

BRAVERY MEDAL

Kenneth William BEAZLEY, Kuppa Avenue, Malua Bay, N.S.W.

On the night of 18 September 1977 at Guerilla Bay, New South Wales, Mr. Beazley and two companions put to sea in the face of a southerly gale to rescue three persons stranded on a rock outcrop which becomes submerged at high tide. The stranded group had earlier lost their boat, which had become disabled, had been washed onto the rocks, and had broken up.

In attempting to reach the stranded group the rescue boat was itself driven against the rocks by the sea. One of Mr. Beazley's companions jumped onto the rocks and made his way to the stranded people while Mr. Beazley and the boat owner took the boat back into safer water and kept it there while their companion assisted the stranded group to swim to the boat.

In taking part in a sea rescue in such hazardous conditions, Mr. Beazley displayed considerable bravery.

Senior Constable Robert Lynton BURRAGE, New South Wales Police Force.

On 20 March 1978 at about 11.15 p.m. a flash flood occurred in Reedy Creek, in the Australian Capital Territory, resulting in a vehicle being washed from a bridge on the Sutton Road and the woman occupant becoming caught in a tree downstream. At the request of the Australian Capital Territory Police, and in company with another New South Wales police officer, Senior Constable Burrage attended the scene. He assisted the other police officer in three attempts to reach the stranded woman by means of a rope and later, after these attempts proved unsuccessful, made several attempts himself to swim to the woman to reach her. Following the arrival of the New South Wales State Emergency Services team with a boat, Senior Constable Burrage continued to assist in handling the various equipment used to rescue the woman.

Senior Constable Burrage displayed considerable bravery in attempting and in assisting in a rescue in these hazardous circumstances.

Mark FORREST, 8 Kinkuna Street, Busby, N.S.W.

On 1 July 1978 at about 9.30 p.m. Mr. Forrest witnessed a fight between two men on a street corner in Perth, Western Australia. The assailant was armed with a knife and had already inflicted severe wounds on the victim, who later died as a result.

Mr. Forrest went to the aid of the victim and grappled with the attacker, who then menaced him with the knife before breaking loose and running off. Although slightly injured himself, Mr. Forrest gave chase but the assailant escaped.

Mr. Forrest displayed considerable bravery in attempting to defend the victim and apprehend his attacker.

John Donald Albert HARRISON, B.E.M., 18 Stewart Avenue,
Vale Park, S.A.

On 1 July 1978 an 11 year old boy was playing with an aluminium irrigation pipe at the Primary School Oval, Gilles Plains, South Australia. In so doing he allowed it to contact overhead high voltage power lines. The pole became electrified and the boy remained fixed to the pole by the current, suffering severe burns and other injuries.

Mr. Harrison, who was watching a football match nearby, immediately ran across the oval, wrapped his coat around the pole and, with the assistance of another man, pulled the pole away from the boy. He then applied resuscitation to the boy until trained help arrived.

Mr. Harrison showed a disregard for his own safety. His prompt and brave action undoubtedly saved the boy's life.

John Tony Thomas HENJACK, 38 Nimmitabel Street, Queanbeyan, N.S.W.

On 20 March 1978 at about 11.15 p.m. a flash flood occurred in Reedy Creek, in the Australian Capital Territory, resulting in a vehicle being washed from a bridge on the Sutton Road and the woman occupant becoming caught in a tree downstream. Mr Henjack, who was travelling with three others, saw the incident and, with one of his companions, entered the swollen floodwaters in an attempt to rescue the woman. Mr Henjack and his companion were quickly washed downstream and were unable to assist the stranded woman. Mr Henjack was secured to a rope held by persons on the bank and was able to make his way ashore; however, his companion became caught in debris and was drowned.

Mr Henjack showed considerable bravery in attempting to rescue the woman from the swollen floodwaters.

Sergeant Third Class Alwyne Grant HILL, New South Wales Police Force.

On 20 March 1978 at about 11.15 p.m. a flash flood occurred in Reedy Creek, in the Australian Capital Territory, resulting in a vehicle being washed from a bridge on the Sutton Road and the woman occupant becoming caught in a tree downstream. At the request of the Australian Capital Territory Police, Sergeant Hill and another New South Wales police officer attended the scene. Three times Sergeant Hill attempted to swim the swollen floodwaters to reach the woman but was forced to return to the bank due to the fierceness of the water. When a New South Wales State Emergency Service team arrived with a boat, Sergeant Hill volunteered as one of the two to man the boat, and assisted in the final rescue of the woman despite the still raging floodwaters.

