

Bravery Medal (BM)

Mr Erik Christian Fink

Mr Erik Fink displayed considerable bravery during the rescue of a teenager caught in a rip in Yamba, New South Wales on 23 February 2019.

At approximately 10:00am, Mr Erik Fink was near Turners Beach when he saw two teenagers get swept off the rocks and into the surf by a large wave. One of the teenagers scrambled back onto the rocks, while the other was carried out by a strong rip along the edge of the rocks near the carpark.

Mr Fink sprinted down a staircase from the adjoining carpark, dived into the rip and swam to the teenager. He supported the teenager in the water for several minutes, and encouraged him to keep calm.

An onlooker on the rocks retrieved a surf board from a vehicle and threw it towards Mr Fink, who swam to retrieve it and returned to the teenager. Mr Fink gripped the surf board and asked the teenager to hold onto his waist as tightly as possible.

The two were swamped by large waves and the teenager lost his grip, and Mr Fink again encouraged the teenager to hold on tightly. He swam towards the beach, however the strong tide pushed them further out.

Mr Fink swam to the rocks, and pushed the teenager up onto the rocks where a bystander assisted retrieving him from the water. Mr Fink exited the water himself.

Bravery Medal (BM)

Mr Robert Junior Kidd, NSW

Mr Robert Kidd displayed considerable bravery for his actions during a house fire in Pelican, New South Wales on 2 October 2016.

At approximately 11:00pm, Mr Robert Kidd was at home when his mother alerted him that their neighbour's house was on fire.

He ran to his neighbour's house and tried to open the front door but it was locked, so he banged on the front door. Two other neighbours arrived and tried to kick in the door.

He jumped over the fence into the backyard. He saw that one of the bedroom windows was cracked, and so he picked up a nearby plank, knocked out the glass and threw a nearby bucket of water through the window.

He used a wheelie bin to climb up through the window and into the house. He moved through the house in thick black smoke towards the front door which he unlocked, allowing others who had been alerted to the situation to enter the house. They were unable to however due to the thick smoke.

He crawled towards the bedroom through thick smoke and intense heat, searching for the occupant. He passed out from smoke inhalation near the front door. The others entered the house and dragged Mr Kidd out.

Emergency services arrived shortly afterwards and treated Mr Kidd for smoke inhalation. Sadly, the occupant of the house did not survive.

Bravery Medal (BM)

Mr Rodney Maxwell Patterson AFSM, Torquay VIC 3228

Mr Rodney Patterson displayed considerable bravery by 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 the vehicle and proceeded to stab passers-by.

Mr Rodney Patterson was on Bourke Street when he heard the explosion. He turned around and saw a vehicle on fire approximately 10 meters away with the driver's side door open.

Thinking the driver may still be inside, he ran over to the burning vehicle to assist. He looked inside the vehicle and noticed there was no one inside.

He knelt down to check underneath the vehicle in case the driver had fallen out. Suddenly the offender lunged at him with a knife, stabbing him in the head. Mr Patterson stumbled away and saw the offender stab others in the vicinity.

Mr Patterson was assisted by others as the offender was eventually restrained by police.

Bravery Medal (BM)

The late Mr Andrew Francis Powell, Port Campbell VIC 3269

Mr Andrew Powell displayed considerable bravery by his actions during the attempted rescue of a man from rough seas in Port Campbell, Victoria on 21 April 2019.

Shortly before 11am, Mr Andrew Powell, his father and another man were paged by Port Campbell Surf Life Saving Club to reports of a person in the water. His colleague launched their rescue boat into very rough sea conditions.

On approaching the man in the water, the boat lost power. In maneuvering through the rough sea, a large wave capsized the boat bow over stern, throwing all three into the water. The other man surfaced in the water with severe injuries and was rescued by Ambulance Victoria Helicopter Emergency Services.

Mr Powell and his father were motionless and face down in the water. Sadly, the bodies of Mr Powell and his father were recovered by Victoria Police helicopter.

Bravery Medal (BM)

The late Mr Ross William Powell, Port Campbell VIC 3269

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Mr Powell and his son were motionless and face down in the water. Sadly, the bodies of Mr Powell and his son were recovered by Victoria Police helicopter.

Bravery Medal (BM)

Victoria Police

Sergeant Luke Samuel Schroder

Sergeant Luke Schroder displayed considerable bravery by his actions during the attempted rescue of a woman from a house fire in Monbulk, Victoria on 28 July 2020.

At approximately 9:25pm, Sergeant Luke Schroder had finished duty when he heard a popping sound nearby. He turned to see a house on fire near the police station.

Sergeant Schroder approached the house and saw that the rear of the structure appeared to be fully alight and had broken through the roof. He could not see anyone outside but knew that the house was occupied by an older woman. He called for assistance and forced open the front door, shouting out to try and raise anyone inside.

Sergeant Schroder entered the house and went through the passageway into the living room. The smoke was down to his waist, the living room was on fire and the ceiling was starting to collapse, which forced him to withdraw.

Returning to the front of the house, Sergeant Schroder was joined by another man. Sergeant Schroder asked him if he had anything they could use to break the windows. As the man went to his vehicle, Sergeant Schroder proceeded to the rear of the house where the roof was beginning to collapse. The man handed Sergeant Schroder a hammer which he used to break windows so that both men could look inside.

Sergeant Schroder and the man found a side door, which Sergeant Schroder forced open, and both men called out to anyone inside. Sergeant Schroder attempted to enter the house through this door but was unable to due to the intensity of the fire. They continued to call out through thick black smoke to anyone still inside.

Emergency services arrived shortly afterwards and took control of the scene. Unfortunately, a woman was later found deceased in the house.