

BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)

Mr Philip Leslie ABRAM, Gunn NT 0832

Mr Michael Victor JERRAM, Katherine NT 0850

On the afternoon of 3 October 2013, Mr Philip Abram and Mr Michael Jerram rescued a woman from a capsized houseboat on the Mary River in the Northern Territory.

Mr Abram and Mr Jerram were fishing in a small fishing boat (tinnie) in the Corroboree Billabong when they saw their two hired houseboats, occupied by a group of friends, struck by a freak thunderstorm event. Within seconds one of the houseboats completely capsized, throwing people into the water.

Mr Abram and Mr Jerram quickly made their way back to the houseboats through strong wind and blinding rain. They could see multiple people in the river. Without hesitation, Mr Jerram jumped into the dangerous, crocodile infested water to assist. Realising one female had drifted away from the houseboats, he climbed back into the small fishing boat and raced over to her. She was on top of the water and lying face down.

He positioned the boat alongside the woman, reached over the side and turned her over. He held her body against the boat and began resuscitation procedures. Mr Abram, who had also been searching for others in the water, swam over to assist.

At this time another person from one of the houseboats also entered the water and swam over to help. Together the three men lifted the woman into the boat and Mr Jerram continued to undertake resuscitation efforts.

After a quick discussion, the men decided to make the 40 minute trip to the boat ramp. Mr Abram and Mr Jerram returned the third man to the houseboat, obtained extra fuel and set off.

On several occasions during the journey the woman's condition deteriorated. Mr Jerram continued with CPR until they reached the boat ramp. Mr Abram quickly alerted emergency services before returning to help Mr Jerram. Police officers arrived and provided assistance to the two men until paramedics got to the scene and took over resuscitation procedures.

Despite the efforts made, unfortunately the woman did not survive the incident.

By their actions, Mr Abram and Mr Jerram displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)

Mr Richard Ashleigh COLLIER, Flinders Vic 3929

On the morning of 27 January 2015, Mr Richard Collier rescued a man from a burning vehicle in Main Ridge in Victoria.

Mr Collier and his wife were driving on the Mornington-Flinders road when they came upon a single vehicle accident. A car had collided with a tree and was on fire. Other bystanders were nearby and calling emergency services.

Without hesitation, Mr Collier grabbed a shovel from his car and approached the burning vehicle. The engine bay was on fire and when Mr Collier managed to open the driver's door, he was temporarily overcome by smoke. Through the haze, he could see a man in the driver's seat, who was slumped over onto the passenger side.

Mr Collier lay the driver's seat backrest down, reached in, held the man under the arms and began to pull him out. With the top half of the man free, Mr Collier called for assistance as the man's legs and feet were tangled in hanging wires.

With the assistance of others, Mr Collier was able to drag the injured driver from the front seat and move him away from the dangerous area.

Believing there might be more passengers, and despite the front of the car being engulfed in flames, he rushed back to the car and entered through a back door to thoroughly check the interior of the car. Reassured there were no other occupants he returned to the non-responsive driver and took over his care.

Unfortunately the driver did not survive his injuries.

By his actions, Mr Collier displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Nathan Michael CONSTABLE, Tamworth NSW 2340

In the early evening of 4 May 2015 Mr Nathan Constable rescued an elderly woman from a burning house in Tamworth, New South Wales.

Mr Constable was at his home when at around 6.30pm he became aware that his neighbour's house was on fire.

Without hesitation, and knowing that his elderly and frail neighbours were inside, he left his house and ran to the burning residence. He immediately entered the house through the front door as the smoke and flames intensified, and began looking for the elderly couple.

He quickly located the female occupant, who was suffering from smoke inhalation, and assisted her outside to a safe area. He then began searching for the male occupant and ran around to the side of the house and entered the rear yard where he saw that the entire back of the house was well alight. There he found the elderly owner attempting to fight the fire with a garden hose.

Mr Constable assisted the male owner around to the front of the house and to safety.

By his actions, Mr Constable displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)

Mr Robert GUEVARA, Albion Park Rail NSW 2527
Mr Manuel MELGAREJO, Albion Park Rail NSW 2527

In the afternoon of 29 January 2017, Mr Robert Guevara and Mr Manuel Melgarejo restrained an armed offender at a supermarket in Albion Park Rail, New South Wales.

