

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Clinton Philip ANDERSON, Victoria

Details not available at the request of Mr Anderson

Sergeant Melissa Louise ANDERSON, Queensland Police

On the evening of 1 September 2008 Sergeant Melissa Anderson took action to help detain a highly agitated armed man who had set fire to his home.

Sergeant Anderson and other police officers were called to a house where a man had lit a fire in the front yard. Arriving at the scene, they found the man was armed with a knife and threatening to kill himself and the police officers. Sergeant Anderson commenced negotiations with the man; however he fled inside and set fire to a back room. After she and a colleague kicked the door in, Sergeant Anderson, armed with a taser, entered the smoke-filled house. Despite limited visibility, she spotted the man on the couch. He lunged at her and she struck him with the taser. Obstructed by furniture and affected by the smoke, Sergeant Anderson retreated outside. Meanwhile a colleague entered the burning house but was unsuccessful in dragging the man outside. Both officers re-entered the house and managed to pull him outside.

By her actions, Sergeant Anderson displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Tony Wayne BEWLEY, 108 Village Drive, Ulladulla NSW 2539

On the afternoon of 31 May 2010, Mr Tony Bewley attempted the rescue of a man from a burning house at Ulladulla, New South Wales.

Mr Tony Bewley was at home when he heard an explosion from a house in Abbey Road, Ulladulla. Mr Bewley ran to the house and saw a man engulfed in flames in the garage. He climbed through a gap in the damaged garage doors and tried to extinguish the flames on the man. Mr Bewley left the garage, flagged down two cars to call 000, returned to his home to collect wet towels and re-entered the burning garage. He used the towel to pat down the flames on the man, and helped him outside. Sadly, the man was unable to be revived by ambulance officers and died at the scene.

By his actions, Mr Bewley displayed considerable bravery.

Master Connor James BLYTHE, Beaufort Vic 3373

On the afternoon of 20 December 2006, Connor Blythe rescued his sister from an oncoming vehicle at Brewster, Victoria.

Ten year old Connor Blythe was walking his young sister home from school along a country road when a vehicle approached them. Connor saw that his sister was in danger of being hit by the car, so he selflessly pushed her out of the way. The car struck him instead, forcing him up onto the bonnet. After he was carried several metres the vehicle came to a stop and he rolled into an adjacent table drain. Connor's mother, a trained nurse, was notified and raced to the accident scene where she administered critical first aid until ambulance arrived. As a result of his serious life-threatening injuries, Connor was air-lifted to the Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne.

For his actions, Master Blythe displayed considerable bravery.

Detective Sergeant Allan Karl COHRS, Queensland Police

On 31 May 2004, Detective Sergeant Cohrs (then Detective Senior Constable (DSC)) went to the aid of a colleague and assisted in detaining two offenders (one armed with a sawn-off rifle) at Deception Bay, Queensland.

Detective Senior Constable Cohrs and a colleague attended a residence in Deception Bay, where they approached two men, one of which was holding a backpack. After brief questioning the men ran to the rear of the premises. DSC Cohrs and his colleague pursued the two men and attempted to restrain them. Both men began to punch and knee the officers violently. DSC Cohrs went to assist his colleague, and saw one man remove a .22 calibre sawn-off rifle from the backpack and aim it at his colleague. DSC Cohrs immediately placed himself between the armed offender and his colleague. The offender aimed the weapon at DSC Cohrs and threatened to shoot. DSC Cohrs grabbed hold of the barrel and, during the struggle, the man attempted to fire the rifle. DSC Cohrs then punched the man in the face and managed to pull the rifle away from the offender. Both offenders surrendered soon after.

By his actions Detective Sergeant Cohrs displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Ms Sandra Jayne FAKES, 4 Barden Close, Tenambit NSW 2323

On the 19th of June 2009, Ms Fakes rescued a woman from an oncoming express passenger train at East Maitland, New South Wales.

Ms Fakes noticed a young woman was acting strangely and attempting to walk into oncoming vehicles at the intersection of Metford Road and Raymond Terrace Road, East Maitland. She became concerned for the woman's welfare and tried to restrain her. The woman broke away and ran to the nearby railway line, running along the tracks towards an oncoming express passenger train. Ms Fakes, who had pursued the woman, caught her and pulled her out of the way of the train. Forcing the woman to the ground, Ms Fakes then sat on her until the train had passed. The woman again broke free and continued to run along the train tracks as Ms Fakes gave chase. Police officers arrived at the scene, caught the woman and took her into custody for her own safety.

By her actions, Ms Fakes displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Dean Kenneth FILMER, Victoria

Details not available at the request of Mr Filmer.

