

BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)

Mr William Maurice ATKINSON, New South Wales

Details not released at the request of Mr Atkinson.

Senior Sergeant Nathan Malcolm BLAIN, Queensland Police

In the early hours of 13 September 2015, Senior Sergeant Nathan Blain was involved in the rescue of several people during a fire in a backpacker's hostel at Airlie Beach, Queensland.

Two police officers were on patrol when they observed smoke coming from a hostel at Airlie Beach. They quickly went to the area and found smoke and flames coming from the kitchen. They called for backup and Senior Sergeant Blain arrived at the scene. The officers were advised that people were inside the building and warned about nearby gas cylinders and gas lines.

Two officers went into the smoke-filled building and located three disorientated adults and led them out of the building. They were then informed that there was an elderly couple still unaccounted for.

With smoke and flames visible inside the building, and with breathing becoming increasingly difficult, Senior Sergeant Blain and the other officers went inside, but were unable to locate the elderly couple. Using clothing as face masks, Senior Sergeant Blain and the other officers re-entered the building and, with the assistance of the manager, were able to locate the couple who they assisted outside.

Once outside, Senior Sergeant Blain and the other officers were informed that there were still people unaccounted for and they again entered the building but were forced to retreat due to the intensity of the smoke and zero visibility. The Queensland Fire and Rescue Service then arrived on scene.

By his actions, Senior Sergeant Blain displayed considerable bravery.

Mr David Mark BREARLEY, Cheshire, United Kingdom

On the evening of 21 February 2012, Mr David Brearley rescued a man who was drowning in the Yarra River in Melbourne.

Mr Brearley was working at the Riverland Bar at Federation Square on the banks of the Yarra River when he heard loud shouting. Earlier in the evening he had become aware of a group of males who were considering swimming across the 120 metre wide river.

Mr Brearley and a colleague could see two people struggling in the middle of the river. As the swimmers called for help, Mr Brearley jumped over a wall and immediately dove into the water. After swimming approximately 40-50 metres he reached one of the men who was panicking, scared and choking on water.

He took hold of the man and began to swim him towards safety, holding onto him until they reached the opposite riverbank.

Mr Brearley dragged the man out of the water and up onto the bank. The rescued man then began to call out to his companion who had been left in the river, but there was no sign of the second man. The rescued man then collapsed onto the ground before being treated by emergency services.

Sadly, the second man perished in the Yarra River.

By his actions, Mr Brearley displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)

Detective Senior Constable Gregory Matthew CAMILLERI, New South Wales Police

On the afternoon of 3 August 2011, Detective Senior Constable Gregory Camilleri assisted a young woman during a collar bomb incident at a residence in Mosman, New South Wales.

Detective Senior Constable Camilleri, a police negotiator, and other New South Wales Police Officers arrived at a residence in Mosman in response to an armed hostage situation. On entering the house a young woman was located sitting at the end of a long corridor with a gun safe style metal box chained around her neck. The young woman informed the officers that the collar was a bomb and that the offender had requested 'no police'.

Members of the Rescue and Bomb Disposal Unit arrived, along with Bomb Detection Dogs, and Detective Senior Constable Camilleri was dressed in a bomb mitigation suit and helmet. He then accompanied another police negotiator and an officer through the house to the woman's location.

Detective Senior Constable Camilleri approached the woman and knelt down to talk to her. He examined the device around her neck, reporting what he could see to the other police negotiator located behind the protection shield. Over the next two hours Detective Senior Constable Camilleri remained in close proximity to the woman and continued to provide reassurance and updates on the situation.

Sometime later he was relieved of his position by members of the Rescue and Bomb Disposal Unit and, following a thorough inspection, a decision was made to cut the wires and release her.

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

Mr Wade Trevor CAPPS, Banyo Qld 4014

In the late evening of 7 October 2015, Mr Wade Capps provided assistance during an incident at a petrol station in Rockhampton, Queensland.

A man walked into a petrol station at Berserker and proceeded to pick up a pump, activate the nozzle and pump petrol onto the driveway and around the bowser. He then used a cigarette lighter to ignite the fuel coming from the nozzle and sprayed the lit fuel, igniting the fuel already on the ground.

He began waving the nozzle around, stating that he wanted to kill himself. The service station attendant immediately activated the emergency shut off valve and called 000. The fuel from the nozzle ceased flowing however the man continued to attempt to re-ignite the nozzle.

Other people at the station then moved towards the man calling out to him to put the petrol hoses down but he refused. Three people managed to reach the man and restrain him in a safe area at the front of the store.

