

Left to right: Lifeguards Rachel Connolly, Lucy Cleere, David Farrelly, Sarah Donnelly, Jayke Morris and Conall Boyle pictured as part of Water Safety Ireland's Heed Our Heroes campaign.

**BETTER SAFE
THAN SORRY**



Calendar 2023



A Message from the Chair of Water Safety Ireland

I am delighted to present the 2023 WSI calendar, which is brought to you with the generous support of several sponsors to whom I extend our appreciation. 2022 was a transformative year for Water Safety Ireland and I wish to welcome the new Council appointed by Minister Heather Humphreys TD in March. I would also like to thank all the Committees, Commissions, Working Groups and Water Safety Area Committees for their work, as well as outgoing members of Council and Commissions for their contribution prior to 2022.

As we enter 2023, we look forward to the release of a new Strategic Development Plan that will guide the work of Water Safety Ireland in conjunction with Ireland's National Drowning Prevention Strategy 2018-2027. Our organisation has made many important strides in the last five years and I look forward to the development of new approaches that tackle water safety issues and which promote appropriate skills, attitudes and behaviours.

I would like to wish John Leech, whose term as CEO has ended, every success in his retirement. I want to acknowledge the contribution that John has given over many years of service to Water Safety Ireland both here in Ireland and on the international stage.

Water Safety Ireland volunteers have been busy nationwide teaching swimming, lifesaving, basic

life support, rescue skills and the promotion of water safety awareness to the public. There was a welcome return in 2022 to a full schedule of summer week classes for the first time since 2019 and the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. I commend our Water Safety Area Committees, and our Summer and Winter Course Organisers for their commitment to deliver essential training to the next generation of lifesavers.

The number of lives saved and aquatic accidents avoided as a result of the work carried out by all of our active volunteers can never be fully enumerated, although one figure that brings home the importance of this work is the number of rescues performed by Lifeguards each year, a figure which reached 578 this summer. These same Lifeguards, trained and assessed by Water Safety Ireland, administered first aid on over 6,000 occasions and reunited with their loved ones, 587 children found wandering alone by the water's edge.

After the historic UN resolution on Drowning Prevention in 2021, this year saw the second ever World Drowning Prevention Day take place on the 25th of July, incorporating the theme 'Do One Thing' to prevent drowning. Water Safety Ireland volunteers once again went above and beyond to mark the day, with Lifeguards, parents, children and a variety of prominent buildings going blue in some way. Ireland has been at the forefront of this global initiative and we appreciate the significant efforts made by all.

We ran a full programme of sport competitions this year, culminating in the presentation of

the Presidents Trophy to Wicklow. National Junior & Senior Teams competed in the World Championships in Italy in September. As well as breaking many Irish records in the pool events, the Irish Junior & Senior Men's Board Rescue teams both came 5th in the world and our Junior Ladies Board Rescue team came 2nd in the World, bringing home silver medals. A fantastic achievement by competitors and coaches alike.

We completed a full review of WSI's Swimming syllabus, revamping the awards of Seal, Marlin and Orca awards, for re-introduction in early 2023. We also created a CPD module for open water swimming safety, which is very relevant given the increase in the number of people partaking in open water swimming since the Covid-19 pandemic.

There was a focus this year on the launch of the new WISE Programme for secondary schools, the continued roll out of the PAWS curriculum for primary schools and an expansion of the Hold Hands programme for pre-school children. These three programmes ensure that water safety reaches all school going ages and is part of our effort to change people's skills, attitudes and behaviours around water.

Water Safety Ireland had a strong presence across the media in 2022, with high profile campaigns taking place as part of the 'Better Safe Than Sorry' message. We coordinated efforts to deliver practical water safety advice to the public via traditional and digital channels, reaching the most at-risk groups nationwide.

At this time of year in particular, our thoughts are with the families of those members who have

passed away. I am also conscious of the number of members who have lost family members themselves. We extend our deepest sympathies to all families who are feeling their loss. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha.

Thank you to all the staff at Water Safety Ireland head office and in particular I offer a warm welcome to our new CEO Joanne Walsh, and new staff member Paul McGowan.

As we conclude 2022, I wish you and your loved one's health, happiness and prosperity for the festive season and beyond. I hope you enjoy the fellowship of friends new and old and cherish the company of family, in this season of good will.

