



Melissa Cunningham Roberts, OAM, Honor Swimmer, Australia, 2013



Gold Patron



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Melissa Cunningham Roberts, OAM, won 2 Majors: 1996 FINA Long Distance Swimming World Cup; and 1994 25 km FINA World Championship. She represented Australia internationally in the 1990s and competed in domestic events including Magnetic Island to Townsville in 1991, 1993, 1994 and 1996. She participated in a record-setting 19 hours and 11 minutes relay from Malta to Italy and was selected as the Swimming World Magazine Female Open Water Swimmer of the Year in 1994.

As an Administrator, she served as an International Chief Commentator and Media Advisor at the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games 10 km Marathon Swim; FINA World Championships Melbourne; and 1st Asian Beach Games Bali, Indonesia. She served on the FINA Athletes Commission FINA Technical Open Water Swimming Committee member. Melissa was the technical director and meet director where she conducted workshops at the FINA Marathon Swimming World Cup Singapore in 2006, 2007, and 2008.

She served as the chairperson of Singapore Swimming Open Water Swimming Committee; Swimming Victoria Open Water Swimming Committee and Competition Committee; and Swim Squad Coach and Learn to Swim Teacher – Singapore and Australia. He was a n accredited Open Water Swimming Referee Australia and served as an ambassador for the McGrath Foundation to help others via the program: Every Stroke Counts.

Melissa was on the IMSHOF Executive Committee from 2017 to 2023 and received The Irving Davids/Captain Roger W. Wheeler Memorial Award from the International Swimming Hall of Fame in 2014 for her contribution to the administration of open water swimming and the Dale Petranech Award for Services to the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame in 2024.

[Expanded Biography \(Openwaterpedia\)](#)

[Long Swims Database \(Marathon Swimmers Federation\)](#)