

Press Release

38 Lives at Risk of Drowning Saved Water Safety Ireland Honours Heroic Actions

National Awards Ceremony 2026

The Round Room, Mansion House, Dublin

Tuesday, 13th October 2026, 3pm

Release Date: Thursday 8th October 2026

Thirty-eight lives at risk of drowning were saved thanks to the swift and selfless actions of fifty-six rescuers who will be recognised at Water Safety Ireland's National Awards Ceremony, taking place at The Round Room, Mansion House, Dublin, on Tuesday 13th October 2026 at 3pm.

Jerry Buttimer, Minister of State at the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, will present the Rescue Awards to those whose courage and quick thinking prevented water tragedies in Ireland and abroad.

"It is a privilege to honour these extraordinary individuals who responded swiftly and acted selflessly and courageously in moments of crisis," said Minister Buttimer. "Their quick responses to people in difficulty are a powerful reminder of the importance of water safety awareness whenever we are near our canals, rivers, lakes and coastline."

The ceremony will also recognise members of our national emergency services including the Fire Service, Gardaí, Ambulance personnel and others who demonstrated exceptional courage and decisive action in rescuing individuals facing immediate danger in water.

"These awards shine a light on ordinary people who made extraordinary decisions when faced with an emergency," said Water Safety Ireland CEO Joanne Walsh, "Their courage and quick thinking saved lives and serve as an inspiration to us all."

"Every rescue recognised today is also a reminder of how quickly a situation can become an emergency around water," she added. "We encourage everyone to learn the risks, develop their water safety skills and look out for those around them. A simple water safety conversation with family, friends and colleagues can help prevent a tragedy."

The event will also celebrate 88 Water Safety Ireland volunteers, who will receive Long-Service Awards for their dedication to teaching swimming, water rescue and survival skills and promoting water safety in communities across the country. Collectively, they represent 2,260 years of voluntary service to water safety in communities across Ireland.

Details below of all award recipients.

Ends

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Seiko 'Just In Time' Rescue Awards & Rescue Appreciation Awards 2026

Kindly sponsored by SEIKO, these awards recognise courageous rescue interventions to assist persons in immediate danger in the water. Congratulations to all 56 rescuers for helping to save 38 lives in the following 29 incidents.

1. Evan and Troy Hewitt Just in Time Awards x 2

Location: Co. Sligo - Open Water Sea Rescue

At Rosses Point, Co. Sligo, on 10 July 2026, brothers Evan and Troy Hewitt saw a young boy get into difficulty in the water. Evan entered the water and kept the boy's head above the surface after he had submerged, before Troy joined him. Working together, the brothers brought the boy safely to shore. Their bravery and teamwork undoubtedly helped save his life.

2. Ciara Moore and Michael Moore Just in Time Awards x 2

Location: Co. Kerry - Open Water Sea Rescue

On 18 July 2026 at Finan's Bay, Co. Kerry, 15-year-old Ciara Moore and her father Michael responded to a swimmer caught in a rip current. Both entered the water with ring buoys and worked together to reach the casualty. Ciara used her recent rescue training to safely navigate the rip and bring the swimmer ashore. Their calm and effective response ensured the swimmer reached safety without medical treatment.

3. Ciaran O'Gara, Ruth O'Gara and Anna O'Gara Just in Time Awards x 3

Location: Co. Wexford - Open Water Sea Rescue

At Curracloe Beach on 28 December 2025, Ciaran O'Gara and his daughters Ruth and Anna responded when four swimmers were swept into deeper water by a rogue wave. The family entered the water repeatedly, each taking turns to reach and tow swimmers to safety. Their calm coordination, lifesaving experience and teamwork ensured all four swimmers were brought safely ashore.

