

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

### **Miss Katie ABBOTT, Bruah NSW 2830**

On the evening of 27 March 2014, Miss Katie Abbott assisted in the rescue of a man from a burning vehicle near Dubbo in New South Wales.

Miss Abbott and her partner were at their Brocklehurst property near Dubbo when they heard two loud noises. Miss Abbott immediately went out to the verandah of the house and looked towards Forest Road where she saw smoke in the trees and realised a vehicle accident had occurred. Miss Abbott and her partner jumped in their vehicle and drove to the scene. On arrival they met another person who had stopped to assist, and who had previously tried to open the driver's door of the vehicle, which was already on fire.

Miss Abbott's partner used a fire extinguisher to quell the flames on the driver and bent the vehicle's door back. He grabbed the driver but realised he was trapped. He then called to Miss Abbott to retrieve a knife. As the flames began to re-ignite, Miss Abbott who was heavily pregnant at the time, got a knife and approached the burning vehicle and handed it to her partner. Disregarding her own safety, and with the vehicle in imminent danger of exploding, she remained with her partner as he cut the driver out and pulled him from the vehicle. Assisted by the other man they carried the driver to safety as the vehicle was engulfed by fire.

Fortunately the driver, who suffered significant burns, survived the incident.

By her actions, Miss Abbott displayed considerable bravery.

### **Mr Sandro Luigi AGNOLETTO, 23 Elwood Drive, Bendigo Vic 3550**

In the late evening of 12 April 2013, Mr Sandro Agnoletto assisted in the rescue of two people from a burning vehicle near Bendigo in Victoria.

Mr Agnoletto was driving along Mandurang Road at Spring Gully, near Bendigo, when he came upon a vehicle which had crashed into a tree. A small fire had ignited at the front end of the vehicle and the tree was beginning to catch alight. Mr Agnoletto immediately pulled over and ran to the vehicle where he saw two men, who were both injured, trapped inside. He attempted to pull the driver out of the vehicle but he was trapped by his legs.

Another man, who had stopped to assist, managed to free the driver's legs before he and Mr Agnoletto pulled the driver out through the already smashed open door and placed him on the ground. Mr Agnoletto and the other man then went around to the passenger door of the vehicle but neither were able to open it. Mr Agnoletto went to his own vehicle, grabbed a carjack and gave it to the other man who smashed the passenger door window.

Mr Agnoletto moved the injured driver further away from the growing fire. With both the front, right hand side of the vehicle and the tree well alight, Mr Agnoletto, with the other man and a second passing motorist who stopped to assist, managed to pull the semi-conscious passenger out through the door window. They dragged him away to safety before the vehicle was completely engulfed by fire. Fortunately the rescued men survived the incident.

By his actions, Mr Agnoletto displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Mr Luke William ASHMAN**, 7/9 Gurrs Road, Brighton SA 5048

On the afternoon of 25 April 2014, Mr Luke Ashman attempted to rescue a man caught in a rip at Petrel Cove in South Australia.

Mr Ashman had spent the day jet skiing and surfing at Petrel Cove. He packed up his surfboard and, despite being fatigued, made his way back down to the beach to photograph the waves which, by this stage, were quite large. He noticed two people in the water who were caught in a strong rip and being washed towards the rocks. He immediately entered the rough water and made his way out to the pair. One of the men was struggling to keep the second man's head out of the water and attempting to make his way back to shore.

When Mr Ashman reached the men, the first man, due to exhaustion, released his grip on the injured man, who was unconscious, and made for the safety of the rocks. Mr Ashman held the injured man's head above the water for several minutes and attempted to swim against the rip. After being buffeted by the waves, Mr Ashman became very fatigued and was forced to release the man. He managed to swim to the rocks and remained stranded as he was unable to swim back to the beach.

When the rescue helicopter arrived, Mr Ashman was winched back to shore. Unfortunately the unconscious man was unable to be located.

By his actions, Mr Ashman displayed considerable bravery.

**Mr Lucas BALDWIN**, 28 Stringybark Court, Sedgwick VIC 3551

In the late evening of 12 April 2013, Mr Lucas Baldwin assisted in the rescue of two people from a burning vehicle near Bendigo in Victoria.

