

**Irish Water Safety
Annual National Awards Ceremony
St George's Hall, Dublin Castle
18th November 2014**

Running Order

15.00 Address by Minister Alan Kelly, Minister of Environment, Community & Local Government

Presentation of Awards in the following order:

- Community & Social Responsibility Awards
- Media Appreciation Awards
- National Primary School of the Year Award
- Sports Person of the Year Award
- 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
- Life Governor of IWS Awards
- Volunteer Of The Year Award
- International Life Saving Europe Award
- Charles Thomson Award
- Rescue Appreciation Award
- SEIKO Just In Time Awards

16.30 Refreshments in The Foundation Room, ground floor.

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 2014 National Awards Ceremony here in Dublin Castle. This is always a very special day in the Irish Water Safety calendar and 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, Life Governor Certificates and Medals, Irish Water Safety Long Service Awards, Recognition Awards for Services rendered to Irish Water Safety and also the Charles Thomson Local Authority Award and Volunteer 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, thirty-five rescuers from twenty dramatic incidents will receive recognition at the ceremony for their contribution towards saving twenty-two lives.

The Long Service Awards being presented recognise a total of 2,210 years of personal service of 135 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 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". Both recipients of these awards have been selected based on the opinion of an independent panel of Judges in each case.

The summer of 2014 brought another fine season to Ireland. 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. The tragic drownings of the first two weeks of July 2013 saw many areas of the media support us with high profile safety messages to target at risk groups. 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. The result was that the public did listen and in 2013 we had 91 drownings....the lowest in 70 years. 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.

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 signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Breda Collins
Chairman
Irish Water Safety

IRISH WATER SAFETY

PHOTOCALL / MEDIA NOTICE

Twenty-two lives saved in dramatic near-drowning rescues **Irish Water Safety to honour remarkable rescuers** **George's Hall, Dublin Castle, Tues 18th 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 18th 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 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 2,210 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.

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.

The Drowning Statistics Research Group comprising of Martina Jordan, Barry Heskin, Luke Gallagher & Brendan Connolly – and represented today by Luke Gallagher

For working on the analysis of drownings to help IWS target at-risk groups. Their work included scrutinising reports on a decade of drowning tragedies and the creation of a database to record their analysis for use in education campaigns.

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.

Mr. Joe Logue of "Advanced Engineering", Kildare

Joe's children are active in water safety classes and surf lifesaving in Kildare. Joe has supported the development of Kildare's Surf Lifesaving venue at Blessington lakes, by securing a club house on their behalf and also the donation and fitting of a flag pole to enhance the surf lifesaving facilities at Blessington Lakes. We greatly appreciate his support which will motivate many more to join local classes.

Ms. Mary Elliffe of The Town House Hotel, Naas

For the last twenty years, Mary has welcomed Irish Water Safety's local Committee to her establishment providing halls for meetings, training events and functions at no cost. Mary has personally and financially contributed to promoting water safety activities in Kildare and we are grateful to her for helping us raise awareness and reduce drownings.

Graphic Workshop, represented by Tomas & Sylvia McGuinness

Since 1997 Tom & Sylvia, owners of Graphic Workshop, have personally and financially contributed to promoting Kildare Water Safety, a contribution that has brought the message of lifesaving and water safety to a much broader audience through the number of projects that they have contributed to, including a website www.ringbuoys.ie which enables the public to report missing ringbuoys nationwide, the design and support of fundraising projects such as Red Whistle Day & Irish Water Safety's Polar Bear mascot, Uisce Bear. Their assistance has brought the message of lifesaving and water safety to a much broader audience and for this we are deeply grateful.

The “Wise Buoys” from Thurles CBS represented by Jamie Stapleton, Paul Hennessy, James O’Sullivan

In this case WISE Stands for “Water Ireland Safety Education” after the group of the group identified that there was a major issue with lifebuoys being vandalised and misused so they focused their efforts on creating a new lifebuoy prototype with security features. The students choose this social issue as it has personally affected them, having lost a friend in a water related accident. When the rope on the team’s lifebuoy is pulled to a certain distance an alarm and a camera with a light in a box at the back of the lifebuoy holder will be activated. This alarm will notify nearby people if someone is in danger in the water to assist with the rescue. This alarm will also send a message to local authorities such as the Gardaí so they can help. If the Buoy is being vandalised the camera will take a picture of the person and the alarm will sound. The electronics in this box will be powered by a solar panel so will be very efficient and reliable. The group from CBS have already won the Young Social Innovators Award and we appreciate their innovation in trying to reduce drownings.

