

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Mr Sivei AH CHONG**, Minto NSW 2566

Mr Sivei Ah Chong displayed considerable bravery following an assault at Minto in New South Wales on 10 September 2016.

In the late afternoon Mr Ah Chong and his wife were approached by their injured and distressed neighbour. Another neighbour had assaulted the man with a hunting knife and was pursuing him.

Without hesitation Mr Ah Chong, his wife, and their son, who had now arrived on scene, placed themselves between the armed offender and the injured victim enabling him to reach the safety of a nearby business.

Whilst this was occurring, the armed offender lunged towards Mr Ah Chong with the knife, and hurled threats and abuse at him. Two friends of the Ah Chong family exited the house and stood behind the family for support.

As the armed man moved towards where the injured man was located he continued to verbally threaten him. The offender then turned his attention to Mr Ah Chong, who grabbed a fence paling and hit the armed man causing the paling to break. He then threw the remainder of the paling at the offender, and picked up a large rock for additional protection. At the same time Mr Ah Chong's son had grabbed a broom handle in order to defend the family.

Two police officers arrived at the scene and the armed offender ran towards their vehicle, attacking it with the knife and taunting them to fire their weapons at him. One officer discharged his Taser multiple times, causing the offender to fall to the ground, but he did not release his grip on the hunting knife. As Mr Ah Chong and his son raced towards the officers to assist, two other police officers arrived. One of the officers discharged his Taser at the offender whilst the other officer removed the man's knife.

The offender was removed from the scene while the injured man was provided with first aid until emergency services arrived.

Mr Ah Chong is also receiving a Group Bravery Citation for this event.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

### **Mr Tom ATKINSON, VIC**

Mr Tom Atkinson displayed considerable bravery during the rescue of a man from a burning vehicle at Wurdiboluc in Victoria on 5 September 2015.

In the early afternoon a car travelling at high speed on the Cape Otway Road veered off the road, hit a tree, and burst into flames. Two men inside the car were trapped as the smoke and fire intensified.

Two passing motorists stopped to assist and were attempting to remove the unresponsive occupants when Mr Atkinson arrived at the scene.

Without hesitation he approached the burning vehicle. With the assistance of one of the motorists they worked together to pull the passenger, whose legs had been trapped, from the vehicle.

By this time the long grass around the vehicle was well alight and Mr Atkinson and the other motorist dragged the injured passenger to a safe distance.

Despite warnings from other bystanders about the increasing fire, Mr Atkinson and the other motorist returned to the burning vehicle to assist the trapped driver. They moved from side to side, door to door, however parts of the vehicle were crushed and totally inaccessible.

Unfortunately Mr Atkinson and the other motorist were forced back by the intense heat and the risk of explosion and were unable to free the driver who, sadly, perished at the scene.

### **Mr Andrew BROOKER, NSW**

Mr Andrew Brooker displayed considerable bravery during the rescue of children from a rip at Wollongong Beach in New South Wales on 10 September 2017.

During the afternoon Mr Brooker noticed four young children being swept out to sea by a strong rip. Two of the children managed to make it back to shore on their own, however a 10 and 12 year old continued to be carried away by the rip.

Mr Brooker, an off duty paramedic, entered the treacherous surf and swam towards the children. He reached the first child and brought him to a sandbank in shallow water. He then swam back for the second child, however upon reaching him he was unable to swim the child back to shore due to fatigue and the heavy surf.

At this time a second man entered the water and reached the pair. Mr Brooker passed the child to him and then, battling the strong rip, managed to make his way back to shore.

A surfer then entered the water and paddled out towards the man and second child who had now become separated. He was able to return the child to shore on his surfboard before turning around and paddling out again in the dangerous conditions to search for the man.

Police officers arrived on scene and located the man face down in the water. They brought him back to shore but sadly he was not able to be resuscitated.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Mr Scott Douglas BURROWS**, Muirhead NT 0810

Mr Scott Burrows displayed considerable bravery during the rescue of two people at East Point in Darwin in the Northern Territory on 3 December 2006.

Mr Burrows and his partner were visiting East Point in the afternoon when they saw a young teenage boy searching for a rope to help his father who had been swept into the rough seas and was unable to get out.

Mr Burrows and his partner accompanied the teenage boy to the area and could see the man in the water who was holding onto rocks.

Mr Burrows climbed down the rocks and entered the rough and choppy water. After assessing the man, Mr Burrows swam further out to an unconscious woman, who had previously entered the water to assist the man.

Mr Burrows flipped the woman onto her back and dragged her closer to the rocks where he began CPR. The woman remained unresponsive so he went to the assistance of the now semi-conscious man.

Using the momentum of the waves, he was able to hoist the man up the rock face, where onlookers were able to pull him to safety. The man and his teenage son were then taken to hospital.

Emergency service officers arrived and two of them entered the rough and choppy water and swam towards the unconscious woman. They secured her with a rope and, with the help of others, brought her to shore. Sadly, she was unable to be revived.

Mr Burrows is also receiving a Group Bravery Citation for this event.

**Mr Luke CHILCOTT**, Wangaratta VIC 3677

Mr Luke Chilcott displayed considerable bravery during a confrontation with an armed offender in Wangaratta in Victoria on 25 April 2017.

