

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

### **Mr Marwenn Joseph ABOUZEID, 199 Juno Parade, Greenacre NSW 2190**

On the morning of 19 July 2003, Mr Abouzeid helped apprehend an armed robber at a newsagency in Annandale, New South Wales.

Mr Abouzeid was in a shop across the road from the newsagency at about 11.15am when he heard screams. He ran outside and saw two men wrestling on the footpath in front of the newsagency. As Mr Abouzeid ran between the traffic toward the men he heard one of them yell that the other one had a gun. By the time he arrived the offender with the gun was being restrained by the other man. The offender was still struggling to get free so Mr Abouzeid, in spite of continued warnings that the man had a gun, knelt across the gunman's legs and searched his jacket. Although, he did not find the weapon he continued to help restrain the man until police arrived.

By his actions, Mr Abouzeid displayed considerable bravery.

### **Mr George Michael AL-SABBAGH, 209 Melbourne Road, Williamstown Vic 3016**

On the afternoon of 5 December 2005, Mr Al-Sabbagh grappled with an armed robber at his newsagency in Newport, Victoria.

Mr Al-Sabbagh was at his family newsagency with his wife, two sons and an employee at about 5.10pm when two men, one of them armed with a gun, entered the shop. Mr Al-Sabbagh, working in the storeroom at the rear of the shop, heard one of the men shout for the boss. He walked out of the room to find a man pointing a gun at him. Mr Al-Sabbagh grabbed the gun with both hands and forced it downwards. A shot was fired and Mr Al-Sabbagh's older son came to his assistance. The second offender jumped on top of them and bit Mr Al-Sabbagh on his arm and then hit him several times on the head. After another shot was fired Mr Al-Sabbagh told the man to take what he wanted and leave. The gunman took money from the tills and the two men fled from the store, with Mr Al-Sabbagh's son in pursuit. Mr Al-Sabbagh followed but was told by a police officer who had arrived at the scene to return to the store and get medical attention.

By his actions, Mr Al-Sabbagh displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Mike AL-SABBAGH**, 6A Hall Street, Newport Vic 3015

On the afternoon of 5 December 2005, Mr Al-Sabbagh grappled with, and then chased, an armed robber at his family's newsagency in Newport, Victoria.

Mr Al-Sabbagh was at his family's newsagency with his father, mother, brother and an employee at about 5.10pm when two men entered the shop. One of them pointed a gun at Mr Al-Sabbagh and his mother and demanded to see the boss. Mr Al-Sabbagh's father came out of the back room to investigate and found a man pointing a gun at him. He grabbed the gun with both hands and forced it downwards. As a shot was fired, Mr Al-Sabbagh went to his father's assistance. They wrestled the gunman to the floor but the second offender then jumped on top of them and bit Mr Al-Sabbagh's father on his arm and hit him several times on the head. While Mr Al-Sabbagh continued to wrestle with the second man another shot was fired. Mr Al-Sabbagh's father told the gunman to take what he wanted and leave. The gunman took money from the tills and the two men fled the store. The offenders fired a shot at Mr Al-Sabbagh when he ran after them. He saw the offenders get into a taxi, so he hailed one himself and followed, using his mobile phone to call the police. The men left their taxi and fled on foot but, after a short chase, police located and arrested them.

By his actions, Mr Al-Sabbagh displayed considerable bravery.

**Mr Andrew Peter BARNETT**, 10 Rowe Street, Hamlyn Heights Vic 3215

On the evening of 20 February 2004, Mr Barnett took action to protect a man who had been shot by a neighbour at Newtown, Victoria.

