



2023 Mountbatten Medal

Lee Maree

Saturday 11th February 2023, was a warm and sunny day but with a strong northerly wind and tough surf conditions. Former Margate Lifesaving Club Nipper, Lee Maree was enjoying a beach BBQ with friends at Oslo Beach, South Africa. At around 1pm, Lee was alerted to a 21 year old student who was being swept out to sea by a strong rip current.

Reacting immediately Lee swam out through the turbulent surf without any floatation or rescue equipment. He reached the drowning man at the large back surf zone, after calming and securing the casualty, Lee towed him back to the safety of the shore a distance of 600m manovering through the rough conditions with large waves rolling over them.

Once back on the beach NSRI and medics treated the man for secondary drowning.

For his quick and couragous actions,

Lee Maree is awarded the 2023 Mountbatten Medal