

STAR OF COURAGE

Mr Paul BRADSHAW,
15 Frank Avenue,
CLAYTON VIC 3168

On 23 May 1985 three cars collided at an intersection in Clayton South. Two cyclists Paul Bradshaw, 17 years, and a companion, on hearing the noise of the crash, rode to the scene to find that the driver was trapped in the van and that a fire had started in its rear section. As they attempted to open the jammed driver's door the handle came off but they bent the window frame and the door opened. During this time there was a small explosion in the van and the dashboard caught fire. The fire spread to the body of the van and the seat began to burn. Notwithstanding the risk of the vehicle exploding the young men took hold of the driver and dragged him free. As they freed him the van was well alight with flames coming from the window. Shortly after a compressed air tank in the rear exploded and the van disintegrated. In the rescue Paul Bradshaw received a shoulder injury.

By his actions Mr Bradshaw displayed conspicuous courage.

STAR OF COURAGE

Miss Lorraine Kaye McLeod,
6 Volga Place,
MANDURAH W.A. 6210

On 25 February 1983 Miss McLeod, a nurse employed by the Argyle Diamond Mines Kununurra was accompanying an injured man on a helicopter flight from Glen Hill Station to Camp Nicholas. The patient was strapped on a stretcher mounted on to the helicopter's skid. Five minutes after take-off, the helicopter's tail rotor was damaged by the dislodging of the pillow beneath the patient's head. It went into a spin, crash-landed and caught fire. Miss McLeod and the pilot who was seriously injured were able to struggle clear but the patient was trapped strapped to the helicopter amidst flames 10-12 feet high. Although sustaining a spinal injury herself and notwithstanding the risk of the helicopter exploding, Miss McLeod struggled to the patient, undid his retaining straps and released him from under the port side fuel tank which was then on fire. She had only carried him approximately three metres, when the fuel tank exploded.

By her actions Miss McLeod displayed conspicuous courage.

STAR OF COURAGE

Mr Craig Douglas McNAUGHTON,
3 Waters Court,
CLAYTON SOUTH VIC 3169

On 23 May 1985 three cars collided at an intersection in Clayton South. Two cyclists Craig McNaughton, 17 years, and a companion on hearing the noise of the crash rode to the scene to find that the driver was trapped in the van and that a fire had started in its rear section. As they attempted to open the jammed driver's door the handle came off but they bent the window frame and the door opened. During this time there was a small explosion in the van and the dashboard caught fire. The fire then spread to the body of the van and the seat began to burn. Notwithstanding the risk of the vehicle exploding the young men took hold of the driver and dragged him free. As they freed him the van was well alight with flames coming from the window. Shortly after a compressed air tank in the rear exploded and the van disintegrated. In the rescue Craig McNaughton cut his left hand and received abrasions to his forehead from exploding debris.

By his actions Mr McNaughton displayed conspicuous courage.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Constable First Class Laurence Edward HARGRAVE,
New South Wales Police Force.

On 30 January 1983, at about 1.30 a.m., Constable First Class Hargrave then on police car patrol left the car in Denison Street, Tamworth, and while patrolling near the railway line observed a group of about twenty men, all members of various motorcycle gangs, gathered round a woman lying on the ground. He crossed the stormwater drain to make enquiries and saw that the woman was being sexually assaulted by four of them. While the original group milled around 250 to 300 other members of bikie gangs had gathered 20 metres away and some were moving in the Constable's direction. Regardless of the risk of being attacked by the bikies he carried the woman who was in a state of distress, through the group of men and back across the stormwater drain to the police vehicle parked 50-60 metres away.

By his actions Constable Hargrave showed considerable bravery.

Constable First Class William Branston HARRIS,
South Australian Police Force.

On 27 August 1983 Constable First Class William Harris was manning the switchboard at Christie's Beach Police Station when he was confronted by a known criminal armed with a .22 revolver who threatened to kill him. At a moment when the offender, then pointing his revolver at Constable Harris, took his eyes off him Constable Harris tackled him.

A struggle ensued during which the offender fired four shots at Constable Harris who fell to the floor wounded in the groin. At this point another police officer entered the station but was forced to leave by the offender who then ordered Constable Harris to stand and lead him to the armoury. Although bleeding profusely, he struggled to his feet by holding on to a door frame. Hunted by the offender he escaped through the back door where other police officers were waiting. Notwithstanding his injuries Constable Harris then returned to man the switchboard until the ambulance came.

By his actions Constable Harris displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Evan Gregory LAYT,
19 Geraghty Street,
CECIL PLAINS QLD 4407

On 22 May 1983 Mr Layt was driving on the Warrego Highway when he was involved in a four-car collision near Ipswich. The car in the centre of the collision burst into flames at front and rear. The four passengers trapped inside were calling for help. Mr Layt ran to the car, and notwithstanding the risk of it exploding, reached in through the open window and dragged two children out. The driver had climbed into the back seat and Mr Layt lifted her out also. Fire had now broken out inside the car. As Mr Layt assisted the remaining passenger through the window others arrived to help. By this time flames were also coming from beneath and between Mr Layt and the car.

