

BRAVERY MEDAL

Sergeant Dean Francis BRIESE, Berrimah NT 0828

On 15 September 2012, Sergeant Dean Briese rescued a man from a burning building at Puckapunyal. Driving nearby, Sergeant Briese noticed a glow from a house and went to investigate. When he arrived he saw fire and smoke coming from the roof and immediately knocked loudly on the front door to alert any people inside to the fire. Hearing no response, he forced the door open and, as smoke filled the building, crawled through the house searching for occupants. He found a dazed man lying face down in one of the bedrooms and dragged him outside to safety before carrying him to his own house to administer first aid. Responding to mumbled remarks from the injured man about his family, Sergeant Briese re-entered the burning house to search for any other occupants and, during this second search he located and rescued the man's dog.

By his actions, Sergeant Briese displayed considerable bravery.

Sergeant Daniel John BURGESS, Victoria Police

On 14 January 2012, Sergeant Daniel Burgess rescued a fisherman from drowning near Phillip Island. Sergeant Burgess and a colleague responded to an emergency call that a man had been swept into the sea near Pyramid Rocks. On arrival, they met up with a fisheries officer and using his binoculars spotted the fisherman in the water. He was floating face down about twenty metres from the ledge and four metres below it, in a two metre swell. Sergeant Burgess waited for the waves to crash onto the rocks then dived in and swam to the man. He took hold of him and eventually managed to drag him to shallower water. However, a large set of waves pulled the man, still unconscious, back into the sea and dragged Sergeant Burgess back along the ledge where he suffered cuts and abrasions. Sergeant Burgess re-entered the water and with the help of the fisheries officer, held the man's head above water. After struggling for twenty-five minutes, they managed to drag the man back to the ledge and pushed him up to safety.

By his actions, Sergeant Burgess displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Scott Nicholas BUTLER, Yamba NSW 2464

On 14 August 2011, Mr Scott Butler intervened at the scene of an armed attack on a neighbour in Yamba, helping her to escape, and keeping the assailant in sight until the arrival of police. Mr Butler was alerted to the incident by another man who had initially attempted to rescue the woman after she had been stabbed several times in the neck, chest and hand. Mr Butler seized a long handled floor scraper and ran to the house where he told the attacker to put down the knife. The woman and the first man were then able to escape the scene. The attacker, in an agitated state, tried to flee but was prevented from doing so by Mr Butler. At one point, he took up a second knife and kept moving from the kitchen to the back yard and back again. Mr Butler followed him and kept him in sight while trying to calm him, until police arrived.

By his actions, Mr Butler displayed considerable bravery.

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Lance Corporal Andrew Joseph FENECH, Brisbane Qld 4000

On 16 October 2011, Lance Corporal Andrew Fenech helped apprehend an armed man who had just robbed a jewellery store in a shopping mall in Mitchelton. Lance Corporal Fenech was nearby when he heard a commotion at the jewellery store and went to investigate. Along with two other witnesses, Lance Corporal Fenech pursued the robber as he made off through the mall. After they caught up with him, there was a struggle during which the offender tried to escape. Lance Corporal Fenech and the two other men managed to disarm and restrain the offender until police arrived on the scene.

By his actions, Lance Corporal Fenech displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Jamie Scott FERGUSON, Stafford Heights Qld 4053

On 16 October 2011, Mr Jamie Ferguson helped apprehend an armed man who had robbed a jewellery store in a shopping mall in Mitchelton. Mr Ferguson was nearby when he saw a man running off from the store with a large quantity of jewellery. Along with two other witnesses, Mr Ferguson pursued the robber through the mall. After they caught up with him, there was a struggle during which Mr Ferguson was shocked by a stun gun carried by the offender. Mr Ferguson and the two other men managed to disarm and restrain the offender until police arrived on the scene.

By his actions, Mr Ferguson displayed considerable bravery.

