

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Shane James ALLEN, Calwell ACT 2905

On the afternoon of 17 September 2013, Mr Shane Allen rescued a boy from a flooded stormwater drain in Tuggeranong, Australian Capital Territory.

Mr Allen was cycling along a bike path parallel to a stormwater drain between Isabella Plains and Richardson when he heard screams. A 13 year old boy was being swept along the drain, which was flooded with fast running water after extensive rain. Mr Allen jumped off his bike, climbed over a fence and chased the boy. After trying unsuccessfully to use his backpack to reach the boy, he shouted to him to grab a ladder on the side of the drain. The boy was however swept past several ladders without being able to grab hold of any. Mr Allen sprinted some 200 metres ahead to another ladder and climbed down until he was waist deep in the water. He hooked one arm around the ladder and as the boy rushed toward him, he grabbed his wrist and swung him to the edge of the drain. He then assisted the boy out of the water and stayed with him until the arrival of paramedics.

By his actions, Mr Allen displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Anthony Gavin BAKER, late of Mandurama NSW 2792

On the afternoon of 3 June 1984, Mr Anthony Baker saved the life of a man trapped in a well at Mandurama, New South Wales.

Mr Baker and the man were using a petrol powered pump to empty water from the well when the man, who was in the well, complained about heavy smoke and then failed to respond when called. Mr Baker climbed down the well, pulled the unconscious man out of the water, tied a rope around his chest and propped him against the wall of the well. When Mr Baker attempted to climb out of the well, he was overcome by fumes, lost consciousness and fell into the water. Emergency personnel summoned by Mr Baker's wife pulled the other man to safety and after receiving CPR, he recovered. However, Mr Baker died before he could be pulled from the well.

By his actions, Mr Baker displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Timothy Michael BATEMAN, Dawesville WA 6211

On the evening of 30 August 2013, Mr Timothy Bateman confronted an armed man who had broken into a house in Dawesville, Western Australia.

Mr Bateman heard a commotion next door to his home and went to investigate. A man, who was apparently affected by alcohol and drugs, was kicking the front door of the residence. When Mr Bateman ordered him to leave, he lashed out with a cement trowel and cut Mr Bateman's face and hand before fleeing to the next house. There, he crashed through a window and took two knives from the kitchen. Mr Bateman, concerned for the safety of the two elderly residents, entered the house. He ordered the couple to leave and confronted the now armed intruder to allow them to get away. A struggle ensued and the offender stabbed Mr Bateman several times before leaving. The intruder went on to a third residence before he was apprehended by police.

By his actions, Mr Bateman displayed considerable bravery.

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Mr James Ronald BODSWORTH, 2 John Close, Gilmore ACT 2905

On the evening of 13 March 2013, Mr James Bodsworth intervened when an armed man attacked another man in Gilmore, Australian Capital Territory.

Alerted by a woman's screams for help, Mr Bodsworth found two men fighting outside a neighbouring house. One of the men knocked the other to the ground, kicked him several times and then stabbed him with a pocket knife. Mr Bodsworth, assisted by another neighbour, seized the offender by the arm and wrestled with him, managing to disarm and restrain him until police arrived.

By his actions, Mr Bodsworth displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Benjamin Luke CARROLL, The Gap Qld 4061

On the afternoon of 21 December 2009, Mr Benjamin Carroll came to the assistance of a woman who had jumped off a bridge into the Brisbane River and was being swept downstream.

While on duty with the Queensland Ambulance Service, Mr Carroll and a colleague responded to reports of a person being swept downstream in the river. Arriving at the scene, Mr Carroll ran 200 metres to the ferry terminal to coordinate a response with a ferry captain. He then swam approximately 150 metres to reach the victim, who was, by then, in an unconscious state. Recognising that the ferry was unable to assist in the prevailing conditions, Mr Carroll swam the woman 150 metres against the current to the safety of the shore. With the assistance of other emergency service personnel, he pulled the woman from the water and commenced resuscitation procedures.

By his actions, Mr Carroll displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Trevor Mark DAVIS, 42 Netherby Road, Gundiah Qld 4650

On the morning of 5 March 2012, Mr Trevor Davis extricated a man who was trapped in a submerged vehicle at Glenwood, Queensland.