Mr Chilcott was at home with his wife and children when he heard a commotion outside the house. His wife went to the front door and let inside their frantic neighbour and four children. His wife then closed the door as the neighbour and children ran and hid in a bedroom. Mr Chilcott saw his neighbour walking towards the house holding a large rifle so he ran and sat in front of the door, blocking it from being opened.

The armed man smashed a large window pane, and then entered the house. Mr Chilcott confronted the man who refused to put down the weapon. The man then went through the house in an attempt to locate his partner and children.

Mr Chilcott approached the man again and told him to calm down. The armed man turned to face Mr Chilcott and cocked the firearm and pointed it at him telling him to back off".

As Mr Chilcott, together with his wife and sons and the neighbour's four children, fled the property they heard three gunshots in quick succession. They ran down the street and were then taken in by a nearby neighbour.

Police arrived and located the offender and the woman in a bedroom of the Chilcott's house, both with fatal gunshot wounds.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Mr Noel CORCORAN**, Soldiers Point NSW 2317

Mr Noel Corcoran displayed considerable bravery during the rescue of race yacht crews in treacherous seas off the coast near Port Stephens in New South Wales on 6 January 2016.

Mr Corcoran was one of eight crew members on-board rescue vessel *Port Stephens 40* tasked to search for a missing yachtsman who had been knocked off his boat by a wave in treacherous conditions near Port Stephens.

Before it could reach the search zone, the boat took over a tow from a NSW Police rescue vessel of another disabled yacht that had issued a Mayday call for assistance. This enabled the faster police boat to search for the sailor. The crew battled the seas at the port entrance to deliver the disabled yacht to a safe mooring within the bay.

Later in the afternoon, Mr Corcoran and the other crew members, were asked to re-join the search for the missing yachtsman. Their vessel headed back out into the strong winds and high waves. They were then tasked with bringing the missing sailor's disabled yacht through the treacherous conditions back to port.

**Mr Ian DRUMMOND**, Shoal Bay NSW 2315

Mr Ian Drummond displayed considerable bravery during the rescue attempt of a race yacht crew in treacherous seas off the coast near Port Stephens in New South Wales on 6 January 2016.

Mr Drummond was one of seven crewman on-board rescue vessel *Port Stephens 40* who volunteered to go into cyclonic seas to aid a racing yacht and its crew that were 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 their 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 and the crew on deck were again tossed off their feet with one sustaining a serious facial injury, another a dislocated shoulder, and a third was pinned to the deck by his safety line and debris.

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

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

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Mr Michael DUGGAN**, Shoal Bay NSW 2315

Mr Michael Duggan displayed considerable bravery during the rescue of race yacht crews in treacherous seas off the coast near Port Stephens in New South Wales on 6 January 2016.

Mr Duggan was one of eight crew members on-board rescue vessel *Port Stephens 40* tasked to search for a missing yachtsman who had been knocked off his boat by a wave in treacherous conditions near Port Stephens.

Before it could reach the search zone, the boat took over a tow from a NSW Police rescue vessel of another disabled yacht that had issued a Mayday call for assistance. This enabled the faster police boat to search for the sailor. The crew battled the seas at the port entrance to deliver the disabled yacht to a safe mooring within the bay.

Later in the afternoon, Mr Duggan and the other crew members, were asked to re-join the search for the missing yachtsman. Their vessel headed back out into the volatile strong winds and high waves. They were then tasked with bringing the missing sailor's disabled yacht through the treacherous conditions back to port.

**Mr Joven Toribio ESTRADA**, QLD

Mr Joven Estrada displayed considerable bravery during the rescue of a man from a burning vehicle at Malanda in Queensland on 7 March 2019.

In the afternoon, Mr Estrada and his girlfriend were travelling along Old Cairns Track when they noticed a vehicle had crashed into trees and burst into flames.

Mr Estrada stopped his car and ran towards the burning vehicle. Despite the heat and flames, he located the physically disabled driver, who was semi-conscious and unable to get himself out of the car.

Mr Estrada reached into the front seat of the burning vehicle, pulled the driver out, and dragged him away to a safe distance.

Moments later, the vehicle was totally engulfed in flames.

Mr Estrada and his girlfriend tended to the injured driver until emergency services arrived.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Ms Suzanne FREEMAN**, Soldiers Point NSW 2317

Ms Suzanne Freeman displayed considerable bravery during the rescue of race yacht crews in treacherous seas off the coast near Port Stephens in New South Wales on 6 January 2016.

Ms Freeman was one of eight crew members on-board rescue vessel *Port Stephens 40* tasked to search for a missing yachtsman who had been knocked off his boat by a wave in treacherous conditions near Port Stephens.

Before it could reach the search zone, the boat took over a tow from a NSW Police rescue vessel of another disabled yacht that had issued a Mayday call for assistance. This enabled the faster police boat to search for the sailor. The crew battled the seas at the port entrance to deliver the disabled yacht to a safe mooring within the bay.

Later in the afternoon, Ms Freeman and the other crew members, were asked to re-join the search for the missing yachtsman. Their vessel headed back out into the volatile strong winds and high waves. They were then tasked with bringing the missing sailor's disabled yacht through the treacherous conditions back to port.

**Senior Constable Matthew Scott GRAY**, New South Wales Police

Senior Constable Matthew Gray displayed considerable bravery during the rescue of race yacht crews in treacherous seas off the coast near Port Stephens in New South Wales on 6 January 2016.

