



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday 8th October 2014

Community Programs and Volunteers Honoured at NSW WATER SAFETY AND AUSTSWIM EXCELLENCE AWARDS NIGHT.

AUSTSWIM hosted the 2014 NSW Water Safety Awards in conjunction with the NSW AUSTSWIM night of Excellence.

Over 150 members of the aquatic industry gathered with colleagues, friends and family at Le Montage Events Centre, Lilyfield. Individuals and organisations that have made a significant contribution to water safety and education in NSW were acknowledged and recognised.

The evening celebrated the 2014 NSW Water Safety Awards to 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.

The AUSTSWIM Awards of Excellence recognised the brilliance, commitment and innovation in the teaching of swimming and water safety, addressing teacher effectiveness, contribution to developing peers and commitment to quality teacher training.

Maureen Summerhayes who has been involved with AUSTSWIM since its inception in 1979 was presented with the Most Outstanding Contribution to AUSTSWIM Award for over 30 years of continued dedication as an AUSTSWIM teacher, presenter and valued mentor.

AUSTSWIM Chair, John Rigby paid tribute to Maureen for her tireless dedication to the organisation.

"I could not begin to estimate the number of teachers, students and presenters that Maureen has trained over the years. Her passion in sharing her knowledge and inspiring others is second to none."

"The NSW business centre is honoured to work with Maureen and on behalf of AUSTSWIM and the wider water safety community, we thank Maureen for her unwavering dedication."

"Maureen is most deserving recipient of the 2014 Most Outstanding Contribution to AUSTSWIM Award."

The 2014 AUSTSWIM NSW Recognised Swim Centre of the year award was presented **to Dolphins Swim School – Granville and Parramatta.**

In addition to their general programs they have worked with a variety of community groups and school groups to deliver water safety and lifesaving programs.

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The programs involve interaction with migrant youth in the Granville aiming to ensure all complete their Bronze Medallion and Pool Lifeguard training

Dolphins Swim School – Granville and Parramatta identified the diverse community within which they work and as a result have developed strategies and programs designed to engage various groups and communities in their area.

Amongst a host of worthy award winners and recipients in the Water Safety Awards was a dedicated NSW Country volunteer Surf Life Saver. **Allan Davis**, the recently crowned 2014 NSW Life Saver of the Year was presented with the prestigious individual Water Safety award of the night for “Most Significant Contribution to Water Safety by an Individual.”

Just over half of the 75000 NSW surf lifesaving members perform active lifesaving duties in their community.. Allan Davis is the president at Crowdy Head Surf club and has captained two different patrol teams whilst involved in club training and assessments, junior activities and water safety in addition to fundraising and social activities. He is the branch director of administration, a support operations team member and branch duty officer.

Allan is an inspiring leader and active facilitator. His commitment to his community has been steadfast for over 25 years with his passion and dedication for encouraging and mentoring peers is what encapsulates his legacy for Surf Life Saving and water safety for future generations.

Marine Rescue NSW was awarded the "Most Significant Contribution to Water Safety by an Organisation"

'Over the past year, Marine Rescue NSW crews have responded to 750 life-threatening emergencies and assisted another 2,300 vessels in distress, often putting their own safety at risk in hazardous conditions. Their radio operators handled more than 364,000 radio transmissions around-the-clock.

Marine Rescue Forster Tuncurry won the award for Water Safety Event of the Year for the "Forster Tuncurry Water Expo." *"The Water Expo was a great way to educate the community, raise awareness of water and boating safety and demonstrate the rescue skill and professionalism of the unit's volunteers and their colleagues in the emergency services and maritime agencies."*

TV Presenter Tim Gilbert was on hand as Master of Ceremonies and with his relaxed manner he certainly provided all those in attendance with laughter, entertainment and a sense of celebration.

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AUSTSWIM welcomed a number of special guests including:

- Mr John Sidoti – Member for Drummoyne
- Paul Doorn – Executive Director, Office of Communities Sport and Recreation
- Gordon Mallett – AUSTSWIM CEO
- John Rigby – AUSTSWIM Chairman
- Members of the AUSTSWIM NSW State Advisory Committee
- Members of the NSW Water Safety Advisory Council

Special congratulations go to the following AUSTSWIM Award Winners.

AUSTSWIM Teacher of Swimming and Water Safety Award: Susana Taha – Dolphins Swim Centre, Parramatta and Granville

AUSTSWIM Teacher of Infant and Preschool Aquatics Award: Lesley Richardson - Little Fishes Swim School, Oakhurst

AUSTSWIM Teacher of Aquatics – Access and Inclusion: Sharon Surr – C2K Swimming, Castle Hill

AUSTSWIM Teacher of Adult: Karen Martin – Dubbo RSL Health Club *Dubbo*

AUSTSWIM Recognised Swim Centre of the Year: Dolphins Swim School, *Parramatta and Granville*

AUSTSWIM Melissa van Poppel Presenter of the Year Award: Ranay Kennerley, *Wollongong*

AUSTSWIM Melissa van Poppel Presenter Scholarship: Trudy Chaffer – Ian Thorpe Aquatic Centre, Sydney

AUSTSWIM Most Outstanding Contribution Award: Maureen Summerhayes *Panania*

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Here is a full list of the 2013 NSW Water Safety Award recipients:

Water Safety Event of the Year :“Forster Tuncurry Water Expo-” Marine Rescue Forster Tuncurry *Forster Tuncurry*

Community Education Program of the Year: “Life Jacket Wear Initiative”- Maritime Management Centre, Transport for NSW

Local Community Initiative of the Year: “Multicultural Water Safety and CPR Sessions”- Multicultural Communities Council of Illawarra

Most Significant Contribution to Water Safety with a focus on Inclusive Practices: Emerton Leisure Centre *Emerton – Western Sydney*

Most Significant Contribution to Water Safety by an Individual: Allan Davis, *Wallabi Point*

Most Significant Contribution to Water Safety by an Organisation: Marine Rescue NSW *Across NSW*

The support that the evening received was outstanding and we appreciate all who attended. Sincere thankyou to the Office of Communities Sport and Recreation for their continued support of AUSTSWIM and the NSW Water Safety Awards.

For further information please contact:

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