Mr Barnett was playing bowls at a club with his father and stepmother when they heard a man yelling for help and then gunshots. Mr Barnett and his father ran to the gate of the bowls club and saw two men in the front yard of a house across the street. One of the men was pointing a gun at the other man who was using his mobile phone to call for help. There was another gunshot and the victim clutched his chest. Mr Barnett walked into the middle of the road and called to the injured man to run to him. The man did so and then they ran back to the gate of the bowls club. The gunman continued to fire at the three men and started to walk towards them. The injured man was shot several more times before he collapsed and staggered onto the grounds where Mr Barnett's stepmother went to his aid. The gunman followed to within 10 metres of Mr Barnett and his father when he found that his gun had jammed. He then turned around and walked back to the street. Mr Barnett and his father watched the gunman until police arrived.

By his actions, Mr Barnett displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

### **Mr Graeme Frederick BARNETT, 7 Stratford Court, Grovedale Vic 3216**

On the evening of 20 February 2004, Mr Barnett took action to protect a man who had been shot by a neighbour at Newtown, Victoria.

Mr Barnett was playing bowls at a club with his wife and son when they heard a man yelling for help and then what sounded like gunshots. Mr Barnett and his son ran to the gate of the bowls club and saw two men in the front yard of a house across the street. One of the men was pointing a gun at the other, who was using his mobile phone to call for help. There was another gunshot and the victim clutched his chest. While Mr Barnett phoned the police, his son walked into the middle of the road and called to the injured man to run to him. When the man did so the gunman fired towards the three men and started to walk towards them. He continued firing as they ran back to the gate of the bowls club. The injured man was shot several more times before he collapsed and staggered onto the grounds where Mr Barnett's wife went to his aid. The gunman followed to within 10 metres of Mr Barnett and his son when he found that his gun had jammed. He then turned around and walked back to the street. Mr Barnett and his son watched the gunman until police arrived.

By his actions, Mr Barnett displayed considerable bravery.

### **Mrs Karen Anne BARNETT, 7 Stratford Court, Grovedale Vic 3216**

On the evening of 20 February 2004, Mrs Barnett took action to protect a man who had been shot by a neighbour at Newtown, Victoria.

Mrs Barnett was playing bowls with her husband and stepson when they heard a man yelling for help and then what sounded like gunshots. Her husband and stepson ran to the gate of the bowls club and saw two men in the front yard of a house across the street. One of the men was pointing a gun at the other, who was using his mobile phone to call for help. Mrs Barnett saw the man get shot several times while her husband and stepson tried to protect him. When the victim, bleeding profusely and in shock, staggered onto the grounds she ran to help him. In order to get the man to safety and provide assistance to him, she searched for an unlocked door to the clubhouse. She eventually found one and took the injured man inside and applied first aid until ambulance officers arrived.

By her actions, Mrs Barnett displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

### **Mr Adrian James BROWN, Late of Scottsdale Tas 7260**

On the afternoon of 27 December 1998, Mr Brown attempted to rescue his brother from rough seas at South Croppies Beach, Waterhouse, Tasmania.

Mr Brown went to the beach to do some drag net fishing and have a barbecue with his partner and their child, his two brothers (aged 20 and 16) and a family friend (aged 14). At around 6.00pm the three younger boys took the net into the water. They got into difficulty a short time later when the undertow pulled them into deeper water about 150 metres from shore. The 14 year-old managed to swim to shore but the younger of the brothers was in distress. The older brother, who was not a strong swimmer, called to Mr Brown to help him. Mr Brown entered the water and assisted the older brother onto some rocks then, after a short rest, re-entered the water to help the younger brother. However, Mr Brown who himself was a poor swimmer, was out of breath after swimming about seven metres. He tried to return to the rocks but was pulled under the water several times by the undertow. Realising he was unable to reach his brother and thoroughly exhausted he shouted for someone to assist his brother. After being continually swamped by waves, sadly Mr Brown drowned.

By his actions, Mr Brown displayed considerable bravery, thereby losing his life.

Next of Kin: Miss Pamela Jane Roles

### **Mr James Andrew CLEARY, 7 Heathcote Street, Picton NSW 2571**

On the afternoon of 27 March 2002, Mr Cleary assisted two police officers to apprehend an armed offender who had earlier shot another police officer at Hillsdale, New South Wales.

