

LETTER OF THANKS

The Directors of The National Sea Rescue Institute
accord their thanks to

Captain Dean Nieuwoudt

For your actions on the 31st December 2021 in your role as Metro Police SAR Unit Commander, when rescuing and resuscitating a 4 year old girl, washed away in a flash flood at Lusaka Informal Settlement during the disastrous floods experienced in KZN during that period.

On being alerted to the incident and request for help, you responded alone at 10:07, knowing your colleagues were already engaged in multiple flood rescue operations in the Province, but called NSRI Cass I Cox'n Paul Bevis to back you up as you realised the severity of the situation.

On arrival you organized the local community to begin the search of the river to locate any casualties as a result of the flash flood. You were soon joined by Paul Bevis and together ran down through the informal settlement to try and team up with the local community, on the river.

On the way down into the valley you got a message that the local community had found a 4-year-old female child, in a tree 3m up from the flowing river and were bringing her out of the valley. As there was no way across the valley to the river, you both ran back up the steep pathway to the top of the valley and crossed over to the river, where you meet up with the local community and they handed the child into your care.

You immediately assessed the child and found her to be unresponsive, severely hypothermic and showing signs of body seizures, with her arms stiff and fully extended. She was moaning softly, with faint breathing and pulse. Without hesitation you cleared her airway whilst getting her into the recovery position, initiated CPR and Rescue Breathing.

After a very short time you noticed a very shallow pulse and breathing and a relaxing of her arms.

Because of where you were, a good 500m from the vehicles and down a steep gorge, you and Paul Bevis wrapped her in a blanket and you carried her back to the vehicles, with the community showing the quickest safest way out.

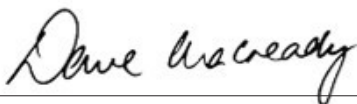
Whilst on the move you continued to administer Rescue Breathing to the child and stopped twice to check vitals. Paul Bevis maintained communications with Captain Riaan Da Horta, waiting with a medical team at the vehicles, while on the move, updating your progress and the child's condition.

On arrival at the vehicles you continued with Rescue Breathing until the NSRI Station 5 Rescue Vehicle and the rest of your SAR team arrived at the location. Then Captain Riaan Da Horta took over the care of the child and prepared her for transport to hospital.

The child was immediately taken by Metro SAR vehicle to RK KHAN Hospital, where the pre-warned trauma staff were waiting to take the child into their care. Happily, on checking later in the day it was confirmed that the child was making a good progress and her prognosis for recovery was good.

Because of your actions you were able to bring her saturation levels up, her airway was maintained and she eventually started to cry with the seizures stopping completely.

We hereby acknowledge with gratitude your significant contribution to saving this little girl's life, thus giving her a future she may well have not had but for your prompt and dedicated intervention that day.



Dave Macready
Chairman of the Board of Directors



21 July 2023

Date