

BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)

Senior Constable Stephen Ian BARLOW, Queensland Police Service
Acting Sergeant Scott Ronald HILL, Queensland Police Service
Senior Constable Catherine Maureen NIELSEN, Queensland Police Service
Constable Brittany Rosemarie POULTON, Queensland Police Service

On the afternoon of 29 May 2017, Acting Sergeant (then Senior Constable) Scott Hill, Senior Constables Stephen Barlow and Catherine Nielsen, and Constable Brittany Poulton were involved in an incident with an armed offender at Ringwood, Queensland.

The officers were travelling in Tactical Crime Squad (TCS) vehicles, in pursuit of a known offender whose vehicle had turned onto a rough dirt track. Senior Constable Nielsen and a colleague were in the lead vehicle, while Senior Constables Hill, Barlow and Constable Poulton were in the second vehicle, travelling a short distance behind.

The offender, armed with a fully automatic weapon, stopped his vehicle where he had a vantage point of the approaching police vehicles. He fired a number of shots at Senior Constable Nielsen's vehicle, injuring her colleague.

Senior Constable Nielsen returned fire and immediately called for backup. She managed to exit the vehicle and, realising she couldn't move her injured colleague, returned inside the vehicle and provided information to other police officers by radio.

Meanwhile Senior Constables Hill and Barlow, and Constable Poulton exited their vehicle and proceeded on foot towards their colleagues. When the officers reached them, Constable Poulton provided cover whilst their injured colleague was removed from the vehicle. Despite the continued gunfire, Senior Constable Barlow began first aid.

Sensing the urgency for medical help Senior Constable Barlow fetched another police vehicle and drove back to the scene. The injured officer was placed into this vehicle. Constable Poulton quickly reversed the vehicle down a steep incline and drove to a safe area.

Senior Constables Barlow, Hill and Nielsen remained at the damaged TCS vehicle as gunfire continued. Once they were aware that their colleagues were safe they moved away from the scene.

By his actions, Senior Constable Barlow displayed considerable bravery.
By his actions, Acting Sergeant Hill displayed considerable bravery.
By her actions, Senior Constable Nielsen displayed considerable bravery.
By her actions, Constable Poulton displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)

The late Mr Roger BERTOCCI, Late of Altona North Vic 3025

On the afternoon of 14 December 2014, Mr Roger Bertocci attempted to stop an assault on a woman at North Altona, Victoria.

Mr Bertocci was driving along a street in North Altona when he noticed a pregnant woman being physically attacked by an aggressive male. He quickly stopped his vehicle to render assistance.

The offender ran towards Mr Bertocci's vehicle and, on reaching the passenger side door, attempted to punch the windows. Mr Bertocci exited his vehicle and the offender then proceeded to chase him around the car, and verbally threaten him. The man pulled a large kitchen knife out of a sheath and continued to chase Mr Bertocci around the vehicle.

Attempting to protect himself, Mr Bertocci began to wave his arms around in a submissive manner and was walking backwards and away from the armed man. At this time, the female was standing close by in a distressed state.

The armed offender moved towards Mr Bertocci and stabbed him, before grabbing him by the shoulder and repeatedly assaulting him with the knife. The man fled the scene and Mr Bertocci collapsed. Tragically he did not survive his injuries.

By his actions, Mr Bertocci displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Demetrios (Jim) BOBOLAS, Downer ACT 2602

On the morning of 9 October 2016 Mr Jim Bobolas assisted in the rescue of two people from a burning vehicle in Downer, Australian Capital Territory.

Mr Bobolas was at home with members of his family when they heard the sound of a crashing car. They immediately went outside and saw that a vehicle had collided with a tree. Two men were trapped inside with smoke coming from under the bonnet and petrol leaking from underneath the vehicle.

As his two sons went to the passenger side of the vehicle to extract the passenger and move him to safety, Mr Bobolas used a fire extinguisher to smash the driver's window and attempt to extinguish the flames.

Mr Bobolas was then joined by his two sons where, after a struggle, they managed to open the door. They began to pull the driver from the car when Mr Bobolas was overcome by smoke.