Mr Baldwin was driving along Mandurang Road at Spring Gully, near Bendigo, when he came upon a vehicle which had crashed into a tree. A small fire had ignited at the front end of the vehicle and the tree was beginning to catch alight. Mr Baldwin stopped his vehicle and went to assist another motorist who was already on the scene and who had attempted to remove the driver whose legs were trapped.

Mr Baldwin went to the vehicle and managed to free the driver's legs before he and the other man were able to pull the driver out of the already smashed open door and place him on the ground. Mr Baldwin and the other man then went around to the passenger door of the vehicle but were able to open it. The other man went to his own vehicle, grabbed a carjack, and gave it to Mr Baldwin who smashed the passenger door window.

With both the front, right hand side of the vehicle and the tree well alight, Mr Baldwin, with the other man and another passing motorist, managed to pull the semi-conscious passenger out through the door window. They then dragged him away to safety before the vehicle was completely engulfed by fire. Fortunately the rescued men survived the incident.

By his actions, Mr Baldwin displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Mr Ricky Lee BROMFIELD**, 15 Baskir Way, Henley Brook WA 6055

In the early morning of 6 November 2013, Mr Ricky Bromfield rescued a man from a burning unit at Lockridge, Western Australia.

Mr Bromfield and his family were asleep in their unit on Braithwaite Road when they were awoken by an explosion which had occurred in the unit directly above them. The explosion was the result of the occupant accidentally igniting a gas leak, and caused extensive damage that left the home unit on fire, and seriously damaged five other units on the top floor.

Mr Bromfield and his family quickly went outside and saw glass, rock, bricks and roofing parts spread across the ground. When he looked up, Mr Bromfield saw smoke pouring out of the unit and immediately ran upstairs to the front door, calling out for his neighbour. When he heard a yell for help he kicked the front door open and went inside the smoke filled unit. He found his neighbour lying injured in the living room, suffering from smoke inhalation and burns to his face, hands and feet. Mr Bromfield grabbed the man and dragged him out of the burning flat just before it was engulfed by fire.

Six fire units attended the scene and managed to extinguish the fire. The entire unit complex was later demolished due to the extent of the damage.

By his actions, Mr Bromfield displayed considerable bravery.

**Mr Michael William CURRAN**, Gympie, Qld, 4570

On the afternoon of 27 July 1990, Mr, (then Constable), Michael Curran pursued and detained armed bank robbers at Salisbury, Queensland.

Queensland Police attended a call to an armed holdup at a bank in Bulimba. The armed offenders had fled the scene with the proceeds of the robbery, and details of the offenders' vehicle were broadcast over police radio just as Constable Curran and another police officer were undertaking mobile patrol duties in the area. They identified the suspect vehicle being driven in Holland Park, and began to pursue it. When the officers activated their vehicle's lights and siren they were immediately fired upon by the offenders.

As Constable Curran and the other officer followed the offenders' vehicle, which was travelling at speed, they provided radio updates to the Police Communications Centre, and were fired upon at least eight times.

After other police officers managed to disable the suspect vehicle, it stopped at an intersection in Salisbury and three offenders immediately exited the vehicle and decamped. Constable Curran and the other officer stopped near the get-away vehicle and alighted. A fourth offender then appeared from the vehicle and menacingly aimed a rifle at them. After the offender ignored their orders to put the weapon down, Constable Curran discharged his weapon and then apprehended the man.

The other officer pursued and apprehended a female offender. When additional police support arrived the remaining two offenders were apprehended, and the stolen money was recovered.

By his actions, Mr Curran displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Mr Lucas John DOWSON**, 838 Bolinda-Darraweit Road, Darraweit Guim Vic 3756

On the morning of 4 May 2014, Mr Lucas Dowson pushed a child away from a moving vehicle at Wallan in Victoria.

Mr Dowson and a friend were cutting firewood in a paddock at a Wallan property as their four children played nearby. The two men were located half way down a steep hill when they suddenly noticed an out of control utility rolling down the hill, picking up speed.

Due to the terrain, which was filled with fallen trees and logs, the utility, with its engine still running, was crashing and bouncing in different directions. The vehicle then turned and veered towards the group of children.

