

STAR OF COURAGE

Mr Jeffery David BRACKENRIG, 500 Keen Street, Lismore NSW 2480

On 9 June 1993 Mr Brackenrig, placed himself at risk to enter the water to search for a diver who had been attacked by a shark at Julian Rocks off Byron Bay. Mr Brackenrig, a diving instructor and aware of the danger, volunteered to undertake the search after a diver had failed to surface and human remains were sighted following the appearance of a large shark. Mr Brackenrig descended to a depth of 10 metres and was looking for any trace of the diver when a large shark came from behind him at a distance of approximately seven metres. He immediately descended to the bottom in a spiralling dive still searching for the man and took refuge in some rocks and waited briefly. When he could see no trace of the shark he emerged and continued his search for the missing diver. As he returned to his original descent point the shark passed in front of him at a distance of about three metres. Mr Brackenrig then ascended directly to the surface and boarded the boat.

By his actions Mr Brackenrig displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Craig Ian GRAHAM, 181 Tuggerawong Road, Tuggerawong NSW 2259

On the morning of 10 September 1993 Mr Graham placed his own safety at considerable risk to rescue two people trapped in a burning car on Black Creek bridge near Branxton. As a result of a multiple collision, the smashed and burning car had been partly forced under the tray of Mr Graham's truck. The two occupants were trapped in the car, close to the edge of the bridge, one unconscious and one on fire. Despite the dangers of the situation Mr Graham made his way through other fires started by the collision to the burning car, where, climbing onto the wrecked bonnet and working close to a sheer drop of 6 metres, he managed to extricate the unconscious passenger. Although he was suffering burns to his hands Mr Graham resumed his rescue and removed the burning driver beating out the man's burning hair and clothing as he moved him to safety. Within seconds the car, which was completely engulfed in flames exploded.

By his actions Mr Graham displayed conspicuous courage.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Richard Gordon ANDERSON, 13 Mulgrave Street, Gin Gin Qld 4671

On 16 October 1993 Mr Anderson endangered his life to rescue two people from a burning car on the Bruce Highway at Wallaville. The car had left the road, overturned and was alight when Mr Anderson ran to help. He crawled under and into the car and helped a passenger out through a side window. Returning to the now fiercely burning car, Mr Anderson's efforts to release the unconscious driver were hampered by her seat belt being fastened and her foot being caught in the pedals. For a second time Mr Anderson crawled into the car and succeeded in releasing the driver and, grasping her firmly, was pulled from the vehicle by his legs. As he carried her to safety the car exploded.

By his actions Mr Anderson displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Keith James BANKS (formerly Detective Sergeant Banks, of the Queensland Police Service)

On the afternoon of Saturday 27 November 1993 in an inner Brisbane office building Mr Banks (formerly Detective Sergeant) risked his safety to negotiate with a heavily armed and mentally disturbed man. The man who had a grievance against the owners of the building had expressed his intention of killing himself and blowing up the premises with a box of gelignite wired to detonating equipment he had brought for that purpose. Over a period of one and a half hours Mr Banks (formerly Detective Sergeant) assisted by another Police Officer negotiated with the armed man who exhibited frequent dramatic mood swings. Mr Banks (formerly Detective Sergeant) persuaded him first to surrender a rifle, then a live hand grenade and eventually accompanied him out of the building where medical assistance was sought.

By his actions Mr Banks displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Brett Allan BARROW, 15 East Street, Yallourn North Vic 3825

On the night of 19 November 1993, Mr Barrow disarmed and assisted in controlling a violent and alcohol affected man at Yallourn North. Mr Barrow was drinking in a Yallourn North hotel when he became aware that a man known to him was outside, armed and threatening another customer. Going to give assistance he saw the armed man pointing a single barrel shotgun at him. As Mr Barrow walked towards him the man raised the gun to shoulder height, changed his aim and fired, seriously injuring another man. Mr Barrow lunged at the armed man, disarmed him and held him until assistance arrived.