Clare McGrath

Chair
Clare McGrath



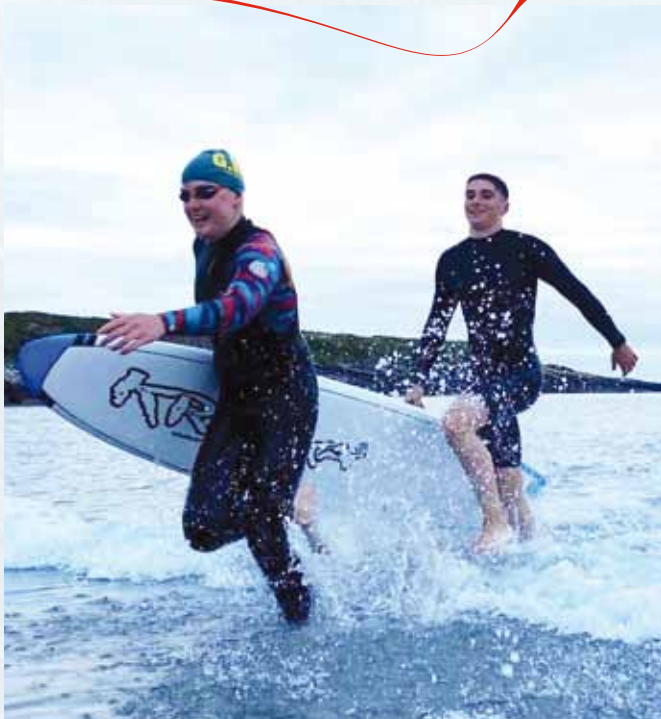
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January 2023



Conor Hogan and Hugh Cronin practicing the board rescue during a surf lifesaving training session with Water Safety Ireland - Clare in Whitestrand, Miltown Malbay.

Photo: Ciara Gleeson

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
New Years Day 1	Public Holiday 2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	The Holiday World Show, Dublin Starts 27	28
The Holiday World Show, Dublin Ends 29	30	Deadline for WSACs to submit year-end financial reports 31				



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February 2023



Daniel O'Donnell makes a guest appearance following a Water Safety demonstration for Float for Hope 2022 at Burtonport, Donegal.

Pictured left to right: Triona McMenamin, Noah McBride, Ciara Gleeson, Daniel O'Donnell, Leah Bonner, Lucy Boyle, Henry O'Donnell (WSI Ambassador) and Seamus O'Neill.

Photo: Donna Bonner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Council Meeting 1	2	3	4
5	Public Holiday 6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	Valentine's Day 14	15	16	17	Masters, Juniors & Seniors National Pool Championships, UL Sport Arena, Limerick Starts 18
Masters, Juniors & Seniors National Pool Championships, UL Sport Arena, Limerick Ends 19	20	21	22	23	Irish Skipper Expo 2023 Starts 24	Irish Skipper Expo 2023 Ends 25
26	27	28				



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March 2023



All set, ready to go at the finals of the National Nipper Stillwater Championships at the UL Sports Arena, Co. Limerick.

Photo: John O'Grady

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 National Water Safety Conference, Portlaoise
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Munster Nipper Regional Stillwater Championships, University of Limerick	13	14	15	16	17 St Patricks Day	18
19	20 Local Authorities Beach Lifeguard Exams Commence	21 Shrove/Pancake Tuesday	22 Ash Wednesday World Water Day	23	24	25 Leinster Regional Nipper Stillwater Championships
26	27	28	29	30	31	



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April 2023



Smiles all round at the Nipper Surf Rescue Championships.

Pictured left to right: Alannah McCullough, Clodagh Quinlan, Orla Blake and Amy O'Toole.

Photo: Bernie McKee

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
Connaught/ Ulster Regional Nippers Stillwater Championships, Ballyshannon, Donegal 2	3	4	Council Meeting 5	6	Good Friday 7	8
Easter Sunday 9	Easter Monday Public Holiday 10	11	12	13	14	15
Nipper National Stillwater Championships - University of Limerick 16	17	18	19	Water Safety Development Officer's Conference Starts 20	Water Safety Development Officer's Conference Ends 21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	Irish Spring Angling Fair 2023 Starts 29
Irish Spring Angling Fair 2023 Ends 30						



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May 2023



Instructors Ben and Joe Morales watch on as participants take part in the 2022 Summer Weeks Classes in Garrylucas, Co Cork.

Photo: Conall Boyle

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	May Bank Holiday					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	European Maritime Day 20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



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June 2023



Young participants alongside Instructor Danu Feachem at the Summer Weeks classes in Chuil Aodha, Co. Cork. All activities were delivered through the Irish language.

Photo: Larry Cummins

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				Deadline for WSACs to request grant 1	Cork Harbour Festival Starts 2	3
4	Public Holiday 5	6	7	8	9	10
Cork Harbour Festival Ends 11	National Water Safety Awareness Week Starts 12	13	Council Meeting 14	15	16	17
National Water Safety Awareness Week Ends 18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	Nationwide Summer Classes Commence 26	27	28	29	30	



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July 2023



A combined effort at Graiguenamanagh summer swim week in Co. Kilkenny for World Drowning Prevention Day.

Photo: Claire Dunphy

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	World Drowning Prevention Day	26	27	28	29
30	31					



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August 2023



Water Safety Ireland - Sligo and Sligo Surf Lifesaving members, Lisa Dunne and Sandra Draper giving a water safety talk at Carbury National School, Sligo.