Mr Dowson and his friend saw one of the children frozen in fear at the approaching vehicle. They both immediately dived towards the child and managed to push the boy clear of danger. The vehicle then became airborne and struck both men, causing them serious injuries, before coming to a stop further down the hill.

By his actions, Mr Dowson displayed considerable bravery.

**Mr Mark Patrick HICKEY**, 1 Moroney Avenue, Newcastle NSW 2300

On the morning of 9 September 2014, Mr Mark Hickey went to the assistance of a man who had been attacked by a shark at Byron Bay, New South Wales.

Mr Hickey was preparing to paddle a surf ski at Clarkes Beach, Byron Bay when he saw a shark attack a man in a wetsuit. The man was floating face down in the water about thirty metres from the shore.

As the man was on the ocean side of a sand bar, and waves were breaking onto it, Mr Hickey immediately swam out to him. Despite not knowing the whereabouts of the shark he had seen, Mr Hickey managed to reach the man, who was unconscious in waist deep water. He grabbed hold of the victim and dragged him back to the safety of the shore.

While others assisted, Mr Hickey administered CPR to the man until doctors arrived to help. Unfortunately the victim was later pronounced deceased.

By his actions, Mr Hickey displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

### **Constable Guy Roland LALOR, Queensland Police**

In the early morning of 30 December 2012, Constable Guy Lalor was involved in the rescue of three people who were trapped inside an upturned motor vehicle at Brighton in Queensland.

Constable Lalor and several other police officers were the initial responders to a vehicle accident on the Deagon Deviation at Brighton. On arrival at the scene, Constable Lalor and the other officers observed an extensively damaged sedan which had overturned and was blocking traffic on the highway. The male driver, who was in shock and disorientated, had crawled out of the crushed vehicle. The vehicle still had the motor running, and fuel was leaking onto the ground, creating a potential fire hazard. The driver was wandering on the road while three seriously injured people remained trapped inside the vehicle.

Constable Lalor immediately calmed the passengers and reached inside the crushed front passenger window. He managed to cut the seatbelt of the man who was hanging upside down and drag him outside. He then crawled into a small opening at the rear of the vehicle and freed a female passenger, who was then dragged from the sedan. Constable Lalor then moved further inside the confined opening and, with the assistance of another police officer, freed the remaining female passenger, sustaining cuts and abrasions to his hands in the process.

By his actions, Constable Lalor displayed considerable bravery.

**For contact information on the above recipient please contact the relevant state police jurisdiction's media section.**

### **Senior Sergeant Jeffrey Warren LANSDOWN, Queensland Police**

In the early morning of 30 December 2012, Senior Sergeant Jeffrey Lansdown was involved in the rescue of three people who were trapped inside an upturned motor vehicle at Brighton in Queensland.

Senior Sergeant Lansdown and several other police officers were the initial responders to a vehicle accident on the Deagon Deviation at Brighton. On arrival at the scene, Senior Sergeant Lansdown and the other officers observed an extensively damaged sedan, which had overturned and was blocking traffic on the highway. The male driver, who was in shock and disorientated, had crawled out of the crushed vehicle. The vehicle still had the motor running and fuel was leaking onto the ground, creating a potential fire hazard. The driver was wandering on the road while three seriously injured people remained trapped inside the wrecked vehicle.

Senior Sergeant Lansdown instructed two police officers to undertake a range of safety and traffic management duties while he assisted the third officer with the extraction of the trapped passengers from the vehicle. A male and female passenger were freed and then Senior Sergeant Lansdown, together with the third officer, crawled into a small opening at the rear of the crushed vehicle where a second female passenger was extracted. Senior Sergeant Lansdown sustained cuts and abrasions to his hands in the process.

By his actions, Senior Sergeant Lansdown displayed considerable bravery.

**For contact information on the above recipient please contact the relevant state police jurisdiction's media section.**

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

### **Mr Brock LAWRENCE, Bruah NSW 2830**

On the evening of 27 March 2014, Mr Brock Lawrence assisted in the rescue of a man from a burning vehicle near Dubbo in New South Wales.