Senior Constable Gray, together with three other officers from New South Wales Police Marine Area Command, received five mayday calls simultaneously for assistance. The officers took Water Police Vessel WP24 out in cyclone-like conditions, spending more than 24 hours rescuing embattled yachts and their crews.

The officers endured the treacherous conditions, towing boats safely back to shore, as well as conducting an extensive search for a man who had fallen overboard.

During the rescue of one of the yachts, Senior Constable Gray and the other officers had to repair a tow rope after it snapped six times in the turbulent seas.

On another occasion the officers were coming through the heads at Nelson Bay when they were hit by a series of large waves. The waves crashed over the top of the boat and through the cabin, causing concerns the electronics would fail. The severe weather made navigation and searching extremely difficult, and significantly increased the fatigue levels and seasickness of the officers.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Mr William Scott GREY**, Stroud NSW 2425

Mr William Grey displayed considerable bravery when undertaking multiple rescues of people trapped in floodwaters at Stroud in New South Wales on 21 April 2015.

The township of Stroud, New South Wales experienced extreme weather conditions, with rain falling quickly, causing flash flooding. Wind gusts reached in excess of 100kmph.

Mr Grey, along with other members of the public, saw that a vehicle had been washed from the road and was stranded in the rising flood water. The driver had managed to climb onto the roof of the vehicle. The group of men were able to throw a rope to the stranded man, anchoring it to a light pole. Mr Grey and the other three men then waded into waist deep water, placing a ladder on the roof of the stranded car and allowing the trapped man to climb to safety.

Meanwhile, a couple were swept away from their caravan and were clinging onto a brick amenities building, near the showground's grandstand.

Mr Grey and two other men attempted to drive to the couple, however, the force of the water made this impossible. Another rescuer had sourced a boat, and Mr Grey climbed aboard. They were joined by three other men in a second boat and together made their way to the distressed couple. On nearing the amenities block Mr Grey and two of the men jumped into the water and managed to reach the couple and assisted in keeping the woman's head above water.

Mr Grey and the others brought the elderly woman to one of the boats and he worked with other rescuers to get her aboard.

Whilst other rescuers took the woman for medical treatment, Mr Grey assisted the elderly man to safety.

**Mr Dean HANCOCK**, Stroud NSW 2425

Mr Dean Hancock displayed considerable bravery when undertaking multiple rescues of people trapped in floodwaters at Stroud in New South Wales on 21 April 2015.

The township of Stroud, New South Wales experienced extreme weather conditions, with rain falling quickly, causing flash flooding. Wind gusts reached in excess of 100kmph.

Mr Hancock, along with other members of the public, saw that a vehicle had been washed from the road and was stranded in the rising flood water. The driver had managed to climb onto the roof of the vehicle. The group of men were able to throw a rope to the stranded man, anchoring it to a light pole. Mr Hancock and the other three men then waded into waist deep water, placing a ladder on the roof of the stranded car and allowing the trapped man to climb to safety.

Meanwhile, a couple were swept away from their caravan and were clinging onto a brick amenities building, near the showground's grandstand.

Mr Hancock and two other men attempted to drive to the couple, however, the force of the water made this impossible. Mr Hancock located a boat and one of the men climbed aboard. They were joined by three other men in a second boat and together made their way to the distressed couple. On nearing the amenities block, two other rescuers jumped into the fast flowing water and reached the couple and assisted in keeping the woman's head above water.

The men battled the water and brought the elderly woman to one of the boats. Mr Hancock then worked with the other rescuers to get her aboard.

Whilst other rescuers took the woman for medical treatment, Mr Hancock assisted the elderly man to safety.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Sergeant Robert John HARPER**, New South Wales Police

Sergeant Robert Harper displayed considerable bravery during the rescue of six people from a burning building at Belmore in New South Wales on 15 January 2017.

During their shift Sergeant Harper and other members of the New South Wales Police Force South West Metropolitan Region Enforcement Squad - Operations Support Group, attended a unit block where an armed offender had barricaded herself in a unit after threatening police, and was threatening self-harm. She then proceeded to light three fires within the unit.

The Operations Support Group officers in full ballistic kit took control of the situation and formulated an emergency plan. With flames and smoke billowing from the first level windows, Sergeant Harper and the other officers in Team One forced entry to the unit. Once inside the officers were faced with flames engulfing furniture and walls, and thick black smoke. They cleared the kitchen area and ran through flames searching for the female.

Sergeant Harper and another officer went back through the flames, out of the unit, and to the rear balcony to assist Team Two members gain access by forcing open a security shutter and smashing a window. Sergeant Harper and two officers dived through the smashed window, landing on broken glass and linking up the two Teams.

By this time other members of Team One had located the woman hiding in the bathroom. They got hold of the woman, who was struggling violently, and took her through the flames to the front door and then to a safe area.

As the fire took hold, Sergeant Harper was informed that a family was trapped on the third floor and he immediately re-entered the burning building along with six other officers.

He located and man with a toddler on the third floor and directed them to the other officers who had formed a chain link. A woman and an infant then appeared, and Sergeant Harper shielded them with his body and escorted them outside. On recovering from the effects of smoke inhalation the officers were informed that another family was also trapped in the building on the third floor.

Without hesitation, Sergeant Harper and seven officers again entered the burning building. A final occupant was located on the third floor and he followed the chain link of officers out of the building having been the final person evacuated.

