



# GALLANTRY AWARD

# BRONZE

Presented to

## JC Roos

For his courage and determination during a rescue operation to save survivors of the grounded Fishing Vessel Dijaanda at the Gourits River mouth on 8 August 2023.

At 01:50 on that Tuesday, NSRI Mossel Bay was alerted by Telkom Maritime Radio Services of a mayday distress call suspected to have come from the Gourits River area on the South Cape coastline, with the casualty and position unknown.

NSRI Station 15 Mossel Bay responded with their Rescue 15 mobile unit, including Station Commander JC Roos, Dawie Zwiigelaar and Jovanka Mehrstens, to investigate the area. En route, several phone calls were made to gather more information, including calls to Mossel Bay Port Control and members of the fishing community known to the NSRI, who also offered their assistance with the search.

The NSRI team met locals on scene at 03:00. After searching along the coast west of the river mouth, the stricken fishing vessel Dijaanda was spotted at 04:00. The vessel had run aground inside a small bay, against some rocks, and was being battered by large waves and the incoming tide. The skipper was ashore on the rocks, while one person on the vessel was shouting frantically and a few bodies were seen floating in the water.

After assessing the scene, it was decided to send Dawie Zwiigelaar and Jorrie Jordaan from the Gourits Policing Forum to get a cellphone signal and summon

additional resources, which they did several times during the operation. Meanwhile, Org Odendaal from Gourits Fishing Charters acted as a medic, treating the first patients found for hypothermia and shock. Firemen Francois Roberts and Shaun London from Mossel Fire & Rescue, along with Jovanka and JC Roos, recovered the bodies of the crew floating in knee-deep water.

Just before daybreak, Eden Metro Rescue arrived on the scene with Carlo Klaasen (Metro Rescue Diver), who stayed ashore while JC Roos entered the water, tethered to a line anchored by Carlo. JC swam and clambered across rocks and pools, enduring the pounding swells, and eventually boarded the rocking vessel. There, he managed to calm the casualty still on board, fitted him with a lifejacket, convinced him to enter the water, and assisted him ashore across the swell-washed slippery rocks in the early morning darkness, enduring the frigid post-winter sea conditions. Ashore, the casualty was taken into the care of the NSRI crew. Out of the seven crew members aboard, two were rescued, four were deceased and one crewman was missing.

JC Roos's gallantry that morning, along with the skill, determination, valour and bravery displayed by his crew, shore control staff, and members of the public in aiding persons in distress under dangerous conditions, without concern for their own safety, exemplifies the finest traditions of the National Sea Rescue Institute. We are pleased to recognise this with the Gallantry Award Bronze.

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

Jonathan Velloza  
Chairman: Board of Directors



19 July 2024

Date