

Thursday 20 August 2015

RYDE SWIM TEACHER NAMED BEST IN THE NATION

Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre (RALC) swim instructor Jason Smylie has been named AUSTSWIM National Swim Teacher of the Year Access and Inclusion, for his work with children with special needs.

The AUSTSWIM Excellence Award is the nation's highest award, recognising teachers who excel in aquatic education.

Jason Smylie has been teaching children with special needs at the RALC for seven years, passing on vital swimming, survival and participation skills.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Bill Pickering, said it is a great thrill that a local teacher has been acknowledged as being the best in Australia and is an indication of the professionalism of staff. "It's obvious that Jason is totally dedicated to his pupils and loves his job.

"The community is better off because of Jason's commitment and contribution to swimming and water safety.

"Teachers like Jason are making a huge difference teaching Ryde kids of all abilities how to enjoy the water safely," he said.

Jason Smylie said he was honoured to receive the award. "I wouldn't be where I am today without the assistance of my colleagues, students and parents. They mean so much to me. I just want to thank them for their support and trust in me," he said.

Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre Manager, Paul Hartman, said Jason continually tried to improve his skills with aquatic industry qualifications.

"He can identify student needs and implement programs that cater for each individual child's ability. He works inclusively with parents and students and believes a collaborative effort is important.

"Jason is always looking for what's new in the aquatics industry and is a wonderful example of how dedicated and knowledgeable all our staff at the RALC are."

In 2013 Jason Smylie was also named the NSW Teacher of Aquatics to People with a Disability by AUSTSWIM.

In recent years, Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre staff have been recognised with several AUSTSWIM Awards including Swim School of the Year.

The AUSTSWIM accreditation is the industry standard for Swimming and Water Safety Teachers™ and is delivered and recognised in each state and territory of Australia and many countries overseas. There are currently over 32,000 AUSTSWIM Teachers in Australia and internationally with over 10,000 licensed in teaching specific programs such as infants, people with a disability and adults.

Contact: Lee Kirkland City of Ryde Media Officer 9952 8083 0434 306 444
lkirkland@ryde.nsw.gov.au