Sergeant Harper and the other officers exited the building and remained in attendance until NSW Fire and Rescue arrived. All involved officers were hospitalised as a result of their smoke inhalation.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Sergeant Tony McGarel HOGG**, New South Wales Police

Sergeant Tony Hogg displayed considerable bravery during the rescue of race yacht crews in treacherous seas off the coast near Port Stephens in New South Wales on 6 January 2016.

Sergeant Hogg, together with three other officers from New South Wales Police Marine Area Command, received five mayday calls simultaneously for assistance. The officers took Water Police Vessel WP24 out in cyclone-like conditions, spending more than 24 hours rescuing embattled yachts and their crews.

The officers endured the treacherous conditions, towing boats safely back to shore, as well as conducting an extensive search for a man who had fallen overboard.

During the rescue of one of the yachts, Sergeant Hogg and the other officers had to repair a tow rope after it snapped six times in the turbulent seas.

On another occasion the officers were coming through the heads at Nelson Bay when they were hit by a series of large waves. The waves crashed over the top of the boat and through the cabin, causing concerns the electronics would fail. The severe weather made navigation and searching extremely difficult, and significantly increased the fatigue levels and seasickness of the officers.

**Mr Jackson HOLLMER**, Belmont VIC 3220

Mr Jackson Hollmer displayed considerable bravery during the rescue of a man from a burning vehicle at Wurdiboluc in Victoria on 5 September 2015.

In the early afternoon a car travelling at high speed on the Cape Otway Road veered off the road, hit a tree, and burst into flames. Two men inside the car were trapped as the smoke and fire intensified.

A female motorist had already stopped to assist. As Mr Hollmer arrived at the scene he was advised that people were trapped. He grabbed a tool from his work trailer and approached the burning vehicle. He checked the driver, who was unresponsive, and then the passenger who was beginning to come around.

Another motorist arrived at the scene and worked with Mr Hollmer to pull the passenger, whose legs had been trapped, from the burning vehicle.

By this time the long grass around the vehicle was well alight and Mr Hollmer and the other motorist dragged the injured passenger to a safe distance.

Despite warnings from other bystanders about the increasing fire, Mr Hollmer and the other motorist returned to the burning vehicle to assist the trapped driver. They moved from side to side, door to door, however parts of the vehicle were crushed and totally inaccessible.

Unfortunately Mr Hollmer and the other motorist forced back by the intense heat and the risk of explosion and were unable to free the driver who, sadly, perished at the scene.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Mr David JACK**, Fingal Bay NSW 2315

Mr David Jack displayed considerable bravery during the rescue of race yacht crews in treacherous seas off the coast near Port Stephens in New South Wales on 6 January 2016.

Mr Jack was one of eight crew members on-board rescue vessel *Port Stephens 40* tasked to search for a missing yachtsman who had been knocked off his boat by a wave in treacherous conditions near Port Stephens.

Before it could reach the search zone, the boat took over a tow from a NSW Police rescue vessel of another disabled yacht that had issued a Mayday call for assistance. This enabled the faster police boat to search for the sailor. The crew battled the seas at the port entrance to deliver the disabled yacht to a safe mooring within the bay.

Later in the afternoon, Mr Jack and the other crew members, were asked to re-join the search for the missing yachtsman. Their vessel headed back out into the volatile strong winds and high waves. They were then tasked with bringing the missing sailor's disabled yacht through the treacherous conditions back to port.

**Mr Kenneth JOHNSON**, Corlette NSW 2315

Mr Kenneth Johnson displayed considerable bravery during the rescue of race yacht crews in treacherous seas off the coast near Port Stephens in New South Wales on 6 January 2016.

Mr Johnson was one of eight crew members on-board rescue vessel *Port Stephens 40* tasked to search for a missing yachtsman who had been knocked off his boat by a wave in treacherous conditions near Port Stephens.

Before it could reach the search zone, the boat took over a tow from a NSW Police rescue vessel of another disabled yacht that had issued a Mayday call for assistance. This enabled the faster police boat to search for the sailor. The crew battled the seas at the port entrance to deliver the disabled yacht to a safe mooring within the bay.

Later in the afternoon, Mr Johnson and the other crew members, were asked to re-join the search for the missing yachtsman. Their vessel headed back out into the volatile strong winds and high waves. They were then tasked with bringing the missing sailor's disabled yacht through the treacherous conditions back to port.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Senior Constable Nicholas LEACH**, New South Wales Police

Senior Constable Nicholas Leach displayed considerable bravery during the rescue of race yacht crews in treacherous seas off the coast near Port Stephens in New South Wales on 6 January 2016.

Senior Constable Leach, together with three other officers from New South Wales Police Marine Area Command, received five mayday calls simultaneously for assistance. The officers took Water Police Vessel WP24 out in cyclone-like conditions, spending more than 24 hours rescuing embattled yachts and their crews.

The officers endured the treacherous conditions, towing boats safely back to shore, as well as conducting an extensive search for a man who had fallen overboard.

During the rescue of one of the yachts, Senior Constable Leach and the other officers had to repair a tow rope after it snapped six times in the turbulent seas.

On another occasion the officers were coming through the heads at Nelson Bay when they were hit by a series of large waves. The waves crashed over the top of the boat and through the cabin, causing concerns the electronics would fail. The severe weather made navigation and searching extremely difficult, and significantly increased the fatigue levels and seasickness of the officers.

**Mr Ronald LIGHTON**, Corlette NSW 2315

Mr Ronald Lighton displayed considerable bravery during the rescue attempt of a race yacht crew in treacherous seas off the coast near Port Stephens in New South Wales on 6 January 2016.

