

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

### **Senior Constable Peter Bruce BAILEY, New South Wales Police**

During the early afternoon of 13 December 2005, Senior Constable Bailey assisted in the rescue of a man from a block of home units at Cabramatta, New South Wales.

Senior Constable Bailey and a colleague were carrying out bicycle patrol duties in Cabramatta when they were alerted to a nearby home unit fire. Assessing the scene on arrival, the police called for assistance and systematically banged on doors calling out for people to evacuate the building. Senior Constable Bailey headed to the unit on fire at the top of the three storey building where a colleague kicked in the door and saw a man lying on the floor. Senior Constable Bailey entered the unit which was by now well alight and engulfed with toxic black smoke. Despite the poor visibility and difficulty in breathing, Senior Constable Bailey lifted the victim with the assistance of another police officer and removed him to safety. Uncertain whether other victims were inside, Senior Constable Bailey returned to the unit to conduct a further search. He crawled through the unit, making his way to a bedroom. Satisfying himself it was clear, he attempted to extend his search but was forced to retreat due to the intensity of the fire, heat and toxic smoke.

By his actions, Senior Constable Bailey displayed considerable bravery.

### **Senior Constable Timothy James BROWN, New South Wales Police**

On the night of 4 September 2004, Senior Constable Brown rescued a woman and a child from a burning house at Windella Downs, New South Wales.

Senior Constable Brown and colleagues answered a call out to a domestic disturbance and, enroute, were informed that the house in question was now on fire. At the scene, dense, black smoke was pouring out of the building, and a number of victims were outside the front of the house. Senior Constable Brown and his colleagues checked on the condition of an adult, who had severe burns, while two children were being attended to by neighbours. Senior Constable Brown entered the burning house to search for other victims, and although initially forced back by the fire, he re-entered the house and found a woman who was burnt and appeared to be semi-conscious. With the assistance of a colleague, Senior Constable Brown carried the woman out of the building and to the safety of the footpath. Although feeling the effects from the toxic black smoke, he re-entered the house and found a young child lying unconscious. Senior Constable Brown carried the child to safety, and then returned to the house to confirm that no other victims were inside.

By his actions, Senior Constable Brown displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

### **Mr Gregory John FLOOD, 1 Rygate Place, Shoalhaven Heads NSW 2535**

In the early hours of 26 June 2005, Mr Flood assisted in the rescue of a man from a house fire at Shoalhaven Heads, New South Wales.

Mr Flood was visiting friends when they were alerted to a nearby fire. They drove to find its source and see whether they could render assistance. At the scene he attempted to rouse any occupants by banging on the front door and windows. He went to the rear of the building where the framework was ablaze and the interior was well alight. He entered the house and located a victim unconscious on the floor. With the help of a friend he carried the badly burnt victim to safety. Although the fire had grown in intensity, Mr Flood re-entered the house to search for other victims but was eventually forced to leave because of the spreading flames and choking smoke. Concerned that there may be people in the front area of the house, Mr Flood entered the house a third time with a friend to continue their search but after checking a front room he was forced to retreat again because the fire was consuming the building and sections of the roof were starting to collapse. Mr Flood then returned to the victim and made him comfortable until medical assistance and emergency services arrived.

By his actions, Mr Flood displayed considerable bravery.

### **Mr James Ronald FOLEY, Swan Hill Vic 3585**

In the early hours of 17 October 2006, Mr Foley rescued family members from their burning house at Vinifera, Victoria.

Mr Foley was awoken by his father yelling that the family home was on fire. The house was filled with smoke, and in the darkness, Mr Foley woke his younger sister. He immediately smashed a window and helped push her through the opening to the side of the building. Concerned for the safety of his two younger brothers, Mr Foley ran to the rear of the house to check their whereabouts. He pulled doors off their hinges and crawled through the building which was now being engulfed by fire. Mr Foley continued to check for his brothers, yelling out their names. Fearing for their lives, he crawled further into the house where he discovered both boys, and was able to assist them out of the building and to safety with the rest of the family. Mr Foley ran for help to a next door neighbour and then moved the family car from the scene of the fire, getting his brothers and sister into the vehicle to ensure their safety.

By his actions, Mr Foley displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

### **Mr Steven James FOLEY, deceased, Late of Vinifera Victoria 3591**

In the early hours of 17 October 2006, Mr Foley rescued family members from their burning house at Vinifera, Victoria.