Mr Davis was in his own vehicle at the Gutchy Creek crossing when he saw another vehicle enter the floodway, become submerged to its headlights and then be swept into the swollen creek by the force of the water. Mr Davis drove quickly to his partner's house to obtain an extension cable. By the time he returned, the vehicle was completely submerged. He tied one end of the cable to a guide post and the other end to himself, then swam toward the vehicle. However, when the cable proved too short, Mr Davis untied himself and used the current to get to the vehicle. He forced open the driver's door and pulled the driver, who was not breathing, out. Mr Davis then attempted to perform CPR but, with nothing beneath the victim except fast flowing water, this was unsuccessful. Mr Davis stood precariously on the fork of a submerged tree, holding onto the driver so that he would not be washed away. Three other persons who had arrived at the side of the floodway threw Mr Davis a rope which he used to tie the victim to a tree before he himself was pulled to safety.

By his actions, Mr Davis displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Kasun Hasanga FERNANDO, Dandenong Vic 3175

In the early hours of 12 November 2012, Mr Kasun Fernando helped to apprehend an armed man attempting a robbery at a fast food restaurant in Mulgrave, Victoria.

After the offender pointed a sawn-off rifle at Mr Fernando and his housemate, he ordered them to kneel and hand him their wallets. When the offender placed his rifle on the counter to fill his bag with money, Mr Fernando stood up and tackled him to the ground. A violent struggle ensued and Mr Fernando's housemate was able to disarm the offender. As the offender tried to escape, Mr Fernando and his housemate, with the assistance of store employees managed to restrain him until police arrived.

By his actions, Mr Fernando displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Locke William FINCH, Wallumbilla Qld 4428

On the afternoon of 3 February 2012, Mr Locke Finch attempted to rescue a woman and her son from flood waters in Roma, Queensland.

Mr Finch witnessed the woman and a young boy in the water after escaping from their car which had been swept off a causeway by fast flowing water. Mr Finch entered the water and negotiated the turbulent current to swim towards the victims. He took hold of the mother and son and helped them stay afloat. After being swept several hundred metres downstream, and struggling to remain afloat, Mr Finch lost his grip on the woman. He then managed to swim the boy to safety.

By his actions, Mr Finch displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Matthew Brian HOLMES, 52 Dolphin Way, Beldon WA 6027

On the morning of 14 July 2012, Mr Matthew Holmes attempted to rescue a surfer who had been attacked by a shark between Wedge Island and Lancelin, Western Australia.

Mr Holmes witnessed the attack while towing a friend on his jet-ski. After taking his friend to shore, he returned to find the surfer floating face down in the water with the shark circling nearby. As Mr Holmes attempted to pull the surfer aboard, the shark swam into the jet-ski, forcing him to lose his grip. Mr Holmes manoeuvred the jet-ski away briefly, then returned to the scene, but the surfer's body had started to sink lower in the water. After returning to shore to enlist further assistance, Mr Holmes again tried, unsuccessfully, to search for the surfer.

By his actions, Mr Holmes displayed considerable bravery.

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Mr Kennedy JONES, Late of Utopia NT

On 9 January 2010, Mr Kennedy Jones and three family members went to the flooded riverbanks of the Sandover River near Atheleye outstation in the Northern Territory.

When Mr Jones saw his brother, who had jumped from an overhanging tree branch into the swollen river, being swept downstream, he immediately ran alongside the river. After running for approximately 100 metres, he entered the fast flowing water in an attempt to reach his brother, but quickly disappeared beneath the surface. Sadly, Mr Jones body was not located and his brother was later found deceased approximately twenty-two kilometres downstream.

By his actions, Mr Jones displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Troy Brian JORGENSEN, Eleebana NSW 2282

On the evening of 8 June 2007, Mr Troy Jorgensen rescued several people from rising floodwaters in Kotara, New South Wales.

Mr Jorgensen was driving his wife and a friend when his car stalled as they tried to cross a flooded road. After pushing the vehicle clear, they realised that the water was flowing rapidly at waist height over the road. As darkness fell, Mr Jorgensen attempted to divert oncoming traffic but several vehicles drove into the water and became submerged. Mr Jorgensen and his friend entered the water multiple times, prised open car doors and assisted the occupants to safety at a nearby house. They then responded to a woman who was screaming for help with her young children, who were restrained inside a locked vehicle. They managed to unbuckle the boy and pull him through the window to safety. Mr Jorgensen then climbed through a slightly open window into the cabin and unbuckled the girl and carried her to safety. Altogether, some 12 people were rescued during a three hour period that saw several cars inundated and lifted away on the floodwaters.

