

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

### **Mr Athen Cahn Lontok BARNABY, Southport Qld 4215**

On the afternoon of 2 February 2016, Mr Athen Barnaby rescued a man from a burning truck at Nerang, Queensland.

Mr Barnaby was travelling on the Gold Coast Highway when he witnessed a large truck swerve, slide into the guard rail, and jack-knife. The truck was tilted on its side, taking up three lanes of the highway with fire and smoke billowing from the engine area.

Dressed only in light clothing and thongs he left his own vehicle and ran towards the burning truck, just as the driver was trying to climb out of the cabin via a window. Due to his injuries and the smoke, the driver was unable to move any further.

Mr Barnaby climbed up onto the cabin to reach the semi-conscious driver, who was yelling in pain. He grabbed the driver by the arms and lifted him out from the window, freeing his injured legs.

He then levered the driver down across the front of the cabin to waiting bystanders who moved him to safety. A short time later the truck was engulfed in flames and exploded.

By his actions, Mr Barnaby displayed considerable bravery.

### **Sergeant Kyle Craig BATES, Queensland Police Service**

On the evening of 8 March 1990, Sergeant Kyle Bates, (then Constable Bates), was involved in the rescue of two men from a vessel off Byron Bay, New South Wales.

Sergeant Bates, and two other members of Queensland Police, launched police rescue catamaran the '*D.W. Wrembeck*', to go to the assistance of two men on a vessel located off Byron Bay. The police also sought the assistance of the '*Douglas Cairns*', a larger catamaran crewed by members of the Air Sea Rescue Service.

For approximately four hours the rescue catamarans battled rough seas and gale force winds. The '*Douglas Cairns*' became incapacitated, leaving the '*D.W. Wrembeck*' to continue on as the weather conditions worsened.

At 2:00am the stricken vessel was located with two men aboard. Despite debris in the water from the damaged craft, the police vessel was navigated close enough to float a life-ring to one of the men who was then pulled aboard. The second man drifted away in the huge sea but was eventually located and pulled aboard.

As the police vessel made its return it was continuously pounded by huge waves which caused breaks to the rigging and threatened the crew's ability to maintain communications and operate the engines.

By his actions, Sergeant Bates displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

### **Mr Edward William BENNET, Gold Coast Qld 4221**

On the evening of 8 March 1990, Mr Edward Bennet, (then Constable Bennet), was involved in the rescue of two men from a vessel off Byron Bay, New South Wales.

Constable Bennet, and two other members of Queensland Police, launched police rescue catamaran the '*D.W. Wrembeck*', to go to the assistance of two men on a vessel located off Byron Bay. The police also sought the assistance of the '*Douglas Cairns*', a larger catamaran crewed by members of the Air Sea Rescue Service.

For approximately four hours the rescue vessels battled rough seas and gale force winds. The '*Douglas Cairns*' became incapacitated leaving the '*D.W. Wrembeck*' to continue on as the weather conditions worsened.

At 2:00am the stricken vessel was located with two men aboard. Despite debris in the water from the damaged craft, the police vessel was navigated close enough to float a life-ring to one of the men who was then pulled aboard. The second man drifted away in the huge sea but was eventually located and pulled aboard.

As the police vessel made its return it was continuously pounded by huge waves which caused breaks to the rigging and threatened the crew's ability to maintain communications and operate the engines.

By his actions, Mr Bennet displayed considerable bravery.

### **Mr Sean Jeffery BROCK-DILLON, Rosewood Qld 4340**

On the evening of 8 April 2013, Mr Sean Brock-Dillon assisted two girls who were being assaulted by a man behind Rosewood Skate Park in Rosewood, Queensland.

Mr Brock-Dillon and his friend were skate-boarding at Rosewood Skate Park when they heard some people behind the skate park arguing. After approximately 10 minutes Mr Brock-Dillon and his friend left the skate park and went to investigate the argument. They found several people in a make shift campsite drinking alcohol.

With them was an older man who was physically assaulting two female teenagers. The offender grabbed one girl before hitting her in the face. She fell to the ground with the offender then falling on top of her.