Media Appreciation Awards

Provincial Radio Station Award: 98FM

Presented in appreciation for covering drowning prevention water safety issues throughout the year. 98FM broadcasts to the greater Dublin area. A number of interviews have highlighted water safety issues and for this we are very grateful.

Community Radio Station Award: Radio Na Life

Broadcasting in Dublin since 1993, Raidio na Life was set up to provide a community-oriented Irish language radio service to the Irish-speaking community of Dublin and surrounding areas on a non-profit basis. Community and education are some of the key pillars of Raidió na Life’s broadcasting philosophy. We congratulate them and wish them every success into the future and thank them for their coverage of water safety matters.

Provincial Press Award: The Kerryman

The Kerryman is a weekly local newspaper published in County Kerry and founded in 1904 and in that time the newspaper has served the people of Kerry by factually reporting the daily news. Many of its articles cover 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 Mirror

The Irish Daily Mirror has served Ireland in print form since 1998 when it was established to provide Irish readers with homegrown 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 Mirror 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.

National Radio & TV Award: RTE

The particularly good summer this year attracted hundreds of thousands of people to Ireland's waterways nationwide. Many of those taking to our wonderful aquatic environments had very little experience of the dangers of open water. People's unfamiliarity with the dangers is reflected in the fact that in July alone 413 people were rescued by Irish Water Safety trained and assessed Lifeguards employed by Local Authorities.

We are grateful to RTE for liaising with Irish Water on many fronts to deliver important water safety messages to the public. A key element of this partnership was the efforts of RTE's Morning Ireland team and in this regard we are deeply grateful to them for helping us to raise awareness and to change attitudes and behaviours around water.

Online Media Award: "First Online Radio"

First Online Radio is an on-line radio station broadcasting on the web and around the world 24/7. The station is 100% Irish owned with a variety of presenters contributing to news content for people nationwide and abroad. Journalists like John Prendergast are helping Irish Water Safety to deliver key water safety messages of topical interest to listeners and we are very grateful to him and his colleagues for placing water safety so high on their agenda.

Primary School Appreciation Award:

St Paul's National School, Ratoath, Co Meath

We wish to thank St Paul's National School, Ratoath, Co Meath for delivering Irish Water Safety's Primary School Aquatics Programme, a national water safety programme that is now a voluntary component of the primary school curriculum.

The emphasis that the school places on water safety since the school was established in 2005 is reflected in the fact that in the last year, 328 certifications were presented to pupils. St Paul's organises swimming classes for 1st through to 6th class pupils and the school is now dedicated to complimenting this strong tradition with Irish Water Safety's structured classroom and pool based programme which gives pupils the skills, attitudes and behaviours necessary to stay safe in the vicinity of aquatic environments. It is a tremendous achievement by all involved and we extend our congratulations to all of those pupils who passed their water safety exams and also extend our grateful appreciation to all teachers involved. Congratulations.

Sports Person of the Year Award

Triona McMenamin, Donegal.

Triona has been involved in surf lifesaving in Ireland for 15 years when she competed in the first Junior Surf Lifesaving beach competition in Galway in 1998. Since then she has been involved with Donegal surf lifesaving as a coach, manager and competitor winning numerous National titles including captaining Donegal Ladies to the overall National beach title for 8 years. She is a fantastic competitor as part of the Irish Team winning European Senior medals in the SERC and this year coming home with 8 World Masters Medals from the World Lifesaving Championships in France.

Triona travelled to Australia where she trained and coached with Byron Bay Surf Lifesaving Club and also qualified as a level 1 coach with Surf Lifesaving Australia. When she returned to Ireland she put together a level 1 Surf Lifesaving Coaches Course and manual for Irish Water Safety and has travelled the country delivering the course to over 300 coaches, parents and competitors. This along with Nipper development days has helped enormously with setting up and improving the Nipper Surf Lifesaving set up in Ireland.

As part of the Sports Commission for the past 5 years Triona is continually working behind the scenes promoting the sport through face book and newsletters, organising National competitions, events, trips abroad, attending meetings etc. As a qualified International Beach and Pool referee Triona has also refereed at National competitions when not competing or coaching. When she was in college Triona set up the first Intervarsity Pool and Beach lifesaving competitions which are still continued today.

