

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

### **Mr Joshua Willian DISHON, Blackburn South Vic 3130**

On the morning of 4 September 2008, Mr Dishon apprehended a man armed with a syringe at Box Hill, Victoria.

While working morning shift at a supermarket, Mr Dishon heard that a robbery was in progress. An elderly woman had her handbag snatched by an armed offender. Going to her assistance, Mr Dishon noticed a car out on the roadway and a man in the front passenger seat, gesturing to the driver to speed away. Thinking it might be a get-away vehicle; Mr Dishon approached the car and kicked in the passenger side window to impede the offender. Seeing a baby in the back seat he realised he was witnessing an attempted carjacking. The innocent female driver was highly agitated and panicking as the man threatened her with a syringe. Without hesitating to consider his own safety, Mr Dishon hurriedly opened the driver's door and attempted to pull the woman to safety but she was restrained by her seat belt. The offender leaned across the woman, still armed with the syringe, trying to depress the accelerator. Mr Dishon struck the man's head on the steering wheel and then was able to unfasten the driver's seatbelt and pull her to safety away from the car. The offender was then restrained by Mr Dishon and others until police arrived.

By his actions, Mr Dishon displayed considerable bravery.

### **Master Jack Ross FOSTER, 35 Grano Street, Ararat Vic 3377**

During the night of 18 May 2008, Jack Foster assisted his father who was assaulted in their home at Ararat, Victoria.

Jack Foster was asleep in his father's bedroom when he was awoken by a loud commotion from another room. Entering the lounge room Jack saw his father being attacked, the offender using a crow bar, a lump of firewood and a fire poker. Jack courageously attempted to intervene to protect his father from the savage beating. He tried to use the home phone to call police, however the attacker grabbed it, shoving Jack out of the way. Running to the kitchen, Jack used his father's mobile phone to contact police. Returning to the lounge room Jack kicked the offender, yelling at the man that he had called police. Horrified at seeing his father's severe head wounds and loss of blood, Jack used his toy sabre, striking the attacker and yelling at him to leave. However the offender continued to assault the boy's father with the crow bar. Jack now yelled that police were on their way which provoked the offender to stop his attack and run from the scene through the back of the house. Despite what he had witnessed, Jack remained calm, opening the front door, turning on an outside light, and standing where he could simultaneously await the arrival of police and monitor his father's condition.

By his actions, Jack Foster displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

### **Mr Dion GREY, Blackburn Vic 3130**

On the morning of 4 September 2008, Mr Grey helped apprehend a man armed with a syringe at Box Hill, Victoria.

While at work as a supermarket section manager, Mr Grey was alerted to the robbery of an elderly woman. Outside he found the offender going through the contents of a purse. As he approached the man, Mr Grey was repeatedly menaced by the offender who threatened him to back away. As the offender headed off he dropped the purse. Mr Grey followed him, quickly picking up the purse for evidence while keeping the offender in sight. Again he was threatened to keep his distance. The man then casually hopped into a stationary car on the roadway, demanding the female driver speed off. Making a note of the car's registration number, Mr Grey saw one of his work colleagues smash the front passenger side window as the offender continued to scream at the woman to drive away. Maintaining his grip on the syringe, the man leant over the panicking driver, trying to depress the accelerator. In the volatile situation, Mr Grey spontaneously grabbed the man and pulled him away from the driver. With the assistance of others at the scene, Mr Grey helped restrain the offender until police arrived.

By his actions, Mr Grey displayed considerable bravery.

### **Mr Jason Graeme GULLY, deceased, Late of McCrae Vic 3938**

Late on the night of 28 November 2004, Mr Gully attempted to prevent an armed robbery at a club in Keysborough, Victoria.

Mr Gully was on late-night duty as a security guard at a club where a handful of patrons and several staff remained. Stationed near the entry to the building, Mr Gully was confronted by three men in balaclavas, armed with long bladed knives and a high powered rifle. Mr Gully was ordered inside where he was detained as one of the offenders threatened patrons and, another demanded money from the cashier. While the safe and cash registers were opened and their contents bagged, the offender with the rifle demanded that Mr Gully comply with further instructions. He refused to do so in order to keep sight of, and protect, the club's patrons and his co-workers. In response, one of the masked men repeatedly menaced him with a knife. Sensing an opportunity, Mr Gully quickly removed his own side arm and discharged a single shot, wounding one of the offenders. However, another robber fired off four rounds at close range, hitting Mr Gully in the face and chest. In a callous move, the offenders left the critically wounded Mr Gully on the floor while one of them continued robbing the club. A short time later the three men escaped the scene but in subsequent events were arrested in a police operation. Sadly, Mr Gully died in hospital as a result of his injuries.