Mr Lighton was skipper with six other crewman on-board rescue vessel *Port Stephens 40* who volunteered to go into cyclonic seas to aid a racing yacht and its crew that were 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 their 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. The crew on deck were again tossed off their feet with one sustaining a serious facial injury, another a dislocated shoulder, and a third was pinned to the deck by his safety line and debris.

As another crew member went to the assistance of the men, a third large wave struck the boat, knocking it over and causing one of its engines to stop. As the boat righted itself the battered crew were able to restart the engine, clear ropes away from the propellers, and then begin the arduous journey back to Port Stephens while battling large waves, cyclone-like headwinds and injuries.

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

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

### **Sergeant David Patrick McHENRY, Victoria Police**

Sergeant David McHenry displayed considerable bravery during an encounter with an armed offender in South Melbourne in Victoria on 13 May 2008.

In the late evening, Victoria Police Officers stopped a car on Clarendon Street. While the officers were speaking to the occupants of the vehicle, they discovered drugs, money and weapons inside the vehicle. One of the occupants then ran from the car.

Other officers joined in the search for the offender. A short time later the offender fired upon a police vehicle with two officers inside.

Sergeant McHenry, then a Senior Constable, followed the offender on foot into a car park. Two other officers joined the pursuit. The offender suddenly stopped, turned, and discharged his weapon in the direction of the officers. The two officers were able to take cover, however Sergeant McHenry was out in the open. Fearful for his safety and that of the other officers, he discharged his service revolver in the direction of the offender.

As Sergeant McHenry was walking backwards towards a nearby vehicle for cover, the offender fired his weapon again, wounding Sergeant McHenry in the leg.

Other officers called for the offender to drop his weapon, but he didn't comply. Despite being wounded Sergeant McHenry discharged his service revolver again. Simultaneously, another officer fired at the offender who fell to the ground, fatally wounded.

Sergeant McHenry was taken to hospital in a serious but stable condition.

### **Senior Constable Adam McKENZIE, Victoria Police**

Senior Constable Adam McKenzie displayed considerable bravery during an encounter with an armed offender in South Melbourne in Victoria on 13 May 2008.

In the late evening, Victoria Police Officers stopped a car on Clarendon Street. While police officers were speaking to the occupants of the vehicle, they discovered drugs, money and weapons inside of the vehicle. One of the occupants then ran from the car.

Other officers began to join in the search for the offender. A short time later the offender fired upon a police vehicle with two officers inside.

An officer followed the offender on foot into a car park. Senior Constable McKenzie, then a Constable, and another officer joined the pursuit. The offender suddenly stopped, turned, and discharged his weapon in the direction of the officers. Senior Constable McKenzie and his colleague were able to take cover, however one officer was out in the open. Fearful for his safety and that of Senior Constable McKenzie and the other officer, the exposed officer discharged his service revolver in the direction of the offender.

The offender fired his weapon again, wounding the exposed officer in the leg.

Senior Constable McKenzie and other officers called for the offender to drop his weapon, but he didn't comply. The wounded officer again discharged his service revolver at the offender. Senior Constable McKenzie fired at the offender who fell to the ground, fatally wounded.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Mr Benjamin Roy MARTIN**, Wonga Park VIC 3115

Mr Benjamin Martin displayed considerable bravery during the rescue of a person from a burning cabin at Port Fairy in Victoria on 21 December 2017.

Mr Martin and his family, along with family friends, were holidaying at caravan park in Port Fairy when they were alerted to a fire in a nearby cabin.

Mr Martin's friend ran to the cabin and attempted to open the front door, but it was locked and barricaded from the inside. He called 000 before checking through the cabin's windows where he saw a teenage girl inside.

Mr Martin grabbed a nearby hose and began to douse the fire which was quickly engulfing the cabin. Another man arrived and attempted to kick in the front sliding door with the help of Mr Martin's friend. The man then went to the side of the cabin whilst Mr Martin followed his friend into the cabin. They were forced back due to the thick toxic smoke and the increasing heat.

Mr Martin and his friend went to the side of the cabin where the teenage girl had appeared at a small window. Mr Martin, with the assistance of his friend and the other man, coaxed, then pulled the teenage girl through the small window. The guttering above the men's heads was now on fire.

Mr Martin and the other men dragged the teenager away from the cabin which was consumed by flames.

Fire and ambulance services arrived and the teenager was taken to hospital.

**Mr Vincent Gavin MELBIN**, QLD

Mr Vincent Melbin displayed considerable bravery during the rescue of a man from the Brisbane River in Queensland on 15 March 2019.

At 2:50am Mr Melbin and a companion were walking on the Goodwill Bridge over the Brisbane River when they saw a man about to jump from the bridge.

They attempted to talk to the man, however he jumped off the bridge into the water 15 metres below. When he surfaced he was barely able to keep his head above the water.

Mr Melbin removed his shoes and shirt and jumped into the water, whilst his companion called 000.

Mr Melbin grabbed hold of the now unconscious man and supported him as he swam towards a nearby jetty. Unable to climb up onto the jetty, Mr Melbin managed to keep afloat and continued to struggle to keep the man's head above the water.

Police arrived and threw a rope into the water. Mr Melbin secured the rope around the man who was then pulled out of the river and onto the jetty where first aid was applied until paramedics arrived.

