2024 Mountbatten Medal

Braedon Powell

27th March 2024 was a clear and sunny day at Alongside Whalebone Pier, Umhlanga Rocks seafront, Durban, Kwazulu Natal, South Africa but the beaches had been closed for swimming after a nearby cyclone. The waves were 6-8ft rough surf with powerful rip currents.

Braedon, who was 15 years old at the time, spotted a man being swept out to sea. He grabbed a pink rescue buoy, jumped over the railings and entered the violent and treacherous surf. Braedon swam out through the massive waves and secured the victim. He started towing the man to shore but they were frequently dragged and held underwater by the currents. Braedon eventually got close enough to the shoreline where bystanders managed to grab the casualty. Braedon was pulled back out to sea again and had to fight hard to reach safety, injuring himself as he clambered over the rocks.

Due to Braedon's immediate action and bravery, the man survived the ordeal.

For his quick and couragous actions,

Braedon Powell is awarded the 2024 Mountbatten Medal