



# GALLANTRY AWARD

# BRONZE

Presented to

## João Eduardo Felizardo

for his brave actions on 13th August 2022 when saving a life of a man swept off West Pier Port Alfred.

At 15h50, Saturday, 13 August, NSRI Port Alfred duty crew were activated following reports from a patron at Guido's restaurant, West Beach, Port Alfred, who saw a man swept off of the West Pier, by a wave, into the Kowie River near to the Kowie River Mouth.

Waves were already washing over the Pier that day and the eye-witness watched as a wave swept over the man and washed him off West Pier into the river.

The eye-witness alerted the manager of the restaurant. The patron called NSRI to raise the alarm while the restaurant manager ran to where an NSRI pink rescue buoy is stationed nearby on West Beach. The manager ran onto West Pier and he was able to throw the pink rescue buoy to the casualty who was able to grab a hold of the pink rescue buoy while he was being battered by waves in the surf line.

Our NSRI duty crew responded to our NSRI Port Alfred rescue station to launch sea rescue craft and Gardmed ambulance services were activated.

An off duty NSRI trainee rescue swimmer, Joao Felizardo, who was nearby at the time, saw the commotion and he ran along West Pier, stripped down to his under clothes and jumped into the river to go to the assistance of the man.

But when he reached the man, about 50 meters into the river from West Pier, he found only the NSRI pink rescue buoy afloat with no sign of the man who had by now slipped under water.

The Joao pulled on the rope and leash that is attached to the pink rescue buoy, and to his surprise he could feel resistance so he continued to pull on the rope and leash when the leg of the man appeared from under water and it was obvious that the rope had somehow remarkably tangled itself around the man's leg.

He was able to get the man's head above water but the man was not breathing.

At that stage our NSRI rescue craft, Rescue 11 Alpha, had arrived on the scene and they pulled them onto the rescue craft. The Crew initiated medical treatment and brought the man to our NSRI rescue station by which time the man had started spontaneous breathing and he was expelling water from his lungs.

NSRI medics continued with oxygen therapy and handed the man into the care of Gardmed paramedics who transported the man to hospital in a serious condition by ambulance.

It is noteworthy that this is the third life saved by that same NSRI pink rescue buoy stationed at West Beach and the 122nd recorded life saved by the employment of an NSRI pink rescue buoy.

Joao Felizardo's calmness and selfless actions under the difficult conditions, were exemplary, undoubtedly preventing a tragedy from occurring. The rescued man owes his life to Joao's 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