



Citation for
The King Edward VII Cup
awarded in 1986 to
George William Harry Turnbull, OAM
The Royal Life Saving Society Australia

George William Harry Turnbull first became associated with the work of The Royal Life Saving Society when he gained his Bronze Medallion at Sydney Teachers' College in 1939. Subsequent to the Second World War, he was involved in the technical and educational aspects of lifesaving for High School children in Australia. Upon his election to the New South Wales Branch Committee in 1953, he was appointed to a small committee which had the task of preparing an Australian Lifesaving Handbook and this was first published in 1957.

This was the first of a host of major technical contributions to the literature and research of the Society, made by George Turnbull. Successive editions of the Handbook up to the present day, national and international conference delegate duties in many parts of the world, and research into the effectiveness of expired air resuscitation techniques in 1960 have all been landmarks in a lifetime of service to the RLSS. His finest contribution was perhaps to be an initiator of drowning prevention through education in water safety with his 1953 script, which was the forerunner of a programme feature that now attracts the support of both governments and private enterprise, and reaches over 1 million individuals in the Commonwealth each year.

Most recently, George Turnbull's publication, "Water Safety for Juniors", was accepted by the Federal Government of Australia as one of its contributions to the International Year of the Child. A pamphlet drawn from it was translated into eight different languages. Typically conscious of the need for younger men and women to step into the major leadership roles within the Society, George Turnbull stood down from high office after 40 years service. But since 1981, he has been a Senior Governor of RLSS Australia and continued to be the Chairman of the National Diploma Committee.

He is the recipient of every honour that the Society can bestow upon him both in Australia and in our Commonwealth Council of which he is a Vice-President. In the New Year Honours' List 1984, he was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia.

For his outstanding intellectual leadership in the field of international lifesaving, George Turnbull is awarded the King Edward VII Cup.

Her Majesty The Queen presented the Cup to Sir Basil Osborne, CBE, President – The Royal Life Saving Society Australia, who received it on behalf of Mr G W H Turnbull, at Buckingham Palace on 23 June 1986 at the Reception for Commonwealth Conference Delegates and Guests.