Mr Lawrence and his partner were at their Brocklehurst property near Dubbo when they heard two loud noises. His partner immediately went out to the verandah of the house and looked towards Forest Road where she saw smoke in the trees and realised a vehicle accident had occurred. Mr Lawrence and his partner jumped in their vehicle and drove to the scene. On arrival they met another person who had stopped to assist, and who had previously tried to open the driver's door of the vehicle which was already on fire.

Mr Lawrence immediately deployed a fire extinguisher to quell the flames on the driver and bent the vehicle's door back. He grabbed the driver but realised he was trapped. He then called to his partner to retrieve a knife. As the flames began to re-ignite, his partner who was heavily pregnant at the time, retrieved a knife and gave it to Mr Lawrence who managed to cut the driver out and pull him from the vehicle. Assisted by the other man they carried the driver to safety as the vehicle was engulfed by fire. In the process of the rescue Mr Lawrence sustained minor burns to his hands and clothes. Fortunately the driver, who had suffered significant burns, survived the incident.

By his actions, Mr Lawrence displayed considerable bravery.

### **Mr Christopher James LOFDAHL, Nailsworth SA 5083**

Late in the evening of 12 July 2013, Mr Christopher Lofdahl rescued a woman who was being attacked in Athol Park in South Australia.

Mr Lofdahl was at home with his family when he heard a woman calling for help. He looked through a window and saw a woman being chased by a male attempting to steal a mobile phone from her.

Mr Lofdahl immediately went outside and ran towards the woman. As he ran he noticed an empty vehicle with its engine running. The headlights of the vehicle were shining on the victim and her attacker. He moved slowly along the street towards the pair and saw that the woman was on her knees fighting off the man. Mr Lofdahl told them to stop, and it was then that he realised that the man was brandishing a large kitchen knife. Mr Lofdahl stood between the attacker and the bloodied woman, who had suffered several knife wounds, and shouted for him to leave. The man then pointed the knife at Mr Lofdahl and threatened him.

Mr Lofdahl's wife then arrived on the scene and said that she had called 000. The offender picked up the mobile phone the victim had dropped, got into a vehicle, and reversed it towards the victim and Mr Lofdahl. Mr Lofdahl quickly grabbed the woman and pulled her between two parked cars before the man drove off. He and his wife then comforted the woman until the police and ambulance personnel arrived.

By his actions, Mr Lofdahl displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Mr Christopher John MEACHAM**, 50 Cornish Street, Sunbury Vic 3429

On the morning of 4 May 2014, Mr Christopher Meacham pushed a child away from a moving vehicle at Wallan in Victoria.

Mr Meacham and a friend were cutting firewood in a paddock at a Wallan property as their four children played nearby. The two men were located half way down a steep hill when they suddenly noticed an out of control utility rolling down the hill picking up speed.

Due to the terrain, which was filled with fallen trees and logs, the utility, with its engine still running, was crashing and bouncing in different directions. The vehicle then turned and veered towards the group of children.

Mr Meacham and his friend saw one of the children frozen in fear at the approaching vehicle. They both immediately dived towards the child and managed to push the boy clear of danger. The vehicle then became airborne and struck both men, causing them serious injury, before coming to a stop further down the hill.

By his actions, Mr Meacham displayed considerable bravery.

**The late Leading Seaman Bradley John MEEK**, Late of Camden NSW 2570

For bravery in hazardous circumstances, thereby losing his life, following the outbreak of fire in the Main Machinery Space aboard HMAS *Westralia* on 5 May 1998.

Leading Seaman Meek was a watchkeeper in the engine room of HMAS *Westralia* when a fuel leakage from the port main engine was reported. He responded by laying out fire houses within the affected area as per normal safety procedures.

A short time later a fire erupted at the starboard main engine and noxious smoke and flames began to engulf the Main Machinery Space of the vessel. Leading Seaman Meek alerted his colleagues to this fact and called for everyone to evacuate.

After pushing a colleague up the port ladder to safety, Leading Seaman Meek remained in the hazardous conditions and assisted others to leave the area. Unfortunately, Leading Seaman Meek was overcome by fumes and collapsed.

