



GALLANTRY AWARD

BRONZE

Presented to

João Eduardo Felizardo

For his brave actions on the evening of 8 August 2024, when he entered treacherous surf conditions to rescue a fisherman trapped against the rocks at West Pier, Kowie River Mouth, Eastern Cape.

At approximately 20h26, NSRI Port Alfred was activated following reports of two men washed off the West Pier. One man had managed to swim ashore through the river mouth to East Pier Beach and raised the alarm. He was found to be suffering from multiple injuries and hypothermia. His friend, however, was still missing.

The NSRI rescue craft Lotto Challenger, with João Eduardo Felizardo as a rescue swimmer, was launched into 3-4m swells and poor visibility. Upon arrival at the scene, the missing man, 42-year-old Eldrien Jooste, was found semi-submerged, pinned against rocks and the pier wall, continuously struck by waves and unable to free himself.

While the vessel held its position under full reverse thrust in strong tidal outflow and battering surf, João was deployed into the water. He reached the casualty under these hazardous and life-threatening conditions, where he secured the casualty with a life jacket and a rope line rigged from the pier above. João remained with the injured man as a rope recovery system was activated, assisting in freeing him from the rocks and stabilising him until shore teams could hoist him to safety.

Thanks to João's selfless actions, calmness under pressure, and exceptional bravery, Eldrien Jooste was rescued alive, though seriously injured, and transported to hospital in stable condition. João's gallant effort in extreme conditions deserves the highest praise.

We are proud to acknowledge and honour João Eduardo Felizardo's courage with this Bravery Award Bronze.

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

Jonathan Velloza
Chairman: Board of Directors



15 August 2025

Date