By his actions Mr Layt displayed considerable bravery.

Warrant Officer Raymond George MORRISON,
Headquarters,
RAAF Base,
DARWIN N.T.

On 20 April 1985 at RAAF Base Darwin the oxygen regulator in a Caribou aircraft exploded and caught fire. The aircraft rapidly filled with dense smoke forcing the pilot and co-pilot to abandon the aircraft. There was the risk of an explosion because the aircraft was fully fuelled with high octane gasoline. Notwithstanding this risk Warrant Officer Morrison, who was the flight-engineer, spontaneously entered the aircraft via the rear ramp. He travelled the length of the smoke-filled cargo compartment, turned off the oxygen valve, located in the flight compartment, and returned to escape from the choking smoke and fumes.

By his actions in saving the aircraft and preventing possible injury to those nearby Warrant Officer Morrison displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Colin Bernard RONALDS,
25 McAdam Street,
MAFFRA VIC 3860

On 26 August 1985, at Tinamba, Colin Ronalds aged 16 years, awoke to find the house in which he was sleeping, alight. He ran outside, grabbed a fire extinguisher but the heat prevented him from getting back in. He then opened a bedroom window and climbed in through billowing smoke to rescue his two young nephews remaining in the house. It was intensely hot and he could not see. Groping his way he found one boy, picked him up and passed him out the window. Returning he heard a cough and found the other boy near the door. With his hair and clothing singed and his eyes affected he passed the boy out the window, jumped out himself and helped to revive him.

By his actions in saving the children Colin Ronalds displayed considerable bravery.

Sergeant Third Class Barry Arthur STOKER
New South Wales Police Force

On 11 June 1985 Sergeant Stoker, together with other police, was called to a house in Liverpool. When they arrived he saw an injured woman lying in the gutter supported by a man. Sergeant Stoker left the police truck and walked quickly towards them. As he did so a man, armed with a rifle, stood up behind a fence and ordered him to keep away. He fired before Sergeant Stoker could draw his revolver. Falling to the roadway Sergeant Stoker warned his colleague that he had been shot and while the offender continued to fire the rifle he dragged himself backwards to the truck. He remained there until taken to hospital with severe injuries to his lower abdomen and right hip.

By his actions Sergeant Stoker displayed considerable bravery.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Senior Constable Graham Campbell BLACK,
Western Australian Police Force

On 25 November 1984 Senior Constable Black and another police officer were called to a house in Pannawonica where a deranged woman had threatened to shoot herself and her three children. As they approached the house the offender armed with a .22 rifle was standing at the door and warned them that if they came closer she would shoot them. Eventually getting to within 2-3 metres of her they negotiated with the woman at length although being continually threatened. After nearly 3 hours she allowed Constable Black, accompanied by a neighbour to enter the house but then put the rifle to his chest and told him to sit on a chair. After another forty minutes of talking, she surrendered.

By his actions Senior Constable Black showed commendable courage.

Senior Constable Carlo CALANDRA
New South Wales Police Force

On 11 June 1985 Senior Constable Calandra, together with other police, was called to a house in Liverpool. There he saw an injured person lying in the gutter. A man crouched behind a fence then fired several shots from a rifle at a police truck. When Constable Calandra called to him to surrender, the offender aimed his rifle at him and fired. Taking cover behind a four foot paling fence he returned the fire and again ordered the offender to surrender. Shots continued to be exchanged between them until the offender fell wounded to the ground.

By his actions Senior Constable Calandra displayed commendable courage.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Senior Constable Ronald James CALMAN,
New South Wales Police Force

On 20 February 1984 Senior Constable Calman was on a fishing trip with a companion when they responded to an emergency radio call to return to Swansea Channel bar where they observed that a yacht had run aground in dangerous seas. While attempting to tow the yacht free his companion was washed overboard and suffered massive injuries caused by the propeller. Senior Constable Calman immediately dived into the water and attempted to rescue him. Assisted from time to time by a surfboard rider he supported him in the water until the injured man was taken aboard an inflatable craft some 20-40 minutes later.

By his actions Senior Constable Calman displayed commendable courage.

Mr Stuart Norman COOK, (Deceased)
Cook's Caravan Park,
SWAN REACH VIC 3903

On 31 December 1984 Mr Cook aged 22 and his girl friend were swimming at Cape Conran. They were using a narrow channel of the Yeerung River as a water slide when they were washed 100 metres out into rough surf. As they were swept along the shoreline by a heavy undertow Mr Cook encouraged and assisted his friend who was becoming exhausted. On one occasion they came close to the shore but were pulled back. Finally when huge waves broke over them they were separated and Mr Cook disappeared.