Mr Foley was awoken by his wife in the early hours of the morning after realising that their house was on fire. The parents immediately ran to wake their four children. Mr Foley told his wife to get out of the house through a window as he proceeded through the fire in search of his family. Although he had now sustained critical burns and was disoriented by the darkness and thick smoke, he continued to call to his children. Mr Foley helped one of his sons through a bedroom window, and as the fire had begun to consume the whole house, he was forced to follow his son through the same exit. Despite his horrible burns, Mr Foley continued to concentrate on ensuring his family was safe. In his composure, he thanked his son, James, for helping the other children, and instructed him to run next door for help. Sadly, Mr Foley later died as a result of his injuries.

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

### **Mr Arthur John Griffiths,**

Lavender Gate Farm, 2480 Wollombi Road, Wollombi NSW 2325

During the afternoon of 17 September 2004, Mr Griffiths rescued two people from a burning vehicle at Wollombi, New South Wales.

Mr Griffiths heard a vehicle collision some distance from his property, and asked his wife to contact police before driving off to locate the accident. He found a car that had come off the road and was lying on its roof. The engine bay was ablaze and, as he approached the scene, Mr Griffiths saw a semi-conscious occupant in the vehicle. He climbed into the car through a broken window, released the seatbelt and dragged the victim to safety. At this point with the surrounding grass was on fire, Mr Griffiths returned to the vehicle to rescue another occupant. The person was unconscious and suspended in the air by his seatbelt. Mr Griffiths slid into the vehicle through a passenger window, unfastened the seat belt and attempted to move him. As he did so, the first victim reappeared near the burning vehicle. Mr Griffiths ordered the man away but had to leave what he was doing and drag the person to safety again. He then returned to the vehicle and pulled the second victim away from the car just before it exploded.

By his actions, Mr Griffiths displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Benjamin James GROVES**, 544 Byron Street, Glenroy NSW 2640

On 4 September 2004, Mr Groves attempted the rescue of two people from a house fire at Springdale Heights, New South Wales.

Mr Groves was attending a party with friends when they were alerted to a house fire on the opposite side of the road. The group ran to the house and were informed that people were still inside. Mr Groves ran to a locked back door and kicked it repeatedly to get it open. Thick black smoke poured from the opening as Mr Groves entered the laundry. He crawled through to a hallway, and then inched his way towards another room that was fully ablaze. He could hear a child screaming but the toxic smoke restricted his breathing and he was forced back outside to get some air. Even though the house was well alight, Mr Groves took some deep breaths and steadied himself to go back into the house to search for the child. A bystander restrained him from re-entering the building because the fire had now engulfed the interior of the house. Sadly, the child and another person both perished in the fire.

By his actions, Mr Groves displayed considerable bravery.

**Mr Clayton Ashley HARRIS**, Bathurst NSW 2795

On the afternoon of 11 September 2004, Mr Harris attempted the rescue of a woman from rough seas at Red Rock, New South Wales.

Mr Harris and a group of friends were swimming in the shallows of the Corindi River at Red Rock when he noticed that one of his companions had drifted out too far. He alerted her to come in closer but she was experiencing difficulties in the strong current. Mr Harris raced into the water to assist her keep buoyant but suddenly both were enveloped by a rip which swept them some 70 metres around the headland. Mr Harris held onto his companion to keep her afloat against the buffeting of breaking waves. He yelled to his brother to get help as they were dragged further into the sea. At one point they were washed towards rocks and Mr Harris made repeated attempts to get his friend onto the outcrop, but she was washed off by crashing waves. Although he had now sustained a painful chest injury after being hit by a wave, Mr Harris held his agitated and exhausted friend. Despite his injury, exhaustion and the dead weight of his friend who was lapsing in and out of consciousness, Mr Harris held on as they were swept seawards. He attempted to resuscitate her but was restricted because of the very rough conditions. Mr Harris hung on until rescuers were able to make their way out to them. Mr Harris instructed them to get his friend back to shore first before making the swim back to land. Sadly, Mr Harris' friend drowned as a result of her ordeal.

By his actions, Mr Harris displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Alex Gilbert JIMENEZ**, 17 Rhys Place, Edensor Park NSW 2176

Around midnight on 21 April 2005, Mr Jimenez rescued a teenage boy from a house fire at Bossley Park, New South Wales.

Mr Jimenez was leaving a friend's home when he saw smoke in the distance. He ran to the scene and found a house almost fully engulfed in flames. Mr Jimenez screamed to a woman in the yard to leave, fearful that she would be injured by a garaged car which was covered in flames. Moments later Mr Jimenez learnt that a boy was trapped inside the house. He raced to the side of the building, smashed in a window and entered the house but was driven back by thick smoke. Mr Jimenez attempted to re-enter the house but again was forced to retreat. Making a third attempt, Mr Jimenez was able to make his way to a bedroom where the ceiling was on fire and flames were spreading into the doorway of the room. With the assistance of a police officer who has also entered the building, Mr Jimenez located an unconscious teenage boy. They dragged the young boy towards a window to waiting police officers who carried him to safety. Minutes later the entire roof of the house collapsed.