Triona is also involved in the training, selection and organisation of the Irish Team for international competitions. Throughout the year she has organised and coached Irish Squad Camps for both juniors and seniors and did fantastic organisational work in the lead up to the recent World Championships in France. She has managed the Junior Team for European Competitions for the past few years where they have been v successful and are now a team to watch on the International Stage.

It is a pleasure for the Sports Commission to nominate Triona for this award. She is continually smiling and well known by competitors, coaches and parents alike not only in Ireland but at European and World events where her bubbly personality has meant she has made many friends.

Long Service Awards:

○ Certificate of Service

Mr	Paddy	Drumgoole	Louth
Ms	Noreen	Ormsby	Tipp North
Mr	Stephen	Baker	Banna Rescue
Ms	Vicki	Foley	Banna Rescue
Ms	Blaithin	Murphy	Cavan
Ms	Sinead	Dolan	Cavan
Ms	Margaret	Reilly	Cavan
Ms	Maire	Jones	Dublin
Mr	Paul	Hayes	Dublin
Mr	Eoin	Blacklock	Dublin
Mr	Anthony	Manning	Dublin
Mr	Chris	O Sullivan	Ballybunion
Ms	Grace	Flahive	Ballybunion
Mr	Gearoid	O Connor	Ballybunion
Mr	Brian	Mannion	Ballybunion
Mr	Omar	Fitzell	Ballybunion
Mr	Jonathan	Mahoney	Ballybunion
Ms	Ann	Downes	Clare

10-Year Service

Ms	Ann	Healy	Mayo
Ms	Hilary	Bennet	Cork
Ms	Norianne	Harrington	Cork
Mr	Patrick	Mahon	Kildare
Mr	Tomas	McGuinness	Kildare
Ms	Tara	O Connor	Kerry
Ms	Heather	Coombs	Kerry
Mr	Eddie	Walsh	Clare
Ms	Tara	Spry	Clare
Ms	Grace	O Sullivan	Waterford
Mr	Tom	Fenton	Waterford
Mr	Seamus	Willmott	Waterford
Ms	Mary	Power	Waterford
Mr	Shane	Byrne	Carlow
Ms	Blathnaid	Wall	Carlow
Ms	Noreen	King	Kerry
Mr	Gerry	Brennan	Monaghan

○ Service Medal of Honour (SMH)

Ms	Darina	Byrne	Dublin
Mr	Kevin	McMahon	Ballybunion
Mr	Paul	O Connor	Ballybunion
Mr	Frank	Whelan	Ballybunion
Ms	Geraldine	Murray	Clare
Ms	Kathleen	McNamara	Clare
Ms	Michelle	Healy	Mayo
Ms	Liz	Healy	Mayo
Ms	Noelle	O Leary	Cork
Ms	Josephine	Moloney	Cork
Ms	Trish	O Callaghan	Cork
Ms	Ann	McCarthy	Cork
Mr	Christopher	Reilly	Ballybunion

15-Year Service

Ms	Niamh	Moran	Kildare
Ms	Karen	O Driscoll	Kerry
Ms	Paula	O Shea	Kerry
Ms	Sadhbh	O Neill	Kerry
Ms	Josephine	Cahill	Kerry
Ms	Marjorie	Gallagher	Donegal
Mr	Pat	Fenton	Waterford
Mr	Kevin	Downey	Waterford
Ms	Lisa	Hickey	Carlow
Ms	Michelle	Gaynor	Carlow
Mr	John	McNally Jr	Carlow
Mr	Anthony	Nolan	Carlow
Ms	Deirdre	Wall	Carlow

○ Bronze Bar to the SMH

Ms	Sarah	Kelly	Donegal Bonmahon
Ms	Mary	Wall	CRBI Bonmahon
Ms	Anna	O Shea	CRBI Bonmahon
Mr	PJ	O Shea	CRBI Bonmahon
Mr	John	Doyle	CRBI
Mr	Patrick	Cummins	Tipp South
Mr	PJ	Riordan	Banna Rescue
Mr	Donal	Dowling	Banna Rescue
Mr	Francis	Lawlor	Banna Rescue
Mr	Thomas	Fitzgerald	Banna Rescue
Dr	John	Casey	Banna Rescue
Ms	Kathy	Griffin	Cavan
Mr	John	Reilly	Cavan
Ms	Sinead	Murphy	Dublin
Ms	Anne	Cassidy	Dublin
Ms	Claire	Kelly	Dublin
Ms	Julie-Ann	Somers	Dublin
Mr	Jim	Banks	Dublin
Ms	Bernie	Gaines	Dublin
Mr	John	Egan	Dublin
Mr	James	Enright	Ballybunion
Mr	Michael	Costello	Ballybunion
Mr	Danny	Scanlon	Ballybunion
Mr	Noel	Finucane	Ballybunion
Ms	Zena	Fitzmaurice	Ballybunion
Mr	Thomas	McCarron	Ballybunion

