

# Margaret Cataslis

## (nee Hoar)

A near impenetrable defence, tenacity, patience, determination and a strong will to win brought Margaret Hoar seven national singles titles and the 1957 Australian women's singles and doubles titles. She was NZ Player of the Year in 1957.

Margaret had a meteoric rise in table tennis. As a 16 year old at the 1947 North Island Championships she disposed of more fancied opponents to reach the final of the Women's Singles. She won her first title (Under 18 Girls' Singles) the same year, beating the previous title-holder. "I hadn't handled a bat until three months ago," responded Margaret when asked how long she had been playing the sport.



One year later she was NZ Champion and No 1 ranked woman.

Regrettably she did not have the opportunity to travel overseas beyond Australia.

### **National Titles:**

#### **New Zealand Open**

Women's Singles - 1948, 49, 50, 52, 53, 56, 57  
 Women's Doubles - 1949, 50, 51, 52, 56  
 Mixed Doubles - 1950, 51, 54, 55, 56  
 Under 18 Girls' Singles - 1948



#### **North Island Open**

Women's Singles - 1949, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 57  
 Women's Doubles - 1949, 50, 51, 54, 55, 57  
 Mixed Doubles - 1950, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 57  
 Under 18 Girls' Singles - 1947

1949



(Above) 1953 NZ Championships Mixed Doubles Final

L/R: **Bob Jackson, Margaret Hoar, John Stewart** (umpire)  
**June Magorian, Neville Brightwell**

## *Margaret Cataslis continued*

### **Marathon**

Margaret was involved in several marathon matches with perhaps the most famous (or infamous) being a 1955 inter-association team contest against Joan Prisk (nee Cox). A typical rally saw the ball cross the net 1033 times. After 2 hours and 31 minutes the match was stopped at 20-16 and the new expedite rule applied, Margaret going on to win.



(Left) NZ Championships - 1952  
Women's Inter-Association Teams  
championships.

Teagle Shield Winners Auckland

L/R (rear): **B Williams, S Eccles**  
L/R (front): **B Packwood, M Hoar, V Leach**



NZ Championships Auckland teams.  
Winners Kean and Teagle Shields.

Back row L/R: **W O Jaine, B Williams, R V Jackson, V Leach,**  
**R A Algie, S Eccles.**

Front row L/R: **M Hoar** (Women's Captain), **E K Smith** (Men's  
Captain), **G Kniveton** (Manager), **C O'Loughlin, B Packwood.**