By his actions Mr Barrow displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Shane Joseph BEATS, RMB 2200, Horsham Vic 3400

On 5 November 1993 Mr Beats put himself at risk to rescue an unconscious woman from a burning car at Armstrongs. Mr Beats arrived at the scene of a head-on collision shortly after it had occurred on the Western Highway. One of the cars was on fire and the driver was slumped over the steering wheel covered in blood and still restrained by her seat belt. He tried to open the driver's door but it had jammed as a result of the crash. As the fire spread to the interior of the car Mr Beats with the help of another motorist forced the door open and together they climbed in and carried her to safety.

By his actions Mr Beats displayed considerable bravery.

Mr John Ronald CASEY, 958 Heatherton Road, Springvale South Vic 3171

On 15 January 1994 Mr Casey rescued a woman who was being attacked by her mentally disturbed son at Burnside, South Australia. Mr Casey heard screams and a woman calling for help. Running to help he was informed that her attacker had a history of mental disorders and had just escaped from a Mental Health Services Hospital. Mr Casey saw the blood covered woman lying on the ground being strangled by a man kneeling over her. He approached her attacker from behind, restrained him in a bear hug and after a struggle succeeded in subduing him until the police arrived.

By his actions Mr Casey displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr John Hugh CRICHTON, "Coolong", Wombat NSW 2587

Early in the morning of 26 August 1993 Mr Crichton placed his own life at risk to rescue the driver of a wrecked and partly submerged articulated vehicle at Race Creek, Wombat. Mr Crichton found the man in the overturned vehicle, trapped in the cabin by his legs and lying close to the water. A rapidly spreading fire made the rescue of the driver both urgent and hazardous. Despite the adverse circumstances Mr Crichton worked in icy water against the encroachment of the fire and the draining of his own strength. Although suffering burns to his hands Mr Crichton continued his efforts until he was able to free the driver and pull him to safety. Immediately afterwards the vehicle was destroyed by fire.

By his efforts Mr Crichton displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Thomas William FORRESTER, 6/102 Kalandar Street, Nowra NSW 2541

Early in the morning of 10 December 1993 Mr Forrester rescued an unconscious man from a burning car at Pyree near Nowra. Mr Forrester was awoken by the sound of a car leaving the road and colliding with a tree. He ran 150 metres to the car where he found an unconscious man lying across the rear seat. Reaching into the smoke filled car Mr Forrester with the assistance of another man pulled the injured man clear. Unfortunately he died shortly afterwards. As a result of his actions Mr Forrester suffered burns to his hands and feet.

By his actions Mr Forrester displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Michael FROSSOS, 3 Karabil Road, Nollamara WA 6061

On 5 November 1993 Mr Frossos, put himself at risk to rescue an unconscious woman from a burning car at Armstrongs. Mr Frossos arrived at the scene of a head-on collision shortly after it had occurred on the Western Highway. One of the cars was on fire and the driver was slumped over the steering wheel covered in blood and still restrained by her seat belt. After an unsuccessful attempt to open the driver's door he climbed in and tried to remove her through the rear door but failed. As the fire spread to the interior of the car Mr Frossos with the help of another motorist forced the driver's door open and together they climbed in and carried her to safety.

By his actions Mr Frossos displayed considerable bravery.

Sergeant Malcolm Wesley Cameron HARRISON, Queensland Police Service

On the afternoon of Saturday 27 November 1993 in an inner Brisbane office building Sergeant Harrison risked his safety to assist in negotiations with a heavily armed and mentally disturbed man. The man who had a grievance against the owners of the building had expressed his intention of killing himself and blowing up the premises with a box of gelignite wired to detonating equipment he had brought for that purpose. Over a period of one and a half hours Sergeant Harrison assisted another Police Officer as he negotiated with the armed man who exhibited frequent dramatic mood swings. The two officers persuaded him first to surrender a rifle, then a live hand grenade and eventually accompanied him out of the building where medical assistance was sought.

By his actions Sergeant Harrison displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Constable First Class Ian Victor LAUDER, New South Wales Police Service

Early in the morning of 26 June 1993 Constable First Class Lauder risked his own safety to locate a woman trapped in a burning house at Coffs Harbour. After being advised that a person was thought to be in the house he crawled into the building with a torch and conducted a search in dense smoke and intense heat. Constable Lauder could hear what he thought to be a person gasping for air, however, he was forced from the house by the heat affecting his breathing and vision. After he had recovered slightly he re-entered the house and continued searching until he located the unconscious woman and directed a Fire Brigade rescue team to her.

