

# MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Thursday, October 20, 2011



## 2011 NSW Water Safety Awards and AUSTSWIM State Awards of Excellence

On Thursday 29 September 2011 at Le Montage Events Centre, Lilyfield, AUSTSWIM hosted the 2011 NSW Water Safety Awards in conjunction with the AUSTSWIM NSW Awards of Excellence. Over 160 members of the aquatic industry gathered with colleagues, friends and family to recognise individuals and organisations that have made a significant contribution to water safety and education in NSW. TV Sports Presenter Ben Damon was on hand as Master of Ceremonies and with his relaxed manner he certainly provided all those in attendance with a lot of laughs. We were also lucky enough to have a number of special guests in attendance including:

- The Honourable Graham Annesley MP – Minister for Sport and Recreation
- Gordon Mallett – AUSTSWIM CEO
- John Rigby – AUSTSWIM Chairman
- Catherine Allen – Policy Director for the Ministry of Police and Emergency Services
- Members of the AUSTSWIM NSW State Advisory Committee
- Members of the NSW Water Safety Advisory Council

The AUSTSWIM Awards of Excellence recognise brilliance, commitment and innovation in the teaching of swimming and water safety. Covering aspects such as teacher effectiveness, contribution to developing peers and commitment to quality teacher training. Congratulations to all those who have been nominated for awards. Your hard work helps to ensure that the highest level of teaching is conducted. Unfortunately there could only be one winner and a special congratulations goes out to the following AUSTSWIM Award Winners.

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Category Winner | AUSTSWIM Teacher of Swimming and Water Safety Award<br>Brian Weatherley    |
| Category Winner | AUSTSWIM Teacher of Infant and Preschool Aquatics Award<br>Sharon Faulkner |
| Category Winner | AUSTSWIM Teacher of Aquatics to People with a Disability<br>Rhonda Fitton  |
| Category Winner | AUSTSWIM Teacher of Adults<br>Paula Thistleton                             |
| Category Winner | AUSTSWIM Recognised Swim Centre of the Year<br>Emerton Leisure Centre      |
| Category Winner | AUSTSWIM Melissa van Poppel Presenter of the Year Award<br>Barb Muxlow     |

The evening also celebrated the 2011 NSW Water Safety Awards. These awards recognise individuals and organisations that have assisted to improve water safety or have helped reduce drowning and water related injuries in their community within NSW. Congratulations to all those nominated for these awards and especially to those who won.

Water Safety Event of the Year  
"Stay Safe at the Beach"  
Gosford City Council  
Wyong Shire Council  
Northern Settlement Services  
Centrelink

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THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR THE TEACHING  
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Community Education Program of the Year  
"Take it Easy"  
NSW Maritime

Research Project of the Year  
The behavioural responses of swimmers caught in a rip, Winners of the 2011 Research project of the year.  
Surf life Saving Australia, University of NSW and the US Naval Postgraduate Institute

Most significant contribution to water safety with a focus on an under-represented group  
Samuel Morris Foundation

Most Significant Contribution to Water Safety by an Individual  
Katie Dixon

Most Significant Contribution to Water Safety by an Organisation  
Gosford City Council

Once the formal part of the evening concluded guests took the opportunity to socialise, relax, get their photo's taken and dance the night away. The support that the evening received from AUSTSWIM teachers and swim schools was simply outstanding and we thank all those who attended. We hope to see even more AUSTSWIM Teachers and Swim Schools at next year's awards. So start thinking now about who you would like to nominate for awards in 2012! Well done to the AUSTSWIM NSW Business Centre for hosting the awards and a special thanks to Communities NSW Sport and Recreation for their continued support of AUSTSWIM.

For further information please contact:

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