



News Release - Immediate

The Inland Waterways Association of Ireland

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IWAI receive National Irish Water Safety Award

The Inland Waterways Association of Ireland was honoured this week to receive an Irish Water Safety Award. The Community and Social Responsibility Award was in recognition of the work by the association and its members in supporting the Irish Water Safety's Community Work and water safety on the inland waterways of Ireland.

The award was presented at Dublin Castle yesterday by Mr Seán Canney TD, Minister of State at the Department of Rural & Community Development.

IWAI President John Dolan speaking after the presentation noted that it was a great honour for him and Kay Baxter (IWAI Hon Secretary) to receive such an award on behalf of all IWAI members both past and present for their work in this area.

He also stated that he felt privileged and humbled to be present with so many other voluntary organisations, individuals and members of the rescue and security services who have given so much, including those receiving Long-Service Volunteer Awards for teaching swimming, water rescue and survival skills in communities nationwide and the rescuers who received recognition with the "Just in Time Rescue Award" in appreciation for saving so many lives in the past year.



(pictured R-L Sean Canney T.D Minister of State at the Department of Rural & Community Development., Kay Baxter Hon. Sec. IWAI, John Dolan President IWAI, Roger Sweeney Marketing Manager & Deputy CEO Irish Water Safety)

Echoing the Ministers speech at the awards, IWAI agree that it only takes seconds for tragedy to strike and this can so easily be avoided if people learn about the hazards and take personal responsibility for their own safety including wearing life jackets when on or near the water.

Please email pro@iwai.ie for more information.

Inland Waterways Association of Ireland

Notes to Editor – the IWAI

The Inland Waterways Association of Ireland (IWAI) is a voluntary body representing over three thousand five hundred enthusiasts, with 23 branches across the island of Ireland.

The Inland Waterways Association of Ireland (IWAI) is an energetic, fun, voluntary organisation with members from all corners of the Island of Ireland, all sharing a keen and passionate enthusiasm for the waterways of Ireland.

The IWAI advocates the navigation, use, maintenance, protection, restoration and improvement of the inland waterways of Ireland. It was formed in 1954 to promote the development, use and maintenance of Ireland's navigable rivers and canals.

When the Shannon was almost totally undeveloped for pleasure boating, the IWAI campaigned against the building of low bridges, thus ensuring the development of the river as a national asset. In the 1960s IWAI successfully campaigned to stop plans to close the Circular Line of the Grand Canal in Dublin. Later the Association campaigned for the re-opening of what is now the Shannon - Erne Waterway (formerly the Ballinamore & Ballyconnell Canal) and the Naas Line of the Grand Canal.

IWAI played its part in the restoration campaign for the re-opening of the Royal Canal between Dublin and the Shannon in recent years. IWAI assistance to the campaign to re-open the Ulster Canal has also borne fruit with the announcement that work is to begin on re-opening the section from the Erne to Clones. Currently, IWAI members are active in restoration projects on the Boyne, Newry and Lagan Canals.

IWAI Branches hold approximately 200 events each year across inland navigations with the wider communities in many locations. These events include Boat Rallies, Harbour Festivals, Walks, Social Gatherings, Heritage Activities; Family activities and Youth focused events.



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