



## Annette Kellerman (1886 – 1975)

## Biography

A biography is a factual story or a person's life written by another person.

Annette Kellerman was a famous Australian swimmer. In her early teen years she started swimming to exercise her legs, which had been partly crippled by the disease called polio. Annette's long swimming career began at the age of 15 when she won the 100 yards event in the 1902 NSW swimming championships. She was a very powerful swimmer and would often compete in long marathons against champion male swimmers.

Annette Kellerman was the first woman to swim in a brief one-piece swimming costume which was called 'shocking and indecent' and created a lot of publicity for her. It was very unusual for a woman to wear such a swimsuit - all women wore modest neck to knee costumes in those days.

In 1904, Annette travelled to England with her father, where she attempted to swim the English Channel between England and France. In her third attempt, she stayed in the water for 1012 hours, creating a women's world record. She competed in several other swimming competitions in Europe, coming third in a race against male competitors in a 12 kilometre event in France and winning a 35 kilometre race in the Danube River.

In 1907, Annette visited America where she gave exhibitions of swimming and diving, and in 1915 she starred in two Hollywood movies. In the film 'Neptune's Daughter' she created a high-diving record for women - 28 metres. She was named the 'World's Perfect Woman' by the Professor of Physical Education at Harvard University.

In 1923, Annette Kellerman settled in California where she opened a health food shop and gave lectures on health, beauty and exercise. Annette Kellerman died in 1975 at Southport in Queensland.

### A. Answer True or False

1. Annette Kellerman was a famous Austrian swimmer.
2. In 1902, Annette was 15 years old.
3. Annette was famous because of her swimming costume.
4. Annette could not swim from England to France.
5. It took 4 attempts to be able to swim across the English Channel
6. Annette Kellerman died in America.

### B. Identify six events that made Annette Kellerman famous.

Began swimming at 15.

First woman to swim in a brief one-piece

She broke a women's world record.

She gave exhibitions of swimming and diving.

She attempted to swim across the English Channel.

She created a high diving record for women.

Would swim against male swimmers.

In 1904, she travelled to England

She starred in two Hollywood movies.

She opened a health food store.

6 Reasons Annette Kellerman became famous.