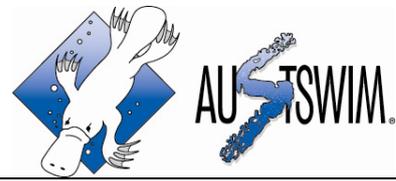


# MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, 3 August 2012



## 2012 National AUSTSWIM Learn to Swim and Water Safety Education Awards

The 2012 AUSTSWIM National Aquatic Education Conference was recently held on the Gold Coast. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> year AUSTSWIM has held the National Conference at the Radisson Resort.

Leading the way in Aquatic Education the annual conference has established itself with not only providing a great weekend away but an opportunity for members of the aquatic industry to gain new and invaluable information to help assist in the continued growth and development of the industry.

Welcoming delegates from across Australia and from all corners of the globe, the conference proved once again to be a success with numbers reaching capacity registering over 400 conference delegates in attendance over the weekend.

On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> July the AUSTSWIM Awards dinner was held with members of the aquatic industry gathering to recognise, honour and congratulate some of Australia's unsung idols of learn to swim and water safety education. The evening had it all, Hosted by the Master of Ceremonies Duo of AUSTSWIM Ambassador Brooke Hanson and Kurt Hanson.

The Night was themed Black and White as AUSTSWIM along with Water Safety New Zealand, took the opportunity to launch the **International Water Safety & Aquatic Education Conference** to be held in **Queenstown New Zealand from 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> October 2013**.

In the company of over 190 guests including presenters, teachers, swim schools, family, friends and special guests the evening kicked off with a surprise welcoming performance of the New Zealand Haka.

Guests were given a glimpse as to what they could expect over in New Zealand in 2013 and were also joined by AUSTSWIM Ambassador Geoff Huegill who made a guest appearance.

*"The 2012 National AUSTSWIM Awards are presented to individuals and Swim Centres nationally, that achieve the highest standards of aquatic education excellence."* Said Mr Gordon Mallett, 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:

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

Proudly supported by



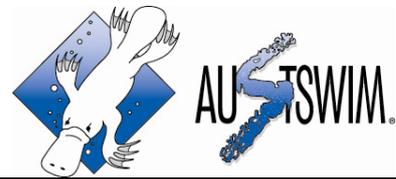
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The 2012 National AUSTSWIM Awards would not be possible without the support from each the following supporters:

- Sports Cover and Insurance made Easy- 2012 AUSTSWIM Teacher of Adults™ Award.
- The Rainbow Club – 2012 National AUSTSWIM Teacher of Aquatics for People with a Disability™ Award
- Kimberly Clark Australia – 2012 National AUSTSWIM Infant and Preschool Aquatics™ Award
- HY-CLOR – 2012 National AUSTSWIM Presenter Award
- Royal Life Saving Society – 2012 National AUSTSWIM Teacher of Swimming and Water Safety™ Award
- YMCA - 2012 National AUSTSWIM Recognised Swim Centre Award
- Clark Rubber – 2012 Most Outstanding Contribution to AUSTSWIM Award

Special congratulations this year to the following 2012 National AUSTSWIM Award recipients:

**Category:** 2012 the AUSTSWIM Teacher of Adults Award™

**Recipient:** Paula Thistleton

**Location:** New South Wales

**Supporter:** Sports cover and Insurance made Easy

Paula's love of swimming began as a recreational swimmer. Having an unstoppable desire to advance her own knowledge and ability, Paula wanted to be able to share and impart this knowledge to other adults and to ride the journey with them. Paula's attitude towards her teaching is nothing but positive and she constantly promotes the importance of swimming as a survival and safety skill which is essential for life.

**Category:** 2012 National AUSTSWIM Teacher of Aquatics for People with a Disability™ Award

**Recipient:** Lindy Crack

**Location:** Tasmania

**Supporter:** The Rainbow Club Australia

Lindy teaches two adult groups of people with disabilities each week and also teaches children with cerebral palsy.

Her communication skills with her clients are excellent, her lesson plans are well developed and her ability to communicate with all involved is a credit to her. Lindy has always maintained a very positive attitude towards her teaching and with this has helped Launceston Swim School create such a successful business working environment.

**Category:** National AUSTSWIM Teacher of Infant and Preschool Aquatics™ Award

**Recipient:** Maria Burn

**Location:** Victoria

**Supporter:** Kimberley Clark Australia

Maria has worked at Ringwood Aquatic Centre as a learn to swim teacher and co-coordinator for just over 20 years over this time Maria has had a direct and positive impact to thousands of people of all ages and abilities. Her charisma and enthusiasm make her an excellent motivator, using her knowledge, skills and leadership to enhance the quality of aquatic education. Her resilience, positive attitude, zest for learning and life her.

