



**Melissa Cunningham, Honor Swimmer, Australia,  
2013**



Personal Website (None known)

**Melissa Cunningham** won 2 Majors: 1996 FINA Long Distance Swimming World Cup; and 1994 25 km FINA World Championship. She remained a stalwart on Australian National Swim Team during its heyday in the 1990's. She represented Australia well on the international front and was always swimming well in domestic events from Magnetic Island to Townsville in 1991, 1993, 1994 and 1996. She received the Elizabeth Arden Open Water Swimmer of the Year by Swimming Australia Swimming, 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 10km Marathon Swim, FINA World Championships Melbourne and 1st Asian Beach Games Bali, Indonesia. She also served on the FINA Athletes Commission FINA Technical Open Water Swimming Committee member, and as organizer, Technical Director and Meet Director where she conducted workshops at the FINA Marathon Swimming World Cup Singapore in 2006, 2007, and 2008.

She also served as the Chairman of Singapore Swimming Open Water Swimming Committee, Swimming Victoria Open Water Swimming Committee and Competition Committee and Accredited Open Water Swimming Referee Australia, Swim Squad Coach and Learn to Swim Teacher – Singapore and Australia. Cunningham is an ambassador for the McGrath Foundation where she is utilizing her passion and skills in the water to help others via the program, Every Stroke Counts.

She 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.

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

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

