**Irish Water Safety’s**

**National Awards Ceremony 2017**

**Hibernia Conference Centre**

**Dublin Castle**

**Wednesday 29th November 2017, 3 - 5pm followed by a reception**

**All awards will be presented by**

**Mr Michael Ring TD, Minister for Rural & Community Development**

###### Running Order

15.00 Welcome by Martin O’Sullivan,

Chairman of Irish Water Safety

Address by Mr Michael Ring TD,

Minister for Rural & Community Development

**Presentation of Awards in the following order:**

* Media Appreciation Awards
* Community & Social Responsibility Awards
* Primary & Secondary School Young Educators Award
* Long Service Awards:
  + Certificate of Service 10 Years
  + Service Medal of Honour (SMH) 15 Years Service
  + Bronze Bar to the SMH 20 Years Service
  + Silver Bar to the SMH 30 Years Service
  + Gold Bar to the SMH 40 Years Service
* Volunteer Of The Year Award
* Life Governor Award
* Sports Persons of the Year Awards
* Charles Thomson Award
* SEIKO Just In Time Awards

16.30 Refreshments.

**A welcome from the Chairman of Irish Water Safety**



Ba mhaith liom i dtosach, fáiltiú roimh gach éinne go dtí an ocáid speisialta seo. Ta áthas an domhain orm bheith anseo aris mar Cathaoirleach ar Sábháilteacht Uisce na hEireann.

As Chairman of Irish Water Safety, I have great pleasure in welcoming you to our 2017 National Awards Ceremony here in Dublin Castle. This has always been a day of celebration in the Irish Water Safety calendar and I am delighted on your behalf to welcome Mr Michael Ring TD, Minister for Rural & Community Development who will kindly present today’s Awards.

Today’s ceremony will include presentations of the SEIKO Just in Time Awards, 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 Community Inshore Rescue Boat stations, 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 prestigious humanitarian awards given annually by Irish Water Safety and sponsored by Seiko for the past sixteen years. Thirty of today’s recipients will receive rescue awards for saving thirty lives from drowning in sixteen dramatic near-drowning incidents.

Our Long Service Awards to 43 volunteers recognise a total of 895 years of teaching swimming, lifesaving, basic life support, rescue skills 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 can never be fully enumerated although one figure that brings home the importance of their work is the number of rescues actioned by Lifeguards each year, a figure that reached a total of 302 this summer. These same Lifeguards, trained and assessed by Irish Water Safety administered first aid on 3,777 occasions and reunited with their loved ones, a total of 298 lost children found wandering alone by the water’s edge.

Every child taught to swim possesses the skill to save his or her own life. Every person that has been given lifesaving training and basic life support has the potential to save others. To all our volunteers I say - Go raibh míle, míle maith agaibh go léir.

