

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Miss Elizabeth Ann ADAMS**, Palm Beach Qld 4221

On 29 May 2016, Miss Elizabeth Adams rescued a woman from a burning vehicle at Palm Beach in Queensland.

In the early evening Miss Adams was driving towards an intersection in Palm Beach when a car travelling at high speed passed her before leaving the road and impacting with a traffic pole. Debris, including a baby car seat, was strewn over a large area as the vehicle was split in two.

Miss Adams immediately stopped her vehicle and ran to the scene. She opened the door and noticed another baby seat, so immediately instructed bystanders, who had also stopped, to look for babies. Miss Adams pulled the deployed airbags off the injured female driver.

With fire now coming through the windscreen and footwell, Miss Adams reached into the car and tried numerous times to pull the woman free. From outside the vehicle a bystander attempted to support the unresponsive woman's neck while Miss Adams consciously placed herself in a position between the woman and the flames as she manipulated the woman's legs from underneath the steering wheel and dashboard.

Shattered glass covered the woman as Miss Adams continued to manoeuvre the woman's body and the front seat until the woman could be pulled from the vehicle.

With another person, Miss Adams then moved the woman away from the car as one of the men, who was a doctor, checked her vital signs. With the danger of explosion imminent, the woman was moved further away from the burning vehicle moments before it exploded into flames. Emergency Services arrived and transported the injured woman to hospital.

By her actions, Miss Adams displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Mr Leon Corey BROUWER**, Singleton WA 6175

On 17 April 2017, Mr Leon Brouwer went to the rescue of his daughter after a shark attack at Kelp Beds Beach near Esperance in Western Australia.

At around 3pm on that day, Mr Brouwer and his 17 year old daughter were surfing about 200 metres off shore when a 3.5 metre great white shark attacked the young woman.

Without regard for his own safety, Mr Brouwer immediately swam towards his injured daughter and managed to pull her onto his surfboard.

As the shark continued to circle the pair, Mr Brouwer made his way towards the shore and, on reaching it, first aid was quickly commenced.

Emergency Services were called but unfortunately the young woman was unable to be revived.

By his actions, Mr Brouwer displayed considerable bravery.

**Mr Craig Geoffrey COLEMAN**, St Lawrence Qld 4707

On the evening of 27 March 2017, Mr Craig Coleman rescued a man from dangerous floodwaters at a property near St Lawrence in Queensland.

Mr Coleman and his wife were asleep in their home when their neighbour phoned them to say that his house was being inundated by floodwaters and that he was stranded.

The area around St Lawrence was being affected by a major flooding event due to the effects of Cyclone Debbie. The flooding was accompanied by high wind gusts, heavy rain and the fast moving water was classed as an inland tsunami. Water levels at the neighbour's property were rising rapidly, and his vehicle had also been swamped, rendering it useless.

Mr Coleman and his wife quickly obtained a small motor boat and trailered it to a safe place from which to launch it into the water. Whilst his wife stayed with their vehicle, directing its headlights to illuminate the water, Mr Coleman launched the boat and navigated his way in the dark and treacherous conditions to his neighbour's property located one and half kilometres away.

On reaching the property Mr Coleman found his neighbour clinging to a pole on the outside of the house. The fast flowing water was up to the man's chest.

Mr Coleman moved the small boat close to the man and managed to pull him and his dog onboard. The men then made their way back through flooded bushland to where Mrs Coleman and the vehicle were located. The group made their way slowly along the flooded Bruce Highway and returned to the safety of the Coleman's property.

By his actions, Mr Coleman displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Mr Lyle Ernest COLLINS**, Rochester Vic 3561

On the 6th of February 2018, Mr Lyle Collins went to the assistance of a man being attacked by a swarm of wild bees near Rochester in Victoria.

At about 6pm Mr Collins was assisting his neighbour to remove an old fence post from his rural property. As they used a tractor to pull the post onto a nearby road they disrupted a large wild-bee hive. The bees became aggressive and agitated and swarmed into the air.

A number of bees quickly flew towards Mr Collins' older neighbour, covering his face, arms and body in a thick layer. Mr Collins, who was in the cab of the tractor, told his neighbour to run but the man couldn't hear him.

By this time some of the bees had entered the cab of the tractor, forcing Mr Collins to get out, and as he did the bees began stinging him. He then ran 400 metres to his neighbour's house in order to collect items to provide some protection from the bees.

He quickly returned to his neighbour who had fallen to the ground and was covered in the constantly stinging bees. Mr Collins, who was also being stung, used towels to remove the bees from his neighbour and then covered him with a sheet. He commenced using spray insecticide on the bees, causing them to become more agitated.