At this point, Mr Capps drove into the service station and saw the flames starting to climb up one of the bowsters. Without concern for his own safety, he grabbed a fire extinguisher and used it to put the fire out. He then went over to the others who were restraining the man and stayed with them until police arrived.

By his actions, Mr Capps displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)

Mr George Francis CHEEKE, Freshwater NSW 2096

On the afternoon of 1 October 2013, Mr George Cheeke rendered assistance to a man who had been injured during a petrol tanker accident in Mona Vale, New South Wales.

A petrol tanker carrying 34,000 litres of fuel was travelling along Mona Vale Road when its driver lost control. The tanker travelled through a roundabout before jack-knifing, tipping onto its side and sliding across the road. It collided with several cars and burst into flames.

The flames quickly began to engulf the damaged cars, one of which contained four elderly people. Other rescuers were able to extract two of the occupants and removed them to safety, however they struggled to extract the driver and another passenger trapped inside the vehicle.

At this point the rear of the vehicle caught alight and the flames and heat intensified, forcing rescuers back. When the third passenger managed to exit the vehicle, the heat and risk of explosions made it impossible to provide assistance.

Mr Cheeke and another firefighter arrived at the scene and immediately went to the aid of the passenger who had crawled from the burning vehicle. Despite the risk of further explosions and the life-threatening situation, Mr Cheeke and the other firefighter stayed with the passenger.

Sadly, the man was unable to be saved and the car's driver also perished at the scene. A further six people were taken to Royal North Shore hospital for treatment for a range of burns and other injuries.

By his actions, Mr Cheeke displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)

Senior Constable Stephen James COOK, Queensland Police

In the early hours of the morning of 27 September 2013, Senior Constable Stephen Cook responded to an aggravated robbery incident in Arundel, Queensland.

Queensland Police were alerted to an incident at a tavern where two armed offenders, in possession of a shot gun and a machete, were conducting a robbery. Fifteen tavern patrons and employees were being detained in the tavern by the two offenders.

The offenders had removed all mobile phones; however one tavern employee managed to conceal a phone and discreetly called police. After forcing the safe open and removing cash, the offenders decamped on foot into nearby bushland.

Senior Constable Cook and another officer arrived on the scene and quickly began to conduct a search in the surrounding area. After a period of time, and with the assistance of a police dog, the offenders were located hiding behind a tree. The offenders then opened fire, seriously wounding Senior Constable Cook's colleague.

Senior Constable Cook returned a number of shots towards the armed offenders and using his weapon as cover moved towards his injured colleague. The injured officer was able to shine a torch in the direction of the offenders and Senior Constable Cook quickly approached one of the men, successfully detaining him.

Meanwhile, backup officers arrived and administered first aid to the wounded officer whilst others pursued the second offender. The second offender was eventually seized and placed under arrest.

By his actions, Senior Constable Cook displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Mark Geoffrey CRAWFORD, Eltham NSW 2480

In the evening of 4 June 2016, Mr Mark Crawford assisted a man who was caught in floodwater near Lismore, New South Wales.

Mr Crawford and his father, concerned about flooding in the area due to heavy rain, went to move their livestock to an elevated part of their property.

After securing the cattle, he walked back through the floodwater crossing and then assisted his father across a viaduct area where the water was flowing rapidly. The current swept both men off their feet and Mr Crawford fought to keep his father's head above the water. The men were carried downstream before they were able to grab hold of a nearby electricity pole.

Three members of the State Emergency Service (SES) arrived, boarded a flood boat, and began looking for the two men. On locating the two men in the fading light, they could see that both were close to exhaustion and the fast-flowing water was now at chest height. Mr Crawford continued to hold onto his father, who was a non-swimmer, to prevent him from being swept away.

The three SES members made their way to the two men with one member remaining with Mr Crawford while his father was loaded into the flood boat and taken to safety. By this time the water had risen and was lapping the faces of Mr Crawford and the SES member. Battling the strong current, the boat returned and transported Mr Crawford and the SES member to safety.

By his actions, Mr Crawford displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)

Detective Senior Sergeant Mary Kathleen CRUMLIN, New South Wales Police

On the afternoon of 3 August 2011, Detective Senior Sergeant (then Detective Senior Constable) Mary Crumlin assisted a young woman during a collar bomb incident at a residence in Mosman, New South Wales.

Detective Senior Constable Crumlin, a police negotiator, and other New South Wales Police Officers, arrived at a residence in Mosman in response to an armed hostage situation. On entering the house a young woman was located sitting at the end of a long corridor with a gun safe style metal box chained around her neck. The young woman informed the officers that the collar was a bomb and that the offender had requested 'no police'.