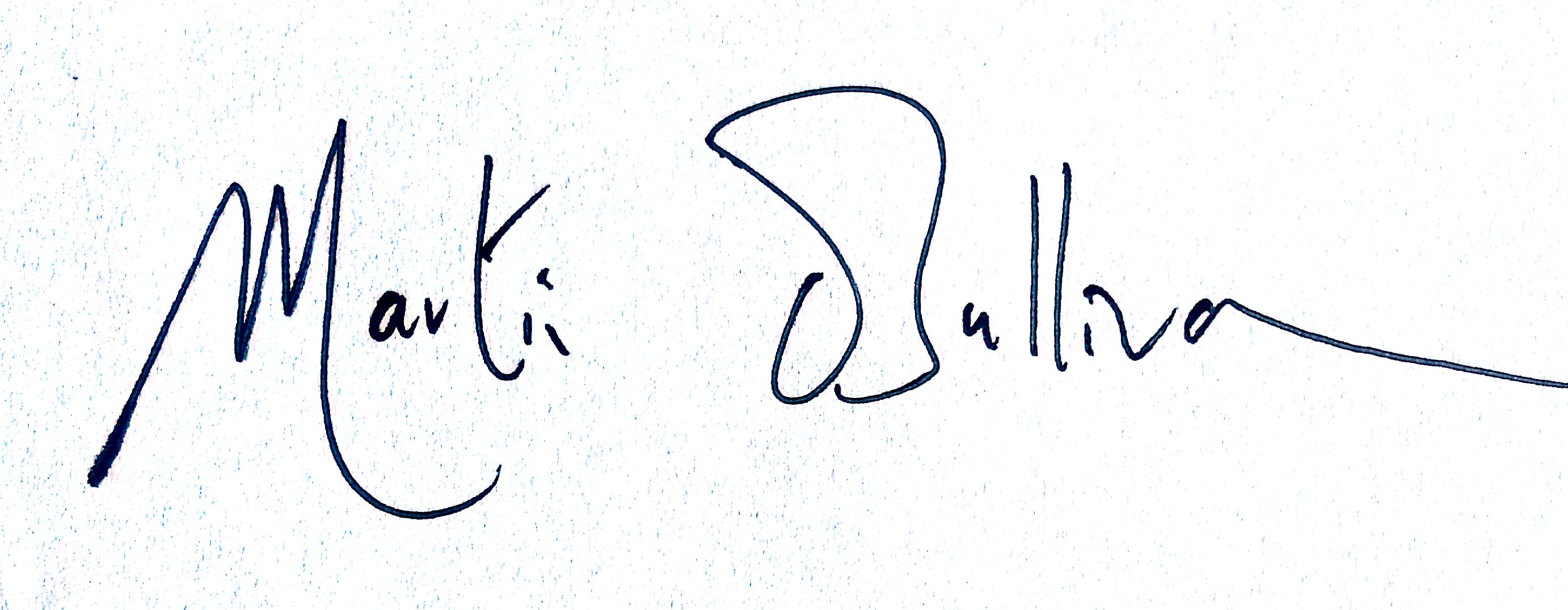
We will present the “Charles Thomson Award” to a Local Authority in recognition of their outstanding contribution towards water safety promotion and awareness. A member of Irish Water Safety will receive the “Volunteer of the Year Award”. Both recipients of these awards have been selected by an independent panel of Judges in each case.

In terms of the Sport of Lifesaving, Irish Water Safety’s National teams continue to perform strongly abroad and every member of each team at national and international level, be they juniors, seniors or masters, play a pivotal role in achieving this success. Today we will pay tribute to two of them, whose outstanding efforts have earned them Sports Person of the Year.

The total number of drownings in Ireland in 2016 was 123, one more than in 2015. The average number of annual drownings over the last ten years was 133. Each figure, be it accidental, suicide or of undetermined cause, reflects a preventable tragedy that affects so many lives. Irish Water Safety continues to target at-risk groups with initiatives to highlight best practices so that drownings are reduced. To this end we will pay tribute today to those journalists and broadcasters who have helped us to raise awareness of these tragic statistics. We are also grateful to today’s sponsors Seiko and to others that we acknowledge today for partnering with Irish Water Safety to deliver key messages to particular at-risk groups.

In the 1980’s we averaged 207 drownings every year. In the 1990’s it was 190 and in the 00’s it was 150. Now we average 133. If you are sitting here today, it is because you have played a role in promoting water safety, in changing the skills, attitudes and behaviours of friends, family, colleagues and the general public that is reflected in this reduction in drownings over the decades. I thank you wholeheartedly and conclude by wishing you every success in your efforts to continue this downward trend.

Yours sincerely



Martin O’Sullivan

Chairman

Irish Water Safety

**PRESS RELEASE**

30 lives saved in dramatic near-drowning rescues

Irish Water Safety to honour remarkable rescuers

National Awards Ceremony  
Hibernia Conference Centre

Dublin Castle

**Wednesday 29th November 2017, 3 - 4pm**

Thirty lives were saved from drowning through the brave actions of thirty rescuers who will receive recognition at Irish Water Safety’s National Annual Awards Ceremony at the Hibernia Conference Centre, Dublin Castle on Wednesday 29th November 2017, 3 - 4pm.

Mr Michael Ring TD, Minister for Rural & Community Development will present the “Seiko Just in Time Rescue Award” to rescuers in appreciation for saving so many lives. Minister Ring, whose Department has responsibility for water safety, said ‘I am delighted to be involved in this year’s Awards Ceremony and it is an honour to pay tribute to the courageous and deserving award recipients. Tragically an average of 133 people drown in Ireland every year and although that’s 133 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 water rescue skills.”

“Complacency around aquatic environments is simply not an option”, remarked Mr Ring, adding that “thirty children aged fourteen and under drowned in ten years, reflecting the importance of constant uninterrupted child supervision. The work of Irish Water Safety’s volunteers in teaching and assessing Lifeguards pays dividends at our waterways every year, reflected in the fact that Lifeguards rescued 302 people from drowning nationwide this summer, administered first aid on 3,777 occasions and reunited 298 lost children found wandering unsupervised near water.”

