

Melbourne's year-round open water swimming group

Lead Article – Winter Classic Swims

Iceberger Winter Classic Swims 9th August 2026 *words and photos by Ria Bleathman*



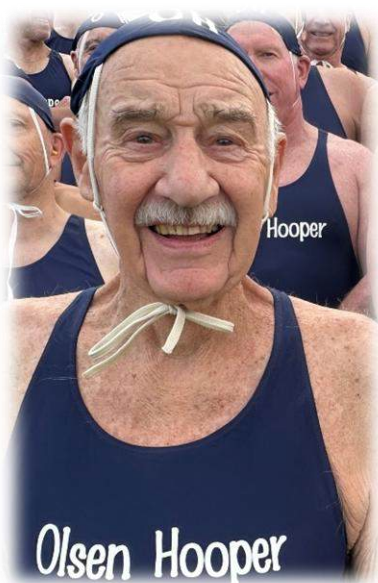
On Sunday 9th August 2026 at 8am 29 Icebergers swam-off in the club's annual winter swimming events. Water temperature was 11.0°C and air temperature was 12°C with overcast skies and a calm sea. The first swimmer-across-the-line in each of the three events, and their respective times, are as follows as well as the Red Lantern Award for the longest time in the water.

			
Marcus Lethlean (10:25) The Triangle Short Course Trophy (650m)	Romney Jones (23.42) The Ian Serpless Channel Trophy (1300m)	Charlie Bryant (29.04) John Locco Winter Classic (1800m)	Michael Lombard (43.00) Red Lantern Award Longest Time in the Water

Congratulations to all who participated and many thanks to Rupert Hugh-Jones and Greg Wallace for organising the event as well as the support craft operators (Murray Cowdell and Olivia Hugh-Jones), official timers (XX Gregory, Rupert Hugh-Jones and Alison Blacket), safety paddler (Terry Fox) and, in particular, Debby Badger for providing the swimmers with traditional warm ginger and honey drinks after their swims.



Obituary – Rob Hooper



Icebergers were saddened to learn of the recent passing of our good friend and fellow Iceberger Rob Hooper. The news was accompanied by widespread acknowledgement that Rob led a remarkable life and is held in the highest regard as a swimmer and as a friend. He was a true legend of our group and epitomised what it means to be an Iceberger.

A foundation member, Rob is #2 on the Iceberger Roll of Honour, #1 on the Iceberger Hall of Fame and our annual Olsen-Hooper Summer Cup is jointly named in his honour along with his swimming buddy John Olsen.

Rob helped establish the Iceberger traditions and thereby defines the very essence who we are. His contribution to our swimming lives will reverberate for as long as there is a Brighton Icebergers.

On behalf of the Iceberger community, we offer our condolences to Rob's family and friends and, despite these sad times, we can all be comforted by the incontrovertible truth that Rob Hooper was a good man.

Good bye Rob, swim forever.

RB

Vietnam Veteran's Day – 18th August 2026

by Ria Bleathman

Vietnam Veteran's Day (also known as Long Tan Day) in Australia is commemorated annually on the 18th August to coincide with the anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan in 1966.



VV Day honours the 60,000 Australians who served in the Vietnam War between 1962 and 1975 and recognizes the difficult homecoming these veterans faced.

Observances such as "shining a light" on the day refer to national campaigns where landmarks, memorials and public buildings illuminate in gold or red to bring public recognition, raise funds and foster understanding of the sacrifices Vietnam Veterans continue to face and enable us to reflect on the enduring legacy of war.

Left: Shrine of Remembrance 9th July 2026
photo by Ria

LEST WE FORGET

Letters to the Editor –Newsletter 30th July 2026

Maria Edmonds -I love SWIMs upside down still spells SWIMS - that's sometimes how I feel on the wavy days at Brighton 😊

Romney Jones - and how good is the upside down version of SWIMS. Thought you would like this: "SWIMS" is a rotational ambigram and if done in some fonts could also be "strobogrammatic".



Andrew Mulholland and Ian Lynch 3rd May 2026

13th August 2026

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