By his actions Mr Cook displayed commendable courage, thereby losing his life.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Laurence John GRECH,
Wasleys Road,
TWO WELLS S.A. 5501

On 6 July 1984 Mr Grech was one of a number of people in a car park at Gawler who witnessed a man being stabbed by an offender armed with an 8 inch knife. The injured man fell to the ground while the offender continued the assault by falling on top of him and erratically attempting to stab him again. Mr Grech alone went to assist and moved in between them to separate them. He took hold of the offender's right wrist, put an arm around his neck and forced the offender away.

By his actions in saving the man from further injury Mr Grech displayed commendable courage.

Mr Robert William KENNEDY
20 Ashburton Way,
PANNAWONICA W.A. 6716

On 25 November 1984 Mr Kennedy was asked to accompany two members of the Western Australian Police Force to a house in Pannawonica where a neighbour, a woman armed with a .22 calibre semi-automatic rifle, was threatening to kill herself and her three children. Mr Kennedy, being aware of the danger, offered to assist the police officers by speaking to her and accompanied them to her house. After lengthy negotiations she allowed Mr Kennedy and one of the police officers to enter. After talking to her for some forty minutes she surrendered her rifle.

By his actions Mr Kennedy displayed commendable courage.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Senior Constable John LANGRIDGE,
Western Australian Police Force

On 25 November 1984 Senior Constable Langridge and another police officer were called to a house in Pannawonica where a deranged woman had threatened to shoot herself and her three children. As they approached the house the offender, armed with a .22 rifle, was standing at the door and warned them that if they came closer she would shoot them. Eventually getting to within 2-3 metres of her they negotiated with the woman at length, although being continually threatened. After nearly three hours she allowed a neighbour and the other police officer to enter the house but refused entry to Senior Constable Langridge. However, he waited by the door for 40 minutes until the woman surrendered.

By his actions Senior Constable Langridge displayed commendable courage.

Sergeant First Class Rhoderic Francis LINDSAY (Deceased)
New South Wales Police Force

On 20 February 1984 Sergeant Lindsay was in his aluminium runabout on a fishing trip with a friend when they responded to an emergency radio call to return to Swansea Channel bar where they observed that a yacht had run aground and was being pounded by large waves as it broached on the sandbar. After a vain attempt to tow the yacht free Sergeant Lindsay was releasing the tow rope when a swell lifted the boat and he fell backwards over the stern next to the motor and was drowned.

By his actions Sergeant Lindsay displayed considerable bravery, thereby losing his life.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr David John MARTIN,
89 Harrow Road,
SOMERTON PARK S.A. 5044

On 24 March 1985 at 1.30 a.m. a car collided with a stobie (light) pole at Somerton park. Mr Martin ran from his house nearby and found flames 15-20 feet high coming from the car windows. He saw a passenger trying to climb through the space where the windscreen had been and attempted to pull him out. At first he was driven back by the heat, however, he returned and with the assistance of two other men lifted the passenger out. During this time another passenger climbed from the car and Mr Martin and another man dragged him to safety.

By his actions Mr Martin displayed commendable courage.

Mr John Bernard Anthony O'CALLAGHAN,
10 Deliah Street,
SPRINGWOOD QLD 4127

On 23 July 1985 at approximately 10.30 p.m. the yacht "Magic Dragon" struck Flinders Reef off Moreton Island. Mr O'Callaghan was winched down from the State Emergency Service helicopter on to the yacht to evacuate the four crew members. He fastened his safety harness on to a woman crew member but as she was being hauled to the helicopter the cable snapped and she fell 30-35 feet to the reef. Mr O'Callaghan immediately jumped overboard in an attempt to assist in getting her back on board the yacht. He could not climb back himself and was continually buffeted by seas breaking on the reef. Later the helicopter crew dropped a life raft and he was recovered by the Coastguard.

By his actions Mr O'Callaghan displayed commendable courage in attempting to save the woman.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Neil Francis POWER,
11/109 Morphett Road,
MORPHETTVILLE S.A. 5043

On 24 March 1985 at about 1.30 a.m. Mr Power was on his bicycle on The Esplanade, Somerton Park, when a car collided with a stobie (light) pole. Flames 15-20 feet high leapt into the air and sparks from the overhead power lines showered down. Mr Power crossed the road to assist another man who was trying to pull one of the passengers through the space where the front windscreen had been. As they persisted in the intense heat bystanders hosed them down but after 10 minutes they eventually lifted the passenger out of the car.

By his actions Mr Power displayed commendable courage.

