

MEDIA RELEASE

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2011 National AUSTSWIM Learn to Swim and Water Safety Education Awards

On Saturday 16th of July, 2011, members of the aquatic industry, family, friends and special guests gathered for a special night of celebration at the 2011 National AUSTSWIM Aquatic Industry Awards Dinner; A night dedicated to recognize, honor and congratulate individual Learn to swim and water Safety Teachers™, Presenters and Swim Centre's from across the country for their respective contributions to aquatic education and water safety.

In the company of over 180 guests the evening kicked off as Master of Ceremonies; one of New Zealand's most popular and personable entertainers; Pio Teri officially opened the night treating guests with a live performance with the band, setting presidents for the perfect environment to relax, socialise and recognise special achievements and reflections within the industry.

"The 2011 National AUSTSWIM Awards are presented to individuals and swim centre's nationally, that achieve the highest standards of aquatic education excellence. They provide an opportunity to honor nominated AUSTSWIM teachers™, presenters and Swim Centres who have been outstanding in their field as well as making a significant contribution to the aquatic industry".
Said Gordon Mallett – AUSTSWIM Chief Executive Officer.

To be eligible for an award the nominees must have been able to demonstrate considerable experience and or knowledge in all areas of the selection criteria. The following sections were addressed:

- Personal Attributes
- Teaching Effectiveness
- Professional Development
- Leadership
- References

Awards were presented in the following categories:

- 2011 National AUSTSWIM Teacher of Aquatics for People with a Disability™ Award
- 2011 National AUSTSWIM Teacher of Infants and Preschool Aquatics™ Award
- 2011 National AUSTSWIM Teacher of Swimming and Water Safety™ Award
- 2011 National AUSTSWIM Presenter Award
- 2011 National AUSTSWIM Recognised Swim Centre Award
- 2011 National Most Outstanding Contribution to AUSTSWIM

Mr. Mallett went on to say: *"AUSTSWIM was privileged to have in attendance, Mr. Gary Nye – CEO of Clark Rubber, Mark and Paul Sheridan – HY-CLOR Australia, Michael and Joanne Morris- Samuel Morris Foundation, Laurie Lawrence – learn to swim and water safety advocate, Mrs. Jeanette Allen- CEO of Service Skills Australia, Mr. Brett Williamson - CEO of Surf Life Saving Australia, Kirk Marks – former AUSTSWIM Chairman and James Pittar – blind marathon swimmer and ambassador of the Rainbow Club Australia."*

One of the highlights of the night came amid the formalities when special guest Laurie Lawrence was kind enough to assist in the presentation of awards.

"All nominees received were worthy of recognition for the exceptional work they have undertaken but unfortunately there can only be one recipient for each award category" said Mr Mallett

The 2011 National AUSTSWIM Awards would not be possible without the support from each the following supporters:

- The Rainbow Club – 2011 National AUSTSWIM Teacher of Aquatics for People with a Disability™ Award
- Kimberly Clark Australia – 2011 National AUSTSWIM Infant and Preschool Aquatics™ Award
- HY-CLOR – 2011 National AUSTSWIM Presenter Award
- Royal Life Saving Society – 2011 National AUSTSWIM Teacher of Swimming and Water Safety™ Award
- YMCA - 2011 National AUSTSWIM Recognised Swim Centre Award
- Clark Rubber – 2011 Most Outstanding Contribution to AUSTSWIM Award

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Special congratulations this year to the following 2011 National AUSTSWIM Award recipients:

Category 2011 National AUSTSWIM Teacher of Aquatics for People with a Disability™ Award
Recipient Cathy Meaney
Location New South Wales

Supporter The Rainbow Club Australia

Cathy has been teaching learn to swim and water safety since 1975, in that time Cathy has taught in a variety of swim schools across the northern beaches in NSW. She volunteers her time in assisting children especially those with additional needs in gaining water skills and confidence. Cathy's belief and commitment to learn to swim and water safety are passionately shown in her practical yet empathetic teaching style. She brings out the best in each and every child.

Cathy has worked for the past 7 ½ years in the physical ability unit's hydrotherapy program this program aims to promote water confidence for children with challenging physical disabilities, medical conditions and motor delays. She also works part time at Brooke Withers Swim School where she has numerous children with disabilities in her classes.

