
*The Patsy Durack Memorial
Marathon Swim*

Lake Argyle W A

23 - 25 June 2006



In support of



ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE

OF AUSTRALIA

PROPOSAL

To mount a marathon relay swim the length of Lake Argyle, following the course of the old Ord River; a distance of some 60km. The swim will be timed to finish around 12 noon on June 25th, 2006.



Lake Argyle is Australia's largest lake with a surface area 9x larger than Sydney harbour. It dwarfs the better-known Lake Eyre and its neighbour, Lake Gregory. It is one of the largest bodies of fresh water in the world and other than the Great Wall of China is the only man made structure visible from space

It is proposed to use this swim to raise funds for the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

The event will be known as the Patsy Durack Memorial Marathon Swim, in honour of the Ord River pioneer. The marathon swim will be

undertaken by experienced open water swimmers from The Balmoral Beach Club in Sydney.

METHOD

A six-man relay team, following well-established principles for long distance swimming, will undertake the swim. These procedures have been well tested through events such as the Bondi to Watson's Bay swim, the Rottenest Island and Maui Channel swims.

Swimmers will rotate in the water in a relay fashion with the overall swimming schedule shown.

Permission has been granted from relevant statutory authorities to undertake the swim and to camp on Lagoon and Bullanyin Islands. In the interests of safety all swimmers will swim in a cage between Point A and Lagoon Island. (See route map).

				TIME	DISTANCE
23 June	Friday	8am 4pm	Begin first leg Southern Shore Lake Argyle End first leg Camp overnight Lagoon Island	8	21
24 June	Saturday	8am 4pm	Begin second leg. Swim via old Argyle Downs homestead now submerged End second leg Camp overnight Bullanyin Island	8	25
25 June	Sunday	8am 12 noon	Begin final leg End final leg Boat Ramp Function at Lake - Picnic Area	4	14
Totals				20	60

A swimmer from one of the local indigenous communities has been invited to swim along with the team over the last few hundred metres. We are keen to promote swimming for young aboriginals due to their high incidence of drowning.



This satellite map shows the route of swim from the southern end of lake with overnight stops at Lagoon Island and Billanyin Island. The swim will terminate at the boat ramp next to the dam wall.

The swim will follow the approximate course of the old Ord River channel, which is the deepest part of the lake and should be free from impediments such as the crowns of submerged trees.

THE ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE (RFDS)

This is the story of how medicine, aviation and radio were combined to bring health care to the people who live, work and travel in the more remote areas of Australia.

Established in 1928 and developed on a national basis in the 1930s, the RFDS provides not only emergency medical aid to the people of the Inland, but also a comprehensive health care and community service.

The development of the Inland was made easier by the presence of the Flying Doctor. Previously, serious illness or accident often meant death and the Inland holds many graves of people who might have lived had they been able to receive medical aid quickly enough.



Sir Robert Menzies, Former Prime Minister, once said that the Flying Doctor Service represented the "greatest single contribution to the effective settlement of the far distant back country that we have witnessed in our time..."

The RFDS was the first comprehensive aerial medical organisation in the world and to this day remains unique for the range of primary health care and emergency services it provides and for the huge area of sparse population and climatic extremes over which it operates - 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

The story of the Flying Doctor Service is forever linked with its founder, the Very Reverend John Flynn - it is a story of achievement that gave courage to the pioneers of the Inland.

In 1911 the Reverend John Flynn took up his first appointment at Beltana Mission in the north of South Australia. Flynn became very close to the people of the outback

and in 1912 he was appointed as the first Superintendent of the Australian Inland Mission (AIM).



He began his missionary work at a time when only two doctors served an area of some 300,000 sq kms in Western Australia and 1,500,000 sq kms in the Northern Territory.

Flynn began establishing bush hospitals and hostels in remote outback areas which alleviated much of the dread associated with the great loneliness of the inland. But while they provided an important service, they were only really scratching at the surface of the problem of caring for people in the outback.

The problems of distance and communication remained with many people dying from the lack medical treatment.