Members of the Rescue and Bomb Disposal Unit and Bomb Detection Dogs arrived and Detective Senior Constable Crumlin, carrying a protection shield, accompanied two other officers to the area of the house where the young woman was located.

Whilst an officer in the bomb mitigation suit moved in closer to speak with the woman, Detective Senior Constable Crumlin took up a position behind the protection shield. The other officer then began to examine the device around the woman's neck and conveyed critical information to Detective Senior Constable Crumlin.

Over the next two hours Detective Senior Constable Crumlin remained in the area where the victim was located and was a liaison point between the police negotiator and other officers. Sometime later, Detective Senior Constable Crumlin was relieved of her position by members of the Rescue and Bomb Disposal Unit. Following a thorough inspection of the explosive device a decision was made to cut the wires and release her.

By her actions, Detective Senior Sergeant Crumlin displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)

Senior Constable Timothy James DUFFY, New South Wales Police

In the late evening of 12 January 2016, Senior Constable Timothy Duffy was involved in an armed hostage situation at a hospital in Penrith, New South Wales.

Senior Constable Duffy and another officer arrived at the emergency department to attend an armed disturbance. On arrival he observed a male offender sitting with his back against the far wall of a cubicle, holding a female hostage and pressing a pair of surgical scissors to her throat.

Another officer had already commenced negotiations with the offender as Senior Constable Duffy and his colleague took up positions around the man. A short while later, two bursts of oleoresin capsicum spray were directed towards the offender. Senior Constable Duffy and another officer rushed towards the man and grabbed hold of his arms, whilst a third officer assisted in subduing the man.

During the struggle, the offender was able to remove the firearm off one of the officers. He discharged one round, striking another officer in the leg. At the same time, a hospital security guard stepped forward, grabbed the female hostage by the legs and dragged her away from the offender. He then quickly dragged the injured officer away and commenced first aid procedures. A second security guard then ran into the bay and grabbed the offender who was still holding the weapon.

Meanwhile, seeing the firearm in the offender's hand, Senior Constable Duffy attempted to take hold of the gun. During the struggle the offender discharged the weapon a second time with the bullet ricocheting off the ground and hitting another security guard.

Whilst the offender continued to resist restraining efforts, Senior Constable Duffy, with the assistance of other police officers who had arrived, was able to remove the weapon from the offender's grasp and contain him.

By his actions, Senior Constable Duffy displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)

Senior Constable Jacob Maurice FLAHERTY, Queensland Police

On the afternoon of 21 April 2013, Senior Constable Jacob Flaherty rescued a person from a burning house in Rochedale South, Queensland.

Senior Constable Flaherty and two other officers responded to an incident at a property in Rochedale South. When they arrived, the fire alarm was sounding and they could smell smoke. They quickly began door knocking and calling out to alert the occupants.

A woman came to the front screen door, however refused to open it and returned inside. With the smell of smoke intensifying, and flames apparent inside the home, one of the officers was able to break down the front screen door.

Senior Constable Flaherty and a colleague quickly entered the house and crawled along the floor to prevent smoke inhalation, following the sound of the woman's voice. With the rear of the house alight Senior Constable Flaherty and his colleague were able to drag the unwilling female towards the front door and out onto the porch.

Senior Constable Flaherty returned to his police vehicle and obtained a fire extinguisher. However on his return the house was well alight and too dangerous to re-enter. Queensland Fire and Ambulance personnel then arrived on scene.

By his actions, Senior Constable Flaherty displayed considerable bravery.

Senior Constable Aaron Rhys GASKELL, New South Wales Police

On the afternoon of 3 August 2011, Senior Constable (then Constable) Aaron Gaskell provided assistance during a collar bomb incident involving a young woman at a residence in Mosman, New South Wales.

Constable Gaskell, and other New South Wales Police Officers, arrived at a residence in Mosman in response to an armed hostage situation. On entering the house a young woman was located sitting at the end of a long corridor with a gun safe style metal box chained around her neck.

The young woman informed the officers that the collar was a bomb and that the offender had requested 'no police'. One of Constable Gaskell's colleagues went to assist the young woman and was interacting with her to keep her calm and to ascertain details of the situation.

Constable Gaskell called for backup. He then proceeded to where the young woman and his colleague were located. Without concern for his own safety, he immediately began filming with a digital camera in order to capture visual evidence of the situation.

Constable Gaskell then went to secure the family dog to keep it from approaching the young woman. He then continued to the rear of the house to ensure that there was no one else still in the vicinity.

Members of the Rescue and Bomb Disposal Unit and Bomb Detection Dogs arrived along with police negotiators. Over the course of the next few hours, officers examined the device around the young woman's neck and, following a thorough inspection, a decision was made to cut the wires and release her.