Miss Brooke Ann FOGARTY, 6 Birch Street, North St Marys NSW 2760

On 24 January 2010, Miss Brooke Fogarty assisted in the rescue of a woman from a knife attack in Tregear. Alerted to the attack by the woman's screams, Miss Fogarty went to investigate and found a man attacking a woman with a knife in a nearby residential unit. Calling for assistance, Miss Fogarty grabbed the victim's legs and tried to pull her to safety whilst her companion restrained the assailant and attempted to secure the knife. During the struggle, the victim managed to escape, and two other witnesses assisted by detaining the assailant until police officers arrived.

By her actions, Miss Fogarty displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Daniel GRULKE, 3 Fairmead Place, Narre Warren South Vic 3805

On 27 March 2012, Mr Daniel Grulke pushed a young woman off a railway track near Beaconsfield before she could be hit by an oncoming train. Mr Grulke, then 17 years of age, was at Beaconsfield railway station when he saw the young woman wandering along the track toward an approaching train. The train was approximately 150 metres away from her, braking heavily and sounding its horn. Mr Grulke and other witnesses shouted to the woman to get off the tracks, but she did not do so. With the train only some 20 metres away, Mr Grulke jumped down onto the track and pushed the woman out of the train's path. He then walked the woman toward others and left her in their care, pending the arrival of police and ambulance personnel.

By his actions, Mr Grulke displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Michael Kenneth HALL, Bedforddale WA 6112

On 6 February 2011, Mr Michael Hall came to the rescue of a family whose house had been engulfed by a bushfire in Roleystone. While in charge of a unit of the Bedforddale Volunteer Bushfire Brigade, Mr Hall and his crew attempted to control a blaze that was threatening multiple properties at Keays Road. As they were fighting the fire, Mr Hall and another member of his unit heard calls for help. They ran approximately 250 metres through thick smoke and intense fire towards the voices and located a family of four. Mr Hall directed his colleague to return to the truck while he remained with the family and assisted in fighting back the wall of flames. When the unit's truck returned to evacuate the family and fire crew, Mr Hall used the water cannon to protect the vehicle and its passengers from the fire as they accompanied the family to safety and to the aid of an ambulance crew.

By his actions, Mr Hall displayed considerable bravery.

Constable Sean Malcolm HANLON, Queensland Police

On 16 October 2011, Constable Sean Hanlon helped apprehend an armed man who had just robbed a jewellery store in a shopping mall in Mitchelton. Constable Hanlon, who was off duty, was nearby when he saw a man using a stun gun to shock an employee of the store before making off with a large quantity of jewellery. Along with two other witnesses, Constable Hanlon pursued the robber through the mall. After they caught up with him, there was a struggle during which the offender tried to escape. Constable Hanlon and the two other men managed to disarm and restrain the offender until police arrived on the scene.

By his actions, Constable Hanlon displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mrs Katherine HILDER, Carine WA 6020

On 22 February 2012, Mrs Katherine Hilder, a teacher at an Early Learning Centre, helped apprehend an armed intruder who had seized one of the children at the centre by the arm. The intruder, who was carrying a 27cm chopping knife, released the child when challenged by Mrs Hilder, and turned to walk away. Mrs Hilder grabbed the intruder's wrists from behind and escorted her out of the classroom. Although the intruder began to struggle, Mrs Hilder, with the assistance of a colleague, continued to propel her away from the student area. They were joined by two more teachers, one of whom disarmed the intruder. Despite the intruder's continued efforts to escape, Mrs Hilder and her colleague maintained hold of her until lockdown procedures were commenced and police arrived on the scene.

By her actions, Mrs Hilder displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Matthew William HOWARD, 'Violet Banks', 70 Eurack Road, Beeac Vic 3251

On 28 July 2009, Mr Matthew Howard helped rescue a man from a burning motor vehicle at Beeac. Whilst driving, Mr Howard noticed the headlights of a vehicle through his rear vision mirror suddenly disappear, followed by a long flash of light. Turning around to investigate, Mr Howard discovered that the vehicle had left the road, collided with a power pole and caught fire. He called 000 but with flames appearing around the motor and windscreen of the crashed vehicle, and a power line dangling nearby, he took immediate action. Assisted by two passersby, Mr Howard prised open the door of the vehicle, and worked to free the driver, who was conscious but trapped. The men managed to free the driver's foot and dragged him to safety by the side of the road. They then remained with the driver until emergency services arrived.

