



MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

Presented to

Station 11 – Port Alfred

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, and Mari Myburgh

It gives me great pleasure to present this **MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD** to NSRI Port Alfred Station 11 in recognition of your outstanding response and exceptional seamanship during the rescue of two local fishermen who had been swept off the West Pier at the Kowie River Mouth on the evening of Thursday, 8 August 2024.

In fading light, with a 3–4 metre swell and a strong outgoing tide, your team was called into action after one casualty managed to swim ashore and raise the alarm. His friend, however, was still missing. The terrain, poor visibility, and surf made this a complex and high-risk rescue.

The NSRI Port Alfred rescue craft Lotto Challenger, under the command of Coxswain Gerrit Cloete, launched and quickly located the second casualty pinned among rocks and the pier wall, being repeatedly struck by waves. As the coxswain held the vessel steady within 10 metres of the casualty, despite waves breaking over the bow, João Eduardo Felizardo was deployed into the water and managed to reach the injured man, secure him in a lifejacket, and assist with a rope recovery system rigged by shore crew on the pier.

At the same time, NSRI medics attended to the first casualty on East Pier Beach, who had suffered multiple fractures, dislocations, hypothermia, and symptoms of non-fatal drowning. A coordinated response between craft crew, shore controllers, medics, and bystanders resulted in both casualties being stabilised on scene and transported to hospital in serious but stable condition.

Every member of the Port Alfred team made a significant contribution to this operation. Including the swift mobilisation and launch of the vessel, the bravery of those on the water, the professionalism of those coordinating rope rigging and communications from the pier, and the calm medical treatment administered under pressure.

Through courage, teamwork, precision, and selfless dedication, the crew of Station 11 not only saved lives but also upheld the highest standards of the National Sea Rescue Institute.

We salute you.

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

Jonathan Velloza
Chairman: Board of Directors



15 August 2025

Date