

**Irish Water Safety
Annual National Awards Ceremony
The Print Works Conference Centre
Dublin Castle**

Tues 17th November 2015, 3 – 5pm

Running Order

15.00 Address by Mr Alan Kelly T.D., Minister of Environment,
Community & Local Government

Presentation of Awards in the following order:

- Media Appreciation Awards
- Community & Social Responsibility Awards
- Long Service Awards:
 - Certificate of Service 10-Year Service
 - Service Medal of Honour (SMH) 15-Year Service
 - Bronze Bar to the SMH 20-Year Service
 - Silver Bar to the SMH 30-Year Service
 - Gold Bar to the SMH 40 – Year Service
- Volunteer Of The Year
- Sports Persons of the Year
- ILSE Award
- Charles Thomson Award
- SEIKO Just In Time & Rescue Appreciation Awards

16.30 Refreshments.

A welcome message from the Chairman of Irish Water Safety



As Chairman of Irish Water Safety, I have great pleasure in welcoming you to our 2015 National Awards Ceremony here in the Dublin Castle. This is always a very special day in the Irish Water Safety calendar and particularly this year as we celebrate 70 years since our foundation. This will be further celebrated later this month with the publication of our History.

I am delighted on your behalf to welcome Mr Alan Kelly TD, Minister of Environment, Community & Local Government, who will kindly present today's Awards. Today's ceremony will include presentations of the SEIKO Just in Time Awards, Irish Water Safety Long Service Awards, Recognition Awards for Services rendered to Irish Water Safety and also the Charles Thomson Local Authority Award, Volunteer of the Year Award and Sports Person of the year award. Among the recipients are members of the public, members of Irish Water Safety and other individuals and organisations from the media and corporate sector who assist us in the reduction of drownings, by supporting the work of Irish Water Safety throughout the year.

The SEIKO Just in Time Rescue Award is presented to those who have gone to the assistance of a fellow human being in distress in water. These awards are recognised within lifesaving circles as a most prestigious humanitarian award given annually by Irish Water Safety and sponsored by Seiko. Today, forty two rescuers from twenty four dramatic incidents will receive recognition at the ceremony for their contribution towards saving twenty eight lives.

The Long Service Awards being presented recognise a total of 1,535 years of personal service of 84 volunteers. Irish Water Safety volunteers are busy nationwide teaching swimming, lifesaving, rescue and the promotion of water safety awareness to the public. The number of lives saved and aquatic accidents avoided as a result of their work cannot be enumerated. Every child taught to swim then possesses the skill to save his or her own life. Every person that has been given lifesaving training has the potential to save themselves and others. I wish to thank all the award recipients for their selfless dedication to water safety and I congratulate them on behalf of the tens of thousands of children and adults who benefitted from their volunteerism.

We will present the "Charles Thomson Award" to a Local Authority in recognition of their outstanding contribution towards water safety promotion and awareness. A member of Irish Water Safety will receive the "Volunteer of the Year Award". In this year where the National teams of Irish Water Safety had their best performances ever abroad, bringing home thirty-one medals from Alicante in Southern Spain at the European Junior Championships and five medals in Wales at the Senior European Lifesaving Championships.

The summer weather of 2015 was not particularly good in Ireland. Nonetheless, hundreds of our volunteers were on the beaches, rivers and lakes giving instruction to thousands of children in swimming and lifesaving. Irish Water Safety is the only organisation that teaches swimming in an outdoor environment. To date in 2015, we have qualified 2,339 pool, beach and river Lifeguards. These young people patrol our bathing areas with skills and knowledge that ensures they can do their best when called upon in emergency rescue scenarios.

In 2014, 114 people drowned and although this is nine fewer than in 2013, an analysis revealed that six children aged 14 and under drowned, reflecting the importance of uninterrupted child supervision. Males were particularly at risk, accounting for 79% of drownings (90); 24 females drowned. 55 were accidents, 33 suicides, 25 undetermined and 1 homicide.

With a limited budget, we depended on the goodwill of the media to enable us to convey our message both at national and local level. Therefore, we are particularly pleased that members of the media will also be presented with Awards for helping to promote the water safety message to the public. Their sustained effort in assisting us with our safety messages is to be commended.

Many water safety campaigns are only possible with the generous support of our sponsors and presentations over the years have reflected our gratitude for their assistance so generously given. Without their continued support, it would be impossible for Irish Water Safety to run the many marketing projects and schemes that contributed to the reducing of drowning accidents in Ireland. We are particularly grateful to SEIKO for partnering with us to acknowledge today's recipients. Their support over the years is greatly appreciated in a difficult commercial market.

In conclusion, we trust that you will enjoy the occasion with us and that it will bring to the fore an appreciation of the aims and goals of Irish Water Safety as a caring voluntary body, as a registered charity and as a public service dedicated to the humanitarian goal of saving life from drowning.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Breda Collins". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Breda Collins
Chairman
Irish Water Safety

IRISH WATER SAFETY

PHOTOCALL / MEDIA NOTICE

Twenty-eight lives saved in dramatic near-drowning rescues Irish Water Safety to honour remarkable rescuers The Print Works Conference Centre, Dublin Castle Tues 17th November 2015, 3 – 5pm

Forty-two rescuers from twenty-four dramatic near-death incidents will receive recognition at Irish Water Safety's National Awards Ceremony at The Print Works Conference Centre, Dublin Castle on Tuesday 17th November 2015, from 3pm to 5pm. Twenty-eight lives were saved from drowning through the brave actions of these rescuers.

Mr Alan Kelly, Minister for Environment, Community & Local Government will present the "SEIKO Just in Time Rescue Award" to rescuers in appreciation for saving so many lives.

"Tragically an average of 135 drownings occur in Ireland every year," commented Minister Kelly, "and although that's 135 too many, the figure would be even higher but for the dramatic efforts of these individuals who saved others from drowning and the ongoing work of volunteers teaching swimming and rescue skills."

