

A Helping Hand - Junior competitor Lily O'Grady from Sligo Surf Lifesaving Club
alongside Ruairi Brett at the 2023 Surf Lifesaving Nationals, Mullaghmore, Co. Sligo.
Photo: Liz Kelly

**BETTER SAFE
THAN SORRY**



Calendar 2024



A Message from the Chair of Water Safety Ireland

I am delighted to present the 2024 WSI calendar, which is brought to you with the generous support of several sponsors to whom I extend our appreciation. I would also like to thank all the Committees, Commissions, Working Groups and Water Safety Area Committees for their work throughout 2023.

As we enter 2024, we continue our work implementing our Strategic Development Plan that guides 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.

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. During 2023 WSI issued certificates to 58344 young people.

718 candidates received certification as beach and pool lifeguards. Local Authority lifeguards rescued 191 people from drowning at lifeguarded locations, administered 3886 first aids and reunited 141 lost children with their guardians. 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.

After the historic UN resolution on Drowning Prevention in 2021, this year saw the third ever World Drowning Prevention Day take place on the 25th of July, incorporating the theme 'Do One Thing, Improve One Thing, Add 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.

2023 was another strong year for Water Safety Ireland Lifesaving Sport at national and international level. Wicklow Ladies were presented with the President's Trophy and Team Ireland won an impressive 27

medals at the European Junior and Senior Championships. A superb achievement by competitors and coaches alike.

Water Safety Ireland had a strong presence across the media in 2023, 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.

Tragically 85 people died from drowning in 2022 and I wish to convey our sympathies to all those families. You will shortly be receiving an electronic copy of the WSI Drowning Report 2018-2022. By identifying the key risks and targeting interventions appropriately, Water Safety Ireland hopes to achieve further reductions in drownings and improve emergency response and prevention activity.

Thank you to all the staff at Water Safety Ireland head office who work tirelessly behind the scenes to guide our projects forward.

As we conclude 2023, 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.

Chair
Clare McGrath



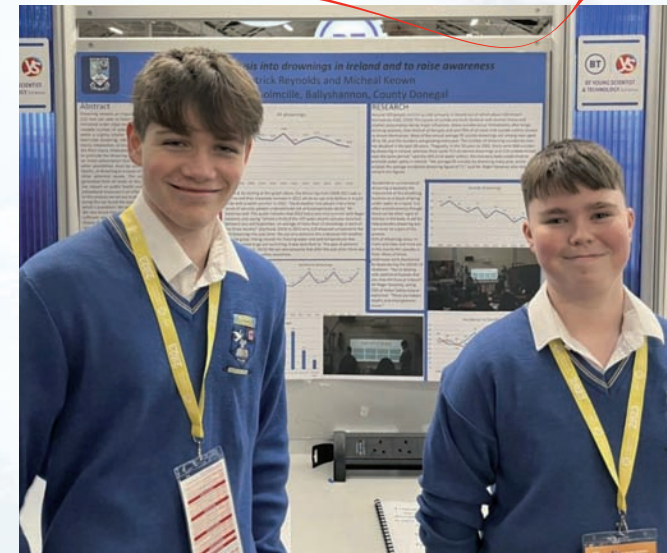
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January 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
New Years Day						
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	The Holiday World Show, Dublin Starts	27	The Holiday World Show, Dublin Ends
29	Deadline for WSACs to submit year-end financial reports 30	31				



Young Scientists - TY students Mícheál Keown and Patrick Reynolds from Coláiste Cholmcille, Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal, stand in front of their BT Young Scientist project on the "statistical analysis into age and gender of drownings in Ireland and to raise awareness of water safety".

Photo: Denise Keown

NOTES:

Event dates are subject to change.

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February 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1	2	3	4
St Brigid's Day (Bank Holiday)			8	9	10	11
12	Shrove/Pancake Tuesday	Valentine's Day Ash Wednesday Council Meeting	15	16	Seniors, Youths & Masters National Stillwater Championships, University of Limerick Starts	Senior & Junior SERC National Competition 18th February - UL National Stillwater Championship ends.
19	20	21	22	Irish Skipper Expo 2024 Starts	Irish Skipper Expo 2024 Ends	25
26	27	28	29			



Wicklow Surf Lifesaving pictured with five Team Ireland members who represented Ireland at the European Junior Championships in Poland.

Photo: Elaine Noble

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March 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Saint Patrick's Day
18	19 Local Authorities Beach Lifeguard Exams Commence	20	21	22 World Water Day	23	24 Nipper Regional Stillwater Championship - Connaught/Ulster - Sligo, 24th March; Munster - University of Limerick.
25	26	27	28	29 Good Friday	30	31 Easter Sunday



Water Safety Development Officer, Caroline Casey, Cork County Council, demonstrates to Tánaiste Michael Martin using a VR headset how to identify a rip current and what it feels like to be in one at Cork Summer Show 2023.