By his actions, Senior Constable Gaskell displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)

Sergeant Gary Harold HAMREY, Queensland Police

In the early hours of the morning of 27 September 2013, Sergeant Gary Hamrey responded to an aggravated robbery incident in Arundel, Queensland.

Queensland Police were alerted to an incident at a tavern where two armed offenders, in possession of a shot gun and a machete, were conducting a robbery. Fifteen tavern patrons and employees were being detained in the tavern by the two offenders.

The offenders had removed all mobile phones; however one tavern employee had managed to conceal her phone and discreetly called police. After forcing the safe open and removing cash, the offenders decamped on foot into nearby bushland.

Sergeant Hamrey and his colleague arrived and quickly began to conduct a search of the surrounding area. With the assistance of a police dog, the offenders were located hiding behind a tree. The offenders then opened fire, seriously wounding Sergeant Hamrey.

His colleague returned a number of shots towards the armed offenders as he moved towards Sergeant Hamrey. Sergeant Hamrey shone a torch in the direction of the offenders, allowing his colleague to quickly approach one of the offenders and successfully detain him.

Meanwhile, other police officers arrived and administered first aid to Sergeant Hamrey whilst two other officers pursued the second offender who was fleeing the scene. The offender was eventually seized and placed under arrest.

By his actions, Sergeant Hamrey displayed considerable bravery.

For contact information on the above recipient please contact the relevant state police jurisdiction's media section

Sergeant Barry John HARAN, Queensland Police

In the early hours of 13 September 2015, Sergeant Barry Haran was involved in the rescue of several people during a fire in a backpacker's hostel at Airlie Beach, Queensland.

Sergeant Haran and his colleague were on patrol when they observed smoke coming from a hostel at Airlie Beach. They quickly investigated and found smoke and flames coming from the kitchen. They called for backup and another police officer arrived at the scene. The officers were advised that people were inside the building and warned about nearby gas cylinders and gas lines.

He and one of the other officers then entered the smoke-filled building and located three disorientated adults and led them out of the building. They were then informed that there was an elderly couple unaccounted for.

With smoke and flames visible inside the building, and with breathing becoming increasingly difficult, Sergeant Haran and the other officers went inside, but were unable to locate the elderly couple. Using clothing as face masks, Sergeant Haran and the other officers re-entered the building and, with the assistance of the manager, were able to locate the couple who they assisted outside.

Once outside, Sergeant Haran and the other officers were informed that there were still people unaccounted for and they again entered the building but were forced to retreat due to the intensity of the smoke and zero visibility. The Queensland Fire and Rescue Service then arrived on scene.

By his actions, Sergeant Haran displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)

Mr David Michael HARRIS, Koongal Qld 4701

In the late evening of 7 October 2015, Mr David Harris provided assistance during an attempted suicide incident at a petrol station in Rockhampton, Queensland.

A man walked into a petrol station at Berserker and proceeded to pick up a pump, activate the nozzle and pump petrol onto the driveway and around the bowser. He then used a cigarette lighter to ignite the fuel coming from the nozzle and sprayed the lit fuel, igniting the fuel already on the ground.

He began waving the nozzle around, stating that he wanted to kill himself. The service station attendant immediately activated the emergency shut off valve and called 000. The fuel from the nozzle ceased flowing however the man continued to attempt to re-ignite the nozzle.

Mr Harris, who was buying refreshments inside the petrol station with his son, immediately put down his walking aid and hurried outside, calling for the man to put the petrol hose down. However, the man refused and Mr Harris grabbed the offender by the wrists and removed the hose from him. He instructed his son to rehang the hose and to get others to assist. Another man quickly joined him and the three of them restrained the offender in a safe area at the front of the store.

At this point another person drove into the service station and saw the flames starting to climb up one of the bowzers. He grabbed a fire extinguisher and used it to put the fire out. Mr Harris and the others continued to restrain the offender until police arrived.

By his actions, Mr Harris displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Joel Peter HARRIS, Koongal Qld 4701

In the late evening of 7 October 2015, Mr Joel Harris provided assistance during an incident at a petrol station in Rockhampton, Queensland.

A man walked into a petrol station at Berserker and proceeded to pick up a pump, activate the nozzle and pump petrol onto the driveway and around the bowser. He then used a cigarette lighter to ignite the fuel coming from the nozzle and sprayed the lit fuel, igniting the fuel already on the ground.

He then began waving the nozzle around, stating that he wanted to kill himself. The service station attendant immediately activated the emergency shut off valve and called 000. The fuel from the nozzle ceased flowing however the man continued to attempt to re-ignite the nozzle.