“I appeal to all adults to make themselves more aware of the dangers in, on and around water”, continued Minister Ring. “It only takes seconds for tragedy to strike and this can so easily be avoided if people learn about the hazards and take responsibility for their own safety. 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 have the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to avoid becoming a drowning statistic. Drownings can happen quickly and silently so it is very important that people take training before pursuing aquatic activities.”

Long-Service Volunteer Awards will also be presented to 43 volunteers, recognising a combined total of 895 years of personal service teaching swimming, water rescue and survival skills in communities nationwide.

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](mailto:dave@oceansport.ie).

Irish Water Safety, The Long Walk, Galway; LoCall 1890-420.202 / [info@iws.ie](mailto:info@iws.ie)

John Leech: 087-6789600 / Roger Sweeney:  087-6789601.

**Media Appreciation Awards:**

Presented in appreciation for covering drowning prevention water safety issues throughout the year.

**Provincial Radio Station Award: Limerick 95FM**

Limerick’s 95FM broadcasts to Limerick city and county. It became Limerick's most listened to radio station with nearly 60% of Limerick people tuning into the station every weekday. Its success continues and thanks to their coverage of water safety issues, Limerick listeners are more aware of the dangers at aquatic environments and for this we are very grateful.

**Community Radio Station Award: Connemara Community Radio**

Connemara Community Radio is a community-based radio station broadcasting throughout the north-west Connemara region of Ireland. It's one of the smallest radio stations operating in Ireland but listernship doubles during the summer period when people take to a range of aquatic activities on Connemara’s many waterways. They have enjoyed strong commitment by 90 volunteers for over 20 years and we wish them every success on this level of voluntary activity into the future.

**National Radio Broadcaster: Newstalk**

We are grateful to Newstalk 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 Broadcaster: TV3**

Every summer, hundreds of thousands of people are attracted to Ireland’s waterways nationwide. Many of those taking to our wonderful aquatic environments have very little experience of the dangers of open water. We are grateful to TV3 for helping us to raise awareness and to change attitudes and behaviours around water.

**Provincial Press Award: The Evening Echo**

The Evening Echo is an Irish newspaper based in Cork and distributed throughout the province of Munster. It has a focus on local news that extends back to 1842 and is affiliated to many sporting and cultural circles in Cork. We congratulate the Evening Echo and thank them sincerely for helping to highlight water safety awareness to its readers.

**National Press Award: The Herald**

The Herald is a nationwide newspaper published in Dublin and has covered many water safety issues in its daily editions, for which we are very grateful.

**Online Media Broadcaster Award: Inshore Ireland**

Inshore Ireland Publishing Limited was founded in 2005 by marine journalist Gillian Mills. They specialise in articles and research that specialises in the maritime and freshwater sectors which is broadcast online and in their quarterly magazine “Inshore Ireland”. They have assisted IWS to deliver messages about water safety best practise to their readers and as such have helped us to reach a community that is particularly at high risk at aquatic environments.

**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.

**Paraic Breathnach**

Irish Actor Paraic Breathnach has helped Irish Water Safety to raise awareness about water safety in Gaeltacht areas by recording a number of TV and radio adverts that give helpful advice on how to stay safe from drowning. Thanks to Paraic, the courses run by Irish Water Safety in Gaeltacht areas are more popular than ever and his public service announcements are a core reason for this. For this reason we are very grateful to Paraic for his continued support over many years.

**Tom MacSweeney (This Island Nation)**

Tom MacSweeney is a marine correspondent, journalist and broadcaster whose radio show “This Island Nation” is a reflective, informative and entertaining programme about maritime matters. Tom has supported Irish Water Safety since his days as an RTE broadcaster and regularly reports on Irish Water Safety initiatives on his current radio show so that people are aware of the water safety best practices that can help them to have an enjoy aquatic activities safely. As this is a community award it reflects the value of the community network around the country in that ten stations broadcast the programme which is also supported by three publications - two newspapers (Marine Times and Evening Echo Cork) and a maritime magazine (Afloat). Tom’s support is a good example of what he has worked to achieve after leaving RTE - encouraging local people in their own communities to broadcast for themselves and in doing so getting the water safety message out to where it can be of greatest benefit - local communities.

