

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
24th OCTOBER 2024

Motion 7 – Election of Life Member

In accordance with Section 60(3)(f) of The Royal Life Saving Society - Western Australia Inc. Constitution, the Board of Directors recommends the Members accept the nomination of Carol Harper for Life Membership.

Citation

Carol's formal contribution to Royal Life Saving commenced in 2015 joining the Board as a Director. Carol has provided 9 years of continuous service in this leadership role. Her contribution has been outstanding as evidenced by:

- Being instrumental in the development of the Royal Life Saving Society - WA Strategic Direction. Carol championed the following strategies within our current plan:
 - To eliminate toddler drowning. Protecting the most vulnerable in our community.
 - The formation of an online community that directly engages with all home pool owners in WA.
- Serving on the Finance and Audit Committee since 2021 and other Board appointed working groups.
- Volunteering at the World Conference on Drowning Prevention.
- Applying her professional expertise in the swimming pool and spa industry to assist Royal Life Saving to promote its various campaigns, with a particular focus on home pool safety, barrier safety and learning first aid skills.
- Carol has provided countless hours of volunteer service to the Society through monthly board meetings, planning days and more broadly representing and promoting our work

In 2021, Carol was awarded an Associate Honour by the Royal Life Saving Society Australia.

More broadly, during a 25+ year involvement in the aquatic recreation sector, Carol:

- Created opportunities for Royal Life Saving to raise awareness and raise funds at the Pool Spa & Outdoor Living Expo,
- Supported a range of regulatory reforms to improve the safety design of swimming pools and barriers,
- Led the strengthening of collaboration between the swimming pool and spa industry.

Carol was instrumental in the establishment of a constructive relationship with the Swimming Pool and Spa Association. Her leadership created a common agenda focused on the prevention of toddler drowning in home pools and she championed the campaign to have every home pool owner learn CPR. Progress has been made with the rate of fatal toddler drowning almost halving over the past decade.

Before serving on the Board, Carol (and husband Mark) was integral in the "Swim Across Australia". They prototyped and designed the pool to be mounted on the back of a semi-trailer and gathered sponsors to construct the pool. Once operational the "Swim" was a major fundraising and promotional community event conducted in 2004 with a team of swimmers (led by Colin Hassell and Mark Gubanyi) taking turns to swim on the back of a truck from Geraldton to Sydney travelling 6,000km, visiting 43 towns over 18 days. This year represents 20 years since the "Swim Across Australia".

Also in the early 2000's Carol and Mark's business (AVP) built the remote Aboriginal community swimming pools. Their extra effort and ongoing support ensured the pools remained operational every season, despite the harsh conditions. They have continued to provide significant support for the ongoing maintenance and upgrade of these essential community facilities over the last 20 years.