Exhausted, Mr Melbin was helped from the water.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Mr Peter MERLINO**, Nelson Bay NSW 2315

Mr Peter Merlino displayed considerable bravery during the rescue of race yacht crews in treacherous seas off the coast near Port Stephens in New South Wales on 6 January 2016.

Mr Merlino was one of eight crew members on-board rescue vessel *Port Stephens 40* tasked to search for a missing yachtsman who had been knocked off his boat by a wave in treacherous conditions near Port Stephens.

Before it could reach the search zone the boat took over a tow from a NSW Police rescue vessel of another disabled yacht that had issued a Mayday call for assistance. This enabled the faster police boat to search for the sailor. The crew battled the seas at the port entrance to deliver the disabled yacht to a safe mooring within the bay.

Later in the afternoon, Mr Merlino and the other crew members, were asked to re-join the search for the missing yachtsman. Their vessel headed back out into the volatile winds and high waves. They were then tasked with bringing the missing sailor's disabled yacht through the treacherous conditions back to port.

**Mr Tom MILLER**, NSW

Mr Tom Miller displayed considerable bravery 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 Miller was one of seven crewman on-board rescue vessel *Port Stephens 40* who volunteered to go into cyclonic seas to aid a racing yacht and its crew that were 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 their 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 and the crew on deck were again tossed off their feet with one sustaining a serious facial injury, another a dislocated shoulder, and a third was pinned to the deck by his safety line and debris.

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

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

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Senior Constable Trent Alexander MOFFAT**, New South Wales Police

Senior Constable Trent Moffat displayed considerable bravery during the rescue of an elderly couple from floodwaters at Stroud in New South Wales on 21 April 2015.

The township of Stroud, New South Wales experienced extreme weather conditions, with rain falling quickly, causing flash flooding. Wind gusts reached in excess of 100kmph.

Fast flowing water entered the showground, sweeping an elderly couple away from their caravan. They managed to cling onto a brick amenities block near the showground's grandstand.

Senior Constable Moffat, then a Constable, expertly manoeuvred a small boat in the buffeting water towards the elderly couple, with another police officer and a member of the public aboard. A second boat with two men aboard also joined the rescue effort.

On nearing the amenities block, two of the rescuers jumped into the fast flowing water and reached the couple and assisted in keeping the woman's head above water.

The men battled the water and brought the elderly woman to Senior Constable Moffat's boat. He then worked with the other rescuers to get her aboard and immediately took her for medical treatment.

The elderly man was assisted by other rescuers to safety.

**The late Mr Shaun OLIVER** Formerly of Victoria

The late Mr Shaun Oliver displayed considerable bravery during the rescue of children from a rip at Wollongong Beach in New South Wales on 10 September 2017.

During the afternoon four young children were swept out to sea by a strong rip. Two of the children managed to make it back to shore on their own, however a 10 and 12 year old continued to be carried away by the rip.

An off duty paramedic entered the treacherous surf and swam towards the children. He was able to bring the first child back to a sandbank in shallow water. He then swam back for the second child, however upon reaching him he was unable to swim the child back to shore due to fatigue and the heavy surf.

Seeing the pair struggling, Mr Oliver entered the surf and began swimming out to the pair. On reaching them, the fatigued man passed the child to Mr Oliver before heading for the shore.

Despite the strong rip and dangerous conditions, Mr Oliver began to swim the child towards the beach, however they became separated.

At the same time, a surfer entered the water and paddled out towards the pair. He reached the child but couldn't locate Mr Oliver. The surfer got the child to shore on his surfboard before heading back out in the dangerous conditions to search for Mr Oliver.

Police officers arrived and later located Mr Oliver face down in the water. They brought him to shore but sadly he was not able to be resuscitated.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Sergeant Andrew Linden PARKER**, New South Wales Police

Sergeant Andrew Parker displayed considerable bravery during the rescue of race yacht crews in treacherous seas off the coast near Port Stephens in New South Wales on 6 January 2016.

Sergeant Parker, then a Senior Constable, together with three other officers from New South Wales Police Marine Area Command, received five mayday calls simultaneously for assistance. The officers took Water Police Vessel WP24 out in cyclone-like conditions, spending more than 24 hours rescuing embattled yachts and their crews.

The officers endured the treacherous conditions, towing boats safely back to shore, as well as conducting an extensive search for a man who had fallen overboard.

During the rescue of one of the yachts, Sergeant Parker and the other officers had to repair a tow rope after it snapped six times in the turbulent seas.

On another occasion the officers were coming through the heads at Nelson Bay when they were hit by a series of large waves. The waves crashed over the top of the boat and through the cabin, causing concerns the electronics would fail. The severe weather made navigation and searching extremely difficult, and significantly increased the fatigue levels and seasickness of the officers.

**Mr Thomas PARKINSON**, Kurnell NSW 2231

Mr Thomas Parkinson displayed considerable bravery during the rescue of children from a rip at Wollongong Beach in New South Wales on 10 September 2017.

During the afternoon four young children were swept out to sea by a strong rip. Two of the children managed to make it back to shore on their own, however a 10 and 12 year old continued to be carried away by the rip.

An off duty paramedic entered the treacherous surf and swam towards the children. He was able to bring the first child back to a sandbank in shallow water. He then swam back for the second child and reached him. Due to fatigue and the heavy surf he was unable to swim the child back to shore.