The driver was extracted from the vehicle moments before the petrol caught fire and the vehicle erupted in flames.

By his actions, Mr Bobolas displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)

Mr Nicholas BOBOLAS, Downer ACT 2602

On the morning of 9 October 2016 Mr Nicholas Bobolas assisted in the rescue of two people from a burning vehicle in Downer, Australian Capital Territory.

Mr Bobolas was at home with members of his family when they heard the sound of a crashing car. They immediately went outside and saw that a vehicle had collided with a tree. Two men were trapped inside with smoke coming from under the bonnet and petrol leaking from underneath the vehicle.

Mr Bobolas and his brother quickly went to the passenger side of the vehicle where they managed to rip the smashed door open. His brother reached across and undid the passenger's seatbelt, enabling them to extract the unconscious passenger and move him to safety.

Mr Bobolas and his brother then went to the driver's side of the vehicle where his father had smashed the window with a fire extinguisher and was attempting to put out the flames. After a struggle, they managed to open the door and began to pull the driver from the car.

The driver was extracted from the vehicle moments before the petrol caught fire and the vehicle erupted in flames.

By his actions, Mr Bobolas displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Timothy BOBOLAS, Downer ACT 2602

On the morning of 9 October 2016 Mr Timothy Bobolas assisted in the rescue of two people from a burning vehicle in Downer, Australian Capital Territory.

Mr Bobolas was at home with members of his family when they heard the sound of a crashing car. They immediately went outside and saw that a vehicle had collided with a tree. Two men were trapped inside with smoke coming from the under bonnet and petrol leaking from underneath the vehicle.

Mr Bobolas and his brother quickly went to the passenger side of the vehicle where they managed to rip the smashed door open. He then reached across and undid the passenger's seatbelt, enabling him and his brother to extract the unconscious passenger and move him to safety.

Mr Bobolas and his brother then went to the driver's side of the vehicle where their father had smashed the window with a fire extinguisher and was attempting to put out the flames. After a struggle to get the door open he reached in and undid the driver's safety belt and began to pull the driver from the car.

The driver was extracted from the vehicle moments before the petrol caught fire and the vehicle erupted in flames.

By his actions, Mr Bobolas displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)

The late Mr Kesley James BURGESS, Late of Lurnea NSW 2170

On 1 July 2010, the late Mr Kelsey Burgess displayed considerable bravery during a home invasion at Lurnea, New South Wales.

Mr Burgess and his girlfriend were at home with other family members when they heard banging and screaming from the hallway. Four men armed with meat cleavers had forced their way into the home and were threatening his mother and assaulting another person.

Sensing the danger, Mr Burgess immediately exited his bedroom and pushed his mother into the bedroom and instructed her and his girlfriend to stay there. He picked up a sword as he entered the hallway where he confronted a male intruder and struck him on the shoulder.

Another intruder came out of the kitchen and assaulted Mr Burgess from the rear, while a third intruder assaulted him from the front. He fell to the floor as the intruders disrupted furniture and demanded drugs and money.

On hearing her son's cries, his mother left the bedroom where she saw three of the intruders assaulting her son. She ran into the kitchen, where the fourth intruder was, located a tin containing money, threw it at the intruders and told them to take it and leave. The intruders then collected other items from the house and left.

Mr Burgess was tended to by his girlfriend until emergency services arrived. Tragically he did not survive his injuries.

By his actions, Mr Burgess displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)

Mr Peter Hendrikus COXON, Blackwood SA 5051

On the afternoon of 7 October 2015, Mr Peter Coxon went to the assistance of a woman who was being attacked in Woolloomooloo, New South Wales.

A woman was standing behind a reception desk at a business in Woolloomooloo when a man entered the office and approached her. He was armed with a 13cm serrated kitchen knife. He walked around the desk, kicked chairs towards the woman and proceeded to make stabbing motions close to her face. The woman raised her hands in a non-threatening manner and told the offender to calm down.

The armed offender then placed the woman in a headlock from behind and while attempting to inflict a fatal wound, cut her on the cheek. She was able to fight and resist the attacker by placing her hand over the blade and pushing the knife away, causing severe lacerations to her hand.

