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125 years of Royal Life Saving celebrated by book



Jorgia White | 6th Jan 2017 9:22 AM



PROUD CLUB: Paul Barry, Paul Seto, Lynda Barry and Laura Barry from the Ithaca surf club.

Iain Curry

AFTER 45 years of service with the Caloundra City Life Saving Club, James McLelland wanted to give back to the many lifesavers alongside whom he has bravely served.

As 2016 marks 125 years of Commonwealth Drowning Prevention, it is a fitting time for Mr McLelland to spread the word about the important work of the Royal Life Saving organisation.

His new book, *The Bronze Medallion and Lifesaving Story*, goes into great detail about the organisation and eliminates unknowns about its history.

Mr McLelland said until now, the history books did not give a clear understanding of this important organisation.

"In essence, the history books mention only one founder, but really there were two main characters," he said.

Mr McLelland, who is also the current auditor of the Ithaca club, said he spent the majority of the year working on the compilation.

"I did a lot of research of the census records, research that I don't think has ever been done," he said.

The book, which is dedicated to all lifesavers who risk their lives for others, is the third history book written by Mr McLelland.

"I dedicate this book to the many lifesavers, past and present, of this great worldwide organisation, who have served the public through the education, promotion and provision of aquatic safety, rescue and emergency care," he said.

Receiving his first Bronze Medallion 1971, Mr McLelland is also a life member of Royal Life Saving Queensland.

"I have gained Life Saving experience, over the years, as a volunteer, professional lifeguard, competitor and coach," he said.

To receive a copy of the book, email james@mcclelland.com.au.

