

STAR OF COURAGE (SC)

Mr Nicholas William THOMPSON, South Australia

On the morning of 25 April 2015, Mr Nicholas Thompson assisted in the rescue of a man who was attacked by a White Pointer shark at Fishery Bay, near Port Lincoln in South Australia.

Mr Thompson was surfing with two friends when he saw one of them being attacked by a six metre shark about thirty metres away. He immediately yelled 'shark' to warn other surfers nearby, who then paddled away.

When it seemed the attack had stopped, Mr Thompson and his friend quickly paddled to reach the wounded man who was floundering in the water. As Mr Thompson went to grab the man, the shark struck again, pulling his friend under the water. The victim then managed to resurface despite having suffered severe injuries.

Mr Thompson and the other man grabbed him but were unable to carry him on their surfboards. They got off their boards, despite the possibility of a further attack by the shark, which was still in the vicinity, and together held the wounded man's head above water and swam him through buffeting waves towards the shore.

Another man, who had witnessed the attack, swam out to the trio and provided the leg rope from his own surfboard which was applied as a tourniquet to the injured man's leg. On reaching the safety of the shore the victim was placed into Mr Thompson's vehicle. Mr Thompson then drove several kilometres before reaching an ambulance that had been called, allowing treatment to be administered. Fortunately, in spite of his severe injuries, the man survived.

By his actions, Mr Thompson displayed conspicuous courage.