



Christopher Guesdon, Honor Administrator, Australia, 2009



Personal Website (None known)

Christopher Guesdon is credited with creating the modern format of the Olympic 10K Marathon Swim together with Sid Cassidy and Dennis Miller. He has been instrumental in the sport as a race organizer, behind-the-scenes administrator and race official who has written manuals, worked as support crew, lobbyist and historian throughout Oceania, Asia, Africa, the Americas and Europe.

Christopher was a FINA-accredited Open Water Swimming Referee between 1992 – 2008 and manager of the Australian Open Water Swimming Team between 1991 – 1996, and a member of the FINA Technical Open Water Swimming Committee between 1996 – 2000. He is also a life member and representative of the Channel Swimming Association and was the referee at the 1998 Perth World Championships. He organized the open water events at the 1998 Brisbane Oceania Championships, the 1999 Melbourne Pan Pacific Championships, 2003 Fiji South Pacific Games, 1991-2008 Tasmania Open Water Swimming Championships and the 2007 Darwin Arafura Games as well as lectured at the Argentina International Open Water Swimming Clinic, the Fiji Technical Officials Clinic, the Mombasa, Kenya Technical Officials Clinic.

He also refereed, managed swimmers or lectured in Dubai, Hawaii, Suva (Fiji), Cairns, Melbourne, Rarotonga (Cook Islands), Rotorua (New Zealand), Tasmania, Bali (Indonesia), Lac Chibougamau (Canada), Rosario (Argentina), Lac Memphremagog (Canada), Lac St-Jean (Canada), Saguenay River (Canada), Chicoutimi (Canada), Nile river, Suez Canal, Atlantic City (New Jersey), Lake Michigan, Capri-Napoli (Italy), Lake Ontario, Atlanta (Georgia), San Felice & Crotona (Italy), Terracina (Italy), Evian (France), 90K Relay from Malta to Sicily and Lac La Tuque, an epic 24-hour race in Canada.

In Australia, Christopher was the Secretary of Australian Technical Open Water Swimming Committee between 1988 – 2001, partly for which he received the Australian Sports Medal in 2000. He was the founder of the Australian Long Distance Swimming Federation, which he started to lead from Tasmania in 1973, and a bureau member of the International Long Distance Swimming Federation, which existed between its founding in Paris in 1953 until 1974. He also co-authored with Bill Ford the comprehensive and authoritative Australian Long Distance and Marathon Swimming Manual and helped draft the FINA Open Water Swimming Manual.

Chris received from the International Swimming Hall of Fame: The Irving Davids/Captain Roger W. Wheeler Memorial Award in 2010 for his contribution to the administration of open water swimming and The Poseidon Award in 2018. He was the third recipient in 2019 of The Dale Petranek Award for Service to the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame.

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

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