

BAR TO THE BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)

Mr Timothy James BROWN BM, Thornton NSW 2322

Mr Timothy Brown displayed considerable bravery during the rescue of a trapped driver in Heatherbrae, New South Wales on 9 June 2020.

In the evening, Mr Timothy Brown witnessed a vehicle collide with a power pole on the Pacific Highway. Mr Brown ran across a 4-lane highway towards the driver's side of the car, but was unable to open the door as the outer skin and handle had been stripped away.

Confirming the vehicle was safe from damaged power lines, Mr Brown proceeded to the passenger side where he saw a male driver slumped towards the passenger seat. Mr Brown forced open the passenger door, smelt smoke and observed the driver was unconscious.

Mr Brown attempted to release the seatbelt, however, a fire had started behind the driver's seat in the passenger footwell and thick black smoke forced Mr Brown out of the vehicle repeatedly for air.

Mr Brown opened the rear passenger door to release some smoke from the car. The passenger had regained consciousness and was trying to move due to the heat. A fire extinguisher was used under the rear of the vehicle in an attempt to stop the fire spreading.

Mr Brown was handed a knife and a bystander appeared with another fire extinguisher. Re-entering the vehicle, Mr Brown saw the fire had engulfed the back of the driver's seat. He cut the seatbelt, but due to the smoke and extinguisher powder used by the bystander, he had to exit the vehicle again for air. Mr Brown re-entered the car, pulled the driver out and dragged him towards the rear of the vehicle, where others dragged the driver to safety.

Struggling to breathe, Mr Brown collapsed and was dragged away from the burning vehicle. Mr Brown and the victim were transported to hospital for treatment, where he was and treated for smoke inhalation and leg lacerations, and the victim treated for serious injuries.