



BRAVERY AWARD

BRONZE

Presented to

Andrew Elcock

for his brave actions on 30th April 2023 when he entered the sea at Clifton 1st Beach to rescue an 8 year old boy being swept out to sea in a rip current.

Two children were seen to be in difficulty in the rip current that day, a 10 year old and an 8 year old.

Alex Elcock, a resident at Clifton 1st Beach, had contacted NSRI and stayed on the line with NSRI EOC (Emergency Operations Centre) controllers, relaying critical information updating NSRI EOC and the responding emergency resources while the incident was unfolding.

Her husband, Andrew, had launched into the surf to assist.

An additional 2 bystanders, one who had an NSRI Pink Rescue Buoy with him, had also entered the surf. Sea conditions were rough with 2 to 3 meter swells.

NSRI Bakoven and NSRI Table Bay Rescue Swimmers, the NSRI Bakoven Rescue Craft, CoCT Law Enforcement officers and off-duty Clifton lifeguards responded directly to the scene. 2 NSRI rescue swimmers launched into the water at Clifton 1st Beach.

At that stage the 10 year old male was being assisted out of the water by the 2 Good Samaritan bystanders and the child was safe after reaching the beach.

Andrew Elcock had reached the eight year old male, about 20 meters off-shore, finding the child to be slipping under water and in severe distress, caught in a strong rip current and being dunked under the incoming waves. Andrew, as a regular

Clifton swimmer, held onto the child and rode the rip current out to sea, coaching the child to tread water and stay afloat.

Andrew realising the danger trying to swim the child through the surf to the beach through the breaking surf line, simply kept the child afloat, knowing that NSRI was responding. Andrew has commended the bravery of the child.

As each wave approached Andrew coached the child on how to dunk under the wave, stay under until the tailing wash dissipated before resurfacing and then staying afloat, treading water, at the mercy of the outgoing rip current to face the next incoming wave with the same procedure.

The NSRI rescue swimmers eventually reached Andrew and the 8 year old about 200 meters off-shore. A rescue buoy was passed to the child to hold onto for floatation in the care of the NSRI rescue swimmer while Andrew was successfully treading water.

The NSRI Bakoven rescue craft arrived on the scene, taking all onboard the rescue craft where medical treatment for hypothermia was initiated to the child and Andrew and both taken by sea to NSRI Bakoven where the child was re-united with his family and transported to hospital in a serious but stable condition

Andrew Elcock's calmness and selfless actions under the difficult conditions, were exemplary, undoubtedly preventing a tragedy from occurring and saved the 8 year old's life. As fellow South Africans we are proud to be able to recognise and honour this achievement.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dave Macready'.

Dave Macready
Chairman: Board of Directors



21 July 2023

Date