**Seán Ó’Dómhnaill, Editor, The Athlone Topic**

As editor of the Athlone Topic, Seán Ó Dómhnaill has given great support to Irish Water Safety’s Westmeath Committee and has featured many stories about local water safety initiatives over many years, for which we are extremely grateful.

**Sean McCaffrey, Northern Sound FM, Co Monaghan**

Seán has been a great friend of the Monaghan Water Safety Area Committee for the last number of years and has helped with the promotion of Water Safety Awareness Week throughout counties Cavan and Monaghan. Sean’s weekday breakfast show ‘The Breakfast Roll’ is very popular and has extremely high listenership figures within both counties (surpassing some of the national stations in the region).  Over the past number of years Seán has thrown open the doors of the Breakfast Roll Studio to allow primary school children from Monaghan share their Water Safety tips of the day for National Water Safety Awareness Week. Seán has given the opportunity to the children to visit the studio, meet with the staff to see how the radio station works while at the same time ensuring that Water Safety is given huge promotion during Water Safety Week each year. Seán has consistently given water safety tips free primetime slots in his morning show. Seán has also organised that Water Safety Committee members can be interviewed for news items at various times throughout the year (Christmas swims, bank holidays, good weather) to ensure that listeners are water safety aware.

**Rian Heaney, student at Galway Technical Institute**

As part of his studies, Rian had a particular interest in helping Irish Water Safety to conduct research that would help to raise awareness about water safety. Rian chose to conduct this research in the farming community and to this end created a questionnaire that he brought to the National ploughing Championships where he spend two days walking around and interviewing farmers about their attitudes to water safety and their behaviours around dangerous aquatic environments on farms. His sixteen pages of research and recommendations will now be used to inform practical marketing interventions to reach this at-risk group and for this we are very grateful.

**Nicholas Bendon, CH Marine**

CH Marine holds a Lifejacket Awareness Week each summer with additional initiatives that make people aware of the importance of children’s lifejackets and of angling safety guidelines. They service hundreds of lifejackets every month and in doing so identified the need to make recreational users more aware of the importance of water safety.

**N.U.I.G. Skills For Work Life team**

Students: Gareth Lynch, Cathal O’Connor, Martin O’Regan, Michael O’Donovan, Sean Flaherty and Sean O’Brien; 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 student’s learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen community links.

In recent weeks students conducted a survey to establish the water safety knowledge of students attending NUIG. Their findings and recommendations will be used to develop marketing programmes that target this at-risk group.

We are delighted to have worked with the students and thank them sincerely for helping us to deliver a message that will hopefully lead to a reduction in aquatic incidents among the student population.

**AgriLand.ie**

AgriLand.ie is an online farming news portal that has featured water safety advice for the farming community so that farmers know how to stay safe at the range of aquatic environment that can be found on farms. Children can be particularly at risk on farms and thanks to support from AgriLand, parents are more aware of how to ensure that children in their care stay safe from tragic drowning accidents.

**Irish Skipper**

The Irish Skipper hosts an international expo every year where hundreds of those involved in the fishing industry gather. By allowing IWS Volunteers to present information to fishers at the Skipper Expo The Irish Skipper is helping to change people’s attitudes to safety and the importance of adhering to best practice in dangerous aquatic environments.

**Primary School of the Year Award:**

**Dunboyne Senior Primary School**

Today we recognise Dunboyne Senior Primary School 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 reflected in the fact that in the last year, 300 course certificates were presented to pupils which gives pupils the skills, attitudes and behaviours necessary to stay safe in the vicinity of aquatic environments. Thirty children aged fourteen and under drowned in ten years nationwide therefore we are very grateful to all teachers and staff involved.

**Secondary School Young Educators Award:**

**Belvedere College**

We wish to thank Belvedere College, for delivering Irish Water Safety’s, Junior Aquatics Water Programme (JAWS), a national water safety programme that is now a voluntary component of the secondary school curriculum. 158 course participants were certified in water safety lifesaving skills and we are hopeful that many more secondary schools around the country will follow Belvedere College’s example so that students leave school with skills that will keep them safe from drowning.

**Sports Persons of the Year Award**

**Lily Barrett**

Member of Irish Water Safety - Clare, a Student in UL and a Clare Co Co Beach Lifeguard, member of the Co Clare ladies team to win both this year’s National Senior Surf Championship and the National Senior Stillwater Championship titles and the overall “Presidents Trophy”.

