

Susan Seipel

Paralympic Bronze medallist,
Dual Paracanoe World Champion

Susan Seipel is a diverse athlete with a background in swimming, equestrian and is a Paralympic medallist in Paracanoe.

She was born with Arthrogryposis Multiplex, a rare disorder characterised by fusion of joints and absent muscle formation her legs. Undergoing her 1st operation at only 4 weeks old, she was admitted to hospital 13 times before the age of 15.

She learnt to swim at age 4, and discovered a passion for competition. She held 6 Queensland State Games Records and 3 Australian National Age Records.

At age 7, she started having horse riding lessons for physiotherapy at The McIntyre Pony Riding for the Disabled Centre.

In 2006 she made her international debut for Australia at a Para-Equestrian Dressage Competition in Canada. She rode a borrowed horse and with only a few days practice together they won a bronze medal.

In 2012 she joined the Brisbane Canoeing Club to learn how to paddle kayak and canoe boats. She made her first Australian Para-Canoe Team in 2014 and placed 6th at the World Canoe Championships in Russia.

Also in 2014 she competed at the Outrigger Canoe World Championships in Brazil. She won a individual Silver medal and 2 team Gold medals for Australia in World Best time.

At the 2015 ICF World Championships in Italy, Susan won a K1 Bronze medal and qualified a quota place for Australia at the 2016 Rio Paralympic Games. She won Gold in the V1 race and her maiden World Title with a Personal Best and World Best time.

Susan successfully defended her V1 World Champion Title at the 2016 World Championships in Germany and won Bronze in the K1 event.

Susan Seipel proudly represented Australia at the 2016 Rio Paralympics Games. She won a Bronze medal and was the first Australian in history to win a medal in Para-canoe at the Paralympic Games.

"I hope by sharing my story I can inspire others to overcome personal adversity and follow their dreams." - Susan Seipel