In 2014, the 114 drownings in Ireland were nine fewer than in 2013, and 21 fewer than the annual average, reason enough to highlight today the work of Irish Water Safety Volunteers and their partners in the public and private sector in educating more people on how best to enjoy our wonderful aquatic facilities more safely. Complacency around aquatic environments is simply not an option", he remarked, adding "Six children aged fourteen and under drowned in 2014, reflecting the importance of constant uninterrupted child supervision."

"I appeal to all adults to make themselves more aware of the dangers in, on and around water", continued Minister Kelly. "It only takes seconds for tragedy to strike and this can so easily be avoided if people take responsibility for their own safety by learning about the hazards. I ask that people encourage friends and family to read Irish Water Safety's guidelines at www.iws.ie so that they have the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to avoid becoming a drowning statistic. It is very important that people take training before pursuing aquatic activities."

"Drownings often happen quickly and silently with an average of 80% of drownings occurring close to the victim's home and 62% occurring inland. The range of aquatic activities is extremely varied yet what is tragically constant each year is the gender most at risk - males – accounting for 79% of drownings (90) in 2014. 53% of drownings were aged 30-59 clearly demonstrating that regardless of age, one is never too old to learn how to stay safe around water."

Long-Service Awards will also be presented, recognising 1,535 years of personal service of 84 Irish Water Safety volunteers from around the country for teaching swimming, rescue and water survival skills.

Interviews and photographs are available with Award recipients on the day at Dublin Castle from 2pm onwards.

Post event images are available from the official photographer David Branigan dave@oceansport.ie.

Irish Water Safety, The Long Walk, Galway; LoCall 1890-420.202 www.iws.ie; Tel: 091-564400 Fax: 091-564700 (John Leech: 087-6789600; Roger Sweeney: 087-6789601)

Community & Social Responsibility Awards:

In recognition of the support given to Irish Water Safety's community work, charitable activities and commitment to drowning prevention initiatives and the reduction of aquatic related injuries.

Timemark

Timemark Limited is a distributor of leading Watch and Jewellery Brands. Founded in 1979, and entirely Irish owned and managed, Timemark are sponsors of the SEIKO Just In Time Award which they have supported since its inception in 2001 and for which we are deeply grateful.

Rosie Foley

Rosie Foley is a mother, a teacher, an international rugby player for Ireland and has been volunteering for IWS in Clare, Tipperary and Limerick for about thirty years. She is also the first person to swim down the 38km of Lough Derg and four weeks after that she swam the English channel from Shakespeare's beach in Dover to Wissant in France – a feat she accomplished in 15 hours and 53 minutes. She got out of the water in time to commentate for SKY television when the Irish women's rugby team played and beat the All Blacks in August 2014. The Irish Long Distance Swimming Association gave Rosie a "Performance of the Year" for those two swims and Irish Water Safety is grateful for Rosie's fundraising efforts throughout those two wonderful achievements.

James Lynch

James Lynch cannot be with us today but receives a Community & Social Responsibility Award for also raising funds for having swam the 38km of Lough Derg with Rosie Foley. These funds are used for events that target those at risk of drowning and we are indebted to James for his efforts.

Students from NUIG's School of Business "Skills For Work Life" community partner programme

Four students: John Porter, Ka Hei Cheng, Cillian Poole and Conor Rafter

Staff: Michael Campion

The Skills for Work Life Community Partner programme is a module taken by students of the J.E. Cairnes School of Business and Economics at NUI, Galway. The programme integrates meaningful community engagement with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen community links.

By taking part in this module, students are provided with a valuable opportunity to develop new skills, which will ultimately make them more employable. Four students developed a project to reach and engage the public with an online, radio and press campaign highlighting the fact that six children aged fourteen and under drowned in Ireland in 2014. The campaign prompted parents, guardians and schoolteachers to teach Irish Water Safety's primary school curriculum and for this we are very grateful.

Garda Brian McDonnell

Brian is a Garda on Inish Mor, one of the Aran islands off the west coast of Ireland. Following the dramatic rescue by SEIKO Just In Time recipients Seamus McCarthy and Fionnuala Quigley of Apu Gupta, a tourist visiting from India, Brian helped to raise public awareness about the dangers of being too close to the edges of the Atlantic ocean coastline by sending the video of the incident to Irish Water Safety which became a feature on the RTE news and quickly went viral online with hits to date in excess of 1.2 million. Brian also ensured that the rescued girl and her family were accommodated by the relevant authorities

while the 21 year old visitor made a full recovery in hospital. Irish Water Safety's public awareness campaigns rely on the input of people like Brian to bring stories to the public and for this we are deeply grateful.

The Forge Recording Studio, Galway

Irish Water Safety's radio and television campaigns are made possible thanks to the generous assistance of various contributors, in this case the Forge Recording Studio in Galway for kindly donating studio time and the resources necessary to create a radio campaign featuring Irish Actor Paraic Breathnach which broadcast as a prompt to constantly supervise children without any interruption. We are deeply grateful to Bernard O'Connell at The Forge for facilitating this campaign which was an important element of our October Bank Holiday awareness campaign.

Miriam O'Callaghan

Miriam kindly offered to raise awareness of a new initiative by IWS that brings all the National Governing Bodies of various aquatic activities together under one website so that the public can easily and quickly find training for the aquatic activity of their choice. The new site www.safetyzone.ie was promoted by Miriam using her own Twitter feed and she kindly recorded both a radio campaign and TV campaign to encourage the public to get training. We rely on many people to promote water safety best practices and we are particularly grateful to Miriam for using her profile to get the attention of those at risk of drowning.

Colm Plunkett

In August of this year, Colm Plunkett, an experienced sea angler was fishing on the Beara Peninsula when he was swept into the sea by an enormous wave and unlike others who tragically drowned in similar circumstances over the years, Colm was wearing a lifejacket and he credits this with saving his life. Conscious of the importance of prompting other anglers to wear a lifejacket, Colm contacted Irish Water Safety and recorded a radio campaign that broadcast on national and local radio stations. By setting himself up as an example of how quickly an accident can happen and how tragedy can be averted, Colm became a key element of an awareness campaign that continues to run and will hopefully prompt others to make a habit of wearing a lifejacket even when on shore.

