

# Evonne Goolagong Cawley

## Who is Evonne?

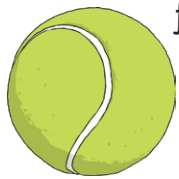
Evonne is one of Australia's most successful and accomplished tennis players. She has won four Australian Open tournaments, two Wimbledon tournaments and one French Open. She has been Australian of the Year and also Australian Sportsman of the Year. Evonne ranked as the world's number one female tennis player in 1971 and 1976.

Born Evonne Fay Goolagong on 31st July 1951, she was one of eight children in a Wiradjuri Aboriginal family. She and her family lived in the small town of Barellan in New South Wales. Some of Evonne's fondest childhood memories are of time spent with family and visiting relatives.



## Great Beginnings

The Goolagong children loved to play a variety of sports. Evonne was good at most of them and enjoyed participating in them with her friends and family. She showed natural talent and timing when playing a range of different sports. At five years old, Evonne would play with tennis balls, hitting them against a wall



for hours on end. The community recognised this talent in Evonne and encouraged her to join the local tennis club, even though she was too young. Here, her skills developed and by the time she was 10 she had decided that one day she was going to win Wimbledon.

## Career Success

Evonne was very dedicated to her tennis training under her coach Vic Edwards and soon she started winning many local competitions. When Evonne was 18, her coach decided she was ready to compete at Wimbledon. Here, she lost in the second round. However, the following year (1971) Evonne competed again and won. She gained international attention and made history, becoming the first female Indigenous Australian to win the prestigious event. This was the beginning of a stellar career in which Evonne went on to win 92 professional competitions.

In 1975, Evonne married Englishman and fellow tennis player, Roger Cawley. They had a daughter, Kelly, in 1977. Evonne was determined that



**Wimbledon Ladies' Singles Trophy**

motherhood should not mean she had to stop playing tennis altogether. She went on to win the 1980 Wimbledon title, becoming the only mother to have won the title since before World War 1. Evonne kept playing but after a series of injuries she made the decision to retire from her career in tennis.

### **Did you know?**

- Wimbledon, held in London in the United Kingdom, is the oldest tennis tournament in the world.
- Evonne started her own foundation, the Evonne Goolagong Foundation, providing education and mentoring opportunities for both young Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.
- Evonne was awarded Australian of the Year in 1971 and inducted into the Sport Australia Hall of Fame in 1985.
- In April 2016, Evonne was awarded an honorary doctorate for her work in the community.

In 1991, the death of Evonne's mother prompted her to find out more about her family's heritage. This led Evonne to write an autobiography, which became a best seller. Evonne and her daughter Kelly now run tennis camps and mentoring programs for young Australians through the Evonne Goolagong Foundation. Evonne also has a son named Morgan. She lives with her husband in Noosa, Queensland.

# Evonne Goolagong Cawley Questions

1. Where did Evonne grow up?  
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2. What is Evonne's birthdate?  
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3. How old is Evonne? (You will need to do some mathematics to work out the answer.)  
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4. When did Evonne start playing tennis?  
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5. When did Evonne first win the Wimbledon title?  
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6. Why did Evonne's name change?  
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7. What are Evonne's children's names?  
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8. When did she win the Wimbledon title for the second time?  
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9. Why was it more of a challenge to win the title the second time around?  
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10. What are some of Evonne's other major achievements?  
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2. What is the name of Evonne's traditional people?

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3. How old is Evonne? (You will need to do some mathematics to work out the answer.)

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4. How did Evonne start playing tennis?

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5. What was the goal that Evonne set for herself when she was 10 years old?

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6. Did Evonne realise this dream? If so, when?

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7. When did she win the Wimbledon title for the second time?

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9. Why do you think Evonne has had such a successful career?  
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10. Use a dictionary to find the meaning of 'doctorate'. How does this honour relate to Evonne's Foundation?  
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# Evonne Goolagong Cawley Answers

1. Where did Evonne grow up?  
**She grew up in Barellan, New South Wales.**
2. What is Evonne's birthdate?  
**it is 31st July, 1951.**
3. How old is Evonne? (You will need to do some mathematics to work out the answer.)  
**Current year – 1951 = current age.**
4. When did Evonne start playing tennis?  
**She started playing tennis when she was five years old.**
5. When did Evonne first win the Wimbledon title?  
**She first won Wimbledon in 1971.**
6. Why did Evonne's name change?  
**Her name changed when she got married.**
7. What are Evonne's children's names?  
**Her children are called Kelly and Morgan.**
8. When did she win the Wimbledon title for the second time?  
**She won Wimbledon for the second time in 1980.**
9. Why was it more of a challenge to win the title the second time around?  
**It was more of a challenge because Evonne was now a mother.**
10. What are some of Evonne's other major achievements?
  - **She won over 92 professional competitions**
  - **Evonne started her own Foundation for young Australians**
  - **Evonne received a doctorate for her community service**
  - **She was made Australian of the Year**
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# Evonne Goolagong Cawley Answers

1. Where did Evonne grow up?  
**She grew up in Barellan, New South Wales.**
2. What is the name of Evonne's traditional people?  
**They are called the Wiradjuri people.**
3. How old is Evonne? (You will need to do some mathematics to work out the answer.)  
**Current year – 1951 = current age.**
4. How did Evonne start playing tennis?  
**When she was five years old, Evonne would hit tennis balls against a wall. Then her community encouraged her to join the local tennis club.**
5. What was the goal that Evonne set for herself when she was 10 years old?  
**She wanted to win the Wimbledon title.**
6. Did Evonne realise this dream? If so, when?  
**Yes, Evonne realized her dream in 1971.**
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**Open discussion.**

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**Open discussion.**
10. Use a dictionary to find the meaning of 'doctorate'. How does this honour relate to Evonne's Foundation?  
**A doctorate is the highest degree awarded by a university and 'doctor' in Latin means 'teacher'.  
Open discussion**