Member of the Irish team at the European Lifesaving Championships in Belgium at which Lily won the following medals for Ireland:

Gold- Board Race, Silver- ladies Ocean relay, Bronze- ladies Oceanwoman, and Bronze- board rescue.

**Odhran Savage**

Member of irish Water Safety - Waterford, a leaving certificate student and a Waterford Co Co Beach Lifeguard.

Member of Waterford Junior Boys team that won the National Junior Surf Championships.

Member of the Irish team that competed at the European Junior Lifesaving Championships, in Belgium,  where Odhran won the following medals for Ireland:

Gold – surf swim, Silver – board rescue, Bronze – 90m beach sprint.

**Long Service Awards:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Title | First Name | Last Name | County | Years of Service |
| Mr | Willie Joe | Fitzmaurice | Ballybunion CRBI | 10 |
| Ms | Josephine | Gallery | Cavan | 10 |
| Ms | Breege | Scott | Cavan | 10 |
| Mr | David | Gannon | Dublin | 10 |
| Ms | Mairead | Hill | Dublin | 10 |
| Ms | Kathleen | Fitzhenry | Galway | 10 |
| Ms | Carmel | Fleming | Galway | 10 |
| Mr | Bryan | Corcoran | Kildare | 10 |
| Ms | Susan | Corcoran | Kildare | 10 |
| Mr | Patrick | Maye | Kildare | 10 |
| Mr | Kevin | Pyke | Kildare | 10 |
| Ms | Brenda | Wynne | Kildare | 10 |
| Mr | Brendan | Devlin | Louth | 10 |
| Ms | Jennifer | Lennon | Louth | 10 |
| Mr | Morgan | Fagg | Westmeath | 10 |
| Mr | Omar | Fitzell | Ballybunion CRBI | 15 |
| Mr | Diarmuid | Murphy | BANTRY CRBI | 15 |
| Mr | Martin | O Mahony | BANTRY CRBI | 15 |
| Ms | Helen | O Hara | Cavan | 15 |
| Mr | Simon | McGarrigle | Donegal | 15 |
| Ms | Jean | Moran | Kildare | 15 |
| Mr | Joseph | Bergin | Laois | 15 |
| Ms | Ann Marie | Maher | Laois | 15 |
| Ms | Ann | Carroll | Wexford | 15 |
| Ms | Michelle | Gaynor | Carlow | 20 |
| Ms | Alma | Clancy | Dublin | 20 |
| Mr | David | O Brien | Tipp South | 20 |
| Mr | Liam | Mulvihill | Ballybunion CRBI | 30 |
| Mr | Patrick | Ryan | Ballybunion CRBI | 30 |
| Mr | John | Walsh | Ballybunion CRBI | 30 |
| Mr | John | Doyle | Bonmahon CRBI | 30 |
| Ms | Anna | O Shea | Bonmahon CRBI | 30 |
| Mr | PJ | O Shea | Bonmahon CRBI | 30 |
| Ms | Mary | Wall | Bonmahon CRBI | 30 |
| Ms | Alice | Doorly | Dublin | 30 |
| Mr | Des | Leeson | Dublin | 30 |
| Ms | Mary | Foster | Carlow | 40 |
| Ms | Julie | Thornberry | Dublin | 40 |
| Mr | Philip | Keleghan | Kildare | 40 |
| Mr | Dan | O Connell | Kildare | 40 |
| Ms | Anne | Boyle | Louth | 40 |
| Mr | John | Cullen | Roscommon | 40 |
| Mr | Brian | Fagg | Westmeath | 40 |
|  |  |  |  |  |

**Volunteer of The Year Award**

**Mr Philip Keleghan**

IWS Kildare would highly recommend Philip Keleghan for “IWS Volunteer of the Year” award. Philip has over 40 years of voluntary service to IWS. During this time Philip has been an exemplary role model. Philip firstly is an active Water Safety Instructor, instructing classes several times a week from Safety 1 through to the National Pool Lifeguard Award to training the next generation of IWS Water Safety Instructors. He has a great rapour with children, teenagers and their parents that attend Irish Water Safety classes. He is passionate about teaching and passing knowledge on to others. Many thousands have achieved IWS awards with Philips’ teaching, coaching and encouragement. Philip is not only a Water Safety Instructor but is an IWS Examiner , Swimming Tutor , IWS CFR Instructor, , Fundraiser , Organiser, Pool Lifeguard Provider and previously Risk Assessor and Sports Referee.