Mr Brock-Dillon immediately moved towards the offender, jumped onto his back and began wrestling with him. During the struggle he was stabbed - receiving life threatening injuries. Mr Brock-Dillon's friend hit the offender with a skateboard and began wrestling with him, also receiving stab wounds. The offender then ran from the camp and was arrested by police several hours later.

By his actions, Mr Brock-Dillon displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

### **Ms Janine CAHILL, Sydney NSW 2000**

In the early hours of 22 February 2010, Ms Janine Cahill assisted two people who were being assaulted by two armed men in Leichardt, New South Wales.

Ms Cahill was walking down Marion Street, Leichardt when she saw two males armed with a hammer and metal rod assaulting a man, with an injured woman nearby. Notwithstanding the dangerous situation, she approached the scene and yelled at the offenders that she was calling 000. The assault persisted as she continued to move towards the helpless man.

The armed offenders then fled allowing Ms Cahill to provide assistance to the injured man and woman.

By her actions, Ms Cahill displayed considerable bravery.

### **Mr Sean Joseph CARLOW, Drummoyne NSW 2047**

In the late evening of 28 March 2007, Mr Sean Carlow assisted in the rescue of several people following a collision between two vessels on Sydney Harbour, New South Wales.

Late in the evening, the Sydney Ferries Harbour Cat '*Pam Burrige*', with two crew aboard, collided with the recreational cruiser vessel, '*Merinda*', which quickly sank in Sydney Harbour near Dawes Point.

Twelve people were aboard the '*Merinda*', and on impact several were thrown into the water where they clung to debris.

The '*Pam Burrige*' came to a stop some distance from the collision point and then backed up to render assistance. Two ferries, the '*Fishburn*' and the '*Golden Grove*', plus other Water Police, Sydney Ports and NSW Maritime boats immediately converged on the area to assist.

Following the collision, Mr Carlow, who was the helmsman of the '*Merinda*', saw an unconscious woman in the cabin of the boat. Despite the dangerous conditions, he straightaway swam through the debris into the cabin and proceeded to swim her out of a window before placing her on floating wreckage and commencing resuscitation. The woman was then transferred to a nearby ferry. He then returned to the vessel wreckage and helped to retrieve three other people before continuing to dive into the deep, dark water in an attempt to locate other passengers.

Following the collision eleven people were rescued from the water though, sadly, three people were deceased.

By his actions, Mr Carlow displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

### **Miss Kaylea Rae CAULFIELD, Carina Heights Qld 4152**

Just after 10:00pm on 11 April 2014, Miss Kaylea Caulfield provided assistance to her mother who had been wounded during a domestic violence assault at Chambers Flat in Queensland.

Kaylea, (aged 9 at the time), her four siblings and their mother were home when they heard noises outside the house. Concerned for their safety they all moved into a bedroom. Kaylea's mother went to investigate the noise and, on approaching the front door of the house, saw the offender, who was her ex-husband. She immediately ran back to the bedroom, locking the door.

The offender broke down the door and fired a gun at the woman, wounding her in the arm. As the offender reloaded the firearm, Kaylea's brother elbowed the man in the stomach, grabbed the firearm and ran and hid it outside.

As the offender continued to assault her mother, Kaylea's two brothers grabbed hold of the offender's arms wrestling with the man to prevent further injuries.

Whilst her brothers struggled with the offender, her youngest brother was able to escape outside with her youngest sister, who he had earlier placed under a bed to keep safe.

Meanwhile, Kaylea helped her mother to her feet, guiding her through the house and out the back door. She then located a first aid kit and began to treat her mother's injuries. A short time later Kaylea's brothers were also able to exit the house.

By her actions, Miss Caulfield displayed considerable bravery.

### **Mr Mathew David CLARK, Queensland Police Service**

On the evening of 24 November 2013, Mr Matthew Clark, assisted at a house fire in Forest Lake, Queensland.

Mr Clark was driving through Forest Lake when he observed a large amount of smoke through nearby parkland. He immediately performed a u-turn and drove in the direction of the smoke and came upon a house which was on fire.