Mr Coxon, a client of the business who had witnessed the attack, immediately ran around the desk towards the woman. He grabbed hold of the offender's hand, and with the assistance of another man, was eventually able to prise the weapon away from the offender and throw it across the room. Mr Coxon then restrained the offender until emergency services arrived.

By his actions, Mr Coxon displayed considerable bravery.

The late Mrs Katrina Watson DAWSON, Late of New South Wales

On the 15th and 16th of December 2014 Ms Katrina Dawson displayed considerable bravery during an armed hostage siege at the Lindt Cafe in Sydney.

At approximately 8.30am on 15 December 2014, an armed gunman entered the Lindt Cafe and took 18 people hostage. The gunman directed the manager of the Lindt Cafe to call 000 and say that all those in the cafe had been taken hostage by a man who was armed with a shotgun and explosives.

The gunman instructed for the cafe's doors to be locked, as the ten patrons and eight staff became aware of their predicament. In response to the 000 call police immediately cleared and secured the area around the cafe.

Over the ensuing 16 and a half hours Ms Dawson remained calm and composed when interacting with the gunman and carrying out his demands. At one point it appeared that the offender indicated that Ms Dawson could leave the cafe, however without consideration for her own safety she appealed to, and bargained with, the offender to also release another hostage. When he refused, Ms Dawson continued to provide genuine support to other hostages throughout the ordeal.

In the early hours of the next morning the gunman fatally shot the cafe manager. The police then stormed the café. During the ensuing firefight a stray police bullet fatally injured Ms Dawson.

By her actions, Ms Dawson displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)

Mr Timothy Robert DAY, Tottenham NSW 2873

On the 19th of January 2017, Mr Timothy Day rescued a man from a vehicle that caught fire on a cattle property at Tottenham, New South Wales.

Mr Day was on the family property when he was called by his father to assist in rounding up cattle that were wandering towards the main road.

The older man had decided to attempt to push the cattle back through the gate with an old vehicle that he regularly used on the property. He drove the vehicle onto the table drain and became stuck. Due to the extremely hot and dry conditions the heat in the engine and exhaust quickly ignited the long grass and the fire rapidly spread around the vehicle. With medical conditions affecting his mobility, he was unable to exit the now burning vehicle.

Mr Day saw his father's vehicle on fire and immediately went to his aid. He rushed to the driver's side door; however flames were coming from under the vehicle and up the door, preventing him from opening it.

Mr Day then moved to the passenger side of the vehicle, got inside, and attempted to extract his father. With the flames around the vehicle increasing, he managed to pull him across the centre console, over the gear shift, and onto the ground on the passenger's side of the vehicle.

Unable to lift or drag his father, he rolled him away from the burning vehicle as it became engulfed in flames. Emergency Services were notified and the grass fire was brought under control.

By his actions, Mr Day displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Laurence James DEAL, Ringwood East Vic 3135 **Mr Sohan Dilruk SENANAYAKE, Doncaster East Vic 3109**

On the morning of 17 July 2013, Mr Laurence Deal and Mr Sohan Senanayake went to the rescue of a woman who had fallen onto train tracks at Richmond, Victoria.

As he was waiting for a train at Richmond station, Mr Senanayake witnessed a woman stumble from the platform and fall onto the train tracks. He quickly glanced at the timetable board and could see that the next train was due in one minute.

Mr Deal was also waiting for a train and became aware that a woman had stumbled on the platform and fallen onto the train tracks.

They immediately jumped down onto the tracks to assist the woman who was unconscious and despite their efforts, the woman remained unresponsive.

With the imminent arrival of the next train into the station, they hastily lifted the woman up off the tracks to by-standers on the platform. Mr Deal and Mr Senanayake then quickly got off the tracks and back onto the platform.

By their actions, Mr Deal and Mr Senanayake displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)

Mr Mathew Paul DUNHAM, Bamawm Vic 3561

On 27 April 2012, Mr Mathew Dunham rescued a colleague after a barge capsized at Patterson Lakes, Victoria.