20-Year Service

Mr	Michael	Flahive	Ballybunion
Mr	Frank	O Connor	Ballybunion
Mr	Michael	Ryan	Ballybunion
Mr	Pat	Ryan	Ballybunion
Mr	Liam	Muhvihill	Ballybunion
Mr	John	Walsh	Ballybunion
Ms	Patricia	Butler	Clare
Ms	Elaine	Ensko	Clare
Ms	Tanya	Carroll	Clare
Ms	Geraldine	Cleary	Clare
Ms	Noreen	O Connor	Mayo
Ms	Michelle	Carey	Mayo
Ms	Ann	Carey	Mayo
Ms	Pauline	O Sullivan	Cork
Ms	Ann	O Sullivan	Cork
Ms	Deirdre	Webster	Kildare
Ms	Elizabeth	Tivnan	Kildare
Ms	Maebh	Ni Chionnaith	Kerry
Ms	Marion	O Shea	Kerry
Mr	David	Flynn	Waterford
Mr	Eamonn	Mongey	Waterford
Ms	Elsie	Hickey	Waterford
Mr	Michael	O Sullivan	Waterford
Ms	Corrine	Power	Waterford
Ms	Mary	Barrett	Galway

○ Silver Bar to the SMH

Mr	Paul	Burke	Cork
Ms	Frances	O Regan	Louth
Mr	Mike	McCarthy	Banna Rescue
Mr	James	O Loughlin	Banna Rescue
Mr	William	Mimnagh	Cavan
Mr	Sheila	Brady	Cavan
Mr	Michael	O Connell	Dublin

30-Year Service

Mr	Gary	Smyth	Mayo
Ms	Marie	Farrell	Wicklow
Mr	Philip	McKay	Kildare
Ms	Margaret	McKay	Kildare
Mr	Michael	O'Brien	Kildare
Mr	Seamus	Maher	Carlow
Ms	Mary	Foster	Carlow

Life Governor of IWS

1. Elmar Nolan – Cork

Cork Water Safety Area Committee recommends Elmar Nolan of Union Hall Cork for the award of Life Governor. Elmar Nolan has been the Local Area Contact and Summer Week organiser for the Union Hall region for over 50 years and is an important and influential member of the community. During that time she put up the instructors in her home, fed and transported them before they possessed cars to the swimming locations.

She maintained the IWS instructing location at the pier as it developed from a small stone pier to one of the busiest piers in Ireland. Local people have always understood the benefit of learning swimming and lifesaving skills which she promoted throughout her service.

Elmar has 12 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. She instilled in them a love of the water – one of the 12 (Lauren) was a lifeguard for past 2 summers (her team got IWS County Cork best lifeguard/beach award) and is IWS contact & Chair of the St Patricks College, Drumcondra, Dublin, swimming club. Elmar is now retiring as Local Water Safety Area Committee Contact but, typical of her, she has organised her successor, who just happens to be her daughter-in-law.

2. Dolores O'Sullivan – Waterford

Dolores O'Sullivan is recommended for a Life Governorship on the basis that for 50 years as a volunteer/ helper in Irish Water Safety, she has contributed to the advancement of Water Safety and Rescue in this county/country beyond the call of duty. She first became involved in Water Safety in the mid sixties under (Irish Red Cross) when during the Water Safety Summer Week programmes in Tramore, she became the local Organiser assistant to Mrs Dunlop, and on her demise in 1970, Dolores took over that function, which she continues to date, but in a much more expanding and active way. She has been a great representative for Irish Water Safety, indeed, if one uses the word "Ambassador" for the organisational role she has played here in Waterford, it would be undervaluing her commitment. On many occasions she opened up (with her husband "Johnny") her home to the Ministers of the day (regardless of Politics), also to Presidents and Members of the Boards of ILS/ILSE. and for many other distinguished Dignitaries of World Lifesaving. She and her husband entertained them for hours on end at their own expense on each occasion. She has been most dedicated to the role of Helper/Organiser over many years at Wintertime in Waterford Glass water safety classes. When Inshore Rescue Boat courses were being run in the early 80/90's, many a time and oft were boats stored and logistics taken care of by Dolores. She is known throughout Tramore for her dedicated involvement in IWS and has been active on the local Committee since first involved, and has been Chairperson of the Committee on several occasions. Suffice to say that many of her family have become likewise involved through her encouragement and example. While to this day, having just celebrated her Diamond Wedding Anniversary and in deed moving into her "Younger Years" she never fails, but to oblige if asked to undertake any task on behalf of Irish Water Safety.

