



Otter Aquatics Newsletter

No 45. March 2019

Dear swimmers and others

Welcome to the March 2019 edition of the Otter Aquatics newsletter, Look inside to find:

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- › Learn-to-swim instruction, stroke correction and swimfit coaching – all levels
- › Open water swimming instruction and training
- › Swimming as therapy
- › Swimming-based tourism – domestic and international

The inaugural Redcliffe Cliff to Club Swim

The Grimsey Brothers are organising an inaugural ocean swimming event along Redcliffe's Scott's Point, Margate and Sutton's beaches on **Saturday 6th April 2019**. There will be three events: 500m, 1k and 2.5k. If you are interested, enter on line using the link below.

- 🧑‍🏊 The 2.5km swim will be the iconic feature event. The course starts at Scott's Point and, after an initial short diversion out to sea to avoid rocks and people, heads north along the Margate and Sutton's Beach foreshore to the Redcliffe Peninsula Surf Lifesaving Club
- 🧑‍🏊 There will also be a 1km ocean swim starting at Margate Beach and travelling north to the SLSC clubhouse.
- 🧑‍🏊 And there will be a 500m ocean swim.

Online Entry for the event is now open. Please read the information below, including the terms & conditions before registering for the event. For more information or to register, please visit: <https://www.grimseysadultswimfit.com/cliff-to-club/>.



Martin Strel, 'Fish Man' and 'Big Rivers Man'

Check out these amazing video clips to see Martin Strel, champion marathon swimmer and conservationist, conqueror of the Amazon, the Mississippi, the Yangtze, the Danube and other rivers as well as being co-founder of Strel Swimming Adventures, our partner on some of our European swimming holidays.

https://youtu.be/xzzVoUn1c_E

https://youtu.be/Hm1T_tM2qqs

And, just to brag, here is a photo of our happy little band of swimmers who did the Slovenian Lakes and Rivers swimming trip in 2017. Big River/Fish Man, Martin Strel, picked up us at the airport in Ljubljana. We couldn't believe our eyes!



L to R: Noel, Martin ('the Man'), Mark, Peter

Queen Beach North: Dog off-leash area campaign





Some of you may remember the Change.org campaign we initiated last year (see <https://www.change.org/p/moreton-bay-regional-council-keep-our-beaches-dog-free>) to have Queens Beach North (our traditional open water swimming venue) de-designated as a dog off-leash area. That campaign failed dismally with the council's response being to extend the times for dogs being allowed off-leash to 24 hours a day. However, at the instigation of local residents, the campaign has been re-invigorated and a paper petition to Moreton Bay Regional Council

commenced (in addition to the e-partition) to have the beach declared out of bounds for off-leash dogs. Here is my letter to the Mayor for your information:

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28th February 2019

The Mayor
Moreton Bay Regional Council
PO Box 159
Caboolture QLD 4510

Dear Mayor

I am writing to express the views of my organisation, Otter Aquatics, my members, my swimmers and myself in support of the campaign to rid Queens Beach North of unleashed dogs. My reasons are as follows:

-  Dogs are harassing people attempting to enter and leave the water as well as beach walkers
-  Dogs are also harassing fishers going about their peaceful recreation on the beach
-  Dogs are interfering with beach-goers' belongings on the beach, including urinating on them
-  Dogs swim in the water with some of them at considerable distance from the shore. Swimming dogs are known shark attractants given their rapid movements in the water and their smell. They are therefore a hazard to swimmers
-  Dogs interfere with resting shorebirds who have migrated non-stop from the Russian Far East along the East Asia-Australasian Shorebirds Flyway in contravention to the Shorebirds Convention (The Bonn Convention)
-  Dogs interfere with other creatures on or near the beach including pelicans, turtles and crabs. There have been no sightings of pelicans or turtles since the off-leash trial was instituted last year
-  Many dogs fight on or near the beach, creating a public nuisance