Mr Clark called emergency services and sprinted down the driveway. As he neared the building he saw a young male with a garden hose coming from the right hand side of the house yelling for help. The male then entered the building through the front door.

Mr Clark hunched down and peered through the open front door. In the dimness he saw the young man was aiming the hose at a closed door and a female was near the rear of the room. As the room was filling with smoke, Mr Clark, who had now entered the house, instructed both occupants to leave immediately.

When they were moving towards the front door, Mr Clark was advised that an older, unconscious man was lying on a mattress in the room. He picked the man up and carried him outside. Despite the danger, he re-entered the burning home to check that no other occupants were inside.

By his actions, Mr Clark displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

### **The late Mr Christian Charles DEJANOVIC, Late of Victoria**

On the afternoon of 24 January 2012, Mr Christian Dejanovic rushed to protect a child who was in danger of being hit by a train at St Albans station in Victoria.

Mr Dejanovic arrived at St Albans station and noticed a group of around seven young children and an adult female approaching the station. The children were in high spirits and were moving around the area.

One young girl became isolated from the group and was becoming distressed. She headed in the direction of an unsecured gate that led directly onto the train tracks. At that moment a train was approaching the station and Mr Dejanovic, sensing the danger the young girl would be in if she went through the gate and onto tracks, immediately jumped over a fence and rushed toward her.

The young girl turned back in time as the train went through the station. Unfortunately Mr Dejanovic was struck by the train and sustained fatal injuries.

By his actions, Mr Dejanovic displayed considerable bravery.

### **Master Zane Luke FIELDS, Carina Heights Qld 4152**

Just after 10:00pm on 11 April 2014, Master Zane Fields provided assistance to his younger sister after their mother had been wounded during a domestic violence assault at Chambers Flat in Queensland.

Zane, (aged 4 at the time), his four siblings and their mother were home when they heard noises outside the house. Concerned for their safety they all moved into a bedroom. His mother went to investigate the noise and, on approaching the front door of the house, saw the offender, who was her ex-husband. She immediately ran back to the bedroom, locking the door.

The offender broke down the door and fired a gun at the woman, wounding her in the arm. As the offender reloaded the firearm, Zane's brother elbowed the man in the stomach, grabbed the firearm and ran and hid it outside.

As the offender continued to assault his mother, Zane's two brothers grabbed hold of the offender's arms wrestling with the man to prevent further injuries.

Whilst his brothers struggled with the offender, Zane was able to escape outside with his youngest sister, who he had earlier placed under a bed to keep safe.

Meanwhile, his eldest sister helped his mother to her feet, guided her out of the house, and administered first aid treatment to the woman's injured arm. A short time later Zane's brothers were also able to exit the house.

By his actions, Master Fields displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Mr Scott R C HUNTER**, Bargara Qld 4670

On the morning of 28 January 2013, Mr Scott Hunter, a Queensland Fire and Emergency Services fire fighter, assisted in the rescue of people trapped by floodwaters in North Bundaberg, Queensland.

Mr Hunter was tasked with assessing the rescue of about 80 people who had become stranded at a service station in North Bundaberg. The streets surrounding the service station were inundated with fast flowing water as a result of heavy rains.

Mr Hunter realised that the boat he was in was unsuitable for the task so enlisted the assistance of people who were nearby who had a flat bottomed boat. An anchor rope was tied to a power pole and then threaded through the boat's carry handles allowing the vessel to be used as a punt.

With no swift water training, Mr Hunter entered the waist high swirling water, shuffling against the rapids to reach the stranded victims. He prioritised the victims, rescuing the elderly and children first, and ferried them on the punt to a nearby evacuation area.

With the evacuation fully complete, Mr Hunter, without ropes or equipment, re-entered the fast flowing water to check buildings on the other side of the street for further stranded people.

By his actions, Mr Hunter displayed considerable bravery.

**Sergeant Nicole Anne JACKSON**, Queensland Police

In the late evening of 29 May 2011, Sergeant Nicole Jackson, (then a Detective Senior Constable), of the Queensland Police Force responded to an armed robbery incident at the Pacific Pines Tavern in Queensland.

