

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Anthony Robert AYRES, Buderim Qld 4556

In the mid-morning of 10 September 2010, Mr Ayers assisted the occupants of a capsized boat at Point Cartwright, Queensland. He was working nearby when he became aware that a fishing boat had capsized in a moderate to rough swell near Mooloolaba. He observed several men struggling in the surf and ran down to assist. Seeing a man lying face down in the water, he immediately entered the water and swam towards him. Battling the incoming waves, he managed to reach the man, roll him over and attempt to resuscitate him. Mr Ayers continued to struggle, and was eventually provided with assistance as he approached the shore. Unfortunately the man was unable to be revived.

For his actions, Mr Ayers displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Benjamin BAIADA, NSW

In the early morning of 20 March 2008, Mr Baiada awoke in his residence in Constitution Hill to a bright light shining through his lounge room window. When he opened his front door, he saw the house opposite, well alight. He immediately ran to the burning house and saw two men banging on the front door and calling 000. Convinced that his elderly neighbour was inside, Mr Baiada decided not to wait for emergency services to arrive, and ran home, grabbed a torch, and quickly returned to the scene. The men smashed a bedroom window and climbed inside. One of the men was overcome by smoke and had to exit the house as Mr Baiada and the other man crawled beneath the thick smoke through several rooms searching for the woman. As they neared the lounge room the roof collapsed. After checking another bedroom, the men exited through the window they had entered. Through another window, the two men noticed a woman lying on the floor. As the two men were about to re-enter the house, the fire brigade arrived. Mr Baiada quickly briefed two firefighters, who immediately entered the house and removed the unconscious woman.

By his actions, Mr Baiada displayed considerable bravery.

Sergeant Lisa Joy BLICK, Victorian Police

No information available.

By her actions, Sergeant Blick displayed considerable bravery.

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Mr Michael Hastings CARTER, Birramba, Nyngan NSW 2825

On the afternoon of 24 August 2006, a couple were travelling along the Mitchell Highway, north-west of Nyngan, when a tyre on the caravan they were towing blew, causing their car to run off the road and crash into a tree. The caravan jack-knifed and ended up against the driver's side of the car which immediately caught fire. Mr Carter witnessed the accident and stopped to assist. He saw two people trapped inside and flames coming from the engine bay. After finding that the driver's door could not be opened, Mr Carter called for a nearby man to assist him in removing vegetation trapping the passenger door. With the smoke and heat intensifying, Mr Carter and the man assisted the passenger out of the vehicle and helped him crawl away. Despite the fact that onlookers were concerned that the vehicle was about to explode, Mr Carter returned to the burning vehicle and assisted the female driver who was covered in blood from a severe head wound. He dragged her over the centre console and out through the passenger door, where he was helped to move her to safety. Moments after the couple were rescued, the gas tanks exploded inside the caravan and the vehicles were engulfed in flames.

By his actions, Mr Carter displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Paul Andrew ERLANDSEN, 10 Quarry Road, Upper Ferntree Gully Vic 3156

On the afternoon of 7 February 2009, during the 'Black Saturday' bushfires Mr Erlandsen arrived at his residence at Quarry Road, Upper Ferntree Gully, and saw a massive amount of smoke and flames at the end of his street. He checked on his dog and property before he raced to neighbours he believed needed help. Mr Erlandsen crossed several backyards to avoid the radiant heat to get to their household. He saw that his elderly neighbour was panicking as she struggled to connect a melting hose to fight the fire. Mr Erlandsen took her to the house which had already caught alight and helped remove her unwell husband and dog. With trees exploding nearby and suffering the effects of the smoke, Mr Erlandsen carried the dog and led the couple over several wire fences through a number of properties to get away from the encroaching fire where they reached a safe area and were seen by the police.

By his actions, Mr Erlandsen displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Brett Raymond FRENCH, Blayney NSW 2799

On the afternoon of 5 January 2011, two nurses were attending to Mr French a patient a hospital in Orange. For reasons of privacy, the female nurse waited outside the bedroom, when another patient entered through the door armed with a steak knife in each hand. He lunged at the female nurse causing a severe laceration to her right hand, nearly severing her little finger. The nurse yelled for help. Her colleague immediately left the room and placed himself between the offender and his colleague, when he was stabbed in the chest, receiving multiple lacerations to his body. Mr French came to assist and as they continued to struggle with the offender they managed to force him outside. Security staff soon arrived and assisted in apprehending the offender.

By his actions, Mr French displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Arron Damien GRAHAM, 87 Harris Road, Elliminyt Vic 3250

On the evening of 28 July 2009, a car collided with a power pole on the Colac to Ballarat Road at Beeac. As a result, the car burst into flames and power lines fell to the ground nearby. Mr Graham was passing in his car and stopped to assist another man who had already arrived at the scene. The men opened the driver's door and saw that the driver's legs were trapped around the foot pedals and the crumpled frame of the car. The car had a full tank of LPG and was in danger of exploding. Working quickly, the two men managed to turn the driver sideways, freeing his legs so that they were able to pull him from the vehicle to safety.