4. Aisling Broaders and Eoghan Broaders — Just in Time Awards x 2

Location: Co. Wexford - Open Water Sea Rescue

At Rosslare Beach on 12 July 2026, Aisling and Eoghan Broaders responded to a father and son in serious difficulty in powerful waves and currents. Eoghan reached the boy and then his father, helping him secure a life buoy and guiding those in difficulty towards safety. Aisling assisted the mother and later helped her own father after he was knocked down by the waves. Both Aisling and Eoghan sustained significant injuries during the rescue but continued helping until emergency services arrived. Their courage and selflessness helped ensure there were no fatalities. All made a full recovery.

Location: Co. Galway – Open Water Sea Rescue

On 25 May 2026 at Ladies Beach, Salthill, Rachel McGoldrick's friend suffered a seizure while chest-deep in the water. Rachel immediately recognised what was happening, kept her friend's face above the water and dragged her safely ashore. She continued to care for her friend, placed her in the recovery position and called an ambulance. Rachel's preparation, quick thinking and courage ensured her friend was kept safe at a critical moment and undoubtedly helped prevent a potentially life-threatening situation from becoming a tragedy.

6. Seamus O'Neill **Just in Time Award**

Location: Spain – Open Water Sea Rescue

On 20 September 2024, while walking along the promenade at La Zenia Beach in Spain, Seamus O'Neill heard two women calling for help after being caught in a rip current. He entered the water, assessed the situation and guided the stronger swimmer towards shore while assisting the exhausted swimmer himself. Seamus persisted until both women were safely brought out of the water.

7. Jude Kilmartin and Eoin Dooley

Just in Time Awards x 2

Location: Co. Westmeath - Open Water Sea Rescue

Eoin Dooley

At Coosan Point, Athlone, on 12 July 2025, Eoin Dooley saw a young girl fall from an inflatable and struggle in the water. Having recently completed Water Safety Ireland Rescue 3 training, Eoin immediately entered the water and kept her head above the surface. Jude Kilmartin also entered the water and helped bring her safely ashore, where she received further care. The girl made a full recovery.

8. Dzintra McConnon, Oran McConnon, Johnny McConnell and Niall Mohan

Just in Time Awards x 4

Location: Co. Monaghan – Lake Rescue

At Emy Lough, Co. Monaghan, on 25 May 2026, four members of the public responded when a boy disappeared underwater. After an extensive search, Oran McConnon located the boy and brought him to the surface. Johnny McConnell immediately began CPR while still in the water, and the group worked together to bring the boy ashore and continue resuscitation until emergency services arrived. The boy was taken to hospital and made a full recovery.

9. Uainionn McManus Just in Time Award

Location: Co.Cavan - Lake Rescue

During a water-safety training session at Brackley Lake, Co. Cavan, on 17 July 2026, Uainíonn McManus noticed a young boy in difficulty on a paddleboard. When attempts to communicate with the boy were unsuccessful, Uainíonn volunteered to enter the water. He swam out, reassured and supported the boy, and guided the paddleboard safely back to shore.

10. Cian Sheridan Just in Time Award

Location: Co.Cavan - Lake Rescue

On 30 May 2026 at Garty Lough, Co. Cavan, Cian Sheridan responded immediately when he saw a teenager struggling in the water. Without hesitation, Cian entered the lake, reached the boy and supported him back to the jetty, where others helped bring him to safety. His quick thinking and courage prevented a tragedy.

11. Matthew Corr and Caitlin McFadden	Just in Time Awards x 2
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Location: Co.Donegal - Lake Rescue

At Lough Na Tooley, Co. Donegal, on 6th September 2025, Matthew Corr and 17 year old Caitlin McFadden responded when a teenager and his uncle fell from a rowing boat. Caitlin swam more than 100 metres to reach them while Matthew also entered the water and brought the rowing boat back towards the casualties. Together, they managed to get both men onto the boat and returned them to safely to shore. They both made a full recovery.

12. Simon Tyner Just in Time Award

Location: Co.Wicklow - River Rescue

On 27 May 2025 in Arklow, Simon Tyner witnessed a woman enter the fast-flowing River Avoca. He immediately entered the water and remained with her for approximately 20 minutes despite the difficult conditions. Simon stayed with her until the RNLI arrived and brought them both safely from the water.

