Philip Rush, Honor Swimmer, New Zealand, 1985



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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. He received from the International Swimming Hall of Fame the Poseidon Award in 2027 for outstanding contributions to marathon swimming.

Expanded Biography (Openwaterpedia)

Long Swims Database (Marathon Swimmers Federation)