By his actions, Mr Graham displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Peter Gerard HALCRO, 5 Hunter Avenue, Matraville NSW 2036

In the early evening of 20 January 2008, two men and a woman entered a storm water drain at South Coogee. Following a short period of intense rainfall, the tunnel flooded and the three were swept to the grille towards the ocean. One man escaped through a bent bar and was carried into the sea. Mr Halcro, a lifeguard at Maroubra Beach, and his colleague spotted the swimmer in trouble and two people wedged against the bars. They entered the tunnel through the bent bar, attempting a rescue in the darkness. The water and debris was knocking the lifeguards off their feet. They found two lifeless bodies and, with the water surging, they moved one through the grille where he was winched up by a rescue helicopter. They returned to the tunnel, removed a woman and then swam into the bay where she was also winched up. Believing that the third person remained in the drain, the lifeguards went back and searched the tunnel but found no one.

By his actions, Mr Halcro displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Terrence Bruce HALL, 100 Irrewarra School Road, Irrewarra Vic 3249

On the evening of 28 July 2009, a car collided with a power pole on the Colac to Ballarat Road at Beeac. As a result, the car burst into flames and power lines fell to the ground nearby. Mr Hall arrived first at the scene, followed by another passerby. The men opened the driver's door and saw that the driver's legs were trapped around the foot pedals and the crumpled frame of the car. The car had a full tank of LPG and was in danger of exploding. Working quickly, the two men managed to turn the driver sideways, freeing his legs so that they were able to pull him from the vehicle to safety.

By his actions, Mr Hall displayed considerable bravery

Constable Andrew James HAWKINS, Queensland Police

On the evening of 5 November 2010, police responded to a call about a female intending to jump off the Storey Bridge near Fortitude Valley. When Constable Hawkins and a colleague arrived, the woman had climbed onto the bridge superstructure, and was about eighty metres above ground level. Another woman was also on the girder, holding on to the suicidal woman. With the suicidal woman inserting herself through the cross bracing of steel beams, Constable Hawkins climbed onto the structure and grabbed her under the arms. The suicidal woman dropped, which forced Constable Hawkins to take hold of her full weight. He maintained his grip on the woman as she yelled at him, saying she wanted to die. His colleague quickly climbed on to the structure and removed the other woman from the girder to safety. The colleague then grabbed hold of the suicidal woman and assisted to hold her while she continued to struggle for approximately twenty minutes. When the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service arrived, they secured a harness and line onto the woman and brought her to safety.

By his actions, Constable Hawkins displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Paul JACKMAN deceased, late of Croydon NSW 2132

On 15 February 1969, lifeguards at South Narrabeen closed the beach due to huge seas and large clusters of kelp in the surf. Subsequently, lifeguards, including Mr Jackman, were alerted that two swimmers were in difficulty. They grabbed a reel and made several attempts but were forced back by heavy surf and kelp in the line. During one attempt, the Patrol Captain was dragged under and tried to pull the safety pin, but found it jammed. As the Patrol Captain was assisted ashore, the rescue belt was retrieved. Mr Jackman grabbed the belt and swam into the water for his second attempt to assist the two swimmers. Unable to see their Mr Jackman in the surf, the life guards pulled in the rescue belt. They found Mr Jackman unconscious and the belt covered in kelp. Although CPR was administered to Mr Jackman, he was unable to be revived. Assisted by the waves, the two swimmers managed to reach shore.

By his actions, Mr Jackman displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Paul Steven MOFFATT, Botany NSW 2019

In the early evening of 20 January 2008, two men and a woman entered a storm water drain at South Coogee. Following a short period of intense rainfall, the tunnel flooded and the three were swept to the grille towards the ocean. One man escaped through a bent bar and was carried into the sea. Mr Moffatt, a lifeguard at Maroubra Beach, and his colleague spotted the swimmer in trouble and two people wedged against the bars. They entered the tunnel through the bent bar, attempting a rescue in the darkness. The water and debris was knocking the lifeguards off their feet. They found two lifeless bodies and, with the water surging, they moved one through the grille where he was winched up by a rescue helicopter. They returned to the tunnel, removed a woman and then swam into the bay where she was also winched up. Believing that the third person remained in the drain, the lifeguards went back and searched the tunnel but found no one.