Mr Melgarejo was shopping at a supermarket in Albion Park Rail with his family when he heard a commotion coming from the cashier area at the front of the store.

Approaching the area he saw a man wielding a baseball bat. The enraged man, who appeared to be drug-affected, had already assaulted the female cashier, who had fallen to the floor, and he was continuing to threaten her.

Mr Melgarejo quickly grabbed a shopping trolley, placing it between himself and the offender, and began to negotiate with him.

The offender left the cashier cubicle area and moved towards Mr Melgarejo where he began to threaten him with the baseball bat, raising it into the air as if to strike him. Mr Melgarejo reacted by pushing the shopping trolley repeatedly into the violent man, but he refused to stop and grabbed hold of the trolley.

At this time Mr Robert Guevara, a supermarket employee, heard the commotion from the rear of the store and quickly ran towards the cash register area. Without concern for his own safety he immediately jumped onto the offender's back, putting his right arm around the man's chest and his left arm around his neck.

Unperturbed, the offender continued to wildly swing the bat around, hitting Mr Guevara several times. As the struggle continued, Mr Melgarejo again approached the offender and together the two men were able to restrain the enraged man.

With assistance from others the offender was disarmed and restrained until police arrived and the injured cashier was taken to hospital.

By their actions, Mr Guevara and Mr Melgarejo displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)

Mr Thomas Bruce HARPER, Lennox Head NSW 2478

Mr Jae Xander WATERS, Keith Hall NSW 2478

On the morning of 26 September 2016, Mr Thomas Harper and Mr Jae Waters went to the assistance of another surfer during a shark attack near Ballina in New South Wales.

Mr Harper and Mr Waters, both then 16 years old, were surfing at Lighthouse Beach with another friend. As they paddled on their boards out to their friend they saw his board lift up out of the water as a 4 metre Great White shark attacked. The boys saw the shark lunging at their friend, grabbing his leg and the surfboard, and knocking him into the water.

Despite the danger, Mr Harper and Mr Waters immediately paddled out to the injured boy where they saw that the shark was temporarily tangled in the board's leg rope.

Without hesitation the boys each grabbed hold of their friend's arms and, placing him between their two surfboards, began to paddle towards the shore. By this time the shark had managed to disentangle itself from the leg rope and began to pursue the boys at a close distance.

Despite the threat of the shark attacking again, the boys conveyed their injured friend to the shore where he was treated by emergency services before being taken to Lismore Base where he recovered from his injuries.

By their actions, Mr Harper and Mr Waters displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Philippe Stephane LOGUT, Région Rhône–Alpes, France

On the afternoon of 7 November 2017, Mr Philippe Logut saved a woman from drowning at Redgate Beach in Western Australia.

Mr Logut, a French tourist, was relaxing at Redgate Beach when he heard a person yelling. He looked up and saw that two women had been caught in a dangerous rip. He immediately ran onto an outcrop of rocks before entering the water and swimming about 100 metres out to the first woman.

When he reached her she was unresponsive so he placed her on his back and began to swim back through the waves to the rocks. On reaching the safety of the rocks he placed the woman there and about two minutes later she regained consciousness. At that point other beachgoers came to assist.

Simultaneously the second woman was rescued by two surfers and brought to the safety of the shore.

By his actions, Mr Logut displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)

The late Mr James McDONNELL, Late of Gundagai NSW 2722

The late Mr John MORLEY, Late of Gundagai NSW 2722

On 25 and 26 June 1852, Mr James (Yarri) McDonnell and Mr John (Jacky Jacky) Morley rescued numerous residents who were trapped by floodwaters at Gundagai, New South Wales.

On 24 June 1852, following a prolonged period of rain, the Murrumbidgee River was flooded at its highest recorded level, inundating the first established township of Gundagai. The flooding trapped scores of the town's residents, who had previously only experienced minor flooding which had allowed them to remain in the town.

