

WA Open Water Legend does it again

Mandurah Masters member Barbara Pellick has completed yet another international swim to add to her Triple Crown (English Channel, Rottneest Channel & Catalina Channel) which she completed in recent years!

As the second Western Australian to take on this swim Barb swam the Straits of Gibraltar, from Tarifa to Morocco, on 9th June, in 6 hours 7 minutes. This 19.4km swim, which is very similar to the Rottneest Channel crossing, is one of the more challenging swims on the world circuit due to unpredictable currents.

Barb started before sunrise and had cloud cover for most of the swim. According to Barb there was even a distant thunderstorm and rain, but the water temperature was a very pleasant 17°C all the way.

Her arrival at Morocco was against a rock wall so all that was required to officially recognise the swim was to give Africa a 'high five' to signify she had completed the crossing.

Although the water was very flat the usual current assist wasn't with Barb on the day keeping her time very honest. Which is just as well because travelling all that way across the world for a 3-4 hour crossing, with tidal assistance, although nice may have felt like a bit of a waste!!

Apparently there was a lot of wildlife in the water on the day with the people on the boat seeing whales, dolphin, marlin, tuna and sun fish. Luckily all Barb saw was crabs and jellyfish (ouch!!).

If any Masters members would like to know more about Barb's swim contact her via rottoswmr@yahoo.com.

Wendy Holtom
Executive Officer

