

Melbourne's year-round open water swimming group

Lead Article – The Barracoutas – 31st May 2026:



LtoR: Owen Smith, Hamish Rodgers-Wilson, Andrew Clements, John O'Donoghue, Toby Simmons *photo by Ria*

In His Element - Don Warner Iceberger #35

At the annual award night at the Royal Brighton Yacht Club's on 10th July 2026, Iceberger Don Warner (pictured below) was announced as the recipient of the Commodore's Award for 2025/26. The award was richly deserved and Don is the first Iceberger to be honoured in this manner.



The award recognises Don's contributions to the RBYC over the past two decades including: hosting the annual Trivia Night, running the club's footy tipping competition, writing an updated history of the RBYC for the club's 150th anniversary and authoring 'Beyond the Tip' which includes more than one hundred Iceberger profiles. Well done Don!

photos supplied: Don in 2026 and 2021

Iceberger Calendar

Date	Event
Sunday 9 th August 2026	Winter Classic swims. Details to follow - Greg Wallace / Rupert Hugh-Jones



Iceberger Clive Fraser was recently hit by the barb of a stingray as he was exiting his swim at RBYC beach. Clive was standing in 20cm water and two steps from the beach when he was struck. His injury was made more urgent as he had just swum his usual 2kms in winter water and became quite cold as he and others worked to staunch the bleeding.

Clive went straight to the Emergency Department at Sandringham Hospital where he had x-rays, a tetanus injection, ultrasounds, minor surgery and a rapid patch-up. Upon leaving hospital Clive had just two hours to make his lunchtime flight to Dallas, Texas which he managed, but was still shaken and cold as he viewed the Tasman Sea at 32,000 feet.

To minimize the risk of being speared by stingray barbs the following practices should help:

- When swimming out from shore - apply the 'stingray shuffle' by walking in short steps into the water and start swimming as soon as possible.
- When swimming into shore - swim until your arms can touch the bottom before standing and then shuffle out.

Both methods are intended to give the normally shy stingrays advance notice that you are around, but it is also good practice to avoid standing anywhere on the seabed during your swims.

If swimmers are hit by a stingray medical advice should be sought immediately to ensure there is no barb residue remaining under the skin which will most certainly lead to serious infection.



Andrew McLaughlin 7th March 2026

photo by Ria

Letter to the Editor –Canadian Bay and filming *On The Beach*

John Mooney - Gregory Peck stayed in a house on Royal Avenue Sandringham during filming and his son John caught the bus to Sandringham station with us on the way to school. Ava Gardner caused havoc at the corner of Williams Road and Toorak Road when she decided to try driving the Austin Healey sports car (which was used in scenes in the film at Phillip Island). She needed to do a right hand turn to go to her apartment but became lost on which side of the road etc. She stood up and used language that most Australians would blush. True Story...and the famous comment attributed to her about Melbourne: "what better place to make a film about the end of the world"

Fionna Flint - I lived in Mt Eliza and Canadian Bay was the coolest beach to be. My mum looked after Ava Gardner and Gregory Peck's kids when they were in Melbourne. She worked at a place called "Children's Paradise" which was a 24/7 crèche for kids in Canterbury. The rich and famous would drop off their kids for weeks at a time.

"swims" upside down still looks like "swims." **SWIMS**