Scrogall TV

Scrogall TV is a small community TV project for the Dingle Peninsula in Co Kerry founded in 2010. In August 2015, Déirdre Ní Ghrifín reported on the dramatic rescue of eight people caught in a rip current at the back beach on Brandon Bay. In a special extended edition, Scrogall TV spoke to local water safety experts about rip currents - what they are, how to spot them, and what to do if you get caught in one. They also produced an Irish language version and the item is available on YouTube. We are delighted to highlight Scrogall TV for their work in helping to keep people safe from rip currents when enjoying our wonderful waterways and particularly the scenic beaches of the Dingle Peninsula.

Emergency Services Ireland magazine

Irish Water Safety relies on the assistance of a host of partners in various media to promote our water safety messages. A particularly strong element of this support comes from Grace Heneghan at Emergency Services Ireland magazine. 'Emergency Services Ireland' provides a platform for the state and voluntary emergency services to highlight their initiatives and projects. This quarterly magazine is circulated to personnel working in both the state and voluntary emergency services agencies, including An Garda Síochána, Fire Services, HSE Ambulance Service, Defence Forces, Irish Prison Service, the Irish Coast Guard, Mountain Rescue, Civil Defence, and Irish Red Cross. Since the first issue was published in April 2001, the magazine has developed a very strong readership base, both at

home and abroad and Irish Water Safety is deeply appreciative to Grace for delivering our safety messages to these groups.

Irish TV

Irish TV broadcasts local stories to a global audience on Sky channel 191 and is viewed in 140 countries across the world. They have supported Irish Water Safety by creating and broadcasting public service announcements that give viewers the knowledge they need to stay safe near water. In addition to this free advertising, Irish TV dedicated a full half hour prime time programme to the coverage of Irish Water Safety's National Lifesaving Championships in Spanish Point, Co Clare. This programme highlighted the importance of learning swimming and lifesaving skills and promoted the important work of our Lifeguards around the country. For this we are deeply grateful.

Water Babies represented by Carol and Therese McNally

Water Babies is a group of teachers who focus in on teaching babies swimming courses in Ireland and abroad. They teach vital life skills from birth such as learning to get to the side, holding on, getting out or swimming and have been credited for having helped save a significant number of children's lives when their trained "Water Babies" have fallen into canals, swollen streams, private swimming pools - and survived, thanks to the skills they learnt. Water Babies have partnered with Irish Water Safety to produce water safety awareness publications for the public and actively promote our guidelines to the public during National Water Safety Awareness Week and beyond and for this we are extremely grateful.

Donncha O'Siadhail

In September, Donncha O'Siadhail, chair of our Meath Water Safety Committee, overcame huge physical adversity to be crowned Liffey Swim Champion 2015. He also holds the Irish Long Course Freestyle record in the 1,500, 800, 400 and 200 metres in his age group. This was accomplished even though Donncha, a teacher in Meath, had suffered a shattered collarbone in July 2014 before winning the 100-year old Liffey Swim Trophy. Donncha continues to volunteer running lifesaving classes in Trim.

Peugeot Ireland

Peugeot Ireland has kindly facilitated the acquirement by IWS of a new van that will be used to transport the equipment necessary to run the wide range of activities nationwide. This ranges from Lifesaving sport competitions both here and abroad and a number of conferences, exhibitions and exhibitions given every year by IWS volunteers around the country. The sponsored branding of water safety messages on the vehicle will deliver key messages to the passing public about how to stay safe in, on and around water and will prompt people to take IWS classes wherever the vehicle travels in the country. We are deeply grateful to Peugeot for helping us to raise awareness and reduce drownings.

Active School Flag

An Active School is a school that strives to achieve a physically educated and physically active school community. Irish Water Safety is partners with Active School Flag as part of our remit to deliver water safety information to primary school children within the primary school syllabus created by IWS.. Karen Cotter and her team support the programme by providing PAWS information to teachers at active school flag information nights and through their website. Over the years, they have helped Irish Water Safety to reach hundreds of primary school children at risk of drowning and for this we are hugely grateful.

Media Appreciation Awards:

Provincial Radio Station Award: TippFM

The provincial radio station award is presented in appreciation for covering drowning prevention water safety issues throughout the year, TippFM has highlighted a number of water safety issues and for this we are very grateful.

Community Radio Station Award: Athlone Community Radio

Broadcasting since 2006, Athlone Community Radio was set up to entertain, engage and inform its listenership in the Athlone region. We congratulate them and wish them every success into the future and thank them for their coverage of water safety matters.

Provincial Press Award: Southern Star

The Southern Star is a weekly newspaper out every Thursday that has covered the areas of South, East, Mid and West Cork since 1889. Many of its articles covered water safety topics of concern to the general public. They regularly provide extensive coverage on such stories and for this we are very grateful.

National Press Award: The Irish Daily Star

The Irish Daily Star has served Ireland in print form since 1988 when it was established to provide Irish readers with home grown Irish news and has covered topical water safety issues that are important to their readers in terms of raising awareness of the dangers of Ireland's aquatic environments. The Irish Daily Star provides a nationwide medium and as such reaches at-risk groups in every part of the country which is hugely appreciated at National level and by our thirty Water Safety Area Committees nationwide. For reaching those at risk with relevant water safety messages, we are very thankful.

National Radio Award: Today FM

We are grateful to TodayFM for liaising with Irish Water on many fronts to deliver important water safety messages to the public and for helping us to raise awareness and to change attitudes and behaviours around water.

National TV Award: TV3 – Ireland AM

Ireland AM featured an in-studio interview with IWS Lifeguards along with a couple who nearly lost their three grandchildren to drowning. The coverage highlighted the importance of child supervision and in the wake of six child drownings in 2014, the interviews were particularly relevant.

Sports Persons of the Year Award

Lily Barrett

Lily Barrett, aged 18 from County Clare had a phenomenal year in surf lifesaving this year being crowned European Junior Iron woman and Board Champion at the European Junior Surf Lifesaving Championships in Spain in September of this year. This talented athlete anchored a superb Irish Girls team to win the European Beach competition overall and coming 3rd place with the pool and beach combined.

