

JAMES PITTAR
Blind Marathon Swimmer
OCEAN'S SEVEN SWIMS
2009 - 2010

The Challenge

My name is James Pittar. I am a blind Australian marathon swimmer and I have a dream.

My dream is to be the first person to swim all seven of the world's most difficult marathon courses in the world.

Known as the 'Ocean's Seven', these open water marathons require an ability to swim in both very cold and very warm seas. I have already successfully completed four swims:

- Cook Strait, 2004
- Catalina Channel, 2006
- Gibraltar Strait, 2002
- English Channel, 1998

The three remaining swims that I plan to complete are:

- Irish Sea, Scotland to Ireland: July – August 2009
- Tsugaru Channel, Japan: July 2010
- Moloka'i Channel, Hawaii: December 2010
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As I have done in the past, I would like to raise funds for The Fred Hollows Foundation whilst completing the 'Ocean's Seven' swims. Your support is critical to the success of this challenge. To make my dream a reality and to support the work of The Fred Hollows Foundation, I need your help.



James Pittar

I was not born blind. In the spring of '85, I was diagnosed with Retinitus Pigmentosa which, over a period of 2 years, stripped me of my sight. By sixteen, I was completely blind. Instead of retreating, I pushed myself further than ever before. I was the first blind swimmer to swim the English Channel.

Other swims include:-

- Mai Khao to Patong Beach (Thailand) 2006
- ANZAC Cove (Turkey) 2005
- Perth to Rottnest Island (2003)
- San Francisco to Alcatraz 2003 (the first blind swimmer to do this)
- Spain to Morocco (2002).
- Palm Beach to North Steyne (2001)
- Martha's Vineyard to Nantucket Island (2000)
- Manhattan Island marathon 1999
- He's also swum the Vaal River (Sth Africa) and Parana River (Argentina)

I have represented Australia in swimming:-

- in 1994 at the Far East and Southern Pacific championships (China)
- the 1991 National Championships (Thailand)
- the 1990 World Championships (Netherlands)

It has been an honour for me to be an Australia Day Ambassador since 1999. In 2000 I was named Kuring-gai Citizen of the Year and one of my favourite roles is being a Rainbow Club Ambassador which I have done since 2001.

Further, I won the Sir Roden Cutler Award for the most distinguished sporting achievement of the year for a disabled person in 1998. I was a member of the Australian disabled Rowing Team in 1995 at the World Rowing Championships in Finland.

Website: www.freestyleman.com



The Fred Hollows Foundation

Our Vision

The vision of The Fred Hollows Foundation is for a world where no one is needlessly blind, and Indigenous Australians enjoy the same health and life expectancy as other Australians.

Our Inspiration

Our organisation is inspired by Professor Fred Hollows (1929-1993). Fred was an eye doctor, a skilled surgeon of international renown and a social justice activist who championed the right of all people to high quality and affordable eye care and to good health.



Professor Fred Hollows. Photo courtesy of The Fred Hollows Foundation

Who We Are

We are an agent for development in Australia and internationally. We focus on blindness prevention and Australian Indigenous health. We are independent, non-profit, politically unaligned and secular.

2007 was a year of remarkable achievement for The Fred Hollows Foundation. In 2007 alone, The Foundation's work can be measured by the following statistics:

- *performed 143,759 eye operations – that is just under 4 people every single day of the year!*
- *provided training for 3,284 surgeons and eye health workers*
- *undertook construction or major renovations of 17 clinics and hospitals*
- *examined 1,219,944 people to check their sight and give any necessary treatment.*

For just \$25, sight can be restored in developing world countries where we work.

Your support of James Pittar and the Seven Oceans Swims will truly make a difference the world can see!

The Costs

Irish Sea

Crew: James Pittar, Matt Logan (trainer), doctor, assistant
Duration: 8 weeks

Costs: Airfares/taxes, fuel surcharges, travel insurance
Nominal leave pay for 3 people @ \$500 p/wk
Accommodation
Car rental
Swim costs, boat, kayak hire, observer
Training facilities

Moloka'i Channel, Hawaii

Crew: James Pittar, Matt Logan (trainer), assistant
Duration: 2 weeks

Costs: Airfares/taxes, fuel surcharges, travel insurance
Accommodation
Car rental
Swim costs, boat, kayak hire, observer
Training facilities

Tsugaru Channel, Japan

Crew: James Pittar, Matt Logan (trainer), assistant, interpreter
Duration: 2 weeks

Costs: Airfares/taxes, fuel surcharges, travel insurance
Accommodation
Transportation
Swim costs, boat, kayak hire, observer, port authority
Training facilities

The order and exact dates for these swims will be determined by a number of factors including weather, family and financial factors.

Whilst placing both physical and psychological demands on the swimmer, the 'Ocean's Seven' swims also require extensive planning and expense.

How you can help

In order to complete the 'Ocean's Seven Swims', I am asking for your help.

In the past I have completed marathon swims around the world, personally covering all associated costs. For these final three swims I will need your support.

For every donation over \$2 (AUD), a tax deductible receipt can be issued.

Please help me become the first person to complete Ocean's Seven.
You can be part of this dream by making a donation to The Fred Hollows Foundation.

Tax deductible donations can be made in the following ways:

Bank deposit: ANZ Bank
 Account Name: James Pittar: ISight Seven Swims
 BSB: 012 251
 Account Number: 530 967 163
 Swift Code: ANZBAU3M (for international donations)

Cheque: Made payable to: James Pittar: ISight Seven Swims

By supporting me, you will be restoring sight through the work of The Fred Hollows Foundation.

Please join me in this dream!

Thank you!

Contact details

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