At around 5.45pm, a police officer was shot after pursuing and stopping four men in a stolen car. Two other police officers arrived at the scene shortly after the shooting and, on foot, pursued three of the four men who were fleeing the stolen vehicle (the fourth ran in another direction). Mr Cleary was driving along the street with his two young children when he saw a car being driven in reverse, dragging a police officer along with it. He also saw another police officer struggling with a second offender on the side of the road. Mr Cleary got out of his car to assist the officer being dragged by the car. He saw that the man in the car was armed with a pistol and was punching the police officer in the face and hand. Mr Cleary reached into the vehicle and turned off the ignition. When the gunman pointed the gun at Mr Cleary two police officers disarmed and arrested him.

By his actions, Mr Cleary displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Luke Raymond COLEMAN**, 174 Longpoint Drive, Lake Cathie NSW 2445

On the morning of 22 December 2004, Mr Coleman rescued a woman from a burning vehicle at Lake Cathie, New South Wales.

Mr Coleman was driving to the beach when he saw smoke on a nearby bridge coming from a vehicle which had tipped onto its side and was wedged against the bridge railing. He ran towards the car, but was warned by a man standing with a number of other people on the other end of the bridge not to approach it as it was on fire and could explode. Nonetheless, Mr Coleman approached the car and found a woman trapped inside. He climbed onto the bridge railing and, after several attempts, managed to open the driver's side door and help the woman out of the car to safety. The car was, by this time, well alight and flames spreading quickly. The vehicle was completely destroyed by the fire.

By his actions, Mr Coleman displayed considerable bravery.

**Senior Constable Kevin Patrick DAY**, New South Wales Police

On the afternoon of 27 March 2002, Senior Constable Day assisted in the apprehension of two offenders, including one who was armed and who had earlier shot another police officer at Hillsdale, New South Wales.

At around 5.45pm a police officer was shot after pursuing and stopping four men in a stolen car. Senior Constable Day (then acting Sergeant Day) and another officer arrived at the scene shortly after the shooting and, on foot, pursued three of the four men who were fleeing the stolen vehicle (the fourth ran in another direction). One of the men pointed a gun at the pursuing police officers and threatened to shoot, at which point the police officers drew their weapons and repeated their warning for the men to stop. The men ran through a reserve and on to a road where the gunman stopped a car. At gunpoint he ordered the female driver out and jumped into the driver's seat. Senior Constable Day grabbed hold of another offender who was attempting to get into the passenger seat and a struggle ensued. Senior Constable Day struck him with his firearm and sprayed him with OC Spray, which caused the offender to fall to the ground. Senior Constable Day then ran around to the driver's side and assisted with the apprehension of the other offender.

By his actions, Senior Constable Day displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Maxwell Lloyd FAULKNER**, Starkies Road, Manjimup WA 6258

On the afternoon of 20 March 2005, Mr Faulkner rescued the occupants of a burning car at Manjimup, Western Australia.

Mr Faulkner was driving on the South Western Highway when a woman flagged him down and told him there had been an accident and that two people were still in their car hanging upside down trapped by their seatbelts. He approached the vehicle involved in the accident and saw it was overturned on its roof with black smoke pouring from the engine. Mr Faulkner used a rubber mallet that a bystander had given him to break the passenger window. He then leaned into the car and used a pair of side cutters to cut the man's seatbelt, enabling him to crawl out of the car. While other bystanders took care of the man Mr Faulkner, in spite of explosions and the spreading fire, crawled through the passenger window to cut the seatbelt of the female driver and pull her out of the car. With the help of others he carried her away from the vehicle, which exploded into flames shortly afterwards. Sadly, the woman died from her injuries.

By his actions, Mr Faulkner displayed considerable bravery.

