



The Directors of The National Sea Rescue Institute have pleasure in awarding the

## **MARMION MARSH TROPHY 2024**

to

### **Craig Lambinon**

The Marmion Marsh Trophy is awarded annually to a person who has rendered distinguished service to the NSRI. The 2024 trophy is awarded to Craig Lambinon for his exemplary leadership and the critical role he has played during his long service to the NSRI.

Craig joined the NSRI in November 1992 at Station 8 Hout Bay and received his Crew Badge in 1993. He was active at Station 8 until December 2012, when he transferred to Station 2, Bakoven, where he continued as an active crew member. He later became a founding member of the John Rolfe rescue helicopter service and contributed to establishing the NSRI Air, Sea Rescue Service, Station 29, which now functions as a permanent NSRI airborne search-and-rescue station. Craig subsequently joined the Head Office staff and led the successful press liaison service, which he now manages. His transition into the press liaison role has been a key factor in his career and relationship with the NSRI.

In 2004, Craig was asked to assist with communications to the national press, which he did admirably, writing press releases about NSRI operations and securing media coverage in print, as well as television and radio broadcasts. His submissions about the amazing rescues carried out by NSRI crews around South Africa were so enthralling that they occupied print column space valued at over R1 million at times. He voluntarily performed this role for two years until NSRI made his position a permanent staff post in 2006.

Since then, Craig has covered every NSRI operational incident across print, television and radio, becoming the official National Spokesman and Communications Officer for the organisation in 2012. These press releases have covered aspects such as training, safety information, and

general updates, as well as the NSRI's activities, people, and have reached audiences both locally and internationally. These press submissions often, and still do, require Craig to be up and about at all hours of the day, ensuring he never misses the unforgivable goal of the media industry – the press deadline.

Following a specific operation involving casualties from multiple nations, Craig played a pivotal role in establishing a foreign consular support service. This service enables the NSRI to notify foreign consuls and embassies of rescue operations involving foreign nationals. So successful is this service that Craig is often the go-to person in the NSRI for news of loved ones when maritime tragedies occur.

On 19 November 2018, Craig was awarded the Chevalier de l'Ordre du Mérite Maritime (Knight in the Order of Maritime Merit) by the French Ambassador to South Africa, on behalf of a grateful French government. This honour recognised his service to the maritime fraternity, particularly his role in the welfare of French citizens who have been rescued or assisted during visits to South Africa, as well as his ongoing commitment to water safety and the prevention of maritime accidents.

In addition to his press liaison duties, Craig is often the person who interviews distressed families, providing much-needed empathy and updates on an unfolding rescue operation. He has been known to be a comfort and a lifeline to those waiting ashore. His sensitivity and compassion always shine through.

We are honoured to present Craig Lambinon with the Marmion Marsh Trophy and would be hard-pressed to think of a more deserving recipient for the 2024 award.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Velloza', written over a horizontal line.

Jonathan Velloza  
Chairman: Board of Directors



15 August 2025

Date