

# spotlight biography

Jessica Watson is from Australia. She's a sailor. She's the youngest to sail solo nonstop around the world. She did this at age 16. She did this in 2010. She sailed for 210 days alone at sea. Her boat is called *Ella's Pink Lady*. Australia's leader called her a hero. She said she wasn't. She said she was an "ordinary person who had a dream, worked hard at it, and proved that anything really is possible." She did other great things. She led a team that competed in a boat race. She was the youngest to compete. She got an award for being the first female captain. She also does community service. She's the Youth Ambassador for the United Nations World Food Program. She traveled to refugee camps. She has dyslexia. This means she has a hard time reading. But that doesn't stop her. She wrote a blog. She wrote books. She did a film about her experience.

Sunderland grew up sailing. She'd live on a sailboat. She helped her father deliver boats to people. She sailed up and down the California coast. She trained in ocean sailing. She trained with experienced sailors.

When she was 13, she decided she wanted to sail the world. Her father trained her. He tested her. One day, they were training. They sailed for 20 hours. He said, "It was a particularly rough day. And her boat was rocking . . . I knew she was freezing cold, tired, and hungry." Her father asked if she still wanted to sail around the world. Sunderland said, "Where is my boat?" She was determined!

The Sunderland family sailed to Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and Mexico.