13. Peter Fitzsimons Just in Time Award

Location: Co.Sligo - River Rescue

While fishing on the River Moy on 12 August 2002, Peter Fitzsimons witnessed a jeep plunge into the river with a father and young son inside. Despite being injured himself, 73 year old Peter entered the water, rescued the father and then returned with him to free the young boy from the sinking vehicle. His extraordinary courage and determination saved both lives.

14. James Duignan **Just in Time Award**

Location: Co. Meath – River Rescue

On 7 June 2026 at the River Boyne in Trim, James Duignan saw a woman in difficulty in the river. He immediately entered the water, reached her and began bringing her towards shore. Realising they were caught in the current, James continued the rescue with assistance from another member of the public and successfully brought the woman to safety, where emergency services took over. She made a full recovery.

15. Toddy Nolan — Just in Time Award

Location: Co.Kilkenny - River Rescue

Toddy Nolan demonstrated extraordinary bravery on two separate occasions on the River Nore in Kilkenny. As a 13-year-old, he entered the river to rescue a younger boy who had been swept into the current. A few years later, he again entered the river to rescue a friend whose clothing had become trapped underwater. On both occasions, Toddy's courage and determination saved two lives.

16. MJ Muldowney Rescue Appreciation

Emmanuel Begadon Collins Just in Time

Location: Co.Laois - River Rescue

At Begadon's Dam, Co. Laois, on 24 April 2026, MJ Muldowney and Emmanuel Begadon Collins noticed a friend lying face down in the water after they had left the river. Emmanuel immediately re-entered the water and brought him to safety, while MJ called emergency services. Emmanuel began CPR, and within a minute the boy started coughing up water. He was taken to hospital and made a full recovery.

17. Alan Clancy — Just in Time Award

Trish & Nicky Corr – Rescue Appreciation Awards

Location: Co.Donegal - Open Water Sea Rescue

At Bundoran Main Beach on 15 January 2026, Alan Clancy witnessed a child being swept towards the sea by a large wave, followed by the child's mother who was also caught in the current. Without hesitation, Alan entered the water with a ring buoy, reached both casualties and guided them safely back to shore. He then remained with the child, providing reassurance and care until assistance arrived. Shortly afterwards, Trish and Nicky Corr arrived at the scene and provided vital support. Recognising that the child was suffering from the effects of cold exposure, they wrapped her in additional blankets and carried her up the beach, continuing to care for her until emergency services took over. Thanks to the swift actions, courage and compassion shown by Alan, Trish and Nicky, both mother and child made a full recovery.

18. Ben Monaghan Rescue Appreciation Award

Location: Co. Wexford – Open Water Sea Rescue

At Ballinesker Beach, Co. Wexford, on 30 July 2026, Ben Monaghan heard a call for help and saw a young boy approximately 300 metres offshore. Despite fading daylight, Ben immediately used a bodyboard to reach the boy and bring him to safety. His quick thinking, courage and beach safety knowledge were crucial, and the boy made a full recovery.

19. Eoin Kernan, Evan Banable and Cara Lynch

Rescue Appreciation Awards x 3

Location: Co.Dublin - Estuary

On 6 May 2026, Eoin Kernan, Evan Banable and Cara Lynch responded to a Coast Guard alert about a swimmer in serious difficulty at the entrance to Malahide Estuary. Evan and Cara launched their RIB while Eoin coordinated the response by radio. They reached the casualty, brought them aboard and transported them safely to Malahide Marina for handover to emergency services. Their calm teamwork helped ensure a full recovery.

20. Kevin O'Connor and Garret Guirey Rescue Appreciation Awards x 2

Location: Co.Kerry - Open Water Sea Rescue

While surfing at St Finians Bay, Co. Kerry, Kevin O'Connor and Garret Guirey saw four children being swept into a powerful rip towards dangerous rocks. In extremely challenging surf, they repeatedly entered the water and worked together to bring each child safely ashore. Their knowledge, courage and persistence were critical to the successful rescue.