Mr Beau Douglas FLEMING, Victoria

Details not available at the request of Mr Fleming.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Darrin James GIBSON, 64 Orange Street, Parkes NSW 2870

On 7 February 2009, Mr Darrin Gibson attempted to rescue his family during the 'Black Saturday' bushfires at Kinglake, Victoria.

Mr Gibson and his family were at their property when it became surrounded by fire. The roads were blocked and he was advised to stay where they were. When their home began to burn and the fumes were unbearable, Mr Gibson took his family outside. Unable to stand the searing heat, Mr Gibson carried two of their children, and his wife the other, across the property towards the dam. Observing that his wife was unable to continue, Mr Gibson left one of the children he was carrying and took the baby to the dam. He then went back to get the rest of his family but found his wife and one child already deceased and the other missing. He returned to the dam and submerged himself and his baby in the water for an hour and a half until the fire front had passed. Mr Gibson then emerged from the dam and carried his baby to the front gate of their property where they were found by a neighbour. Mr Gibson, the only surviving member of the family, suffered significant injuries.

By his actions Mr Gibson displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Ben Aaron GIOVANETTI, Marysville Vic 3779

On 7 February 2009, Mr Giovanetti went to the aid of two co-workers and provided ongoing assistance during the 'Black Saturday' bushfires at Marysville, Victoria.

During the Black Saturday bushfires, a Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) employee, Mr Giovanetti, and others were focussing their efforts on asset protection at Marysville. As the fire front began to envelop the town, Mr Giovanetti and a colleague learned that two female co-workers were stranded at the DSE Marysville office. Aware that the office was filling with smoke and under ember attack, Mr Giovanetti and his colleague drove through a wall of flames to the office compound. With the fire front about 150 metres away, Mr Giovanetti entered the building to fetch the co-workers. After the women left the office, Mr Giovanetti remained trapped for approximately 15 minutes until eventually escaping to the shed to join his colleagues. Once the fire front had passed Mr Giovanetti and a colleague fought the fire at the offices for the next two hours before the group evacuated to the oval.

By his actions, Mr Giovanetti displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Christopher Michael GLEESON, Marysville Vic 3779

On the afternoon of 7 February 2009, Mr Gleeson went to the aid of neighbours and provided ongoing assistance during the 'Black Saturday' bushfires at Narbethong, Victoria.

During the bushfires, Mr Gleeson, a member of the Marysville CFA Unit and foreman at the Narbethong timber mill, became concerned about the welfare of the occupants of a nearby house. After warning them of the approaching danger, one of the occupants drove her husband, who suffered a debilitating condition which required constant oxygen, to the timber mill. After Mr Gleeson provided assistance to CFA crews in Marysville, he returned to Narbethong. In doing so, Mr Gleeson drove through spotting fires, trees ablaze and gale force winds. He proceeded to clear a safe area around the mill, using a forklift to move approximately 150 tonnes of timber. Still in his vehicle at the mill, the husband was rendered unconscious due to a shock wave caused by an exploding acetylene bottle. Mr Gleeson commenced CPR, put the oxygen mask onto his face and was able to revive him and drive the vehicle to a safer location.

For his actions, Mr Gleeson displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Senior Constable Regan Richard GREATOREX, Queensland Police

On the 26th of January 2010, Senior Constable Greatorex rescued a man from the Brisbane River, Queensland.

Police and ambulance units attended the William Jolly Bridge, Brisbane River, in response to a man who had jumped into the water. Senior Constable Greatorex was first on the scene and saw the man floating in the middle of the river screaming for help. He removed his accoutrements, jumped in the river and swam about 75 metres to the distressed man. Senior Constable Greatorex reached him; however he resisted help, putting them both in danger. Senior Constable Greatorex persisted and eventually grabbed hold of the man and began to swim towards the river bank. A colleague and an ambulance officer also entered the water and the three men managed to drag the aggressive man back to safety. At the river bank the intoxicated man continued to abuse the officers and resisted all efforts of assistance. The man had to be heavily sedated prior to being transported to hospital for assessment.

By his actions, Senior Constable Greatorex displayed considerable bravery.

Sergeant Brendan John HALEY, Queensland Police

On the evening of 1 September 2008, Sergeant Brendan Haley took action to help detain a highly agitated armed man who had set fire to his home.

