 2005 and 2006, the Hearts travelled to compete in both California and Florida in the United States with both womens and junior teams each year.

In 2007, the Hearts brought former All-American Girl ("A League of Their Own") Jeneane Lesko to Australia to conduct junior training camps in Sydney, Canberra, Illawara, and Melbourne.

In 2008, the Heart resumed their international tour schedule with an outstanding third place finish out of six countries in Hong Kong during February. A highlight was the opportunity to combine juniors and women to provide a competitive team and an excellent mentoring experience.

Also in July 2008, a special Hearts elite team will make a women's baseball pilgrimage to play in a major tournament in Kenosha, Wis., in America. They will play one of the last remaining fields from the historic All-American Girls Professional Baseball League of the 1940s and 1950s.

Then in October, the Hearts are off to India for the World Women's Baseball Federation Unity tournament, which will provide another mentoring experience for a team composed of both women and juniors.

Testimonials

"The tour was a once-in-a-lifetime bonding especially at a very important time in my daughter's life; this will stay with both of us always...The whole experience challenged Jade to grow and become not only a better baseball player but a more rounded teen. I will never forget the pride I felt when hearing her name and team members called out and the national anthem played."

-**Karon Cantori** is the mother of junior player **Jade Cantori** who plays at the North Ryde Baseball Club in Sydney. The Cantoris participated in the 2006 Aussie Hearts junior team that toured to California and Florida.

"Our daughter Jacinda really enjoyed and grew from the Aussie Hearts tours. No doubt the experience helped her improve and advance her game! "

-**Debbie & Mike Barclay** are from Perth, Western Australia and their family plays for the Eastern Hills Hornets Baseball Club. Their teenage daughter **Jacinda Barclay** participated with the Aussie Hearts women's tour to San Francisco, California and Orlando, Florida in October, 2006 as well as the women's Hong Kong Tour in February 2008. In 2007, Jacinda was named to the Western Australia state team and has recently been named to the 2008 Australian women's national team.



Juniors Celina Whan, Miranda Scott, and Patricia Middleton in the Atlanta Braves Major League spring training stadium at the Disney Wide World of Sports in Orlando, Florida after finishing 2nd during the October, 2005 tournament.



Coaches Jeneane Lesko, Simone Wearne, and Kelly Manzie-Novotny with the junior girls at Disney's Wide World of Sports in Orlando, Florida during October, 2006.



Jacinda Barclay (center) with Lauren Gibson and Celina Whan as they take in their first Major League Baseball game in San Francisco during October, 2006.



#1 fan Australian Deputy Consul General David Livingstone gives the Aussie Hearts women an inspirational pep talk in Hong Kong. The Hearts finished 3rd out of six countries in February, 2008.



Young Holly Hafner on the mound against Hong Kong in her first international pitching appearance during February, 2008.