By his actions, Leading Seaman Meek displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Mr David Edward MILLS**, 6 Raphael Place, Mackenzie Qld 4156

In the late evening of 8 July 1991, Mr David Mills (then Constable), and another police officer, apprehended an armed offender at Stones Corner in Queensland.

Constable Mills and a colleague were conducting regular patrol duties at Stones Corner when they noticed a man carrying a bag in a suspicious manner. The officers stopped their vehicle and Constable Mills' colleague got out of the car and approached the man. When he requested that the man reveal the contents of the bag, the man produced a sawn-off shot gun and threatened to shoot him.

Constable Mills drew his service revolver and ordered the man to drop his weapon. The offender repeated his threats to shoot and pointed his weapon at Constable Mills who was forced to fire his revolver.

As the offender, who had been wounded in the abdomen, went to fire on Constable Mills, the other police officer lunged at the man but was unable to stop him from discharging his weapon. The officer then grabbed hold of the offender's shotgun and proceeded to wrestle with him. He was successful in disarming the man.

The offender then attempted to flee as other police arrived to assist. A further struggle ensued before the man was arrested.

By his actions, Mr Mills displayed considerable bravery.

**Mr Charles Allan MITCHELL**, "Gambolalley Station", Cobar NSW 2835

On the evening of 27 March 2014, Mr Charles Mitchell assisted in the rescue of a man from a burning vehicle near Dubbo in New South Wales.

Mr Mitchell was travelling along Forest Road near Dubbo when he came upon a vehicle that had left the road and collided with a large tree. The vehicle was on fire with the driver trapped inside. Mr Mitchell attempted to open the driver's door but it was stuck.

At that point a man and a woman with a fire extinguisher arrived to assist. The extinguisher was deployed to quell the flames on the driver and the vehicle's door was bent back to allow access. The second man grabbed the driver but realised he was trapped. He then called to his partner to retrieve a knife. As the flames began to re-ignite his partner, who was heavily pregnant at the time, retrieved a knife and gave it to the man who managed to free the driver and pull him out of the vehicle.

Mr Mitchell helped to carry the driver to safety as the vehicle was engulfed by fire. In the process of the rescue Mr Mitchell sustained minor burns to his hands and clothes. Fortunately the driver, who had suffered significant burns, survived the incident.

By his actions, Mr Mitchell displayed considerable bravery.



## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Mr Ronald Albert MORASSO**, Kingsgrove NSW 2208

In the early morning of 12 July 2013, Mr Ronald Morasso repaired a hazardous fuel leak at the Caltex Fuel Terminal in Banksmeadow, New South Wales.

A storage tank at the terminal, which contained two million litres of unleaded petrol, was leaking approximately 2,000 litres of fuel per minute. The terminal maintenance employees were unable to close the shut-off valve at the tank. Concerned about the possibility of a major vapour explosion that would impact both the employees and residents of the surrounding area, Fire and Rescue NSW were called and quickly arrived on the scene. An Incident Management Team was immediately established. They assessed the situation and began to implement a range of strategies to prevent an explosion.

Mr Morasso, from Platoon A, 13 Station Alexandria, volunteered to enter the embankment surrounding the base of the leaking tank. By this stage there were approximately 130,000 litres of petrol in the embankment. He waded through knee-deep petrol to reach the leaking valve and was successful in shutting it off and stopping the release of any more fuel.

Fire and Rescue crews from Alexandria, Maroubra, Matraville and Mascot deployed layers of foam on the fuel which had leaked out and conducted environmental and atmospheric monitoring in the hot zone and in doing so controlled the risk of an explosion.

By his actions, Mr Morasso displayed considerable bravery.

**Mr Bradley William MORRISON**, 18 Rose Lea Court, Warwick Qld 4370

On the evening of 14 November 2013, Mr Bradley Morrison and another man rescued a baby from a burning vehicle at Aratula in Queensland.

Mr Morrison was driving his truck on the Cunningham Highway at Mount Edwards when he came across a two vehicle accident. A prime mover truck had collided with a Holden sedan, pushing it 95 metres along the road. The truck driver was able to climb out of his damaged vehicle before it caught fire. The female driver of the sedan was unconscious in the front seat of the vehicle, and her nine month old daughter was in the rear.