**Senior Constable Audra Jewell GOVENOR**, Queensland Police

In the early evening of 16 January 2004, Senior Constable Govenor rescued a woman from drowning in Appel Channel, Mornington Island, Queensland.

Senior Constable (then Constable) Govenor and two other police officers were called to a hotel on Mornington Island where a man approached them and told them that his sister was very drunk and trying to start a dispute with some other patrons. The police officers spoke to the woman and found her to be very emotional and showing signs of intoxication. A short time later when security staff tried to evict the woman, she became aggressive and left the hotel. The police officers followed in their vehicle and tried to intercept her as she walked towards the beach. She managed to evade them and walked into the water, removing her shirt and wrapping it around her neck like a noose. While one of the police officers returned to the hotel to seek help from the woman's relatives, Senior Constable Govenor and her colleague tried to call her back into the shore. The woman did not respond and was now struggling to stay afloat some 100 – 150 metres out in the water. Despite previous reports of crocodiles in that area, strong currents and choppy conditions, Senior Constable Govenor removed her utility belt and boots and swam to the woman. Although the woman attacked Senior Constable Govenor and tried to push her under the water, she supported the woman and managed to swim her closer to shore. By then the woman was vomiting and slipping in and out of consciousness. Another police officer provided assistance and they were able to tow the woman to shore and administer first aid until the ambulance service arrived.

By her actions, Senior Constable Govenor displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

### **Constable Christopher Neil JAQUES, Victoria Police**

In the early hours of 23 November 2005, Constable Jacques rescued a woman from a house fire in Doncaster, Victoria.

Constable Jacques, with two other police officers, responded to a report of a fire at a block of units in Doncaster at approximately 3.20am. They found a freestanding unit at the back of the property on fire. While Constable Jacques radioed for assistance, another officer went to the front of the unit and called out to see if there was anybody inside. After being informed that a woman lived there alone, he smashed two windows and tried to open the front door. He was unable to do as the handle was too hot to touch, so he retreated to search for a hose. Constable Jacques covered his hand with the sleeve of his jacket, opened the door, entered the unit and crawled through thick smoke into the bedroom. Unable to locate her, he crawled into the lounge room, took hold of a hose being held through the window by a police officer who was outside, and used it to extinguish the flames. The smoke was still very thick and the heat intense, so Constable Jacques crawled outside to catch his breath. He re-entered the house and was joined by another officer. The two men crawled through the rooms and, by torchlight, searched for the woman. Eventually they found her crouched against the back door. The officers removed her from the unit via the back door. The woman suffered burns to her hands, face and feet in the incident.

By his actions, Constable Jacques displayed considerable bravery.

### **Senior Constable Darren John KOLOSQUE, New South Wales Police**

On the afternoon of 27 March 2002, Senior Constable Kolosque assisted in the apprehension of two offenders, including one who was armed and who had earlier shot another police officer at Hillsdale, New South Wales.

At around 5.45pm, a police officer was shot after pursuing and stopping four men in a stolen car. Senior Constable Kolosque and another officer arrived at the scene shortly after the shooting and, on foot, pursued three of the four men who were fleeing the stolen vehicle (the fourth ran off in another direction). One of the men pointed a gun at the pursuing police officers and threatened to shoot, at which point the police officers drew their weapons and repeated their warning for the men to stop. The men ran through a reserve and back out on to a road where the gunman stopped a car. At gunpoint he ordered the female driver out, jumped into the driver's seat and started the car. Senior Constable Kolosque leaned into the car and while it was moving wrestled with the offender, who punched Senior Constable Kolosque in the face and hands, forcing him to drop his firearm. A bystander came to his aid by reaching into the car and turning off the ignition. With the assistance of another police officer, they were able to drag the offender from the car and arrest him.

By his actions, Senior Constable Kolosque displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Kenneth Rupert LANGFORD**, 408/79 Hawkesbury Road, Springwood NSW 2777

On the afternoon of 4 April 1996, Mr Langford rescued a woman from a burning house at Merrylands, New South Wales.