21. Mary McDonnell, Bernie Slattery and Jack Duggan

Just in Time x 2 & Rescue Appreciation Award x 1

Location: Co.Kerry - Open Water Sea Rescue

At Banna Beach on 25 May 2026, Mary McDonnell recognised that a female swimmer was in serious difficulty. Mary entered the water and kept communicating with the swimmer while Bernie sought assistance. Jack Duggan then joined the rescue using a surfboard, and together they brought the woman safely ashore. Their decisive action prevented what could have become a tragedy

21. Stephen Curran Rescue Appreciation Award

Location: Co.Donegal - Open Water Sea Rescue

*Stephen Curran will not be in attendance

At Tra Beag, Co. Donegal, on 1 August 2025, Stephen Curran saw a woman struggling in difficult sea conditions and entered the water in an attempt to help her. He soon realised that they had both been caught in a rip current. Recognising the serious danger they were in, Stephen made the difficult decision to swim diagonally across the current in an effort to reach the shore.

Although the rescue attempt was ultimately unsuccessful, Stephen demonstrated exceptional courage and selflessness through his willingness to try to help another person in distress.

**23. Iarom Madden, Clem McInerney, Gerald Ardbuckle, Kevin Brandley, Adam Gallagher
Aaron Dees, Ruby Knox, Matthieu Glemarec**

Eight Rescue Appreciation Awards

Location: Co. Donegal – Open Water Sea Rescue

At Main Beach, Bundoran, on 25 May 2026, surfer Iarom Madden noticed two teenage swimmers caught in a powerful rip current. He reached them and used his surfboard to provide flotation while carefully navigating them through hazardous waves and around dangerous reef areas. After travelling a considerable distance, Iarom reached fellow surfers and coordinated a team rescue, with the group eventually bringing both swimmers safely to shore. His exceptional knowledge, judgement and leadership were central to the successful rescue.

Location: Co.Dublin - Open Water Sea

Four young members of the 5th Port Dollymount Sea Scouts — Aoibheann Conlon, Laura Daly, Oisín Weadick and Gavin Weadick — responded when a swimmer became trapped beneath a bridge at Dollymount on 31 May 2026. During a leadership training exercise, they immediately relaunched their boat, reached the casualty and brought them safely to shore. Their courage, seamanship and teamwork demonstrated the real value of youth water-safety training.

Life Saving Bravery Awards 2026

1. Garda Stephen O’Keeffe

Carlow

Garda Stephen O’Keeffe demonstrated quick thinking and teamwork during a river rescue on the River Liffey in Dublin on 14 June 2024. While carrying out voluntary community welfare checks, he noticed a woman in the water who appeared to be in serious difficulty.

Stephen immediately assisted in obtaining and deploying a ring buoy. Working alongside members of An Garda Síochána, he helped direct the ring buoy to the casualty, secure her, and bring her safely to the riverside and onto a jetty. Emergency services were then alerted, and the casualty was transferred to hospital for further care.

Stephen holds a River Safety Rescue Level 1 qualification and his actions contributed significantly to the successful outcome of the rescue.

2. Paul Gardiner

Louth

Paul Gardiner displayed exceptional courage, skill and professionalism during a challenging water rescue on the River Barrow at Royal Oak Bridge, Bagenalstown, on 20 February 2026.

Responding as part of the fire service to reports of a person trapped in the river during severe flooding conditions, Paul helped coordinate a complex rescue operation in darkness and fast-flowing water. Drawing on his extensive swift water rescue training, he entered the river as part of a controlled tethered-swim rescue to reach the casualty, who had become trapped in vegetation and was in immediate danger.

After successfully reaching and securing the casualty, Paul and the casualty were safely brought back to the riverbank by the rescue team. The casualty received medical treatment at the scene before being transferred to the care of ambulance personnel and went on to make a full recovery.

Paul's decisive actions, expertise and commitment were instrumental in ensuring the successful outcome of this high-risk rescue.