By his actions Constable First Class Lauder displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Bill McINTOSH, Rainbow Vic 3424

On the afternoon of 16 April 1994 Mr McIntosh, aged 79, saved a friend from a stubble fire near Rainbow. Mr McIntosh had been helping his friend with stubble firing when their vehicle bogged in a paddock, allowing the burn to catch up with them and ignite the car. At the same time the driver's door jammed, trapping the driver - crippled by arthritis - in the blazing vehicle. Despite suffering considerable burns himself Mr McIntosh remained with the vehicle to free the endangered driver. Shortly after the driver was dragged to safety the car exploded. In severe pain, with skin falling from his arms and legs Mr McIntosh then walked 2 kilometres to a farmhouse to raise help for his injured friend.

By his actions Mr McIntosh displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Darren MORGAN, 72 Hillcrest Avenue, South Nowra NSW 2541

Early in the morning of 10 December 1993 Mr Morgan rescued an unconscious man from a burning car at Pyree near Nowra. Mr Morgan was told of the accident when a car left the road, collided with a tree and burst into flames. He ran 150 metres to the car where he found an unconscious man lying across the rear seat. Reaching into the smoke filled car Mr Morgan, with the assistance of another man, pulled the injured man clear. He unfortunately died shortly after.

By his actions Mr Morgan displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Trung NGUYEN, (Posthumous Award)
Late of 4 Killalan Street, Gailes Qld 4300

(Next-of-Kin: Mr Trong and Mrs Sen NGUYEN [parents]
35 Caroline Street
RIVERVIEW QLD 4303)

On the afternoon of 4 September 1993 Mr Nguyen saved three children and lost his life in an attempt to rescue a fourth from a burning house at Gailes. At the time of the fire Mr Nguyen was inside the house minding his four nephews. Neighbours saw flames coming from the widows and heard explosions from within. Mr Nguyen threw the three older boys out of the window and returned inside to rescue the youngest, a child of less than two years. As he attempted to leave the building with the boy his exit was prevented by burning debris. Both Mr Nguyen and the child died.

By his actions Mr Nguyen displayed considerable bravery thereby losing his life.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Anthony Craig RANDLE, 32 Cynthia Grove, Woori Yallock Vic 3139

On 31 August 1993 Mr Randle attempted to save a child trapped in a burning car at Mt Burnett. A car left the road and struck a tree, killing the driver and trapping a one-year-old child in the back seat. As Mr Randle, assisted by another motorist, attempted to free the child a fire which had started under the bonnet spread to the body of the car and repeatedly forced the rescuers back. Eventually Mr Randle lay on the boot of the vehicle over the LPG fuel cylinder and reached in through the rear window but was unable to free the trapped child. He persevered, covered by a blanket to protect him from the flames, until other witnesses fearing for his safety dragged him to safety.

By his actions Mr Randle displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Dermot Joseph TIERNAN, AM, (Posthumous Award)
Late of Australian Hotel, Murgon Qld 4605

(Next-of-Kin: Mrs Jillian Heather TIERNAN [wife]
102 McAllister Street
MURGON QLD 4605)

On 20 March 1993 Mr Tiernan assisted police officers who were outnumbered during a violent disturbance at Murgon, resulting in the loss of his life two days later due to injuries he had sustained. Mr Tiernan was at home with his family when he became aware of an altercation outside a nearby club involving four Police Officers and a group of approximately 50 people, many of whom were intoxicated. Mr Tiernan went to assist the police, hoping to be able to calm and pacify members of the disorderly crowd due to his local knowledge and reputation. The Police Officers had by now arrested offenders and Mr Tiernan helped to get them into the van, keep them there and fight off others trying to release them. He then shielded a Police Officer to allow him to call for reinforcements. While still attempting to subdue the mob he was struck a blow to his head which caused his death.

