



GALLANTRY AWARD

BRONZE

Presented to

Dean Birnie

From 11 to 13 April 2022, days of heavy rain across KwaZulu-Natal led to deadly floods. Particularly hard-hit were areas in and around Durban. At least 435 people died across the province, with an unknown number of people still missing as of 13 April 2022. Several thousand homes were damaged or destroyed. Critical infrastructure, including major roads, transportation, communication and electrical systems, were impacted by the flooding, and this damage greatly hampered rescue, recovery and relief efforts.

Dean Birnie is being recognised for his courage and determination on 11 April 2022 when he and members of his NSRI Station, along with the national and local emergency services, rendered aid and assistance in multiple flood-related incidents. These incidents occurred along the KwaZulu-Natal coastline and inland due to heavy rainfall, resulting in devastating floods in Durban and surrounding areas.

In particular, we acknowledge Dean's part in the joint rescue of over 170 people found in a variety of predicaments, including truck drivers trapped in and on their vehicles in Queen Nandi Drive and Peter Road, where people were found trapped on house roofs, vehicles, cranes and building windows. By this time, the speed of the water on the main roads was flowing at about 60km an hour. The obstacles the team faced included fuel tankers rolling past them and dodging floating containers moving rapidly with the surging water. Dean's work during the rescue of truck drivers at Queen Nandi Drive and the people in Peters Road in Springfield Park with NSRI Durban, where he operated a borrowed Jetski, is especially noteworthy.

Dean Birnie's bravery that day, going to the aid of persons in trouble, in known dangerous conditions, without concern for his safety, was in the very finest traditions of the National Sea Rescue Institute, which we are pleased to recognise with this Gallantry Award Bronze.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Velloza'.

Jonathan Velloza
Chairman: Board of Directors



19 July 2024

Date