3. Garda Cian Lynch

Dublin

Garda Cian Lynch demonstrated calm leadership and decisive action during a rescue on the River Liffey at North Wall Quay, Dublin, on 13 May 2026.

While on duty following an event at the 3Arena, Garda Lynch was alerted to a woman who had entered the river and was struggling to stay afloat. Acting immediately, he located and deployed a nearby life buoy, maintaining communication with the casualty to help keep her calm and focused.

After the woman secured the life buoy, Garda Lynch carefully guided her towards safety, with assistance from members of the public at the riverside. Emergency services were contacted, and the casualty was subsequently taken to hospital where she made a full recovery.

Garda Lynch's swift response, composure under pressure and commitment to preserving life were key factors in bringing the incident to a safe and successful conclusion.

4. **Garda Stephen McGonigle**

Donegal

*His son James McGonigle will accept the award on Stephen's behalf.

Garda Stephen McGonigle demonstrated exceptional courage and selflessness during a life-saving rescue at Swan Park, Buncrana, Co. Donegal, on 8 October 2025.

While in the area, Stephen noticed a man in distress on a bridge overlooking the Crana River and attempted to intervene by speaking with him and encouraging him not to enter the water. When the casualty subsequently entered the river and sustained injuries after striking rocks, Stephen immediately responded by entering the water and making his way to the casualty.

Despite the challenging circumstances, Stephen was able to reach the injured man and bring him safely towards the riverbank. Emergency services attended, and the casualty was transported to hospital for treatment.

Stephen's quick thinking, bravery and decisive actions were instrumental in saving the casualty's life and preventing a potentially tragic outcome.

5. **Sergeant Daniel Eccles**

Dublin

Sergeant Daniel Eccles demonstrated exceptional courage and decisive action during a rescue on the Royal Canal on 28 April 2026.

While cycling to work, Sergeant Eccles witnessed a five-year-old girl fall into the canal after cycling directly into the water. Realising the child was submerged and unable to be reached safely from the bank, he acted immediately and entered the canal fully clothed.

Sergeant Eccles reached the child underwater, brought her to the surface, and swam with her to the canal edge, where her father assisted in removing her from the water. The child made a full recovery.

Water Safety Ireland Long Service Awards 2026

Long Service Awards are presented in recognition of a voluntary commitment to promoting a public awareness of water safety and rescue based on the humanitarian goal of saving life.

Water Safety Ireland extends a sincere debt of gratitude to the following volunteers.

10 Years of Service Award Recipients

Name	County/CRBI Unit	Narrative	Attendance
Craig Smith	Waterford Marine Search & Rescue	Volunteer, Instructor & Trustee	Yes
Diarmaid Dunphy	Waterford Marine Search & Rescue	Volunteer & Garda Liaison Vetting Officer	Yes
Eileen O'Toole	Waterford Marine Search & Rescue	Volunteer	Yes
Evan O'Keeffe	Waterford Marine Search & Rescue	Volunteer & Treasurer	No
Graham Seery	Waterford Marine Search & Rescue	Volunteer	No
Leonard Skelton	Waterford Marine Search & Rescue	Volunteer & Secretary	No
Tony Cronin	Clare	Organiser, Coach, Committee member & Sports officer	No
Lauren Byrne	Kildare	Instructor, Secretary & DLP	Yes
Fiona Fitzgerald	Cork	Instructor, Joint Deck Manager at Fermoy Pool	Yes
Aoife Collins	Cork	Instructor, Joint Deck Manager at Fermoy Pool	Yes
Carolann Timmins	Cork	Lifesaving Coach and Deck Manager at Inchydoney/Dunmanway & Committee member	Yes
Hannah Power	Waterford	Instructor	Yes
Kieran Murphy	Waterford	Instructor	Yes
Larry Breen	Waterford	Organiser & Committee member	Yes
Marc Blackett	Waterford	Committee member, Organiser & Instructor	No