Seeing the pair struggling, another man entered the treacherous surf and began swimming out to the pair. On reaching them, the fatigued man passed the child to him before heading for the shore. The second man began to swim the child towards the beach until they were separated.

Mr Parkinson entered the dangerous surf and paddled out on his surfboard. He was able to locate the child but was unable to find the man. Using his surfboard he was able to bring the child back to shore.

Mr Parkinson then set off again on his surfboard into the dangerous conditions to look for the man.

Police officers arrived and located the missing man face down in the water. They brought him to shore but sadly he was not able to be resuscitated.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Mr Richard PIZZUTO**, Corlette NSW 2315

Mr Richard Pizzuto displayed considerable bravery during the rescue attempt of a race yacht crew in treacherous seas off the coast near Port Stephens in New South Wales on 6 January 2016.

Mr Pizzuto was one of seven crewman on-board rescue vessel *Port Stephens 40* who volunteered to go into cyclonic seas to aid a racing yacht and its crew that were 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 their 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 and the crew on deck were again tossed off their feet with one sustaining a serious facial injury, another a dislocated shoulder, and a third was pinned to the deck by his safety line and debris.

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

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

**Mr Khalfan RASHID**, Liverpool NSW 2170

Mr Khalfan Rashid displayed considerable bravery following a high speed vehicle accident in central Sydney in New South Wales on 9 September 2017.

In the early morning Mr Rashid witnessed a vehicle accident on Goulburn Street in Sydney. A vehicle, travelling at high speed, lost control, hit a barrier, and landed on its roof. The vehicle erupted into flames trapping four people inside.

Mr Rashid rushed towards the burning vehicle and grabbed hold of a male and attempted to pull him from the crushed wreck, but he was trapped.

Mr Rashid then moved to assist a distressed woman located in the back of the crushed vehicle. He pulled at her legs without success as the smoke and flames intensified. He returned to the trapped male as police arrived at the scene.

Mr Rashid tried forcing open a car door whilst a police officer was able to grab hold of the man and remove him from the vehicle.

Other police officers arrived and attempted to extinguish the flames without success. They again approached the vehicle but the situation was deemed too dangerous. Moments later there was a large explosion and the vehicle erupted in flames.

Paramedics arrived and took the severely injured man to hospital. Mr Rashid was treated at the scene for burns and minor injuries.

Sadly the other people in the car didn't survive the accident.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Mr William John RATHBONE**, Goonellabah NSW 2480

Mr Bill Rathbone displayed considerable bravery when undertaking multiple rescues of people trapped in floodwaters at Stroud in New South Wales on 21 April 2015.

The township of Stroud, New South Wales experienced extreme weather conditions, with rain falling quickly, causing flash flooding. Wind gusts reached in excess of 100kmph.

Mr Rathbone, along with other members of the public, saw that a vehicle had been washed from the road and was stranded in the rising flood water. The driver had managed to climb onto the roof of the vehicle. The group of men were able to throw a rope to the stranded man, anchoring it to a light pole. Mr Rathbone and the other three men then waded into waist deep water, placing a ladder on the roof of the stranded car, and allowing the trapped man to climb to safety.

Meanwhile, a couple were swept away from their caravan and were clinging onto a brick amenities building, near the showground's grandstand.

A police officer sourced a boat and Mr Rathbone and another police officer climbed aboard. They were joined by two other men in a second boat and together made their way to the distressed couple. Mr Rathbone jumped into the fast flowing water and reached the couple and he assisted in keeping the woman's head above water. He was then joined by other rescuers and they worked together to get the woman to one of the boats.

Mr Rathbone and two others took the woman for medical treatment while the elderly man was assisted to safety.

**Mr Daniel Leigh RICHARDS** Rhondda Valleys, United Kingdom

Mr Daniel Richards displayed considerable bravery during a knife attack at a hostel in Home Hill in Queensland on 23 August 2016.

In the late evening 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 gathered to leave the area. On hearing the commotion, Mr Richards arrived, approached the offender, and pleaded with him 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.

Mr Richards immediately called 000 and followed the woman into the bathroom. A second man entered the bathroom to assist Mr Richards, who was now tending to the woman's substantial wounds.

After a verbal exchange, the armed offender forced his way into the bathroom and began assaulting the second man. At that point, Mr Richards was able to leave the bathroom and yell for assistance.

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

Sadly neither of them survived their injuries.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Mr Michael Anthony SMITH**, Bli Bli QLD 4560

Mr Michael Smith displayed considerable bravery during the rescue attempt of a race yacht crew in treacherous seas off the coast near Port Stephens in New South Wales on 6 January 2016.

Mr Smith was the engineer, and one of seven crewman, on-board rescue vessel *Port Stephens 40* who volunteered to go into cyclonic seas to aid a racing yacht and its crew that were 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, just south of Seal Rocks.

Mr Smith was manning a searchlight on the upper deck when at 2am the 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 and the crew on deck were again tossed off their feet with one sustaining a serious facial injury, another a dislocated shoulder, and a third was pinned to the deck by his safety line and debris.

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

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

**Mr Paul Francis SULLIVAN**, Anna Bay NSW 2316

Mr Paul Sullivan displayed considerable bravery during the rescue attempt of a race yacht crew in treacherous seas off the coast near Port Stephens in New South Wales on 6 January 2016.

