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## **LIFESAVERS AWARDED PRESTIGIOUS LIFESAVING HONOURS**

Lifesaving South Africa held its annual AGM and Lifesaving Awards Presentation on Friday, 27 October 2006 at Durban Surf Lifesaving Club; where together with other awards the time-honoured **Bravery Certificate, Surf Lifesaver of the Year and Stillwater Lifesaver of the Year Awards** were announced and presented. Guest of Honour Ms Hajeera Kajee from SASCO, showed her appreciation and support of Lifesaving SA's initiatives in a speech addressed to all those who attended.

### **The Bravery Award Certificate:**

The Bravery Awards Committee, which has been around since the 1960's, when judging persons for the Bravery Award Certificate, takes into account the extreme peril the rescuer places himself in, in order to perform a successful rescue. Time taken for the rescue to be performed and lives successfully rescued also plays a major role in selection but the determining factor is the hazardous conditions that the rescuer has to endure.

Thus, **the Bravery Award Certificate was awarded to Victor Woodhead**, 65 years of age, former lifeguard of Warner Beach and presently member of Kings Beach SLC, for his valour and selfless duty under arduous conditions. Lifesaving South Africa greatly admires and highly commends Victor's brave determination, despite his age, rescuing Janice Liberty, on 2 June 2001 at Van Staden's river-mouth in rough and dangerous seas, who was saved from certain drowning by Victor's unhesitating action. The award recognises some thirty minutes of unremitting and selfless endeavour, which is in keeping with the high ideals of rescue, which Lifesaving SA strives to practice. It should be noted that the rescue by Victor Woodhead took place five years ago, on 2 June 2001, but whilst the information was apparently documented and ready for submission timeously the presenter fell seriously ill and unfortunately the application was mislaid and submitted again this year.

### **Bravery Letter of Commendation**

Achmat Hassiem, Lifesaver from False Bay Surf Lifesaving Club who endured a shark attack on an IRB training exercise, on 13 August 2006 that resulted in the severing of his foot received a Bravery Letter of Commendation. Communities around SA and the lifesaving community were rocked with shock and horror by the attack on Achmat that fatal Sunday morning back in August. Achmat's act of bravery and selflessness epitomises the commitment, dedication and valour of the thousands of young men and women who give selflessly of themselves to save the lives of others.

Lifesaving South Africa greatly admires Achmat Hassiem's action and fortitude in face of adversity, a trait this organisation endeavours to encourage.

### **The 2006 SURF and STILLWATER LIFESAVERS OF THE YEAR**

The 2006 Surf Lifesaver of the Year, which goes back to 1967 and Stillwater Lifesaver of the Year, which was first awarded in 1998; were also announced and presented to the deserving recipients. The successful Awardees were scored on lifesaving qualifications, patrols hours, lifesaving coaching instruction, sporting achievements and the individual's overall attitude and character.

### **THE 2006 LSA STILLWATER LIFESAVER OF THE YEAR**

The 2006 Stillwater Lifesaver of the Year Award was awarded to Barjo van Niekerk, Hartbeespoort Lifesaving Club. Barjo is one of Lifesaving SA's top National Team Competitors. During the 2005/6 season he represented South Africa at the World Games in Germany, as well as Rescue 2006 in Australia where he won medals. At SA Champs he again won many medals and broke two SA Records. Despite being such a high-performance competitor he also found the time to coach the Juniors and Seniors in his Club and Province in swimming. He did 31 hours voluntary duty and also served on both his club and Province Committee's as an Assistant Coach and Team Captain.

### **The 2006 LSA SURF LIFESAVER OF THE YEAR**

The 2006 Surf Lifesaver of the Year Award was awarded to Keith Matthews, Chairman of Mnandi Lifesaving Club in Western Province. Besides having served at National level for many years, for both SASLU and Lifesaving SA, Keith found the time (and the love of lifesaving) to work as head of a Beach Department for the City of Cape Town, and also perform 89 voluntary patrol hours for his Club, Mnandi. Keith has served as Chairman of Mnandi SLC and also Instructed 12 successful candidates for their lifeguard awards. He examined both Lifeguard and IRB tests on 6 different occasions this year. As a Marshall, he officiated at this year's Western Province Senior and Nipper Champs, and also officiated at the 2006 World Championships in Australia, where he received an ILS Service Award.

The following is the list of **Other Awards and Awardees** that were presented:

1. **BRAVERY LETTERS OF APPRECIATION** also went to the **Lifesavers of Amanzimtoti Surf Lifesaving Club** and Lifesavers of **False Bay SLC**
2. **BRAVERY LETTERS OF COMMENDATION** also went to **Vivienne Wilson**, aged 19, of **Amanzimtoti Surf Lifesaving Club** and **Marcus Burri from Kings Beach**
3. **ADMINISTRATION CUP FOR STILLWATER BRANCHES** was given by Lifesaving SA Head Office to the Branch showing the best administration in the past year. The winner was **Western Province**.
4. **McGILLVRAY TROPHY** for the most awards in the Level 3 Nipper Awards at Stillwater Branch level. The winner was **Easterns**.
5. **DARNEL CUP for the most STILLWATER PATROL hours** performed by a Branch. The winner was **Gauteng**
6. **BERT ASHFORD SURF INSTRUCTORS' AWARD** – The winner was **GREG BECKER** of LLandudno, Western Province. He instructed 35 successful candidates over this period.
7. **DAPHNE NEL TROPHY for the Stillwater Branch** with the highest percentage gain in members and awards over the past season. The winner is **Gauteng South** who increased their points by 815%.
8. **SAFETY MEDICAL TROPHY** for the Stillwater branch with the most senior awards (LA, QA, JLA). The winner was **Gauteng** with 122 awards.
9. **STILLWATER PATROL CONSISTENCY AWARD**. The winner was **Spencer Hawkins of Gauteng** who did 159 hours over the past season.

Lifesaving South Africa salutes these exceptional Awardees for their outstanding achievements and the inspiration they serve to others through their selfless duty and heroic actions.

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