Detective Senior Constable Jackson, together with another officer, responding to an armed robbery incident, stopped their vehicle outside the Pacific Pines Tavern and proceeded on foot with weapons drawn.

Her colleague scaled a fence and saw two armed offenders. One of the offenders then shot her colleague and she instantly ran to the police vehicle to call for urgent medical assistance. Despite the dangerousness of the situation she immediately returned to where her partner was and began to perform CPR. At this point the armed offenders fled on foot.

The armed offenders were subsequently apprehended and sadly Detective Senior Constable Jackson's colleague died as a result of the wounds sustained.

By her actions, Sergeant Jackson displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

### **The late Detective Senior Constable Damian LEEDING,** Late of the Queensland Police Service

In the late evening of 29 May 2011, Detective Senior Constable Damian Leeding of the Queensland Police Force responded to an armed robbery incident at the Pacific Pines Tavern in Queensland.

Detective Senior Constable Leeding, together with another officer, stopped their vehicle outside the Pacific Pines Tavern and proceeded on foot with weapons drawn. Despite the dangerous situation and being unaware of the offenders' exact location, he scaled a fence and called out to the offenders, before being shot by one of them.

After calling for urgent medical assistance, his colleague returned and proceeded to perform CPR on him.

The armed offenders were subsequently apprehended but sadly Detective Senior Constable Leeding did not survive the wounds he had sustained.

By his actions, Detective Senior Constable Leeding displayed considerable bravery.

### **Mr Peter Anthony LYNCH, Alexandria NSW 1435**

In the late evening of 28 March 2007, Mr Peter Lynch assisted in the rescue of several people following a collision between two vessels on Sydney Harbour, New South Wales.

Late in the evening the Sydney Ferries Harbour Cat '*Pam Burridge*', with two crew aboard, collided with the recreational cruiser vessel, '*Merinda*' which immediately sank in Sydney Harbour near Dawes Point.

Twelve people were aboard the '*Merinda*' and, on impact, several were thrown into the water where they clung to debris.

The '*Pam Burridge*' came to a stop some distance from the collision point and then backed up to render assistance. Two ferries, the '*Fishburn*' and the '*Golden Grove*', plus other Water Police, Sydney Ports and NSW Maritime boats immediately converged on the area to assist.

Following the collision, Mr Lynch, the owner of the '*Merinda*', assisted a young boy to swim to the '*Pam Burridge*'. He returned to the '*Merinda*' and assisted in removing an unconscious woman from the cabin of the boat and onto floating wreckage, where resuscitation efforts began, before the woman was transferred to a nearby ferry. He then swam through the debris and returned to the vessel wreckage and helped to retrieve two other people before continuing to dive into the deep, dark water in an attempt to locate other passengers.

Following the collision eleven people were rescued from the water though, sadly, three people were deceased.

By his actions, Mr Lynch displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Mrs Wendy Ann MESLEY**, North Sydney NSW 2060

On the morning of 3 July 2015, Mrs Wendy Mesley rescued a woman during a crocodile attack at Camp Creek in the Kimberley region of Western Australia.

Mrs Mesley was swimming with a group of 20 people at Camp Creek when she swam away from the main group. As another person was swimming to join her, a saltwater crocodile attacked, dragging the swimmer under the water.

Mrs Mesley immediately swam over to the injured woman, grabbed her around the shoulders and waist, and attempted to pull her away from the crocodile. The crocodile attacked again and Mrs Mesley hit it and continued to drag the injured woman away. The reptile moved its bite to the injured woman's thigh and Mrs Mesley was then able to kick it with her leg.

The two women reached shallow water and Mrs Mesley pushed the injured woman towards the shore while continuing to fend off the crocodile with her goggles and snorkel. Once the relative safety of the shore was reached, Mrs Mesley immediately supported the injured woman and took control of her first aid treatment.

By her actions, Mrs Mesley displayed considerable bravery.