Mr Langford was at home when, at about 1.30pm, he heard someone outside call for help. He ran outside and saw black smoke pouring from the front room of a neighbour's house. Mr Langford knew that one of the occupants of the house was a woman in ill health and seldom left her bedroom, so he ran to the house and tried to gain entry. He found that the front door and lounge room windows were locked, so, with the assistance of a neighbour, he smashed one of windows and climbed into the house. He went through the lounge room to the smoke-filled hallway and opened the front door so that others could enter if necessary. Mr Langford then tried to get into the bedroom but visibility was poor and he was having trouble breathing. In the bathroom he filled a plastic rubbish bin with water, and threw it into the bedroom, temporarily reducing the smoke and enabling him to see the woman lying on the floor. Mr Langford grabbed the badly burned woman by her ankles and dragged her out of the room, down the hallway towards the front door where other neighbours came to his assistance.

Mr Langford, who was suffering from smoke inhalation, then left the house. Sadly, after a month of medical treatment, the woman died from her injuries.

By his actions, Mr Langford displayed considerable bravery.

**Mr Ronald Paul McLACHLAN**, 6 Appleton Court, Narre Warren South Vic 3805

On the morning of 4 September 2005, Mr McLachlan rescued two children from a house fire at Hampton Park, Victoria.

Mr McLachlan was visiting his parents-in-law at Hampton Park when he heard a girl scream from a neighbouring property and saw thick black smoke coming from the house. Knowing that young children lived in the house, Mr McLachlan and his father-in-law ran to the property. They attempted to enter through the front door but found the screen door locked so ran around to the back of the house. A distressed teenage girl, who was standing on the back porch, told Mr McLachlan that the children were still inside. Mr McLachlan entered through the back door and found the house full of thick black smoke. He could hear the children crying and entered a bedroom where he found a three-year-old on the floor and a one-year-old in a cot. The cot and the wall behind it were on fire. Mr McLachlan grabbed the two children and ran back through the smoke to the kitchen, where he found a third child with the teenager who had been on the back porch. They grabbed the third child and ran from the house.

By his actions, Mr McLachlan displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

### **Senior Constable Jules Anthony MOYLAN, New South Wales Police**

In the early morning of 10 April 2003, Senior Constable Moylan helped rescue an unconscious man from a burning house at Tarro in New South Wales

Senior Constable Moylan was on duty and travelling towards Maitland Police Station at around midnight when he received a call over the police radio to attend a house fire where an occupant was trapped inside and unconscious. When Senior Constable Moylan arrived at the scene another police officer was already there. Through a bedroom window he could see the unconscious occupant of the house lying on the floor between the foot of a bed and the wall. The two police officers entered the house via the rear door but once in the bedroom were forced to retreat because of the intense heat and smoke. Senior Constable Moylan and the other officer again entered the house and Senior Constable Moylan flipped the bed over so that the unconscious man could be moved. However, as they attempted to get him out, the man became jammed in the doorway. Senior Constable Moylan was again forced to retreat because of the heat and smoke. By this stage sections of the ceiling and walls were beginning to collapse into the bedroom, showering the two police officers in sparks and debris. Two of Senior Constable Moylan's colleagues succeeded shortly afterwards in removing the man from the burning house. Senior Constable Moylan was treated for smoke inhalation.

By his actions, Senior Constable Moylan displayed considerable bravery.

### **Mr Richard William POTTER, 99 Thompson Road, Cookernup WA 6220**

On the afternoon of 13 November 2004, Mr Potter rescued a man from a burning vehicle at Wokalup, Western Australia.