By his actions, Mr Jorgensen displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Amos John MILLS, Surfers Paradise Qld 4217

On the morning of 22 July 2010, Mr Amos Mills went to the rescue of two girls from a burning house in Kelso, New South Wales.

A family of eleven were asleep when a fire began in the lounge room of their home. Nine were able to escape and gathered outside when they realised that two young family members were still inside. Mr Mills and another neighbour ran to the house and attempted to enter through the front door however were forced back due to the intense heat and smoke. After a wall was smashed below a window and the insulation pulled out, Mr Mills was lifted up into a smoke filled bedroom. He yelled for the children and felt around the room. He was able to pull a bed to the window and found one of the young children and pulled her outside. He was then assisted by others to retrieve the other child to safety.

By his actions, Mr Amos Mills displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Colin Raymond O'HARE, Gilmore ACT 2905

On the evening of 13 March 2013, Mr Colin O'Hare intervened when an armed man attacked another man in Gilmore, Australian Capital Territory.

Alerted by a woman's screams for help, Mr O'Hare found two men fighting outside a neighbouring house. One of the men knocked the other to the ground, kicked him several times and then stabbed him with a pocket knife. Mr O'Hare, assisted by another neighbour, seized the offender by the arm and wrestled with him. Although he incurred a deep laceration in his right hand during the struggle, Mr O'Hare and his neighbour managed to disarm and restrain the offender until police arrived.

By his actions, Mr O'Hare displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Ian Thomas RYAN, Late of Leeton NSW 2705

On the afternoon of 19 October 2008, Mr Ian Ryan rescued a girl from drowning at Yanco, New South Wales.

Mr Ryan was with friends on the Murrumbidgee River when he saw three people, including a seven year old girl, struggling to keep afloat in the water. Although he was not a strong swimmer, Mr Ryan removed some clothes and jumped into the river. He managed to reach the girl who was panicking in a strong current, and swam her to a partially submerged tree on the opposite bank from where she was later rescued. The other swimmers got to safety but Mr Ryan disappeared under the water and was later found deceased.

By his actions, Mr Ryan displayed considerable bravery.

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Mr Michael James RYAN, 11 Joseph Street, Bendigo Vic 3550

On the evening of 7 February 2009, Mr Michael Ryan rescued one person and attempted to save another who were trapped by a bushfire at Long Gully, Victoria.

The couple, the brother and sister-in-law of Mr Ryan's partner, lived on a property near a large and fast spreading bushfire. After several calls to the property went unanswered, Mr Ryan thought it possible that the couple had evacuated. However, he remained concerned because the man was mobility impaired, and decided to drive to the property to check the situation. Arriving at the scene, Mr Ryan and his partner observed flames approaching at high speed in nearby tree tops, and a fire burning with heavy smoke behind the house. The man was on the ground in the carport, having fallen when his wife tried to get him into a car to escape. Mr Ryan directed the woman to go and then dragged the man ten metres along the driveway before scorching heat forced him to retreat. Finding a wet towel to hold against his body, he tried unsuccessfully to approach the man again. His attempt to spray water on the man failed because the hose contained no water. At this point, flames raced through the carport and set the man's clothes alight. Mr Ryan ran back to his distressed partner and forced her into their vehicle. As they drove away, trees at the front of the property were engulfed by fire.

By his actions, Mr Ryan displayed considerable bravery.

Federal Agent Mathew Evan SENEVIRATNE, Australian Federal Police

On the night of 23 March 2013, Federal Agent (then Constable) Seneviratne helped rescue a man from a house fire in Cloncurry, Queensland.

Responding to an emergency call, Constable Seneviratne arrived to find heavy smoke coming from the residence. Unable to make contact with the occupants, he entered the house through a window but was forced to retreat by heavy smoke. Returning to the front of the house, he learnt that a male occupant of the house was unaccounted for and likely to be inside. Constable Seneviratne and two colleagues crawled through the house until they located the resident and then forcibly removed him from the house.

By his actions, Federal Agent Seneviratne displayed considerable bravery.

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Ms Ruth Lynden SHERIDAN, Preston Vic 3072

On the evening of 20 November 2011, Ms Ruth Sheridan assisted two persons trapped in a burning vehicle following a crash in Mount Pleasant, Victoria.

