

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

### **Mrs Editha AQUINO, Vic**

On the morning of 18 June 2007, Mrs Aquino went to the assistance of a woman being attacked in Melbourne, Victoria.

Mrs Aquino was walking to work in the Melbourne central business district and as she crossed an intersection she heard a woman screaming hysterically. She looked around and saw a man pulling a woman by her hair with one hand and holding a gun in the other. As Mrs Aquino tried to make out what was occurring, the victim broke free from the man but was shot during the attempt to escape. The offender then turned the gun on two other men at the scene and as they fell to the ground she saw him fire further shots at them. Mrs Aquino quickly ran across the intersection and screamed at the offender to stop shooting. She then tried to distract the gunman who was now running casually from the scene. She followed the man and screamed out at him again, letting him know she had witnessed the attacks. The offender turned to look directly at Mrs Aquino and then fled from the scene. Mrs Aquino abandoned the chase and raced back to the wounded, phoning for emergency services.

By her actions, Mrs Aquino displayed considerable bravery.

### **Mr Michael John CHILLEMI, 13 Binda Street, Malua Bay NSW 2536**

On 5 January 2005, Mr Chillemi helped rescue the driver from a burning vehicle at Telegraph Point, New South Wales.

Mr Chillemi was travelling north on the Pacific Highway, north of Port Macquarie, when the traffic ahead of him stopped because of a serious head-on collision. Mr Chillemi went to offer assistance and saw one car crashed on to a railing and another on the opposite side of the road. One of the vehicles was badly damaged and on fire, and a passerby was removing children from the back of the car. Other people at the scene began screaming out for a fire extinguisher as flames took hold of the front of the car. Two adults were trapped in the front seats. Mr Chillemi grabbed an esky and began pouring water and drinks over the front of the vehicle and deployed several fire extinguishers, but the fire was of such magnitude that it was impossible to contain. The female passenger was removed from the car as bystanders called out to get away from the vehicle, fearful that it would explode. Mr Chillemi remained at the scene as the fire began to engulf the forward interior of the car. Assisted by another witness, Mr Chillemi tried to free the male driver who had to be cut free from his seat belt. Mr Chillemi and others then lifted the driver from the car, and within moments of the driver being freed, the car was consumed by fire and exploded.

By his actions, Mr Chillemi displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

### **Mr Phillip John COLLINS, NSW**

On the morning of 24 February 2007, Mr Collins rescued a boy and attempted to rescue a man from a burning truck at Tumut, New South Wales.

Mr Collins was travelling through the Billapaloola State Forest towards Tumut when he was alerted via his radio that a prime mover had lost its load of timber logs and crashed into an embankment, lying overturned on the driver's side. When Mr Collins arrived at the scene he ran to the vehicle where he heard a voice calling out from the damaged cabin. The truck's fuel tank had ruptured and a fire had started. He saw a teenager on the passenger side and tried to open the door but it was jammed shut from the impact. Mr Collins then quickly grabbed a length of timber and leveraged the door open, pulling the boy from the cabin and assisting him across the road to safety. The driver was calling out for help as Mr Collins raced back to the truck. The fire had taken hold of the vehicle as he struggled desperately to free the driver, who was wedged securely, pinned by the dashboard. Mr Collins helped a water tanker driver to hose down the vehicle, however the pressure was insufficient to fully contain the flames. Other vehicles equipped with fire fighting equipment arrived and extinguished the burning truck. Sadly the driver died at the scene as a result of the fire.

By his actions, Mr Collins displayed considerable bravery.

### **Mr Paul Johannes de WAARD, Middelburg, Netherlands**

On the morning of 18 June 2007, Mr de Waard went to the assistance of a woman being attacked in Melbourne, Victoria.