Mr David Walter REYNOLDS,
7 Middle Street,
CAVES BEACH N.S.W. 2281

On 20 February 1984 Mr Reynolds paddled his surfboard to a yacht aground in rough seas on Swansea Channel bar and took a tow rope from the yacht to secure it to a runabout nearby. When a man fell from the runabout his companion dived into the water to save him. Mr Reynolds immediately paddled over and together they attempted unsuccessfully to place the injured man on the board. He remained to assist until the injured man had been taken on to an inflatable craft and he then brought the man's companion ashore.

By his actions Mr Reynolds displayed commendable courage.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Peter James RUGLESS,
70 Partridge Street,
GLENELG SOUTH S.A. 5045

On 24 March 1985 at about 1.30 a.m. Mr Rugless was travelling along The Esplanade, Somerton Park, when he saw that a car had collided with a stobie (light) pole. Flames from the car were leaping 15-20 feet into the air. Mr Rugless went to assist another man who was trying to pull one of the passengers through the space where the front windscreen had been. They were driven back by the heat and Mr Rugless took a hose and played water on the front of the car. Together they returned and joined by another man eventually lifted the passenger out.

By his actions Mr Rugless displayed commendable courage.

Mr Timothy William RYAN,
6 Lamorna Avenue,
BEECROFT N.S.W. 2119

On 14 March 1985 a man entered a chemist's shop in Berala, brought out a long knife from his bag and demanded that the owner, Mr Ryan, give him drugs. Mr Ryan armed with an umbrella stick tackled the man but eventually he and another man were forced into a laneway; the offender then pushed them and a woman shop assistant up against a back door. Mr Ryan however continued to struggle with the man until he dropped his knife and ran away. During the encounter Mr Ryan received cuts to his face.

By his actions Mr Ryan displayed commendable courage.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Master Troy Colin SMITH,
34 Lambton Parade,
SWANSEA HEADS N.S.W. 2281

On 13 March 1985 Troy Smith, aged 11 years, went to the assistance of his brother aged 13 in difficulties with his windsurfer board in rough conditions in Swansea Channel. He ran to the beach and launched a 4.5 metre aluminium boat. With waves of 5-6 feet breaking over the bar he realised that he would need extra weight in the boat so enlisted the aid of a man then standing on the southern breakwater. Together they got the boat through the dangerous passage from the lake to sea and brought the boy and a man who had gone to his assistance back safely.

By his actions Troy Smith displayed commendable courage.

Mr Martin WEBERRUSS
15 Picadilly Street,
SOUTH OAKLEIGH VIC 3167

On 8 April 1985 a boy aged ten was floating down the flooded Thurra River on a lilo when he was swept into the sea. Tossed by two-metre high waves, his lilo was swept from his grasp. His mother called for help to Martin Weberruss and two other young surfers. They all swam out through the surf. Martin grabbed the boy. Huge waves broke over them as they encouraged and supported the boy in turn. When some 250 metres from the shore a surfboard rider came and with the support of his board they kicked their way back to shore.

By his actions in helping to save the boy's life Martin Weberruss showed commendable courage.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Paul WEBERRUSS
15 Picadilly Street,
SOUTH OAKLEIGH VIC 3167

On 8 April 1985 a boy aged 10 was floating down the flooded Thurra River on a lilo when he was swept into the sea. Tossed by two-metre high waves, his lilo was swept from his grasp. His mother called for help to Paul Weberruss and two other young surfers. They all swam out through the surf and located the boy. Huge waves broke over them as they encouraged and supported the boy in turn. When some 250 metres from the shore a surfboard rider came and with the support of his board they kicked their way back to shore.

By his actions in helping to save the boy's life Paul Weberruss showed commendable courage.

Sergeant Robin Peter WHEELER,
South Australian Police Force

On 27 August 1983 Sergeant Wheeler was called to the Christie's Beach Police Station where a police officer had been shot by a known criminal armed with a .22 revolver. On opening the door he too was confronted by the offender who held a gun at his head and ordered him to leave. Waiting outside he saw the wounded police officer stumble through the door pursued by the offender. The offender then fired at Sergeant Wheeler who fired two shots in return and then chased him 200 yards into dense shrubbery where he made his escape.

By his actions Sergeant Wheeler displayed commendable courage.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Paul Alexander WILLIAMS
224 Springvale Road
GLEN WAVERLY VIC 3150

On 8 April 1985 a boy aged 10 was floating down the flooded Thurra River on a lilo when he was swept into the sea. Tossed by two-metre high waves, his lilo was swept from his grasp. His mother called for help to Paul William and two other young surfers. They all swam out through the surf and located the boy. Huge waves broke over them as they encouraged and supported the boy in turn. When some 250 metres from the shore a surfboard rider came and with the support of his board they kicked their way back to shore.

By his actions in helping to save the boy's life Paul Williams showed commendable courage.