



MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

Presented to

Station 2 – Bakoven

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

NSRI Table Bay, NSRI Bakoven and the City of Cape Town's water rescue network were activated after eyewitnesses saw the vessel capsize just beyond the surf zone. It was unclear how many people were on board.

Dirk Coetzee from NSRI Bakoven (Station 2) was first on the scene. He was soon joined by Station 2 rescue swimmers Jannes le Roux, Russell Goodman, Tiaan de Kock and Pieter van Heerden. Under Dirk's guidance, the swimmers entered the dangerously rough surf at various points to begin the search.

Jannes, armed with a Pink Rescue Buoy which Dirk had given him before entering the water, reached a man in his 20s, and handed him the buoy to keep him afloat. They were quickly joined by Pieter, Russell, and Tiaan. Pieter, taking control of the recovery of the casualty, proceeded to swim him to shore. The young man was later confirmed as the only survivor of this tragic event. Jannes continued to swim to a second man, believed to be in his 60s, who was unresponsive in the water off Queen's Beach.

Jannes, Russell and Tiaan recovered the second casualty onto NSRI Spirit of Day. CPR was initiated en route to the slipway at Three Anchor Bay where paramedics continued efforts. Sadly, the man was declared deceased.

At this time, it was confirmed that three people had been on board the small open fishing boat. With two located, one remained missing.

By 14h25, Paula Leech from NSRI Table Bay (Station 3) and Grant Back from NSRI Bakoven (Station 2) had already started coordinating the sea and air search. The capsized boat washed ashore near Queen's Beach and SAPS confirmed no one was trapped in the wreck. NSRI Spirit of Day returned to assist Skymed and the rescue swimmers in a final search for the missing man.

After an intensive sea, air and shoreline search, the third casualty was spotted in the surf by Skymed. An EMS Metro rescue diver deployed from the helicopter, secured the man and was extracted to the parking area where CPR was initiated. Tragically, he too was declared deceased.

By 14h55, all casualties had been recovered and NSRI crews stood down.

The NSRI Bakoven (Station 2) crew demonstrated exceptional courage, teamwork and skill in difficult and dangerous conditions. Their swift response, coordination, operational efficiency and composure greatly contributed to this rescue operation. These qualities reflect the highest standards of the National Sea Rescue Institute.

We are proud to recognise their actions with this **Meritorious Service Award**.

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

Jonathan Velloza
Chairman: Board of Directors



15 August 2025

Date