Mr de Waard, who had recently arrived in Australia, was walking through the city's central business district when he saw a man, adjacent to a taxi, pulling a woman by the hair. She was screaming out for help. It appeared that her attacker was highly intoxicated. Mr de Waard approached the scene and calmly tried to reason with the offender to release the woman. Another passerby was also at the scene and together they had hoped that their appeals to the offender might defuse the situation and draw his attention away from the woman. Mr de Waard remained at the scene in an attempt to help avert further injury to her. However, the offender would not release the woman, and the scene quickly turned desperate as he drew a concealed handgun from his trousers. He fired the gun repeatedly at Mr de Waard, the second man and the woman. Mr de Waard was rushed to hospital in a critical condition and underwent extensive surgery. The offender escaped the scene on foot but was apprehended by police two days later.

By his actions, Mr de Waard displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

### **Senior Sergeant Richard James DOWNIE, Queensland Police**

On the evening of 5 August 2003, Senior Sergeant Downie (then Sergeant) disarmed and apprehended a female armed with a gun at Birkdale, Queensland.

Senior Sergeant Downie was one of several police officers alerted by radio communications that a woman was armed with a gun and was threatening suicide. Senior Sergeant Downie and a colleague entered the apartment and were confronted by a woman armed with a heavy calibre automatic pistol. The offender was highly agitated and was inhaling paint fumes from a plastic bottle. She held the gun to her own temple, alternatively aiming at close range in the direction of the police officers. Senior Sergeant Downie negotiated with the offender for around forty-five minutes, appealing to her to remove her finger from the trigger, leave the pistol and walk away from the scene. He continued his negotiation while carefully observing her movements and assessing the best action to take in the light of her unpredictable behaviour. Responding to her demands for more inhalant, Senior Sergeant Downie took a can of paint and rolled it towards her. Senior Sergeant Downie then seized the momentary distraction to race forward and stand on her hand which held the gun. The offender reacted swiftly, getting her hand around the pistol grip and her index finger on the trigger. A rough struggle ensued until Senior Sergeant Downie and his colleague were able to disarm her.

By his actions, Senior Sergeant Downie displayed considerable bravery.

### **Mr Brian Leonard ELVERY, NSW**

On the afternoon of 2 November 2006, Mr Elvery rescued a pilot and a passenger following a helicopter crash at Palmers Island, New South Wales.

Mr Elvery was waiting for a helicopter to arrive for an appointment. He watched the aircraft's approach but as it began to descend, it rotated and crashed to the ground. Mr Elvery raced to the scene to see the aircraft lying on its side, the rotor blades either missing or smashed. The helicopter was destroyed on impact, although its turbine was still under power, and large volumes of aviation kerosene had been spilt, the fumes contaminating the air. Mr Elvery, with assistance, quickly removed shards of broken canopy to get access to the pilot and check his condition. Mr Elvery then switched off the fuel pump, and together the men were able to unharness the conscious pilot, carry him to safety and place him in the recovery position. They returned to the helicopter to free the unconscious passenger. Their efforts were considerably restrained by the awkward position of the man who was also soaked in fuel. The men pulled him from the wreckage and carried him to safety.

By his actions, Mr Elvery displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Grant James FORD**, 16 Honour Avenue, Mount Macedon Vic 3441

On the night of 10 December 2006, Mr Ford rescued a man from a burning vehicle at Mount Macedon, Victoria.

Mr Ford witnessed a single vehicle accident close to his home and requested his wife to phone for the ambulance. The vehicle had lost control, travelled across to the opposite side of the road and catapulted into a tree, landing overturned on its passenger side. Mr Ford raced to the accident scene and jumped up on to the driver's side of the car. The driver was seemingly unconscious, suspended by a seat belt and his foot was jammed on the accelerator, the engine revving loudly. Mr Ford removed the ignition key and attempted to rouse the driver whose face and neck were covered in blood. There was thick smoke and a burning smell coming from the engine bay. Mr Ford was able to wake the driver and check whether anyone else was in the car. He then reached into the vehicle and undid the driver's seat belt. As he did so the driver dropped down to the opposite side of the cabin with his foot jammed under the dashboard and he was screaming out in pain. Mr Ford worked desperately to maintain his grip on the man by leaning through the driver's side window but he was heavy and slumped at an awkward angle. With the help of a neighbour, Mr Ford was able to pull the driver from the vehicle and carry him to safety.