Mr Morrison got out of his truck and ran to assist. Another truck driver had also stopped, and both men approached the damaged vehicles. They saw flames coming from the engine bay of the sedan and also from the truck. The truck's fuel tank had ruptured spilling a considerable amount of diesel fuel over the roadway.

On opening the rear door of the sedan Mr Morrison and the other man discovered a baby in a booster seat. Mr Morrison leaned inside the sedan and removed the infant from its harness. At this point the flames had spread over the front of the car and the diesel fuel from the damaged truck was now ankle deep. The other man had managed to obtain a fire extinguisher and attempted to put out the flames.

Another motorist, who had stopped to render assistance, tried to open the driver's door but was forced back by the heat. Mr Morrison took the baby to safety to await the arrival of emergency services personnel. Sadly, the female driver did not survive the accident.

By his actions, Mr Morrison displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

### **Ms Lisa Dianne MORROW, Canberra ACT 2600**

On the afternoon of 27 July 1990, Ms, (then Constable), Lisa Morrow pursued and detained armed bank robbers at Salisbury, Queensland.

Queensland Police were called to an armed holdup at a bank in Bulimba. The armed offenders had fled the scene with the proceeds of the robbery and details of the offenders' vehicle were broadcast over police radio just as Constable Morrow and another police officer were undertaking mobile patrol duties in the area. They identified the suspect vehicle being driven in Holland Park and began to pursue it. When the officers activated their vehicle's lights and siren they were immediately fired upon by the offenders.

As Constable Morrow and the other officer followed the offenders' vehicle, which was travelling at speed, they provided radio updates to the Police Communications Centre, and were fired upon at least eight times.

After other police officers managed to disable the suspect vehicle it stopped at an intersection in Salisbury and three offenders immediately exited the vehicle and decamped. Constable Morrow and the other officer stopped near the get-away vehicle and alighted. A fourth offender then appeared from the vehicle and menacingly aimed a rifle at them. After the offender ignored their orders to put the weapon down, the other officer discharged his weapon and apprehended the man.

Constable Morrow then pursued a female offender and apprehended her. When additional police support arrived the remaining two offenders were apprehended, and the stolen money was recovered.

By her actions, Ms Morrow displayed considerable bravery.

### **Mr George Keith PICONE, Healesville Vic 3777**

On the evening of 21 February 2007, Mr George Picone went to the assistance of a woman following a vehicle accident at Coldstream, Victoria.

Mr Picone and his wife were travelling along the rain affected Maroondah Highway at Coldstream when they came across a two vehicle collision. The accident involved a 4WD utility and a small hatchback which had come to rest on its side. The driver of the utility suffered a broken leg and remained inside his vehicle while the female driver of the hatchback had sustained life threatening injuries and was trapped inside her vehicle along with a passenger who was deceased.

Mr Picone, an SES volunteer, immediately stopped his vehicle, ran to the scene and went to assist another man who was comforting the female driver. As the vehicle was leaking flammable liquid and the engine was alight, a bystander used a fire extinguisher to put out the fire.

Realising that the woman was having difficulty breathing Mr Picone removed debris out of the open rear hatch, pulled the back seat out, and climbed inside the vehicle. He supported the woman's head to help her with breathing and, once the woman's seat belt was cut, he was then also able to support her ribcage which further assisted with breathing.

Mr Picone reassured the female driver and continued to help her until she was extricated from the vehicle by rescue authorities. The driver survived the incident.

By his actions, Mr Picone displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

### **Sergeant Michael John PRICKETT, Queensland Police**

In the late evening of 8 July 1991, Sergeant (then Constable) Michael Prickett and another police officer apprehended an armed offender at Stones Corner in Queensland.

Constable Prickett and a colleague were conducting regular patrol duties at Stones Corner when they noticed a man carrying a bag in a suspicious manner. The officers stopped their vehicle and Constable Prickett got out of the car and approached the man. When he requested that the man reveal the contents of the bag, the man produced a sawn-off shot gun and threatened to shoot him.

