

STAR OF COURAGE

Mr Stephen JURY
10 Arcadia Avenue,
THE BASIN VIC. 3154

On 7 February 1983, at about 8.10 a.m., a man who was waiting for the arrival of a train at the platform of the Boronia Railway Station, Victoria, fell unconscious on to the railway tracks as the train was approaching the station. Notwithstanding the fact that the train was only about 100 metres away and travelling at approximately 40 kilometres per hour, Stephen, aged 16 years, regardless of the risk of losing his own life, leapt down from the station platform, lifted the man from the tracks and placed him safely alongside the railway line and under the overhanging edge of the platform. He then protected the man by covering him with his body. Stephen Jury narrowly escaped death; as the train sped by it hit one of his shoes pulling it from his foot.

Stephen Jury displayed conspicuous courage in such circumstances and undoubtedly saved the man's life.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Detective Senior Constable Peter GILL
Victoria Police Force

At about 12.15 p.m. on 12 June 1983 a 9 year old boy was abducted by a man and taken into a house in Francis Street, Yarraville, Victoria. The man who was in a very disturbed state was holding a knife at the young boy's throat in order that various demands he was making might be met. Detective Gill suggested that he exchange himself as hostage in place of the boy and to this course the man agreed. The boy was released, and despite the knife now being held at his throat, Detective Gill continued to talk to the man, gradually gaining his confidence while further negotiations concerning the man's demands continued. After much talking Detective Gill persuaded the man that his demands could not be met and he ultimately surrendered.

Detective Gill's ordeal lasted about 1½ hours, during which time he displayed commendable courage.

Mr Michael Ernest MARTIN
Flat 2, 34 High Street,
SWAN HILL VIC. 3585

On 24 June 1983, at about 4.00 p.m., Mr Martin, aged 23 years, when residing with his mother in Richmond Road, Westbourne Park, South Australia, was advised that a neighbouring house was on fire, and that an elderly woman was inside. He attempted to enter the house by the rear door but on two occasions was forced back by the dense smoke. He then went to another part of the building and smashed the window of the bedroom to gain entry to where the woman was lying. Mr Martin commenced to drag the woman to the window but was required to abandon the attempt momentarily because of the smoke. After refilling his lungs at the window with fresh air, he returned to the woman, dragged her to the window and with the assistance of another person brought her outside the burning building. Despite his efforts the woman died.

Mr Martin displayed commendable courage in his endeavours to save a life.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Miss Brianna Kate WRIGHT
23A Carunta Street
WATTLE PARK S.A. 5066

On 16 February 1983, at about 3.20 p.m. during the bushfires in the Adelaide Hills area, Brianna Wright, aged 9 years, was sheltering in a car, with her mother, her 11 year old sister and a family friend, at home in Yarrabee Road, Greenhill. Brianna, and the family friend, left the car because of the extreme heat and ran to the road. Brianna saw a parked truck, pulled her friend to it and they sheltered in it for a short while and then attempted to return to the house but were forced to return to the truck because of the heat. After a short period, Brianna Wright urged the family friend to start the truck and attempt to drive it away. The friend managed to start the vehicle and drove it until they located a fire unit vehicle.

By her actions Brianna Wright displayed commendable courage and initiative.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Geoffrey William PEDDER
Debneys Road,
Ashton 5137 *871*

On 16 February 1983, at about 4.00 p.m., during the bushfires in the Adelaide Hills area a woman became trapped in her car on Greenhill Road, when the fire suddenly swept upon her. Mr Pedder, a member of an emergency fire unit saw the woman's plight and immediately left the unit vehicle to go to her aid. Notwithstanding that the fire was raging around them and that the rear of the car was alight, Mr Pedder opened the car door, grabbed the woman, pulled her from the car and forced her to run from the vehicle. As they were running the car exploded and was completely engulfed in flames.

By his actions Mr Pedder displayed considerable bravery and saved the woman's life.

Next-of-Kin (Father)

Mr Gavin Francis ROGERS
(Posthumous Award)

Mr Bernard ROGERS
KALANGADOO S.A. 5278

On 16 February 1983 severe bushfires swept through the south eastern area of South Australia. In the middle of the afternoon Mr Rogers was with his parents on their farm property at Kalangadoo, when it became obvious that the fire would pass through the area in a very short time. A neighbour had earlier spoken to Mr Rogers' mother to say that she, and her four young children, would come to the Rogers' property when the fire danger was imminent. When the neighbour did not arrive by the middle of the afternoon, Mr Rogers left his parents' property to drive to the neighbour's home to give assistance and act as a guide through the thick pall of smoke and dust. Mr Rogers' car became bogged in the sand alongside the road. He then abandoned his car and attempted to reach the neighbour's home on foot. He lost his life in the attempt.

