



# GALLANTRY AWARD

# SILVER

Presented to

**Russell Goodman**

For his courage and determination during a challenging rescue operation launched at 14h04 on Thursday, 13 June 2024, following reports of a capsized fishing vessel between Saunders' Rock and Queen's Beach, Bantry Bay.

Eyewitnesses had seen an open ski-boat capsize just beyond the surf zone. At this stage, the number of people on board was unknown. Members of the public quickly deployed NSRI Pink Rescue Buoys into the water to assist the visible casualties.

NSRI Table Bay, NSRI Bakoven, and the City of Cape Town's water rescue network were activated. Dirk Coetzee from NSRI Bakoven was first on the scene, followed shortly by Russell Goodman, Jannes le Roux, Tiaan de Kock, and Pieter van Heerden also from NSRI Bakoven. Under Dirk's direction, the rescue swimmers entered the surf to begin a coordinated search.

Jannes swam out and reached a young man in his 20s and provided him with buoyancy support. Jannes was quickly joined by Russell, who had entered from Saunders' Rocks tidal pool area, Tiaan, and Pieter who assisted the casualty while Jannes continued the search for other casualties. The young man was brought to shore by Pieter and later confirmed as the only survivor. He was treated for hypothermia and non-fatal drowning symptoms by paramedics before being transported to hospital.

A second man, believed to be in his 60s, was located in the water off Queen's Beach. Jannes, Russell and Tiaan made valiant efforts to rescue and revive the unresponsive man. They recovered him onto the NSRI rescue vessel Spirit of Day (Rescue 3A), and they initiated and continued CPR en route to the slipway

at Three Anchor Bay. Despite all efforts, the man was sadly declared deceased by paramedics.

It was later confirmed that three men had been on board when the boat capsized. With two recovered, the search for the third continued. Paula Leech (Station 3) and Grant Back (Station 2) arrived and took charge of coordinating the air and sea operation, supported by the Spirit of Day and the EMS/AMS Skymed rescue helicopter.

The capsized vessel washed ashore near Queen's Beach and SAPS confirmed no one remained trapped. The Spirit of Day and Skymed continued the search, with NSRI swimmers in the water and other emergency services conducting a shoreline sweep.

The third casualty was located in the surf zone by Skymed. An EMS Metro rescue diver deployed from the helicopter, recovered the unresponsive man, and extracted him ashore. Paramedics commenced CPR, but after all efforts were exhausted, he too was sadly declared deceased.

At 14h55, all three casualties had been accounted for, and NSRI crews were stood down.

Russell Goodman bravely and selflessly entered the water, searching for the casualties and recovering them. His strategic acumen was evident and was fundamental in ensuring a more effective rescue operation. His actions that day reflect the finest traditions of the National Sea Rescue Institute.

We are proud to recognise his role in this tragic rescue effort with the **Gallantry Award – Silver**.

Jonathan Velloza  
Chairman: Board of Directors



15 August 2025

Date