





Melbourne’s year-round open water swimming group

Lead Article – New Member Profile

Welcome to Anthony Sorani	
	<p>Started swimming with Icebergers: joined the Icebergers in 2022. Early years: grew up in Beauie so spent lots of time at Half Moon Bay and Ricketts Point. Open water experience: my first open water swim was the Lorne Pier to Pub. I was just happy to complete the swim in those days after large amounts of drinking and smoking. (I definitely don’t endorse this). Best swimming experience: I honestly just love those days in Autumn when the water is still and clear and you feel happy to be alive and to be able to swim with friends. Favourite route at RBYC Double Rocker.</p> <p>Interesting factoid: I grew up with Italian parents who really embraced making Pasta, Wine, Passata and fibreglass canoes with the whole family. I also spent a lot of time at Mercantile Rowing Club. I really was the male version of Alibrandi. We spent a lot of time in Pambula NSW on holidays where I learnt to surf and dive and even more importantly where I met my wife (Fionna Flint), also an Iceberger. It just goes to show that all good things really do come out of the water.</p>

Pelicans at RBYC Marina 23rd February 2024	
	<p style="text-align: center;">The Pelican Limerick</p> <p><i>A wonderful bird is the pelican. His bill can hold more than his belican. He can hold in his beak Enough food for a week, But I’m damned if I see how the helican.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Dixon Lanier Merritt, 1910</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>photo by Ria</i></p>



Lindsay Crouch RBYC 28 January 2024

photo by Ria

The Iceberger Calendar

Date	Event
9.00am Sunday 5 th May 2024	Winter Swimming OH&S briefing, Member’s Lounge RBYC - Ralph O’Shaughnessy



Truganini Swims

by Ria Bleathman

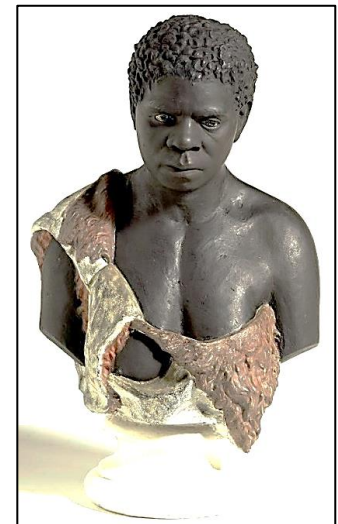
Truganini (also called Lallah Rookh) c.1812 –1876 is an Aboriginal Tasmanian woman from the Bruni (later Bruny) Island clan, the Nuenonne, who was known for her athleticism and natural beauty. Truganini was also a superb swimmer and she was to become one of the most documented women from the pre-Federation era.

It was largely due to her swimming abilities that she was chosen to accompany George Augustus Robinson in 1830 to travel into the unknown wilderness and reach a conciliation with the First Nations people who were, at the time, waging a violent counter offensive against the British colonial settlers during the so-called 'Black War' (1804-1830).

Truganini was expected to 'swim' rafts across icy rivers along the wild and unmapped west coast. Once, at the Arthur River, Robinson fell into the water and was saved by Truganini where he "would have been certainly drowned had not the courageous Native [Truganini] jumped into the water and rescued him".



Above: Drawing of Robinson from his diaries on a raft being pushed across a river, 1830. British Museum.



Right: Truganini by Benjamin Law, 1836. Australian Museum

In 1838 Robinson became the Protector of the Aborigines of Port Phillip where he took Truganini, Tunnerminnerwait and Maulboyheenner (Truganini's husband) and two other women (Planobeena and Pytterriner) from Van Diemen's Land (later Tasmania) to become conciliators with the First Nations people in the Port Phillip area.

After two years living in and around the settlement, the five Tasmanians joined-up and became outlaws, robbing and shooting at settlers, killing two whalers at Cape Paterson. The group was captured and sent to trial for murder.

Robinson was to repay Truganini for saving his life when, at the trial, he gave evidence that the three women were 'in entire subjection to the men, in absolute thralldom'. The jury took Robinson at his word and pronounced the three women not guilty. However, Tunnerminnerwait and Maulboyheenner were found guilty.

A young Redmond Barry (later to sentence Ned Kelly to hang) acted for the defence and pleaded for their mercy, but the two men were sentenced to be hanged in public – the settlement's first. The men were hung, gruesomely, on 20th January 1842 on Gallows Hill behind the current State Swimming Centre in front of a crowd of 5,000 people, 25% of Melbourne's population. A monument commemorating the two Tasmanians was erected on this site in 2016. They were buried in unmarked graves thought to be between sheds E and F at the current Queen Victoria Market.

Truganini returned to Van Diemen's Land and lived for another 34 years, dying on 8th May 1876 in Hobart but it was due to her swimming prowess that possibly saved her from the gallows in 1842. Truganini eventually returned to the sea in 1976 when her ashes were scattered in the D'Entrecasteaux Channel near her homeland on Bruny Island.