-  Queens Beach North does not have perimeter fencing which park-based dog off-leash areas have. Therefore, the owners of dogs off-leash are not easily able to confine them to the beach area allowing them to interfere with cyclists, runners and walkers on the footpath, many of them in family groups with small children
-  Owners are also unable to prevent their dogs going on the road on Flinders Parade and becoming a traffic hazard
-  Many irresponsible owners fail to pick up their dogs' waste with the resultant risk to human health, particularly for children, such as Giardia and other gut infections which can persist in the environment. Some dogs defecate in the water putting swimmers at a considerable health risk
-  Queens Beach North is some 700 metres long and the more energetic dogs quickly become separated from their owners who are often unaware of their dog's actions, including defecating and being unaware of the need – or unwilling – to pick up their dog's waste on the beach
-  Queens Beach North is the only beach on the Redcliffe Peninsula where swimmers can enter and leave the water safely at any state of the tide without stubbing their feet on rocks. It therefore should be kept for families and others who wish to use the beach for recreation
-  Queens Beach North is a favourite place for kite surfers. Dogs have been observed interfering with kite-surfers and damaging their kites
-  Queens Beach North is also a favourite site for canoeists and kayakers practising their safety and rescue skills. Dogs have been interfering with their activities
-  Skydivers/parachutists also land in the area. Dogs interfering with landing parachutists can have tragic consequences.

Of course, it is likely to be only a minority of dogs and their irresponsible owners who are creating these problems. However, the only way to eliminate them is to ban all dogs from the beach.

We are also concerned that the Moreton Bay Regional Council did not engage in, and continues to not engage in, any public consultation process at all in regards to the dog off-leash trial.

Many runners, walkers, swimmers, other beach users and picnickers now avoid Queens Beach North for fear of being interfered with by dogs. This is disappointing considering the considerable public infrastructure (BBQs, picnic shelters, change rooms, showers, etc) erected on the foreshore in recent years. There are plenty of dog off-leash areas in the region without spoiling our once-was-wonderful beach.

Having dogs on any Redcliffe beach, especially dogs off-leash, is in obvious contradiction to council's recent tourist promotion policy. Nothing would prevent tourists from returning more than to be molested by a dog on a beach. A beach can either be a place for people or dogs – it cannot be both.

Yours sincerely
Mark Otter

New goggles have arrived!

