



# Frank Murphy

## Australian diving champion and Olympian



Above: Frank Murphy at the 1952 Olympic Games, Helsinki

Below: Frank Murphy, diving at Granville, about 1949  
Photos courtesy of Frank Murphy



*It was at Granville that I first saw some of the State's leading junior and senior divers, and this whetted my appetite for the sport of diving. Over a number of years, I returned to Granville pool for competitions, training and exhibitions with the NSW Diving Troupe.*

Frank Murphy (born 1928) started swimming at Granville while a student at Parramatta High School, and won his first State junior diving championship in 1944. In his career Murphy won six Australian championships, and a bronze medal for platform diving at the 1950 British Empire Games in Auckland. He competed in the 1948 Olympic trials held at Granville pool, and later the 1952 Helsinki and 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games. In 1971 Murphy became a foundation member and chairman of the NSW Diving Association (later Diving NSW) and subsequently became the president of Diving Australia. Frank was also an official at several Commonwealth and Olympic Games.



Right: Midge Betts, Barry Holmes and Frank Murphy, in combined 3 1/2 somersaults from a 45 foot tower (about 14m) into the Derwent River, at the 1958 Hobart Regatta  
Courtesy of Frank Murphy

Left: Midge Betts and his mother Lillian Betts with some of his trophies, about 1943  
Courtesy of Joan Betts

Below left: Midge Betts diving into North Sydney pool  
Courtesy of Joan Betts



# Midge Betts

## Australian diving champion



Mervyn Betts (1931 – 1990) was from a local family active in the Granville Amateur Swimming Club. Called 'Midge' because he was so small, Betts began diving aged about ten, and won several State and Australian junior titles. As a member of the NSW Diving Troupe he performed in exhibition and comic diving at swimming carnivals at Granville and other pools. After 18 years of competition diving, Betts won the 1960 State highboard diving championship, but narrowly missed out on selection for the 1960 Rome Olympic Games. Midge Betts' friend, fellow diver and coach Jack Barnett remembers him as 'fearless' and 'one of the best comic divers in Australia.' Midge was still diving into the 1970s.