3. Sonny Condon – Waterford

Sonny Condon came to Irish Water Safety with an excellent knowledge of both the River & Marine Environment he having been an Employee of the Waterford Harbour Board. In making this recommendation for Life Governorship the Committee have been very cognisant and taken into consideration the dedicated service that Sonny gave to the Royal Life Saving Society Waterford in the 1960's/70, this because the RLSS is a Member of International Life Saving. Sonny transferred to Irish Water Safety in 1970 at the invitation of Sean Hennessy (LG). Sonny immediately became actively involved and taught swimming

both during the Winter and Summer programs for IWS. The National Technical Committee selected Sonny Condon as one of the first candidates to go on a Swimming Teaches Course in 1973 to Courtown Harbour, where the first IWS "Swimming Teaches" course under the auspices of Loughborough ASA(UK) was run. On return off the course and having passed with honours, he imparted his knowledge of teaching swimming at the IWS Winter Classes in Waterford Glass. He also instructed hundreds of potential Swimming Teachers of Irish Water Safety in the skills of Natation. During the years that followed he became an Instructor in Lifesaving and also an Examiner, in roles, which he functions today. He is recognised locally as having an in debt knowledge of Resuscitation and Child Protection procedures within Irish Water Safety. He has served on the local committee for the last 43 years and has been Chairman on several occasions. He is the Senior DLP for many years in Waterford and performs these duties with dedication, courtesy and determination. His commitment over the past 50 years to saving life through the teaching of swimming and lifesaving in Waterford is exceptional and this commitment adds to hours of voluntary time given both winter and summer in the humanitarian cause of saving life in Waterford and nationwide on behalf of IWS

4. Tony Lynch – Clare

Tony Lynch has given over 50 years of service to the promotion of water safety in Ireland and in Co Clare. His involvement began with swimming and life saving as a member of Ennis Swimming and Life Saving club in the early 1950s, when all training took place at open water venues around the town of Ennis, but primarily at the swimming area known as the Turret. Tony and his brothers were the leading lights for swimming in the Ennis area during the 1950s.

Tony started to teach swimming and life saving as a Red Cross Instructor during the mid 1950s and an Examiner in the 1960's. He was on the Ennis Life saving team which won the President's Trophy in 1957, the first Co Clare team to do so. He was also on the panel that won this trophy again in 1958 but due to the rules of the time where counties had to change at least three members of the previous year's team to assist in the development of the sport, therefore he could not be on the first team. He remained an integral part of Life Saving teams thereafter and became one of the leading Co Clare Life Saving coaches and Instructors during the 1960s and early 1970s.

He trained teams until the mid 1970s for County, Regional and National competitions and ensured teams were prepared to attend numerous regattas in the county to put on displays of life saving techniques and disciplines.

He was a Red Cross Examiner since the early 1960s and when the first indoor pool was built and opened in Ennis in 1969, he was once more to the fore in ensuring that Life Saving continued to be taught at the this new indoor venue.

In 1971 he helped lead the change from the Red Cross to the newly established body, the Irish Water Safety Association.

He had a great interest in Lifeguard standards and joined a small National group of Examiners to visit Huntington Beach in California to see how Lifeguards were trained and managed there. This knowledge was used to begin the process of increasing lifeguard standards throughout Ireland. He examined lifeguards for over two decades for Clare County Council, sometimes in open water rather than in the heated pool to ensure they were fit and strong enough.

He has been a true gentlemen of swimming and life saving and has been responsible for the ongoing involvement of many people in the promotion of water safety through his positive supportive nature.

