

# IRISH WATER SAFETY

## PHOTOCALL / MEDIA NOTICE

10 Nov 2014

### **Twenty-two lives saved in dramatic near-drowning rescues** **Irish Water Safety to honour remarkable rescuers** **George's Hall, Dublin Castle, Tues 18<sup>th</sup> November 2014, 3 – 5pm**

Thirty-five rescuers from twenty dramatic near-death incidents will receive recognition at Irish Water Safety's National Awards Ceremony at George's Hall, Dublin Castle on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2014, from 3pm to 5pm. Twenty-two 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 2013, the 91 drownings in Ireland were the lowest since 1936, reason enough to highlight the work of Irish Water Safety Volunteers and their partners in the public and private sector in educating more people on how best enjoy our wonderful aquatic facilities more safely. Complacency around aquatic environments is simply not an option", he added.

"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](http://www.iws.ie) so that they don't become a drowning statistic."

"Drownings often happen quickly and silently with 80% of drownings occurring close to the victim's home. The range of aquatic activities is extremely varied yet what is tragically constant each year is the gender most at risk - males - tragically reflected in the fact that of the 91 drownings last year, 75% were male (69). 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 2,220 years of personal service of 135 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 1.30pm onwards.

Post event images are available from the official photographer David Branigan  
[dave@oceansport.ie](mailto:dave@oceansport.ie).

Irish Water Safety, The Long Walk, Galway; LoCall 1890-420.202 [www.iws.ie](http://www.iws.ie); Tel: 091-564400 Fax: 091-564700

Mobiles: John Leech: 087-6789600; Roger Sweeney: 087-6789601

**SEIKO "JUST IN TIME" RESCUE AWARD RECIPIENTS:**

Title	First Name	Last Name	County	Notes	Mobile (if unlisted call 087-6789601)
Garda	Ciarán	Sweeney	Garda	On the 17th August 2013, at Herbert Bridge, Ballsbridge, Garda Ciaran Sweeney responded to a call whereby a man had entered the water. The river was fast flowing and, without hesitation, Garda Sweeney entered the water and swam to the victim, who was conscious but dazed. Garda Sweeney brought the man to safety and administered first aid and waited with the man until the emergency services arrived. <b>1 saved</b>	
Mr Ms Mr	Kieran Annie Pat	Laffan Laffan Nolan	Waterford	On the evening of the 18th of June 2014, at Bunmahon Beach, Kieran, Annie & Pat noticed two teenagers (non swimmers) in difficulty in the water. Both Kieran and Pat entered the water without delay. Annie fetched a lifebuoy and also went to the aid of the teenagers in distress. All three managed to take both persons to safety. They placed the girl into the recovery position; they	<b>861213435</b>

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				wrapped both casualties in towels to prevent Hypothermia and waited with them until emergency services arrived. Both teenagers made a full recovery. <b>2 saved</b>	
Mr Mr	James Raven	Bould Genson	Dublin Michael Moore will accept on his behalf <b>Evan Ahearne (18) is the rescued party and will attend and will go on stage</b>	On the 6th of July 2013 at Spencer Harbour, Drumkeerin, Co. Leitrim, a party of thirteen including seven adults, 3 teenage boys and 3 children were enjoying a day out when one of the teenagers got into difficulty in the water. Both James and Raven went to the assistance of the boy and managed to keep his head above water whilst swimming towards a platform. Once on the platform, they successfully encouraged the boy to get back into the water and return to shore. Between them, they were able to keep the boy's head above water and swim him back to the safety of the lakeside. <b>1 saved</b>	<b>01-6280515/ 085-7146229</b>
Mr	Brian	MacMahon	Traveling to	On the 16th of June 2014, at	

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			<p>NZ so his sister Clare will accept the award on his behalf.</p> <p>DUBLIN</p>	<p>Spingers bathing area in Skerries, Brian observed a person in difficulty in the water. He immediately called emergency services. After assessing the situation, he got a Ringbuoy and swam approx 250m out to the casualty. He reassured the casualty, threw the ringbuoy towards him and towed the casualty to the steps of the Springers. The Lifeboat arrived at the scene shortly afterwards and the man was taken on board, where first aid was administered. The man made a full recovery. <b>1 saved</b></p>	
Mr	Bernard	Steemers	<p>Currently living in Australia</p> <p>Brother Brian will accept award on his behalf</p> <p>Waterford</p>	<p>On Tuesday 12th August 2014, at Carnivan Beach, Fethard-on-Sea, Bernard, a trained Lifeguard, came to the rescue of a surfer who had gotten into difficulty in the water and was being pulled out to sea. Bernard surfed out, pulled the man onto his surfboard and pushed him safely ashore whilst doing the breast stroke. <b>1 saved</b></p>	