Mr Collins was then able to drag his neighbour away from the area. Emergency services later arrived on the scene and both men were taken to hospital where they were treated for their extensive bee sting injuries.

By his actions, Mr Collins displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Sergeant Paul Anthony COX**, Queensland Police Service

On 5 December 1998, Sergeant Paul Cox, then a Senior Constable, was involved in calming a civil disturbance event that included an armed offender at Cherbourg in Queensland.

In the early hours of the morning Senior Constable Cox and another police officer were on duty when they were notified of a disturbance involving a local family and a crowd of over 100 people in a nearby street. As the first police officers to arrive at the scene they saw the crowd was spread over a distance of some 40 metres, mostly in two groups. They identified some members of the crowd as earlier having an agitated confrontation with the officers.

Senior Constable Cox exited the police vehicle while the other officer alerted colleagues to the situation via the police radio. The angry crowd began to hurl rocks and bottles towards the police vehicle. He re-entered the police vehicle and he and his colleague decided on a plan of action.

As the two groups of people yelled threats at each other, Senior Constable Cox and his colleague got out of the police vehicle and each headed towards a different group. They both attempted to calm the groups and diffuse the hostile environment.

At this time, a man from one of the groups, armed with a shotgun, ran from the rear of a nearby house, loading the weapon as he ran. Without hesitation Senior Constable Cox's colleague ran towards the armed offender who discharged the shotgun. The officer placed himself between the armed offender and the crowd and was then able to disarm the man and secure the shotgun inside the police vehicle.

A short while later the same offender reappeared with a rifle and fired two shots towards the angry crowd. Senior Constable Cox's colleague and another man tackled the offender to the ground and the rifle was removed and placed in the police vehicle. The offender was then moved to a nearby garage and away from the angry crowd.

During this time Senior Constable Cox had been surrounded by the crowd and several people were jostling and pushing him about. A man then swung a punch to the rear of his head. Despite this he remained calm and continued to reason with the hostile crowd in an attempt to prevent further violence.

Other police officers then arrived on the scene and the decision was taken to withdraw for safety reasons.

By his actions, Sergeant Cox displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

### **Mr Jean-Luc GALLO, NSW**

On 25 August 2017, Mr Jean-Luc Gallo intervened during a violent attack at a university in the Australian Capital Territory.

At 9:15am Mr Gallo was attending a university lecture when he heard a female classmate begin to scream. From the front of the room, Mr Gallo saw a man, armed with a metal baseball bat, violently attack and injure a number of students. The lecturer was writing on the whiteboard and had her back to the commotion.

The offender then began to attack the lecturer from behind. He struck the lecturer several times knocking her to the ground. Using a book to protect herself the lecturer attempted to disarm the attacker before trying to move away.

Without hesitation, Mr Gallo stood up from his seat and challenged the attacker, causing the offender to turn his attention to him. The attacker then struck Mr Gallo a number of times whilst he advanced on the man in order to subdue him.

Despite his injuries, Mr Gallo managed to wrap his arms around the offender's chest and pin his arms down. He then called for assistance from other students. Momentarily Mr Gallo released one of the offender's arms which enabled the man to grab hold of the lecturer's hair in an attempt to continue the attack.

Mr Gallo and others quickly restrained the man and held him until further assistance arrived.

By his actions, Mr Gallo displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Mr Damond Warwick GRAY**, Mount Warren Park Qld 4207

On 23 July 2017, Mr Damond Gray apprehended an armed offender at Mount Warren Park in Queensland.

Mr Gray was at home at around 2pm when a family member informed him that an armed intruder was in the house. The man had walked through the house holding a knife and a loaded shotgun, before leaving through the back door.

The family member followed the armed man, who had earlier pointed the firearm directly at her. She saw the man throw a bike over a neighbour's fence before leaving the site.

Mr Gray and the female family member immediately got into a car and began to drive through the streets in search of the man. They located him attempting to break into a parked vehicle. Mr Gray stopped his car alongside the armed man who pointed the shotgun directly at their windscreen. The offender then began to run and Mr Gray exited his vehicle and chased after him.

After a foot pursuit, Mr Gray caught up with the man and stood about a metre in front of him. The man was out of breath and puffing as he raised the gun and pointed it directly at Mr Gray.

Mr Gray was able to distract the offender by saying the police had arrived, and he was then able to grab the offender's weapon, breaking it in the process. He put the offender in a headlock, pulled him to the ground, and threw the shotgun to the side.