**Mr Steven Craig MORRIS**, Townsville Qld 4810

On the morning of 24 August 2015, Mr Steven Morris rescued a disabled man from a burning house at Castle Hill in Queensland.

Mr Morris became aware of smoke billowing from a residence at The Point, Castle Hill, Townsville and he immediately ran towards the multi-storey property.

He placed a garden hose through the window and attempted to extinguish the fire before entering the building and searching and yelling for occupants. He quickly became breathless due to the thick black toxic smoke and was forced to retreat from the property. He then re-entered the building and again became overcome and withdrew.

As he was about to enter the home for a third time, the home's owner appeared in the driveway and informed him that her physically disabled son was inside and would be unable to get out by himself.

Mr Morris and the woman then made their way to the upper level of the property and located the young man. Mr Morris grabbed the young man and carried him downstairs and outside to safety as the woman followed.

By his actions, Mr Morris displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

### **Mr Neil Peter PAULSEN, Queensland**

On the evening of 8 March 1990, Mr Neil Paulsen, (then Constable Paulsen), was involved in the rescue of two men from a vessel off Byron Bay, New South Wales.

Constable Paulsen, and two other members of Queensland Police, launched police rescue catamaran the '*D.W. Wrembeck*', to go to the assistance of two men on a vessel located off Byron Bay. The police also sought the assistance of the '*Douglas Cairns*', a larger catamaran crewed by members of the Air Sea Rescue Service.

For approximately four hours the rescue vessels battled rough seas and gale force winds. The '*Douglas Cairns*' became incapacitated leaving the '*D.W. Wrembeck*' to continue on as the weather conditions worsened.

At 2:00am the stricken vessel was located with two men aboard. Despite debris in the water from the damaged craft, the police vessel was navigated close enough to float a life-ring to one of the men who was then pulled aboard. The second man drifted away in the huge sea but was eventually located and pulled aboard.

As the police vessel made its return it was continuously pounded by huge waves which caused breaks to the rigging and threatened the crew's ability to maintain communications and operate the engines.

By his actions, Mr Paulsen displayed considerable bravery.

### **Mr Adam John PEARSON, Mount Tamborine Qld 4272**

On the evening of 5 September 2014, Mr Adam Pearson (then a Sergeant with the Queensland Police Service) attended the scene of a truck accident near Charleville, south western Queensland.

At about 9pm, a B-double truck carrying over 52 tonnes of explosive chemicals, Ammonium Nitrate, crashed off the Angellala Creek Bridge on the Mitchell Highway and burst into flames. The driver who was severely injured managed to exit the burning wreckage and crawled up onto the bridge.

Meanwhile, Sergeant Pearson had recalled himself to duty after witnessing a fire vehicle travelling to the incident site. He obtained information regarding the dangerous cargo that the truck was carrying and immediately headed to the scene, stopping his vehicle approximately 150m behind the second parked fire vehicle. As he contacted VKR Charleville to provide a report, a second explosion occurred, sending debris into the air and the subsequent shockwave caused extensive damage to the surrounding area. Sergeant Pearson was briefly knocked unconscious and the blast caused the windscreen of his vehicle to shatter.

Believing there could be no survivors, he got himself to his feet and attempted to stop other responders from heading into the explosive area.

As other colleagues arrived, they noticed lights coming from the crash scene as four Queensland Fire and Emergency Service firefighters, who had gone into assist, and a truck driver emerged with injuries. Sergeant Pearson then attempted to enter to the site but was restrained due to the minor injuries he had sustained. He was later transported to Charleville Hospital for treatment.

By his actions, Mr Pearson displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

### **Mr Clive James REDFERN, Wee Waa NSW 2388**

On the afternoon of 16 July 2013, Mr Clive Redfern rescued a man from a burning truck near Narrabri in New South Wales.

Mr Redfern was driving along the Kamilaroi Highway about thirty kilometres south of Narrabri when he saw a B-double truck veer off the highway and crash into a tree. The truck driver, who remained trapped in his cabin, had lost control of the prime mover as he swerved to avoid an oncoming utility.

