

Bravery Medal (BM)

Mr P

The recipient displayed considerable bravery by their actions during a violent attack in Canberra, Australian Capital Territory in 2019.

As four people arrived home one night, an offender opened the front passenger door and violently assaulted the passenger. The man attempted to defend himself but was hampered by his seat belt as the offender continued to punch and kick him.

The driver grabbed the offender's hand and bit it in an attempt to stop the assault. The offender climbed over the front passenger and punched, choked and bit the driver.

A passenger in the rear of the car got out and ran to a neighbour's house to have them call the police.

The other rear passenger exited and went to the front of the car and jammed the door on the offender's legs. The offender turned and punched him repeatedly in the face and head. He fought back until he was forced away from the car, where he fell and struck his head on the gutter. The offender continued to assault the injured man.

The front passenger got out of the car, grabbed a nearby shovel and struck the offender twice, knocking him out.

Police arrived shortly after and tackled the offender who had, in the meantime, revived. They deployed a full canister of oleoresin capsicum spray but were unsuccessful in subduing the offender. Ambulance officers arrived and eventually sedated the offender.

Sadly, the rear passenger never regained consciousness and died in hospital.

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The late Mr R

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Bravery Medal (BM)

Ms Kylie Fowler, Laang VIC 3265

Ms Kylie Fowler displayed considerable bravery by her actions during the attempted rescue of a driver in a crashed vehicle near Allansford, Victoria on 31 January 2020.

At approximately 10:20pm, Ms Kylie Fowler was a passenger in a vehicle driving in heavy rain when she came across a single vehicle accident. The impact of the crash had broken a power pole in half, and live wires on top of the vehicle caused it to catch fire.

She exited her vehicle and ran towards the impacted vehicle. She attempted to free the unconscious driver, but the door was jammed.

Another witness attempted to extinguish the fire with a fire extinguisher. Ms Fowler made numerous attempts to open the driver's door.

Other witnesses called out to her to get away as the fire was on the petrol side of the car and could soon explode.

The live wires sparked, and the fire spread and increased in size. Determining nothing further could be done, Ms Fowler and the other witness moved away from the vehicle.

Sadly, the vehicle and the driver were engulfed in flames. Emergency services arrived soon after and took control of the scene.

Bravery Medal (BM)

Mr John Edward McGann, QLD

Mr John McGann displayed considerable bravery by his actions rescuing people from a burning house in Highgate Hill, Queensland on 20 August 2022.

Shortly after 10:00pm, Mr John McGann was at home when he heard children outside screaming "fire, fire" and saw that the house across the road was ablaze.

He ran to the house and banged on the door. When he heard someone inside, he ripped the door off the hinges and threw it down the external stairs. He then threw an exercise bike and a number of storage boxes to clear a path.

He entered the burning house which had smoke down to knee level and called out until he saw a man lying on a bed in the front bedroom. He assisted the man out and asked him if there was anyone else still inside. The man told him that his sister was still inside.

Mr McGann re-entered the house and found a woman in a front bedroom who he took outside.

Bravery Medal (BM)

Mr Laines Nema, NSW

Mr Laines Nema displayed considerable bravery by his actions retrieving an unconscious man from rough seas in Port Kembla, New South Wales on 12 February 2021.

Just before 7:00pm, Mr Laines Nema was at a rock shelf at Hill 60 near Fishermans Beach when he saw three men struggling in the water.

Mr Nema took an inflatable vest off a passer-by, stripped down and swam through rough seas to the man. There were large swells and heavy rain, and visibility was poor.

Mr Nema supported the unconscious man in the water for approximately 15 minutes until a helicopter arrived and winched the man out of the water. Mr Nema swam back to the rock shelf and climbed out of the water, obtaining lacerations in the process.

A police officer arrived and assisted one of the other men from the water.

Sadly, despite their efforts, two of the three men died.

Bravery Medal (BM)

New South Wales Police Force
Sergeant Nicholas Matthew Park

Sergeant Nicholas Park displayed considerable bravery by his actions rescuing a man from rough seas in Port Kembla, New South Wales on 12 February 2021.

Just before 7:00pm, Sergeant Nicholas Park arrived at a rock shelf at Hill 60 near Fishermans Beach to reports of three men struggling in rough seas. He saw the men approximately 100 to 150 metres offshore.

Sergeant Park obtained a floatation device, entered the water and swam to one of the men who was drifting further out. There was a large swell and heavy rain, and visibility was poor.

Sergeant Park reached the man and kept him afloat for approximately 20 minutes until a Surf Life Saving boat arrived, retrieved them and returned to shore.

A civilian had also entered the water and supported one of the men until the man was returned to shore.

Sadly, despite their efforts, two of the three men died.

Bravery Medal (BM)

Mr Jeferey Reid-Payne, VIC

Mr Jeferey Reid-Payne displayed considerable bravery for his actions during the restraint of an armed offender in Melbourne, Victoria on 9 November 2018.

At approximately 4:20pm, an offender ignited several gas bottles in his vehicle which subsequently exploded on Bourke Street in Melbourne. The offender exited his vehicle and proceeded to stab passers-by.

Mr Jeferey Reid-Payne saw the offender with the knife and ran towards him. The offender lunged at him when he was a few metres away.

Mr Reid-Payne tried to distract the offender to stop him attacking the police who had arrived. He then picked up a nearby chair and attempted to strike the offender but missed as the offender moved away.

Mr Reid-Payne followed as police tasered the offender, who fell to the ground. Mr Reid-Payne remained in the vicinity holding the chair, ready to use in case the offender got back up.

Mr Reid-Payne then assisted victims who had been stabbed as more police arrived and restrained the offender.

Bravery Medal (BM)

Mrs Lei Zhang, Glen Iris VIC 3146

Mrs Lei Zhang displayed considerable bravery by her actions assisting a wounded man in the vicinity of an armed offender in Melbourne, Victoria on 9 November 2018.

At approximately 4:20pm, an offender ignited several gas bottles in his vehicle which subsequently exploded in Bourke Street, Melbourne. He exited his vehicle and proceeded to stab multiple passers-by.

Ms Lei Zhang was in a nearby restaurant when she saw the offender attacking people. She initially went to run away but turned around when she saw a severely wounded man collapse in the street.

Ms Zhang, with others, rushed over to the wounded man to render first aid, despite the offender attacking police approximately 20 metres away. Despite their efforts, the wounded man sadly died at the scene.