

October 2018

Christopher Guesdon was selected as the third recipient of the Dale Petranech Award for Services to the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame.

He will be presented with the honour and award at the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame (IMSHOF) Induction/Award ceremony in Melbourne Australia on March 9th. Chris served on the Executive Committee since 2010 with an initial remit for nominations/selection. Taking over as the Chair from 2015 to 2017 he provided the organisational leadership, vision and strategy after a significant organisational change.

Ned Denison, Chairman of the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame, explains the reasoning behind his selection. "Chris led the organisation for the critical years after we re-joined the ISHOF family. Substantial changes and improvements took place under his watch: Executive Committee recruitment and succession planning; new website, professional newsletters and Facebook page initiated; expansion of the selector panel to significantly global; major influx of marathon inductees into the ISHOF to make up for years of 'organisational separation'; enhanced criteria definition including introduction of a ban for WADA violations and the swimsuit criteria policy which had proven a problem for the selection panel for years was resolved by honouring the rules of the organisation or event under which a swim is completed.

His involvement in the sport generally: Over 56 years of service; International marathon swimmer; Masterminded the design for the Olympic 10 km marathon swim which helped bring the sport back to the Olympic Games after a 104- year absence; Managed/led national teams and Australian marathon swimmers since 1970; Founded the Australian Long-Distance Swimming Federation in 1973; Member of the World Professional Marathon Swimming Federation; Bureau Member International Long-Distance Swimming Federation 1975-77 and Committee Member FINA's Open Water Swimming Technical Committee 1996-2000

He was inducted as an Honor Contributor in the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame (IMSHOF) in 2009 and awarded the Poseidon Award in 2018 and the Irving Davids/Captain Roger W. Wheeler Memorial Award in 2010 by the International Swimming Hall of Fame.

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