Mr Redfern immediately stopped his vehicle and ran to assist the truck driver whose vehicle was now smouldering. Despite the risk of an explosion, he climbed onto the truck's cabin and kicked the windscreen until it broke and helped the injured driver to leave the vehicle. He then assisted the driver over a fence and away from the vehicle to safety as the truck's fuel tank exploded.

By his actions, Mr Redfern displayed considerable bravery.

### **Mr Constantinos SAKOULAS, Russell Lea NSW 2046**

In the late evening of 28 March 2007, Mr Constantinos Sakoulas assisted in the rescue of several people following a collision between two vessels on Sydney Harbour, New South Wales.

Late in the evening the Sydney Ferries Harbour Cat '*Pam Burridge*', with two crew aboard, collided with the recreational cruiser vessel, '*Merinda*' which quickly sank in Sydney Harbour near Dawes Point.

Twelve people were aboard the '*Merinda*' and, on impact, several were thrown into the water where they clung to debris.

The '*Pam Burridge*' came to a stop some distance from the collision point and then backed up to render assistance. Two ferries, the '*Fishburn*' and the '*Golden Grove*', plus other Water Police, Sydney Ports and NSW Maritime boats immediately converged on the area to assist.

When the '*Fishburn*' arrived on the scene, crew member Mr Sakoulas saw a woman wearing a life jacket near the wreckage of the '*Merinda*'. He instantly deployed a ladder and jumped into the deep dark water and managed to rescue the woman and return her to the '*Fishburn*'.

Following the collision eleven people were rescued from the water though, sadly, three people were deceased.

By his actions, Mr Sakoulas displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

### **Petty Officer Simon Trevor SCOTT, New South Wales**

On the morning of 31 October 2013 Petty Officer Simon Scott of the Royal Australian Navy's Australian Clearance Diving Team Four (AUSCDT FOUR) was involved in the location and removal of a potential Underwater Improvised Explosive Device (UWIED) near Bunbury in Western Australia.

The AUSCDT FOUR were deployed to assist the Western Australian Police in the disposal of a potential UWIED and also search for further UWIEDs in the vicinity of the Australind Jetty. A short time into the search, the divers were instructed to exit the water as the Western Australian Police had intercepted mobile phone chatter directly targeting the divers.

The search recommenced the next morning with no further devices being found. A plan was then approved to remotely move the UWIED and render it safe in a location at a distance from the jetty.

Despite the dangerous situation and risk of explosion, Petty Officer Scott manually placed a catch bag around the UWIED to which he then attached a float and tow line. He placed the tow line around a jetty pylon and returned to the dive boat where all personnel were wearing body armour and ballistic helmets.

The device was then towed to a shallow sandbar away from the jetty and successfully detonated. The AUSCDT FOUR carried out a wider search of the area before handing control of the scene to the Western Australia Police.

By his actions, Petty Officer Scott displayed considerable bravery.

### **Detective Senior Constable Danny SHADDOCK, Victoria Police**

On the afternoon of 27 November 2013, Detective Senior Constable Shaddock assisted in the rescue of several men who had been overcome by fumes in a cattle feed tank on a farm in Cloverlea, Victoria.

A man was attempting to empty a tank of cattle feed when he was overcome by toxic ammonia fumes, causing him to become unconscious and slip into the syrup mixture. The man's two sons immediately climbed into the feed tank to assist and both were overcome by fumes and became unconscious. A farm employee, who witnessed the event, alerted other people on the property telling them to call 000. He also climbed into the tank to assist and became unconscious.

Detective Senior Constable Shaddock and his colleague arrived at the scene, looked into the tank, and saw several people who were partly submerged in the syrup mixture. Despite the smell of the fumes being overwhelming he and his colleague entered the tank through a hole that had been cut in the side. They waded into the knee deep mixture before being forced outside due to the fumes.

Detective Constable Shaddock and his colleague then re-entered the tank on several occasions, and with the assistance of other family members, were able to remove the victims outside to safety.