By his actions, Mr Ford displayed considerable bravery.

**Mr Stephen Oswald FOSTER**, Capalaba Qld 4157

On the night of 7 March 2004, Mr Foster assisted the rescue of two women being attacked by a man at Birkdale, Queensland.

Mr Foster was at home when he heard a car drive slowly by his house, recognising it as owned by a young man who had previously threatened his step daughter. Minutes later sounds could be heard at the front screen door as Mr Foster went to check the entry was secure. Looking through a window he saw the young man standing in his yard. As Mr Foster began to phone '000' he heard screams from both his partner and step daughter. The offender had gained entry to the house and confronted the women. The women raced to Mr Foster's side for protection as he came face to face with the young man brandishing two swords. As the offender attempted to strike out at the women, Mr Foster seized the opportunity to crash tackle him but was unable to hold the man as his own arm had been cut open in the struggle. Although in considerable pain, Mr Foster left the house to pursue the offender and to ensure the women were safe. Events now moved to the roadway where Mr Foster attempted to shield his daughter from harm but was again confronted by the offender. The armed attacker had struck out at the young woman wounding her again. Mr Foster hit the offender with a length of chain and he responded by pulling out another weapon. In a crazed state he made threatening actions but as Mr Foster rattled the chain to retaliate, the man fled the scene. The offender was later apprehended by police.

By his actions, Mr Foster displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

### **Mr Daniel GARLICK, Cranbourne Vic 3977**

On the early hours of 12 January 2008, Mr Garlick attempted the rescue of two children from a burning house at Cranbourne, Victoria.

Mr Garlick was alerted by a smoke alarm to a fire at an adjacent house. The windows were black and rattling, one of them exploding and allowing flames and smoke to pour out of the house. Mr Garlick called out to alert the neighbours. As he was doing so a man and a woman emerged from the house clutching an infant, and handed the child over as they raced back inside to look for their two other children. Mr Garlick jumped the neighbour's fence and identified the children's bedroom towards the rear of the building. He immediately grabbed a cement block and tried to smash a window but it was ineffective. Mr Garlick then picked up a dog kennel and used it to smash the window. He crawled over the jagged glass of the window sill and attempted to enter the room but was immediately forced back by the toxic smoke. Although dazed he tried to locate another entry point to the house but his way was barred by flames and smoke. Moments later another person had located the children inside the house and handed one of them through the window to Mr Garlick. Although in shock and distressed that the young girl might be dying Mr Garlick continued to comfort the child until medical attention arrived.

By his actions, Mr Garlick displayed considerable bravery.

### **Mr Benar GIAWA, Tuindrao, Nias, Republic of Indonesia**

On the afternoon of 2 April 2005, Mr Giawa helped rescue two Australian servicemen from a Royal Australian Navy Sea King helicopter crash on Nias Island, Indonesia.

During its deployment to assist earthquake victims in Indonesia, a Royal Australian Navy Sea King helicopter crashed into a soccer field in the village of Tuindrao on Nias Island. Mr Giawa and fellow villagers raced to the site of the wreckage and saw a passenger attempting to extract himself and another man from the broken tail of the aircraft. Despite the shock of witnessing the crash and seeing several explosions, Mr Giawa and his friends approached the scene and helped free one, and then a second surviving serviceman. Together they carried the men to safety away from the crash site, made the Australians comfortable and provided medical first aid.

By his actions, Mr Giawa displayed considerable bravery.

### **Sergeant Peter Thomas GIBSON, New South Wales Police**

On the night of 2 August 1998, Sergeant Gibson (then Senior Constable) helped rescue a man from a burning house at Condobolin, New South Wales.