By his actions, Mr Jimenez displayed considerable bravery.

**Constable Eric Ian LEHANEY**, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

In the afternoon of 30 June 2003, Constable Lehaney rescued a driver from a burning vehicle after a collision at Calgary, Canada.

Constable Lehaney, an Australian working with the Calgary Police Service, Canada, was called to the scene of a traffic accident. A vehicle had collided with a lamp post and had burst into flames, spreading debris around the area. Constable Lehaney went to assist a colleague who was attempting to pull the driver from her car through a window. The dashboard and interior surrounds of the vehicle had caved in and the victim was unable to be pulled away because her leg was pinned under the dashboard. Constable Lehaney raced to the passenger side of the car and forced open the mangled door. He climbed into the burning vehicle and removed obstructions which had trapped the driver's legs. Constable Lehaney's colleague was then able to pull the injured driver from her vehicle and get her to safety.

By his actions, Constable Lehaney displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

### **Senior Constable Daniela Linda MATTIUZZO APM, Northern Territory Police**

In the late afternoon of 18 May 2007, Senior Constable Mattiuzzo assisted a woman who was being attacked by a man armed with a knife at Katherine, Northern Territory.

Senior Constable Mattiuzzo was off duty when, leaving a shopping centre, she was alerted to a stabbing incident outside. She saw an offender gripping two knives, and in front of him a female victim was lying on the ground bleeding around the neck and face. Senior Constable Mattiuzzo approached the offender and encouraged him to drop the weapons. The offender menaced the unarmed officer with a knife then stabbed the victim once more. Senior Constable Mattiuzzo yelled at the man to stop and he responded by throwing one of the knives at her. She again called for him to drop the remaining weapon and when it seemed as though he was about to comply, he became agitated by a bystander and began to pace around the victim, stabbing her in the chest. Senior Constable Mattiuzzo threw her mobile phone to a bystander, instructing him to call police. Another person called out and momentarily distracted the offender causing him to drop the knife. Senior Constable Mattiuzzo leapt forward, knocked the man to the ground, and subdued him until police arrived. Sadly, the victim died as a result of her injuries.

By her actions, Senior Constable Mattiuzzo displayed considerable bravery.

### **Ms Rachel MOORE, South Yarra Vic 3141**

On the night of 23 May 2007, in Flinders Street, Melbourne, Victoria, Ms Moore helped rescue a man who was being stabbed.

Ms Moore and a friend were walking in the Melbourne Central Business District when they heard cries for help. They approached two men struggling in a fight, one with his face covered in blood. Without thought for her own safety, Ms Moore placed herself between the offender and the victim and attempted to separate them. Moments later she saw that the attacker was grasping some form of metal blade. Ms Moore placed her back to the victim and tried to reason with the armed man. However he was in an uncontrollable rage and repeatedly screamed abuse. Ms Moore jumped towards the offender's back to wrestle him away from the scene. Another passer-by stepped in to assist and was able to remove the offender's blade which had dropped to the ground in the struggle. Seizing the opportunity, Ms Moore, her companion and the victim managed to subdue the offender with the help of two members of the public. Ms Moore ran into a nearby police station and alerted officers to the incident before returning to the scene to offer further assistance.

By her actions, Ms Moore displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

### **Senior Constable Bradley Nathan Muddle, New South Wales Police**

On the night of 4 September 2004, Senior Constable Muddle rescued a woman and a child from a burning house at Windella Downs, New South Wales.

Senior Constable Muddle and colleagues answered a call out to a domestic disturbance and, enroute, were informed that the house in question was now on fire. At the scene, dense, black smoke was pouring out of the building, and a number of victims were outside the front of the house. Senior Constable Muddle and his colleagues checked on the condition of an adult, who had severe burns, while two children were being attended to by neighbours. Although they were advised that all the occupants of the house were accounted for, Senior Constable Muddle checked the building and saw a woman lying inside, unconscious. He entered the burning house and made his way towards the woman where he found a male neighbour who was attempting to assist her. Senior Constable Muddle encouraged the man to leave the area for his own safety and then with the assistance of a colleague, carried the woman out of the building to the safety of the footpath. Although Senior Constable Muddle was feeling the effects from the toxic black smoke, he re-entered the house and found a young child lying unconscious. He assisted a colleague carry the child to safety.

By his actions, Senior Constable Muddle displayed considerable bravery.

