

Star of Courage

Mr Patrick HARLAND
(Posthumous Award)

Mother

Mrs D. Harland,
16 Como Street,
MERRYLANDS N.S.W. 2160

At about 12.30 a.m. on Sunday, 9 November 1980, two armed men forced their way into the Greystanes Inn Hotel, Merrylands, New South Wales and, after menacing the proprietor and staff, which included Patrick Harland, with a sawn-off shotgun and another weapon, and forcing them into a room in the hotel, escaped in a car with a large sum of money. Patrick Harland, aged 21, a casual employee in the hotel then immediately ran outside, jumped into his car, and, with a friend as passenger, drove off to locate the robbers. After a considerable search he located the other car and gave chase during which a number of shots were fired, several hitting the front of Mr Harland's car. The two cars collided and Mr Harland told his friend to leave his car and advise the police. The robbers then drove off again at high speed with Mr Harland still in pursuit notwithstanding further shots being fired, and he eventually caught up with the robbers' car. At this point the driver of the other vehicle pulled to the wrong side of the road and, as Mr Harland came alongside, one of them fired a blast from the shotgun fatally wounding him in the head.

Mr Harland displayed conspicuous courage in such circumstances in giving chase to two armed and dangerous men and persisting in the pursuit of them notwithstanding the fact that he was continuously in great peril.

Bravery Medal

Sergeant Third Class Kevin CURRY
New South Wales Police Force

At Maitland, New South Wales, on 22 March 1982, soon after 3.00 a.m. a man, armed with a .410 sawn-off shotgun, forced a taxi-driver to drive him to the nearby Police Station and attract the attention of the police therein by sounding the car horn. Sergeant Curry, who was in the Station, proceeded outside to be confronted by the armed man. The taxi-driver was at the man's side and was being threatened. Notwithstanding the fact that the man was armed Sergeant Curry walked towards him and asked him to put the gun down but the man refused so to do; at almost the same moment however the man's attention was distracted by the taxi-driver and Sergeant Curry was able to grasp the weapon. After a struggle, during which the shotgun discharged, Sergeant Curry was able to overpower him and take him into custody.

Sergeant Curry displayed considerable bravery in such circumstances.

Master Stephen James Hibbert MACPHERSON
39A Orana Avenue,
COOMA NORTH N.S.W. 2630

On 31 August 1981 at about 9.30 p.m., a car, in which Stephen Macpherson, aged 12 years, was a passenger, ran off the road near Buchan, Victoria. The car, after going down an 8 metre embankment overturned, caught fire and commenced to burn fiercely. Stephen managed to get out of the overturned vehicle and despite the fire attempted to help the driver and another passenger, a 12 year old friend, from the car but was unable to do so. The driver then managed to make his own way out of the vehicle whereupon Stephen assisted him to remove some of his burning clothing. Stephen then ran about 3½ kilometres to summon assistance. Despite his efforts, Stephen's friend could not be rescued and the driver of the car later died from his injuries.

Stephen Macpherson displayed considerable bravery in such tragic circumstances.

Bravery Medal

Mr Gregory Wayne McDOUGALL
74 Montagu Bay Road,
MONTAGU BAY TAS. 7018

At about 7.50 p.m. on 5 June 1982, at Howrah, Tasmania, Mr McDougall, who was visiting friends in the nearby district, heard the sound of a traffic accident. Upon arriving at the scene he saw an overturned vehicle burning fiercely. Although Mr McDougall could not see into the car because of the smoke he kicked in a window to find the driver trapped unconscious upside down in his seat belt. Notwithstanding that flames about 1 metre high were coming from the engine compartment and the ever present danger of an explosion, Mr McDougall obtained a knife, cut the seat belt and pulled the driver to safety through the window.

By his considerable bravery Mr McDougall undoubtedly saved the life of the driver of the car.

Mr Lindsay James McRONALD
(Posthumous Award)

Father

Mr G. McDonald,
66 Ryan Place,
BEACON HILL N.S.W. 2100

On 1 November 1981 at about 10.30 p.m. Mr McDonald was driving his car along Harbord Road, Harbord, New South Wales, when he saw the body of a man near the edge of the road. Although he was unaware of the circumstances Mr McDonald stopped his car to give assistance. As he left his vehicle Mr McDonald saw a man running and, undoubtedly, then realizing that a serious crime had probably been committed attempted to stop him. During this endeavour he was shot twice by the man and later died from his injuries.

Mr McDonald's action which cost him his life was an act of considerable bravery.

Bravery Medal

Mr Michael John TIERNEY
126 Athol Street,
MOONEE PONDS VIC. 3039

On 13 November 1981 at about 7.40 p.m. Mr Tierney was conducting business with a staff member in a shop at Malvern, Victoria, when an armed man entered the shop demanding money. Mr Tierney, who was in the vicinity of the cash register, was ordered by the armed robber to place money from the register into a bag he was carrying. When doing so, Mr Tierney lunged at the hold-up man forcing him to drop the bag. He continued to struggle with the armed man who briefly broke away and ran from the shop but Mr Tierney pursued him. The armed man turned and shot him but Mr Tierney caught hold of him again in an endeavour to restrain him but because he was wounded was unable so to do. The robber fled but was later arrested.

