	**Rondi Davies, PhD; Honor Administrator; Australia; 2027**	



Videos: Documentary 1 and 1:47 Swim 1 Swim 2 Swim 3

Rondi Davies, PhD, co-founded New York Open Water (NYOW) in 2016 and directed its marathon swimming events, including 8 Bridges Hudson River Swim, 20 and 40 Bridges Swim Around Manhattan, 20 Bridges Reverse, Ederle-Burke, the Staten Island Circumnavigation, and the Spuyten Duyvil 10K. NYOW organized more than 45 events annually, and between 2011 and 2026 has welcomed 862 swimmers from 57 countries who have participated in more than 1,425 marathon swims.

Davies managed every aspect of event planning including permits, administration and safety teams, boats, GPS tracking, website, social media, and results. Drawing on her scientific background, she selected swim dates and developed personalized models for each swimmer based on the tidal currents and pace. She has modeled 20 Bridges record attempts in both clockwise and counter-clockwise directions, contributing to three record-breaking Manhattan swims in both directions including by IMSHOF Honorees Andy Donaldson, Joe Zemaitis, and John Zemaitis. She also coordinated the pioneering Staten Island circumnavigation.

An accomplished marathon swimmer, Davies set the women's Manhattan circumnavigation record (2011: 5:44) and reverse Manhattan record (2019: 11 hours) – both stood in 2026 (and beyond). She has completed all eight stages of the 193-km 8 Bridges swim. Under her leadership, NYOW donated more than $100,000 to charities from 2016 to 2026 and offered discounted entries to younger swimmers.

Expanded Biography (Openwaterpedia)

Long Swims Database (Marathon Swimmers Federation)