

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

**The late Mr Tom JACKSON** Formerly of Congleton Cheshire United Kingdom

The late Mr Tom Jackson displayed conspicuous courage during a knife attack at a hostel in Home Hill in Queensland on 23 August 2016.

In the late evening of 23 August 2016 a man armed with a large knife dragged a young woman from her bed at the hostel and out onto a balcony. He held the knife to her throat and told other guests who had now gathered to leave the area. On hearing the commotion, the hostel manager appeared on the balcony and began to approach the armed offender. Another guest arrived and pleaded with the offender to drop the weapon.

The offender inflicted a wound to the young woman and, after she fell to the floor, he continued to assault her with the knife. The hostel manager attempted to reach the injured woman but was wounded in the leg by the offender. The young woman got to her feet and ran down a corridor towards the safety of a bathroom. She was followed by another guest who had called 000.

Without thinking of his own safety, Mr Jackson ran upstairs to the bathroom to assist the injured woman. After applying pressure to her substantial wounds, Mr Jackson and the other man began to move her from the cubicle and out of the bathroom. On opening the door to the bathroom, Mr Jackson was confronted by the armed offender. He attempted to close the door, but the offender kicked it open and entered the bathroom.

The offender began to assault Mr Jackson with the knife, inflicting severe wounds. The other guest quickly left the bathroom, yelling for assistance.

Police arrived at the scene and apprehended the offender. Paramedics also arrived and began treating Mr Jackson and the injured woman.

Sadly, Mr Jackson and the young woman did not survive their injuries.

**Mr Laurie NOLAN**, Nelson Bay NSW 2315

Mr Laurie Nolan displayed conspicuous courage during the rescue attempt of a race yacht in treacherous seas off the coast near Port Stephens in New South Wales on 6 January 2016.

Mr Nolan was one of seven crewman on-board rescue vessel *Port Stephens 40* who volunteered to go into cyclonic seas to aid a racing yacht that was encountering treacherous conditions near Port Stephens. After battling exceptionally rough seas and strong winds in pitch darkness for five hours they caught-up with the distressed yacht.

At 2am, the 32-tonne rescue vessel was hit by a wall of water which tipped the boat onto its port side, throwing the crew on deck off their feet, and causing the boat's propellers to lift out of the water. As the boat righted itself a second large wave hit, engulfing Mr Nolan in water and knocking him off his feet.

He regained his footing and worked to prevent crew members from being further entangled in safety lines and dragged under water. He then went to the aid of a crewman who had sustained a shoulder injury by untying the safety line and moving the injured man off the deck and into the safety of the cabin.

Realising another crewman was pinned to the deck by tangled lines, Mr Nolan grabbed a knife from his belt, severed the line, and pulled his colleague to his feet and inside the cabin.

A third large wave then struck the boat, knocking it over and causing one of its engines to stop. As the boat righted itself, Mr Nolan and the battered crew were able to restart the engine, clear ropes away from the propellers, and then begin the arduous five-hour journey back to Port Stephens while battling large waves, cyclone-like headwinds, injuries and severe sea sickness.

The crew of the race yacht later made it safely to shore in a life raft.

## STAR OF COURAGE (SC)