



BRAVERY AWARD

BRONZE

Presented to

Divan Prinsloo

for his brave actions on 7th October 2022 when he and a fellow Good Samaritan supported by NSRI Wilderness Crew rescued 4 swimmers in difficulty at Leentjiesklip Beach in Wilderness.

On Friday, 7 October, at 13h20, a member of the public contacted the NSRI Wilderness Station 23 duty phone, concerned that 2 children were potentially swimming in a dangerous area at Leentjiesklip Beach in Wilderness.

NSRI rescue crew were immediately put on standby when a minute later a second caller phoned to report that the 2 children were being swept out to sea in a rip current and it appeared that their father was swimming in their direction to try to rescue them.

NSRI rescue swimmers and NSRI medics were dispatched to the scene directly while NSRI crew responded to our NSRI Wilderness rescue station to prepare the NSRI rescue craft Ann Stratford to be launched. Western Cape Government Health EMS ambulance and rescue unit and George Fire and Rescue Services also responded to the scene.

It appears that a family from New Zealand, originally from Bloemfontein, were on holiday on the Garden Route and on their way to Knysna stopped for a swim at Leentjiesklip Beach. While swimming, the two boys of the family, aged 10 years and 13 years, had been pulled out in a rip current.

Their father had rushed into the water to swim after them to attempt to rescue them but he also got into trouble in the rough sea conditions.

Divan Prinsloo (34), from Pretoria, was on the beach with his own family when he witnessed the 2 boys and their father being pulled out by the rip current. He immediately grabbed his child's body board and launched into the water to assist. On reaching the family the four of them hung onto the body board, for flotation, while being pulled further out to sea.

Divan realised then that they would not be able to swim back on their own and would need to wait for assistance to be rescued. He continued to reassure the distressed boys, encouraging them to keep holding onto the body board and kicking together with each wave that washed over them.

Divan's wife, Charice (32), had grabbed the NSRI pink rescue buoy on the beach and appealed for someone on the beach to assist her husband and the casualties.

Coenraad (39) from Pretoria who was on holiday visiting his sister who lives in a house overlooking Leentjiesklip beach, on hearing the calls for help, looked out and saw the commotion, whereupon he ran down to the beach, grabbed the pink rescue buoy from Charice and launched into the water.

On reaching the casualties he and Divan devised a plan to get to shore. Using the pink rescue buoy Coenraad swam the 13 year old boy back to shore, while Divan together with the father and the 10 year old boy were able to use the body board to get back to shore.

Meanwhile a group of 4 men, who were working on a building site overlooking the beach, were watching the events unfold and they also ran down to the beach. One of the workers, a 21 year old man, grabbed another NSRI pink rescue buoy and entered the water to assist.

Unfortunately he was pulled out to sea by the strong current and was swept past the casualties (who were at that stage gradually getting closer to the shore) and despite going further out to sea, he was able to keep himself afloat using the pink rescue buoy.

When the first NSRI rescue swimmer arrived on the scene, he quickly assessed the situation and given the distance that the 21 year old casualty who had been swept out from the shore, the rescue swimmer communicated to the responding resources that he was entering the water to go after the 21 year old but that additional resources were urgently required.

The NSRI rescue swimmer reached the 21 year old man, who still had the pink rescue buoy, and the NSRI rescue swimmer was able to swim him back to shore.

NSRI medics who had responded to scene were subsequently joined by NSRI crew who had responded by boat and they provided emergency medical treatment to the 10 year old boy and to the 21 year old man.

The 14 year old boy and his father, although shocked by experience, did not require any medical treatment. The two other casualties were taken into the care of EMS paramedics and after further medical assessment, it was determined that they would not require hospitalisation.

Divan Prinsloo's calmness and selfless actions under the difficult conditions, were exemplary, undoubtedly preventing a tragedy from occurring. The father, his 2 children and the 21 year old man ultimately rescued by the combined efforts of Divan and a fellow Good Samaritan supported by NSRI Wilderness Crew, indeed owe their lives to them for their selfless actions that day.

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