Sergeant Haley and other officers were called to a house where a man had lit a fire in the front yard. Arriving at the scene, they found the man was armed with a knife and threatening to kill himself and police officers. After negotiations with the highly agitated man were unsuccessful, he fled inside and set fire to a back room. Sergeant Haley and a colleague kicked the door in, enabling the colleague to enter the smoke-filled house. The colleague struck the man with a taser and attempted to drag him outside, however was overcome with smoke and retreated to the doorway. Sergeant Haley then entered the burning house but was also affected by the thick smoke. Both officers re-entered the building and managed to pull him outside to safety.

By his actions, Sergeant Haley displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr John William HANNAH, New South Wales

On 8 November 2009, Mr Hannah rescued a woman from her violent partner at a motel in Narrabundah, Australian Capital Territory.

Mr Hannah and his partner were staying in a motel when they heard a loud argument coming from another room. Subsequently, they heard a female calling for help and went outside to investigate. They found a woman in the corridor who immediately asked if she could hide inside their room. As Mr Hannah attempted to follow the woman and his partner back into their room, a very large, intoxicated and aggressive man attempted to push his way inside. After Mr Hannah refused entry, the offender started to attack him in the corridor. As the assault continued, Mr Hannah's partner moved forward and tried to intervene, however she was pushed back into the room. Mr Hannah grabbed hold of the man, while continuing to tell him to leave the room. The man eventually stopped the attack and they managed to force him outside, before shutting the door and calling the police.

By his actions, Mr Hannah displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Joshua Donald HEGGIE, Captains Flat NSW 2623

In the early hours of the morning of 23 October 2009, Mr Heggie rescued a man following a car accident near Captains Flat, New South Wales.

Mr Heggie was travelling along Captains Flat Road when he came upon a car accident. A vehicle had left the road, and come to rest at the bottom of an eight metre embankment and was on fire. A man lying at the rear of his vehicle was trapped by a burning tree branch. Mr Heggie negotiated his way down the steep and uneven embankment and, even though the vehicle was well alight with intermittent explosions, he lifted a burning branch off the man's legs. Despite incurring burns to his arms he managed to drag the man away from the vehicle and extinguish the fire on the man's legs. Mr Heggie remained with the man until emergency personnel arrived and then assisted those personnel to carry the man up the embankment to safety.

By his actions, Mr Heggie displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Scott Andrew HENSLER, Wondai Qld 4606

On the morning of 25 August 2004, Mr Hensler rescued two children and attempted the rescue of other victims in a house fire at Murgon, Queensland.

Mr Hensler noticed that a house adjacent to his workplace was on fire, smoke billowing from the building. Arranging for a colleague to call emergency services, Mr Hensler raced to the timber house. He entered the front door and moved down the hallway which was now engulfed with flames and billowing with thick smoke. Mr Hensler tried to gain access to one of the bedrooms but was forced back as the ceiling began to collapse. He noticed a young girl and called for her to come to the door but she was unable to move. Retreating to the veranda, Mr Hensler smashed a window and grabbed the young girl, dragging her from the room. The veranda ceiling was on fire as he carried her to safety, entrusting her to the care of bystanders. Aware that there was at least one other person still trapped within the house, Mr Hensler made a further attempt to get inside, but was forced away as fire consumed the old building. Sadly, two young children were unable to be rescued and died at the scene.

By his actions, Mr Hensler displayed considerable bravery.

Leading Seaman Matthew Thomas KEOGH, Queensland

On the morning of 16 April 2009, Leading Seaman Keogh assisted occupants of a burning vessel in the waters near Ashmore Island, Western Australia.

Patrol boats HMAS *Childers* and HMAS *Albany* were escorting a Suspected Irregular Entry Vessel that held forty-nine civilians and Australian Defence Force personnel, when the situation onboard deteriorated. Leading Seaman Keogh and three others immediately volunteered to form an augmented security team to board the vessel. Within two minutes of arriving onboard the vessel caught fire and exploded, causing most people to be thrown into the water. Protected by part of the vessel's superstructure, Leading Seaman Keogh remained onboard. He immediately assisted a colleague, who had fallen into the seat of the fire in the bilge area and had sustained burns, over the side to safety. As the vessel continued to burn out of control, he noticed another colleague suffering from facial burns and a broken ankle. He helped him into the water before turning his attention to the remaining passengers. Disregarding the risk of a second explosion, he continued to search and assist the frightened and injured survivors encouraging them to jump into the water despite their fears.

By his actions, Leading Seaman Keogh displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Grant Matthew LAWSON, Whittlesea Vic 3757

On 7 February 2009, Mr Lawson assisted an injured man following a motor vehicle accident during the 'Black Saturday' bushfires, Victoria.