Lily teamed up with Roisin Cahill, Clare to win gold in the Board Rescue and the Junior Girls team also won the taplin relay with Lily on the board, Roisin on the ski, Emer Kelly, Wicklow swimming and Denise Bolger, Wexford on the run leg. Lily also showed her strength on the sand picking up a silver medal with Emer, Denise and Emma O'Brien from Wicklow in the 4.90m sprint relay just behind a strong French side. Not just a beach athlete Lily also qualified for the final of the 200m super lifesaver event in the pool as well as picking up valuable points in the relay events.

At the European Senior Lifesaving Championships in Wales in August Lily showed how good Irish lifesaving is when she picked up a silver medal in the board rescue with team mate Roisin Cahill. These two girls, both juniors had a fantastic race and fought to the line with current World Senior silver medalists from France. Lily also had superb races in the swim, board and iron with 3 top 10 finishes in Europe.

Lily is an outstanding athlete winning her first National title at age 12 representing county Clare, following this up with her first international medal at age 15 in the European Junior run swim run in Sweden, she is now one to watch on the European and World stage.

Bernard Cahill

Bernard Cahill was one to watch at the European Senior Lifesaving Championships in Abervon, Wales in August of this year being crowned European Senior Surf Race Champion.

Bernard won international lifesaving medal, bronze in the board rescue with Dylan Barrett at the European Junior Championships when he was 15 and he hasn't stopped winning National and international medals since.

This year he won gold in the surf race at the European Senior Lifesaving Championships in a superbly competitive field of international lifesaving super stars. He followed this with silver in the iron man event, silver in the board race and a bronze in the SERC (Simulated Emergency Rescue Competition).

Bernard also picked up gold at the National Lifesaving Championships in September this year in the swim, board, iron man, ski and board rescue, setting a super high standard for the other athletes.

Bernard who trains in Limerick with the Swim Ireland high performance team is also the National Senior 400m Short Course Champion with a time of 3.50.6. He has also just won an impressive 9 Munster Gold's at the Munster SC Championships last month.

A fantastic, dedicated athlete Bernard is now looking forward to the World Lifesaving Championships in Holland in 2016 where he hopes to show the World lifesaving super stars just how good he is.

Long Service Awards:

○ Certificate of Service

Ms	Valerie	Stundon	Limerick Marine
Mr	Michael	Turner	Derrynane CRBI
Mr	Noel	Donnelly	Derrynane CRBI
Ms	Geraldine	Deasy	Derrynane CRBI
Mr	Noel	Donnelly	Derrynane CRBI
Ms	Jackie	O'Reilly	Schull CRBI
Mr	Vincent	O'Regan	Schull CRBI
Mr	Robbie	Shelly	Schull CRBI
Mr	Aidan	Coughlan	Schull CRBI
Mr	Martin	O'Sullivan	Schull CRBI
Mr	Jeremy	Brosnan	Schull CRBI
Mr	Denis	Quinlan	Schull CRBI
Mr	Gerard	Prendiville	Schull CRBI
Mr	Kevin	Murray	Schull CRBI

10-Year Service

Mr	Bruno	Segnodat	Mallow S&R
Mr	Martin	O Sullivan	Mallow S&R
Mr	Greg	Clifford	Mallow S&R
Ms	Nora	Hassett	Waterford
Mr	Justin	Crowley	Cork
Mr	James	Hassey	Waterford
Ms	Ann	McLaughlin	Donegal Ballybunion
Mr	PJ	O Gorman	CRBI
Mr	Declan	Marnane	Wicklow
Ms	Aoife	Fitzpatrick	Wicklow
Ms	Linda	O Neill	Wicklow
Ms	Noeleen	Skelly	Cavan
Ms	Darina	Halpenny	Dublin

○ Service Medal of Honour (SMH) 15-Year Service

Mr	Diarmuid	Moriarty	Limerick Marine	Mr	Ken	Moore	Limerick Marine S&R
Mr	Paul	O'Sullivan	Derrynane CRBI	Ms	Maura	Burns	Louth
Ms	Natalie	O'Meara	Dublin	Mr	Liam	McCole	Louth
Mr	Paul	Foley	Mallow S&R	Ms	Sarah	Meehan	Donegal
Mr	Tony	Carmody	Mallow S&R	Ms	Philomena	Lynch	Cavan
Mr	John Paul	Merritt	Mallow S&R	Ms	Evelyn	O Reilly	Cavan
Ms	Josephine	O'Rourke	Monaghan	Ms	Sinead	Miller	Dublin
Mr	Finbarr	Woulfe	Mallow S&R	Ms	Lindsay	Stevens	Dublin
Mr	Greg	Collins	Cork				

○ **Bronze Bar to the SMH** **20-Year Service**

Mr Terry	Logan	Limerick Marine	Mr Denis	Merritt	Mallow S&R
Mr Trevor	Sheehan	Limerick Marine	Mr Don	McAuliffe	Mallow S&R
Mr Mal	Sherlock	Limerick Marine	Mr Martin	Murphy	Mallow S&R
Ms Helen	Wilson	Derrynane CRBI	Mr Eammon	Fuller	Mallow S&R
Ms Caroline	Donnelly	Derrynane CRBI	Mr John	Goggin	Mallow S&R
Mr David	Hare	Derrynane CRBI	Ms Kathleen	O'Neill	Offaly
Mr John	O'Shea	Derrynane CRBI	Mr Darren	O'Neill	Offaly
Mr Michael	Donnelly	Derrynane CRBI	Ms Leslie	Lennox	Dublin
Mr David	Boland	Derrynane CRBI	Ms Jackie	Roche	Dublin
Mr Desmond	O'Shea	Derrynane CRBI	Ms Doreen	Brennan	Dublin
Mr Jerry	Clifford	Derrynane CRBI	Mr Colin	Griffin	Dublin