Mr Tierney displayed considerable bravery by tackling an armed and dangerous man and thwarting a robbery.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Terry Bernard ARCHER
12 Ralph Street,
CABRAMATTA N.S.W. 2166

At about 12.30 a.m. on Sunday, 9 November 1980 two armed men forced their way into the Greystanes Inn Hotel, Merrylands, New South Wales and, after menacing the proprietor and staff, which included Terry Archer, with a sawn-off shotgun and another weapon, and forcing them into a room in the hotel, escaped in a car with a large sum of money. Terry Archer, aged 22, a casual employee in the hotel, jumped into the car of another casual employee and, with the other employee driving, gave chase. During the chase a number of shots were fired, several hitting the car. When Mr Archer's friend ran his car into that used by the robbers and the vehicles temporarily halted, Mr Archer ran from his friend's car, notwithstanding the dangerous situation, to summon the police. Mr Archer's friend continued the chase but was later killed by the robbers.

Mr Archer displayed commendable bravery in such circumstances.

Mr Paul Alfred BELL
40 High Street,
BATEMAN'S BAY N.S.W. 2536

Early in the afternoon on 21 February 1982 a man was swimming at Tomakin Beach, New South Wales, when he got into difficulties in extremely rough water about 200 metres from the shore. Paul Bell, who was visiting his parents at the time, ran to the beach with his surfboard, entered the water and made his way to the man to assist another person who had earlier swum out. Paul Bell and the other person then assisted the man to reach the shore safely.

By his actions he displayed commendable courage.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Constable First Class Graham Martin CHILDS
New South Wales Police Force

At about 10.00 a.m. on 5 March 1982 an armed hold-up occurred at a bank in Blaxland, near Penrith, New South Wales. Constable Childs immediately left Penrith Police Station and proceeded on patrol. Soon after, he sighted two of the offenders in a stolen vehicle and gave chase despite shots being fired and hitting his vehicle. The offenders sped into a shopping complex car park but collided with a stationary vehicle and left their car to run into a nearby store. Constable Childs ran from his vehicle into the store and although at one time menaced at close range with a sawn-off rifle he effected the arrest of one of the offenders.

Constable Childs displayed commendable bravery in the pursuit and arrest of the armed men.

Major Dennis Lloyd FITZSIMMONS
Australian Army

On 23 October 1981 during Exercise Kangaroo '81 at the Shoalwater Bay Training Area a helicopter crashed injuring all the occupants and trapping the co-pilot unconscious in the wreckage. Major Fitzsimmons, a Medical Officer in the Army Reserve, volunteered to be winched into the site by helicopter to give medical aid and to rescue the trapped crewman, despite the fact that the aircraft had twice caught fire, which, although the fires had been extinguished, had exhausted the available fire appliances. Although fuel continued to spill from the wrecked aircraft, with the evident real danger of a further outbreak of fire, Major Fitzsimmons worked for about 30 minutes to extricate the injured co-pilot.

In performing a difficult task in such circumstances Major Fitzsimmons displayed commendable courage.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Richard GOSDEN
29/24 Sandridge Street,
BONDI N.S.W. 2026

On 21 April 1982, at about 9.00 a.m., Mr Gosden witnessed a man fall from the edge of a cliff at Bondi, New South Wales, on to rocks near the water's edge below. Mr Gosden ran down a path about 100 metres away and upon reaching the water swam to the man who, as Mr Gosden reached him, was washed from the rocks by the heavy seas. Mr Gosden supported him in the very rough water and, notwithstanding being cut about by the rocks succeeded in lifting the then unconscious man to a ledge near the water's edge and subsequently to safety to another ledge a further 1½ metres up the cliff face.

In effecting the rescue Mr Gosden displayed commendable courage.

Mr Gregory Bruce HEDGER
21 Meredith Circuit,
KAMBAH A.C.T. 2902

Early in the afternoon on 21 February 1982 a man was swimming at Tomakin Beach, New South Wales, when he got into difficulties in extremely rough water about 200 metres from the shore. Mr Hedger saw the man in difficulty, ran to the water's edge, and picking up a child's surfboard swam to the man and was able to support him in the rough water until another person reached them shortly after. Mr Hedger, assisted by the other person, then brought the man safely to the shore.

By his actions Mr Hedger displayed commendable courage.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Donald Nicolson WIGAN
7 Luxmore Place,
LAUNCESTON TAS. 7250

At about 12.45 a.m. on 23 May 1982 Mr Wigan awoke to find that the house at the rear of his property was on fire. He ran to the fiercely burning building and, after making enquiries, learnt that a woman was still in a bedroom inside the building. Mr Wigan then smashed the bedroom window and climbed into the room. Despite being unable to see because of the dense smoke, he managed to locate the woman and take her to the window where he was assisted in bringing her outside the building. Despite his efforts the woman died.

Mr Wigan displayed commendable courage in entering the fiercely burning building.