Philip is an accomplished sports athlete competing in both the pool and on the beach over the past 40 years, and taken home some All Ireland medals in that time, more recent Philip has been inspiring others in Kildare to take up the sport of Surf Lifesaving in Kildare !. He is a founding member of the IWS Kildare Surf Lifesaving and Water Safety training facility at Blessingtion Lakes. At committee level, Philip is currently working to develop an Inland Water Safety and Lifesaving Training Centre at Blessington Lakes. Philip has been a valued member of IWS Kildare area committee for too many years to mention and he is currently the Vice Chairperson and Designated Liaison Person. Previously Philip has held many roles including that of chairperson.

In 2017, Philip was appointed to the Council of Irish Water Safety, where no doubt he will bring his drive and passion for water safety & lifesaving to the table. Philip is a member of the Information and Communication Technology Working Group for 2107 and previously for a number of years was a member of the IWS Swimming commission.

Philip is generous with his time and gives it freely to progress, educate and train the members of the public in knowledge and awareness of dangers of the aquatic environment. Phillip is a strong supporter of the Primary Aquatic Water Safety Programme, and his encouragement and support of local volunteers in Kildare has ensured thousands of local primary school children have received “ Water Safety Awareness” talks in months leading up to the summer holidays, in past number of years.

Philip is loved and respected by the entire volunteer IWS team in Kildare and this is reciprocated nationally for his commitment , knowledge, passion and integrity in his approach to water safety. Philip would be a wonderful “IWS Volunteer of the Year” recipient and has IWS Kildare’s highest recommendation.

**Charles Thomson Award**

**Cork County Council**

This Award is presented by IWS, the Royal Life Saving Society (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 that has done most to promote Water Safety on the island of Ireland between 1st January 2016 and 31st December 2016. Their initiatives during this time included:

* A Beach Lifeguard Facebook Page to educate the public on beach safety, provide beach reports, share water safety alerts e.g. jellyfish landings.
* Safety Days for Schools, with six held during 2016, catering for 200 children.
* A Water Safety Awareness Flag for Primary Schools. To date there are 123 flags at County Cork Schools. This initiative ran alongside the Irish Water Safety primary schools’ programme.
* The establishment of a Junior Water Safety Officer in each school, each of whom followed a handbook developed by the Water Safety Development Officer to ensure that activities around water safety awareness took place in each of the schools throughout the school year in preparation for the summer holiday season when children are most at risk of drowning.
* Water Safety Workshops for schools at County Libraries and Swimming Pools.
* Water Safety Education Talks and delivered at Beachguard Stations during the bathing season. Some 900 people participated in 2016.
* Ringbuoys inspections were conducted and uploaded to Irish Water Safety’s ringbuoy tracking website [www.ringbuoy.ie](http://www.ringbuoy.ie/)
* Irish Water Safety Risk Assessments were conducted at bathing areas, Blue Flag beaches & Green Coast beaches.
* Lifeguarding initiatives included:
* Beach Lifeguard Induction Day; A Senior Beachguard Workshop; Online multiple choice Continuous Professional Development for Lifeguards; an Inter Beach competition and the provision of AEDs and radios for Beachguard Stations.

**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.**

1. **Incident occurred in Kerry – Edward Moore (Kerry) & Cathal Moore (Kery)**

On the 4th of July 2017, at Smerwick harbour, both Cathal & Edward were returning to shore after a day’s fishing when Cathal noticed a kayak with nobody on board. They went to investigate further and spotted a man floating unconscious in the water beside the kayak. They hauled him on board their own boat and immediately began CPR. They alerted emergency services and continued CPR until the ambulance service arrived and took over. The man made a full recovery.

1. **Incident occurred in Clare – Bernard Cahill (Clare) and Roisin Cahill (Clare)**

On the 18th of June 2017, Bernard and Roisin Cahill were driving home from work when they noticed two people swimming towards what they recognised to be a dangerous rip current. They stopped their car and rushed to the beach where they persuaded a member of the public to give them a kayak. Bernard used the kayak to approach one of the people now in difficulty. Roisin encouraged the other swimmer to safety before swimming to assist Bernard to bring the struggling swimmer safely to shore.

1. **Incident occurred in Cork – David Slattery (Cork) and Sean Slattery (Cork)**

On the 18th of June 2017, Sean and David Slattery were having lunch near the Quays in Youghal when they were alerted that a fourteen year old boy was in danger of drowning. Both Sean and David rushed to the scene and entered the water to search for the boy. Visibility was very poor and it took a few minutes to locate him. They managed to find him and bring him up to the surface and out of the water. The boy was unresponsive. They performed CPR successfully and Emergency services took the young boy to hospital where he made a full recovery.

