



## I saved my first child today.

The following is an extract from an email received by Pamela Godsall Smith from one of her former teachers who Pamela trained in the Shapland method of teaching swimming and who worked for Pamela for a few seasons. Bridget is now travelling around and she emailed her former employer and mentor an incident that occurred while she was teaching swimming in New Zealand. Since the Shapland Swim School Sinnamon Park opened for business in 2000 they have recorded 77 incidents where a child has put into practice their Personal Aquatic Survival Skills (PASS) in order to get out of a potentially fatal water incident. Keep in mind that these are incidents only reported to the swim school by parents. There are many more incidents which go unreported.

*“Guess what Pam,*

*I saved my first child today. Well I found out that what I had taught the child had actually worked. They don't focus on the turn around back to the wall in New Zealand they don't even teach it. But I carried it on in my baby classes. I have a full Saturday morning worth of Baby classes, which I am sure you can tell is just simply my favourite thing in the world with tantrum after tantrum. But on the upside one mother came up to me today and told me about how her son, a 2 year old was feeding the ducks with his father at a lake on the weekend, and he fell in. It's freezing over here so he would have been dragged down by all his clothes, and he managed to jump back off the bottom of the lake and turn around and grasp back up onto the bank, his father just got to him by the time he was trying to climb out. It feels wonderful to actually have made a difference in a child's life.*

*Bridget.”*

Swimming teachers really do make a difference in a child's life. The obvious incidents are the near death by drowning or drowning situations, however it is the confidence a child receives by being able to master the water that the child can draw upon on a daily basis. This confidence is reflected in such day to day activities like school work, interaction with other children to name a couple.

Well done Bridget.