By his actions Mr Tiernan displayed considerable bravery thereby losing his life.

Mr Simon Peter WALLER, C/- Loganlea TAFE, 54-68 Armstrong Road, Meadowbrook Qld 4131

On the afternoon of 21 July 1993 Mr Waller placed himself at risk to prevent possible serious injuries or death to hostages during a siege at Logan TAFE College. Mr Waller was one of a group of TAFE College employees and students being held hostage at the College by a disturbed man armed with a sawn off rifle. Throughout the more than two hour seige the armed man was drinking and firing randomly around the premises. Mr Waller kept the man engaged in conversation, diverting him from his expressed intention of shooting some of the hostages and persuaded him to allow some of the students to leave. When a suitable opportunity eventually occurred Mr Waller overpowered the man, disarmed him, and held the man until the Police arrived.

By his actions Mr Waller displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Michael WOODWARD, 6 May Road, Dee Why NSW 2099

On the afternoon of 13 August 1993 Mr Woodward attempted to rescue a woman who was being stabbed at Harbord. He was driving his car when a woman ran onto the road in front of him and asked for help. Running to a patch of scrub indicated by the woman he saw a man kneeling over a woman and stabbing her repeatedly in her upper body. When told to stop the man arose and approached Mr Woodward swinging the knife at him in an obvious attempt to stab him. Mr Woodward backed off and although aware of the danger to himself circled the man hoping to delay him until the police arrived. Another witness to the incident realising the danger to Mr Woodward drove his van at the armed man and knocked him over twice before he made his escape in a nearby car.

By his actions Mr Woodward displayed considerable bravery.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Constable First Class Gregor Andrew DUMBRELL, New South Wales Police Service

On the night of 3 February 1993 Constable Dumbrell rescued an elderly woman from a burning house at Bexley. Constable Dumbrell was off duty when his attention was attracted by the house fire. Going to offer assistance Constable Dumbrell was told by neighbours that the two elderly occupants were inside the house. In conditions of intense heat, dense smoke and toxic fumes Constable Dumbrell, accompanied by another man, crawled through the house until they located the trapped woman. Together they carried her to safety.

For his actions Constable Dumbrell is commended for brave conduct.

Mr Ahn Tuan LU, 127 Glider Avenue, Blackbutt NSW 2529

On 11 August 1993 Mr Tuan rescued a workmate from a trough containing molten iron and slag at the Australian Iron and Steel Limited Blast Furnace, Port Kembla. Mr Lu was working near the trough when he saw a fellow worker lose his balance and slip into the molten iron. Disregarding of the danger to himself, Mr Tuan jumped over the man, squatted down and lifted him straight up and out of the trough. Still supporting the man whose clothing was alight Mr Tuan led him to a sandbox and hosed him down until medical assistance arrived.

For his actions Mr Tuan is commended for brave conduct.

Mr Dennis James McKEOWN, 14 Gwawley Parade, Miranda NSW 2228

Late in the morning of 18 November 1991, Mr McKeown participated in the rescue of three injured youths trapped in a burning car at Kingsgrove. Mr McKeown was driving in Kingsgrove when he saw a small car, out of control, collide with a pole and burst into flames. Going immediately to offer assistance, Mr McKeown found three injured youths trapped inside the burning vehicle. Aware of the danger of an explosion Mr McKeown worked with other people to release the youths and remove them to safety. He then remained with them, giving comfort and reassurance, until Ambulance Officers arrived.

For his actions Mr McKeown is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Constable First Class Trevor William McLEOD, New South Wales Police Service

On the afternoon of 25 July 1993 Constable First Class McLeod rescued an elderly woman from her burning house at Henty. During the rescue Constable McLeod entered the house four times but was repeatedly driven back by intense heat and dense smoke. Realising that he would be unable to bring the woman out until the fire was controlled, Constable McLeod on his last and successful attempt remained in the burning house with her at considerable risk, giving her comfort and reassurance until the Fire Brigade arrived. With the assistance of Fire Brigade members Constable McLeod then carried the distressed woman to safety.

For his actions Constable First Class Trevor William McLeod is commended for brave conduct.