In 1903 the first powered air flight had taken place and by 1918 the aeroplane was beginning to prove itself as a reliable means of transport. Radio, then very much in its infancy, was also displaying its remarkable capability to link people thousands of miles apart.

Flynn saw the potential in these developments.

John Flynn set his considerable fund raising abilities to use, and by 1928 the AIM had sufficient money to establish a flying doctor scheme. Supporters included the industrialist HV McKay, manufacturer of the Sunshine Harvester, Hudson Fysh at QANTAS, and, on the ground, Dr George Simpson, a young Melbourne man who had heard Flynn speak many years before.



On 15 May 1928, the Aerial Medical Service was established as a one year experiment at Cloncurry in Queensland. After many years of dreaming, hard work and planning the Flying Doctor Service was a reality.

DONATIONS

Today the RFDS continues to rely heavily on money from donations and public appeals. Fundraising remains an integral part of the working day for the RFDS and its volunteers, who are still the backbone of the organisation.



The RFDS is a charitable organisation with some funds provided by the Commonwealth and State Governments. However the Service must independently fund the repair, maintenance and replacement of its entire fleet of 44 aircraft,

which costs millions of dollars annually.

In 2005 the RFDS flew over 16 million kilometres therefore these aircraft need to be replaced on a systematic basis to ensure that they are safe and economical to operate. The current cost of a new Beechcraft Kingair is \$6.7M and a Pilatus PC12 \$5.8M. To fully equip an aircraft for RFDS operational work adds a further \$700,000 to the cost. The estimated net cost of the RFDS aircraft replacement program has almost doubled since 1997.

The RFDS relies on donations to keep its aircraft fleet operational and to keep the service running.

If you would like to **donate** to the Royal Flying Doctor Service, please select one of the following options:

- **Option 1:** Donate via the RFDS web interface.
 - Please go the RFDS website at <https://www.flyingdoctor.org.au/donation/> and follow the instructions for manual or Credit Card donations.
 - In the **comments section of the donations form** please make reference to **Lake Argyle Marathon Swim** so that we can collate the total fundraising from this activity.
- **Option 2:** Make Cheques payable to the Royal Flying Doctor Service and post to **GPO Box 3537, Sydney NSW 2001**

As the RFDS is a registered charity, all **sponsorship and donations are fully tax deductible**.

FINANCIAL BENEFIT

Neither the swimmers undertaking the event nor the Balmoral Beach Club will benefit financially in any way from the Patsy Durack Memorial Marathon Swim. Swimmers are meeting all their own costs and boat, fuel and cage are kindly being donated by the people of Kununurra and without their support it would not be possible to conduct this event.

All proceeds raised will be donated to the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

PATRICK “PATSY” DURACK

The Durack's were among the first of Australia's great cattle kings. They were 'kings in grass castles', their fortunes built on flimsy soil.

This is the story of Australian pioneers who made fortunes conquering the wilderness but then gave it all back to drought, isolation and an unforgiving environment.

Patrick Durack, (1834-1898) known throughout his life as Patsy, was born in County Clare, Ireland, emigrated to New South Wales in 1853, made his fortune on the



Ovens River diggings in Victoria and in 1868 established a property on a tributary of Cooper Creek in western Queensland. He was endlessly energetic and quickly established himself as one of the richest and most successful cattle owners in the area. In the early 1880s, after hearing good reports of the Kimberley country, he sent his brother Michael to inspect land on the Ord River. Michael's report was favourable and Durack organised the droving of 7250 breeding cattle and 200 horses to the region.

The 3000 mile and three year long trek of cattle from Queensland to stock the Argyle and Ivanhoe stations was, at the time, the longest ever attempted in Australia and one of the longest undertaken anywhere in the world.

Pioneering the area now occupied by Lake Argyle in 1882 the family initially prospered but their territorial dreams could not withstand the harsh realities of the Australian outback.

