

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

### **Mr Jack Daniel AVERY, 8 Brown Street, Newport Vic 3015**

On 24 May 2003, Mr Avery rescued his two brothers and sister from their burning house in Newport, Victoria.

Mr Avery, then thirteen years old, was alerted to a fire in his house in the early hours of the morning by his mother's screams. The house was filled with thick black smoke and visibility was poor. Covering his mouth, he ran towards the sound of his brother's and sister's screams. He found his brother and sister, disoriented, at the end of the hallway and, after investigating the best way of leaving the house; picked them up and carried them down the hallway and out through the front door to safety. Despite the house still burning, Mr Avery re-entered the building to help his mother evacuate his other brother who was immobile and unable to walk. Mr Avery picked his brother up and with his mother exited the house. While neighbours tried to extinguish the fire with garden hoses, Mr Avery rang 000 to report the fire. The fire subsequently destroyed the house.

By his actions, Mr Avery displayed considerable bravery.

### **Mr Timothy John FARMER, 44 Ridgeview Road, Cannonvale Qld 4802**

On the morning of 2 August 2005, Mr Farmer rescued a young girl from a fire in a car at a service station in Jabiru, Northern Territory.

Mr Farmer, a tourist, was refuelling his car with petrol when he was alerted to a fire in the back of a station wagon parked in front of his vehicle. Observing flames in the rear window of the station wagon, he ran over and saw a small child in the back seat. Without hesitation, he opened the driver's side rear door to rescue the child and was momentarily forced to step back as smoke billowed from the car. He then reached inside and removed a young girl whose clothing was on fire. In doing so he received burns to his hands.

By his actions, Mr Farmer displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

### **Mr Lyall Mervyn FISHER, 51 Duke Street, Roma Qld 4455**

On the afternoon of 10 October 2004, Mr Fisher attempted to rescue his nephew from a house fire in Roma, Queensland.

At about 5.25 pm, Mr Fisher went to check on the whereabouts of his son and young nephew who had been playing in the rumpus garage area of the house. As he entered the kitchen which adjoined the area, he saw it was filled with smoke. After alerting the other occupants of the house to the fire, he went outside and, believing the two young boys were still in the building, opened one of the garage doors. The garage was filled with smoke. He entered, calling for the boys, but was unable to find them and exited through a rear sliding door. He returned to the front of the house and, still believing the boys to be inside, re-entered the garage. He felt around for the boys but could not locate them. Unable to stay in the garage due to the intense heat and smoke, he was forced to exit the building. His clothes were on fire and he had to be hosed down. Although suffering from burns, he then attempted to fight the fire using a garden hose but was forced to withdraw when material stored in the garage started to explode. Mr Fisher later discovered that his son was not in the garage and was unharmed. Sadly, however, his nephew died in the blaze. Mr Fisher was himself badly burned and required hospitalisation.

By his actions, Mr Fisher displayed considerable bravery.

### **Mr Kevin Wayne HINES, 53 Macquarie Street, Chifley NSW 2036**

On the morning of 24 December 2004, Mr Hines helped to disarm and restrain an offender at Matraville, New South Wales.

Mr Hines had just arrived at work at a retail store in Matraville when two male offenders entered the premises. One of the men, armed with a gun, went to the office and ordered the store owner and an employee to get down on the floor. The other offender then forced Mr Hines into the office and also ordered him down on the floor. The offenders threatened all three men in the office with the gun. One of the offenders struck Mr Hines and the other employee with a vacuum cleaner, causing a bleeding injury to the back of Mr Hines' head. Mr Hines was also struck in the back while the men were demanding the keys to the safe from the store owner. The offenders tied Mr Hines' and the other employee's hands while continuing to threaten them and to punch and push the store owner, during which the gun fired. The two offenders ran from the office out onto the street and the store owner and other employee chased them. Mr Hines followed once he had freed his hands. During a struggle, the store owner was shot. Mr Hines and his workmate wrestled with the gunman, while the second offender fled the scene. With the assistance of a third employee who had joined them, they were able to disarm the man and restrain him until police arrived. Sadly, the store owner died from his wound.

By his actions, Mr Hines displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Simon Christopher HUGGINS**, PO Box 375, Mornington Vic 3931

On the afternoon of 3 March 2004, Mr Huggins rescued two people from a light plane crash at Tyabb, Victoria.

Mr Huggins and a colleague were working in a paddock at a market garden in Tyabb when they saw a plane flying low and trailing smoke. The plane crash-landed in a paddock about 100 metres away from them and flipped onto its roof. After running to the plane, Mr Huggins climbed under a broken wing and saw a woman and a man inside the plane. In spite of the danger of post-impact fire or an explosion as a result of fuel leakage, Mr Huggins pulled the perspex canopy off the plane to free the woman. He then climbed into the cockpit so that he could release the man's seatbelt and help him to safety.

By his actions, Mr Huggins displayed considerable bravery.

**Mr Mark Andrew JACKSON, deceased**, Late of Ryde NSW 2112

In the early hours of the morning of 19 July 2001, Mr Jackson chased and attempted to restrain an armed offender at the Taverners Hill Hotel, Leichhardt, New South Wales.

Mr Jackson, an off duty employee of the hotel, was present when two men, one armed with a knife, the other with a handgun, attempted to rob the hotel. While the man with the gun ordered patrons to the rear of the bar, the man with the knife emptied the cash registers. When the gunman was distracted momentarily, a patron seized the opportunity and hit him on the side of the head with a barstool. Mr Jackson chased and tackled the gunman as he was running from the hotel. Mr Jackson then wrestled with the man and was wounded when shots were fired. The man dropped the gun and fled, while the second robber left the hotel from a rear exit. Sadly, Mr Jackson died from his wound shortly after reaching hospital.