By his actions, Mr Moffatt displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Ben Dolphas PERE, Perth WA 6171

On the morning of 12 October 2010, a two vehicle accident occurred on the Roe Highway at Canning Vale when the driver of the first car braked suddenly to avoid ducks on the road. Mr Pere who had been driving past, stopped and ran to the scene of the accident. He saw that the car that had been hit was now on fire. He discovered the driver of the first car semi-conscious in the rear of the car, the driver's seat having collapsed. Mr Pere, who was assisted by the driver of the other car, pulled the driver out of the burning vehicle and moved him to safety. Mr Pere returned to his car and got a hammer to smash the tinted windows of the car to look for passengers.

By his actions, Mr Pere displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Stojce PETRESKI deceased, late of New South Wales

Details of this incident are not available at the request of the next of kin.

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Mr Nathan Owen SCHOFIELD, Nundle NSW 2340

On the evening of 5 June 2006, Mr Schofield was driving in dark and wet conditions. As he rounded a corner he saw a car lying on the road's edge, driver's side down. Mr Schofield stopped to assist and found one man standing in the vehicle and the dazed driver still seated. He climbed onto the vehicle's passenger side, opened the door and assisted the passenger outside. As Mr Schofield and the passenger were trying to pull the driver from the vehicle, they saw headlights from an oncoming car. Mr Schofield ran to the corner to warn the driver of the oncoming car but the driver failed to see Mr Schofield until too late. The car collided with the already crashed car, causing it to flip onto its roof and the fuel tank to ignite. Mr Schofield ran to the burning car, reached in and pulled the driver out through the window and across the road to safety. Mr Schofield, finding his own car inoperable, ran 1.5 kilometres into Woolomin to raise the alarm.

By his actions, Mr Schofield displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Robert SPARKES, 32 Hunter Street, Riverstone NSW 2765

In the early morning of 20 March 2008, a fire broke out in a house at Peachtree Avenue, Constitution Hill. Mr Sparkes and another man banged on the front door of the house and called 000. The men were joined a neighbour, and on learning the house was likely to contain an elderly woman, they smashed a bedroom window and climbed inside. One of the men was overcome by smoke and had to exit the house as Mr Sparkes and the other man crawled beneath the thick smoke through several rooms searching for the woman. As they neared the lounge room the roof collapsed. After checking another bedroom, the men exited out through the window they entered. Mr Sparkes then smashed the window of another bedroom and saw the woman lying on the floor. As the two men were about to enter the room, the fire brigade arrived and they alerted firefighters, who removed the unconscious woman.

By his actions, Mr Sparkes displayed considerable bravery.

Ms Lisa Jane WEBSTER, 11/8-12 McClares Road Vermont Vic 3133

On the afternoon of 26 November 1998 Ms Webster arrived at Ringwood Lake Park railway station and saw a man's body lying face down on the Melbourne-bound track. She approached the victim and ascertained he was still breathing. She ran to the front of a stationary train to advise the driver that a man had been hit. The driver told her an ambulance had been called. Ms Webster heard an approaching train on the other city-bound track. Aware that the train was travelling very fast she placed herself in its path, and began waving for the driver to stop. At the last moment she jumped out of the path of the train, which ran over the victim before it could stop. Once the train had stopped Ms Webster crawled under the carriage to the victim and remained with him, providing reassurance and basic first aid until medical assistance arrived.

By her actions, Ms Webster displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Michael Patrick WILLIAMS, 97A Wharf Street, Maclean NSW 2463

In the early hours of Wednesday 27 February 2008, a fishing trawler, the *Sea Rogue*, capsized about seven nautical miles off Byron Bay. The crew of three escaped through a cabin window, suffering chemical and fuel contamination. The vessel sank with all safety equipment. The men remained together using a fish-sorting tub to keep afloat. With the vessel not expected at Yamba until Friday afternoon, Mr Williams decided to swim to shore to raise the alarm. At about 4:00pm, he made it to shore, informed police and a search began. One of the men was found approximately six kilometres off Lennox Head and was winched from the sea. Sadly, the other man could not be located.

By his actions, Mr Williams displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Peter Lloyd WILLIAMS, Belmont NSW 2280

On the evening of 20 February 2010, Mr Williams noticed smoke coming from his neighbour's house in Belmont. He saw a bright orange glow inside the house and thick black smoke covering the front lawn. Aware his neighbour was an elderly woman, Mr Williams pulled the security door from its hinges, and kicked the door open. On hands and knees he searched for the woman until forced back by intense heat and smoke. He sprayed water onto the fire, before handing the hose to a neighbour. He then ran to the rear of the house and again made his way inside the house, but, unable to breathe, he returned outside. Another man shone a torch through the window and spotted the woman lying in bed. Mr Williams re-entered the house, where he located the woman, and carried her outside. He placed the woman on the ground in the recovery position, as other emergency personnel arrived.

By his actions, Mr Williams displayed considerable bravery.