After founding Argyle Station, which now sits at the bottom of the lake, the Duracks, over successive generations struggled to survive and one by one their stations foundered. In the end, the Duracks were left only with their memories, embodied in the writings of Mary Durack – Kings in grass Castles – and the paintings of her sister Elizabeth.

Burrakin - Pumpkin

Burrakin was a Boontamurra aborigine from southern Queensland. Called "Pumpkin" by Patsy Durack who struggled with the native tongue he became a lifelong friend and supporter of the pioneer. Tireless in tracking and in horrific waterless stages when men and animals were close to a "perish" he is an unsung hero of the Australian outback. The Durack family could not have prospered as it did without his help.

Pumpkin Island in the centre of Lake Argyle will be a significant landmark for the Balmoral Beach Club swimmers on the second day of their swim.



MEDIA

The event will be covered by Ian McNamara's Australia All Over radio program before, during and after the swim. Additionally the ABC, national and local TV and print media will cover the story. A helicopter will be made available for use by the media and for emergency purposes.

THE BALMORAL LAKE ARGYLE SWIMMING TEAM



Kieran Kelly (53) is originally from Wellington in western NSW. He came to swimming late in his teens after moving to Sydney and joining Bilgola Surf Club. He began long distance ocean swimming in the 1980's and has competed in numerous long distance events including the Palm Beach to Whale Beach and Cole Classic Swims and the Bondi to Watson's Bay Rough Water Swim. He joined Balmoral Beach Club in 1998 but was prevented by injury from undertaking regular competition until 2003.

He is an Investment Manager specialising in the sharemarket and runs his own company Sirius Fund Management Ltd.

In his spare time he is an amateur historian and explorer, participating in five expeditions in Central Australia either as leader or navigator. He has written two books on the explorer Augustus Gregory - *Hard Country Hard Men* (2000) and *Tanami: On foot across Australia's desert heart* (2002). His writing on exploration has been published in *Outback* magazine and *Australian Geographic* magazine. In 2004 he was honoured with a fellowship of the Explorer's Club of New York.

He lives in Seaforth and is married with 3 daughters

Andrew Rosengren (38) - Andrew was raised in Melbourne and Brisbane as part of a large family of 12 siblings. He has a diverse educational background ranging from Engineering, Politics, Economics, Philosophy, and Finance. In 1991 he was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship to study at Oxford in the United Kingdom.



Upon completing his education, Andrew entered the mining engineering profession which took him to many interesting and diverse locations in Australia and overseas including, Mt Isa, Cobar, Melbourne, Salt Lake City, London, and Brisbane. Andrew currently works as a business strategist for a construction materials company based in Sydney.

As well as living in the UK and US with his young family, Andrew has travelled extensively to over 85 different countries around the world and across all continents. Throughout his travels, Andrew has, amongst other things, hiked the Kokoda and Inca Trails, hitchhiked through Africa, travelled down the Amazon on a river boat, and trekked the Rwandan mountains following wild mountain gorilla's. Andrew has also worked as a volunteer in Mother Theresa's homes for the dying in Calcutta.

Andrew has been swimming since a small boy and is an active ocean swimmer and member of the Balmoral Beach Club. Andrew's only other marathon experience was as a young 15 year old, running in a relay (3 others) between Sydney and Brisbane in an effort to raise money for Red Cross.

Andrew lives in Lane Cove, Sydney and is married with three young children.



Dr Geraldine Hunt (45) was born in Sydney and grew up on Sydney's Northern Beaches. She quickly developed a love of all pursuits that can be undertaken on, in or under the water. Geraldine qualified as a veterinarian in 1983 and then undertook a PhD into heart rhythm disturbances. She is a registered small animal surgery specialist and an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Veterinary Science at the University of Sydney. Having developed an international reputation in soft tissue surgery, Geraldine has lectured to veterinarians in most major centres around Australia, and been an invited speaker at numerous international venues, including the Royal Veterinary College, London and the Animal Medical Center, New York. She has lectured at conferences in the United

Kingdom, the United States, the Netherlands, Spain, New Zealand and Hong Kong. Her job also involves research and too much administration, but the things she loves best remain teaching aspiring veterinarians and the opportunity to help animals and their owners.