Joel, who was 14 years old, and his father were buying refreshments inside the petrol station. Both hurried outside, calling for the man to put the petrol hose down but he refused. Whilst his father grabbed the offender by the wrists, Joel took hold of the petrol hose and rehung it at the bowser. With the assistance of another man who arrived at the scene, Joel then took hold of the offender's legs and together the three of them managed to restrain the man in a safe area at the front of the store.

At this point another person drove into the service station and saw the flames starting to climb up one of the bowzers. He grabbed a fire extinguisher and used it to put the fire out. Meanwhile Joel and the others continued to restrain the offender until police arrived.

By his actions, Mr Harris displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)

Mr Matthew Thomas HULL, Queensland

In the late evening of 7 October 2015, Mr Matthew Hull provided assistance during an incident at a petrol station in Rockhampton, Queensland.

A man walked into a petrol station at Berserker and proceeded to pick up a pump, activate the nozzle and pump petrol onto the driveway and around the bowser. He then used a cigarette lighter to ignite the fuel coming from the nozzle and sprayed the lit fuel, igniting the fuel already on the ground.

He then began waving the nozzle around, stating that he wanted to kill himself. The service station attendant immediately activated the emergency shut off valve and called 000. The fuel from the nozzle ceased flowing however the man continued to attempt to re-ignite the nozzle.

Other people at the station then moved towards the man, calling out to him to put the petrol hoses down but he refused. Several people managed to remove the petrol hoses from the man and restrain him.

At this point, Mr Hull drove into the petrol station, quickly parked his vehicle and went to assist with the offender. He grabbed hold of one of the man's arms and together with the others managed to move the offender to a safe area at the front of the store.

Another person drove into the service station and saw the flames starting to climb up one of the bowzers. He then grabbed a fire extinguisher and used it to put the fire out. Meanwhile Mr Hull and the others continued to restrain the offender until police arrived.

By his actions, Mr Hull displayed considerable bravery.

Senior Constable Joseph Dominic KELLY, Queensland Police

On the afternoon of 21 April 2013, Senior Constable Joseph Kelly rescued a person from a burning house in Rochedale South, Queensland.

Senior Constable Kelly and two other officers responded to an incident at a property in Rochedale South. When they arrived, the fire alarm was sounding and they could smell smoke. They quickly began door knocking and calling out to alert any occupants.

A woman came to the front screen door, however refused to open it and returned inside. With the smell of smoke intensifying and flames apparent inside the home, Senior Constable Kelly was able to force open the screen door.

He and his colleague quickly entered the house and crawled along the floor to prevent smoke inhalation, following the sound of the woman's voice. With the rear of the house alight Senior Constable Kelly and his colleague were able to drag the unwilling female towards the front door and out onto the front porch.

Senior Constable Kelly then entered the house for a second time in an attempt to locate and rescue any other occupants but, due to the hazardous conditions, was forced to evacuate the house. He immediately went to the rear of the house to check if anyone else was still inside. Queensland Fire and Ambulance personnel then arrived on scene.

By his actions, Senior Constable Kelly displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)

Dr Peter KERKENEZOV, Ballina NSW 2478

On the evening of 29 September 1983, Dr Peter Kerkenezov was involved in the rescue of a person from a capsized vessel near the port of Ballina, New South Wales.

Dr Kerkenezov skippered his vessel with two crew members on board out through the Ballina Bar in order to escort two vessels into the port on behalf of the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard. After safely escorting one vessel into port he was asked to return to sea to escort the second vessel.

When the second vessel was located he began to turn his vessel around when it was struck by a massive wave, causing it to capsize. Still inside the submerged wheelhouse, Dr Kerkenezov managed to escape out through the wheelhouse door. He was then able to pull himself from under the bulwark and swim to the surface.

With the engine still operating and the boat still afloat and drifting out to sea with the tide, Dr Kerkenezov climbed aboard the upturned vessel and, after a short period during which the engine stopped, he heard a crew member yelling and banging from inside.

He slid off the bottom of the boat, dived into the dark water, and made several unsuccessful attempts to re-enter the wheelhouse where he worked out that the crew member may be trapped in the hydraulics compartment.

As he was preparing to dive again, the trapped crew member managed to exit the vessel and Dr Kerkenezov dragged him up onto the vessel's hull from where they were later rescued. Sadly, the second crew member did not survive the incident.

By his actions, Dr Kerkenezov displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Goch Isaac KOT, Kaleen ACT 2617

In the late evening of 12 November 2015, Mr Goch Kot restrained and disarmed a machete-wielding man in Belconnen, Australian Capital Territory.