A push-boat and barge were travelling along the Patterson River with the barge carrying a thirteen tonne excavator. The barge began to tip over and then capsized near the middle of the river.

Mr Dunham, one of three men who were on the vessel, found himself under the push-boat however managed to swim out from under it. He noticed one of his colleagues about 30 metres away and called to him to see if he knew where their other colleague was. The excavator operator had become trapped inside the machine's cabin as it sunk beneath the water.

Mr Dunham then swam to where the barge had sunk and duck dived several times as he tried to locate the side of the excavator cabin. After a few minutes he swam over to assist his other colleague, who was struggling in the water, and they began to swim towards the shore.

He then saw the excavator operator come to the surface. The man was floating lifelessly in the water. When he saw the man move his arms he immediately swam to him and grabbed hold of his right arm. He retrieved a life jacket from the water and placed it over the man before swimming him to shore.

By his actions, Mr Dunham displayed considerable bravery.

The late Mr John Bernard GOODWIN, Late of New South Wales

On the afternoon of 15 March 1973, Mr John Goodwin went to the rescue of boys caught in a rip at Mooney Beach, New South Wales.

Mr Goodwin was the bus driver for students on a high school excursion to Mooney Beach. On reaching the beach the students, mostly aged between 12 and 13 years, went for a swim in the ocean. Four of the boys became separated from the main group and got caught in a rip before being swept out to sea.

Mr Goodwin immediately entered the water and was able to safely return three of the boys to shore. He then re-entered the water and swam out about 90 metres in an attempt to reach the fourth boy. The rip was very strong and it carried them both a considerable distance out to sea.

Mr Goodwin was able to reach the boy and supported him for a considerable time. Unfortunately just as the pair were to be rescued by surf board riders Mr Goodwin disappeared under the water.

It is believed that he suffered a heart attack and sadly lost his life during the incident.

By his actions, Mr Goodwin displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)

Mr David James GRAY, Kerang Vic 3579

In the late evening of 9 August 2014, Mr David Gray was involved in an altercation with an armed offender at Kerang, Victoria.

Mr and Mrs Gray and their six children were at their home in Kerang when Mrs Gray's ex-partner arrived on the front porch. The offender made verbal threats to the Grays through their partially open glass front door.

The offender, who was armed with a double barrel shotgun, discharged two gunshots through the door, wounding both Mr and Mrs Gray. Despite having upper body injuries Mrs Gray quickly located three of the children, fled to a shed in the backyard and called 000.

With the threat of the armed offender entering the house, and with the safety of the remaining three children foremost in his mind, Mr Gray rushed at the offender. Despite being injured, he grabbed the barrel of the gun and the two men fell through the door and onto the lawn in the front of the house. The struggle continued as both men had both of their hands on the weapon.

At this point a neighbour of the Grays, who had heard the gun shots, ran to the scene. He grabbed the offender by the shoulders, dragging him off Mr Gray. The offender then fled the scene in a vehicle and later tragically took his own life.

By his actions, Mr Gray displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)

Mr Christopher Colin HADWELL, Reservoir Vic 3073
Miss Jennifer Mary McCALLUM, New South Wales

In the early hours of 6 August 2015, Mr Christopher Hadwell and Miss Jennifer McCallum rescued a woman from a burning house in Byron Bay, New South Wales.

Miss McCallum became aware that her neighbour's house was on fire and immediately alerted emergency services before running to the burning property. She made her way to the open back door, got on her hands and knees, entered the property and began to search for occupants until flames and exploding glass forced her to exit.

Meanwhile, Mr Hadwell was on his way to work when he noticed a large orange glow in the distance. He immediately drove to the source of the glow and discovered a house on fire.

On arriving at the house he met Miss McCallum and together they made their way to the entrance of the house. The smoke was very thick and they both called out to see if anyone was inside. They were just inside the door when the roof cracked and then collapsed as Mr Hadwell quickly pulled Miss McCallum out of the building.

Mr Hadwell and Miss McCallum then approached the door again and entered the house, positioning themselves inside the doorway. They began calling for the occupant.