By his actions, Mr Howard displayed considerable bravery.

Mrs Heather Louise KING, 63 Nicholli Street, Duncraig WA 6023

On 22 February 2012, Mrs Heather King, a teacher at an Early Learning Centre, helped apprehend an armed intruder who had seized one of the children at the centre by the arm. The intruder, who was carrying a 27cm chopping knife, released the child when challenged by another teacher, and turned to walk away. The first teacher grabbed her by the wrists and escorted her out of the classroom. Mrs King heard her colleague's call for help and seized the arm of the intruder that was holding the knife. Both teachers then continued to propel the intruder away from the student area. They were joined by two more colleagues, one of whom disarmed the intruder. Despite the intruder's continued efforts to escape, Mrs King and her colleague maintained hold of her until lockdown procedures were commenced and police arrived on the scene.

By her actions, Mrs King displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Simon Joshua LEWIS, 26 Wangaroa Crescent, Lethbridge Park NSW 2770

On 24 January 2010, Mr Simon Lewis assisted in the rescue of a woman from a knife attack in Tregear. Alerted to the attack by the woman's screams, Mr Lewis and a companion went to investigate and found a man attacking a woman with a knife in a nearby residential unit. Mr Lewis grabbed the assailant by the hand which was holding a knife and attempted to secure the weapon, whilst his companion attempted to pull the victim to safety. The assailant transferred the knife to his other hand, allowing Mr Lewis to pull it away and remove it. During the struggle the victim managed to escape, and two other witnesses assisted by detaining the assailant until police officers arrived.

By his actions, Mr Lewis displayed considerable bravery.

Mrs Sally Lu McALPINE, Western Australia

On 22 February 2012, Mrs Sally McAlpine, a teacher at an Early Learning Centre, helped apprehend an armed intruder who had seized one of the children at the centre by the arm. The intruder, who was carrying a 27cm chopping knife, released the child when challenged by another teacher, and turned to walk away. The first teacher grabbed her by the wrists and escorted her out of the classroom. A second teacher seized the arm of the intruder that was holding the knife. Mrs McAlpine and another colleague witnessed the struggle and came to assist. After the intruder was disarmed, two of the teachers maintained hold of her in an empty computer room while Mrs McAlpine held the door to prevent her escape until police arrived on the scene.

By her actions, Mrs McAlpine displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Warren William McERLEAN, Toowoomba Qld 4350

On the afternoon of 10 January 2011, Mr McErlean assisted in the rescue and attempted rescue of a woman and two children who caught in rising flood waters in Toowoomba. Mr McErlean entered the deep fast flowing water and attempted to reach the submerged vehicle but he was washed off his feet. He then grabbed a rope and tied one end to a traffic pole and the other around his waist before he again attempted to reach the stranded vehicle. When he got to within five metres of the vehicle, the force of the torrent swept him off his feet again and others pulled him back to the traffic lights. The family were standing on the ledge of two open doors. A man piggy-backed one of the children and shimmied along the rope back to the traffic lights where he handed him to Mr McErlean. Almost immediately, Mr McErlean lost his footing and both he and the boy were grabbed and pushed back to the guard rail around the traffic light where Queensland Fire and Rescue assisted them to safety.

By his actions, Mr McErlean displayed considerable bravery.

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Senior Constable Joshua Dylan PEACH, Tasmania Police

On 6 May 2012, Senior Constable Joshua Peach rescued a man from drowning in a water cave at Waterfall Bay. Senior Constable Peach and several colleagues responded to an emergency call after the man, who had been riding a jet ski, was dumped by large waves and became trapped in the cave. After seeing the man being washed in and out of the cave as the waves broke, Senior Constable Peach entered the water unaided and swam 25 metres into the cave. He took hold of the man and swam him back to a place where a rope was thrown to them. He continued to hold the man and the rope while they were towed out of the cave and pulled to safety.

