



# THE LIFESAVING FOUNDATION



**Dr. Shayne Baker, D.Prof. OAM**  
**Recipient of the 2017 Ireland Medal**



The Lifesaving Foundation is pleased to announce the awarding of the 2017 Ireland Medal to Royal Life Saving Society Australia lifesaver Dr. Shayne Baker D.Prof. OAM in recognition of his long exceptional service to saving lives from drowning worldwide. Shayne has been involved for over 30 years in all aspects of lifesaving in Australia and in the Asia/Pacific Region, from teaching basic water safety to children to leading a team of beach lifeguards.

As a lifesaving administrator he has served as Royal Life Saving Society Australia National President (2003 – 2009) and is currently serving a four year term as Commissioner of the International Life Saving Federation’s Rescue Commission.

Shayne’s maternal ancestors emigrated to Australia in 1862 from the Quin-Clooney area of County Clare of Ireland.

## LOCAL

In his Queensland City of Toowoomba Shayne is the leader of a team of dedicated aquatic professionals facilitating an annual summer lifesaving programme for older children and teenagers with the aim of preventing holiday drownings in a range of aquatic environs (especially inland waterways). He arranges water safety instruction and activities with various community and youth groups. For 20 years he worked as a volunteer lifeguard initially with Neptune RLSC and currently as a member of Miami Surf Life Saving Club on Australia’s Gold Coast.



*Neptune RLSC patrol group at Tallebudgera*

## NATIONAL

Shayne is the National Education & Training Advisor for the Royal Life Saving Society Australia having previously served as National President from 2003 to 2006. One role he has undertaken for many years is Chair of the Review Committee of the RLSSA Swimming and Water Safety manual.

## INTERNATIONAL

Shayne is a member of the International Life Saving Rescue Commission; the Lifesaving Foundation’s Research Committee and is a director of the Royal Life Saving Society Commonwealth. One of his most notable achievements was his contribution to the establishment of the Philippine Lifesaving Society during his time as President of RLSSA. “I chose to take a small team into some regional and remote areas of the Philippines to facilitate training for 50 volunteers to commence work to reduce the



*Shayne in Sipilay in the Philippines*

drowning epidemic, which at the time was 20,000 people a year.” Contribution to sport has been an added interest for Shayne. He has been a keen advocate for Lifesaving Sport and has officiated at National, Commonwealth, and world championships. He is Chair of the selection panel for the open and youth teams for the Australian Lifesaving Team (combined athletes from SLSA and RLSSA) and has been involved in team selections in the preliminary events involving lifesaving sport events such as the World Games, Sanyo Cup, New Zealand Surf Challenge, German and Orange Cups.

## PROFESSIONAL CAREER

Shayne is Managing Director of PCS Educational Publications having previously held positions as Principal of Hendra Secondary College, Principal of Brisbane School of Distance Education, and Director of Studies Southern Queensland Institute of Technical and Further Education (TAFE). Shayne has great interest in the opportunities that the Australian vocational education



*Shayne and Diane Baker in Ningbo, China, with Dr. Patrick Yeung (right) and Sports Centre Manager David Xu, while conducting a workshop on pool lifesaving competitions.*

and training (VET) sector provides for people who don’t follow the traditional school, university and work model and require alternative pathways and opportunities to achieve qualifications and recognition in order to further their career prospects. The concept of learners being able to undertake learning at a time, location and via a medium that suits their individual needs provides a real impetus to extend the learning approach into the work place. He is Chair of the Board of Directors of the Training and Education Institute of Australasia.

## AWARDS AND HONOURS



*Shayne with HM, Queen Elizabeth II*

Shayne was awarded the Order of Australia for services to life saving in 2012. In 2017 Shayne was one of 125 individual members of the Royal Life Saving Society from around the Commonwealth awarded a special HRH Prince Michael of Kent Certificate of Merit in recognition of

their significant contributions to the Society to mark the 125th anniversary of the RLSS. He was previously awarded an RLSS Commonwealth Service Medal and bar. He is a life member of the RLSS Queensland Branch and is a Fellow of the RLSS Australia National Branch. He was Toowoomba Regional Council Australia Day Citizen of the Year 2017.



*Shayne was presented with the Order of Australia Medal in 2012 by Queensland Governor Penelope Wensley for his ‘service to the community through lifesaving and education’.*

Previous recipients of the Ireland Medal include Australians Emeritus Professor John Pearn AO, RFD former Surgeon General of Australia (2005) and The Honourable Justice Terence Higgins AO retired Chief Justice of the ACT Supreme Court (2008).



**AWARDED to an Irish person or organisation or to a person of Irish descent in recognition of an exceptional contribution to saving lives from drowning.**

**2003**



An Garda Síochána

**2004**



Surgeon Admiral Frank Golden, OBE.

**2005**



Professor John Pearn, AO

**2006**



Garda Commissioner Eamonn Doherty

**2007**



Foyle Search & Rescue

**2008**



Chief Justice Terence Higgins, AO.

**2009**



Dublin Fire Brigade

**2010**



Mrs. Patricia Wilcox

**2011**



Professor Linda Quan, MD

**2012**



Mr. John Connolly

**2013**



Professor Stephen Langendorfer, PhD

**2014**



Doctor Kevin Moran, PhD.

**2015**



Mr. John Long

**2016**



The Naval Service, Ireland

**2016**



Mr. Brendan Donohoe

**2017**



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