Mr Rogers displayed considerable bravery in such circumstances in leaving his home to give assistance to a neighbour.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Miss Mary Ann CARVER
42A Hughes Street,
Mile End, S.A. 5031

On 16 February 1983, at about 3.20 p.m. during the bushfires in the Adelaide Hills area, Miss Carver, her friend, at whose house in Yarrabee Road, Greenhill she had been staying, and the friend's two children, aged 11 and 9, were sheltering in a car in the driveway of the house, when she and the 9 year old child decided to leave the vehicle because of the extreme heat. As they ran to the road the young child saw a truck and pulled Miss Carver towards it. They sheltered in the truck for a short while and then attempted to return to the house, but were forced to return to the truck because of the heat. After a short period, Miss Carver managed to start the truck and drive it until she located a fire unit vehicle. By doing so Miss Carver saved her life and the life of the child.

Constable Clive Coleridge CONNOLLY
Gribble Street,
YARRABAH QLD 4871

At about 12.30 a.m. on 25 December 1982, Constable Connolly, an Aboriginal Community Policeman, accompanied members of the Queensland Police Force to a house in Yarrabah where a disturbance was reported to be taking place.

After searching the premises the offender was located hiding in a wardrobe in one of the bedrooms. Suddenly he jumped forward and pointed a cocked rifle at one of the Queensland police officers. During a moment when the offender's attention was distracted, Constable Connolly lunged forward, grabbed the cocked rifle and forced it upwards and out of danger to the police officers and himself.

He displayed commendable courage in tackling the armed offender.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Neville John ANDREW
Coominya Road,
COOMINYA QLD 4305

At about 8.00 p.m., on 30 August 1982, Mr Andrew left his house to investigate the reason for a sudden power failure and saw that a motor car had crashed into an electric light pole. The car was burning and live power lines were on the ground and across the front section of it. Despite the danger from the live power lines and the fire within the car, Mr Andrew dragged two persons through its smashed windscreen and to a point of safety about 3 metres away. As he was removing the second person, Mr Andrew became aware of someone else in the rear of the car but he was unable to save him because of the intensity of the fire. With the help of another man, who had arrived on the scene, Mr Andrew removed the two persons to a further point away from the car and as they were doing so the rear section of the car exploded.

By his actions in rescuing the two persons
Mr Andrew displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Lyal FERRETT
13 Devon Street,
ALEXANDRA HILLS QLD 4161

On 22 November 1982 Mr Ferrett and his family, then residing at Wynnum West, Queensland, were entertaining friends and their children at home. At about 10.00 p.m., after the children had gone to bed, Mr Ferrett, on going upstairs detected a smell of smoke. As he opened a bedroom door, flames and black smoke belched out. He ran downstairs, grabbed the garden hose, went upstairs again and, with his friend playing water on the flames and smoke, searched two bedrooms, but no one was inside. On searching the third bedroom he found two children asleep and carried them to safety. Mr Ferrett searched the third bedroom again, despite the thickness of the smoke, and located another young child under a bed at the back of the room and carried him to safety, but when he returned a third time to attempt to locate one of his own children, he was forced back by the fierce flames which had engulfed the house.

By his actions Mr Ferrett displayed considerable
bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr David John NEWMAN
Cudlee Creek Road,
CUDLEE CREEK S.A. 5232

At about 2.15 p.m. on 16 February 1983 Mr Newman was in charge of a fire truck with a number of volunteer fire fighters in the area of Ansteys Hill, South Australia, during a raging bushfire. When a fierce wall of flame about 300 metres wide and 50 metres high suddenly swept upon the group, Mr Newman attempted to start the engine of the truck but was unable to do so. The other fire fighters ran across to an adjacent house but Mr Newman remained in the truck. One of the volunteers then ran from the adjacent house and it was obvious that he was in danger. Mr Newman left the truck, grabbed the man and placed him in the safety of the cabin. When another fire truck came by a few minutes later Mr Newman carried the man to that truck and went with him in it until locating an ambulance which took the man away for treatment to burns which he had sustained.

Mr Newman displayed considerable bravery in such circumstances.

Mr Brian Denis OVERELL
Lot 3, South Coolum Road,
COOLUM BEACH QLD 4573

Shortly before 10.00 p.m. on 7 May 1983 Mr Overell became aware that a nearby house was on fire. Being an asthma sufferer Mr Overell, instead of running to the house, drove his car to the house some 200 metres away where he was advised that 2 young children were inside. He smashed a glass panel window adjacent to the front door and gained entry to the house. He searched the lounge room on his hands and knees until he located one of the children and then attempted to locate the other child. Due to the heavy concentration of smoke Mr Overell returned to the window where he had gained entry and placed the child outside. He then re-entered the house and, although he was unable to see, searched a second time on his hands and knees in an endeavour to find the second child, until he was almost completely overcome by the dense smoke and was forced to return outside.

Mr Overell displayed considerable bravery in twice entering the burning and smoke filled building.