By his actions, Mr Gully displayed considerable bravery, thereby losing his life.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

### **Mr Moomooga Tiatia HARRIS, 17 Sacras Court, Sydenham Vic 3039**

During the early hours of the morning of 2 May 2007, Mr Harris detained an armed offender at a hotel in Taylors Lakes, Victoria.

Mr Harris was on nightshift duty as a hotel security guard when he was alerted to a commotion in the gaming lounge. A masked robber had entered the venue, armed with a pistol, threatening the gaming lounge cashier and demanding money. Minutes later as the offender attempted to escape; Mr Harris confronted him but was ordered to back off. Concerned for the wellbeing of his co-workers and hotel patrons, Mr Harris courageously stood his ground in front of the robber. The offender pointed the gun at him and screamed repeatedly, menacing Mr Harris and ordering him not to move or risk being shot. As the offender made to move away, Mr Harris seized the opportunity and knocked the man to the ground. A violent struggle followed, however Mr Harris was able to subdue the offender and disarm him. With the assistance of two hotel patrons, Mr Harris detained the man until police arrived at the scene. As a result of Mr Harris' intervention, the offender was later able to be identified as also responsible for a series of ten other armed robberies.

By his actions, Mr Harris displayed considerable bravery.

### **Mr Daniel Chan JOHNSON, Westend Qld 4101**

On the morning of 26 December 2003, Mr Johnson confronted a man armed with a knife at West End, Brisbane.

While an elderly pensioner sat in a chair on his front veranda, a stranger walked up to him and, in an unprovoked attack, stabbed him in the throat. Mr Johnson, who was staying with his grandmother in an adjacent unit, heard screams and went to investigate. The situation was highly charged as other neighbours gathered to assist the victim. Although a relative stranger to the neighbourhood, Mr Johnson challenged the offender, preventing him from further attacks on the elderly man. This provoked the offender to move towards Mr Johnson who tripped, falling to the footpath. Caught off guard Mr Johnson was stabbed around the shoulder and chest as the two struggled. When another neighbour intervened, the offender was momentarily distracted, but as Mr Johnson made to move away he was stabbed in the back with a second knife. The offender casually left the scene and later was witnessed in a nearby street stabbing another innocent victim. He was confronted by police and as he attempted to stab a police officer, was shot and died as a result of his injuries.

By his actions, Mr Johnson displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

### **Ms Jacqueline JOHNSTON, Balmoral Qld 4171**

On the morning of 8 April 2005, Ms Johnston intervened during an attack on a woman by a male offender armed with a knife at a shopping centre in Brisbane.

Ms Johnston was working in a city restaurant preparing for lunch time patrons when, without warning, an elderly female customer began to scream for help. The woman was being stabbed around the head and neck by a young man armed with a knife. She was cowering under the attack attempting to shield her face. Without regard for her own safety, Ms Johnston immediately picked up a chair and advanced on the attacker. She placed the chair between the offender and the victim, shouting at the man to drop the knife. Ignoring the distraction, the offender stabbed the woman several more times. Ms Johnston continued to use the chair in an effort to protect the victim, warning the attacker to move away. As she did so, the offender threatened Ms Johnston that she would be next, pointing the weapon directly at her. Holding on to the chair, Ms Johnston stepped backwards as a precaution, and as she moved out of the way of the offender's reach, the man unexpectedly ran from the dining room. As he did so Ms Johnston turned to comfort the victim and phoned for emergency services. She remained with the woman and helped apply first aid until police and ambulance arrived.

By her actions, Ms Johnston displayed considerable bravery.

### **Petty Officer Greg James LANGSHAW, Baldivis WA 6171**

Details not released at the request of Petty Officer Langshaw.

### **Constable Paul Thomas MASON, Queensland Police**

During the early morning of 27 May 2007, Constable Mason helped rescue a woman from a burning vehicle at Maryborough, Queensland.

