



THE LIFESAVING FOUNDATION



The 2014 Ireland Medal is awarded to Dr. Kevin Moran, PhD., New Zealand

The Lifesaving Foundation is pleased to announce that the 2014 Ireland Medal has been awarded to Dr. Kevin Moran PhD., New Zealand, in recognition of his exceptional contribution to the saving of lives from drowning. Kevin has displayed long outstanding leadership and dedication to water safety and lifesaving involving his membership of International Life Saving's Research and Information Committee; Co-chairing the International Task Force on Open Water Drowning Prevention; he was a founding member of both the New Zealand Drowning Prevention Council and WaterSafe Auckland, which he chaired for a number of years. He has been a frontline surf lifeguard for almost 50 years, first patrolling on Caswell Bay and Llangennith in Wales and then on one of New Zealand's rugged west coast beaches at Muriwai, near Auckland. Kevin is the 12th Ireland Medal recipient and is the first from New Zealand. Details of previous medal recipients are available on a Lifesaving Foundation website at



<http://www.lifesavingfoundation.ie/irelandmedal>.

Kevin's great grandfather, Edmund Moran, emigrated from Ireland to Wales in the 19th century. Kevin was born in Wales and emigrated to New Zealand in 1974. In his youth Kevin was a successful freestyle sprint competitive swimmer representing Wales in three Commonwealth Games (Kingston, Jamaica, 1966; Edinburgh, Scotland, 1970; Christchurch, New Zealand, 1974). Impressed with what he saw in New Zealand he moved his family there following the Commonwealth Games.

The Lifesaving Foundation's Ireland Medal is "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" (www.lifesavingfoundation.ie/irelandmedal/). Previous medal recipients include American Professor of Paediatrics Linda Quan MD (2011), former Australian Surgeon General John Pearn MD (2005), and recently deceased Royal Navy Surgeon Admiral Frank Golden MD (2004). The award announcement was made at the conclusion of the Lifesaving Foundation's 2014 Drowning Prevention and Rescue Conference in Dublin by 2013 medal recipient American Professor Stephen J. Langendorfer PhD. Kevin's wife Sian joined with friends and colleagues to congratulate him and speak of his achievements.

Kevin is described by WaterSafe Auckland as an **active academic** with a lifelong interest in surf life saving and unique in his field in that he has critiqued, written and revised various national water safety and swimming programmes, such as Lotto Swim Safe, Surf Sense, Surf Safety and Surf Survival. He taught Physical Education in secondary schools in Britain and New Zealand until becoming lecturer in Physical Education in the Secondary

Teachers College Auckland in 1974. He helped to establish a professional undergraduate degree programme in Physical Education at Auckland College of Education in 1998. Currently he is a Principal Lecturer in Health and Physical Education in the School of Curriculum and Pedagogy at the Faculty of Education, University of Auckland. His doctoral thesis is titled *Re-thinking drowning risk: the role of water safety knowledge, attitudes and behaviours in the aquatic recreation of New Zealand youth*. Recent publications include studies on toddler parent perceptions of CPR and drowning prevention, parental supervision of children at beaches, lifeguard CPR knowledge and beliefs, rock fisher water safety, defining swimming ability in the context of drowning prevention, and high risk behaviours among youth around water. Professor Robert Stallman (Norwegian School of Sports Science) spoke on Kevin's participation in the current international Can You Swim Project and of its great potential contribution to saving lives from drowning worldwide.



The medal presentation ceremony will take place at a later date.

IRISH HERITAGE

Kevin's great grandfather Edmund Moran lived at "a bend in the road in Bandon", County Cork. Bandon is a small but busy market town on the River Bandon about 20 miles south west of Cork City. There was a strong cattle trade along with the shipping of copper ore for smelting between Cork and Swansea in the mid 1800s.



Group present at the announcement of the awarding of the 2014 Ireland Medal to Dr. Kevin Moran PhD.

Front ; Brendan Donohoe (Chairperson, Lifesaving Foundation), Dr. Kevin Moran PhD., Sian Moran, Professor Stephen Langendorfer (2013 Ireland Medal recipient), John Connolly (2012 Ireland Medal recipient).