By his actions, Detective Senior Constable Shaddock displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

### **Mr Anthony Vincent SMITH, Kearneys Spring Qld 4350**

On the evening of 8 April 2013, Mr Anthony Smith assisted two girls who were being assaulted by a man behind Rosewood Skate Park in Rosewood, Queensland.

Mr Smith and his friend were skate-boarding at Rosewood Skate Park when they heard some people behind the skate park arguing. After approximately 10 minutes Mr Smith and his friend left the skate park and went to investigate. They found several people in a make shift campsite drinking alcohol.

With them was an older man who was physically assaulting two female teenagers. The offender grabbed one girl before hitting her in the face. She fell to the ground with the offender then falling on top of her.

Mr Smith's friend immediately moved towards the offender, jumped onto his back and began wrestling with him. During the struggle he was stabbed - receiving life threatening injuries. Mr Smith unsuccessfully tried to separate the two by pulling on the offender's clothing. He then struck the offender with a skateboard causing the offender to stand and lunge at him with a knife. The offender then ran from the camp and was arrested by police several hours later.

By his actions, Mr Smith displayed considerable bravery.

### **Mr Richard N P SMITH, Claremont Tas 7011**

On the morning of 21 August 2015, Mr Richard Smith, a Correctional Officer, exchanged places with a gravely ill colleague who had been taken hostage at a maximum security prison in Tasmania.

Two inmates at a maximum security prison took a Correctional Officer hostage, binding his hands and holding him at knife point in a cell.

Mr Smith was undertaking his normal duties when he opened the partially closed cell door and saw his colleague being held hostage. As other inmates congregated around the door, he saw that his colleague looked gravely ill and was struggling to breathe.

Concerned for his colleague's welfare, Mr Smith immediately negotiated with the hostage takers to release the Correctional Officer and volunteered to be held hostage in his place. The inmates released their hostage, bound Mr Smith with torn sheet strips, and held him at knife point.

Soon after other Correctional Officers and the First Response Team entered the unit and began negotiations with the men. Mr Smith was subsequently released and the hostage takers surrendered.

By his actions, Mr Smith displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

### **Mr Richard Antony SPYTEK, Cannington WA 6107**

In the early hours of 6 May 2015, Mr Richard Spytek rescued an elderly man from a burning house in Cannington, Western Australia.

Mr Spytek was asleep when he was awoken by his pet cat. He got up and, smelling smoke, went to the bedroom window to investigate. He saw flames coming out of the roof of the house next door.

He instructed other occupants of the house to call 000. Knowing that the residents of the burning house were elderly he rushed outside to assist. As he reached the street he saw that his elderly female neighbour had been able to exit the home. She told Mr Spytek that her husband was still inside. By this time the building was well alight.

Mr Spytek entered the burning house to locate the elderly man. He found him in the living room and grabbed hold of him. He then guided the man out the front door of the burning house to the safety of the lawn.

By his actions, Mr Spytek displayed considerable bravery.

### **Mr Brendan Andrew WALKER, Alfredton Vic 3350**

On the afternoon of Saturday 19 December 2015, Mr Brendan Walker, an off-duty Paramedic and Country Fire Authority volunteer, went to the assistance of people at a property in the path of a bushfire at Scotsburn in Victoria.

Mr Walker became aware that assistance was needed at a nearby property in danger from a bushfire. He drove to the property with a 600 litre tank of water and pump on the back of his 4WD. As he arrived the wind changed, causing the fire to block the exit from the property thus preventing evacuation.

He contacted the Country Fire Authority and requested assistance before quickly gathering the family inside the house. He opened the front door to exit the house and was instantly faced with horizontal flames and searing heat.

At this point the occupant's two vehicles caught alight. He extinguished the fire and, as he realised that his water supply was fast diminishing, concentrated the remaining water on protecting the house.

Mr Walker continued to single-handedly protect the front of the house as the conditions deteriorated. Parts of his protective clothing began to melt from the intense heat and he sustained 2nd degree burns.

After the fire front passed Country Fire Authority officers arrived and rendered assistance. The three occupants and the house all survived the fire.

By his actions, Mr Walker displayed considerable bravery.