By his actions, Mr Jackson displayed considerable bravery, thereby losing his life.

Next of Kin: Mrs Margaret Jackson (Mother)

**Mrs Sharon Elizabeth MAYO**, 1066 Milina Place, Tom Price WA 6751

Details not available at the request of Mrs Mayo.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

### **Mr James RAWAS, deceased, Late of Maroubra NSW 2035**

On the morning of 24 December 2004, Mr Rawas pursued and attempted to disarm an offender at Matraville, New South Wales.

Mr Rawas, the owner of a retail store in Matraville, was working in the office when two male offenders entered the premises. One of the men, armed with a gun, went into the office and ordered Mr Rawas and an employee to get down on the floor. The second offender forced another employee into the office and on the floor. After striking the two employees with a vacuum cleaner and threatening them with the gun, the offenders demanded the keys to the safe from Mr Rawas. On being told that Mr Rawas did not have the keys, the men tied the hands of the two employees and struck one of them again. The men continued to push and punch Mr Rawas while demanding the keys. The gun was fired and the two offenders ran from the office and out into the street. Mr Rawas grabbed a decorative machete that he kept in the office and with one of his employees, who had managed to free his tied hands, chased the offenders. While attempting to restrain the armed offender, Mr Rawas was shot. The second offender then fled. The other employee in the store had also run out as soon as he could free his hands and both employees then wrestled with the gunman, who was still trying to fire his gun. With the assistance of a third employee who arrived on the scene, they were able to disarm the man and hold him until police arrived. Sadly, Mr Rawas died from the wound inflicted.

By his actions, Mr Rawas displayed considerable bravery, thereby losing his life.

Next of Kin: Mrs Consuelo Rawas (Wife)

### **Senior Constable David William RAYMOND, Queensland Police**

On the afternoon of 6 February 2004, Senior Constable Raymond rescued a youth from floodwaters in the Mulgrave River at Goldsborough Valley, Queensland.

Senior Constable Raymond had just arrived home from work when a neighbour told him that a boy had fallen from Peets Bridge into the flooded Mulgrave River. Senior Constable Raymond advised the police communications centre of the incident as he drove to the scene in his police vehicle. When he arrived, he saw a 14-year-old boy holding on to a tree in the middle of the river about 50 metres from the bridge. Senior Constable Raymond reassured the boy, then collected ropes from his vehicle and, holding one end of the rope while people on the bridge held the other end, attempted to reach the boy by walking into the water. However, he was dragged under by the force of the flood and, unable to reach the boy, was pulled back and assisted onto the bridge. Senior Constable Raymond then returned to his home and collected his kayak, a life jacket and more rope. With the assistance of people on the bridge, he tied rope to the kayak and then paddled out to the boy. The kayak was swamped by water and capsized, but Senior Constable Raymond managed to grab hold of a tree close to the boy. He then instructed the people on the bridge to throw the life jacket attached to a rope to him. He reached across and put the life jacket on the boy who was pulled to safety. The life jacket was then thrown back to Senior Constable Raymond and he too was pulled to safety.

By his actions, Senior Constable Raymond displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mrs Shelley Maree ROBERTSON**, 2 Water Street, Guildford WA 6055

On the morning of 27 December 2004, Ms Robertson rescued two people caught in a rip at Geographe Bay in Busselton, Western Australia.

Ms Robertson was on the beach with her family when she heard a woman screaming for help. She saw that a man and two boys were in difficulty and being carried out to sea in a strong rip. One of the boys managed to swim back to shore but the other boy and the man were already a long way out. Ms Robertson jumped into the water and swam out to the man and boy. By the time she reached them, the man was barely conscious and sinking. Ms Robertson grabbed him and held his head above the water. She then attempted to calm the boy who feared for his now unconscious father. Ms Robertson instructed the boy to hold onto her around the neck and kick as hard as he could. Ms Robertson swam for some 15 minutes in an attempt to tow the two across the rip and get them to shore. She was still 150–200 metres from shore and becoming exhausted and at times fearful for all of their lives when a sailboarder came to their aid. Ms Robertson helped to push the man onto the sailboarder's back and continued to swim back to shore with the boy. After delivering the man to the beach, the sailboarder returned to Ms Robertson and towed the boy the remaining 25 metres to shore, while Ms Robertson swam beside them.

By her actions, Ms Robertson displayed considerable bravery.

**Mr George Callum SOUTAR**, 142 Coorabell Road, Federal NSW 2480

Details not available at the request of Mr Soutar.

**Mr Darren Ian SOUTHON**, 170 Wilsons Hill Road, Marong Vic 3515

On the afternoon of 20 May 2005, Mr Southon went to assist in the rescue of a woman and child from a burning vehicle after an accident at Marong, Victoria.

Mr Southon and his wife were in a paddock on their property when at about 1.00pm they saw a car drive past and crash into a tree, after the driver had lost control on the gravel road. Mr Southon and his wife immediately drove to the accident. As they approached they saw flames coming from beneath the car. Mr Southon began throwing dirt on the flames, suffering burns to his hands as he tried to pat down the fire. While his wife removed a baby from the back of the car and took the child to her house to safety and returned with fire extinguishers, Mr Southon removed a woman from the driver's seat. To do this, he had to lean into the burning car to release her seat belt and remove the brake pedal, which had penetrated her leg. Mr Southon made further attempts to extinguish the flames, getting under the car despite the risk of explosion. When he was unable to put out the fire, Mr Southon assisted his wife to move the woman further away from the car. Mr Southon then checked the car for other occupants and helped comfort the woman until ambulance and emergency services officers arrived. The car was subsequently completely incinerated.

By his actions, Mr Southon displayed considerable bravery.