

Brighton Icebergers

Presented to the RBYC Half Yearly Report to Members

Date: 24 March 2026, 7:00 PM

Dear fellow members.

It is my pleasure to present the half-yearly report on behalf of the Brighton Icebergers.

Before outlining our recent activities, I would like to formally acknowledge and thank the Iceberger committee: Sally Buick, Ingilby Dickson, Sarah Golding, Cath Hurley (RBYC), Sheree Reynolds, Kathy Roberts, Stella Voules, and Don Warner. Their ongoing dedication and hard work ensure the smooth operation of our swimming community.

Here is a summary of our key focus areas and events over the past six months:

Community Growth, Social, and Merchandise

The Iceberger community remains a strong and highly engaged cohort within the Royal Brighton Yacht Club. We are pleased to report that our membership continues to grow. When factoring in full aquatic, gym, and social members, I understand our ranks exceed 250 individuals.

We are proud of the ongoing financial and cultural contributions our group brings to the RBYC. In addition to keeping the cafe busy on any given morning, our members actively support club functions, including strong, regular attendance at Friday night drinks.

Additionally, our merchandise program has been very successful with the release of our new, updated swimwear.

Safety Initiatives

Risk management and swimmer safety remain our top priorities. Over the last six months, the committee has implemented several key safety initiatives, including:

- Conducting a comprehensive safety audit of our swimming activities.
- Collaborating closely with the club to optimise the placement of safety devices.
- Installing new, clearly visible safety maps around the facility.
- Overhauling our induction processes and updating our cold-water safety content to ensure all new members are thoroughly prepared and informed.

There is more work to be done, but we are committed to completing our programme of identified tasks.

Our Signature Swims: The Winter Classic & The Olsen Hooper

Our members successfully participated in our two major seasonal events during the 2nd half of 2025:

- **The Winter Classic:** Held on Sunday, 10 August 2025, 31 Icebergers participated in our annual winter swimming events. Conditions featured brilliant blue skies and a flat sea, with a crisp air temperature of 3.8°C and a water temperature of 10.0°C. Thank you to Greg Wallace and Rupert Hugh-Jones for organising a wonderful event.
- **The OH Summer Event:** Held on Sunday, 14 December 2025, 32 Icebergers experienced rough seas that required a quick pivot to a revised course. Thanks to excellent planning, the event proceeded safely and without incident. Thank you to Ross MacDowell (event organiser) and the support crew, including Murray Cowdell (on the RIB), for keeping us all safe. The event concluded with an excellent club-hosted breakfast and the official induction of 13 new Icebergers.

Facilities & Maintenance

As our membership base expands, we are experiencing pressure on our existing infrastructure. There are ongoing maintenance issues to address, and most notably, the female facilities and showers are currently stretched well beyond capacity.

The committee welcomes the opportunity to consult with the club on future plans and infrastructure upgrades to better accommodate our growing numbers.

Security & Consultation (the FOB situation)

We are entirely supportive of the club's efforts to improve security around the premises.

However, I'd be remiss if I didn't express a little disappointment regarding the lack of consultation on the recently introduced fob system. Put simply, the current fobs are suboptimal for swimmers. They do not function properly when wet, and they are too large for most wrists. We look forward to working collaboratively with the club to improve the situation.

Fond Farewells & Kerry's Goggles for Good

Finally, we recently bid a very fond farewell to two of our beloved, long-term members, Kerry Watson and John Parkes. They will be deeply missed.

In Kerry's honour, the committee launched a charitable initiative called "Kerry's Goggles for Good." I am thrilled to report that the generosity of our members has been overwhelming. We have already collected hundreds of pairs of goggles and swim caps for donation to Water Skills For Life, an Australian not-for-profit that teaches vital swimming skills both locally & overseas.

Thank you to the RBYC for your continued support of the Icebergers. We look forward to strengthening our collaboration with all within our club. As the water soon begins to chill, the committee wishes everyone safe and enjoyable swimming.

Scott Buchanan
Chair, Brighton Icebergers