Mary O'Sullivan	Waterford	Instructor	Yes
Quentin Roche	Waterford	Referee	Yes
Sinead Weldon	Waterford	Committee member, Education Commission member, Instructor	Yes
Anne Hally	Waterford	Organiser	Yes
Dr James O'Sullivan	Waterford	Secretary, Instructor & Council Member	Yes
Niamh McCauley	Leitrim	Instructor, Examiner, Organiser, Secretary & Education Officer	No
Megan Lawlor	Carlow	Committee member, Instructor, PRO, Swimming teacher & DLP	Yes
Lauren Farrell	Carlow	Committee member, Assistant swim teacher & DLP	Yes

15 Years of Service Award Recipients

Name	County/CRBI Unit	Narrative	Attendance
Brian Fitzgerald	Waterford Marine Search & Rescue	Volunteer & Drone Team	Yes
Jamie Blanche	Waterford Marine Search & Rescue	Volunteer, Secretary, Instructor & Swiftwater Rescue Technician	Yes
Alison Deane	Clare	Committee member, National squad team manager & National/Regional competition recorder	Yes
Joan Foran	Waterford	Instructor	No
Jonathan Hughes	Derrynane CRBI	Crew Member	No
Rebekah Power	Waterford	Instructor	Yes
Billy Gallagher	Waterford City River Rescue	Coxswain & training officer	Yes
Michael Murphy	Waterford City River Rescue	Chairman	Yes

20 Years of Service Award Recipients

Name	County/CRBI Unit	Narrative	Attendance
Valerie Stundon	Limerick Marine Search & Rescue	Coxswain Officer & Committee member	No
Tony Slattery	Limerick Marine Search & Rescue	Diving Officer & Committee member	No
Joe Morgan	Limerick Marine Search & Rescue	Coxswain Officer	No
Ian Cunningham	Limerick Marine Search & Rescue	Diver & Committee member	No
Tom Cusack	Limerick Marine Search & Rescue	Diver & Director	No
Jim Dwyer	Dublin	Instructor, Swimming Teacher, Examiner & Safety boat operator	Yes
Darina Halpenny	Dublin	Instructor	Yes
Matthew Campbell	Dublin	Education Commission member, Swimming Teacher/Tutor, Examiner & Beach Lifeguard provider	Yes
Declan Barry	Waterford Marine Search & Rescue	Director/Trustee, Powerboat Instructor, Drone team leader & Chairperson	No
Olivia Quinn	Cavan	Treasurer & Service Awards officer	No
John O'Hara	Cork	Instructor & Examiner	Yes
Doreen McCarthy	Cork	Instructor at Fermoy pool	Yes
Anne McCarthy	Cork	Instructor & Joint Sports officer	Yes
James Hassey	Waterford	Committee member, Surf	Yes

		Lifesaving Coach	
Darrell Evans	Waterford	Committee member, Instructor & Examiner	No
Richard Frewin	Derrynane CRBI	Crew Member	No
Josephine Rockett	Waterford	Committee member, Instructor & Examiner	Yes
Fergus Whelan	Waterford City River Rescue	Director Coxswain	Yes
Bill McConnell	Waterford City River Rescue	Director Coxswain	Yes
PJ O'Shea	Waterford City River Rescue	Director & Fundraiser	Yes

30 Years of Service Award Recipients

Name	County/CRBI Unit	Narrative	Attendance
Fiona Lynch	Monaghan	Instructor & Committee member	Yes
Kevin Barry	Bantry CRBI	Coxswain, Vice Chairman & Chairman	Yes
Colin Griffin	Dublin	Examiner, Pool Lifeguard course provider & Instructor	Yes
Julian Caffrey	Dublin	Instructor at Stewarts Sports Centre	Yes
Brian Dunne	Tipperary	Chairman, DLP & Instructor	Yes
Peter Hennelly	Tipperary	Committee member, Examiner & Instructor	Yes
Michael O'Sullivan	Waterford	Organiser, Committee member, Instructor, Coach & Boat Driver Instructor	Yes
Ciara McSweeney	Waterford	Committee member, Instructor & Organiser	Yes
Corrinne Power O'Mahony	Waterford	Committee member, Instructor & Organiser	no