At this time the female family member reached the pair and Mr Gray instructed her to go and find his neighbour, who arrived on the scene and helped with restraining the offender.

The men held the offender until police officers arrived at the scene.

By his actions, Mr Gray displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Mr Matthew Caine HASSEN**, Bulimba Qld 4171

On 5 December 1998, Mr Matthew Hassen, then a Senior Constable, was involved in calming a civil disturbance event that included an armed offender at Cherbourg in Queensland.

In the early hours of the morning Senior Constable Hassen and another police officer were on duty when they were notified of a disturbance involving a local family and a crowd of over 100 people in a nearby street. As the first police officers to arrive at the scene they saw the crowd of people was spread over a distance of some 40 metres, mostly in two groups. They identified some members of the crowd as earlier having an agitated confrontation with the officers.

Senior Constable Hassen's colleague exited the police vehicle while he alerted other colleagues to the situation via the police radio. The angry crowd began to hurl rocks and bottles towards the police vehicle. Senior Constable Hassen's colleague re-entered the police vehicle and the officers decided on a plan of action.

As the two groups of people yelled threats at each other, Senior Constable Hassen and the other officer got out of the police vehicle and each headed towards a different group. They both attempted to calm the groups and diffuse the hostile environment.

At this time, a man from one of the groups, armed with a shotgun, ran from the rear of a nearby house, loading the weapon as he ran. Without hesitation Senior Constable Hassen ran towards the armed offender who discharged the shotgun. He placed himself between the armed offender and the crowd and was then able to disarm the man and secure the shotgun inside the police vehicle.

A short while later, the same offender reappeared with a rifle and fired two shots towards the angry crowd. Senior Constable Hassen and another man tackled the offender to the ground and the rifle was removed and placed in the police vehicle. The offender was then moved to a nearby garage and away from the angry crowd.

During this time the other officer had been surrounded by the crowd and several people were jostling and pushing him about. A man then swung a punch to the rear of his head. Despite this he remained calm and continued to reason with the hostile crowd in an attempt to prevent further violence.

Other police officers then arrived on the scene and the decision was taken to withdraw for safety reasons.

By his actions, Mr Hassen displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Mr Zen Sirius JOYCE**, Coledale NSW 2515

In the early evening of 21 September 2017, Mr Zen Joyce rescued a group of people from rough water at the port of Hvar in Croatia.

Mr Joyce was aboard a taxi boat transporting a group of people between a cruise ship and the port of Hvar when a small boat nearby capsized, throwing all four occupants into the rough water.

Realising the four people were in danger, he dove into the choppy water and began to swim about 100m to the upturned boat. One of the four occupants of the capsized boat was able to swim on his own to the taxi boat, whilst the remaining three people clung to the bow of the overturned small boat.

The three people remaining were not wearing life jackets, were not strong swimmers, and the boat was sinking. Mr Joyce told them that he would take each person individually back to the taxi boat. As he swam the first woman towards the taxi boat he noticed that a second man was no longer floating and was completely under the waterline as the boat had sunk. Sensing the urgency, Mr Joyce told the reluctant woman that they would have to turn back to save the floundering man. Despite the squally conditions he swam the woman back towards the man and got hold of him.

With a person now under each arm, Mr Joyce swam the pair through the rough water to the taxi boat where the woman was pulled aboard, however the people on the taxi boat were unable to pull the man aboard but they managed to keep his head above water.

Meanwhile Mr Joyce returned to the final passenger, a female who was now clinging to a life ring that had been thrown from a passing yacht. He began swimming the woman towards the taxi boat when a Hvar Port Authority boat arrived and the woman was pulled aboard and taken to land.

Mr Joyce then swam back to the taxi boat and discovered that the second man was still in the water. Another passenger on the taxi boat jumped into the water. Mr Joyce and the male passenger worked together to push the man from below and he was able to be pulled aboard. The boat quickly returned to shore and was met by ambulance officers.

By his actions, Mr Joyce displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Mr Alan Brian LAWRY**, Coolum Beach Qld 4573

In the evening of 17 July 2016, Mr Alan Lawry rescued a woman from a burning house at Coolum in Queensland.

At about 10.30pm Mr Lawry was at home with his wife when he smelt smoke. He went out his front door and saw a smoke haze over the house across the street. As he approached the house he saw an orange/red glow coming from inside. He quickly ran to a nearby house and raised the alarm with a neighbour.

Mr Lawry and his neighbour ran to the smoke covered property, jumped the fence and began checking the front door and windows, but they were hot to the touch. They then went to the rear of the house and checked a window and door. They opened the back door and Mr Lawry went in to search for occupants.

