

STAR OF COURAGE (SC)

Ms Nada Lynda BAYLEY, Camperdown NSW 2050

In the early hours of 22 February 2010, Ms Nada Bayley assisted a man who was being assaulted by two armed men in Leichardt, New South Wales.

Ms Bayley was walking down Marion Street, Leichardt when a man came running towards her. Two males, armed with a hammer and metal rod, appeared to be chasing him. He tripped over the gutter, fell to the ground and was yelling for help.

The armed offenders stood over the helpless man and Ms Bayley immediately shouted at the offenders to leave whilst she bent down to shield the victim with her body. The offenders then assaulted Ms Bayley and she ended up in the gutter, a short distance away from the victim.

Both offenders then assaulted the defenceless man, striking him in the head as he held up his arms in an attempt to protect himself. A second female approached the scene telling the offenders that she was calling 000. The assault persisted and then both armed offenders fled.

Ms Bayley witnessed the assault from her position in the gutter and once the offenders had fled she was then able to attend to the injured man.

By her actions Ms Bayley displayed conspicuous courage.

Mr Cameron Deane CAULFIELD, Carina Heights Qld 4152

In the evening of 11 April 2014, Mr Cameron Caulfield provided assistance to his mother who had been wounded during a domestic violence assault at Chambers Flat in Queensland.

Cameron, (aged 12 at the time), his four siblings and their mother were at 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 bedroom door and fired a gun at the woman, wounding her in the arm. As the offender reloaded the firearm, Cameron elbowed the man in the stomach, grabbed the firearm and ran and hid it outside.

He returned to the bedroom and, as the offender continued to assault his mother, he and his brother grabbed hold of the offender's arms to prevent further injuries.

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

Meanwhile Cameron's other sister assisted their mother to her feet, guided her out of the house, and administered first aid treatment to her injured arm. A short time later Cameron and his brother were also able to exit the house.

By his actions, Mr Caulfield displayed conspicuous courage.

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Mr Jayden Riley CAULFIELD, Carina Heights Qld 4152

In the evening of 11 April 2014, Mr Jayden Caulfield provided assistance to his mother who had been wounded during a domestic violence assault at Chambers Flat in Queensland.

Jayden, (aged 14 at the time), his four siblings and their mother were at their 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, Jayden'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, Jayden and his brother, who had returned to the bedroom, grabbed hold of the offender's arms to prevent further injuries.

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

Meanwhile Jayden's other sister assisted their 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 Jayden and his brother were also able to exit the house.

By his actions, Mr Caulfield displayed conspicuous courage.

The late Mr Luke Adam JACOBS, Late of Devonport Tas 7310

In the late afternoon of 12 December 2010, Mr Luke Jacobs attempted to rescue a young swimmer caught in a rip near Devonport, Tasmania

Mr Jacobs, his 15 year old cousin, and another 15 year old friend arrived at a group of large rocks called 'The Bluff'. The two younger men climbed onto a stand-alone rock and Mr Jacobs stayed on another rock whilst they all assessed the water conditions.

Although the water was rougher and choppiier than anticipated, one of the boys jumped from the rock into the churning water and then attempted to swim back to the safety of the lower rocks. However, the strong waves dragged him in the other direction.

Mr Jacobs immediately entered the dangerous water and swam towards his young cousin. Upon reaching him, he attempted several times to drag the boy to safety but they were both thrown against the rocks by the large waves and became separated.

A man and his son arrived at the scene and immediately entered the water in an inflatable rescue boat. They quickly reached the semi-conscious boy and pulled him into the boat and began first-aid procedures. They continued to search for Mr Jacobs and once they had located him they pulled him aboard and travelled through the large swells back to the safety of the shore.

Resuscitation was successfully performed on the young swimmer but sadly Mr Jacobs was unable to be revived.

By his actions, Mr Jacobs displayed conspicuous courage.

STAR OF COURAGE (SC)

Mr Matthew Royston O'GRADY, Umina Beach NSW 2257

In the late evening of 28 March 2007, Mr Matthew O'Grady rescued 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 O'Grady, despite the dangerous conditions, straightaway plunged into the deep, dark water and swam among the wreckage on three occasions to rescue survivors that he then conveyed to the '*Pam Burridge*'.

As he swam to rescue a third person, he felt a body under the water with his feet. He pulled a man to the surface, swam him back to the '*Fishburn*' and attempted CPR but the man was deceased. Mr O'Grady then remained on the '*Fishburn*' where he assisted other survivors who were brought aboard.

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

By his actions, Mr O'Grady displayed conspicuous courage.

The late Mr Dermot Michael O'TOOLE, Late of Lynbrook Vic 3975

In the afternoon of 12 July 2013, Mr O'Toole came to the assistance of his wife during an armed robbery at a jewellery store in Hastings, Victoria.

Mr O'Toole and his wife were working at the back of their jewellery store, when they heard the door to the store open. Mrs O'Toole moved into the main area where she was met by a man in disguise walking towards the counter.

The offender yelled at her and she noticed that he was holding something in his right hand which turned out to be a large, 20cm carving knife. A struggle ensued between the woman and the offender before he pushed her onto a large counter in the middle of the store.

Mr O'Toole immediately rushed from the back of the shop in order to render assistance to his wife who was screaming. The offender then pushed the woman into the store's glass display cabinets.

Mr O'Toole confronted the armed offender and wrestled with him before slipping over and landing on his back. He attempted to fend off the offender who then stabbed him with the knife. The offender further assaulted the woman before stealing a range of rings and leaving the store. Sadly, Mr O'Toole died as a result of his injuries.

By his actions, Mr O'Toole displayed conspicuous courage.