Category 2011 National AUSTSWIM Teacher of Infant and Preschool Aquatics™ Award
Recipient Jill Bell
Location Tasmania

Supporter Kimberley Clark Australia – Huggies Little Swimmers

Jill is employed as a senior Learn to Swim and Water Safety Teacher at Launceston Aquatic. She is highly regarded in the Industry with over 30 years experience. Jill is an excellent ambassador and actively promotes water safety not only within our centre but the broader community. Jill prepares upwards of 100 lesson plans every week, she loves what she does, and this shows in her positive attitude. She is always smiling, and is very encouraging towards her students and their parents.

Category 2011 National AUSTSWIM Teacher of Swimming and Water Safety™ Award
Recipient Shane Kerinaiaua
Location Pirlangimpi, - Tiwi Islands Northern Territory

Supporter Royal Life Saving Society

Shane is a fantastic teacher of learn to swim and water safety and works in the remote community of Pirlangimpi a coastal village in the northwest of the Northern Territory. He has been AUSTSWIM licensed for 6 years and ensures all the children in his community learn survival skills and have fun swimming in their swimming pool. Shane and the small team of sport and recreation staff help deliverer the "Swim and survive" program in the Tiwi islands. Shane is Safe in everything he does, as sometimes he is a 1 man show- he is the pool supervisor, lifeguard, first aid officer, pool plant operator and AUSTSWIM licensed learn to swim and water safety teacher!

Category 2011 National AUSTSWIM Presenter of the Year Award
Recipient Judy Muir
Location Victoria

Supporter HY-CLOR Australia

Judy is an AUSTSWIM original who has contributed to the development of the organisation, its people and resources. She is everything AUSTSWIM seeks in its representatives and course presenters. Judy's personal commitment to learn to swim and water safety is evident in the preparation and dedication she has to delivering AUSTSWIM courses and supporting and assisting the candidates. Judy is a natural mentor she loves teaching and supporting those coming up behind her. She recognises the value of imparting knowledge for the continued growth and development of the industry. Judy goes out of her way, giving many hours of her personal time to support and mentor her peers, Judy simply wants others to 'ride the aquatic education wave' with her.

Category 2010 National AUSTSWIM Recognised Swim Centre
Recipient Swim and Fitness at the AIS
Location Australian Capital Territory

Supporter YMCA

Winning Its Second consecutive AUSTSWIM Recognised Swim Centre of the year award. Swim and Fitness at the AIS has created an environment that has fostered great community involvement and satisfaction.

The learn to swim program at the Australian institute of sport is considered one of the best in the country,. Their renowned reputation and quality of their varying programs is evident as the AIS team focuses highly on safety, leadership, motivation and customer service.

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Category 2011 National Most Outstanding Contribution to AUSTSWIM
Recipient John Rigby
Location Tasmania

Supporter Clark Rubber

John's dedication to the aquatic industry is beyond outstanding; his contribution to the Tasmanian State Advisory Committee has been immense as he has been an active member since 1984.

John has been a long standing member of the AUSTSWIM National council as he is in his 16th year as the Tasmanian representative. He has been instrumental in the continuing Growth of AUSTSWIM, with his positivity, commitment and dedication.

"Once again congratulations to all nominees, and recipients of the 2011 National AUSTSWIM Awards. AUSTSWIM would like to applaud you for the commitment and dedication you have displayed in your teaching endeavors." said Mr Mallett.

Over the past 32 years AUSTSWIM has gained an outstanding national and international reputation for the training and licensing of quality Teachers of Swimming and Water Safety.

AUSTSWIM has trained over 130 thousand teachers and over 20 thousand of these have completed further AUSTSWIM training in the specialist areas of the teaching swimming and water safety to infants, adults, people with a disability and competitive strokes.

The National AUSTSWIM Awards are in their 6th year and this year nominations were received across majority of categories from every state with a total of 40 state recipient nominations received. There are undoubtedly many more individuals and organisations who do an outstanding job for the industry and would like to encourage you to nominate them in 2011.

For further information please contact:

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