

STAR OF COURAGE (SC)

The Late Mrs Angela Edith FERULLO, Western Australia

On the morning of 24 June 2013, Mrs Angela Ferullo rescued her pregnant daughter from being attacked by a man armed with two hunting knives in Como, Western Australia.

Mrs Ferullo was assisting at her daughter's hairdressing salon when her former partner entered the shop wielding two hunting knives. The offender demanded to see Mrs Ferullo who was at the rear of the salon. Unable to locate her, the offender then pushed his step-daughter onto the ground and started stabbing her. Mrs Ferullo had seen the offender enter the store and called 000. On hearing the cries for help from her daughter she rushed to her aid and found her lying on the floor wounded with the offender still striking at her. Mrs Ferullo threw herself over her daughter to protect her from any further injury. The offender then began to strike at Mrs Ferullo, before dragging her off her daughter and towards the front door of the salon. Cowering on the floor, Mrs Ferullo was repeatedly being attacked. A client in the salon came to the aid of Mrs Ferullo and attempted to push the offender away from her using a heavy chair. The offender began to attack the client before shoving her out of the way. The client recovered and again attempted to keep the offender away from Mrs Ferullo. Soon after, the offender exited the salon. Unfortunately Mrs Ferullo later passed away as a result of her injuries.

By her actions, Mrs Ferullo displayed conspicuous courage.

Mrs Christiana Jane KING, PO Box 243, Trinity Beach Qld 4879

On the afternoon of 10 September 2013, Mrs Christiana King was leading an Australian trekking party at Banis Donki (Black Cat Track) at Morobe Province, Papua New Guinea, when the party of twenty eight were attacked at their camp site by several armed men.

The attackers entered the camp dressed in dark clothing and balaclavas and carrying a shotgun and machetes. They murdered two members of the group and seriously injured others, with another of the trekkers later dying from their injuries. When the attackers demanded that the group leader identify themselves, Mrs King, without regard for her personal safety, immediately stepped forward. She began to negotiate with the attackers, offering to show them where her money was located, and pleading with them to stop their brutal assault and leave the camp. Once the attackers had ransacked her tent and belongings, one of them struck her on the side of the head with a machete and knocked her to the ground. The attackers then proceeded to systematically rob the camp site while they continued to assault the group. Once the attackers had fled, Mrs King organised first aid for the injured and called for medical assistance and evacuation. For more than five hours, mostly in darkness, she led those trekkers still able to walk along a barely discernible track to meet the rescue parties. Throughout the journey, Mrs King voluntarily took the most vulnerable position, either at the lead or the rear of the group, during long sections of the trek, knowing that another attack could take place at any time.

By her actions, Mrs King displayed conspicuous courage.