○ **Silver Bar to the SMH** **30-Year Service**

Mr Jimmy	Connors	Limerick Marine	Mr Dara	O'Malley-Daly	Donegal
Mr Martin	Quinn	Limerick Marine	Mr Tom	Kavanagh	Galway
Mr Bernard	Glavin	Mallow S&R	Mr John	Kearney	Galway
Mr Kieran	Horgan	Mallow S&R	Ms Marie	Tiernan	Cavan
Mr John	Woulfe	Mallow S&R	Ms Maeve	Brady	Dublin
Mr Tony	Merrigan	Waterford	Mr Aidan	Collins	Dublin
Ms Maureen	Creagh	Waterford	Mr Tony	Cusack	Limerick Marine SAR
Ms Ita	Richardson	Lim City			

○ **Silver Bar to the SMH** **40-Year Service**

Mr Tom	Doyle	Wexford
Mr John	Doyle	Wexford
Mr Seamus	O'Neill	Donegal

Volunteer of The Year Award

Ms Joan Morton

Wicklow native, Joan, was reared on a family tradition of sea swimming, a tradition she passed on to her children, thus getting involved with her local water safety area committee. She began her tenure assisting IWS instructor Pam Beacon during the summer water safety weeks. She encouraged a number of other mothers from the Wicklow area to enrol in lifesaving classes, and supported their progression to the role of instructor.

Joan has been instrumental in running the water safety weeks in Wicklow and at Wicklow pool, since it's opening in 2002. Joan first joined the area committee as a local organiser in 1987, holding a number of the integral positions since that date; including instructor, examiner, surf lifesaving team manager, local organiser, fundraiser, PRO and Vice Chair; and international referee and sports commission member within the wider spectrum of the organisation.

With the advent of surf lifesaving, Joan saw the opportunity to develop Wicklow's participation, due to a strong core of sea swimmers in the area. From the early 1990's, she became involved in developing and coaching teams of surf lifesavers in Wicklow. With Joan's strong leadership, Wicklow were able to host the 2nd National surf lifesaving championships, an event they have hosted on many occasions since.

In early 2000, Joan set up Wicklow Surf Lifesaving Club and through sponsorship and fundraising raised €30,000 to bring Wicklow surf lifesaving teams to the world championships in Australia. They were duly rewarded, with the team bringing home several medals for Ireland. Joan is also involved in developing the Nipper and Junior element of surf lifesaving over the years.

It is Joan's passion & endless drive for everything she does in Water Safety, from lifesaving classes in the pool and on the beach, to school visits, and surf lifesaving, that she has been selected for the volunteer of the year award. Congratulations Joan.

International Life Saving Award

Dr Matthew Sills – appointed as the Dr Ian Mackie Fellow of ILS

The International Life Saving Federation (ILS) comprises of national life saving organisations/federations aiming at improving water safety, drowning prevention, water rescue, lifesaving and lifeguarding and lifesaving sport worldwide. ILS cooperates with partner organisations, governments, non-government organisations (NGOs) and sponsors to promote lifesaving worldwide.

ILS established a Medical Fellowship in honour of Dr. Ian Mackie, MD in order to continue his contribution to the international lifesaving community.

The Fellowship provides young lifesavers and lifeguards with a link to the ILS Medical Committee continuing Dr. Mackie's belief in the importance of the link between medical issues and their practical application by lifesavers and lifeguards.

Irish Water Safety is proud to announce the appointment by ILS of IWS volunteer Dr Matthew Sills as the Dr Ian Mackie Fellow for the next four years.

Charles Thomson Award

Donegal County Council

This Award is presented by IWS, RLSS Ulster Branch and Republic of Ireland branch in memory of Lt Cdr Charles "Chick" Thomson who had dedicated his retired life to teaching swimming, lifesaving and generally promoting water safety in the UK and on the island of Ireland. It is being presented to the Local Authority (LA) that has done most to promote Water Safety on the island of Ireland between 1st January 2014 and 31st December 2014.

This year the winner is Donegal County Council

1. They have opened a new sports complex in Stranolar which cost €7 million
2. They have installed disabled access pontoons in Greencastle, which has opened up the usage and enjoyment of the Foyle estuary to hundreds of new users.
3. There are 16 Lifeguarded Beaches in Donegal of which 13 are Blue Flagged for the public to enjoy bathing safely. SAR Helicopter Training for them
4. A pilot Water Safety initiative for Primary Schools has been launched and been successful which will roll out to the remainder of the county
5. A promotional initiative with Sioen Ireland and Mullion, manufacturers of lifejackets in Donegal.
6. An initiative of Time expired pyro techniques.
7. Arranged safe disposal of end of life vessels
8. Dedicated page on Donegal Co Co Website to water safety
9. Improved waste recycling on the Donegal ports
10. New Lifeguard Stations erected at Shrove Beach
11. Improved water safety signage in the county
12. Improved Bye-Laws to help manage Donegal's beaches and 153 harbours and piers

SEIKO Just In Time Awards & Rescue Appreciation

Presented to those who came to the assistance of person(s) in difficulty in water and in danger of drowning. (Seiko Awards numbered)

A.

- 1. Garda John Power**
- 2. Garda John foote**

Tipperary

On the 19th of February 2014, a call was received at Clonmel Garda station regarding a person that had fallen into the River Suir. Garda Power and Garda Foote attended the scene. Without hesitation Garda Power entered the water. With the aid of a ringbuoy both Gardai brought the person to safety where an ambulance crew were waiting. The person made a fully recovery.

B.

- 3. Garda Kevin Gaynor**
- 4. Garda Cormac McGill**

Dublin

On the 7th March 2014, at approximately 5am, Garda Gaynor and McGill received a call that a man had fallen into the sea at Clontarf Road. When they arrived at the scene, the person was conscious and calling out for help. It became evident that this person's life was in danger so, without hesitation, and with the aid of a lifebuoy, both Gardai entered the water. They secured the man onto the lifebuoy and brought him safely to shore. The man made a full recovery.

C.