1. **Incident occurred in Cavan – Dean Byrne (Cavan)**

On the 17th of July 2017, at Killykeen Lake, Dean became alerted to a family in difficulty in the water. He immediately entered the water, swam to two children and brought them back safely to shore. He then swam back out to a woman who was now weak and in danger of drowning. He reached her and managed to bring her to the surface. It was only after successfully bringing her back to shore that he realised that there was another child clinging onto its mother. Thanks to the quick thinking of Dean, a major tragedy was averted.

1. **Incident occurred in Kilkenny – Eoin Bolger (Kilkenny)**

On the 16th of November 2016, at the River Barrow, Eoin heard a man shouting and ran to the waterside where he observed a car in the water. Eoin swam out to the car which was in fast flowing water and drifting downstream. Upon reaching the car, Eoin grabbed the driver by the hand. He placed his two feet on the driver’s door and managed to pull the driver out of the car through the open window at which point the car sank. Eoin then helped the person to the safety of a boat. The casualty made a full recovery.

1. **Incident occurred in Limerick City – Des Fitzgerald (Limerick)**

On the 18th of September 2017, Des had just parked his car when he heard screams coming from a park at Arthurs Quay. He immediately ran towards the calls for help and noticed two people in the water. One of the casualties was unresponsive and the other was holding onto a ringbuoy. Des asked people nearby to alert emergency services. He entered the water and brought the first casualty to the riverbank where he instructed people to keep the casualty afloat while they awaited emergency services. In the meantime, Des got back into the water to rescue the second person by supporting her head and keeping her afloat. With the assistance of a rowing boat Des helped the fire bridge unit and rowers to haul the casualty into the boat where Des immediately began CPR. In due course the fire brigade rescue boat arrived at the scene at which point the casualty was transferred over and brought to awaiting paramedics. The woman was taken to hospital where she made a full recovery.

1. **Incident occurred in Kerry – Alan O’Donnell (Limerick)**

On the 24th of July 2017, two young girls were caught in a rip current at Ballybunion beach in Kerry. The father of one of the girls entered the water to try to bring them to safety but he became exhausted and also got into difficulty. Alan O’Donnell, an off-duty Garda, entered the water where he first saved the children’s father before quickly swimming a further fifteen yards to bring the first young girl to safety after which Alan swam back out to save the second girl. All three made a full recovery.

1. **Incident occurred in Westmeath – Gardai Sheila Heaphy, Kathleen Glynn and Robert Ryland (all Mullingar)**

On the night of the 30th of November 2016, Gardai received a call that a man had entered the canal. The three Gardai immediately went to the scene and observed the person face down in the water. The Gardai proceeded to stand at the edge of the canal and form a link so as to reach down to the person and drag him from the water onto the canal bank where they rendered medical assistance until the ambulance arrived.

1. **Incident occurred in Cork – Gardai Brendan Ryan (Cork) & Brian Batt (Cork)**

On the 8th of August 2016, Gardai received a call that a person was in difficulty in the water at New Quay. Gardai Brian Batt and Brendan Ryan rushed to the scene where they observed a person floating face down in the water. Both Gardai entered the river, waded out fifteen feet, pulled the man out of the water and brought him to their Garda patrol car where Garda Batt began chest compressions while Garda Ryan drove towards the hospital. They were met by an ambulance crew en route. The man made a full recovery.

1. **Incident occurred in Wicklow – Gardai Stephen Bolger (Wicklow) & Joseph Waldron (Wicklow)**

On the evening of Sunday the 18th of February 2007, Gardai Stephen Bolger and Joseph Waldron received a call regarding a person in danger of drowning at the beach in Bray, Co. Wicklow. Upon reaching the beach they spotted the person and entered the water where they battled extreme cold and strong undercurrents to pull the person to safety.

1. **Incident occurred in Dublin – Corporal Mark Buckley (Dublin)**

On the 24th of October 2015, Corporal Mark Buckley was walking towards O’Connell Bridge in Dublin when he noticed a man in the water. Mark grabbed a nearby ringbuoy and climbed onto the bridge ledge where he lowered the lifebuoy down to the person in difficulty. Mark instructed the casualty to take hold of the ringbuoy and kept him calm until emergency services arrived to the scene.

