

STAR OF COURAGE

Mr Andrew MacDONALD, Padstow NSW 2211

On the morning of 5 August 2010, Mr Andrew MacDonald rescued a work colleague from an armed offender at Bonnyrigg, New South Wales.

Mr MacDonald was working as a department manager at a major retail store in Bonnyrigg when three men entered the store and requested to speak to the store loss prevention officer. He was unaware that they were unhappy with the officer following a minor altercation earlier in the morning. As he was speaking with them the undercover loss prevention officer approached and identified himself. The men requested him to go outside with them, before an argument ensued and they began to assault him. Mr MacDonald was pushed aside by one of the men as another man grabbed his colleague by the shirt. As the men wrestled, a handgun was produced and aimed at the victim's stomach. As Mr MacDonald called for help, he pushed one of the offenders away and managed to keep the two other men on the ground which allowed the victim to run away and hide elsewhere inside the store. After the offenders got up, Mr MacDonald warned other staff and customers to stay back as he followed the men and ordered them outside despite them threatening to shoot him. When the offenders departed through the back exit and headed to their trucks Mr MacDonald prevented staff and customers from leaving the store for their own safety. When Mr MacDonald attempted to get a vehicle description one of the men fired two shots towards where he and others were standing. Later as two other men followed the offenders in their vehicle to a residence in a nearby suburb, they called 000 and gave location updates of the offenders to the police.

By his actions, Mr MacDonald displayed conspicuous courage.