Photo: Lisa Dunphy

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	Council Meeting 2	3	4	5
6	Public Holiday 7	8	9	10	11	Nipper Regional Open Water Championships 12
Junior Regional Open Water Championships 13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Youths European Championships Starts 20	21	22	23	24	25	Youths European Championships Ends 26
27	28	29	30	31		



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September 2023



Representing their country - Members of Team Ireland at the opening ceremony of the World Surf Lifesaving Championships in Riccione, Italy.

Photo: Simon McGarrigle

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	Nipper National Open Water Championships 2
Junior National Open Water Championships 3	4	5	6	7	8	Senior & Masters National Open Water Championships 9
World Suicide Prevention Day 10	11	12	13	14	15 Senior European Championships Starts	16 Interclubs European Championships Starts
17	Masters European Championships Starts 18	National Ploughing Championships, Laois Starts 19	20	Senior European Championships Ends National Ploughing Championships, Laois Ends 21	22	23 Interclubs European Championships Ends Masters European Championships Ends
24	25	26	27	28	29	30



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October 2023



Future lifeguards in training - water safety classes in Mount Wolseley Hotel, Tullow, Co. Carlow.

Photo: Seamus Maher

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Council Meeting			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	Public Holiday					
29	30	31				



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November 2023



Peadar Ó Lamhna, (Chairperson, Water Safety Ireland – Monaghan) joins Meadhbh Corcoran, Edel McCarthy and Adam Nugent (Water Safety Ireland – Dublin) taking part in National Services Day commemorations. Events throughout Ireland recognised the efforts of Ireland's frontline services, including lifeguards trained and assessed by Water Safety Ireland.

Photo: Bernie Gaines

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	National Awards Ceremony, Dublin Castle	15	16	17	18
19	World Children's Day	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



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December 2023



Stephen O'Toole, Aoibheann Ní Fhaoláin and Karl Rafferty from Water Safety Ireland - Laois pictured in attendance at the National Ploughing Championship 2022 in Ratheniska, Co. Laois.

Photo: Ann Marie Maher

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	World Volunteer Day 5	Council Meeting 6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	International Migrant's Day 18	19	20	21	22	23
Christmas Eve 24	Christmas Day 25	St. Stephen's Day 26	27	28	29	30
New Years Eve 31						



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Water Safety Ireland

**BETTER SAFE
THAN SORRY**



...the statutory, voluntary body and registered charity established to promote water safety and reduce drownings in Ireland.

Our focus is on Public Awareness and Education. Tragically, an average of 110 people drown in Ireland each year, almost ten every month. We strive to reduce these fatalities by increasing water safety awareness and by changing attitudes and behaviours so that our aquatic environments can be enjoyed with confidence and safety.

WHAT WE DO:

1. Education:

- a) An education syllabus that teaches swimming, lifesaving, water confidence, safety, survival, rescue skills and basic life support;
- b) Courses are provided nationwide to the general public and also to children as part of the primary school curriculum in classrooms, pools and open water nationwide;

- c) Many qualifications such as our Pool and Beach Lifeguarding Awards are recognised internationally;
- d) Beach Lifeguards are trained and tested by our examiners for the Local Authorities prior to the annual summer season each year;
- e) Trained Lifesavers compete in provincial and national Lifesaving Championships and at International level;
- f) Risk Assessments on bathing areas and waterways nationwide that may pose a particular risk to the public, in order to make them safer;
- g) Train and examine rescue boat crews for the Community Inshore Rescue Services and administer associated VAT refunds.
- h) Water safety training for those working near aquatic environments in the public and private sector.

2. Promotion:

- a) Research, analysis and publication of drowning statistics that inform policy and enable effective targeting of those at risk of drowning;

- b) National and local media to build a public awareness of coastal and inland water safety;
- c) Publications, courses, advice and campaigns in print and online that promote water safety and target at-risk groups in all aquatic activities so that the public adheres to best practices;
- d) Supporting the work of over 5,000 volunteer members and those volunteering and commercially delivering swimming, lifesaving and basic life support training;
- e) A National Water Safety Awards Ceremony that includes the "Seiko Just-In-Time" Rescue Award and other awards that recognise volunteerism and partnerships that promote water safety at national and local level.

3. Partnerships:

- a) Local Authorities, state agencies, private enterprises and coroners on matters relating to water safety, the provision of Public Rescue Equipment and Lifeguarding locations nationwide;
- b) The Marine Safety Working Group and the Irish Marine Search and Rescue Committee to promote maritime safety;

- c) A range of organisations to help reduce the high number of drownings by suicide;
- d) Conferences, lectures and demonstrations to Local Authorities, Government Agencies, NGO's, schools, Colleges and members of the public.



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