

Maccabi Open Water Swimmers

We're getting to the pointy end of the season, water temperatures are dropping and the number of open water competitors is dwindling, but the die-hards are still at it....

Mentone Marathon – 9 March 2019

The Mentone Marathon took place this last Saturday in beautiful Beaumaris Bay. This is a longer distance competition with 5km and 10km events on offer; and as a special surprise this year, it turned out that the distances were actually 5.8km and 11.6km....

Conditions for the swim were near-perfect: flat, clear water, hardly a breeze and not too many jellies (but more about that later).



Five Maccabi OWS Series participants took part:

- **Nikki Burger** was the star of the day coming first in her event (5km non-wetsuit).
- **Tess Burger**, not to be upstaged, came second in her event (5km with wetsuit) in a very fast 1 hour 16 minutes.
- **Roelof Vogel and I** competed in the 5km non-wetsuit category, coming 10th and 6th respectively.
- **Felicia Schmaman** took part in the 10km event but unfortunately came off second-best in a jellyfish encounter which forced her to withdraw after 2.5km. Having swum 13km the previous

weekend Felicia was well and truly prepared for this marathon swim and hopefully will be back next year to have another crack at it.

Roelof Vogel wins Cousins Great VIC Swim Series Awards



For those of you who have been following this year's Maccabi OWS Series, it will come as no surprise that **Roelof Vogel ended up winning two Cousins GVSS awards – 2nd place in his category for the long (2.5km and over) events, and 3rd place for the short (under 2.0km) events.**

By my count Roelof has taken part in 15 events this year, with several of them back-to-back on the same day. So, these are incredibly hard-earned and well-deserved awards! Congratulations on behalf of all of us Roelof!

Upcoming Events

Next Saturday morning is the informal “**Ides of March Swim**” from Port Melbourne to St Kilda and back. Please contact Roelof at roelof.vogel@vogel.com.au if you would like to take part.

The final event of the season before we close off the 2018/19 Maccabi OWS Series is the **Bonbeach Open Water Swim on Sunday 17 March**. Event and registration details can be found at bonbeachlsc.com.au.