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Embargoed until 10pm

BRIANNA THROSSELL NAMED WA SWIMMER OF THE YEAR FOR THE THIRD TIME.

Brianna Throssell from UWA West Coast Swimming Club took home the coveted 2018 Lyn McClements medal at the 2018 Westpac Swimmer of the Year Awards held tonight at Hyatt Regency, Perth. It was the Throssell's third Lyn McClements medal.

This award, named after one of Western Australia's individual Olympic Gold Medallists Lyn McClements, was awarded to the 21 year old Karrinyup swimmer coached by Mick Palfery. Throssell has just returned from the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games where she won Gold in the 4 x 200m Freestyle Relay, a Bronze in the 100m Butterfly was 5th in the final of 200m Butterfly.

Throssell won from a start studded field including her fellow Gold Coast Commonwealth Games team mates, namely George Harley (Breakers, coach Bud McAllister), Blair Evans (UWA West Coast, coach Bud McAllister), Zac Incerti (UWA West Coast, coach Mick Palfery), and Holly Barratt (Rockingham, coach Will Scott).

Other Award winners for the evening were:

- Open Water Swimmer of the Year – **Simon Huitenga** (Perth City Swimming Club) - second year in a row;
- Multi-Class Swimmer of the Year – **Katherine Downie OAM** (Perth City Swimming Club);
- Coach of the Year – **Mick Palfery** (WAIS) - second year in a row;
- Technical Official of the Year – **Kaye Bolger** (Albany Swimming Club);
- Volunteer of the Year – **Julia Roberts** (Kambalda Swimming Club).

The evening saw the induction of the 58th member of the Swimming WA Hall of Fame **Mr Travis Nederpelt**. 35 year old Travis is a two time Olympian (Athens and Beijing) competing in the 400m IM and 200m butterfly. Since retiring from competitive swimming he owns his own personal training business, is head coach at Tuart Hill Swimming Club and has been valued member of the Swimming WA Board since 2016.

New to the 2018 Westpac Swimmer of the Year Awards ceremony was the Swimming WA Hall of Legends. This new category recognises outstanding swimming performances at an international level. Their performances are deemed to have inspired the nation and to have established the name of the athlete, their State and their country on the world stage.

The first inductees to the Swimming WA Hall of Legends were Elizabeth Edmondson, who won WA's first swimming gold medal at Tokyo Olympics in 1964 for multi-class freestyle.

The second inductee into the Swimming Hall of Legends was none other than Lyn McClements who won a gold medal in 100m Butterfly at Mexico 1968 Olympics.

Swimming WA President Mr. Louis Van Aardt said;

“Each year the Westpac Swimmer of the Year Awards grow in popularity and status amongst all levels of swimming. Congratulations to all winners. The 2017/18 season was an outstanding success for WA swimmers, and we are immensely proud of what these swimmers have achieved. Not to mention the coaches, support networks and clubs that surround these individuals.

I also would like to thank all of the 85 clubs and more than 12,300 registered swimmers that are members of Swimming WA, and your ongoing support. We are also grateful to Westpac for their support of this evening and throughout the year, as well as our presenting partner Hancock Prospecting and our other sponsors. We are all looking forward to what the future holds for WA swimmers in the lead up to Tokyo 2020”.

www.wa.swimming.org.au

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