

BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)

Mr Nicholas Andrew AUSTIN, Geraldton WA 6530

Mr Nicholas Austin displayed considerable bravery for his actions during the attempted rescue of a kite surfer in Geraldton, Western Australia on 20 October 2016.

Shortly after 4:00pm, Mr Nicholas Austin and another male were kitesurfing off Point Moore when they saw another kiter enter a 'death loop' as his kite spiralled uncontrollably several hundred metres offshore.

The other male surfed over to the struggling man and made several attempts to stop the man being pulled through the water.

Mr Austin pulled at the safety cord to disconnect the kite. He then swam over and grabbed the kite to release the tension on the lines, but neither worked.

Mr Austin surfed away a short distance to unsheathe his hook knife before returning and cutting the lines connecting the kite to the man, causing the kite to fly away. The man was face down in the water and not moving.

The two men agreed that Mr Austin would surf back to shore to ensure help was on the way and the other kiter would stay with the man.

After approximately one hour, a volunteer marine rescue boat arrived and took the man back to shore. Unfortunately, the man did not survive.

Miss Belana BROADLEY, Ballina NSW 2478

Miss Belana Broadley displayed considerable bravery for her actions during the rescue of two young girls caught in a rip in Ballina, New South Wales on 30 January 2021.

At approximately 8:00pm, Miss Bella Broadley was with a group of friends on Angels Beach when they heard a woman screaming out to two young girls caught in a rip.

Miss Broadley grabbed an esky lid and, with another friend, swam towards the girls.

Miss Broadley and the other friend reached the nearer of the two girls and gave her the esky lid to help her float. The other friend took her back to shore.

Miss Broadley swam further out to the second girl, took her hand, and instructed her to float on her back. Miss Broadley used her free hand to swim back to shore with the girl.

Emergency services arrived shortly after and took control of the scene.

BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)

Leading Senior Constable Grant Andrew HEALEY, Victoria Police

Leading Senior Constable Grant Healey displayed considerable bravery for his actions during the attempted rescue of a person from a house fire in Elmhurst, Victoria on 28 December 2019.

At approximately 10:00pm, Leading Senior Constable Grant Healey was off-duty at a barbeque with other residents when they were alerted to a nearby house fire. Leading Senior Constable Healey and some of the others went directly to the property while the rest went to Elmhurst fire station to retrieve a fire appliance.

Leading Senior Constable Healey recognised the property upon arrival and realised that it was the home of a man with mobility issues.

Leading Senior Constable Healey joined a few others who were already at the property and unsuccessfully tried to kick the front door in.

He and another man then ran to the rear of the property, opened the back door and took two steps inside before being forced back by thick smoke and intense heat.

Leading Senior Constable Healey tied his handkerchief over his face and re-entered the house. He crawled on his stomach along the hallway through thick smoke and intense heat towards the bedroom where the occupant's walking frame had been observed. One of the others from the group entered the house and made it part way down the hallway before retreating to retrieve a torch, while another checked a bathroom and a spare bedroom at the rear of the house, before retreating outside and going to the front of the property to join the rest in fighting the fire from outside with a hose.

Leading Senior Constable Healey remained in the house and opened the door of the main bedroom when a flashover occurred, leading to a rapid rise in temperature and increased spread of fire.

Leading Senior Constable Healey saw the man's body on the bed in the light of the flames. He grabbed him, removed him out of the bedroom and pulled him down the hallway towards the rear door.

With the assistance of another who had re-entered the house, they moved the man to the rear door and were met by others who assisted to pull the man away from the house and commence CPR.

Leading Senior Constable Healey was transported to hospital with smoke inhalation and burns where he spent the night in intensive care before being released. Unfortunately, the occupant of the burning house did not survive.

Leading Senior Constable Grant Healey is also receiving a Group Bravery Citation for this incident.

BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)

The late Ms Leonie Mary JACKSON

The late Ms Leonie Jackson displayed considerable bravery for her actions rescuing her two children from a rip in Congo, New South Wales on 17 January 2021.

At 3:30pm, Ms Leonie Jackson was at Congo Beach when her two children were caught in a rip approximately 30 metres from shore.

Ms Jackson entered the water and brought one of her children back to the beach.

Ms Jackson re-entered the water and reached her other child. She kept their head above the water but struggled to keep herself afloat.

Two others saw Ms Jackson and her child struggling, so they grabbed surfboards and ran to the water. When they reached Ms Jackson and her child, they saw that Ms Jackson's head was no longer above the water. They brought Ms Jackson and the child back to shore.

Emergency services arrived shortly after and took control of the scene. Sadly, Ms Jackson did not survive the incident.

The late Mr Salesi Finau KALAUTA, formerly of Berala NSW 2141

The late Mr Salesi Kalauta displayed considerable bravery during the interception of a man armed with a rifle in Petersham, New South Wales on 27 December 2014.

At 8:20pm, Mr Salesi Kalauta was on shift as a security guard at the Livingstone Hotel when a masked man entered the bar area holding a sawn-off rifle.

The armed man pointed the rifle at Mr Kalauta and pulled the trigger multiple times, however the gun did not fire. As the armed man retreated towards the glass exit door, Mr Kalauta followed and pushed him outside and locked the door.

The armed man yelled at Mr Kalauta to open the door and threatened to shoot. The armed man raised the rifle to chest height and fired a bullet through the glass door, narrowly missing Mr Kalauta. The offender demanded Mr Kalauta open the door or he would shoot again.

Mr Kalauta unlocked the door and stood to the side. As the armed man re-entered the premises, Mr Kalauta rushed forward and grabbed the rifle. The two struggled, and Mr Kalauta pulled the rifle out of the offender's hands. The offender backed out of the hotel and fled on foot.

BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)

Mr Michael Robert KING, WA

Mr Michael King displayed considerable bravery for his actions rescuing an elderly resident from a house fire in Katanning, Western Australia on 5 September 2019.

At approximately 7:00am, Mr Michael King and another man were heading to work when they came across a house fire. They were informed that an elderly woman was inside the burning building.

Others in the area attempted to gain access to the property through the front door, but were forced back by heat and flames.

Mr King and the others looked through windows to try and locate the woman. He used a steel bar to break a side window and entered the building. He found the woman in an adjacent room, carried her back to the window, and passed her to the others who were waiting outside.

Emergency services arrived soon after and took control of the scene. Mr King was taken to hospital suffering smoke inhalation.

Mr Frank Daniel MONTAGUE, Nambour QLD 4560

Mr Frank Daniel Montague displayed considerable bravery for his actions during the rescue of a young boy from a rip in Maroochydoore, Queensland on 4 September 2020.

In the afternoon, Mr Frank Daniel Montague was at Cotton Tree Beach when he was alerted to a young boy in distress in the water. The boy had been separated from his group and dragged approximately 30 metres by a strong current toward a dredge operating at the river mouth.

He dived into the water and swam to the boy. He grabbed him and hung onto a dredge pipe as the current was too strong to swim back to shore. The pipe sunk under the weight of him and the boy, and the two floated over it toward the dredge.

He swam back against the current and again held onto the pipe, which had resurfaced.

Two onlookers paddled out and put the boy onto a small kayak, but were unable to swim back against the strong current. A third onlooker arrived on a paddle board and placed Mr Montague onto the board. Mr Montague was in the water for approximately 25 minutes.

A motor skiff arrived and took the boy, and then Mr Montague, to the shore.

Arriving at the shore, Mr Montague suffered a stress induced heart attack and other injuries as a result of the rescue.

BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)

Ms Elyse Maisie PARTRIDGE, Ballina NSW 2478

Miss Elyse Maisie Partridge displayed considerable bravery for her actions during the rescue of two young girls caught in a rip in Ballina, New South Wales on 30 January 2021.

At approximately 8:00pm, Miss Elyse Partridge was with a group of friends on Angels Beach when they heard a woman screaming out to two young girls caught in a rip.

Miss Partridge, and another friend who grabbed an esky lid, swam towards the girls.

Miss Partridge and the other friend reached the nearer of the two girls. The other friend gave the girl the esky lid to help her float, and Miss Maisie-Partridge took her back to shore.

The other friend swam to the second girl and brought her back to shore.

Emergency services arrived shortly after and took control of the scene.

Mr Melwin (Mesut) POLAT, Mount Pleasant WA 6153

Mr Melwin (Mesut) Polat displayed considerable bravery for his actions rescuing a woman from a burning vehicle in Carlisle, Western Australia on 12 February 2022.

At approximately 12:00am, Mr Melwin (Mesut) Polat was stopped in his vehicle at a railway crossing when he noticed that the interior of the vehicle behind him was on fire, with a woman inside.

Mr Polat got out of his vehicle and approached the burning vehicle when it exploded, spreading flames and forcing him back. He continued toward the vehicle and called out to the woman, but she was unresponsive.

Mr Polat attempted to open the driver's door but it was locked. The window was partially open but the heat and flames prevented him from reaching inside.

A passer-by gave Mr Polat a motorbike glove, allowing him to reach through the window. He unlocked and opened the door, unbuckled her seat belt, and removed her from the vehicle.

Mr Polat, and others, took the woman away from the vehicle to a safe distance.

Emergency services arrived shortly after and took control of the scene.

BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)

Mr Rupert John RUDD, WA

Mr Rupert Rudd displayed considerable bravery for his actions during the apprehension of an armed offender in Yokine, Western Australia on 21 October 2016.

At approximately 6:30pm, Mr Rupert Rudd was at his unit complex when he heard a commotion nearby. Mr Rudd left his apartment to investigate, and saw a woman being chased by an offender armed with a knife and tomahawk.

The woman took shelter from the offender behind Mr Rudd. Mr Rudd stood his ground between the woman and the offender, as the agitated man asked him to move out of the way. Suddenly the offender struck Mr Rudd in the face with the tomahawk, before the woman moved into a nearby unit and Mr Rudd retreated into his unit.

Another resident heard the commotion and following a struggle, apprehended the offender.

Emergency services arrived shortly after and took control of the scene.

Mr James Christopher WATERBURY, QLD

Mr James Waterbury displayed considerable bravery for his actions during the attempted rescue of a kite surfer in Geraldton, Western Australia on 20 October 2016.

Shortly after 4:00pm, Mr James Waterbury and another male were kitesurfing off Point Moore when they saw another kiter enter a 'death loop' as his kite spiralled uncontrollably several hundred metres offshore.

Mr Waterbury kited over to the struggling man whilst he was being dragged northwards through the water as the kite continued to loop. Mr Waterbury and the other kite surfer made several attempts to secure the kite to stop the man being pulled through the water, but they were unable to gain control.

After the man had been pulled through breaking waves off the northern edge of Point Moore, Mr Waterbury tried to find signs of life after finding the man face down in the water and not moving. Mr Waterbury lost his kiteboard whilst doing so. The other kite surfer cut the man free from his kite.

The two men agreed that Mr Waterbury would stay with the man whilst the other male would kitesurf back to shore to ensure help was on the way.

Mr Waterbury stayed with the man as they both drifted further north. After approximately one hour, a volunteer marine rescue boat arrived and retrieved the man. Mr Waterbury made his way back to shore, using his kite and the man's kiteboard.

Unfortunately, the man did not survive.