- 5. Mr Nick Facer**
- 6. Mr Kevin Carter**

Sligo

On Sunday 26th October 2014, at Lackanarra, Co. Sligo, Torrance California Firefighters Nick Facer and Kevin Carter noticed two people in the water having difficulties in the weather conditions. It became apparent that, without assistance, the two individuals would not make it back to shore. Without hesitation, both men entered the water after instructing others to call for help. Kevin Carter took the first surfer to shore as he seemed to be exhausted and Nick Facer continued to search for the other surfer in extremely rough sea conditions. Upon reaching the man he gave one end of his leash to him and began the long swim towards the shore with the surfer in tow. They were assisted by many other surfers upon reaching the shore. Both surfers were treated at the scene and taken to hospital where they made a full recovery.

D.

- 7. Mr Diarmuid McInerney**

Donegal

On the 16th May 2015, Diarmuid was working on a golf course in Bundoran when he heard a cry for help. Upon sighting two people having difficulty in the water he advised the Coastguard and went to the aid of the swimmers. Diarmuid was passed a lifebuoy by a member of the public and without hesitation he entered the water. He

instructed the two swimmers to thread water. Conditions were rough but Diarmuid managed to pull the nearest person to him to safety onto nearby rocks. The Bundoran lifeboat arrived but was unable to approach the swimmers due to the heavy swell surging onto the rocks. After four attempts of throwing the ringbuoy, the casualty finally grabbed hold of the buoyancy aid and was brought to safety. The rescuer used his IWS lifesaving skills to carry out an effective and safe rescue. Both swimmers made a full recovery.

E.

8. Garda Shaun Durkan

9. Garda Gerard Carroll

Galway

On the evening of the 24th June 2015, D/Garda Durkan received a call regarding a woman in difficulty in the river at the Claddagh basin. Garda Durkan immediately went to the scene and observed that the female was being carried out to sea by the strong current. Without hesitation he entered the water with a lifebuoy and swam towards the casualty. She took hold of the lifebuoy. D/Garda Gerry Carroll arrived at the scene and also entered the water to assist D/Garda Durkan in bringing the female to safety. The person made a full recovery.

F.

10. Mr Stephen Andrews

11. Mr Brendan Connolly

12. Mr Thomas O'Brien

Mr Martin Mullen – Rescue Appreciation Award

Dublin

On the 31st July 2011, Martin Mullen entered the water in an attempt to rescue a man in distress in the river Liffey. He then got into difficulty. Stephen Andrews entered the water and with the help of Brendan Connolly & Thomas O'Brien brought Martin Mullen to safety.

G.

13. Garda Thomas Hennessey

14. Garda Donal Lawlor

Carlow

On the night of the 14th January 2015, Gardai Tom Hennessey and Donal Lawlor bravely entered the water alongside Carlow Rowing Club to assist a man in distress in the water. They both swam in the icy waters and brought the man safety. He made a full recovery.

H.

15. Garda Emlyn Mulligan

Longford

On the 2nd August 2013, Garda Mulligan received a report regarding a female in difficulty in the water at the river Camlin in Longford town. Upon arrival to the scene, Garda Mulligan assessed the situation and without hesitation entered the water and swam out to the woman. He brought her to safety and she made a full recovery.

I.

16. Mr Danny Gillespie

17. Mr Eamonn Gillespie

18. Mr Connie Gillespie

19. Mt Tadhg Diver

Donegal

On the 13th of September 2014 at approximately 8pm at Bunbeg pier, Donegal, Danny, Eamonn, Connie Gillespie along with Tadhg Diver heard a loud noise and immediately went to investigate. Eamonn immediately went for help and called emergency services. Without hesitation Mr Gillespie steered his boat to where the van was located and with the assistance of Connie and Tadhg managed to attach a rope to the rear of the van and towed it to the harbour slipway. Eamonn, who was waiting at the pier, secured the rope and assisted by the fact that they were in shallow water, Danny managed to get the door open to get the person to safety. The person was subsequently taken to hospital and made a full recovery.

J.

20. Detective Garda Jo Ann Holahan

21. Garda Frank Howlin

Dublin

On the 23rd April 2015 at approximately 6.45pm D/Garda Jo Ann Holahan & her colleague Garda Frank Howlin received a call regarding two people in distress in the sea at Salthill. Upon arrival to the scene they assessed the situation and without hesitation D/Garda Holahan grabbed a ringbuoy and swam out to sea towards the unconscious woman and her distressed cousin. Garda Howlin having established the situation - requested further Garda assistance and the services of the RNLi and Coastguard. Using a lifebuoy, both Gardai brought the women to safety to nearby rocks at the bottom of the cliff. They successfully administered CPR on the unconscious woman. Both women were treated for Hypothermia and made a fully recovery.

K.

22. Garda Joe O'Connor

Garda Barry Moran – Rescue Appreciation Award

Dublin

On the 19th of July, at Aston Quay, Gardai Joseph O Connor and Barry Moran (RES Appreciation) were on a uniform beat patrol when they came upon a female in distress in the water, Garda Moran lowered a life buoy to the lady but she was unable to reach it and was slowly going under water. Without hesitation Garda O Connor entered the water and upon reaching the woman, managed to keep her afloat. Meanwhile a person in a RIB motor boat manoeuvred her boat over the Garda O Connor, and they both managed to lift the distressed woman onto the boat. Both Garda O Connor and the casualty were taken to safety. The woman made a fully recovery. . The quick response and actions for both Gardai in this instance undoubtedly prevented the loss of a life.

L.

23. Garda Aidan Monahan

24. Garda Niall Kenny

Kilkenny & Dublin

First rescue: On the 23rd of July 2010, at the River Nore, Kilkenny - Garda Monahan (Off Duty) came to the rescue of a woman in distress in the water and with the aid of two life buoys that were thrown to him during the rescue he managed to bring the casualty and himself to safety.

Second Rescue - On the 4th of May of 2012 at approximately 4am, Garda Monahan was on patrol and received a call regarding a man in distress at the River Liffey. Upon reaching the scene, Garda Monaghan requested the assistance of the Dublin Fire Brigade; he then retrieved a lifebuoy and without hesitation entered the water. He brought the casualty to the side of the river, where Garda Niall Kenny helped to bring the casualty to safety.

M.