Mr Lawry was about one metre inside the house when he located the body of an unconscious female. He dragged her outside and, with the assistance of his neighbour, away from the burning house, placing her in the recovery position. At that stage the woman was breathing and her body was covered in soot.

Mr Lawry and the other man, believing that there may be more occupants in the house, entered the burning dwelling and made their way down the hallway before being forced back due to the intensity of the flames and heat.

The men then moved the woman to the front of the property where her condition deteriorated. Mr Lawry immediately commenced CPR and continued this until ambulance officers arrived. Meanwhile the other man and some neighbours began to douse the house with water.

Sadly the woman did not survive the incident.

By his actions, Mr Lawry displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Mr Timothy Thomas LEEMING**, Coojar Vic 3315

On 22 October 2015, Mr Timothy Leeming rescued an elderly woman from a burning vehicle at Pigeon Ponds in Victoria.

At around 2.30pm an elderly woman was driving on the Coleraine-Edenhope Road in Victoria when she lost control of her vehicle. The car left the road at-speed and collided with a tree before flipping onto its roof.

The driver was conscious but trapped inside the badly damaged vehicle by her seatbelt. Smoke then began to emit from the car.

Mr Leeming arrived on the scene and stopped his vehicle. Despite the smoke and debris he quickly went to the car whilst a bystander called triple 0.

Through the smoke and tinted windows, Mr Leeming was able to observe the woman who was trapped. He entered the vehicle and managed to release the woman from her seatbelt before pulling her outside. He then carried her away from the wreck. A short time later the vehicle was entirely engulfed in flames.

By his actions, Mr Leeming displayed considerable bravery.

**Miss Karina NUMAMURDIRDI**, Angurugu Community NT 0822

On 9 February 2017, Miss Karina Numamurdirdi went to the assistance of a woman during a domestic violence incident at Numbulwar in the Northern Territory.

At approximately 9pm, Miss Numamurdirdi was in her home in Numbulwar when she became aware of a verbal and physical attack happening to a young woman in a house across the street.

She saw the offender kick open a window and enter the dwelling. The offender, who was armed with a knife, assaulted the young woman, wounding her on the arms and upper back. The offender then dragged the injured woman outside. As the woman tried to run away, the offender grabbed her shirt and assaulted her again.

Miss Numamurdirdi observed the assault from her veranda and yelled at the man to leave the woman alone. As the assault continued, she left the safety of her house and went across the street. At this time the man was armed with a piece of wood and was continuing to assault the victim.

Miss Numamurdirdi pushed the attacker off the woman multiple times. She then lifted the injured woman up onto her back and tried to carry her to the safety of her house. The physical and verbal struggle continued with the offender until the offender was able to grab hold of the injured woman and drag her down the road towards a bush ceremonial area.

At this time Night Patrol Officers arrived and located the offender and the distraught female in nearby bushland. They removed her from the offender and took her to hospital for treatment.

By her actions, Miss Numamurdirdi displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**The late Mr Robert Fawcett PICKERSGILL**, formerly of Qld

On the 26 November 1940, Mr Robert Pickersgill rescued a child from a burning homestead near Blackall in Queensland.

At around 12.15 pm on that day Mr Pickersgill was working at Bonnie Doon sheep station when he and others were alerted to a fire at the nearby homestead.

Mr Pickersgill and others rushed to the house. Using a garden hose, attempts were made to extinguish the fire. Efforts were also made to recover some contents from the homestead, however due to the intense heat, only a few items were able to be retrieved.

At this time, it was noticed that the four year old daughter of the homestead's owners was missing. Without regard for his own safety, Mr Pickersgill immediately entered the burning building and began to search for the child.

He eventually located her in the bathroom of the house where the ceiling had caught fire. He immediately picked up the child and removed her from the house. Soon after the homestead was completely engulfed in flames and destroyed.

By his actions, Mr Pickersgill displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Mr Todd Jonathan ROBERTSON**, Barwon Heads Vic 3227

On the morning of 16 October 2016, Mr Todd Robertson rescued a man from a burning vehicle near Hamilton Plains in Queensland.

Mr Robertson and a friend were travelling on Shute Harbour Road when they noticed the traffic ahead had stopped. As they neared the scene they could see that a utility had hit a power pole. Sparks and a large explosion were also observed at the top of the pole. The sparks ignited a jerry can of petrol in the back of the utility setting the vehicle on fire.

Mr Robertson stopped his car and both he and his friend ran towards the burning vehicle. The driver's door was ajar and the driver was still inside. The dazed and injured driver attempted to exit the vehicle however power lines lay on the ground nearby obstructing the man's exit, with one also on top of the utility.

