



Vera Fernance OAM

1898 - 1992

Years active 1979 – 1990

Club: Blacktown



Vera started swimming at 63 when she joined her granddaughter’s learn to swim classes at Blacktown pool. She was nicknamed ‘Gran Fernance and often referred to as AUSSI’s ‘Grand Old Lady of Swimming’.

She became a regular swimmer and the pool staff and her children conspired to enter her in an AUSSI meet in the 80-84 age group. She didn’t realise that she was being timed – she commented later – ‘If I’d known it was a race, I would have tried even harder’.

Vera found swimming helped her keep the aches and pains at bay from arthritis.

She travelled extensively to compete at race meets in Australia, the US and New Zealand.

After swimming training, Vera usually heads off to one of six different hospital, charity, social committees and auxiliaries. She also plays bowls and a weekly afternoon of music playing the violin. She was also an accomplished pianist and taught both instruments.

Her community work was acknowledged with an Order of Australia medal in 1989 for 57 years of service to the Blacktown community.

Vera had to give up swimming at 92 when she suffered a stroke.

	World	National	NSW
LCM	2	19	19
SCM	10	15	15