Mr Kot was a passenger in a taxi when the vehicle was stopped by a man standing in the middle of the road. The man, armed with a machete, began to smash the bonnet of the car with the weapon.

The attacker then moved around the car towards the driver's door. He opened the door and began shouting and swinging the machete at the taxi driver.

The offender pinned the driver in his seat and struck him with the machete. Mr Kot immediately got out of the vehicle and ran around to the driver's door.

Without concern for his safety, Mr Kot grabbed the offender's shoulder, pulled him away from the taxi, removed the machete from his grasp and attempted to subdue him. The offender verbally and physically abused Mr Kot before he was wrestled to the ground and restrained.

Other people then approached the scene and assisted Mr Kot and the injured taxi driver until emergency services arrived.

By his actions, Mr Kot displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)

Mr Matthew Hayes MEADOWS, East Ballina NSW 2478

On the morning of 9 February 2015, Mr Matthew Meadows was involved in the rescue of a man who had been attacked by a shark at Shelley's Beach, near Ballina, New South Wales.

Mr Meadows was surfing with a number of other experienced surfers at Speeds Reef at Shelley Beach when he became aware of turbulence in the water nearby. He witnessed a surfer being attacked by a large grey shark. A number of the other surfers immediately caught a wave to the safety of the beach and raised the alarm.

Mr Meadows urged the injured man to catch the next wave with him towards the reef; however the injured man was unable to do so. Mr Meadows managed to reach the reef and saw another surfer reach the injured man, grab hold of him and head towards the reef.

Despite the threat of the shark still being present, Mr Meadows paddled out to the two men. He grabbed the injured man off the other surfer and began to move towards shore. At this time other surfers re-entered the water and helped to convey the man to safety. First aid procedures were immediately started on him but, sadly, he could not be revived.

By his actions, Mr Meadows displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Lloyd Rudi MULDER, Valentine NSW 2280

On the afternoon of 1 October 2013 Mr Lloyd Mulder rendered assistance to a man who had been injured during a petrol tanker accident in Mona Vale, New South Wales.

A petrol tanker carrying 34,000 litres of fuel was travelling along Mona Vale Road when its driver lost control. The tanker travelled through a roundabout before jack-knifing, tipping onto its side and sliding across the road. It collided with several cars and burst into flames.

The flames quickly began to engulf the damaged cars, one of which contained four elderly people. Other rescuers were able to extract two of the occupants and removed them to safety, however they struggled to extract the driver and another passenger trapped inside the vehicle.

At this point the rear of the vehicle caught alight and the flames and heat intensified, forcing rescuers back. When the third passenger managed to exit the vehicle, the heat and risk of explosions made it impossible to provide assistance.

Mr Mulder and another firefighter arrived at the scene and immediately went to the aid of the passenger who had crawled from the burning vehicle. Despite the risk of further explosions and the life-threatening situation, Mr Mulder and the other firefighter stayed with the passenger.

Sadly, the man was unable to be saved and the car's driver also perished at the scene. A further six people were taken to Royal North Shore hospital for treatment for a range of burns and other injuries.

By his actions, Mr Mulder displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)

Senior Constable David MURRAY, Queensland Police

In the early hours of 13 September 2015, Senior Constable David Murray was involved in the rescue of several people during a fire in a backpacker's hostel at Airlie Beach, Queensland.

Senior Constable Murray and his colleague were on patrol when they observed smoke coming from a hostel at Airlie Beach. They quickly investigated and found smoke and flames coming from the kitchen. They called for backup and another police officer arrived at the scene. The officers were advised that people were inside the building and warned about nearby gas cylinders and gas lines.

Senior Constable Murray and one of the other officers then entered the smoke-filled building and located three disorientated adults and led them out of the building. They were then informed that there was an elderly couple unaccounted for.

With smoke and flames visible inside the building, and with breathing becoming increasingly difficult, Senior Constable Murray and the other officers went inside, but were unable to locate the elderly couple. Using clothing as face masks, Senior Constable Murray and the other officers re-entered the building and, with the assistance of the manager, were able to locate the couple who they assisted outside.

Once outside, Senior Constable Murray and the other officers were informed that there were still people unaccounted for and they again entered the building but were forced to retreat due to the intensity of the smoke and zero visibility. The Queensland Fire and Rescue Service then arrived on scene.

By his actions, Senior Constable Murray displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Joshua James RODGERS, Maryborough Qld 4650

In the afternoon of 5 February 2016, Mr Joshua Rodgers went to the assistance of a colleague during an incident with an armed offender in Maryborough, Queensland.