1. **Incident occurred in Waterford – Garda Michelle Power (Waterford)**

On the 22nd of July 2017, Garda Michelle Power was driving along by the River Suir when she noticed a man in difficulty in the water. She immediately left her car and ran to the quay side where she grabbed a ringbuoy and used it to successfully bring the man to safety.

1. **Incident occurred in Carlow – Michael Lyons (6), Michael Lyons (uncle) and Michael Lyons (Grandfather)**

On the 22nd of January 2017, a trip to feed the ducks almost ended in tragedy for toddler Max. While feeding ducks Max fell through the railings and into very cold water. His uncle heard the splash and immediately entered the water as the current took young Max away. He grabbed the toddler by the jacket while keeping them both afloat which gave the toddler’s grandfather enough time to pull the young boy to safety. Meanwhile, the rescuers son Michael aged 5 at the time started shouting out for help. A man heard the shouts from his nearby apartment and ran to the scene with warm clothing before bringing everyone to his apartment to await a doctor. Max made a full recovery.

1. **Incident occurred in Carlow – Garry Maddock (Carlow) & Joseph Middleton (Carlow)**

On the 23rd of May 2017, Joseph Middleton heard a boy by the name of Garry Maddock call out to him for help. Joseph observed that Garry was in a dingy and in the process of trying to haul a man out of the water at Carlow town park. Joseph rushed to join Garry in the dinghy and both of them managed to drag the drowning man from the water. They sat the man up and pushed on his chest. The man started gasping and coming around, much to their relief. Emergency services arrived on the scene and the man was taken to hospital where he made a full recovery.

1. **Incident occurred in Donegal – Owen Murphy (Donegal), Fergal Muller (Donegal), Friederike Rost (Donegal) and Sean Young (Donegal)**

On the 15th of July 2017, a group of nine teenagers entered the water to cool down unaware of dangerous rip currents. Within minutes they all got into difficulty. The alarm was raised by members of the public who contacted the coast guard. In the meantime, four local surf instructors who happened to be giving lessons at Tullan Strand quickly intervened. All four paddled to the group in difficulty, and prompted each of the teenagers to grab onto surfboards one by one. They used their knowledge of the currents to assist them to paddle over to a safer area where they could walk ashore. Each instructor returned a number of times until all nine of the teenagers were brought to safety. Thanks to the quick thinking of Owen, Fergal, Friedericke and Sean, a major tragedy was averted.

1. **Incident occurred in Sligo – Adam McGoldrick, Gardai Stephen Fahy & James Conneely**

On the 6th of August 2017, Garda Stephen Fahy received a call that a man had entered the water at the Garavogue River. He went to the river and noticed that a large crowd had gathered on the bridge. Both Garda Fahy and Adam McGoldrick entered the water and swam out approximately 30 meters to the man. Adam brought a ringbuoy with him. Garda James Conneely got into a small boat that was along the riverbank and with one ore made his way up the river towards Garda Fahy and Adam to assist in the rescue. They brought the casualty to shallower water and then up onto a nearby embankment where the man was taken to hospital and treated for hypothermia.

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| IRISH WATER SAFETY  the  statutory voluntary body and registered charity established to promote water safety in Ireland.  Our focus is on Public Awareness and education. Tragically, an average of 133 people drown each year in Ireland, that’s eleven every month. We feel that this is simply unacceptable considering that most fatalities are avoidable. We strive to reduce these fatalities by increasing water safety awareness and by changing attitudes and behaviors 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 nationwide to the general public and also to children as part of the primary school curriculum. Many qualifications such as our Pool and Beach Lifeguarding Awards are recognised internationally. | 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 and we complete Public Rescue Equipment checks.  Our staff support the work of approximately 4,000 volunteer members and we also administer approximately 250 people who are commercially delivering swimming, lifesaving and CPR training.  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 Inshore Rescue Services.  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.  Press releases 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 organisations to help reduce the high number of drownings by suicide annually.  Organise 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.  Maintain a comprehensive websites 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;** [**info@iws.ie**](mailto:info@iws.ie)  [**www.iws.ie**](http://www.iws.ie)**;** [**www.ringbuoys.ie**](http://www.ringbuoys.ie)  [**www.aquaattack.ie**](http://www.aquaattack.ie)**;**[**www.iwsmembership.ie**](http://www.iwsmembership.ie)  [**www.iwsmemberinsurance.com**](http://www.iwsmemberinsurance.com) |