Sergeant Gibson was on duty when police received a call alerting them to a house fire. Fire brigade officers were at the scene donning breathing apparatus and setting up hoses when Sergeant Gibson and his colleague arrived. They checked on the whereabouts of the owner of the house and learned that the occupant was still inside. The officers hurriedly entered the building which was already engulfed in dense smoke. Sergeant Gibson searched one of the rooms but eventually the smoke forced him to retreat for fresh air. He re-entered the house, searching the lounge room but again was forced to exit because of the toxic fumes. Sergeant Gibson and his colleague made a third attempt to search the house, and found a victim doubled up on the floor of a room at the end of a passageway. Struggling for breath, the officers grabbed the man and carried him outside where fire officers began to administer CPR.

By his actions, Senior Constable Gibson displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Alan James GRANT**, 3 Aquamarine Street, Quakers Hill NSW 2763

On 5 January 2005, Mr Grant (then Sergeant with the New South Wales Police) helped rescue people from a burning vehicle at Telegraph Point, New South Wales.

Mr Grant was off duty, holidaying with his family, driving north of Port Macquarie when he witnessed a head-on collision. One of the vehicles was tossed into the air and landed on a roadside barrier railing. Mr Grant ran to the vehicle and saw that the driver was unconscious and that three children were in the rear passenger seat crying. Mr Grant and others at the scene tried to prise open a door but it was jammed and the harder they tried the more the car rocked on the railings. Mr Grant was able to open a rear door and release one of the children. A baby strapped into a child seat was cut free from a harness and the third child was assisted away from the car. Moments later fire took hold in the car's engine bay. Mr Grant, assisted by others, frantically cut the passenger free and removed her to safety. As the fire intensified, witnesses tried to contain the flames with bottles of water but the fire got away. Mr Grant got inside the car and helped to free the victim and carry him to safety. Within moments of the rescue, the vehicle was consumed by fire and exploded.

By his actions, Mr Grant displayed considerable bravery.

**Mr Adiziduhu HAREFA**, Tuindrao, Nias, Republic of Indonesia

On the afternoon of 2 April 2005, Mr Harefa helped rescue two Australian servicemen from a Royal Australian Navy Sea King helicopter crash on Nias Island, Indonesia.

During its deployment to assist earthquake victims in Indonesia, a Royal Australian Navy Sea King helicopter crashed into a soccer field in the village of Tuindrao on Nias Island. Mr Harefa and fellow villagers raced to the site of the wreckage and saw a passenger attempting to extract himself and another man from the broken tail of the aircraft. Despite the shock of witnessing the crash and seeing several explosions, Mr Harefa and his friends approached the scene and helped free one, and then a second surviving serviceman. Together they carried the men to safety away from the crash site, made the Australians comfortable and provided medical first aid.

By his actions, Mr Harefa displayed considerable bravery.

**Mr Motani HAREFA**, Tuindrao, Nias, Republic of Indonesia

On the afternoon of 2 April 2005, Mr Harefa helped rescue two Australian servicemen from a Royal Australian Navy Sea King helicopter crash on Nias Island, Indonesia.

During its deployment to assist earthquake victims in Indonesia, a Royal Australian Navy Sea King helicopter crashed into a soccer field in the village of Tuindrao on Nias Island. Mr Harefa and fellow villagers raced to the site of the wreckage and saw a passenger attempting to extract himself and another man from the broken tail of the aircraft. Despite the shock of witnessing the crash and seeing several explosions, Mr Harefa and his friends approached the scene and helped free one, and then a second surviving serviceman. Together they carried the men to safety away from the crash site, made the Australians comfortable and provided medical first aid.

By his actions, Mr Harefa displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

### **Mr Brendan Gerard KEILAR, deceased, Late of Hawthorn East Vic 3123**

On the morning of 18 June 2007, Mr Keilar went to the assistance of a woman being attacked in Melbourne, Victoria.

Mr Keilar was walking through the Melbourne central business district on his way to work. As he did so he heard cries of help from a female nearby and saw a man pulling a woman by her hair, dragging her onto the pavement. Mr Keilar, along with another man, walked towards the couple and attempted to negotiate the woman's release. Although the unfolding situation was tense and unpredictable, Mr Keilar remained at the scene, trying to pacify the offender and draw his attention away from the woman. However his attempts to reason with the offender were in vain and the offender, heavily intoxicated, maintained his grip on the woman. Tragically, events became desperate, and without releasing his hold on the woman the man quickly turned on the group, pulling a concealed handgun from his trousers and firing directly at Mr Keilar, the second man and the woman. The offender escaped the scene on foot but was apprehended by police two days later.