Mr Sullivan was one of seven crewman on-board rescue vessel *Port Stephens 40* who volunteered to go into cyclonic seas to aid a racing yacht and its crew that were 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 their 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 and the crew on deck were again tossed off their feet with one sustaining a serious facial injury, another a dislocated shoulder, and a third was pinned to the deck by his safety line and debris.

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

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

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

### **Miss Resha TANDAN, NSW**

Miss Resha Tandan displayed considerable bravery after a cliff face incident at the Blue Mountains in New South Wales on 14 January 2019.

In the late afternoon Miss Tandan, then aged 17 years, was sitting at a lookout with two friends in the Blue Mountains. Her friend stood up, lost his balance and fell backwards over the 30 metre high cliff. He came to rest on a small ledge that was angled and covered in loose rocks.

Miss Tandan told her other friend to call 000. She then scrambled down the slippery rock face to the precarious shelf, where her injured friend was located. He was semi-conscious and in great pain.

Miss Tandan called out the details of her injured friend's condition, which were then passed on to the 000 operator to provide emergency services with.

Miss Tandan carried out first aid and kept her friend alert and comfortable until emergency services arrived and abseiled down the cliff and began treating the injured man.

### **Mr John Eryl THOMAS, Soldiers Point NSW 2317**

Mr John Eryl Thomas displayed considerable bravery during the rescue of race yacht crews in treacherous seas off the coast near Port Stephens in New South Wales on 6 January 2016.

Mr Thomas was one of eight crew members on-board rescue vessel *Port Stephens 40* tasked to search for a missing yachtsman who had been knocked off his boat by a wave in treacherous conditions near Port Stephens.

Before it could reach the search zone the boat took over a tow from a NSW Police rescue vessel of another disabled yacht that had issued a Mayday call for assistance. This enabled the faster police boat to search for the sailor. The crew battled the seas at the port entrance to deliver the disabled yacht to a safe mooring within the bay.

Later in the afternoon, Mr Thomas and the other crew members, were asked to re-join the search for the missing yachtsman. Their vessel headed back out into the volatile strong winds and high waves. They were then tasked with bringing the missing sailor's disabled yacht through the treacherous conditions back to port.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

### **Mr Benjamin VAN DER BURGT, VIC**

Mr Benjamin van der Burgt displayed considerable bravery during the rescue of a young woman from a cabin fire at Port Fairy in Victoria on 21 December 2017.

Mr van der Burgt and his family, along with family friends, were holidaying at a caravan park in Port Fairy, when he noticed smoke and discovered a fire in a nearby cabin.

Mr van der Burgt ran to the cabin and attempted to open the front door, but it was locked and barricaded from the inside. He then called 000 before checking through the cabin's windows where he saw a teenage girl inside.

His friend grabbed a nearby hose and began to douse the fire which was quickly engulfing the cabin. Another man arrived and together with Mr van der Burgt attempted to kick in the front sliding door. The man then went to the side of the cabin whilst Mr van der Burgt entered the cabin followed by his friend. They were both forced back due to the thick toxic smoke and the increasing heat.

Mr van der Burgt and his friend went to the side of the cabin where the teenage girl had appeared at a small window. Mr van der Burgt, with the assistance of his friend and the other man, coaxed, then pulled the teenage girl through the small window. The guttering above the men's heads was now on fire.

Mr van der Burgt and the other men dragged the young woman from the cabin which was consumed by flames.

Fire and ambulance services arrived and the young woman was taken to hospital.

### **Mr Nigel WATERS, Nelson Bay NSW 2315**

Mr Nigel Waters displayed considerable bravery during the rescue of race yacht crews in treacherous seas off the coast near Port Stephens in New South Wales on 6 January 2016.

Mr Waters was one of eight crew members on-board rescue vessel *Port Stephens 40* tasked to search for a missing yachtsman who had been knocked off his boat by a wave in treacherous conditions near Port Stephens.

Before it could reach the search zone, the boat took over a tow from a NSW Police rescue vessel of another disabled yacht that had issued a Mayday call for assistance. This enabled the faster police boat to search for the sailor. The crew battled the seas at the port entrance to deliver the disabled yacht to a safe mooring within the bay.

Later in the afternoon, Mr Waters and the other crew members, were asked to re-join the search for the missing yachtsman. Their vessel headed back out into the volatile strong winds and high waves. They were then tasked with bringing the missing sailor's disabled yacht through the treacherous conditions back to port.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Mr Adam WHITEHOUSE**, Gympie QLD 4570

Mr Adam Whitehouse displayed considerable bravery during the rescue of two boys at Tin Can Bay in Queensland on 12 February 2017.

In the afternoon Mr Whitehouse became aware that two young boys were struggling in deep water and an outgoing tide after being separated from their inflatable tube.

He entered the water and swam towards the boys. On reaching them they clung to him as he tread water in the strong currents.

Mr Whitehouse began to tire with the effort of keeping both boys afloat. He was swamped by water several times and one of the boys became unresponsive.

On realising the distress Mr Whitehouse and the boys were in, a nearby yachtsman navigated his small tinny over to the trio. Both boys were lifted into the tinny and CPR was commenced on the unresponsive boy.

Due to exhaustion, Mr Whitehouse was unable to get into the vessel and slipped into the water and began to float away before the yachtsman grabbed him from underwater. He then secured Mr Whitehouse to the boat and took the group towards the shore.

Members of the public continued to perform CPR on the unresponsive boy until paramedics arrived. Sadly the young boy was unable to be resuscitated.