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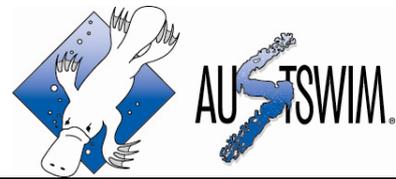
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**Category:** 2012 National AUSTSWIM Teacher of Swimming and Water Safety Award  
**Recipient:** Brian Weatherley  
**Location:** New South Wales

**Supporter:** Royal Life Saving Society Australia

To say Brian is passionate about his job is an understatement. He is dedicated, compassionate and trustworthy and possesses a voracious desire to contribute to the benefit of the community. Renowned for his patience with even the most terrified of students Brian takes on any challenge, breaking down the fear barrier with his caring approach. With over 35 years of experience his teaching effectiveness could.

**Category:** The 2012 National AUSTSWIM Presenter Award  
**Recipient:** Ceri Weeks  
**Location:** Tasmania

**Supporter:** Hy-Clor

Ceri has been actively involved with AUSTSWIM in Tasmania for over 20 years. She is highly qualified and is a Teacher and Presenter in all AUSTSWIM disciplines. Ceri has been a valuable member of the AUSTSWIM family reviewing manuals, modules, exams and other AUSTSWIM documents. Since 1990 she has supervised and assessed thousands of candidates and is currently the main AUSTSWIM Presenter for Tasmania.

**Category:** 2012 National AUSTSWIM Recognised Swim Centre Award  
**Recipient:** Launceston Aquatic Centre  
**Location:** Tasmania

**Supporter:** YMCA

Launceston Aquatic Centre offers a range of swimming and water safety programs. Launceston Aquatic Centre employs 16 AUSTSWIM Licensed teachers teaching in all areas from infant and pre-school aquatics through to adults and disabilities. Over 200 hours of classes are on offer every week offering a high standard of swimming and water safety experiences. Launceston Aquatic Centre offer the community a variety of programs based around water safety and education.

**Category:** 2012 National Most outstanding Contribution to AUSTSWIM Award.  
**Recipient:** Peter Conochie  
**Location:** Western Australia

**Supporter:** Clarke Rubber

Peter Conochie was the first presenter employed by AUSTSWIM in Western Australia. It is estimated Peter has personally presented courses to over 10,000 candidates during his career, many in some of the states most isolated areas. Peter was an active contributor to AUSTSWIM at both a state and national level. He held the position as secretary of the AUSTSWIM WA committee throughout the 1990's and regularly contributed to the national review and the development of the AUSTSWIM teacher of swimming and water safety course resources throughout this time.

Peter has been recognized by AUSTSWIM at both a state and national level, having been made a Fellow of AUSTSWIM, in recognition of his contribution to the objects of the council over many years. Peter is now retired but still remains a strong advocate for AUSTSWIM. He is highly respected throughout the aquatics industry and a worthy ambassador and recipient of the Most outstanding contribution to AUSTSWIM Award.

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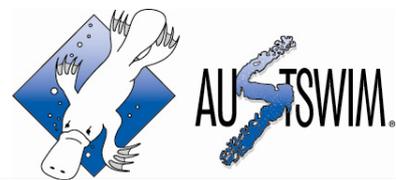
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*“Once again congratulations to all nominees, and recipients of the 2012 National AUSTSWIM Awards. AUSTSWIM would like to applaud you for the commitment and dedication you have displayed in your teaching endeavours.” Said Mr Mallett*

Over the past 33 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 140 thousand teachers and over 23 Thousand of these have completed further AUSTSWIM accredited training in the specialist areas of the teaching swimming and water safety to infants, adults, people with a disability and competitive strokes. Over the past 12 months AUSTSWIM has trained over 900 teachers off shore on an international level.

## **Conference 2013**

The National AUSTSWIM Awards will be held in conjunction with the International Water Safety and Aquatic Education Conference in Queenstown, New Zealand in 2013 there are undoubtedly many more individuals and organisations who do an outstanding job for the industry and AUSTSWIM would like to encourage you to nominate them in 2013.

Join us for the opportunity of a life time to visit the land of the long white cloud.

Go to [www.nzconference.co.nz/watersafetyconference2013/](http://www.nzconference.co.nz/watersafetyconference2013/) to register to attend.

For further information please contact:

Gordon Mallett, AUSTSWIM CEO

Phone: 03 9562 7900

Email: [ceo@austswim.com.au](mailto:ceo@austswim.com.au)

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