Michelle Keogh	Carlow	Swim Teacher Tutor, Examiner, Secretary & Instructor	yes
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40 Years of Service Award Recipients

Name	WSAC	Narrative	Attendance
Rita Healy	Dublin	Instructor & Class Secretary	Yes
Cormac Wickham	Dublin	Instructor, Examiner, Committee member, Swim Teacher Tutor, Risk Assessor, Beach/Pool Lifeguard provider	Yes
Aidan Collins	Dublin	Council member, Marketing commission member, Examiner & Instructor	Yes
Bernie Gaines	Dublin	Instructor, Pool/Beach Lifeguard provider, Examiner, Council member & Chairman of Dublin Water Safety Area Committee	Yes
Patricia Fitzpatrick	Dublin	Instructor & Examiner	Yes
Tom Mackey	Tipperary	ILSE Risk Assessor, DLP, Committee member & Examiner	Yes
Lesley Harrisson	Cavan	Cert Secretary	No
Mary O'Brien	Waterford	Water Safety Development Officer, Committee member & Organsier	No
Lola O'Sullivan	Waterford	Chairman, Instructor, Examiner, DLP & Organiser	Yes
Sheila Mollahan	Leitrim	Organiser	Yes
Gretta O'Neill	Leitrim	Organiser	Yes
Betty Finnegan	Meath	Instructor, Examiner & Committee Member	Yes
Una Daly	Meath	Swim Teacher, Instructor & Committee Member	Yes
Ameila Reilly	Meath	Instructor, Swim Teacher & Lifeguard Assessor	Yes

50 Years of Service Award Recipients

Name	WSAC	Narrative	Attendance
Ronnie Horan	Dublin	Instructor, Swimming Teacher tutor, Examiner, Committee member, Rescue commission member, Senior ILSE Risk Assessor, CRBI VAT Inspector & Life Governor	Yes
Seán Murphy	Dublin	Swim Teacher tutor, Life Governor, Committee member, Instructor & Examiner	Yes
Paul Murphy	Dublin	Life Governor, ILSE Risk Assessor, Beach/Pool Lifeguard provider, Swim Teacher Tutor, Instructor & Examiner	Yes
Alice Doorly	Dublin	Instructor, Examiner, Pool Lifeguard provider, Committee member	Yes
Donal McNamara	Tipperary	Committee member, Instructor, Examiner, Swim Teacher, ILSE Risk Assessor & Pool Lifeguard provider	Yes
Mary Foster	Carlow	Fundraiser, Instructor & Examiner. Volunteer of the Year in 2013	yes
Dolores O'Sullivan (Posthumous)	Waterford	Organiser, Committee Member and Chairperson.	
Sonny Condon	Waterford	Chairman, DLP, Swim Teacher & Examiner	Yes
Michael Cuddihy	Waterford	Organiser, Council Memeber, Technical Committee member & Examiner	Yes
David Kenneally	Waterford	Examiner, Instructore, Referee & Committee Member	yes
Frank Nolan	Waterford	Instructor, Examiner & Committee	Yes

		Member	
Sean Hennessy (Posthumous)	Waterford	Examiner, Committee Member, Instructor & Swim Teacher	
Anne O'Rafferty	Meath	Swim Teacher & Instructor	Yes

Breakdown

- **10 years:** 23 recipients
- **15 years:** 8 recipients
- **20 years:** 20 recipients
- **30 years:** 10 recipients
- **40 years:** 14 recipients
- **50 years:** 13 recipients
- **Total recipients: 88**
- **Total based on award categories: 2,260 years**

WATER SAFETY IRELAND

What We Do

WATER SAFETY IRELAND is 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 121 people drown in Ireland each year, 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.

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) To ensure their skills reach and remain at international standards, trained lifeguards 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 5,200 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.

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.