Constable Mason and a colleague attended the scene of single vehicle accident and found a badly damaged car. The vehicle's engine bay was on fire and an unconscious female was trapped in the front passenger seat, her foot jammed between the firewall and the seat. The driver, who had been rescued, was yelling for his passenger to be freed. Repeated attempts to quell the engine fire failed because the bonnet was unable to be prised open. Several explosions erupted in the engine bay and, as the fire intensified, flames were penetrating the firewall into the foot well. Constable Mason climbed into the vehicle without any protective clothing, making repeated attempts to free the woman, trying to pull her from the front seat into the back of the car. However her foot remain jammed. As the flames and thick smoke filled the cabin, Constable Mason remained where he was, struggling to dislodge the woman. Persisting with his efforts, Constable Mason was assisted by another man and together they were able to free the woman and carry her to safety away from the burning vehicle.

By his actions, Constable Mason displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Chief Petty Officer Rohan Kenneth PUGH**, Secret Harbour WA 6173

Details not released at the request of Chief Petty Officer Pugh.

**Mr Kyle George QUINLAN**, Sunshine Coast Qld 4560

On the morning of 7 March 2007, Mr Quinlan (then Leading Aircraftman) rescued passengers from a plane crash at Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

Mr Quinlan was onboard a commercial Indonesian flight which crashed at Yogyakarta. Twenty-one people were killed, including five Australians. The aircraft was totally destroyed on impact. Despite chest injuries, Mr Quinlan struggled free and helped extinguish an escape hatch fire. He then moved quickly to calm terrified passengers who, in their panic to flee from the wreckage would otherwise have crushed a victim lying on the floor. In the chaos of flames and choking smoke, Mr Quinlan helped remove an injured RAAF colleague from the cabin, guiding him to safety. Mr Quinlan returned repeatedly to the burning wreckage to help remove injured passengers. However, as the fire grew in intensity he was reluctantly forced to withdraw. Despite his injuries and state of exhaustion, Mr Quinlan accompanied his injured colleague to hospital ensuring appropriate treatment was administered. He maintained clarity of thought, providing valuable information to Australian Embassy staff about Australians involved in the crash and insight into the moments leading up to the crash.

By his actions, Mr Quinlan displayed considerable bravery.

**Mr Allan Farley SMALL**, 19 North Gate Way, Wyndham Vale Vic 3024

On the morning of 8 April 2008, Mr Small rescued a woman from a burning house at Wyndham Vale, Victoria.

Mr Small was at home when he was alerted to a nearby house on fire. The building was being engulfed by flames and thick smoke was billowing out through the roof. Mr Small raced to the rear of the building as access to the front of the house was barred. Through a window he could see a female victim lying on the floor inside, her face blackened and her skin badly burnt. Mr Small smashed the window, crawled into the house and assessed the condition of the victim who, although conscious, was in a desperate situation. Supporting the woman around the shoulders and head, Mr Small manoeuvred her towards the window to other rescuers. She was lifted through the opening to avoid any injuries from shards of glass, and from there, the woman was carried to safety where Mr Small continued to comfort her until ambulance officers arrived at the scene.

By his actions, Mr Small displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

### **Mr Paul Richard UDINGA, Walyunga National Park WA 6084**

During a series of rescue events, beginning in the early hours of 2 April 2004, Mr Udinga was involved in the rescue of an injured woman from the flooded Hancock Gorge in the remote Karijini National Park, Western Australia.

In the darkness of early morning and in light rain, Mr Udinga was one of a group of rescuers preparing to winch an injured female tourist from a natural water pool. The woman was strapped into a stretcher and immobilised for her safety. As the crew were checking the rope lines on the stretcher a torrent of flood waters thundered into the confined space of the gorge forcing them into the pool. A member of the team swam across the water hole to assist but he was swept away. Although his other colleagues became separated Mr Udinga was able to hold on to the victim as the surge sucked the stretcher through a narrow rock chute, overturning it repeatedly. Ignoring his own safety, Mr Udinga remained with the victim to right the stretcher, struggling with its weight against the force of the current. He braced it against an embankment but was reluctant to unharness the victim for fear the stretcher would be washed away. Although exhausted himself, Mr Udinga continued to reassure the woman, keeping the stretcher upright as the water surged around him. Some twelve hours after the incident occurred, in a fresh rescue attempt, the victim was able to be winched to safety.

By his actions, Mr Udinga displayed considerable bravery.

### **Mr Xinkang WANG, Sydney NSW 2000**

On 5 March 2008, Mr Wang assisted in the rescue of hostages detained by a man armed with explosives on a bus at Xi'an, China.