When they heard a moan off to their right, Mr Hadwell and Miss McCallum crouched down and began to crawl in the direction of the moan. Feeling his way along a wall, as visibility was minimal, Mr Hadwell felt the limb of the barely conscious occupant under the rubble of the collapsed roof.

As he pulled the occupant towards him, her clothing became snagged on the debris. He managed to wrench her free and, with the assistance of Miss McCallum, drag her out of the house where they immediately placed her in the recovery position and checked her breathing. The woman regained consciousness and they assisted her until emergency services arrived.

By their actions, Mr Hadwell and Miss McCallum displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)

Mr Ronald Paul HICKS, Castle Hill NSW 2154

On the afternoon of 14 May 2010, Mr Ronald Hicks fought off an armed assailant at Castle Hill, New South Wales.

Mr and Mrs Hicks were at their home in Castle Hill when the offender, a former neighbour, knocked at the door seeking assistance with his broken down vehicle. The young man was invited inside and Mr Hicks went upstairs whilst his wife remained in the kitchen making coffee for the offender. A few moments later he heard his wife screaming and ran to the lower level of the home where the offender was attacking his wife with a knife.

Mr Hicks immediately lunged and grabbed the offender and a struggle ensued. The offender stabbed Mr Hicks several times with a folding blade knife, before the two men fell to the ground. Mr Hicks landed on top of the offender, subduing him and ordering him to drop the knife he was carrying.

During this time Mrs Hicks, who was seriously injured, went outside and yelled to her neighbours, several of who came to her assistance. Despite the seriousness of the situation two neighbours entered the house to look for Mr Hicks. On locating the men in the kitchen they managed to disarm, and assist in subduing, the offender and, along with others, tended to Mr Hicks' injuries until emergency services arrived.

By his actions, Mr Hicks displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Kevin James HUGHES, Macleay Island Qld 4184

On 4 April 1993, Mr Kevin Hughes, while flying parachuting sorties at the Toogoolawah Drop Zone, rescued a woman who was caught by her jumpsuit mid air against the plane.

After reaching the required altitude, four jumpers climbed outside the aeroplane to position themselves for exit. One of the skydivers caught her jumpsuit bootie on the aircraft step, and was hanging upside down, out of control.

Mr Hughes immediately left the pilot's seat and moved to the open door. As the plane travelled at 90 mph, he climbed half a body length outside the plane and reached down in an attempt to cut the jumpsuit free of the step. Between several attempts, Mr Hughes returned to regain control of the aircraft before he cut the woman free. The woman fell away, opened her parachute and landed safely.

By his actions, Mr Hughes displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)

Senior Constable First Class Kirstina Shelline JAMIESON,

Northern Territory Police Force

Mr Michael Anthony PRIESTLEY, Marrakai NT 0822

Constable Zachary Brian ROLFE, Northern Territory Police Force

In the early afternoon of 27 December 2016, Senior Constable First Class (then Acting Sergeant) Kirstina Jamieson, Constable (then Probationary Constable) Zachary Rolfe and Mr Michael Priestley rescued two tourists from floodwaters near Alice Springs.

Acting Sergeant Jamieson, Probationary Constable Zachary Rolfe and other police officers, went to a flooded river crossing, 50kms from Alice Springs from where they could see a man clinging onto a tree in the middle of the fast flowing river. The man had escaped from a car that had been washed off the river crossing and a second person who had been in the car was still somewhere in the river.

Without knowing the depth of the fast flowing water Acting Sergeant Jamieson and Probationary Constable Rolfe entered the river and made their way towards the stranded man. After reaching a small island, Probationary Constable Zachary Rolfe remained there whilst Acting Sergeant Jamieson returned to the crossing to gather rescue equipment. She then returned to the small island along with another police officer and Mr Priestley.

Acting Sergeant Jamieson entered the water again and was pushed downstream by the strong currents. Probationary Constable Rolfe and Mr Priestley also entered the water and swam further downstream to the small island, where Acting Sergeant Jamieson was located. Mr Priestly threw a rope to the man who tied it around himself. Using themselves as anchors they moved back into the water and encouraged the man to let go of the tree. Letting go of the tree he was pushed by the current to them. Acting Sergeant Jamieson and Mr Priestley then assisted the man to cross through the strong currents and debris to reach a waiting paramedic on the opposite side of the river.