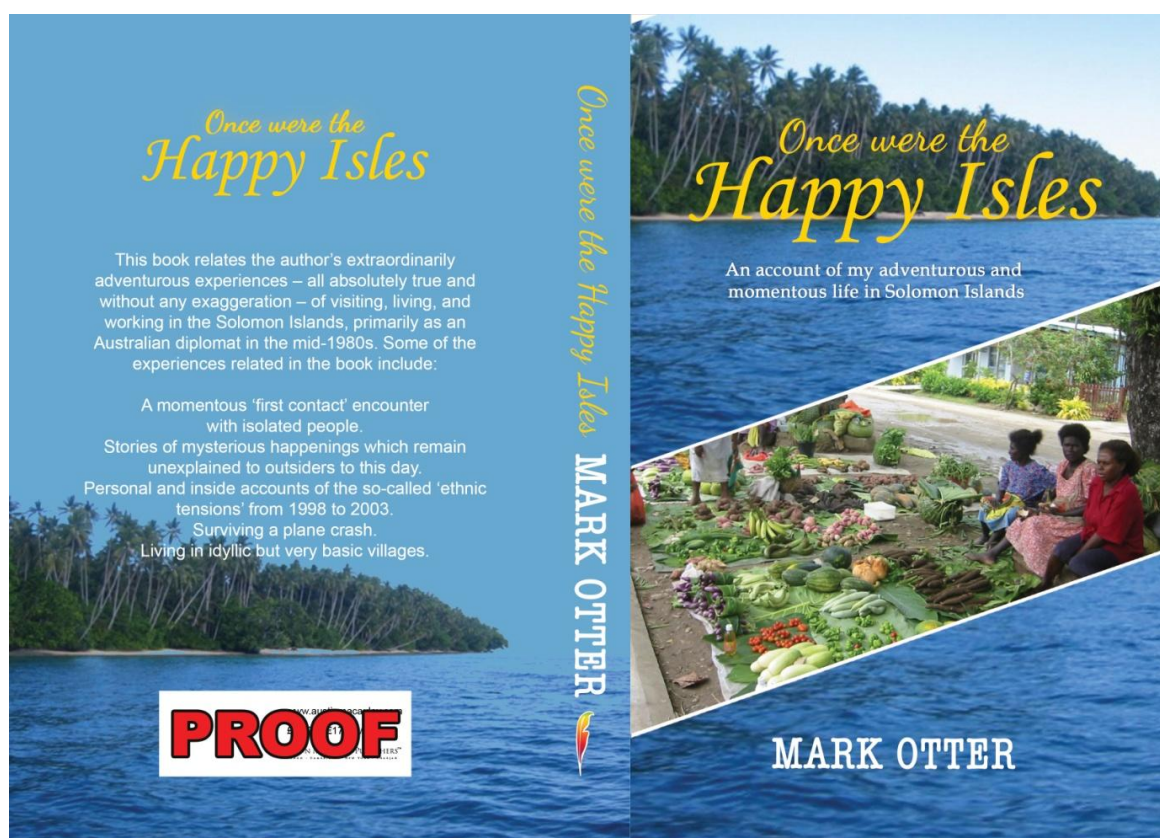
I have now received a new batch of the ever popular DHB Turbo Tinted goggles. Let me know if you would like a pair. As expected, the price has risen to \$25.



Once Were the Happy Isles: A book to buy (please)

This book was published just before Christmas. It isn't much to do with swimming, but it certainly is adventurous. It's all about my time living and working in the Solomon Islands and spans the years from 1969 to 2008 – with a few decent gaps in between.

If you would like a copy, go online to Amazon or one of many other on-line book sites. It is not yet available in Australian bookshops but I have ordered copies from the New York-based publisher to redress that problem.



Quiz of the month

The answer to last month's question ('what is an ice mile?') is 'a swim in water that is 5 degrees C or below'. The first correct answer came from our Sydney rep and regular quizzier, Peter Munro, and the second answer came from Marieta Hanaghan. Both receive the prize of one free entry into the Grimsey Brothers OWS swim clinic at Suttons Beach held every second Sunday morning. The adjudicators decided to award Marieta's prize as well as Peter's as not only did she provide the correct answer but she also provided a lot of other stuff (that wasn't asked for BTW).

The question for this month is a) Who is/was this in the picture? b) What was he doing? c) When? and d) Why? I think it is a man but he seems to be secreting his gender-identifying bits somewhere. Some people will know the 'who' and 'what' part of the question, but fewer will know the 'when'. I suspect that not many at all will know the 'why'. But you have to do some work in our quizzes these days. Stick with it; it will be rewarding.



New competition

In addition to our quiz of the month, there is to be another monthly competition. A special prize will be given to the person who finds a typo, misspelling, grammatical mistake or, god forbid, a misplaced apostrophe in the newsletter. There was indeed a typo in the February newsletter. I know everyone would have noticed it but were afraid to raise it with me for fear of me biting your head off (a well founded fear, mind you). So don't be afraid, even send me your comments anonymously if you want (I won't look at the email address).

Quote of the month

When you are swimming in the ocean, you can push against the current and feel your defiance stretching and grinding the moments into a seeming eternity ... or you can go with the flow and embrace time.

Ditty of the month

After a hundred years of lying on the sea bed, divers were amazed to find that the Titanic's swimming pool was still full.

Pic of the month



Lake Bled on our Slovenian trip September 2017

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