Annual General Meeting and Awards Evening

Our 58th Annual Awards Evening and AGM on 15 August 2025, at Lagoon Beach Hotel in Cape Town, paid tribute to our dedicated volunteers and other courageous people who risk their lives to save others on South African waters. We celebrated their unwavering commitment and remarkable bravery.

Please visit the website for **details on each award**.

Bravery awards

Awarded to members of the public

Bravery Bronze

- Keegan Lowe for his courageous actions that saved four teenagers swept out to sea by rip currents at Pennington Beach, South Coast, KwaZulu-Natal.
- Sheldon Swartbooi in recognition of his bravery, professionalism and exceptional commitment during a high-risk rescue operation at Grootkrans, Eastern Cape.

Gallantry awards

Awarded to NSRI volunteers

Gallantry Bronze

- João Eduardo Felizardo for bravery in rescuing a fisherman trapped against rocks in treacherous surf conditions at West Pier, Kowie River Mouth, Eastern Cape.
- Caro Oosthuizen and Johan Strydom for their courageous actions during the Grootkrans rescue operation.

Gallantry Silver

- Lodewyk van Rensburg in recognition of exceptional leadership and courage during the Grootkrans rescue operation.
- Tiaan de Kock, Jannes le Roux, Pieter van Heerden and Russell Goodman for their courage and determination during a challenging rescue of a capsized fishing vessel between Saunders' Rock and Queen's Beach, Bantry Bay, Western Cape.

Meritorious service awards

Awarded for exceptional performance beyond expectations in service of our mission

Station 11 Port Alfred

in recognition of their outstanding response and exceptional seamanship during the rescue of two local fishermen swept off the West Pier at Kowie River Mouth, Eastern Cape.

- Gerrit Cloete
- João Eduardo Felizardo
- Jean-Pierre du Plessis
- Keryn van der Walt
- Christopher Pike
- Shannen Kethro
- Anthony Scheepers
- David Schouten
- Aidan Wood
- Devon Kemp
- Simon Pienaar
- Sibabalwe Jabe
- Mari Myburgh

Station 36 Oyster Bay

in recognition of their exceptional rescue operation at Grootkrans.

- Lodewyk van Rensburg
- Caro Oosthuizen
- Johan Strydom Junior
- Alton Crouse
- Charles Hutchins
- Chevandre Prince
- Christopher Hutchins
- Cobus van Aswegan
- Jaen Smit
- Zibonele Mdlestshe
- Annie Fourie

Watch '**Peril in the Gorge: The Grootkrans Rescue**' here.

Annual General Meeting and Awards Evening continued

Meritorious service awards continued

Station 2 Bakoven *for their exceptional courage, teamwork and skill in difficult and dangerous conditions during the rescue operation at Bantry Bay.*	- Dirk Coetzee - Jannes le Roux - Russell Goodman - Tiaan de Kock - Pieter van Heerden - Grant Back
Station 3 Table Bay *for their extraordinary courage and teamwork in difficult and dangerous conditions during the Bantry Bay rescue operation.*	- *Spirit of Day* crew - Paula Leech

Station awards

Awarded to outstanding stations countrywide

Most Improved Station of the Year	- Station 51 Gariep Dam
Best RIB Station of the Year	- Station 12 Knysna - Station 14 Plettenberg Bay
Pat O'Sullivan Trophy for Best Performing NSRI Class 1 Station	- Station 10 Simon's Town
Marmion Marsh Trophy	- Craig Lambinon for noteworthy service to the NSRI
Alric Simpson Floating Trophy	- Bernard Osrin for distinguished service to the NSRI

Long service awards

Awarded for sustained commitment to the NSRI

55 years	- Howard Godfrey
50 years	- Brad Geyser - Rob Stirrat
45 years	- Phil Ress
40 years	- Paul Jordaan - Michael Saunders
35 years	- John Brown - Andre Fraser
30 years	- Laurent Eray - Grant Skinner
25 years and Honorary Life Membership Award	- Marc May - Jaco de Witt - Mark Koning - Michael Whittal - Justin Erasmus - Aidan Wood - Mahboob Ebrahim - Brett Ayres
20 years	- Tracy Meintjies - Jaco Kruger - Emily Bruwer - Glen Preston - Keith Carey - Heidrun Wassermann - Catherine Prentis - Stephen van den Berg - Gert du Plessis - Juan Pretorius - Marius Hayes

Employee awards

Awarded for demonstrating excellence, innovation, teamwork, leadership and NSRI values

Spirit of NSRI Award

for overall excellence and sustained organisation impact through commitment, dedication and insight.

- Lianne Daniels-Lategan (Fundraising Centre) received this highest honour

Navigator's Award for Innovation

for introducing ideas, approaches or solutions that add measurable value with creativity, forward thinking and a willingness to challenge the status quo.

- Amy Smith (marketing and business development)

Compass Award for Living the NSRI Values

for consistently living and demonstrating the NSRI's core values of life, trust, leadership, dignity, community and inclusivity in daily work and interactions.

- Robin Jones (finance)

Helm Award for Leadership

for demonstrating strong leadership capability and accountability and inspiring and enabling others while driving alignment with organisational goals.

- Fazlin Jaffer (fundraising: face-to-face)

Crew Excellence Award (Team Player)

for consistently contributing to the success of others through collaboration, reliability and a positive team attitude.

- Willem de Waal (fleet and facilities)

Team Excellence Award

for collective effort, collaboration and shared commitment with exceptional results through strong teamwork and shared accountability embodying the spirit of the NSRI and contributing meaningfully to our purpose of saving lives, changing lives and creating futures.

NSRI training team:

- Grant Grove
- Melodie Hermann
- Guillaume Muir
- Mawaxole Nkumanda
- Tarne Major
- Simphiwe Rorwana
- Rian Basson
- Julian Singh
- Danie Verwey
- Dean Wegerle

Annual General Meeting and Awards Evening continued

South African National Parks Kudu Award

Awarded for outstanding contributions to conservation management in South Africa

NSRI Storms River received the Kudu Award from SANParks in the professional stakeholder category.

The award celebrates our contribution to public safety and conservation in partnership with Tsitsikamma National Park. It highlights the critical role of coastal search and rescue operations along the rugged coastline where joint NSRI and SANParks rescues save lives. Over 18 months in 2025, the station responded to 37 incidents – many requiring helicopter support.

The partnership has also led to 18 SANParks rangers receiving NSRI pre-sea training and online theory. One ranger has qualified as an active sea-going crew member and is advancing towards Class 4 coxswain certification while three are currently in training.

The NSRI's 4.5 m JetRIB, *Spirit of Sam*, named in memory of a SANParks team member, is hosted at the station and stands as a symbol of the deep bond between the organisations.

Beyond rescue operations, the NSRI supported SANParks' Kids in the Park programme at Nature's Valley where 500 local children learned water safety skills and survival swimming from our Station 14 Plettenberg Bay volunteers and local lifeguards in 2025. During peak holiday periods, NSRI volunteers also assist SANParks Honorary Rangers in providing water safety during rock pool education sessions for children.

More SANParks Rangers are expected to join the NSRI training pipeline in future with support from volunteers at Station 6 Gqeberha. In the meantime, maritime extrication courses, which began in 2025, continue and there are plans to introduce a whale disentanglement course as the station is in a conservation area. Another goal is to teach all SANParks Rangers how to swim, starting with the NSRI's Survival Swimming module, to ensure all members working along the coastline are water-safe.