Sergeant Hill displayed considerable bravery in attempting and finally undertaking a rescue in such hazardous circumstances.

Craig Anthony HILTON, 25 Gilman Street, CHELTENHAM Vic.

On 21 May 1978, at about 4.30 a.m. a car carrying two men left the road in Elwood, Victoria, struck a tree and burnt into flames. Mr Hilton who had witnessed the accident, entered the vehicle, beat out flames on the driver's trousers with his bare hands, and pulled the driver clear of the car. He then returned to the car and, despite warnings from bystanders that it might explode, attempted to get the passenger clear, but was driven back by the flames and intense heat.

By his courageous action, Mr Hilton undoubtedly saved the driver's life.

Graham Charles MacDONALD, Illabundah Drive, Malua Bay, N.S.W.

On the night of 18 September 1977, at Guerilla Bay, New South Wales, Mr MacDonald, and two companions put to sea in the face of a southerly gale to rescue three persons stranded on a rock outcrop which becomes submerged at high tide. The stranded group had earlier lost their boat, which had become disabled, had been washed onto the rocks, and had broken up.

In attempting to reach the stranded group the rescue boat was itself driven against the rocks by the sea, and Mr MacDonald jumped overboard to push the boat back off the rocks. The boat was then taken out to safer water while Mr MacDonald clambered over the rocks to the stranded people. He persuaded them to swim to the boat, where all were picked up and returned safely to shore.

In taking part in a sea rescue in such hazardous conditions, Mr MacDonald displayed considerable bravery.

Robert Leslie PERROTT, 8 Ruthedge Street, Bungendore, N.S.W.

On 20 March 1978 at about 11.15 p.m. a flash flood occurred in Reedy Creek, in the Australian Capital Territory, resulting in a vehicle being washed from a bridge on the Sutton Road and the woman occupant becoming caught in a tree downstream. Upon reaching the scene, and unaware of other rescue attempts from the other side of the creek, Mr Perrott entered the swollen floodwaters unaided and commenced to swim to the stranded woman. However, he was swept away by the rush of water and managed to reach the bank downstream. When Police and other help arrived he assisted in handling various ropes and equipment until the woman was rescued some time later.

Mr Perrott displayed considerable bravery in attempting and in assisting in a rescue in these hazardous circumstances.

Daniel Francis Cotter PRIMMER, Late of 6 Kootara Crescent,
Narrabundah A.C.T.

(Posthumous Award)

On 20 March 1978 at about 11.15 p.m. a flash flood occurred in Reedy Creek, in the Australian Capital Territory, resulting in a vehicle being washed from a bridge on the Sutton Road and the woman occupant becoming caught in a tree downstream. Mr Primmer, who was travelling with three others, saw the incident and, with one of his friends, entered the swollen floodwaters in an attempt to rescue the woman. Mr Primmer and his companion were quickly washed downstream and were unable to assist the stranded woman. Mr Primmer became caught in the debris and, although secured by a rope held by persons on the bank, was unable to make his way ashore and was drowned.

Mr Primmer showed considerable bravery in attempting to rescue the woman from the swollen floodwaters. She was subsequently rescued by others who came on the scene, but the first attempt was made by Mr Primmer and his companion, and cost Mr Primmer his life.

Ronald Maplemore SCOTT, 54 Pyang Avenue, Malua Bay, N.S.W.

On the night of 18 September 1977 at Guerilla Bay, New South Wales, Mr Scott and two companions put to sea in his five metre boat, in the face of a southerly gale to rescue three persons stranded on a rock outcrop which becomes submerged at high tide. The stranded group had earlier lost their boat, which had become disabled, had been washed onto the rocks, and had broken up.

In attempting to reach the stranded group Mr Scott's boat was itself driven against the rocks by the sea, and one of Mr Scott's companions jumped onto the rocks and made his way to the stranded people while Mr Scott took the boat back to safer water. Later the people on the rocks were assisted in swimming to the boat where they were picked up and returned safely to shore.

In taking part in a sea rescue in such hazardous circumstances Mr Scott displayed considerable bravery.

Malcolm Coubrough SHANKS, 1 Baillieu Street, Rosebery, Tas.