Miss Sally Fiona NEALE, 23 Vantage Point Drive, Burleigh Heads Qld 4220

On 9 June 1993, Ms Neale swam through water where a shark had been sighted to give comfort and assistance to a distressed woman near Julien Rocks, off Byron Bay. Ms Neale, a diving instructor and aware of the danger, entered the water and swam approximately 10 metres to another vessel to attend to a distraught woman whose husband had just been attacked by a large shark. Ms Neale stayed with the woman while a search for her husband was conducted, calming and comforting her, then accompanied her to shore where she received medical attention.

For her actions Ms Neale is commended for brave conduct.

Mr William Stanley PARTINGTON, 5 Knight Place, Minto NSW 2560

On the morning of 15 November 1993, Mr Partington, then aged 68, participated in the apprehension of a bank robber at the Commonwealth Bank at Roselands. Mr Partington was in a queue waiting to be served when he saw a young man grab bundles of notes from a teller's window and run for the door. As the robber passed, a customer grabbed him slowing his progress. Mr Partington then tried to bring the offender down by grabbing him around the head. As they were struggling a third customer succeeded in tripping the man who was then held until the security guards arrived.

For his actions Mr Partington is commended for brave conduct.

Mr Emanuel PSANOUDAKIS, 24 Hermione Way, Coolbellup WA 6163

Early in the morning of 19 December 1993, Mr Psanoudakis participated in the rescue of an injured man from a burning car at Hamilton Hill. Mr Psanoudakis, a taxi driver, arrived at the scene of the accident shortly after the car had hit a power pole and with his passengers he ran to offer assistance. After trying unsuccessfully to open the doors he reached in through the back window and with the assistance of other people he pulled the injured man partly out of the now fiercely burning car. Mr Psanoudakis tried to beat out the flames which had engulfed the man but was driven back several times. Eventually, with assistance, Mr Psanoudakis managed to drag the man free and carry him to safety. The entire operation was carried out with live power lines hanging down and small explosions coming from inside the vehicle.

For his actions Mr Psanoudakis is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Tony Hans RASMUSSEN, PO Box 1267, Murray Bridge SA 5253

On 15 April 1993 Mr Rasmussen rescued three children stranded on rocks at Petrel Cove near Victor Harbor. Mr Rasmussen was walking along the beach when a boy told him that the children had lost their boogy boards and had been washed up on sharp rocks with waves breaking over them. Mr Rasmussen ran across the beach, which clearly displayed a sign warning of the dangers of swimming there, and swam to the rocks through turbulent water. After considerable effort including being pulled under and dragged across sharp rocks he reached the children. Using an improvised rope and with the help of another man he succeeded in having all three children hauled to the beach. Mr Rasmussen received medical treatment for cuts and grazing to his body.

For his actions Mr Rasmussen is commended for brave conduct.

Mr Leonard Claude STEWART, 18 Stoney Creek Road, Beverley Hills NSW 2209

On the morning of 15 November 1993, Mr Stewart, then aged 70, participated in the apprehension of a bank robber at the Commonwealth Bank at Roselands. Mr Stewart was waiting in a queue to be served when he heard a woman scream and saw a young man running towards him holding bundles of notes. As the robber ran past Mr Stewart lunged forward and grabbed him slowing his progress. Another man in the queue also tried to bring him down but failed to do so. A third customer tripped the robber and all three restrained him until the security guards arrived.

For his actions Mr Stewart is commended for brave conduct.

Mrs Jordana Brenda TEGEL, 52 Anzac Parade, Kensington NSW 2203

Late in the morning of 18 November 1991 Mrs Tegel participated in the rescue of three youths from a burning car following an accident at Kingsgrove. Mrs Tegel was driving through Kingsgrove when she saw a small car, out of control, collide with a pole and burst into flames. Immediately going to offer assistance, Mrs Tegel found three youths injured and trapped in the now blazing car. With the assistance of other people, Mrs Tegel, at considerable personal risk, freed the youths and removed them to safety. During the rescue Mrs Tegel, a Registered Nurse, restored the breathing of one seriously injured youth before returning to the burning car.

