

16 November 2023 (Australian time)



Honoree [Melissa Cunningham Roberts](#) of Australia has been selected as the eighth recipient of the Dale Petranec Award for Services to the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame (IMSHOF).

This will be presented at the IMSHOF Induction and Award Ceremony in Cancun México on 18th May 2024. See details at <https://www.imshof.org>.

In 2017 Melissa joined the Executive Committee of the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame. She brought a fresh perspective to the Committee as a successful businesswoman, 25 km FINA World Champion, FINA committee representative and swim federation organizer. Later Melissa took responsibility for and delivered in three key areas: better gender balance, Election Chair and ceremony videos. IMSHOF's professionalism increased dramatically in each area. In 2019 she organized the first ever IMSHOF Induction and Awards Ceremony in the Asia Pacific. The Melbourne event ([Class of 2019 Australia | IMSHOF](#)) was a huge success and helped IMSHOF's drive to be a truly international organization. As a committee member, Melissa consistently examined issues from all angles. Numerous times she made a comment/asked a question that compelled the Executive Committee to rethink a proposal. Because of her commitment and dedication, IMSHOF is in a much better place.

This award was created in 2016 to honor Dale Petranec for decades of service to the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame. Petranec is a dual inductee in both the IMSHOF and the International Swimming Hall of Fame as an Honor Contributor. As a marathon swimmer, Petranec previously held the record as the oldest solo swimmer across the Catalina Channel in California. He served for nearly 50 years in various capacities at all levels of the sport - local, regional national and international.