Iceberger News
Editor: Ria Bleathman

BRIGHTON ICEBERGERS

Tribute Edition
Remembrance Day
11th November 2026

Melbourne's year-round open water swimming group

ANZAC Swimming Carnivals in War Zones

by Ria Bleathman

Surf carnivals were held by ANZAC forces during WW2 which were designed to boost morale, demonstrate lifesaving skills and provide community entertainment. These events showcased the physical fitness of the troops and were organized in locations including: Gaza Beach, 21st September 1941, Tel Aviv in the British Mandate of Palestine, 26th May 1940, Huon Peninsula New Guinea 28th February 1944, Lae New Guinea 27th August 1944, Torokina Beach, Bougainville, July 1944, Newquay, Cornwall UK, July 1945 and Labuan Island Malaysia 23rd August 1945.





Above and right: Surf Life Saving Carnival at Gaza Beach, September 1941. The 6th Division Cavalry Team in swimming trunks and berets and below: The march past of Anzac life-saver teams at the surf carnival..



British Pathé Newsreel titled "Australian Surf Men in Palestine" described the Australians as "magnificent specimens of sterling manhood" which gave rise to a new kind of Australian masculine hero. In WW1, the Australian hero was a Man of the Bush, a master horseman, a man in a felt hat but WW2 newsreels showed instead a man wearing not much more than his underwear. The Bronzed Aussie is a result of losing the hat, the horse and most of his clothes. These young men were made physically fit by their swimming and running training, rather than farming or manual work. They were urban heroes, just as Australia was becoming increasingly urbanised. Under the auspices of boosting services morale, Australia's export of its surf culture to the world was given new impetus during WW2.

Sources: https://www.britishpathe.com/asset/81480/

The Ode of Remembrance

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

Response:

We will remember them
Lest we forget.

Right: Flanders Poppies, Shrine of Remembrance 2025



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Millie Hosie 27th September 2026 *photo by Ria*

Marathon Man by Ria Bleathman

Iceberger Brett Davis has added another notch to his already impressive marathon swimming belt when he recently completed the 14km crossing of the Strait of Bonifacio, from Corsica in France to Sardinia in Italy. (pictured right).



Brett's time for the solo crossing was five hours and twenty three minutes with a water temperature of about 23°C.

The World Open Water Swimming Association has called the cross-border crossing one of the World's Top 100 Island Swims.



To add a little historical context to the swim, French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte was born in Ajaccio, Corsica, on August 15, 1769 just one year after the Republic of Genoa ceded the Mediterranean island to France and explains why he was sometimes called "The Corsican".

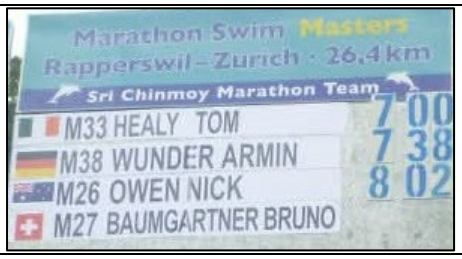
The Italian revolutionary Giuseppe Garibaldi died in 1882 on the Sardinian island of Caprera. Garibaldi's Expedition of the Thousand was a major factor in completing the unification of Italy.

It's always useful to have some obscure facts to contemplate on marathon swims!

Photo left: Brett jubilant on the shores of Porto Quadro beach Sardinia after his swim.

Letters to the Editor – Meanwhile Back in Zürich Newsletter 22nd October 2026

Nick Owen - The last few Newsletters about Zürich swimming brought back memories for me. In 2011 I swam the lake in an annual race (26.4km). Tough conditions and fresh water made it a harder swim than the English Channel (pictured right).



I have swam in Zurich a number of times over the years. It's beautiful and the locals, and the Swiss, love swimming in their lakes and rivers.

Iceberger Calendar

Date	Event
Sunday 13th December 2026	Olsen-Hooper Classic - Ross MacDowell
Monday 21st December 2026	Iceberger Christmas Lunch at RBYC. Bookings required - Sam Paynter

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