25. Garda Carroll Walsh

26. Garda Carrie O'Connor

Dublin

On the 18th August 2012, at approximately 2.30am, Garda Walsh responded to a call for assistance on Aaron Quay. Upon arrival he saw a woman in distress in the water. Without hesitation Garda Walsh entered the water and with the assistance of Garda Carrie O Connor pulled her to safety, where he began to perform CPR by administering back slaps. The casualty made a full recovery.

N.

27. Garda Brendan Flannery

28. Garda John Teehan

29. Garda Cathal Mulvihill

30. Mr David Turner

Westmeath

On the 29th of March, Gardai Teehan, Flannery, Mulvihill and Turner rushed to the scene of a young man in distress, attempting to jump into the Shannon. The Gardai spoke to the person at great length in an effort to cajole him down off the bridge. Garda Teehan climbed over the bridge and was suspended by his colleagues from the top of the bridge in an attempt to reach the person. He managed to grab hold of the person and pull him over the ledge to safety.

O.

31. Mr Fergal Swaine

Dublin

On the 7th May 2014, Fergal was cycling to work when he came upon a person in distress in the water at the Canal at Cross Guns Bridge, Phibsboro. Without hesitation he grabbed a ringbuoy and entered the water. Upon reaching the man, he grabbed hold of his jacket and managed to swim to the bank where a number of people helped to pull him to safety. Fergal administered CPR and the casualty was taken to hospital.

P.

32. Mr Seamus McCarthy

33. Ms Fionnuala Quigley

Garda Brian O'Donnell – Community & Social Responsibility Award

Inish Mor, Aran islands

On the 8th of April, Apu Gupta, an Indian tourist was swept off a rocky ledge by a wave on Inis Mór, Galway. The accident was witnessed by tourist and advanced paramedic Seamus McCarthy and his girlfriend Fionnuala Quigley. Seamus phoned 999 but there was no reception, so Fionnuala ran to the nearest house to call for help. Meanwhile, Seamus put together a makeshift rescue rope using a jacket and backpack and lowered it to the casualty. She tightened the backpack around her waist and Seamus and another person began to pull her slowly up the cliff face. They successfully pulled her to safety and Seamus managed to stabilise her until the rescue helicopter arrived then took her to the hospital. The person made a full recovery.

Garda Brian O'Donnell helped to raise public awareness about the dangers of being too close to the edges of the Atlantic ocean coastline by sending the video of the incident to Irish Water Safety which became a feature on the RTE news and quickly went viral online with hits to date in excess of 1.2 million. Brian also ensured that the rescued girl and her family were accommodated by the relevant authorities while the 21 year old visitor made a full recovery in hospital. Irish Water Safety's public awareness campaigns rely on the input of people like Brian to bring stories to the public and for this we are deeply grateful.

Q.

34. Ms Alexis-Elizabeth Vaganova

Kildare

On the 18th June 2014, Alexis was swimming with her friends at Salmon Leap. They had jumped into the water, when she noticed that one of her friends had not surfaced. Without hesitation Alexis swam underwater towards her friend, grabbed her and brought her up to the surface. She reassured her friend and instructed her to kick her legs. She managed to take her safely to shore.

R.

35. Mr Niall Clarke

Carlow

On the 12th February of this year, Niall Clarke came upon a car parked haphazardly at a barrier on the river bank at the River Barrow at Leighlimbridge Village. He then noticed a person face down in the water. Without hesitation he entered the water and swam towards the casualty. He brought the person to safety and successfully performed CPR on them. He placed the casualty into the recovery position and went to a nearby shop and told them to call emergency services.

S.

36. Mr Martin Gavaghan

Garda John O'Brien – Rescue Appreciation

Garda Kevin Fitzpatrick – Rescue Appreciation

Arklow

On the 23rd of December 2014, at a Swimming pool in Arklow, Deirbhile aged 8, alerted her father Martin Gavaghan that a boy wasn't moving and was lying on the pool floor. Without hesitation Martin swam down to the boy and lifted his lifeless body to the pool side. Two Leisure assistants began CPR on the child and called emergency services. Garda John O'Brien & Garda Kevin Fitzpatrick (Rescue Appreciations) arrived at the scene and took over the CPR. They continued to work on him for over ten minutes and eventually got a pulse. The Ambulance crew took over and the boy is currently recovering very well.

T.

37. Mr David McCarthy

38. Mr Martin Dennehy

Cork

On the 12th of September 2015, Fisheries officers Martin Dennehy & David McCarthy were on patrol at Lough Bofinne when they heard cries for help. Being experienced officers, they did a risk assessment and confidently instructed the casualty and managed to get him to turn on his back and start kicking to propel him back to shore. Both officers waded out to the lake and threw a rope towards the casualty, who managed to grab hold of it. They proceeded to pull the casualty towards the shore. They took him to hospital where he made a full recovery.

U.

39. Mr John Clancy

Galway

On the evening of the 27th October 2015, John was walking along the Claddagh quay when he noticed a person in the water. He called out but there was no response. John called out to two people nearby to call emergency services and without hesitation entered the water and swam towards the casualty. At this stage the casualty had begun to submerge and John had lost sight of this person. He successfully retrieved the casualty and pulled the person to safety.

V.

40. Ms Erika McCarthy

Cork

On Tuesday the 25th August 2015, Erika was training at Inchydoney beach, and swimming back to shore with her team members when she heard a faint cry for help in the distance. She turned back and came upon a male and female in difficulty. Erika managed to calm the male and encourage him to swim towards the shore, while, at the same time she carried the woman. As Erika was swimming closer to shore, she came upon a fellow colleague and directed him to take the female back on his board while she continued to encourage the male swimmer. Both swimmers were brought safely to shore.

W.

41. Mr Eric Nolan

42. Mr John Dimond

Wexford

On the 5th of August 2013, both Erik Nolan and John Dimond noticed a person enter the river from O Hanrahan Bridge at New Ross and without hesitation they readied and launched a RIB. They approached the person in water and persuaded him to be helped aboard the RIB. They calmed the person and returned to the boat house and waited with him until emergency services arrived.