Mr Robertson quickly approached the burning vehicle and made several attempts to assist the driver out, however the heat and power lines forced him back.

The driver, who by this stage had serious burns, managed to exit the vehicle. Without hesitation, and despite the intense heat and fallen powerlines, Mr Robertson removed his singlet and threw one end of it to the injured driver. The man held onto the singlet and tried to walk forward but kept staggering backwards.

At this point, a bystander arrived with a fire extinguisher and Mr Robertson directed the nozzle towards the injured driver dousing the flames. He then took the man by the hand and led him away from the burning car. Mr Robertson's friend instructed bystanders to gather wet towels which were placed on the injured man until emergency services arrived.

Unfortunately due to the extent of his injuries the elderly driver did not recover.

By his actions, Mr Robertson displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Mr Jason Troy SHEPHERD**, Lower King WA 6330

On the afternoon of 18 February 2017, Mr Jason Shepherd went to the rescue of seven people from treacherous conditions at a beach near Albany in Western Australia.

Mr Shepherd and his family were visiting Nanarup Beach and were preparing to go into the surf when they noticed a group of people in the water nearby were distressed as they had gotten caught in a dangerous rip.

Mr Shepherd immediately entered the water with his boogie board and paddled over to one child who was panicking. He pulled the child onto his board and then collected two adults who were also struggling against the treacherous current. Once he had them on his board he made his way through the swell and when they got a foothold on the sand he gave them his board and they were able to reach the safety of the shore.

He then noticed two other children caught in the rip about 50 metres from the shore. He coaxed them to swim across the current but they were unable to make headway in the surf.

Mr Shepherd quickly swam out to the children and rescued a young girl and brought her to safety. He entered the dangerous water again and swam out to a young boy who he then returned safely to shore.

By his actions, Mr Shepherd displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Mr Andrew Gordon STRUNK**, South Fremantle WA 6162

On Monday 14 August 2017, Mr Andrew Strunk went to the rescue of a woman who was trapped in a vehicle in North Fremantle, Western Australia.

Mr Strunk, an off-duty firefighter and trained medic, was at a local gym when the facade at the top of a former brewery building on the other side of the street started to collapse onto a row of cars below due to strong winds.

Together with other gym patrons, he immediately ran across the road towards a car which had sustained significant damage. The falling debris had crushed the roof of the car which was occupied by a woman. The impact had forced the woman sideways in the vehicle and her head was now stuck through a window. The position she was in meant that she was vulnerable to further falling bricks and debris.

While others set to work clearing the large amounts of bricks from on top of and around the car, Mr Strunk, ran inside the gym to source a first aid kit before returning. He could see that the strong winds were causing more bricks and debris to fall, putting both the trapped woman and others at risk of serious injury.

Realising that the damaged vehicle needed to be moved away from the danger area, Mr Strunk and others set to work clearing the debris away from the front of the car. The vehicle's park brake was released and the car put into neutral.

He then coordinated the others on scene to form a huddle behind the car and they worked together to push it five metres into the street and away from the danger. Emergency Services arrived, freed the woman, and transported her to hospital.

By his actions, Mr Strunk displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Mr Axel Christian TRITTON**, Dean Park NSW 2761

On 25th September 2016, Mr Axel Tritton rescued two co-workers from a collapsed crane in North Sydney, New South Wales.

On that morning Mr Tritton and two colleagues were dismantling a tower crane in North Sydney using a smaller recovery crane. At approximately 11:20am the three men were on the boom of the tower crane when there was a structural failure.

A number of steel cables gave way, causing the metal arms of the boom to snap. The boom then collapsed over the side of the building with debris falling onto the roof and balcony area of the building. The incident left Mr Tritton and his two co-workers hanging by their harnesses, within the metal structure of the boom, over the side of the building and approximately 14 floors above the road.

Concerned for his injured co-workers, and despite also being injured, Mr Tritton unclipped himself from his safety harness which attached him to the crane. He then began to climb up to the top of the crane to reach the building. During his climb he had no safety feature to protect him if he slipped.

Once he reached the building he was able to stand on a stable platform and attract the attention of two other workers. Using a recovery crane, the two workers then assisted in lowering Mr Tritton in a 'man-box' to reach the stranded men still dangling from their harnesses. When the men were reached they were assisted into the 'man-box' and then lowered to the street.

Emergency Services conveyed Mr Tritton and his badly injured colleagues to hospital.

For his actions, Mr Tritton displayed considerable bravery.