



# MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGOED 8pm (AWST) Saturday 7 October 2023

## **Swimming WA recognises Patron Mrs Gina Rinehart AO with a Life Membership for decades' of contribution to swimming in West Australia**

Swimming WA is very pleased to announce Mrs Gina Rinehart AO will be awarded Life Membership for 32 years of support for swimming in West Australia at Swimming WA's Awards of Excellence held on Saturday 7 October.

From Paralympic multiple gold medalist Prya Cooper to world's fastest sprinter Eamon Sullivan, and now the aspiring young stars of today, generations of swimmers in West Australia have Mrs Gina Rinehart AO and Hancock Prospecting to thank for their long-term investment into swimming.

Mrs Gina Rinehart's contribution is far greater than a financial one, with her commitment also being a long-term patron of Australia's swimmers, and two long records as Swimming WA's patron, with her daughter serving as patron in the middle. As Patron, she has personally travelled Australia and overseas, encouraging our West Australian and national swimmers.

Swimming WA's night of nights will also see the new breed of swimmers step up to the podium. Backstroker Iona Anderson (17), back fresh from Israel with gold at the Junior World Championships is a star in the making and picks up the Swimmers' Swimmer Award, her potential recognised by her peers in the pool.

"Swimming is in our DNA in WA" said Darren Michael, President of Swimming WA, "and our Awards' night is about honoring those who make up this DNA through shared values and commitment to our sport such as new Life Members' Mrs Gina Rinehart AO and Steve Hill, who have contributed over decades to the sport, as well celebrating the achievements and potential of the new generation of young stars coming through, like Iona, hopefully with more than a chance of Olympic success in Brisbane 2032, if not before."

"I especially would like to recognise and thank Mrs Gina Rinehart AO, who is the single biggest financial contributor to the sport of swimming across the country and most deserving to be inducted as a Life Member to our sport here in WA. As Patron, not only has she enthusiastically supported our WA swimmers, here, across Australia and most recently internationally in Japan, where Australia presented the best international team ever, including West Australian, Brianna Throssell, but she is a role model for our hardworking swimmers to achieve excellence. "





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The Awards of Excellence brings together the swimming community in WA like no other event, to recognise and celebrate the achievements of the sport's athletes, coaches, technical officials and the many volunteers without whom the sport would not flourish.

New Life Member, Mrs Gina Rinehart AO, will be backing West Australian swimmers as they pursue their dreams of Olympic glory in Paris.

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