Mr Rodgers was working at the fast food restaurant in Maryborough when an unknown female entered the premises, walked past the front counter, made her way to the staff only area, and stood next to him at the bench.

As he began to question her, the woman, who was very agitated, grabbed a knife off the counter and returned to the front of the shop. Mr Rodgers immediately followed her as he heard one of his colleagues yelling.

At this point the armed female approached another staff member with the knife raised above her head. The staff member then grabbed the offender's hand and a struggle ensued.

Mr Rodgers came to his colleague's aid by seizing the offender's wrists whilst instructing her to drop the knife. He then forced the knife away from his colleague causing the knife to fall to the ground. The offender then grabbed hold of another staff member's shirt collar and began assaulting her.

The offender's partner then approached and grabbed her arms from behind. After several requests the offender let go of the staff member's clothing and left the premises.

By his actions, Mr Rodgers displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)

Senior Constable Luke Graham ROWLEY, Queensland Police

On the morning of 31 December 2013, Senior Constable Luke Rowley was involved in the rescue of three people from drowning at Carmila Beach, Queensland.

Senior Constable Rowley received notification of an incident taking place at Carmila Beach. He immediately responded and arrived at the beach to see a distressed woman, moving up and down the shoreline. He was informed that the woman's two children had been swept out to sea due to a strong current. The woman's partner had also entered the water to attempt their rescue.

Seeing two figures approximately 50 metres from shore, he entered the water and swam out to a young boy and man. The man was breathless but explained that another child, a young girl, was further out to sea. The man and boy were able to drag themselves back to the beach before the man collapsed.

Senior Constable Rowley could not see the girl so returned to shore where he then spotted her approximately 200 metres out in the water. He ran to a nearby campsite and obtained a small float board before returning to the beach and re-entering the water.

He swam out to the young girl, calling reassurance as he went. He reached her and, with her holding onto his neck, began making his return to shore. At this point two fishermen arrived and Senior Constable Rowley and the young girl were pulled aboard and returned safely to the beach.

By his actions, Senior Constable Rowley displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Liam Henry SLACK, Runaway Bay Qld 4216

In the early morning of 7 March 2015, Mr Liam Slack went to the rescue of a drowning spear fisherman at Moreton Island, Queensland.

Mr Slack and three friends were free diving and spear fishing at an area known as Hutchinson Shoal off Moreton Island. During the morning, Mr Slack and his friends had been taking alternate turns, with three diving and one operating the boat. The victim had begun to resurface as his 'diving buddy' commenced his dive. After a short period and, as the 'diving buddy' was returning to the surface, he noticed the victim was still in the water. He had blacked out, his body had gone limp and he was sinking. The 'diving buddy' swam towards his friend and, despite his desperate attempts to grab him, he continued to descend into deeper water.

After being alerted, the friends all reboarded the boat. Mr Slack then quickly entered the water with another diver and attempted to reach their friend. At this time the 'diving buddy' released warning signals. Mr Slack continued to alternate with the other divers in searching for their friend and being aboard the boat. Eventually he pushed one of the other divers, deep down into the water, approximately 28 metres, which enabled him to reach their friend, remove the weight belt, and swim him back to Mr Slack, who then carried him to the surface. They pulled their unconscious friend onto the boat and re-boarded themselves.

Mr Slack, assisted by the others then commenced CPR as they returned to shore where Water Police took over. Unfortunately, their friend was unable to be revived.

By his actions, Mr Slack displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)

Mr Mark SMITH, New South Wales

On the afternoon of 3 August 2011, Mr (then Inspector) Mark Smith provided assistance during a collar bomb incident involving a young woman at a residence in Mosman, New South Wales.

New South Wales Police Officers arrived at a residence in Mosman in response to an armed hostage situation. On entering the house a young woman was located sitting at the end of a long corridor with a gun safe style metal box chained around her neck. The young woman informed the officers that the collar was a bomb and that the offender had requested 'no police'.

Inspector Smith and a colleague arrived shortly after and took initial command of the scene. He immediately went into the house to assess the situation and to reassure the young woman. He observed the device that was attached to her and then passed this information onto specialised units as they arrived on scene.

Shortly afterwards, members of the Rescue and Bomb Disposal Unit, and Bomb Detection Dogs arrived along with police negotiators. Over the course of the next few hours officers examined the device around the young woman's neck and, following a thorough inspection of it, a decision was made to cut the wires and release the victim.

By his actions, Mr Smith displayed considerable bravery.