Meanwhile Probationary Constable Rolfe went searching for the second tourist on land and by wading through the water. After travelling approximately 5kms he located the distressed woman on the opposite bank. He made his way through the water and carried the woman on his back across the fast flowing river before assisting her to walk back to the crossing and to waiting emergency services.

By their actions, Senior Constable Jamieson, Mr Priestley and Constable Rolfe displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)

Mr Mark Anton KLANTE, Wudinna SA 5652

On the morning of 6 April 2012, Mr Mark Klante rescued a man after a ski boat accident at Venus Bay, South Australia.

Mr Klante went to a cliff edge at Venus Bay to look for two young men who had been involved in a ski boat accident. The sea conditions were extremely rough and there was a strong wind. He saw the ski boat sitting upright in the water with its bow showing and then noticed one of the young men drifting in the water on his back about 40 metres from shore.

He also saw a boat attempting to head towards the injured man in the water but the swell and waves breaking on the reef were making this task impossible. He immediately climbed down to the beach and swam out to the young man who was now floating face down in the water and not breathing. As the rough seas were pounding them he grabbed hold of the man and began to swim towards the calmer waters of the bay.

Still holding onto the young man, Mr Klante made his way around the headland, where the boat approached and another man in a wetsuit dived into the water and swam to where Mr Klante was. The unresponsive man was then hauled into the boat and quickly taken back to the boat ramp. First aid was commenced until emergency services arrived.

A search was immediately begun for the second young man from the ski boat. Tragically both men did not survive the accident.

By his actions, Mr Klante displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Grant John McOMISH, Ballina NSW 2478

On the morning of 2 July 2015 Mr Grant McOmish went to the assistance of a man being attacked by a shark at a beach near Ballina, New South Wales.

Mr McOmish and two friends were in the water at Light House Beach when one of the men caught a wave taking him towards the northern end of the beach. As he returned to the others they saw a large tail fin travelling next to him. The shark then attacked and the man shouted in distress.

Mr McOmish turned to see the shark disappear and, with his friend, immediately paddled towards the injured man who was lying on his board, legs dangling in the water and blood trailing behind him.

Without knowing the whereabouts of the shark, Mr McOmish and his friend took hold of their injured companion and paddled towards the beach. They reached the beach and dragged the man, who was now in shock, onto the sand.

Mr McOmish ran towards another beach goer and shouted to him to call an ambulance. He then returned to the injured man, who was losing blood from his legs. He immediately applied leg ropes as tourniquets and, together with his friend, worked at keeping the injured man calm and conscious until help arrived.

By his actions, Mr McOmish displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)

Mr Brian David MITCHELL, Cumbalum NSW 2478

On the morning of 2 July 2015 Mr Brian Mitchell went to the assistance of a man being attacked by a shark at a beach near Ballina, New South Wales.

Mr Mitchell and two friends were in the water at Light House Beach when one of the men caught a wave taking him towards the northern end of the beach. As he returned to the others they saw a large tail fin travelling next to the man. The shark then attacked and the man shouted in distress.

Mr Mitchell turned to see the shark disappear and, with his friend, immediately paddled towards the injured man who was lying on his board, legs dangling in the water and blood trailing behind him.

Without knowing the whereabouts of the shark, Mr Mitchell and his friend took hold of their injured companion and paddled towards the beach. They reached the beach and dragged the man, who was now in shock, onto the sand.

Whilst his friend ran towards another beach goer shouting for him to call an ambulance, Mr Mitchell remained with the injured man who was losing blood from his legs. Mr Mitchell then suggested to his friend to use leg ropes as tourniquets and, once they were applied, they worked at keeping the injured man calm and conscious until help arrived.

By his actions, Mr Mitchell displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Jarrod Robert MORTON-HOFFMAN, New South Wales

On the 15th and 16th of December 2014 Mr Jarrod Morton-Hoffman displayed considerable bravery during an armed hostage siege at the Lindt Cafe in Sydney.