At about 1.30pm Mr Potter was standing outside his house when he saw a friend's car skid on some gravel, crash into a power pole and catch fire. Mr Potter drove to the crash scene and found his friend caught by his seat belt and jammed between the driver's seat and the steering wheel. Although there was smoke and flames coming from the engine, Mr Potter tried to open the driver's door. He found it was stuck so opened the rear driver's side door and wound the seat back to allow room to free his friend. Mr Potter untangled his friend's seatbelt, grabbed him by the arms and pulled him from the car. As he moved his friend to a safe distance the car exploded and burst into flames.

By his actions, Mr Potter displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

### **Miss Melissa Maree QUILLIAM, 4 Dallas Court, Smithton Tas 7330**

On the morning of 16 June 2003, Miss Quilliam saved her two-year-old brother from a burning house at Smithton, Tasmania.

Miss Quilliam, then aged 11, was in her home with her mother and two siblings when fire broke out in the lounge room at about 7.45am. Miss Quilliam's mother was awoken by the smoke alarm and tried to put out the fire before taking her children outside. Once outside, she realised that her two-year-old son was still inside. Two male bystanders tried to enter the house to rescue the boy but were unable to do so because of the intense smoke. Miss Quilliam pushed past a fire fighter who was preventing her mother from re-entering the house and ran inside. The house was well alight, with windows exploding, but Miss Quilliam found her brother and carried him to safety.

By her actions, Miss Quilliam displayed considerable bravery.

### **Miss Pamela Jane ROLES, 2 Hawkes Place, Scottsdale Tas 7260**

On the afternoon of 27 December 1998, Miss Roles attempted to rescue her partner from rough seas at South Croppies Point, Waterhouse, Tasmania.

Miss Roles went to the beach to do some drag net fishing and have a barbecue with her partner and their child, his two brothers (aged 20 and 16) and a family friend (aged 14). At around 6.00pm the three younger boys took the net into the water. They got into difficulty a short time later when the undertow pulled them into deeper water about 150 metres from shore. The 14 year-old managed to swim to shore but the younger of the brothers was in distress. The older brother, who was not a strong swimmer, called to Miss Roles' partner to help him. He entered the water and assisted the older boy onto some rocks then, after a short rest, re-entered the water to help the younger brother. However, being a poor swimmer himself, he got into difficulty and called for help. Miss Roles, realising that her partner was in distress, entered the rough water and swam to where he was floating face down. She turned him over and attempted CPR but found it difficult because of the extreme sea conditions. After instructing her partner's younger brother to swim across the current to the rocks, she continued to support her partner for about half an hour.

By her actions, Miss Roles displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Alistair David SHARP**, 10 Karen Street, Warrnambool Vic 3280

In the early evening of 1 January 2006, Mr Sharp rescued a scuba diver who had been swept into open water from Crazy Kate Bay, east of Peterborough, Victoria.

Mr Sharp was at the beach when he was told a diver was caught in a heavy swell and swept further out into the ocean. He immediately jumped into the water and paddled his surf board approximately 500 metres through rough seas to the diver who was struggling to stay afloat. Mr Sharp helped the diver to remove his weight belt but they were unable to remove his tank and buoyancy compensator. Mr Sharp helped the diver onto his surfboard and started to paddle back to shore. Large waves crashed over the two men causing them to become separated. Mr Sharp swam to the diver and again placed him on the surfboard. After about 10 minutes of being pounded by the large surf, Mr Sharp managed to paddle the board into the relative calm of Rubbish Tin Bay and eventually bring them both to shore and safety.

By his actions, Mr Sharp displayed considerable bravery.

**Mr Daniel Peter STAFFORD**, 1/1309 Dandenong Road, Malvern East Vic 3145

At about 8.30pm on 30 October 2005, Mr Stafford dragged a man from the path of an oncoming train at Hughesdale Station, Victoria.

