



1993 MOUNTBATTEN MEDAL – Jacques Patrice Leclair

During the afternoon of 19th January 1993, Cyclone 'Calina' passed over Pointe Aux Sables on the North West Coast of Mauritius leaving the sea very rough with exceptionally large waves. Six local fishermen decided to save one of their fishing boats that had broken its mooring and was adrift. They attempted to recover the fishing boat using a power boat.

Whilst carrying out the recovery the power boat was overturned by a large wave and the six men were thrown into the water. Although the six men were all swimmers, they had difficulty returning to the shore because of the sea conditions and a strong current.

Patrice Leclair, who was visiting the area with his family, spotted one of the fishermen holding onto a small buoy some 30 metres from the shore. The fisherman, who was clearly exhausted, was unable to reach the shore and was in imminent danger of drowning. Mr Leclair, without hesitation, entered the water and swam to the fisherman. He calmed the man down and using the Society's recommended chin two brought the man safely to the shore.

The actions of Mr Leclair undoubtedly saved the fisherman's life.

As a result of this incident, three of the fishermen drowned and the two remaining were able to reach the shore unaided. Both the fishing boat and the power boat were never recovered.

For his most gallant act of bravery in saving the fisherman, Mr Leclair was awarded the Mauritian Honour of 'Member of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean' and the Guinness Organisation's 'Most Outstanding Young Person' Award,

The rescued man was Mr Harel Jaulimsing, aged 30 years.

The 1993 Mountbatten Medal was awarded to Jacques Patrice Leclair from Mauritius.