### **Mr Bevan John ROBERTS,**

33 Dryden Avenue, Rolleston 7614, Canterbury, New Zealand

On the night of 23 May 2007 in Flinders Street, Melbourne, Victoria, Mr Roberts helped rescue a man who was being stabbed.

Mr Roberts and a friend were walking in the Melbourne Central Business District when they heard cries for help. They approached two men struggling in a fight, one with his face covered in blood. Without thought for his own safety, Mr Roberts tried several times to separate the attacker and the victim, noticing the offender was armed with some type of metal blade. While the armed man was being distracted by his friend, Mr Roberts moved in behind and grabbed the attacker's arm, holding it behind him. However the offender tried, repeatedly, to lunge at the victim and continued to shout in an uncontrollable rage. Mr Roberts pleaded with passers-by to help contain the incident but it was some time before another member of the public passing the scene stopped to assist. The attacker eventually dropped the blade and with the assistance of his friend and others, Mr Roberts helped subdue and detain the offender until police arrived at the scene.

By his actions, Mr Roberts displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

### **Senior Constable Wayne Leslie ROBINSON, New South Wales Police**

At around midnight on 21 April 2005, Senior Constable Robinson rescued a teenage boy from a house fire at Bossley Park, New South Wales.

Senior Constable Robinson and colleagues attended a call out to the scene of a house fire and were informed that a person was trapped inside the building. Senior Constable Robinson raced to the back of the house, smashed a window and entered the building. The house was filled with thick black smoke with flames coming from the ceiling. He made his way through to a bedroom where he found a young boy unconscious lying on his side. With the assistance of a civilian who had also entered the building, Senior Constable Robinson dragged the boy along the floor towards a window where police were waiting to carry him to safety. Having successfully made the rescue, Senior Constable Robinson was informed, mistakenly, that a girl was also in the burning house. He re-entered the house and crawled through the growing fire but was unable to locate anyone. Moments after climbing out of the burning building, the entire roof of the house collapsed.

By his actions, Senior Constable Robinson displayed considerable bravery.

### **Mr John Robert RYAN, Houston, Texas, United States of America**

On the evening of 7 February 2003, Mr Ryan rescued a flight examiner following a twin-engine aircraft crash at Camden airfield, New South Wales.

Mr Ryan, a US citizen, chartered a twin engine aircraft from Bankstown airport for a flight exercise, with the intention of re-validating his Australian aviation licence. He was to be supervised by the pilot in command, an authorised testing officer. Having tracked? to Camden airport, Mr Ryan performed the required landing procedures. However it appears that the loss of power to one of the engines restricted his attempts to gain altitude. The aircraft hit a tree, causing the plane to belly into the ground and catch fire. Mr Ryan was able to jump clear of the aircraft although he was severely burnt. The examiner attempted to escape the flames but became entangled in debris and suffered burns to his entire body – his clothes were burnt away and he was screaming in agony. Despite his severe pain, Mr Ryan grabbed the pilot and pulled him clear of the fire. Parts of the victim's body were still alight and Mr Ryan attempted to extinguish them with his bare hands. He lifted the pilot onto his shoulder and moved him away from the crash scene. Sadly, the flight examiner later died as a result of the accident.

By his actions, Mr Ryan displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Richard Leslie Ryan, 8 Davidson Drive, Shoalhaven Heads NSW 2535**

In the early hours of 26 June 2005, Mr Ryan assisted in the rescue of a man from a house fire at Shoalhaven Heads, New South Wales.

Mr Ryan was visiting friends when they were alerted to a nearby fire. They drove to find its source to see if they could render assistance. At the scene they were unable to rouse any occupants and moved to the rear of the building. The framework was blazing and interior rooms were well alight. Battling thick smoke, flames and poor visibility, Mr Ryan entered the building where he assisted a friend with a badly burnt victim who was lying on the floor. They lifted the victim and carried him outside to safety and to the care of others at the scene. Mr Ryan returned to the house to search for other occupants but the fire had grown in intensity, barring access to the main part of the house, forcing him to retreat. He attempted to enter the house again but sections of the roof were collapsing. Mr Ryan returned to the victim and made him comfortable until medical assistance and emergency services arrived.

By his actions, Mr Ryan displayed considerable bravery.

**Mr Donald Paul SMITH, Seaforth, Mackay Qld 4740**

In the afternoon of 21 September 1995, Mr Smith rescued a woman from her burning vehicle at Cape Hillsborough, Queensland.

