

## **STAR OF COURAGE**

**Mrs Joanne Margaretha LUCAS,**  
RMB 1 Quaranup Road, Big Grove via Albany, WA 6330

On the morning of 10 May 2008, Mrs Lucas rescued a man who had been attacked by a shark at Middleton Beach, Albany, Western Australia.

Mrs Lucas was setting up equipment to conduct Saturday voluntary surf boat training as a member of the Albany Surf Club when she was alerted to a person in trouble in the ocean. She ran to the water's edge and discovered that a swimmer had been attacked by a shark. Unable to find anyone to help her, and conscious that the shark was continuing to circle the victim, Mrs Lucas immediately swam out towards the man. The man was in a critical state, weakened by significant blood loss, and barely able to tread water or swim. Keeping sight of the shark's dorsal fin, Mrs Lucas grabbed hold of the man, keeping herself and him afloat as she faced the 80 metre swim back to shore. She watched intently as the shark now manoeuvred around some nearby swimmers who were thrashing about frantically to scare it away from the scene. Mrs Lucas faced a dangerous predicament, fearful that the splashing water would re-ignite the shark's agitation, prompting it to resume its attack on the victim or target her and the other swimmers. Nevertheless, she maintained her composure and concentrated on the helpless victim, courageously swimming him back towards the beach. Despite the extraordinary demands of the ordeal, and her state of exhaustion, Mrs Lucas continued to reassure the victim and once back on land, others were on hand to provide first aid until ambulance officers arrived at the scene.

By her actions, Mrs Lucas displayed conspicuous bravery.