The other police officer then drew his service revolver and ordered the man to drop his weapon. The offender repeated his threats to shoot and pointed his weapon at the second officer, who was then forced to fire his revolver.

As the offender, who had been wounded in the abdomen, went to fire upon his colleague, Constable Prickett lunged at the man but was unable to stop him from discharging his weapon. Constable Prickett then grabbed hold of the offender's shotgun and proceeded to wrestle with him. He was successful in disarming the man.

The offender then attempted to flee as other police arrived to assist. A further struggle ensued before the man was able to be arrested. Constable Prickett was later treated for a broken right hand.

By his actions, Sergeant Prickett displayed considerable bravery.

**For contact information on the above recipient please contact the relevant state police jurisdiction's media section.**

### **Mr Christian Anthony PYKE, Port Lincoln SA 5606**

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

Three friends were surfing at Fishery Bay when one of the men was attacked by a six metre shark. One of the men immediately yelled 'shark' to warn other surfers nearby, who then paddled away. The two friends then paddled towards the victim who was floundering in the water.

On their approach to the victim the shark attacked again, pulling the man under the water. When he resurfaced he was still conscious and the other two men attempted to carry him to shore on a surfboard. As they were unable to do this they both got off their boards and entered the water, despite the possibility of a further attack by the shark. Together they held the wounded man's head above water and swam him through buffeting waves towards the shore.

Mr Pyke, on witnessing the attack, and aware that the shark was still in the vicinity, jumped into the water and swam out to the trio. He gave the men the leg rope from his own surfboard which was then applied as a tourniquet to the injured man's leg. The group then made for the safety of the shore where the victim was placed into one of his friend's vehicles and driven several kilometres before reaching the ambulance which had been called, and in which treatment was then able to be administered. Fortunately, in spite of his severe injuries, the man survived.

By his actions, Mr Pyke displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**The late Mr Paul Richard ROSSINGTON**, Late of Gledswood Hills NSW 2557

On the evening of 8 May 2013, Mr Paul Rossington jumped into the sea to rescue his partner who had fallen overboard from a cruise ship located 65 nautical miles east of Forster, New South Wales.

The Carnival Spirit cruise ship was sailing towards Sydney at a speed of 21 knots, on the final night of a ten day holiday cruise.

Mr Rossington was in the cabin when he observed his partner climb over the balcony railing. Soon after she lost her footing on the narrow ledge, and also her grip of the ship's rail, and fell into the sea.

As his partner fell, Mr Rossington immediately climbed over the balcony and jumped into the sea after her. It was not known that they were missing until several hours after the ship had docked at Circular Quay the next morning.

Unfortunately, following an extensive air and sea search, Mr Rossington and his partner were unable to be located.

By his actions, Mr Rossington displayed considerable bravery.

**Sergeant Conrad Wayne van EGMOND**, Queensland Police

In the early hours of 1 October 2001, Sergeant (then Senior Constable) Conrad van Egmond disarmed an offender at Burpengary in Queensland.

Senior Constable van Egmond and a police colleague were conducting vehicle patrols in response to reports that a man armed with a sawn-off shotgun was intending to 'shoot the enemy'. The offender was driving his utility south along the Bruce Highway when Senior Constable van Egmond saw the vehicle and proceeded to follow it before it eventually stopped at a service station in Burpengary. Senior Constable van Egmond stopped and alighted from his vehicle as the offender got out of his.

When Senior Constable van Egmond began to negotiate with the man, the offender pointed his shotgun at him. Senior Constable van Egmond drew his service revolver and ordered the man to drop his weapon. The offender continued to point his weapon, whilst challenging him to shoot him.

The offender, on several occasions, pointed his weapon in the direction of other police officers. Each time he did this Senior Constable van Egmond instructed the man to drop the weapon, causing the offender to then point the weapon at him. To de-escalate the situation, Senior Constable van Egmond holstered his service revolver. The armed man remained agitated, wanting assurance that he was not in danger from the police. When Senior Constable van Egmond reassured him, the offender then unloaded his weapon and gave it to him. Other officers then arrested the offender.

By his actions, Sergeant van Egmond displayed considerable bravery.

**For contact information on the above recipient please contact the relevant state police jurisdiction's media section.**