

BRAVERY MEDAL

Constable Ross William GRAHAM
Victoria Police Force

On 8 October 1982 at approximately 5.00 p.m. Constable Graham was on traffic patrol in Lygon Street East Brunswick, Victoria, when he was advised by a member of the public that an armed hold-up was taking place at nearby bank premises. Constable Graham radioed Police Headquarters to advise of the circumstances and then proceeded to the scene on his motorcycle. On arrival at the bank premises he saw the armed offenders driving away and immediately gave chase. Constable Graham pursued the vehicle through a number of streets in the surrounding districts, over a distance of about 12 kilometres, for about 20 minutes. During the pursuit several shots were fired at Constable Graham from a sawn-off shotgun, one of the pellets wounding him in the face. Notwithstanding his injury Constable Graham continued the chase and, after the offenders left their vehicle, assisted other police who had arrived at the scene to pursue the offenders on foot, until taken to hospital for treatment.

Constable Graham displayed considerable bravery in pursuing armed and dangerous men in such circumstances.

Mr Allan Angus HURRY
(Posthumous Award)

Next of Kin (Brother)

Mr Elwin Ronald HURRY
21 Staff Road,
UNANDERRA N.S.W. 2526

On 15 May 1982 at about 7.15 a.m. Mr Elwin Hurry, of Staff Road, Unanderra, New South Wales, noticed that a fire had broken out in the garage flat situated at the rear of his property. Mr Hurry's brother, Mr John Hurry, occupied the flat while another brother, Mr Allan Hurry, resided next door. Mr Elwin Hurry alerted his brother, Mr Allan Hurry, to the circumstances and between them they broke down the outer door to the flat. Mr Allan Hurry rushed into the flat in an attempt to rescue his brother John from the inner bedroom where the fire was situated but became trapped when the bedroom door closed behind him. As a result he lost his life.

Mr Allan Hurry displayed considerable bravery in attempting to rescue his brother in such circumstances.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Barry Erwin NITSCHKE
64B Bruce Terrace,
CUMMINS S.A. 5631

At approximately 7.00 a.m. on 21 September 1982 Mr Nitschke was advised by his wife that a neighbouring building, used as a cafe with an adjoining residence, was on fire. Mr Nitschke immediately went to the residential section and proceeded inside through the rear door. After searching for any occupants he was driven back by the heavy concentration of smoke. When he returned outside he was told that a young baby was still inside the building. Mr Nitschke went into the front of the house, and notwithstanding the heat and smoke, searched on his hands and knees until he located the baby and then brought the child outside. When told that another child was possibly still inside he commenced to enter the building again but withdrew when advised that the child was safe.

Mr Nitschke displayed considerable bravery in effecting a rescue and entering the burning building a number of times.

Mr Paul Anthony James TETLEY
10 Forrester Street,
ESSENDON VIC. 3040

On 30 September 1981 at about 9.45 a.m., Mr Tetley, a security guard at the Transport Division of the Department of Administrative Services, Maribyrnong, Victoria, was on duty adjacent to the pay office when a man armed with a large revolver entered the area, threatened Mr Tetley and ordered him into the pay office. As he neared the gunman Mr Tetley grabbed him, and after a struggle, during which the gun discharged, managed to wrest the gun from him. The offender then drew another gun and twice shot Mr Tetley seriously wounding him in the stomach. Despite his severe injuries, Mr Tetley drew his own gun and shot the offender as he was threatening the pay office staff.

As a result of Mr Tetley's considerable bravery the offender was captured and taken into custody.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Leonard Richard WILLIAMS
1 Sunland Place,
WYOMING N.S.W. 2250

On 10 January 1983 Mr Williams was the Guard on a train travelling to Newcastle when he saw a small child on the track ahead. Mr Williams ordered an emergency stop. As the train commenced to slow Mr Williams jumped from the train and ran ahead to the child, who by this time was standing on the line to Sydney upon which, Mr Williams knew, an express train was due at any moment. As he reached the child Mr Williams saw the express train approaching. He grabbed the child, jumped clear of the track, with the rush of air from the passing train knocking him off balance and down the embankment. Mr Williams then returned to his own train and handed the child to waiting police at a nearby railway station.

Mr Williams displayed considerable bravery in such circumstances and undoubtedly saved the child's life.

