

Ben Beale Memorial Award

Background

Swimming WA is proud to announce the Ben Beale Memorial Award in honour of Ben who tragically passed away in April 2017 aged 47. Ben was part of the family owned WA business Aqua Technics which for 42 years has been installing pools all over WA and was instrumental in partnering with Swimming WA many years ago. Often swimming starts start in the backyard pool and then extends into Club swimming.

Rationale for Introducing the Award

Since 2015, considerable emphasis has been committed to refining and improving the SWA Club 'environment' to be one that is positive, nurturing, and inclusive. SWA Clubs now understand that retention of members is a far better and more positive.

The ingredient of the success of this strategy over the past four years vary from each local area, but one common theme has been the role of the dedicated Club Member and their ability to add to an engaging and fun Club environment significantly positively. Swimmers regularly comment that a key reason for their longevity in the sport, is the camaraderie between the swimmers and the swimmers and the coach.

SWA would like to recognise the wonderful contribution that such individuals make at the 'coal face' and to publicly acknowledge the crucial role that such individuals play in the broader strategy. The sport of swimming is thrilled that the Beale Family through Aqua Technics has embraced this concept and is prepared to invest financially in the recognition of these individuals by providing an award that will recognise and reward these people as well as offer and opportunity to further their leadership skills.

Description - The Ben Beale Memorial Award:

The Ben Beale Memorial Award has been established to celebrate and recognise those 'champions' of the SWA Club environment. This perpetual award will annually celebrate the 'Best Club person' (must be a current athlete) within a Swimming WA Club.

The Award is designed to further the winner's leadership skills and experience, with the objective that they will not only stay in the sport longer term but will also contribute to their Club in a meaningful manner, well beyond their days as an athlete.

The Ben Beale Memorial Award will be awarded to a Club person who:

- Demonstrates leadership "in and out of the water";
- Regularly sets a high standard of behaviour at training, competitions, Club events;
- Assists the Coach in building a positive camaraderie and a 'sense of team' ;
- Exhibits the values and spirit of Swimming WA
- Volunteers to take on roles within the Club throughout the year.

The winner of The Ben Beale Memorial Award will receive a combination of cash and specialised leadership training.

Scholarship Prize: \$3,000