



Barrie Devenport, Honor Swimmer, New Zealand, 1968



Videos: [Swim 1 – click for radio](#)

Barrie Devenport on 20 November 1962, was the first to swim the 25.7 km Cook Strait, finishing from the North Island to the South Island in 11 hours 20 minutes. It was the second attempt for the 27-year-old swimmer and was broadcast live to the nation. The business of the Parliament was held up when he paused 200 meters from the end of swim (reportedly to pee!).

Local “legend” credited Hinepoupou, of Ngati Kuia with the swim 200 years earlier.

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

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