At about 4.p.m. on 10 February 1978, a 13 year old boy was swimming in the sea at West Ulverstone, Tasmania. A strong rip was running at the time and the boy had been dragged about 80 metres from the shore, and was seen to be in great difficulty.

Mr Shanks, aged 52, was alerted by a by-stander and, using a surf board, swam out to the boy who, by this time, was unconscious and floating just below the surface. Mr Shanks pulled him onto the board and paddled quickly to shore where he applied mouth to mouth resuscitation for about 20 minutes until an ambulance arrived.

Mr Shanks' courageous actions in braving rough seas undoubtedly saved the boy's life.

Senior Constable Grahame Clement SHEEN, New South Wales Police Force.

At about 10.30 a.m. on 26 April 1978 Senior Constable Sheen, who was on highway patrol duty at Gosford, New South Wales noticed dense smoke coming from a house. On reaching the house he heard a baby crying. He immediately entered the fiercely burning building and, guided by the baby's cries made his way through the dense black smoke to locate the child. Flames at that time were at the foot of the baby's cot and some of the fibro sheeting on the walls of the house was exploding.

Senior Constable Sheen picked up the child and forced open a window, which had jammed, to pass the baby outside. By his prompt and courageous action, he undoubtedly saved the baby's life.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Senior Constable Brian Maurice BOCK, Australian Capital Territory Police Force.

At 11.45 p.m. on 20 March 1978 Senior Constable Bock was called to the scene where a woman was trapped in a tree in Reedy Creek, Australian Capital Territory and in danger of being swept away by a flash flood. Several unsuccessful rescue attempts had already been made by the time Senior Constable Bock arrived. When a New South Wales State Emergency Service team arrived with a boat, Constable Bock took charge and manned the boat in company with another police officer. Despite the raging floodwaters they managed to get close enough to the woman for her to climb into the boat. They subsequently manoeuvred the boat safely back to the shore despite the ever present danger of being swept away by the floodwaters.

Senior Constable Bock showed commendable courage in undertaking a rescue in such hazardous conditions.

Graham Tilka GLOVER, 8 Mott Terrace, Seacliff Park, S.A.

Shortly after 5 p.m., on 31 August 1978, after their boat sank approximately 8 kilometres off the coast from Seacliff, South Australia, Mr. Glover and his two companions, a man and his son aged 15 years, started to swim towards the coast. Although all were wearing life jackets the boy's father was lost. Mr. Glover assisted the son to the shore by swimming over 2 hours with the boy holding onto his legs.

Mr. Glover showed commendable courage and determination in assisting the boy to shore.

Sam LARIA, 449 Cabramatta Road, Cabramatta, N.S.W.

On 12 June 1978 Mr. Laria was confronted by two escapees from the Long Bay Prison Complex who demanded the keys to his utility truck and commenced to drive off. Mr. Laria jumped onto the rear table top of the vehicle, and commenced to strike the driver with a wheel brace. As a result of Mr. Laria's actions the vehicle was eventually stopped and the escapees ran off. Mr. Laria pursued them for a short distance but was unable to apprehend them.

Mr. Laria showed commendable courage in attempting to prevent the escape of two dangerous prisoners.

John Dominic PICK, 50 Park Street, Hyde Park, S.A.

On 1 July 1978 an 11 year old boy was playing with an aluminium irrigation pipe at the Primary School Oval, Gilles Plains, South Australia. In doing so he allowed it to contact overhead high voltage power lines. The pole became electrified and the boy remained fixed to the pole by the current, suffering severe burns and other injuries.

Mr. Pick came to the assistance of another bystander who wrapped his coat around the pole and helped him pull the pole away from the boy. Mr. Pick showed a disregard for his own safety in assisting with the removal of the electrified pipe.

Dr William THURLOW, Elizabeth Beach, via Forster, N.S.W.

On 2 July 1978, Dr Thurlow, aged 57, was jogging on Elizabeth Beach, near Forster, New South Wales, when his wife drew his attention to two men on a raft about 600 metres out in a very heavy sea. Dr Thurlow immediately swam out to the raft and attempted unsuccessfully to push it towards the shore. Both men on the raft were suffering from extreme exposure and one was unconscious. Dr Thurlow then swam back to the shore, tried unsuccessfully to obtain assistance, again swam out to the raft and this time was able to push it into the breaker line and bring both occupants ashore.

Dr Thurlow showed commendable courage and persistence in bringing the men to shore through heavy seas.
