



Philip Rush, Honor Swimmer, New Zealand, 1985



Videos: [Interview 1](#) [Interview 2](#) [Show 1](#) [Talk 1](#) [Panel 1](#)

Philip Rush achieved 3 first ever swims: 1985 2-way 80.8 km Taupo – Waihi in New Zealand in 23 hours and 5 minutes; 1985 40.4 km Little Waihi to Taupo in 10 hours and 15 minutes and 1984 46 km 2-way Cook Strait in 16 hours and 16 minutes. All times remain speed records in 2024 (and beyond).

He set 4 overall speed records in the English Channel – which he crossed 10 times. 1985 he swam a 2-way in 17 hours and 56 minutes. In 1987 Philip swam a 3-way in 28 hours and 21 minutes. His 2nd leg, France to England, was in 8 hours and 15 minutes – which held to 1988. His 2-way, England to France to England was 16 hours and 10 minutes. Three of the records still hold in 2024 (and beyond).

From 1980 to 1988 Philip won podium positions in: 64 km lac St-Jean, 3 times 2nd and once 3rd; Paspébiac 1st, 2nd, and 3rd; 2nd 38 km in the Nile in 1979; 1st 22 km Wellington Harbour in 1982; 1st 22 km Otago Harbour in New Zealand 1982; and 1st 24 km Australian Championships in 1982. He completed these races: 32 km lac St-Jean 3 times; Around Atlantic City 3 times; lac Memphremagog 5 times, Capri to Naples 2 times. Other solo swims include: a 1-way and 2-way Cook Strait to complete 5 crossings and Māori Kapiti Island to d'Urville Island in New Zealand.

Rush played a valuable role coaching and advising swimmers who challenge the Cook and Foveaux Straits and Lake Taupo – 25+ swim successes as of 2024 (and beyond). He also helped develop New Zealand's open water swimming program and elite squad.

[Expanded Biography \(Openwaterpedia\)](#)

[Long Swims Database \(Marathon Swimmers Federation\)](#)