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Mr	Ian	Jackman	Wexford	On the 3rd of October 2014 at Wexford Harbour, Ian, a trained Lifeguard, came to the rescue of a man who had fallen into the water from a fishing boat. Ian observed the man in distress and without hesitation, entered the water with a Ringbuoy, persuaded the man to take hold of the ring buoy and swam back to shore. It was difficult to exit the water so Ian held onto the man until the Life Boat arrived to the scene and pulled him to safety. <b>1 saved</b>	
Mr	Damien	Dempsey	Wexford	On the afternoon of Sunday 22nd of June, at the River Slaney, Damien and his crew had just arrived at their concert venue when they noticed two men in difficulty in the water. Damien grabbed a sheet from his minivan and waded into the river. He swam towards the casualty, threw the sheet to him and towed him back to safety. The other man managed to swim back to shore. <b>1 saved</b>	

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Mr	Paul Ivan	Maguire	Louth	<p>On the evening of the 28th of December 2013 at the River Boyne, Drogheda, Co Louth, Dylan, Jack, Paul and Justin were playing football when they were approached and informed that a boy had fallen into the river nearby. The boys ran to the location, Paul called emergency services and Dylan went to the assistance of a twelve year old boy in distress. Dylan took up a position on the bank and lay down to reach out to the casualty. He got hold of the boy by the wrist and held onto him. Jack and Justin dashed along the ramparts, located a Ringbuoy and brought it to the scene, where they passed the ringbuoy to the boy and encouraged him to take hold of it. The boys reassured the casualty and continued to talk to him until emergency services arrived. The Irish Coast Guard successfully brought the boy to safety. The boy</p>	<b>874187218</b>
Mr	Jack	Hoey			
Mr	Dylan	Rogers			
Mr	Justin	McKenna			

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				was treated for mild hypothermia and made a full recovery. <b>1 saved</b>	
Mr Mr	John Michael	Clarke Mahony	Mayo	On the 25th January 2014, at The River Moy, Ballina, Michael Mahony was alerted to John Clarke calls to someone in difficulty in the water. John had thrown a lifebuoy to the man and Michael immediately went to his Jeep and fetched a long rope which he also threw to the man. The man took hold of the rope and when he was close to the bank, Michael entered the water and pulled him to safety. <b>1 saved</b>	<b>872687702</b>
Mr Mr	Brian Allen	McGinty Scully	Mayo	On the afternoon of the 11th of March 2014, at the River Moy, both Allen and Brian were in Allen's apartment when they were alerted to a woman in distress in the river. The woman was holding onto a branch and a ringbuoy but was still very much in danger. On seeing this, Brian jumped over the railings, reached down and caught her hand.	<b>089-4832593</b>

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				Unfortunately, she slipped from his grip. At this point, Allen had tied a loop on a Ringbuoy rope and let it down to Brian. Although she was then unresponsive, they managed to pull the woman over the railings to safety. <b>1 saved</b>	
Mr	Barry	Murphy	Cork	On the 7th of July 1983, at Coolmain Beach, West Cork, Barry happened to be on a family day out when he heard a woman calling for help. Observing a man in distress, Barry entered the water and with the aid of a ringbuoy, managed to swim to the man and pull him safely to shore. CPR was commenced with the assistance of others and the casualty was eventually taken to hospital where he made a full recovery. <b>1 saved</b>	
Mr	Shaun	Haughey	Donegal	On the 24th August 2014, at Rathmullen Pier, Co. Donegal, Shaun heard screams from where four people had jumped into the	



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				<p>water. Only two had made it safely back to the steps of the pier. Shaun reacted quickly, removing some of his clothing and entered the water. He took hold of a ringbuoy that one of the others had previously thrown and swam towards the now hysterical casualties. He managed to calm the distressed swimmers, support them with the ringbuoy and swim towards the pier steps where another man helped all three to exit the water. <b>2 saved</b></p>	
Garda	Peter	Daly	Garda from Tullamore, Co Offaly	On the 29th June 2012, at East Pier, Dun Laoghaire, Garda Peter Daly received a call about a man in difficulty in the water. He raced to the scene, immediately entering the water and swam to the man's aide. Meanwhile Garda Darragh Quinn retrieved a ringbuoy and threw it to Garda Daly. Garda Daly swam to the man and got him to hold onto the ringbuoy and with great difficulty,	<b>834247155</b>
Garda	Darragh	Quinn	Garda from Charlestown, Co Mayo		