Mr Wang was attending a small party of Australians as a guide during their familiarisation tour of China. During a short stop enroute to Xi'an airport, a man, armed with explosives, boarded their vehicle. The group was taken hostage and the offender demanded that the bus be driven to police headquarters. Despite the highly charged situation and the offender's mental state, Mr Wang nonetheless negotiated repeatedly with him, succeeding in securing the release of the majority of hostages. Mr Wang, a colleague and the offender were later transferred to a small armoured vehicle to be driven by police to the airport. The armed man indicated to Mr Wang he was free to leave but courageously he chose to remain with his colleague. When he found the opportunity, Mr Wang made mobile phone contact to update Australian Embassy officials, and continued to act as interpreter and to negotiate with the offender. During a later action the armoured vehicle was surrounded by police where the offender was overpowered, and sadly, died as a result of fatal gunshot wounds.

By his actions, Mr Wang displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr John Macleay WEST**, 738 Birthamba Road, Bucca Qld 4670

During the early morning of 27 May 2007, Mr West helped rescue a woman from a burning vehicle at Maryborough, Queensland.

Mr West was waved down at the scene of a single vehicle accident where a woman was trapped inside a burning car. Fire was beginning to ignite some of the surrounding grass. Checking on the condition of the unconscious passenger, he found that she was trapped, her foot pinned between the fire wall and the seat. Grabbing some thick material Mr West began to smother the flames around the engine bay then checked again on the condition of the passenger. Police arrived at the scene and attempted to extinguish the fire but the bonnet was damaged during the accident, making it impossible to get to the seat of the fire. Mr West hurriedly retrieved a steel bar from his truck to prise open the bonnet and tried to contain the fire as best he could. He then joined a police officer and together they entered the burning vehicle to rescue the passenger. Severely hampered by thick smoke and heat, desperate attempts were made to pull the unconscious woman from the front seat to the back of the car. The woman's foot was finally dislodged, enabling her to be removed from the burning car and carried to safety.

By his actions, Mr West displayed considerable bravery.

**Mrs Jeanette Margaret WILKINS**, Castlereagh NSW 2749

On 5 March 2008, Mrs Wilkins assisted in the rescue of hostages detained by a man armed with explosives on a bus at Xi'an, China.

Mrs Wilkins was visiting China on a familiarisation tour in her professional capacity as an Australian travel agent. Enroute to Xi'an airport, Mrs Wilkins and a small tour party made a brief stop during which a man, armed with explosives, boarded their vehicle. He demanded the bus be driven to police headquarters where the release of a number of hostages was negotiated. Mrs Wilkins was one of the group allowed to leave but, courageously chose to remain and persuaded the offender to release a distressed female passenger in her stead. As negotiations proceeded, Mrs Wilkins, a colleague and the offender transferred to a small armoured vehicle driven by police. In the highly volatile and unpredictable situation, and cramped within the small vehicle, Mrs Wilkins retained her composure. Showing considerable fortitude and presence of mind she engaged with the offender on a personal level, showing him photographs and talking about their respective families through an interpreter. During a later action the armoured vehicle was surrounded by police where the offender was overpowered, and sadly, died as a result of fatal gunshot wounds.

By her actions, Mrs Wilkins displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr David Kevin WILLIAMS**, 430 Paracombe Road, Paracombe SA 5132

On the afternoon of 29 April 2007, Mr Williams rescued a man from a burning house at Hope Valley, South Australia.

Mr Williams was driving with his brother-in-law and noticed an air conditioning unit on fire at the side of a house. At the scene he found a distressed young man who had accidentally locked himself out of the house, panicking because his father was still inside the building. Mr Williams tried unsuccessfully to kick in the front door, but was able to smash a bedroom window. Clearing the opening of jagged glass, Mr Williams crawled inside and moments later an explosion erupted followed by the sound of escaping gas. Mr Williams pressed on with his search for the young man's father. Although his vision and breathing were seriously impaired by thick black smoke, Mr Williams was successful in his attempt to locate the man, finding him in a state of shock, unable to move, and his right arm on fire. Mr Williams extinguished the flames and although suffering severe smoke inhalation, dragged the man through the house back to the bedroom window. With the help of his brother-in-law, Mr Williams was able to have the man dragged away from the burning house. Sadly, the man died some days later as a result of his injuries.

By his actions, Mr Williams displayed considerable bravery.