Mr Smith was alerted to a car crash near his property. He raced to the scene to find a seriously damaged car which had crashed into a tree with the driver unconscious. He immediately attempted to disconnect the car's engine which was still revving at high speed; however the vehicle's bonnet was jammed shut. Flames were beginning to consume the car's dashboard as Mr Smith attempted to get back into the vehicle. He entered the burning vehicle, and undid the woman's seatbelt. Despite the driver's dead weight and the awkward constraints of the confined space, Mr Smith pulled her out of the car and carried her to safety. Within moments the vehicle was entirely engulfed in flames and soon after was totally destroyed by fire.

By his actions, Mr Smith displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

### **Mr Gregory Michael TAYLOR, Shoalhaven Heads NSW 2535**

In the early hours of 26 June 2005, Mr Taylor assisted in the rescue of a man from a house fire at Shoalhaven Heads, New South Wales.

Mr Taylor and his friends were alerted to a nearby fire, and drove to find its source to see if they could render assistance. They located the scene of a house fire and Mr Taylor tried to rouse the occupants by banging on the front door and windows. Moving to the back of the house which was now well alight, Mr Taylor was confronted by growing flames and thick smoke which reduced his visibility. He entered the burning house and checked several rooms for victims. His friends had located a badly burnt man in the back of the house and had moved the victim to safety. Mr Taylor again accessed the building, checking for other occupants in the front of the house. However the fire had spread quickly and was now consuming the rest of the building, and because of the imminent danger of the collapsing roof, he was forced to retreat after searching a front room. Mr Taylor returned to the victim and helped make him comfortable until medical assistance and emergency services arrived.

By his actions, Mr Taylor displayed considerable bravery.

### **Mr John TOOMEY, Mathoura NSW 2710**

On the evening of 16 November 2005, Mr Toomey attempted to save the life of a resident trapped in a burning retirement village at Mathoura, New South Wales.

Mr Toomey was at home when he heard the sound of breaking glass and could see black smoke billowing from a neighbouring retirement village. He asked his wife to call 'Triple Zero' and ran off to render assistance. Mr Toomey was informed that an elderly woman was still inside her unit which was being engulfed by flames and thick black smoke. He called out but could not get a reply. Mr Toomey crawled on hands and knees into the unit, but was overcome by the thick smoke and forced to retreat. He made another attempt to enter the unit by taking deep breaths and pulling his shirt over his face. At this point he heard a faint moan from inside. Despite the poor visibility in the unit, Mr Toomey slid forward on his stomach, using his hands to feel his way around and was able to locate the woman. Although severely restricted by the heat and smoke, and the awkward angle of the woman on the floor, he managed to drag her away from the burning unit. With the assistance of a bystander, Mr Toomey carried her to an adjoining property where he helped administer first aid. Sadly, the woman later died as a result of her injuries.

By his actions, Mr Toomey displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

### **Mr Josiah Tamata'ane TUPOU, Forest Lake Qld 4078**

On the afternoon of 7 January 2006, Mr Tupou assisted a woman who had been savagely mauled by a shark near Amity Point, Stradbroke Island, Queensland.

Mr Tupou was at Amity Point beach with his family when he was distracted by frantic screams for help from a young woman in the water. Mr Tupou entered the water and swam out to her. He saw that her torso was severely injured and that both her forearms had been severed by a shark attack. Mr Tupou took hold of her and brought her back to shore where he was assisted by others on the beach. Mr Tupou made her comfortable and applied clothing and towels to stem the victim's bleeding to her upper arms and torso. The young woman was airlifted to hospital but sadly, she died later as a result of her injuries.

By his actions, Mr Tupou displayed considerable bravery.

### **Sergeant Colin Patrick WOOLSEY, New South Wales Police**

During the afternoon of 17 February 2006, Sergeant Woolsey rescued a man from a burning vehicle at Limeburners Creek, New South Wales.

Sergeant Woolsey was off-duty when he stopped at the scene of a motor vehicle accident. A van had collided with a tree and fire was beginning to spread from underneath the vehicle. Sergeant Woolsey checked one side of the vehicle but could not see anyone inside and attempted to douse the flames with rainwater he gathered from along the roadside. His wife, also a police officer and off-duty, was at the scene and called out that a victim had been found in the van. Sergeant Woolsey ran to assist his wife pull the man from the vehicle but his feet were caught between the pedals and the seat. The fire was beginning to engulf the cabin of the van as Sergeant Woolsey leant well into the vehicle, making several desperate attempts to free the victim. With the assistance of passers-by, Sergeant Woolsey was able to pull the driver free from the vehicle. Sergeant Woolsey then directed passers-by to position their cars so as to warn approaching traffic. The driver was airlifted to hospital but sadly he later died as a result of his extensive injuries.

By his actions, Detective Sergeant Woolsey displayed considerable bravery.