For her actions Mrs Tegel is commended for brave conduct.

Constable Craig Ronald TELFORD, Western Australian Police Department

In the early hours of 14 December 1993 Constable Telford rescued the unconscious driver of a crashed and burning car at West Swan. Constable Telford had been called to the scene of an accident where a car had crashed into a power pole bringing down live lines which ignited nearby grass. When Constable Telford arrived the fire had spread to the car and the trapped driver's life was under serious threat. As Constable Telford climbed into the driver's seat and released the unconscious man's foot which was wedged under the passenger seat, other police officers forced the damaged door apart from the roof pillar, enabling the man to be dragged to safety. Seconds later the interior of the vehicle caught fire.

For his actions Constable Telford is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr William Bede TUFFY, 32 Skyline Crescent, Crescent Head NSW 2440

On the morning of 13 August 1993 Mr Tuffy swam through dangerous seas to recover the body of a woman below "Big Nobby" at Crescent Head. Mr Tuffy volunteered to join the crew of a State Emergency Service rescue boat to retrieve the body floating among rocks at the foot of the cliff. After the rescue boat had manoeuvred as close as possible to the body Mr Tuffy swam 50 metres through turbulent white water to secure it with a rope. This enabled the rescue boat to tow the body to a position of greater accessibility. On his return journey Mr Tuffy swam more than 100 metres through breaking waves and heavy swell.

For his actions Mr Tuffy is commended for brave conduct.

Mr Norman Samuel TURNER, 50 Shirley Avenue, Roselands NSW 2196

On the morning of 15 November 1993, Mr Turner, then aged 84, participated in the apprehension of a bank robber at the Commonwealth Bank at Roselands. Mr Turner was in a queue waiting to be served when he saw a scuffle at a teller's window. He then saw a young man running towards him with two men holding him around the neck, slowing him down but not overpowering him. As the three passed Mr Turner stuck his leg out and tripped the robber who fell to the floor enabling the three customers to restrain him until the security guards arrived.

For his actions Mr Turner is commended for brave conduct.

Mr Martin Andrew WALSH, 13 Almond Grove, Westbourne Park SA 5041

On the night of 1 July 1993 Mr Walsh rescued a semi-conscious woman from a burning house at Maroubra. After being awoken and told of the fire Mr Walsh and another neighbour ran to the rear door of the house and kicked it in but were driven back by the thick smoke. Entry was eventually made by a front window and Mr Walsh, his face covered by a wet towel, searched until he found the elderly woman huddled at the foot of her bed. Although he was almost overcome by the smoke, Mr Walsh, an asthmatic, dragged the woman into the hall where another man helped him to carry her outside. In spite of their actions the woman died shortly afterwards.

For his actions Mr Walsh is commended for brave conduct.

Mr Laurence WILLAN, 2 Marley Way, Warnbro WA 6169

Early in the morning of 19 December 1993, Mr Willan participated in the rescue of an injured man from a burning car at Hamilton Hill. Mr Willan was near the scene of the accident where the car had hit a power pole and went immediately to offer assistance. Mr Willan tried to extinguish the flames without success. Meanwhile another man had broken the rear window and after being driven back several times by the flames, Mr Willan, with assistance, managed to drag the burning man free and carry him to safety. The entire operation was carried out with live power lines hanging down and small explosions coming from inside the vehicle.

For his actions Mr Willan is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Wayne John WILLIAMS, 44 New Orleans Crescent, Maroubra NSW 2035

On the night of 1 July 1993 Mr Williams participated in the rescue of a semi-conscious woman from a burning house at Maroubra. When Mr Williams arrived home and saw a nearby house alight, he and another neighbour ran to the rear door of the house and kicked it in but were driven back by the thick smoke. Entry was eventually gained by Mr Williams who broke a front window, climbed in, unlocked the dead lock and released the chain. As Mr Williams withdrew to get some fresh air the elderly woman was located by the other neighbour who had succeeded in dragging her from her bedroom to the hall. With Mr Williams' assistance they managed to carry her outside. In spite of their actions the woman died shortly afterwards.

For his actions Mr Williams is commended for brave conduct.