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

### **Senior Constable John Sione LIMA, Queensland Police**

On the evening of 5 August 2003, Senior Constable Lima (then Constable) disarmed and apprehended a female armed with a gun at Birkdale, Queensland.

Senior Constable Lima was one of several police officers alerted by radio communications that a woman was armed with a gun and was threatening suicide at home. Senior Constable Lima and a senior colleague entered the apartment and were confronted by a woman armed with a heavy calibre automatic pistol. Senior Constable Lima took cover behind a wall and attempted to placate the offender. However the offender maintained a steady grip on the pistol. Senior Constable Lima then examined a number of possibilities for a way out of the building to ensure that no one was injured. The offender was highly agitated, inhaling paint fumes and threatening to shoot, one moment waving the gun about at the officers, and the next, holding the gun firmly at her own temple. Both Senior Constable Lima and his colleague continued to talk to the offender, drawing her into conversation that would not aggravate her mood. Responding to her demands for more paint, Senior Constable Lima's colleague rolled a can of paint towards the offender. Senior Constable Lima and his colleague used the distraction to race forward and restrain the woman who had also reacted quickly, managing to get her hand around the grip and her index finger on the trigger of the gun. A rough struggle ensued however the officers were able to subdue the woman until other police arrived to apprehend her.

By his actions, Constable Lima displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Luke LUCHETTI**, 1-4 Urara Street, Yamba NSW 2464

On the afternoon of 2 November 2006, Mr Luchetti rescued a pilot and a passenger following a helicopter crash at Palmers Island, New South Wales.

Mr Luchetti watched a helicopter making ready to land, recognising it as one that occasionally landed on a neighbour's property. As the helicopter descended, its speed increased, and moments later crashed to the ground landing on its left side. The helicopter's blades chopped into the surrounding earth and snapped off. Mr Luchetti immediately raced to the crash site where large volumes of fuel had spilt in and around the helicopter; the aircraft's turbine was still under power. Mr Luchetti, with assistance, leveraged away shards of smashed canopy to get to the conscious pilot. They unharnessed the pilot from his awkward position in the badly crushed cabin and carried him to safety. Mr Luchetti and his companion returned to rescue the passenger, who was unconscious, soaked in fuel and had been forced forward and downward from his seat by the impact of the crash. After helping pull him to safety, Mr Luchetti remained at the scene instructing a number of bystanders to keep clear of the crash site until medical and police assistance arrived.

By his actions, Mr Luchetti displayed considerable bravery.

**Mr Craig MEANEY**, 4 Lawford Street, Fairfield Heights NSW 2165

On 5 January 2005, Mr Meaney helped rescue people from a burning vehicle at Telegraph Point, New South Wales.

Mr Meaney stopped at the scene of a serious head-on collision. One of the vehicles was tossed into the air and landed on the highway barrier railing. As he ran to offer assistance, Mr Meaney could hear children screaming and crying out from the back seat of the car. He helped pull the children out of the car one by one and ensured they were safe. As Mr Meaney began to check on the condition of the female passenger, fire broke out in the car's engine bay. Bystanders called out to get away from the vehicle, fearful that it would explode, but Mr Meaney remained at the scene to try to contain the fire. However the fire could not be extinguished and began to penetrate the vehicle cabin. Mr Meaney helped free the woman from the car and get her to safety. Fearing for the male driver, Mr Meaney tried to open the driver's side door but it was jammed. As the fire grew, Mr Meaney tried to gain access through the boot of the car but there was insufficient room to manoeuvre the driver. With the help of others, Mr Meaney was able to pull the victim through the driver's side window as fire took hold of the cabin. Within moments of the rescue, the vehicle was entirely consumed by fire and exploded.