By his actions, Senior Constable Peach displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Sean Gary ROBERTS, 7 Keays Road, Roleystone WA 6111

On 6 February 2011, Mr Sean Roberts rescued his parents and a brother in a wheelchair from their burning house at Roleystone. Alerted by his father to the approaching bushfire, Mr Roberts ran to his parents' adjoining property to assist with their evacuation. He lifted his brother from his wheelchair and carried him over his shoulder while trying to identify an exit from the house that was not blocked by fire. Recognising that the house was surrounded by intense fire, Mr Roberts, still carrying his brother, directed his parents to the back door. Together, they jumped through the flames on the burning veranda and Mr Roberts led them to a firebreak at the back of the property. Despite being confronted with a rapidly approaching wall of flames approximately 30 metres high, Mr Roberts was able to keep his parents and brother safe until the arrival of a voluntary bush fire unit and their subsequent evacuation from the site.

By his actions, Mr Roberts displayed considerable bravery.

Mr James Marlon RUSSELL, PO Box 449, Yamba NSW 2464

On 14 August 2011, Mr James Russell, then 17 years of age, rescued his mother from a violent attack by an armed man in her home at Yamba. Mr Russell, who was in the house, heard her screaming from another room, and ran to investigate. He found his mother leaning against a kitchen bench with her attacker behind her. She had been stabbed several times in the neck, chest and hand and was bleeding heavily. Mr Russell moved between the attacker and his mother, seized the attacker's arms and pulled him backwards. Appearing to have slowed the attacker down he then ran outside to get help.

By his actions, Mr Russell displayed considerable bravery.

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Mr Antonino SCIDONE, 19 Kersley Loop, Harrisdale WA 6112

On 6 February 2011, Mr Antonino Scidone came to the rescue of a family whose house had been engulfed by a bushfire in Roleystone. Mr Scidone and other members of the team from the Bedfordale Voluntary Bushfire Brigade were fighting an intense fire on Keays Road when their leader heard calls for help. Mr Scidone accompanied his colleague and ran approximately 250 metres down a narrow track, with fire on both sides, toward the voices. They reached a family of four and recognising that the fire was intensifying, Mr Scidone ran back to his unit and returned within two minutes with the fire truck and the rest of the crew. Mr Scidone immediately started to extinguish the fire that was surrounding them while the family, including a man in a wheelchair, were loaded into the truck. Mr Scidone and his colleagues accompanied the family to safety and to the aid of an ambulance crew.

By his actions, Mr Scidone displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Jason Bryce STONE, Maryborough Vic 3465

On 12 March 2011, Mr Jason Stone rescued a man from a prime mover that had collided with a tree and caught fire off the Bendigo-Maryborough Road at Havelock. Mr Stone had witnessed the crash and stopped to assist. The impact caused the truck and trailer to burst into flames and the driver was trapped in the vehicle, seriously injured and unable to extricate himself. Mr Stone, at considerable risk to himself, climbed up the side of the burning truck, pulled the driver from the cabin and dragged him to the other side of the road. He doused the driver's clothing, which was alight, and wrapped his shirt around the driver's feet to protect them from the fire. Shortly after, the prime mover and trailer exploded into an enormous fireball. When police arrived they found the wreckage, two trees and surrounding scrub area well alight, and Mr Stone reassuring the driver while paramedics and an off-duty ICU nurse tended to his injuries.

By his actions, Mr Stone displayed considerable bravery.

Mrs Jo-Anne URQUHART, 17 Majestic Place, Connolly WA 6027

On 22 February 2012, Mrs Jo-Anne Urquhart, a teacher at an Early Learning Centre, helped apprehend an armed intruder who had seized one of the children at the centre by the arm. The intruder, who was carrying a 27cm chopping knife, released the child when challenged by another teacher, and turned to walk away. The first teacher grabbed her by the wrists and escorted her out of the classroom. A second teacher seized the arm of the intruder that was holding the knife. Mrs Urquhart and another colleague witnessed the struggle and came to assist. Mrs Urquhart snatched the knife, disarming the intruder. She then left her colleagues to maintain hold of the intruder while she commenced lockdown procedures and ensured that all students were safe.

By her actions, Mrs Urquhart displayed considerable bravery.