

## **STAR OF COURAGE (SC)**

### **The late Mr Tori JOHNSON, Late of New South Wales**

On the 15th and 16th of December 2014 Mr Tori Johnson displayed conspicuous courage during an armed 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 Mr Johnson, 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 Johnson instigated and maintained a rapport with the offender, pacifying him on many occasions without thought for his own safety. He relayed information to police and negotiators in a calm and rational manner which helped reassure the other hostages.

Mr Johnson, whilst knowing the layout and exits of the cafe, chose not to take the opportunity to escape. He specifically remained with an elderly, less mobile, hostage even when she requested he leave without her when an opportunity to escape arose.

As the situation inside the cafe deteriorated Mr Johnson was directly threatened. Without regard for his own safety he continued to calmly obey the gunman's demands in an attempt to protect the other hostages.

At approximately 2am Mr Johnson was placed in a kneeling position in front of the gunman - who fired and fatally wounded Mr Johnson. At this point tactical police raided the cafe which resulted in the death of the gunman.

By his actions, Mr Johnson displayed conspicuous courage.

## **STAR OF COURAGE (SC)**

### **The late Mr Antonio ROKOV, Late of Miranda NSW 2228**

On 21 November 2015, the late Mr Antonio Rokov shielded a young person during a skydiving accident near Goulburn in New South Wales.

Mr Rokov, an experienced skydiving instructor, had meticulously prepared his equipment prior to undertaking a tandem skydive near Goulburn Airport, New South Wales. The weather was calm with wind speeds of approximately 11km/h coming from the south.

Mr Rokov then briefed a 14 year old boy who would be undertaking the tandem sky dive with him and provided reassurance to the boy's anxious family in the process. After a normal take-off and jump from the plane, the pair descended.

When they were approximately 20 metres from landing, a freak gust of wind caused their parachute to collapse and violently fold in half. Mr Rokov and the boy quickly began to plummet during which time the boy was flipped horizontally. As they approached the ground Mr Rokov immediately twisted his body under the boy and took the full force of the impact.

First aid was administered straight away to both Mr Rokov and the boy and continued until emergency services arrived on scene. Sadly, Mr Rokov died as a result of the injuries he sustained. The boy, though injured, survived the fall.

By his actions, Mr Rokov displayed conspicuous courage.