Statistics....

114 Drowned in 2014, 9 fewer than in 2013

79% were male; Six were children aged 14 and under...

Appeal – “Teach children how to stay safe near water”.

The following drowning statistics for 2014 reflect the importance of uninterrupted child supervision and an appeal for people to take training before pursuing aquatic activities.

This appeal comes in the wake of 114 drownings last year, 9 fewer than in 2013.

An analysis reveals that:

OVERALL:

114 people drowned in Ireland in 2014. 55 were accidents (77 in 2013), 33 suicides (27 in 2013), 25 undetermined (19 in 2013), 1 homicide. 123 drowned in 2013. The highest figure recorded in any one year was 235 in 1983, the lowest was 73 in 1936.

GENDER:

Males were particularly at risk, accounting for 79% of drownings (90); 24 females drowned.

Of the 24 females: 50% suicide, 29% accident, 17% undetermined, 4% homicide.

Of the 90 males: 53% accident, 23.5% suicide, 23.5% undetermined.

AGE:

Six children aged 14 and under drowned. Six teenagers drowned (3 accidental, 3 suicide).

23% of all those who drowned were adults aged 50-59.

25% drowned aged 0-29; 55% aged 30-59; 20% aged 60-85.

LOCATION:

Leinster 39%; Munster 33%; Connacht 17%; Ulster(partof) 11%

Dublin had the highest (16); Cork and Limerick had 2nd highest (13 each); Galway had 3rd highest (12).

BY COUNTY - See Over....

Irish Drowning Fatality Data by County and Year (2014 and 2013)

County	Number of Drownings 2014	Number of Drownings 2013
Carlow	5	3
Cavan	5	1
Clare	6	6
Cork	13	23
Donegal	6	8
Dublin	16	20
Galway	12	11
Kerry	2	6
Kildare	7	3
Kilkenny	0	2
Laois	2	1
Leitrim	0	1
Limerick	13	2
Longford	2	0
Louth	3	5
Mayo	4	6
Meath	2	5
Monaghan	1	1
Offaly	3	3
Roscommon	0	3
Sligo	3	2
Tipperary	3	2
Waterford	1	3
Westmeath	3	1
Wexford	2	3
Wicklow	0	2

Advice to prevent drownings:

It only takes seconds for tragedy to strike but this can so easily be avoided if people take responsibility for their own safety by taking note of the following in advance of any aquatic activity:

1. Teach schoolchildren how to stay safe for summer, listed on www.iws.ie
2. Take training with a recognised provider, listed on www.safetyzone.ie
3. Swim at Lifeguarded waterways, listed on www.iws.ie
4. Report missing or vandalised ringbuoys at www.ringbuoys.ie
5. If there is no Lifeguarded waterway nearby then swim at a recognised, traditional bathing area.
6. Swim within your depth - stay within your depth;
7. Never use inflatable toys at beaches, rivers or lakes.
8. Use local knowledge to determine local hazards and safest areas to swim;
9. Ensure that ringbuoys are present;
10. Make sure that the edges are shallow shelving so that you can safely and easily enter and exit;
11. If you drink alcohol, only do so after your aquatic activity has ended.
12. Wear a lifejacket with crotch strap when on the water.

**Any interpretation of the figures must be exercised with caution because they are provisional, pending supplementary documentation and therefore subject to change pending further correspondence.*

IRISH WATER SAFETY

The statutory voluntary body and registered charity established to promote water safety in Ireland.



Our focus is on Public Awareness. An average of 135 people drown each year in Ireland. We feel that this is simply unacceptable considering that most fatalities are avoidable. We strive to reduce these fatalities by increasing water safety awareness, changing attitudes and behaviours so that our aquatic environments can be enjoyed with confidence and safety.

WHAT WE DO:

Teach swimming, lifesaving, water confidence, safety, survival, rescue skills and Basic Life Support. Courses are provided to children as part of the Primary School Curriculum and adults. Some participants will progress to qualify as Pool and Beach Lifeguards. There are a series of qualifications that are internationally recognized.

Arrange conferences, lectures and demonstrations to Local Authorities, Government Agencies, NGO's, schools, Colleges and members of the public.

Publish literature to promote water safety and target at-risk groups. We provide publications for all aquatic activities to assist the public adhere to best practices.

Our volunteers carry out Risk Assessments on bathing areas and waterways nationwide that may pose a particular risk to the public, in order to make them safer by the erection of Public Rescue Equipment, signage and other necessary facilities. We also advise and assist Local Authorities, state agencies and private enterprises on matters relating to water safety. Complete Public Rescue Equipment checks.

Beach Lifeguards are trained and tested by our examiners for the Local Authorities, prior to the annual summer season each year.

Train and examine rescue boat crews for the Community Rescue Boats Ireland and the Coast Guard.

Promote marine safety along with other members of the Marine Safety Working Group and the Irish Marine Search and Rescue Committee.

National and local media help build public awareness by actively communicating our safety messages to the public. Regular Press Releases are available, which target the seasonal hazards at sea, on our inland waterways and other aquatic environments.

Analysis and provision of drowning statistics that enables effective targeting of "at risk" groups in Ireland.

Work with a range of organizations to help reduce the high number of drownings by suicide annually.

Organize the Annual National Lifesaving Championships; some of our members then go on to compete in international events each year.

Organise the National Water Safety Awards Ceremony. The "JUST IN TIME" Rescue Award and other awards recognize people's work, providing training and promoting Water Safety in Ireland.

Partners from the private sector sponsor the delivery of messages to key "at risk" groups.

Provide information on the locations of Lifeguarded waterways in Ireland.

Public and private bodies call on us to make submissions on water safety related matters.

Our Water Safety Development Officers and Head Office advise Local Authorities on planning applications that involves developments that have aquatic features and may have water safety implications.

Maintain a comprehensive website of water safety advice, publications and courses.

IWS is registered charity CHY 16289

Irish Water Safety
The Long Walk, Galway
Tel: 091-564400
LoCall 1890420202
Fax: 091 564700
Email: info@iws.ie
Web: www.iws.ie