5. Liam Griffin – Clare

Liam Griffin has been WSDO in Clare from 1996 up until his recent retirement. He followed in the large footsteps of the late Noel Carmody, who died before his time and was regarded by his contemporaries as one of the best WSDO's ever. Liam has maintained and then improved standards in the performance of his duties as WSDO and as a member of IWS. Clare is one of the most challenging counties in which to hold this brief, being surrounded by water on three sides. To the West is the Atlantic Ocean, and the renowned West Coast of Clare is famous for its many wonderful swimming and surfing beaches, from Bishop's Quarter in North Clare, to Fanore, Lahinch, Milltown Malbay, Spanish Point and Kilkee in the South. Inland, Clare is bounded by the Shannon and Lough Derg in the East, where thousands of people enjoy these waters each year angling , sailing and cruising . We then have the Fergus and Shannon estuaries to the south which are also busy waterways enjoyed by the public. There are many small lakes in Clare, and several substantial rivers. Every conceivable use is made of those waters, including angling, bathing, surfing, dolphin-watching, sailing, kayaking and commercial fishing, to name but a few. Managing public safety in that context is therefore a significant and onerous responsibility, which Liam has discharged for fourteen years.

Liam is held in the highest regard by his colleague WSDOs in all other local authorities, and his contributions to debates at their conference an meetings have always been renowned for his wisdom gained through experience and his endless common sense, which has carved a sensible drowning prevention strategy carefully executed by Clare Co Co.

Volunteer of The Year Award

Charles Kennedy – Donegal

Charlie has been involved with Irish Water Safety for many years. He is an integral part of Donegal Water Safety Area Committee, is current vice-chairman and past chair. Charlie has many feathers in his cap: Irish Water Safety Examiner, Instructor, Swim Teacher and Teacher Tutor, Pool and Beach Lifeguard Course Provider, Surf Instructor Tutor, PHECC Instructor, Risk Assessor and Water Safety Awareness Tutor.

Charlie often brought his extensive swimming and lifesaving knowledge to his role as coach to the Donegal Surf Lifesaving Team and now works selflessly coordinating Surf Lifesaving competitions. An example of this selfless work was when he recently volunteered to transport all the National team equipment to Montpellier in France for the World Championships. Charlie is also a national still water referee and international open water referee. He is actively involved in planning the new Surf Lifesaving facility in Rosstown.

This year alone, Charlie co-ordinated eighteen summer water safety weeks around Donegal and is joint deck manager for the winter programme in Ballyshannon.

Charlie continues to work tirelessly for Donegal Water Safety. His commitment and dedication as a volunteer is inspiring to those around him and Irish Water Safety are indebted to him for his hard work and competency. We are very honoured today to show our appreciation for all of his endeavours.

International Life Saving Europe Award

Captain Robert McCabe

Captain Robert McCabe first went to sea for Irish Shipping in 1973 and he gained his Class 1 Master Mariner Foreign Going Certificate of Competency in 1986 and has worked for the Commissioner's of Irish Lights (CIL) since then both at sea and ashore. He is currently the Director of Operations and Navigation Services with the CIL and earlier this year he was elected President of the Nautical Institute, the international representative body for maritime professionals with 6,500 members worldwide in 110 countries. His appointment was ratified during their recent AGM, held in Sydney, Australia, on June 17. "Safety and Service" are watchwords for both the Nautical Institute and CIL and throughout his career he has contributed in a significant way to the safety of all mariners both at home and abroad through his commitment and dedication to his work and thereby has contributed to the reduction of drownings worldwide.

Charles Thomson Award

Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown 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 2013 and 31st December 2013.

Rescue Appreciation Award

1. Clanna Gael Fontenoy GAA Club, Sandymount, Dublin

Mr Conor Dodd, Sandymount, Dublin

On the evening of Tuesday 25th February 2014, at Clanna Gael Fontenoy GAA Club in Sandymount, Conor Dodd came to the aid of a man who had suffered a heart attack at the side of the pitch. Upon hearing about the incident he immediately went to the scene and administered CPR. After some time he was assisted by another man while Conor prepared and administered the AED. He administered a further two shocks and then man started breathing. The paramedics arrived and took him to hospital. The man made a full recovery.

SEIKO Just In Time Awards

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

1. Herbert Bridge, Ballsbridge, Dublin

Garda Ciarán Sweeney - Attending

On the 17th August 2013, at Herbert Bridge, Ballsbridge, Garda Ciaran Sweeney responded to a call that a man had entered the water. The river was fast flowing yet without hesitation, Garda Sweeney entered the water and swam to the victim, who was conscious but dazed. Garda Sweeney brought the man to safety, administered first aid and waited with the man until the emergency services arrived.