In the midst of the Black Saturday bushfire, Mr Lawson was driving his vehicle through thick smoke along the Whittlesea-Kinglake Road when he collided head-on with a parked vehicle. The passenger of the other vehicle and Mr Lawson ran to seek safety in a nearby paddock. Realising the driver of the other vehicle remained at the accident scene; Mr Lawson made his way back and found the driver injured with a broken ankle. Mr Lawson, fearing that the injured man was in danger of being burnt; he assisted him through a burning nature strip and over a barbed wire fence to safety. After most of the smoke cleared approximately two hours later, Mr Lawson attempted to start a nearby tractor. The sounds of the tractor alerted the property owner who came to assist them after becoming aware of their plight.

By his actions, Mr Lawson displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Thomas James LIBRERI, Yinnar South Vic 3869

On the afternoon of 7 February 2009, Mr Libreri offered refuge and assisted neighbours during the 'Black Saturday' bushfires, at Kinglake, Victoria.

Mr Libreri provided refuge for locals during the Black Saturday bushfires at his home in Kinglake. As the fire encroached onto his property that contained five adults and six children, Mr Libreri and three women used buckets and wet towels to put out spot fires which threatened the house and their survival. After the initial fire front passed, Mr Libreri and a neighbour went to nearby properties to check on the welfare of two elderly neighbours. Initially unable to locate them, they drove through the fires to search further. They were able to find one of the men dazedly walking towards them after taking shelter in a water tank, and Mr Libreri found the other man sitting near a tree. He had sustained severe burns and still had some clothing on fire which Mr Libreri smothered. They placed the badly burned man onto the back of a ute and drove to Mr Libreri's house. He was placed in the swimming pool and cared for by the group for about six hours, before the Country Fire Authority arrived and transported the injured man to Whittlesea for urgent medical treatment.

By his actions, Mr Libreri displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Ralph Paul MARTYN, 302 James Cook Drive, Endeavour Hills Vic 3802

On October 1, 2010, Mr Martyn rescued a woman from an oncoming train at Middle Brighton, Victoria.

Mr Martyn, the Middle Brighton railway station host, saw an elderly female pedestrian caught in the path of an oncoming train. The woman, who was using a walking frame, was attempting to cross a railway crossing at the end of the train platform. Hearing bells and warning sounds, Mr Martyn saw that the crossing gates were closed. Without any thought for his own safety, he immediately ran and jumped off the platform to reach the woman. Mr Martyn managed to grab hold of her and pull her away from the oncoming train to safety.

By his actions, Mr Martyn displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Daniel Troy MORGAN, 1/49 William Street, Greensbrough Vic 3088

Mr Raymond Sidney MORGAN, 29 Appletree Crescent, Shepparton Vic 3630

Mr Shaun Clinton MORGAN, 2/6 Hay Street, Preston Vic 3072

On 7 February 2009, Raymond, Shaun and Daniel Morgan provided assistance to several people during the 'Black Saturday' bushfires, at Kinglake, Victoria.

In the midst of the Black Saturday bushfires, Mr Raymond Morgan and his two sons, Daniel and Shaun assisted many local people survive the firestorm which struck Kinglake. Driving in the dark and smoky conditions and passing burnt-out vehicles, the family drove towards Kinglake Central. They stopped at a four vehicle accident, which had been caused by a fallen tree. Shaun and Daniel pulled a man suffering from burns out of the vehicle and placed him and his dog into their car. Meanwhile, Raymond also helped several other people who were in shock into the vehicle. With nine people and four dogs in the car they drove to nearby church grounds where they briefly took refuge. During that time, Shaun and Daniel used the church water tank to provide water to the group, and took off their shirts to provide wet wound coverage for the burnt man. After the church caught fire, Raymond, Daniel and Shaun took the group to a safe house. Raymond and Shaun searched for more survivors, directing a number of people to the safe house. During their searches, the three men had to pass the remains of their own house, which had been destroyed by the fires.

By their actions, Raymond, Daniel and Shaun displayed considerable bravery.

Phone No: Home (03)5831 6080 (Raymond)

Phone No: Mobile 0422 708 967 (Daniel)

Phone No: Mobile 0427 147 169 (Shaun)

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Christopher John MURPHY, Victoria

Details not available at the request of Mr Murphy.

Mr Matthew John NANCARROW, 53 Purnell Road, Corio Vic 3214

On the morning of 15 June 2009, Mr Nancarrow rescued his neighbour from an attack by two dogs at Corio, Victoria.

