

Race Information Sheet for 2026

The annual Eastbourne Wharf-to-Wharf (W2W) swim is a fun, non-competitive friendly swim event that all age groups can enjoy together.

The event is organised by the Muritai Yacht Club and has been running for over 70 years.

This information sheet should provide the information you need to enter and enjoy the event. We hope to see you on the day – you may even win a Trophy.

1. The Event

- Held on Sunday 1st March 2026 starting in Days Bay at 9.30am – registrations from 8.00am until 9.00 am. A maximum of 200 entrants will be accepted.
- A sea swim of approximately 1.25 km distance swimming south from Days Bay wharf to Rona Bay wharf in Eastbourne. The swim course is up to 300 metres off the shoreline.
- At the start: enter the water on the north side of Days Bay wharf and swim around the end of the wharf.
- To finish: you must swim around the end of the Rona Bay wharf and exit the water into the finish chute on the south side of the wharf.
- Sea temperature in the harbour is typically around 15 to 16 deg C and swimming conditions on the day vary depending on tides and weather conditions.
- Swim time is typically between 15 and 40 minutes apart from one or two determined people who in the past have taken up to an hour.
- Cancellations will be on the Facebook page and the Eastbourne NZ website. If conditions are unsuitable the swim will be called off. There is no back up day.

2. Rules

- Entry is open to any swimmer who is confident in deep water and considers themselves capable of safely completing the swim. You are responsible for deciding whether the swim is within your capabilities, with the conditions on the day and that you are fit and well enough to attempt the swim.
- Children under 16 years of age require written parental consent and adult accompaniment during the swim is recommended for children under 12 years of age.
- On the day of the swim and at their sole discretion, swim organisers reserve the right to cancel the event due to unsuitable weather conditions, or to decline race entry to any person they consider may not be able to safely complete the swim in the anticipated conditions.
- Entry is at your own risk and all entrants must be registered and have an official number ID on your hand.
- No swimming aids are permitted but use of wetsuits and goggles are allowed.
- The official W2W cap (supplied with registration) must be worn during the swim.

- Swimmers must follow instructions of race officials and must get out of the water if directed by a race official. No debate.
- Placings are based on exit position from the water, not on time. As you leave the water you will be given a numbered disc. It is important on exit from the water to have your disc number and individual code number recorded on the finishing list. If you finish in a bunch, hold your position in a line until you are sure your number has been registered.
- Trophies will be presented after the final swimmer has left the water and the results have been collated.

3. Safety

- There will be kayakers and support boats to monitor and assist swimmers in the water. A shore-line monitor (wearing a HiViz jacket) and the Red Cross will assist swimmers who leave the water before the end of the race.
- If you are concerned about getting too cold, wetsuits and use of vaseline are recommended.
- If you get into difficulty while swimming, raise your arm above your head to attract the attention of a kayaker. Kayakers will assess the situation and signal for a boat if you need more than encouragement.
- If you leave the water before the finishing line it is imperative that you report to the shore-line Marshall OR report to a race official at the finish line. To ensure your safety we must account for all swimmers.
- Swimmers should have dry towel and warm clothes available in Rona Bay at the end of the race. Bags will be transported to Rona Bay by the race organisers and can be picked up at the finish line.
- Once finished (if cold), get dry and dressed into warm clothes as soon as possible. Hot showers and changing rooms are available at the Muritai Yacht Club and the Eastbourne pool.

4. On the Day

- Registration adjacent to the Pavilion in Days Bay between 8.00am and 9.00am for all swimmers, even those preregistered so you can receive your race number.
- Swimmers briefing in the registration area at 9.10am.
- Swimmers bag drop off for transport to the Rona Bay at the Registration desk between 8.00 am and 9.20 am.
- Race starts on the north side of the Days Bay Wharf at 9.30 am
- Sustenance, hot showers, blankets and first aid at end of the swim.
- Prize giving in the Muritai Yacht Club Rooms at approximately 11.00am.

Enjoy yourself and encourage your friends to come along too!