2. Bunmahon Beach, Waterford

Mr Kieran Laffan (086-121.3435); Ms Annie Laffan; Mr Pat Nolan

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 ringbuoy 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, wrapped both casualties in towels to prevent hypothermia and waited with them until emergency services arrived. Both teenagers made a full recovery.

3. Spencer Harbour, Drumkeerin, Co. Leitrim

Mr James Bould (01-6280515); Mr Raven Genson

Evan Ahearne (18) is the rescued party and will attend

On the 6th of July 2013 at Spencer Harbour, Drumkeerin, Co. Leitrim, a party of thirteen - seven adults, three teenage boys and three 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 bring him back to the safety of the lakeside.

4. Skerries, Co Dublin

Mr Brian MacMahon

On the 16th of June 2014, at Springers 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 250 metres 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.

5. Carnivan Beach, Fethard-on-Sea, Wexford

Mr Bernard Steemers

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.

6. Wexford Harbour

Mr Ian Jackman – 086.8645802 - Attending

On the 3rd of October 2014 at Wexford Harbour, Ian (33), 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 Lifeboat arrived at the scene and pulled him to safety.

7. River Slaney, Enniscorthy, Co Wexford

Mr Damien Dempsey

On the afternoon of Sunday 22nd of June, at the River Slaney, Enniscorthy, 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. As one man managed to swim back to shore, Damien made an approach to the other man, threw the sheet to him and towed him back to safety. Both made a full recovery.

8. River Boyne, Drogheda, Co Louth

Mr Paul Ivan Maguire; Mr Jack Hoey; Mr Dylan Rogers; Mr Justin McKenna

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 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 was treated for mild hypothermia and made a full recovery.

9. River Moy, Ballina, Co Mayo

Mr John Clarke; Mr Michael Mahony

On the 25th January 2014, at The River Moy, Ballina, Michael Mahony was alerted to John Clarke calling 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 and John pulled him to safety.

10. River Moy, Ballina, Co Mayo

Mr Brian McGinty; Mr Allen Scully

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 they quickly threw a ringbuoy to her. Brian then jumped over the railings, reached down and caught her hand. Unfortunately, she slipped from his grip. At this point, Allen had tied a loop on the Ringbuoy rope and let it down to Brian. Although she was then unresponsive, they managed to pull the woman over the railings to safety.

11. Coolmain Beach, West Cork

Mr Barry Murphy

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.

12. Rathmullen Pier, Co. Donegal

Mr Sean Haughey

On the 24th August 2014, at Rathmullen Pier, Co. Donegal, Shaun heard screams from where four people had jumped into the 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.

13. East Pier, Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin

Garda Peter Daly; Garda Darragh Quinn

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 entered 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, 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.

14. Colligan River, Dungarvan, Co Waterford

Garda Dave Hearne

On the 14th of July 2014 Garda Dave Hearne received a call about a man who 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 the person. Upon reaching him, he swam towards the shore and with the assistance of the fire brigade, the man was pulled ashore.

15. Gas Lake, Castleblaney, Co. Monaghan

Ms Linda Brereton

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 swam to the two boys. They held onto Linda and she managed to bring them safely ashore.

16. Tolka River, Clontarf, Dublin

Mr Dean Treacy; Mr Paul Dolan; Mr Michael Treacy

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.

17. The Pier, Castletownbere, Cork

Garda David Fenton; Garda Caroline Guest; Mr Martin O'Donoghue (Rescue Appreciation Award)

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 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, an 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 casualty 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.

18. Usher's Quay on the River Liffey, Dublin

Garda Colin Davidson

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 who 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 held 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 and fortunately made a full recovery.

19. The Slaney River, Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow

Garda John Paul Kennedy

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 of the river bank, wrapping her in his fleece to keep her warm until emergency services arrived. The woman made a full recovery.

20. Neds Point, Buncrana, Co Donegal

Garda Trevor Keating (074-9320002 / 087-617.2000) - Attending; Garda Shaun Sweeney (087-994.8879); Garda Grainne McLoone

On the 18th of September 2014, at Neds Point, Buncrana, Gardai, Trevor Keating, Shaun Sweeney and Grainne McLoone were called to a scene, where a father was concerned about his twelve year old Down' Syndrome son who had swam out too far. They attempted to have the boy swim back 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.

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 140 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

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