By his actions, Mr Meaney displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mrs Barbara Joan MITCHELL**, 10 Harper Court, Mandurah WA 6210

On 22 November 2007, Mrs Mitchell rescued a woman who was being attacked by dogs at Mandurah, Western Australia.

Mrs Mitchell was alerted to screams coming from an adjoining property and on investigating was told by a woman that her niece was being viciously attacked by several dogs. The victim's mother and aunt had attempted a rescue but were driven back by the frenzied dogs. Mrs Mitchell made her way into the adjoining yard where the victim was lying on the ground unable to move. She seemed to be in severe shock, having sustained horrible injuries across her body. The dogs were standing over their victim, one of them still attacking the woman. Mrs Mitchell quickly grabbed a garden hose, and standing watch over the victim, continually sprayed the four dogs until they backed off. The victim's mother was able to enter the yard to comfort her daughter, spraying water from the hose to help relieve her considerable pain. As she did so, Mrs Mitchell promptly grabbed a wooden pole to use as a weapon, standing between the dogs and the victim to prevent further attack. She maintained guard over the injured woman until police and medical assistance arrived at the scene.

By her actions, Mrs Mitchell displayed considerable bravery.

**Mr Seti Eli NDRURU**, Tuindrao, Nias, Indonesia

On the afternoon of 2 April 2005, Mr Ndruru helped rescue two Australian servicemen from a Royal Australian Navy Sea King helicopter crash on Nias Island, Indonesia.

During its deployment to assist earthquake victims in Indonesia, a Royal Australian Navy Sea King helicopter crashed into a soccer field in the village of Tuindrao on Nias Island. Mr Ndruru and fellow villagers raced to the site of the wreckage and saw a passenger attempting to extract himself and another man from the broken tail of the aircraft. Despite the shock of witnessing the crash and seeing several explosions, Mr Ndruru and his friends approached the scene and helped free one, and then a second surviving serviceman. Together they carried the men to safety away from the crash site, made the Australians comfortable and provided medical first aid. Confronted by the spreading fire and the potential for further explosions, Mr Ndruru placed his own life at great risk in making good the rescue.

By his actions, Mr Ndruru displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Simon NGUYEN**, 35 Rhondda Street, Smithfield NSW 2164

In the early hours of 13 May 2007, Mr Nguyen attempted to rescue a victim from a burning car at the scene of a crash at Mount White, New South Wales.

Mr Nguyen was one of several people to arrive at the scene of an accident involving a car which had veered off the road, slid down an embankment and crashed into a tree. One side of the vehicle was crushed, and the driver's side door jammed shut on impact. Mr Nguyen ran from his car, and jumped into the passenger seat to check on the condition of the driver, who was pinned in the vehicle. Mr Nguyen checked his vital signs and found that the driver was unconscious but still breathing. He shut down the vehicle's engine as fire began to take hold underneath the car. He called to a bystander for a fire extinguisher and then returned to the wreckage to again check the condition of the driver and keep him stable. The fire regained its momentum and Mr Nguyen was soon overcome by smoke and forced from the vehicle. However he returned to the car and repeatedly attempted to disperse the toxic smoke but was overwhelmed by the smoke again and was forced out of the vehicle. Several bangs erupted from the car as the fire intensified. Mr Nguyen tried to get back into the car to help the victim but was restrained by others at the scene. Sadly, the driver later died as a result of the accident.

By his actions, Mr Nguyen displayed considerable bravery.

**Senior Constable Anthony Charles RODGERS**, New South Wales Police

On the night of 2 August 1998, Senior Constable Rodgers helped rescue a man from a burning house at Condobolin, New South Wales.