Plain Clothes Senior Constable Natalie Janet SOUTH, New South Wales Police

On the afternoon of 3 August 2011, Plain Clothes Senior Constable (then Probationary Constable) Natalie South provided assistance during a collar bomb incident involving a young woman at a residence in Mosman, New South Wales.

Probationary Constable South and other New South Wales Police Officers arrived at a residence in Mosman in response to an armed hostage situation. She and another colleague entered the house and they located a young woman sitting at the end of a long corridor with a gun safe style metal box chained around her neck. The woman informed the officers that the collar was a bomb and that the offender had requested 'no police' as she handed Probationary Constable South a letter confirming this information.

Probationary Constable South immediately took the letter to a colleague outside the house and returned to the woman. Probationary Constable South again questioned her about the incident before exiting the house and later provided details of the device to other officers.

Members of the Rescue and Bomb Disposal Unit, and Bomb Detection Dogs then arrived at the house. Following a thorough inspection of the explosive device a decision was made to cut the wires and release her.

By her actions, Plain Clothes Senior Constable South displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)

Mr Nathan Peter TASKER, New South Wales

Details not released at the request of Mr Tasker.

Sergeant Elise TEELING, New South Wales Police

On the afternoon of 3 August 2011, Sergeant Elise Teeling provided assistance during a collar bomb incident involving a young woman at a residence in Mosman, New South Wales.

Sergeant Teeling, and other New South Wales Police Officers, arrived at a residence in Mosman in response to an armed hostage situation. On entering the house a young woman was located sitting at the end of a long corridor with a gun safe style metal box chained around her neck.

The young woman informed the officers that the collar was a bomb and that the offender had requested 'no police'.

Sergeant Teeling approached the woman and observed the object around her neck at close proximity. As she was doing so, she relayed this information by telephone to police negotiators who were enroute to the house. She then provided reassurance to the woman.

Sergeant Teeling left the house and, after organising for a crime scene to be established, re-entered with another police officer who had arrived on scene. Further information was gained from the woman and they exited the house.

Following a thorough inspection of the explosive device, a decision was made to cut the wires and release her.

By her actions, Sergeant Teeling displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)

Sergeant Luke Thomas Warburton, New South Wales Police

In the late evening of 12 January 2016, Sergeant (then Senior Constable) Luke Warburton was involved in an armed hostage situation at a hospital in Penrith, New South Wales.

Senior Constable Warburton arrived at the emergency department to attend an armed disturbance. On arrival he observed a male offender sitting with his back against the far wall of a cubicle, holding a female hostage and pressing a pair of surgical scissors to her throat.

Senior Constable Warburton commenced negotiations with the offender as two other officers took up positions around the man. A short while later he deployed two bursts of oleoresin capsicum spray at the offender and, together with another officer, rushed towards the offender and grabbed hold of his arms, whilst a third officer assisted in subduing him .

During the struggle the offender was able to obtain a firearm and discharge one round, striking Senior Constable Warburton in the leg.

As the offender was being subdued, he discharged the weapon a second time with the bullet ricocheting off the ground and hitting a security guard. Whilst the offender continued to resist restraining efforts, an officer was able to remove the weapon and, with assistance from additional police officers who had arrived, contain him.

By his actions, Sergeant Warburton displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Kurt Bernard Zietlow, Cabarita Beach NSW 2488

In the early morning of 7 March 2015, Mr Kurt Zietlow went to the rescue of a drowning spear fisherman at Moreton Island, Queensland.

Mr Zietlow and three friends were free diving and spear fishing at an area known as Hutchinson Shoal, off Moreton Island. During the morning, Mr Zietlow and his friends had been taking alternate turns, with three diving and one operating the boat. Mr Zietlow was acting as 'diving buddy' for his friend who was resurfacing, as he commenced his own dive. On returning to the surface he noticed that his friend was still in the water, had blacked out, his body had gone limp, and he was sinking. Mr Zietlow immediately swam towards his friend, but despite desperate attempts to grab him, he continued to descend into deeper water of approximately 28 metres.

Mr Zietlow quickly raised the alarm and they reboarded the boat. Two divers then re-entered the water in an attempt to reach their friend. Meanwhile, Mr Zietlow raised the alarm using the EPIRB radio and smoke flares. He then continued to alternate with the other divers in searching for their friend and being aboard the boat. Whilst Mr Zietlow was on board the boat the other divers were able to recover their friend and swim him to the surface. The friends then pulled their unconscious friend onto the boat and re-boarded themselves.

Mr Zietlow, assisted by the others, commenced CPR and they returned to the shore where Water Police took over. Unfortunately the man was unable to be revived.

By his actions, Mr Zietlow displayed considerable bravery.