At approximately 8.30am on 15 December 2014, an armed gunman entered the Lindt Cafe and took 18 people hostage. The gunman directed the manager of the Lindt Cafe to call 000 and say that all those in the cafe had been taken hostage by a man who was armed with a shotgun and explosives.

The gunman instructed for the cafe's doors to be locked as the ten patrons and eight staff became aware of their predicament. In response to the 000 call police immediately cleared and secured the area around the cafe.

Over the ensuing 16 and a half hours Mr Morton-Hoffman, an employee at the cafe, remained composed when speaking with the offender. He followed the offender's instructions in making calls to the media and acted in a non-hostile manner to placate the man despite having the gunman's weapon pointed directly at him.

As the gunman became increasingly agitated, Mr Morton-Hoffman interacted with the offender dissuading him from violence while he formulated a number of plans to assist the hostages.

In the early hours of the next morning the gunman fatally shot the café manager. The police then stormed the café and during the ensuing firefight one of the hostages was fatally injured.

By his actions, Mr Morton-Hoffman displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)

Brevet Sergeant Nathan James MULHOLLAND, South Australia Police

In the early morning of 25 May 2010 then Brevet Sergeant (then Constable) Nathan Mullholland was involved in an armed offender incident at Paralowie, South Australia.

Constable Mulholland and another officer responded to a disturbance at a residence in Paralowie. They drove into the street and parked their vehicle directly out front of the residence. They then moved towards the darkened house using torches. When they were about a metre from the open front door Constable Mulholland became aware of a person standing inside the house.

The officers raised their torches from ground level and when the light from the torches reached the waist height of the occupant, Constable Mulholland saw that the man was holding an object at his left side.

The occupant then calmly informed the officers that they had been set up. Sensing danger, Constable Mullholland immediately grabbed his colleague by the arm and pulled him away from the doorway, telling him to run.

Constable Mulholland saw a flash of light and then heard a loud bang as the occupant discharged a weapon in the direction of the officers. As they quickly moved away from the house, Constable Mulholland called for assistance and he and his colleague split up and from their different positions were able to observe the house and warn other residents and arriving officers of the danger.

Soon after they were joined by other police officers and the offender was apprehended.

By his actions, Brevet Sergeant Mulholland displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)

The late Mr Norman Linburgh OLSEN, Late of Queensland

On the afternoon of 22 February 2016, Mr Norman Olsen went to the assistance of a young woman who was being assaulted in Toowoomba, Queensland.

Mr Olsen and his wife were driving along Bridge Street in Toowoomba when they saw a man assaulting a young woman. The woman was lying on the ground holding onto her young daughter. The attacker was known to the woman.

Mr Olsen immediately pulled his car over to the side of the street and rushed to the assistance of the woman. When he reached the pair he grabbed the offender's arm and attempted to pull him away. At this point the woman managed to get up and, holding onto her daughter, run away from the scene.

The offender then punched Mr Olsen which caused him to fall backwards from the footpath onto the road and hit his head. Soon after the police arrived and arrested the offender.

Sadly, after being transferred to a hospital in Brisbane due to the nature of his injuries, Mr Olsen did not survive the assault.

By his actions, Mr Olsen displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Jonathan Aaron QUERO, Watanobbi NSW 2259

On the afternoon of 7 April 2017, Mr Jonathan Quero went to the assistance of woman involved in an armed hostage situation at Hamlyn Terrace, New South Wales.

A man carrying a concealed butcher's cleaver entered a hospital emergency department and requested to be treated by a mental health clinician. When the triage nurse opened the treatment area door the offender quickly pinned her against a wall, held the weapon against her throat, and demanded to see a psychologist.

When the duress alarm was activated, Mr Quero and several other staff members went to the triage area. He saw that his colleague was in danger and immediately began to try and calm and negotiate with the offender, who continued his demands and threatened to harm the trapped woman. The offender waved the cleaver at Mr Quero, who continued to negotiate with him to release his colleague and take himself hostage instead.

After the offender released the nurse he quickly grabbed hold of Mr Quero and put the butcher's cleaver against his neck and threatened him. Despite being held in a headlock he continued to calm the offender, who eventually released him.