Geraldine's appreciation of animals has seen her swimming with manatees in Florida, monitoring Humpback whales in Hawaii, diving in Fiji, Vanuatu and Mexico, horse trekking in Arizona and operating on a Cape Buffalo on the Lakipia plateau in Kenya.

In late 2001, finding that swimming laps in a pool was losing its excitement, Geraldine discovered Ocean Swimming. At last, somewhere to swim to! Geraldine did her first Ocean Swim at Coogee, and subsequently participated in many others, including the inaugural Bondi to Bronte, the Cole Classic, the Byron Bay swim, the Pier to Perginon swim at Portsea, Victoria and, of course, the Palm Beach to Whale Beach. She was part of a support team for the 2005 Rottneest Channel swim, and is doing the same for the 2006 Bondi to Watson's Bay swim. Now living in an apartment overlooking Balmoral Beach, Geraldine is a regular participant in Saturday and Sunday beach club swims.

Robert Johnson (51) is a born & bred West Australian. He spent much of his youth with the Cottesloe Surf Club, playing water polo with Applecross & Dolphins Water Polo Clubs, and on a surfboard at Margaret River.

The water polo & surfing are still a big part of his recreation on the east coast, but the Balmoral Beach Club is his major swimming & water sport interest. Rob is the Captain of the Balmoral Beach Club, one of Australia's oldest competitive swimming clubs. Like any Club full of enthusiastic people, the Balmoral Beach Club is a great community builder, and a fine place to develop friendships, and keep fit.



Rob's career in property with Lend Lease has meant a number of moves over the years, (he started in Darwin, followed by Perth, Melbourne, Singapore & Hong Kong) & he has now settled in Sydney with his wife Rhonda, & 3 children. He is a regular back to WA, to keep in touch with family & friends.



Michael Munro (55) was born in Newcastle NSW and now lives in Hunters Hill, and is married with 4 adult children.

He has been swimming competitively since he started school in both still water and surf. Joined Collaroy Surf Club in 1965 and competed in state and national titles in R & R and surf and belt swimming races at cadet, junior and senior levels until 1980. Was also a lifeguard for 3 years from 1968 -1970.

He has continued to swim in ocean races including Palm Beach to Whale Beach, and Bondi to Watson's Bay Rough Water Swim and since 1980 has completed over 100 races.

He joined the Balmoral Beach Club in 2001.

Michael is the only member of the Balmoral Lake Argyle Swimming team to have previously swum in a shark proof cage, similar to the type which will be used in the Lake Argyle swim. As a youngster he was asked to test a shark proof cage in Sydney harbour and happily obliged.

Apart from swimming he has been heavily involved in other sports including Mosman Rugby Club for whom he played over 500 grade games, and triathlons, having completed over 40 races.

He is a partner in a private architectural practice in Sydney involved in commercial and hospitality work.

Jon Attwater. (68) Born in Coffs Harbour NSW. He is a past member of Bondi and Leichhardt Amateur Swimming Clubs and North Bondi Surf Lifesaving Club. Jon is a member of The Balmoral Beach Club since 1998 and an active member of the Middle Harbour Yacht Club.



Veteran of numerous ocean swims along the east coast of NSW including Palm Beach to Whale Beach, Bondi to Bronte, the Byron Bay Classic and the South Head Relay Swim from Bondi to Watsons Bay. He was a divisional winner of the Bondi Cole Classic in 2001.

Overseas swims include: The Maui Channel Relay Swim – Hawaii in 1999 where his team won the the Grande Makule Trophy. He completed the Iriki Is. – Vanuatu swim in 2003, down the Dardanelles in 2005 and also mainland Turkey to Boscaada Island in the Aegean Sea in 2005.

He is involved in the supply of artwork and framing to residential and commercial designers and to the hospitality industry.

He has three children and three grand children and lives in Neutral Bay, Sydney.