

BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)

The late Mrs Ellen Francis CARTWRIGHT Formerly of Windorah QLD 4481

Mrs Ellen Cartwright displayed considerable bravery during the attempted rescue of people from a burning house in Windorah, Queensland on 2 December 1960.

In the early morning, Mrs Ellen Cartwright and her family were asleep when a kerosene fridge exploded and set alight their residence at Moothandella Station.

Mrs Cartwright assisted her dazed husband out of the residence, and passed to him one of their daughters.

Mrs Cartwright went back inside to retrieve other family members. The fire completely engulfed the residence, and sadly, Mrs Cartwright, her two daughters and her elderly father-in-law did not survive the blaze.

Mr Te Reo Potaka Kenneth HARONGA, Narrabeen NSW 2101

Mr Te Reo Haronga displayed considerable bravery for his actions during the rescue of an elderly para-glider from the sea at Warriewood Headland, New South Wales on 15 November 2020.

At approximately 5:30pm, Mr Te Reo Haronga was fishing on the rocks of Warriewood Headland when he saw a para-glider crash into the ocean. The para-glider became entangled in his parachute and lines and was unable to swim to shore.

Mr Haronga ran to the rock edge and swam out to assist the elderly man who was struggling in the swell, approximately 10 metres out to sea.

Mr Haronga pulled the man through the choppy sea to the rocks edge, where others helped get the man out of the water and release him from the ropes.

Ms Georgina Cris MILLS, WA

Ms Georgina Mills displayed considerable bravery during the rescue of a woman being attacked by a large dog in Katanning, Western Australia on 19 May 2021.

At approximately 3:40pm, Ms Georgina Mills was at home when she heard a woman scream and a dog barking. Ms Mills went to her front door and saw a large dog attacking a woman.

Ms Mills exited her residence and saw that the dog had taken the woman to ground and was shaking her violently by her limbs. Ms Mills ran to the woman's aid and the dog turned its attack to her, latching onto her right arm and drawing blood.

Ms Mills gouged at the dog's eyes and face in an attempt to release its bite. The dog let go and Ms Mills assisted another person to drag the woman away. The dog again attacked Ms Mills and latched onto her left arm, before she freed herself and ran inside her home.

Both Ms Mills and the woman were taken to hospital for treatment, with the woman requiring emergency surgery.

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Mr Calan James MOSS, Lakes Entrance VIC 3909

Mr Calan Moss displayed considerable bravery during the rescue of a man from a burning vehicle in Lake Tyers Beach, Victoria on 1 June 2018.

At approximately 9:30pm, Mr Calan Moss was at home with his wife when they heard a vehicle crash. They looked out the window and observed a vehicle on its side at the front of their residence. Mr Moss ran outside as his wife phoned emergency services.

The female passenger, while still in the vehicle, told Mr Moss that her boyfriend was unconscious and not breathing. Mr Moss confirmed the driver was breathing, albeit with his face covered in blood. He lifted the driver and asked the female passenger to undo his seatbelt, however it was jammed.

A fire was spreading quickly under the bonnet, and fluid was leaking from the car. Mr Moss helped the female passenger from the vehicle, ran back to the house, and returned with a pair of scissors and a shovel.

Mr Moss cut the driver's seatbelt and used the shovel to pry open the windscreen. The driver was semi-conscious and crawling around inside the car.

Mr Moss and the female passenger pulled the driver halfway out through the windscreen void, and then Mr Moss pulled him out and dragged him away from the burning vehicle. Mr Moss received minor burns to his hands. Emergency services arrived shortly after.

Mr Shane Paul WILLIAMS, Beerburrum QLD 4517

Mr Shane Williams displayed considerable bravery during the rescue of a person from a burning house in Beerburrum, Queensland on 18 March 2020.

At approximately 5:30pm, Mr Shane Williams heard a fire alarm and noticed smoke coming from his neighbours' bedroom window.

Mr Williams grabbed a fire extinguisher, entered the neighbours' house and went to the main bedroom. He realised the fire was too intense for the fire extinguisher. Mr Williams advised the male neighbour to exit the house and followed him outside where he asked his mother to call the fire brigade.

Mr Williams went back inside the house as there was a disabled female resident still inside. The main bedroom was fully alight and smoke was filling the house. Mr Williams found the female resident on the floor in a spare bedroom. He picked her up and carried her out of the house as she was unable to move.

Noticing the male resident was now missing, Mr Williams again entered the burning property to search for the man, who had gone back inside the house to get his car keys. He found the male in the hallway and brought him back outside.

Mr Williams and other neighbours then attempted to douse the flames with garden hoses. Emergency services soon arrived and took control of the scene.

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Mr William Eric YABSLEY, Geeveston TAS 7116

Mr William Yabsley displayed considerable bravery for his actions restraining an armed offender in Hobart, Tasmania on 14 May 2015.

At 2:00pm, Mr William Yabsley was stopped at traffic lights when he heard three gunshots and saw a woman fleeing from a parked car ahead. Mr Yabsley drove on the wrong side of the road through on-coming traffic towards a man armed with a rifle.

The man was attempting to self-harm as Mr Yabsley approached him. The man aimed the rifle at Mr Yabsley, before Mr Yabsley grabbed the weapon and wrenched it away.

Mr Yabsley approached the parked car and observed an unresponsive woman inside. He moved towards a nearby creek bank as two other men arrived on the scene. The men protected Mr Yabsley as the offender attempted to regain possession of the rifle.

Mr Yabsley located the fleeing woman sitting against a wall. After a brief conversation, she again fled. Mr Yabsley called emergency services and remained on the scene until they arrived and took control of the incident.