



Barrie Devenport, Honor Swimmer, New Zealand, 1968



Personal Website (None known)

Barrie Devenport on 20 November 1962, made history as the first person in modern times to swim the 25.7 km (16 nautical miles) 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. Famously the business of the Parliament was held up when he paused 200 meters from the end of swim (reportedly to pee!). Barrie was inducted into the New Zealand Sports Hall of Fame in 1995. Local “legend” credited Hinepoupou, of Ngati Kuia with the swim 200 years earlier.

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

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