Mr Nancarrow was inside his home when he heard his neighbour screaming. He went to investigate and found him lying on the road being savaged by two dogs. The dogs had mauled the back of his head causing major injuries to his scalp as well as serious leg and arm injuries. Mr Nancarrow grabbed hold of one of the dogs and attempted to pull it off his neighbour. He was then assisted by a passerby who grabbed hold of the other dog. Mr Nancarrow then put his hands around the dog's throat and forced it to the ground. Both men kept the dogs subdued for several minutes until police arrived. His neighbour suffered severe injuries in the attack, spent nine days in hospital and has had ongoing treatment and physiotherapy for his injuries.

By his actions, Mr Nancarrow displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Ben Thomas SAVAGE, Kings Beach Qld 4551

In the mid-morning of 10 September 2009, Mr Savage assisted the occupants of a capsized boat at Point Cartwright, Queensland.

Following the capsizing of a fishing boat in a moderate to rough swell near Mooloolaba, Mr Savage and a friend saw several men struggling in the surf. They immediately made their way down to the rocks and dived into the water. While his friend successfully reached one of the men and started to provide assistance, Mr Savage made several attempts to reach them but was pushed back onto the rocks. On a third attempt Mr Savage managed to reach his friend where they both assisted the semi conscious man towards the shore. They were struggling in difficult conditions until a surf lifesaver and jet ski arrived to tow the man to shore where CPR was administered.

By his actions, Mr Savage displayed considerable bravery.

Phone No: Mobile 0403 766 120 Home (07)5491 4669

Mr Joseph Maurice SHERRY, deceased, Late of New South Wales Mrs Carole Joan SHERRY, deceased, Late of New South Wales

In the early evening of 19 January 2010, Mr and Mrs Sherry went to the aid of their children who had been caught in a rip at South Ballina Beach, New South Wales.

Mr and Mrs Sherry and their three children were enjoying themselves at South Ballina Beach when their two youngest children became caught in a rip. Seeing the children swept out to sea, Mrs Sherry, who is a weak swimmer, entered the water but soon began to struggle in the waves. Mr Sherry made the difficult decision to leave his 17 year old autistic daughter on the shore, entered the water to help his family but found himself in difficulty. The children managed to make their way back to shore, however Mr and Mrs Sherry both lost consciousness in the rough conditions. Sadly, after they were brought to shore by local residents and surf rescue personnel, they were unable to be revived.

By their actions, Mr and Mrs Sherry displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Jackson SMITH, 31 Winchester Road, Little Mountain Qld 4551

In the mid-morning of 10 September 2009, Mr Smith assisted the occupants of a capsized boat at Point Cartwright, Queensland.

Following the capsizing of a fishing boat in a moderate to rough swell near Mooloolaba, Mr Smith and a friend saw several men struggling in the surf. They immediately made their way down to the rocks and dived into the water. Mr Smith swam about 40 metres from the rocks to assist a man who was semi conscious in the water. After his friend joined him, Mr Smith swam to help another man who was under the surface and appeared to be deceased. He then swam back to his friend where they both assisted the semi conscious man towards the shore. They struggled in difficult conditions until a surf lifesaver and jet ski arrived to tow the man to shore where CPR was administered.

By his actions, Mr Smith displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Matthew Lee STYLIANOU, Victoria

Details not available at the request of Mr Stylianou.

Mr Brett Anthony WARD, deceased, Late of New South Wales

Details not available at the request of Mrs Sharee Ward.

Mr Darren John WHITE, Victoria

Details not available at the request of Mr White.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Gregory John WILLIAMSON, 311 Thornton Road, Taggerty Vic 3714

On 7 February 2009, Mr Williamson went to the aid of two co-workers and provided ongoing assistance during the 'Black Saturday' bushfires at Marysville, Victoria.

During the bushfires, a Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) employee, Mr Williamson, and others were focussing their efforts on asset protection at Marysville. As the fire front began to envelop the town, Mr Williamson and a colleague became aware that two female co-workers were stranded at the DSE Marysville office. Aware that the office was filling with smoke and under ember attack, Mr Williamson and his colleague drove through a wall of flames to the office compound. The men reached the office when the fire front was about 150 metres away. Mr Williamson's colleague entered the building and guided the women outside to Mr Williamson. Realising they were unable to leave; Mr Williamson drove the two female colleagues to a nearby shed. Despite the shed already being alight, it provided some relief from the radiant heat as Mr Williamson hosed down his colleagues, himself and the vehicle. He then covered himself in a blanket to attempt to rescue his colleague in the office, but was driven back. Eventually his colleague joined them in the shed, where they remained until the fire front had passed. They remained to fight the fire at the offices for the next two hours before evacuating to the oval.

By his actions Mr Williamson displayed considerable bravery.