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				dragged the man to the shore. Both Gardai pulled the man to safety and waited with him until the emergency services arrived. The man made a full recovery. <b>1 saved</b>	
Garda	Dave	Hearne	Garda from Fethard-on-sea, Co Wexord	On the 14th of July 2014 Garda Dave Hearne received a call about a man that had entered Colligan River in Dungarvan. He immediately went to the scene and without hesitation he entered the water and swam to the assistance of a man. Upon reaching him, he swam towards the shore and with the assistance of the fire brigade, the man was pulled ashore. <b>1 saved</b>	<b>868575390</b>
Ms	Linda	Brereton	Monaghan	On Monday the 20th of August 2012, at Gas Lake, Castleblaney, Co. Monaghan, Linda was sitting on a bench at the park when she was approached by a lady who informed her that two young boys were in difficulty in the water. Without delay, Linda entered the water and	

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				swam to the two boys. They held onto Linda and she managed to bring them safely ashore. <b>2 saved</b>	
Mr Mr Mr	Dean Paul Michael	Treacy Dolan Treacy	Meath	On the 6th of October 2012, at the Tolka River, Clontarf, Paul Dolan noticed a RIB in the water 1/2 mile from the shore. It was apparent that there was a person in distress. Paul dispatched a kayaker, Dean Treacy and upon reaching the scene, Dean observed that the boat operator was in immediate peril and not breathing. He exited his kayak, boarded the RIB and performed CPR on the man. Michael Tracey and Paul Dolan arrived alongside the RIB and after assessing the situation, alerted the MRCC. Unfortunately, there was no helicopter available , so all three men took the RIB back to shore whilst continuing CPR on the man. The man was taken to hospital and made a full recovery. <b>1 saved</b>	<b>833157092</b> <b>833317714</b>

Garda Garda	David Caroline	Fenton Guest	Garda (from Castlcove, Co Kerry) Garda (from Kenmare, Co Kerry)	Yes Yes	JIT	On the 4th of May 2014, at The Pier, Castletownbere, Garda David Fenton and Garda Caroline Guest were on patrol when they were alerted that a man had fallen into the water. They rushed to the scene and while Garda Guest threw a lifebuoy to the man, Garda Fenton secured a rope boarding ladder to the pier and climbed down into the water to the casualty. He managed to get the man to hold onto the ladder while using the ringbuoy as a buoyancy aid. Garda Guest telephoned Martin O Donoghue (on duty lifeboat mechanic) to assist them. While Garda Guest reassured and waited with the casualty, Garda Fenton and Martin O'Donoghue launched a "D Class" Boat and were able to get alongside the causality and pull him out of the water. They brought him to safety and waited with him until emergency services arrived. The man made a full recovery. <b>1 saved</b>	<b>877947378</b> <b>868365568</b>
Mr	Martin	O Donoghue	Rescue Appreciation From Castletownbe re, Co Cork	Yes			

Garda	Colin	Davidson	Garda	No	JIT	<p>On the afternoon of the 11th of February 2008, at Usher's Quay on the River Liffey, Garda Colin Davidson was on mountain bike patrol in the Smithfield area when he received a call about a man that had entered the water. Upon arriving at the scene, Garda Davidson observed a man face down in the water, and without hesitation, entered the water and successfully retrieved the male, holding onto him for approximately ten minutes until the Dublin Fire Brigade arrived. This was achieved by holding onto a ladder with one arm while successfully keeping the casualty's head above water with the other. The man spent some time in the high dependency unit but, fortunately, made a full recovery.</p> <p><b>1 saved</b></p>	
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Garda	John Paul	Kennedy	Garda	Yes	JIT	On the 11th of November 2013, at The Slaney River, Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow, Garda Kennedy was alerted to the situation where a woman was in distress in the water. Garda Kennedy quickly entered the water and brought the victim to the safety at the river bank, wrapping her in his fleece to keep her warm until emergency services arrived. The woman made a full recovery. <b>1 saved</b>	
Garda Garda Garda	Trevor Shaun Grainne	Keating Sweeney McLoone	Garda Garda Garda	No Yes	JIT	On the 18th of September 2014, at Neds Point, Buncranna, Gardai, Trevor Keating, Shaun Sweeney and Grainne McLoone were called to a scene, whereby a father was concerned about his 12 year old Down's Syndrome son who had swam out too far. They attempted to have the boy swim back in but he misunderstood and thought it was a game. Garda Sweeney and McLoone kept the boy occupied whilst Garda Keating entered the water,	

					swimming to the boy, reassuring him and brought him to safety. <b>1 saved</b>	
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