Senior Constable Rodgers was on duty when police received a call alerting them to a house fire. Fire brigade officers were at the scene donning breathing apparatus and setting up hoses when Senior Constable Rodgers and his colleague arrived. They checked on the whereabouts of the owner of the house and learned that the occupant was still inside the burning house. The officers hurriedly entered the building, which was already engulfed in dense smoke, to search the rooms. However the dense choking smoke took its effect and the officers were forced to retreat outside for fresh air. Senior Constable Rodgers made his way back into the house again, and despite the smoke and limited visibility, he persisted with the search, eventually finding the victim doubled up and unconscious. As he called to his colleague for help, Senior Constable Rodgers inhaled a great quantity of smoke and had to run from the building for air. He entered the house for a third time, and with assistance was able to lift the victim and carry him outside where fire officers began to administer CPR.

By his actions, Senior Constable Rodgers displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Edward George TAMMS**, 3/92 Tuckey Street, Mandurah WA 6210

On the afternoon of 22 January 2007, Mr Tamms went to the assistance of a person who was being attacked by a dog at Coodanup, Western Australia.

Mr Tamms was visiting a friend, and hearing screams went to a nearby property where a man was being attacked by a dog. Mr Tamms entered the house to see blood-smeared walls and floors in the main room, and pieces of furniture over-turned. He discovered an unconscious man whose throat was gripped by the dog as it tried to drag him outside. Mr Tamms repeatedly kicked the animal and used a shovel to beat it but there was little reaction. The shovel broke and Mr Tamms used the handle against the dog until it released its grip. Moments later a child called out from a bedroom as a woman entered the house. Mr Tamms instructed the woman to go to the child but she was in shock and couldn't move. Sensing that the dog was about to return to the man, Mr Tamms placed himself between the animal and the unconscious man. The dog lunged at Mr Tamms and bit him. The animal again seized the man but Mr Tamms intervened again hitting it with the shovel handle. Despite the highly disturbing scene, Mr Tamms remained calm, calling out to the woman to get out of harm's way. He then forced the animal into the laundry with the use of a chair, and called police from his mobile. Mr Tamms confined the animal by sliding a fridge across the laundry doorway and phoned for the ambulance before returning to the man to administer first aid.

By his actions, Mr Tamms displayed considerable bravery.

**Mr Rodney Newman WELLS**, PO Box 123, Quairading WA 6383

On the night of 10 January 2008, Mr Wells rescued two occupants from a burning vehicle at Quairading, Western Australia.

Mr Wells was driving home when he came across a station wagon lying on its driver's side, wedged between two trees. The front of the vehicle was on fire and two women were trapped inside. One of the women was in the front of the car in an upright position and her companion was in the back. Mr Wells jumped up onto the passenger door and was able to pull the woman from the front of the car out of the cabin and carry her to safety. Mr Wells returned to the car and instructed the remaining woman to cover her head before he smashed the back window. He covered the opening with his shirt to try to reduce cuts to the badly injured woman as he pulled her through the window. Mr Wells phoned for emergency services and ensured both victims were well away from the burning vehicle. He reassured both victims until fire and ambulance officers arrived at the scene. Within minutes of Mr Wells rescue efforts, the station wagon exploded and was totally incinerated.

By his actions, Mr Wells displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Trent James WEST**, 7A Nankiville Road, Kalgoorlie WA 6430

On 5 January 2005, Mr West helped rescue people from a burning vehicle at Telegraph Point, New South Wales.

Mr West and his friends were travelling south along the Pacific Highway when they had to stop in a line of traffic because of a serious head-on collision. Mr West hurried to the scene of the accident to see what help he could offer. One of the cars was partially on fire and a number of people were gathered around it. Seeing the second car unattended, Mr West spoke to the female driver still inside the vehicle. Concerned that she was too close to the other burning vehicle, Mr West and others helped move the badly injured woman to a safe position away from the collision site. Mr West could hear screams coming from the burning vehicle. He raced back to the car where a female passenger was being assisted by other witnesses. He quickly moved to the driver's side of the car and as he did so, fire began to engulf the cabin. A number of bystanders were screaming out that the car might explode. Mr West remained at the scene and assisted another man to leverage the driver through the front window and carry him away to safety. Within moments of the rescue, the vehicle was entirely consumed by fire and exploded.

By his actions, Mr West displayed considerable bravery.