Photo: Water Safety Ireland – Cork

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April 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Easter Monday 1	2	3	4	5	Nipper National Stillwater Championships - University of Limerick 6	7
8	9	Council Meeting 10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	Water Safety Development Officer's Conference, Salthill Hotel, Galway Starts 18	Water Safety Development Officer's Conference, Salthill Hotel, Galway Ends 19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					



Rian Brett from Strandhill National School, Sligo pictured after giving a water safety presentation to his fellow classmates on the importance of water safety at the beach.

Photo: Orla Walsh

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May 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1	2	3	Irish Spring Angling Fair Starts	Irish Spring Angling Fair Ends
May Bank Holiday 6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	European Maritime Day Conference, Svendborg, Denmark Starts 30	European Maritime Day Conference, Svendborg, Denmark Ends 31		



Arm In Arm - The team in Ballina Outdoor Swimming Pool, Co. Tipperary pictured together during summer 2023.

(Left to right) Paul Dunne, Colm McAteer, Michelle Barry, Paddy Collins, Chloe Barry, Luke Purcell, Caoimhe Taplin, Corla Taplin

Photo: Paddy Collins

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June 2024

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



Waterford Surf Lifesaving Juniors pictured at the Regional Openwater Competition in Kilkee, Co. Clare.
(Left to right) Edie O'Flaherty, Rachel Weldon, Andrea Dooley.
Photo: Sinead Weldon

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July 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1	2	3	4	5 Youths European Championships, Germany Ends	6 Cork Harbour Festival Starts	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 World Drowning Prevention Day	26	27	28
29	30	31				



Starting Young – Interested spectators watch as athletes take to the water at the National Surf Lifesaving Championships in Youghal, Co. Cork.

Photo: Imealda Deasy

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August 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1	2	3	4
August Bank Holiday 5	6	7	8	9	Youth and Nipper Regional Openwater Championships - Connaught/Ulster: Sligo - Munster: Cork 10	Youth Regional Openwater Championships - Connaught/Ulster - Sligo : Munster - Cork 11
12	13	Council Meeting 14	15	16	Youth National Openwater Championships - Kilkee Starts 17	Youth National Openwater Championships - Kilkee Ends 18
19	20	21	22	23	Master's and Nippers National Openwater Championships - Ardmore, Co. Waterford 24	25
26	27	World Championships Australia Starts 28	29	30	31	



Clare Nipper Coach Aidan Considine and Team Ireland member Oisín O'Grady talking to the Clare Nippers in advance of the National Championships in Mullaghmore, Co. Sligo.

Photo: Olga O'Grady

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September 2024

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



Volunteers from Water Safety Ireland – Dublin taking part in activities to mark National Services Day 2023. Events throughout Ireland recognised the efforts of Ireland's frontline services including lifeguards trained and assessed by Water Safety Ireland

First row: (Left to right) Brian, James and Meadhbh
Second row: (Left to right) Rebecca, Edel and Grace
Third row: (Left to right) Sam, John and David
Back row: (Left to right) Caoimhe, Conor and Daithi

Photo: Water Safety Ireland – Dublin

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October 2024

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



Volunteers from Water Safety Ireland – Laois providing demonstrations at the National Ploughing Championships 2023 in Ratheniska, Co. Laois.

Photo: Ann Marie Maher

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November 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				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	29	30	



Cork Surf Lifesaving Athletes, Niamh Morrison and Anne Kingston being awarded Gold medals at the European Surf Lifesaving Championships which were held in Belgium.

Photo: Anne Beechinor

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December 2024

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



Game Faces, Happy Places – European Board Rescue Champions celebrate their victory at the European Junior Championships in Poland.

Back row: Ferdia Hayes (Left), Oisín O'Grady (Right).
Front row: Leana Liddane (Left), Amy Noble (Right).

Photo: Ruth Goodall

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Water Safety Ireland

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...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 105 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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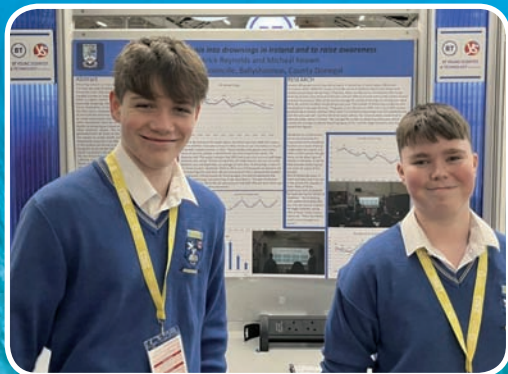
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