



Melbourne's year-round open water swimming group

Lead Article – New Member Profile

Welcome to Peter Wilson



Started with the Icebergers: 2021.
Early years: My family had a bathing box on Mentone beach where the Lifesaving Club is today.
Learnt to swim: Not taught, just found my way.
Open water experience: Very limited. Was a Bay swimmer.
Best swimming experience: Being accepted by the 7:30 Group.
How did you find us: Peter Homann brought me down to use the gym.



Swims with: The 7:30 Group who have been very supportive and encouraging.

Favourite route at RBYC: Still struggling to do the Triangle.

Swimming goals: To improve enough to do a No Brainer.

Interesting factoid about you: Hard to believe, but I ran the Herald Learn to Swim at the Mentone Lifesaving Club in my teens.

Photo above: Peter in 2023; right: Peter in 1963 - with Mentone LSC - winning the Victorian championship pennant for the men's flag relay.



Michael Bruce launches at RBYC 6th February 2024

photo by Ria

Clare Jennings Swims the Ultra

On 17th February 2024, Iceberger Clare Jennings competed in the annual Ultra24 swim marathon on the Mornington Peninsula. The U24 Marathon was inaugurated in February 2022 and was conceived as an alternative to the Rottnest Channel swim due to COVID travel restrictions at the time.



The swim offers relay, 24km and 12km options. Clare chose the 12km option and completed her swim from Tootgarook (Capel Sound) to Sorrento in a time of 4 hours and 20 minutes. Well done Clare!

Left: Clare in her element during her swim.



Olympian Fanny Durack – Swimming Legend by Ria Bleathman

Sarah Frances "Fanny" Durack (1889 - 1956) was Australia's first great female swimmer and, from 1910 until 1918, was the world's greatest female swimmer across all distances from freestyle sprints to one mile, having broken 12 world records during this time. Her success did much to promote women's swimming. Durack learned to swim at Sydney's Coogee Baths.

The 1912 Summer Olympics in Stockholm were the first Olympics to include women's swimming. Durack and fellow Coogee local, Mina Wylie, were initially refused permission to compete but were later allowed to attend provided they bore their own expenses. They organised local fundraising events for themselves as well as for the obligatory chaperones to get themselves to Stockholm.



At the Games, Durack (pictured left) set a new world record in the heats of the 100-metre freestyle. She won the final, becoming the first Australian woman to win an Olympic gold medal in a swimming event.

Durack was posthumously inducted into the International Swimming Hall of Fame in 1967 and in 2022 was an inaugural inductee into the Swimming Australia Hall of Fame.

Fanny is interred at Waverley Cemetery (above right) overlooking Bronte and Coogee beaches in NSW - a resting place befitting a champion swimmer.



At this time of year many Australians neologise the mainstream symbols of Easter by replacing the so-called Easter Bunny with our very own Easter Bilby. This endangered little marsupial's adorability is enhanced by its oversized ears which makes it worthy of celebration - and not just once a year.

The Bilby by Ria Bleathman

B'coz of ears they will be
Hatless, yet they'll still be
Flawless, and so thrill me.
For beanie, cap and trilby,
Maketh not the bilby.



Macrotis lagotis.

Letters to the Editor

from a North American reader - we enjoy receiving the *Iceberger News*. Though not members, we draw inspiration from all the young-at-heart people featured and your usual superb editing. TR

Alistair Purvey "Of wombat holes and fishing poles" (Newsletter 14th March 2024) - I'm happy with your 'take' on my mishap. After reading your prose, I'm glad I didn't fall on an echidna!



Left:
John Manning
RBYC
6th February 2024

photo by Ria

