

## **Lifeguard of the Year 2011 – Wayne Riley**

Wayne began his 21 year long career in the aquatics industry in 1989 at Manukau City Council Recreation, mainly at the Otara pools. He has been at the Whangarei Aquatic Centre for the past 3 ½ years.

Wayne is the Aquatics Co-ordinator, which involves looking after the team, water quality, and all the day to day aquatics operations. He is responsible for all training of staff and is the only Skills Active NPLA assessor at the facility. Although Wayne leads his team and is responsible for a lot of administration, the majority of his work is poolside which ensures continues his good rapport with all customers and team members.

Wayne was integral in helping come up with the idea of reusing back wash water and pumping it back into the dive well so it could be reused and gifted to the Council when the district was in a dire way during the drought earlier this year. This was an outstanding initiative which resulted in the Roding crews and Parks and Recreation receiving more than 60,000L of water a week from the facility.

Wayne also has experience with auto and marine upholstery, which over the last couple of years has saved the organisation a considerable amount of money as he has been invaluable at repairing all the pool inflatables across the CLM Group.

Not only is Wayne an extremely valued member of the team by staff and customers alike, he is inspirational. Wayne was told a few years ago after being involved in a work related accident to his spine that he would never walk again. He has since, through hard work and determination, not only gotten most of his capabilities back from prior to the injury, he also has passed his NPLA award including all the physical requirements.

Wayne is a very deserving and humble recipient of this prestigious award. On behalf of the industry – congratulations Wayne!