~~Senior Constable Phillip John YATES~~
New South Wales Police Force

Late in the afternoon on 1 January 1983 two women became trapped in a utility vehicle in the Numeralla River in New South Wales. Because of recent heavy rain the river was in flood and rising rapidly. At about 7.30 p.m. Senior Constable Yates and another Constable arrived at the scene to find the vehicle about 35 metres from the bank, with the women standing in the rear of the vehicle and the water nearly at roof level. The other Constable was unable to make any headway against the current but Senior Constable Yates, despite the swiftness of the flow of water and the large amounts of debris being swept downstream, managed to reach the vehicle and reassure the women that help was available. He then returned to the shore, obtained a rope and swam back to the vehicle, attaching the rope to the door frame, and placing one of the women on his back. Using the secured rope as a guide, he made his way to the shore. He then returned for the second woman and rescued her in the same manner. As a result he was exhausted and suffering from the effects of his immersion in the cold water.

Senior Constable Yates displayed considerable bravery in rescuing the two women from the flooded river.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Bruce Gregory AINSLIE
6 Solandra Crescent,
MODBURY NORTH S.A. 5092

At about 5.30 a.m. on 10 March 1983 at the I.C.I. Pty Ltd Alkali Factory, Osborne, South Australia, an employee was opening a door at the base of a large tank containing a hot lime slurry solution. As the employee was removing the last retaining bolt the hinged cover of the door flew open. The force of the gushing solution knocked the employee to the ground and into the hot liquid. Mr Ainslie immediately ran to the employee, picked him up out of the lime solution and, despite his own injuries and burns sustained in the process, carried the employee to the shower area to wash the solution from him in an attempt to save his life. Notwithstanding Mr Ainslie's efforts the employee died from the effects of the burns of the lime solution.

Mr Ainslie displayed commendable courage in risking injury in attempting to rescue a colleague.

Constable Adam DONKIN
Western Australia Police Force

On 23 February 1983, at about 7.40 p.m. a woman aged 26 years, got into difficulties in a strong current while swimming off the beach at Point Moore, Geraldton, Western Australia. It was dark at the time and by means of a spot light from a police vehicle the woman was located in the water. Constable Donkin commenced to swim towards the woman but found the current too strong. He returned to the shore, borrowed a surfboard, re-entered the water and paddled out to the woman who, by this time, was about 120 metres from the shore. At the time the sea was rough with winds of about 15 knots. Constable Donkin put the woman on the surfboard and commenced to paddle to the shore. At one time the woman fell from the surfboard and commenced to sink but Constable Donkin was able to reach her and bring her back to the surfboard. Constable Donkin eventually reached the shore with the woman thereby saving her life.

Constable Donkin displayed commendable courage in rescuing the woman in such circumstances.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Miss Jade-Leah HOWARD
24 Cornwall Crescent,
NEWNHAM TAS. 7250

On 26 December 1982 a group of children were swimming at the beach at Weymouth, Tasmania, when in the middle of the afternoon the sea became rough and dangerous with a strong undertow. The children made their way back to the water's edge when it was noticed that one child, a boy aged 5 years, was more than 100 metres out to sea and caught in a rip. Jade Howard, aged 13 years, who was still in the water, immediately went to his aid. Upon reaching him she supported the child and then attempted to bring him to the shore but was unable to do so because of the prevailing conditions. She and the boy were both in danger when her father and the boy's father, who had swum out, finally reached them and brought them to shore.

Jade Howard displayed commendable courage in such circumstances and no doubt saved the child's life in going to his aid.

Mr Garth Wallace McMILLAN
56 Phillips Lane,
TWEED HEADS N.S.W. 2485

Early in the day on 12 October 1982 a lone yachtsman, while sailing about 25 nautical miles east of Southport, Queensland, was injured when the boom of his yacht struck him on the head. The yachtsman became disoriented and did not radio for assistance until some time later when, by that time, the seas were very rough and the winds strong. A search and rescue helicopter located the yacht late in the afternoon and although there was increasing cloud with rain squalls and gusts of wind over 25 knots, Mr McMillan, a crewman aboard the helicopter jumped into the water, swam to the yacht, climbed aboard, rendered first aid to the yachtsman and then commenced to sail the yacht towards a police vessel which had been despatched from Southport to meet them. After a while Mr McMillan became extremely seasick, but by this time the yachtsman was able to take control of the vessel until the police vessel arrived.

Mr McMillan displayed commendable courage in going to the aid of the yachtsman in such circumstances.