The vehicle had slammed roof first into a power pole. Two rear seat passengers were thrown clear but the driver and a front seat passenger were trapped inside the twisted and burning wreckage. Ms Sheridan, who had been driving by the scene, wet a cardigan and began to beat out the flames, instructing other bystanders to follow suit. Despite the proximity of power lines, she entered the burning vehicle through a rear window and tried to calm the injured and panicked occupants. She assisted them to protect their faces against the smoke. When emergency services arrived, they were able to extinguish the fire and extricate the occupants.

By her actions, Ms Sheridan displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Robert Allan SKEWES, 9 Bernheid Crescent, Sippy Downs Qld 4556

On the morning of 29 August 2011, Mr Robert Skewes rescued a man from a burning vehicle following a crash near Sippy Downs, Queensland.

Mr Skewes had been driving directly behind the vehicle, a tanker truck towing two trailers, when it drifted off the Bruce Highway, rolled several times and crashed in a culvert, exploding on impact and scattering debris widely. Hearing the driver shout for help, Mr Skewes ran to the crashed truck, pulled the driver out of the cabin by the hips and, with the assistance of another passerby, dragged him about 20 metres to safety at the edge of the road. As the driver had suffered severe head injuries Mr Skewes provided care and assurance until the arrival of an ambulance.

By his actions, Mr Skewes displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Scott Graham SMITH, c/- 8 Cecil Street, Kabra Qld 4702

On the evening of 24 January 2013, Mr Scott Smith rescued a man from a flooded creek in Kabra, Queensland.

Alerted to the man's cries for help, Mr Smith and his mother found the man getting out of his car which had stopped on a flooded bridge. The man was quickly swept downstream but managed to hold onto a tree. Mr Smith and his mother persuaded the man to let go of the tree and Mr Smith jumped into the creek. Both men were carried approximately 50 metres downstream before Mr Smith managed to seize the exhausted man and swim him to the opposite side of the creek. They were then pulled up the bank by neighbours who had arrived to assist.

By his actions, Mr Smith displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Jarrad Nathan TOWNLEY, Sydney NSW 2000

On the evening of 8 June 2007, Mr Jarrad Townley helped rescue several people from rising floodwaters in Kotara, New South Wales.

Mr Townley was being driven by a friend when their car stalled attempting to cross a flooded road. After pushing the vehicle clear, they realised that the water was flowing rapidly at waist height over the road. As darkness fell, several vehicles drove into the water and became submerged. Mr Townley and his friend entered the water several times, prised open car doors and assisted the occupants to safety at a nearby house. They then responded to a woman who was screaming for help with her young children, who were restrained inside a locked vehicle. They managed to unbuckle the boy and pull him through the window to safety. Mr Townley's friend then climbed through a slightly open window into the cabin and unbuckled the girl and carried her to safety. Altogether, some 12 people were rescued during a three hour period that saw several cars inundated and lifted away on the floodwaters.

By his actions, Mr Townley displayed considerable bravery.

Mr David Alan WHITE, Bathurst NSW 2795

On the morning of 12 November 2012, Mr David White rescued a woman from a burning car following a collision in Sassafras, New South Wales.

The woman had been driving a car that careered into Mr White's vehicle in the oncoming lane. Following the impact, the engine bay of the woman's car had caught alight. As soon as his vehicle came to rest, Mr White ran to the burning car. With small explosions occurring under the bonnet and flames lapping at the windscreen, Mr White saw that the driver was conscious and her window was open. He attempted to open the driver's door but found it had jammed, and pulled her through the window instead. The woman's dog remained in the car, motionless on the passenger seat. Mr White returned to the car but was unable to reach the animal through the car window or doors before being forced to retreat by the heat and smoke of the fire. He then assisted with care of the woman driver until emergency services arrived.

By his actions, Mr White displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Ishan Chathuranga WICKRAMATHUNGA, Victoria

In the early hours of 12 November 2012, Mr Ishan Wickramathunga helped to apprehend an armed man who was attempting a robbery at a fast food restaurant in Mulgrave, Victoria.

After the offender pointed his sawn off rifle at Mr Wickramathunga and his housemate, he ordered them to kneel and hand him their wallets. When the offender placed his rifle on the counter to fill his bag with money, Mr Wickramathunga's housemate stood up and tackled the offender to the ground. Mr Wickramathunga went to his housemate's assistance and a violent struggle ensued, as the offender tried to escape. Mr Wickramathunga managed to seize the weapon and throw it away from the offender. He and his housemate, assisted by store employees, then managed to restrain the offender until police arrived.

By his actions, Mr Wickramathunga displayed considerable bravery.