

2016 Open Water Swimmers of the Year

The male and female Open Water Swimmer of the Year are awarded to the swimmers who have gained the highest number of points in open water swims throughout the year. This includes all OW events, not just the GVSS swims, and is not the same as the GVSS awards. This year's award was based on results up to and including February 2017.

Points are awarded for participation in each event, with bonus points for placings. Interstate and International events are also included.

Male

An honorable mention goes to Ewen Templeton who swam at several events, including doubling up with the 2.5km at Anglesea, and the 3.8 km at Point Lonsdale. Last year's winner, **Glenn Wilson** was not seen around the bay this year, but successfully swam across the English Channel last year – amazing effort Glenn.

3rd place is **Mick O'Connor**. Mick started 2016 well with the Dolphin of the Month award in February for a great open water season including completing the Rip Swim and the Big Bay Swim. He was again a regular attendee at the beach this summer, and competed in some of the long distance events this year, including the Pier to Pub 5km, Cerberus 2.5km, and the Pier to Perignon.

2nd place is **Frank Christian** who had a relatively quiet year, but was on the podium at all his events.

1st place, and the Male Open Water Swimmer of the Year goes to **Rohan Fanning**. Rohan had a very busy summer; swimming most weekends, and was on the podium on numerous occasions. Rohan placed 3rd in the GVSS short course wetsuit category for 50-59 males, and his 3rd across the line finish in the Pier to Perignon was another fitting reward for all his effort and dedication throughout the year.

Congratulations Rohan.

The Male OWS trophy is a perpetual trophy awarded in memory of Charles Erasmus who sadly died in 2015 while competing in the Jalna Big Bay Swim. Charles was the worthy recipient of the Male OWS of the year award in 2014.

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Female

There are many swimmers deserving honourable mentions. **Donna Gadsby & Ros McLean** were equal 4th, narrowly missing 3rd by 2 points. Donna's late season injury meant she missed the Cerberus swim which would have placed her at least 3rd. She was 3rd in the GVSS Long Course wetsuit category. Ros was also impressive, with lots of podium finishes, and winning her GVSS age group. **Sue Crow** was 1st in her age category in every swim, including her win in the Pier to Pub. **Leanne Sheean** was bridesmaid to Sue several times, but had a win at Cerberus and also swam several of the long distance events.

3rd place is awarded to **Jackie Ellul** who swam at almost every event available, usually completing both the long and short distances. Jackie placed 2nd in the GVSS Open wetsuit category for short course and 1st for long course. Great effort Jackie.

2nd place goes to the amazing **Barb Smith** who competed in eight short course events and earned the maximum points available. Those of us who swim in her age group are very thankful she goes on holidays in January, and doesn't like distance events. Barb won the GVSS short course wetsuit category.

1st place, and the Female Open Water Swimmer of the Year for the fourth year running is **Peta Harvey**. Peta competed in too many swims to mention, always swimming both the short and long distance when available. Apart from a not so great Pier to Pub, she was on the podium every time in her age category, and was third in the open Portsea Gold 2.5km.

Peta almost managed a clean sweep in the GVSS 50-59 category - second to Barb in Wetsuit short course and 1st in wetsuit long course (in spite of not wearing one), and 1st in both the short and long course non-wetsuit category. There weren't any crazy 10 km swims this year, but Peta travelled to Vanuatu (2nd female), Albany and Denmark in Western Australia (1st in both), and was 3rd in the Manly Cole Classic in Sydney.

Congratulations to Peta.