



2025 Mountbatten Medal

Mandy Dean

It was a sunny day just before 15:00pm on Tuesday 15th July 2025, Mandy Dean and a friend were walking up the sand dune after a Sardina beach walk (Sardina Beach Bay, Threescombe, Port Elizabeth, South Africa), when they noticed two bathers in a dangerous swimming area. Mandy made her way quickly to the waters edge when the bathers started shouting for help. Mandy immediately stripped down to her underwear, ran into the surf and swam 100m through big and messy waves to the distressed bathers, who were being pulled out to sea by a powerful rip current. Reaching them after a hard 4-minute swim, Mandy calmed them and tried to tow them across and out of the rip current, but they were quickly being swept seawards. Realising their only chance of survival was to get onto the nearby reef before the current took them deeper, Mandy towed the eldest (25 years old) casualty first to the barnacle covered rocks and pushed him up telling him to hang on. Mandy swam back to the younger (15-year-old) and towed him to the reef. With waves continually breaking over them and washing them off, Mandy kept pulling them back onto the rocks. Bystanders on the beach kept waving, Mandy swam back to the beach to ascertain if help was on its way, as the two casualties were exhausted and she could not easily get them back to shore. Several rescuers from Coastal Water Rescue and NSRI arrived with rescue gear. They proceeded to swim out and brought the two casualties safely to shore.

Mandy was almost hypothermic after 35 minutes in the water and was treated for numerous cuts and abrasions.

For her courageous actions,

Mandy Dean is awarded the 2025 Mountbatten Medal