Mr Stafford was buying a train ticket when he saw a man try to flag down an oncoming train that was 100 to 200 metres out from the station. Mr Stafford went to find out why the man was trying to stop the train and he saw another man lying on the sleepers between the train tracks. He saw the man was not moving but heard him groaning. Mr Stafford jumped down onto the tracks and asked the man to move but received no response. Mr Stafford noticed that he was only semi-conscious and smelt strongly of alcohol. When told that the train was coming, the man tried to move but was unable to. With the train almost upon them, Mr Stafford grabbed the man by one arm and his trouser leg and pulled him off the train line. The train passed them very shortly afterwards and finally came to a stop at the other end of the platform. Mr Stafford remained with the man until paramedics arrived.

By his actions, Mr Stafford displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

### **Wing Commander Craig Alun STANIFORTH,**

Tactical Medical Wing, Royal Air Force Lyneham, Chippenham, Wiltshire, England,

On 7 July 2005, Wing Commander Staniforth provided assistance to an Australian man injured during a bomb attack on an underground train in London.

Wing Commander Staniforth, a medical support officer in charge of the Tactical Medical Wing at Royal Air Force Lyneham in Wiltshire, was travelling on a train on the Circle Line when the bomb exploded. His train halted suddenly and the lights went out. After calming people in his own compartment, Wing Commander Staniforth responded to calls for help from some men outside the train, including one who appeared to be badly injured. He noticed through the smoke-filled tunnel the silhouette of another train. He approached the other train and saw a number of injured people and a crater about 1.5 metres wide in the floor. With the assistance of others, Wing Commander Staniforth worked his way through the damaged carriage assessing those who were injured. Still not knowing what had happened, and seeing that other injured people were being cared for, Wing Commander Staniforth returned to assist an Australian man he had previously assisted to a seat. The man had a severe head injury so Wing Commander Staniforth talked to him and kept him awake for 15 to 20 minutes. When emergency personnel arrived, Wing Commander Staniforth helped the injured man to walk to the rear of the train where he handed him into the care of emergency personnel.

By his actions, Wing Commander Staniforth displayed considerable bravery.

### **Mr Chea Christopher VEA, 281 Parramatta Road, Leichhardt NSW 2040**

On the morning of 19 July 2003, Mr Vea apprehended an armed robber at a newsagency in Annandale, NSW.

Mr Vea, the owner of a newsagency in Parramatta Road was working behind the counter at around 11.10am when a man ran into the shop and pointed a gun at him. He demanded that Mr Vea get down on the floor and tell him where the money was. The gunman took \$140 from the cash register and demanded to know where the larger bills were kept. When Mr Vea told him all he had was in the till, the man hit him on the back of the head. Mr Vea screamed for help and managed to grab the gunman from behind as he chased him out of the shop. He wrestled him to the ground and, with the assistance of people from nearby shops, held the man until the police arrived.

By his actions, Mr Vea displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

### **Senior Constable Geoffrey John WEBB, Victoria Police**

In the early hours of 23 November 2005, Senior Constable Webb rescued a woman from a house fire in Doncaster.

Senior Constable Webb, with two other police officers, responded to a report of a fire at a block of units in Doncaster at about 3.20am. They found a freestanding unit at the back of the property on fire. While one police officer radioed for assistance, Senior Constable Webb and the other officer went to the front of the unit and called out to see if there was anybody inside. He was informed that a woman lived there alone and, in an attempt to get into the unit, smashed two windows then tried to open the front door. However, the door handle was too hot to handle so he used a garden hose to direct water through the broken window onto the flames visible in the lounge room. The other officer, who had managed to open the door and crawl into the house, had failed to find the occupant, so Senior Constable Webb advised him to take the hose through the window and extinguish the flames. Senior Constable Webb and the other officer then crawled through thick smoke and intense heat searching for the woman by torchlight. Eventually they found her crouched against the back door. With the assistance of another colleague who met them at the back door, they then removed the woman from the unit. The woman suffered severe burns to her hands, face and feet in the incident.

By his actions, Senior Constable Webb displayed considerable bravery.