Later the police negotiated with the offender who had threatened self-harm. Following further negotiations, and a short struggle, the offender handed the cleaver to the police and allowed medical staff to sedate him.

By his actions, Mr Quero displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)

Mr Robert John STRANGE, Hillvue NSW 2340

On the afternoon of 29 July 2014, Mr Robert Strange was involved in an incident with an armed offender at Croppa Creek, New South Wales.

Mr Strange and a colleague were conducting business in the Croppa Creek area when they were approached by an armed man who was known to them.

Standing about 10 metres away, the man raised a rifle and shot Mr Strange's colleague, causing him to fall to the ground. As he regained his footing, he was shot again. As his colleague stumbled towards their vehicle Mr Strange pleaded with the gunman to stop shooting and allow him to seek help.

Still aggravated, the offender proceeded to move around the vehicle in an attempt to locate the wounded man. Mr Strange continued to keep his colleague informed of the gunman's location while discreetly trying to notify emergency services.

Despite it becoming dark, the gunman continued to search for Mr Strange's colleague all the while issuing verbal threats. At one point the armed offender pointed the rifle directly at Mr Strange and threatened to shoot him.

The gunman then located and moved towards the wounded man and, despite Mr Strange's unrelenting pleas to stop, he pointed his weapon at Mr Strange's colleague, firing twice.

As the wounded man attempted to run towards the tree line, the gunman discharged his weapon again, causing Mr Strange's colleague to fall to the ground. The gunman then got into his vehicle and left the scene. Mr Strange immediately went to the wounded man and attempted CPR until further assistance arrived. Unfortunately Mr Strange's colleague did not survive.

By his actions, Mr Strange displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)

Second Lieutenant Ingrid van der VLIST, New South Wales

On the evening of 21 July 2016, Australian Army Officer Second Lieutenant Ingrid van der Vlist (then Dylan) rescued a man from a burning vehicle at Crows Nest, Queensland.

Second Lieutenant Dylan and another officer were participating in a night training exercise in a helicopter when a fire, caused by a vehicle accident, was spotted on the ground below.

After the helicopter landed, Second Lieutenant Dylan ran towards the vehicle which was alight. She saw an elderly man, partway out of the front passenger window, had been affected by the flames, and was in considerable pain.

She quickly pulled the man away from the wreckage and onto the ground before trying to extinguish the flames with her gloved hands. She then looped her arms under his elbows and dragged him a further 15 metres away from the burning vehicle which then erupted in a fiery explosion.

She assessed the man's injuries and after briefly speaking with him, she ran back to the helicopter to get first aid equipment. She returned to the injured man, treated his burns and cradled his body to minimise his burns touching the ground. After about 15 minutes she was joined by a colleague and together they comforted the man until emergency service officers arrived.

By her actions, Second Lieutenant van der Vlist displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Matthew Bruce WARWICK, Jaspers Brush NSW 2535

On the afternoon of 3 August 2011, Mr Matthew Warwick (then Senior Sergeant with the New South Wales Police Force), provided assistance during a collar bomb incident involving a young woman at a residence in Mosman, New South Wales.

Senior Sergeant Warwick, who was part of the Bomb Detection dogs section, and other officers, arrived at a residence in Mosman in response to an armed hostage situation. On entering the house, a young woman was located sitting at the end of a long corridor. The young woman had been chained to a gun safe style metal box which had a USB drive attached to it in a zip lock bag.

The young woman informed the officers that the collar was a bomb and that the offender had requested 'no police'. An officer had already gone to assist the young woman and was interacting with her to keep her calm and to ascertain details of the situation.

After other officers had entered the house to speak to the young woman, Senior Sergeant Warwick and another dog handler also went inside so that they could sweep the house in search of other explosive devices.

Some-time later, Senior Sergeant Warwick was required to follow police negotiators into the house with a bomb detection dog to see if it indicated the presence of explosives on the young woman. Over the course of the next few hours, officers examined the device around the young woman's neck and, following a thorough inspection of it, a decision was made to cut the wires and release the victim.

By his actions, Mr Warwick displayed considerable bravery.