By nightfall on 24 June the town was completely swamped by two metres of water. The next morning, 25 June, Mr McDonnell observed many people climbing out of their lofts and clinging to their rooftops. A number of people had already fallen into the water and were swept away. Observing their plight, Mr McDonnell entered the water in a bark canoe and paddled to those stranded, avoiding debris as he went. He assisted one person into his canoe and skilfully brought them back to land. He continued to rescue one person at a time well into the night, using the moonlight as a guide to find them.

The next day Mr McDonnell was joined by Mr Morley who arrived with a larger bark canoe. They were then able to rescue several people at a time.

Over a period of three days and two nights, they were able to rescue approximately 68 people. Sadly a further 89 people lost their lives.

By their actions Mr McDonnell and Mr Morley displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)

Mr Daniel Earnest McMILLAN, Doubleview WA 6018

In the early morning of 28 August 2015, Mr Daniel McMillan was involved in an incident with an armed offender who had covered two young children with fuel at a house in Doubleview, Western Australia.

At approximately 12:30am Mr McMillan was at home when he heard a female neighbour screaming in the street. He heard the woman yelling that her children were being injured in a neighbouring house. He immediately left the safety of his home and retrieved a fire extinguisher from his vehicle and went to the property to assist.

Meanwhile another neighbour had also heard the woman's pleas for help and had gone to the house where a naked man, the father of the children, was armed with a fuel can and a cigarette lighter and was in the process of pouring petrol onto a young autistic girl who was lying on a bed. A second child had already been covered in fuel, which had been ignited. Despite the presence of the violent man she immediately removed the children from the home.

Mr McMillan entered the house and found the offender in a highly agitated state and armed with a filleting knife with a 20cm blade. Without warning, the offender lunged at Mr McMillan with the knife, attempting to stab him in the abdomen.

Mr McMillan used the fire extinguisher to deflect the attack. He was able to disarm and restrain the offender whilst another neighbour entered the house and removed a third child from the scene.

The children were all taken by ambulance to hospital and, despite her severe burns, the small child continues to recover.

By his actions, Mr McMillan displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)

The late Mr Ryan Richard MARTIN, Late of Mermaid Beach Qld 4218
Mr Luke ROBINSON, Nelson Bay NSW 2315

On the afternoon of 25 March 2016, Messrs Ryan Martin, Luke Robinson and several others were involved in the rescue of a woman and young girl from a rip at Fingal Head in New South Wales.

A mother and her young daughter were swimming at Dreamtime Beach at Fingal Head when they became caught in a dangerous rip. The pair were quickly swept out by the rip and towards the jagged rocks of the headland.

Seeing the pair in distress, Messrs Martin and Robinson separately entered the water and swam through the crashing waves to reach them. Mr Martin grabbed hold of the girl, and Mr Robinson the woman, and assisted them to stay afloat and away from the rocks. The group then continued to be pushed around the headland by the rip.

When the two men became tired, others who had also entered the water to assist, took over helping the woman and child to stay afloat and managed to swim the woman back to the beach. By this stage Mr Martin was in difficulty and unable to stay afloat.

A rescue boat crewed by lifesavers then arrived and pulled one of the men and the young girl into the boat. They took them to the beach where they were assisted by others.

The crew returned the rescue boat to the group and pulled the remainder into the boat and took them to shore.

Tragically Mr Martin could not be revived.

By their actions, Mr Martin and Mr Robinson displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)

Mr Paul Scott MUNRO, Napiac NSW 2312

On the morning of 7 November 2017, Mr Paul Munro attempted to rescue a man from a burning vehicle at Coolongolook in New South Wales.

Just after 5am Mr Munro was driving along the Pacific Highway near Coolongolook when he saw fire coming from bushes on the side of the road. On closer inspection he could see a vehicle resting on its passenger side facing down the embankment with a small fire in the engine bay. He quickly dialled triple 0.

He approached the vehicle and began to bang on the roof, calling for the occupant. A male called out in pain. Mr Munro climbed up the back wheels and unsuccessfully attempted to open the jammed driver's door.

He returned to the roadside and flagged down a passing motorist and together they approached the crashed car and tried to roll it back onto its tyres. By this stage flames were coming out of the vehicle.

The other driver then managed to get the boot of the vehicle open but on seeing the flames inside the car urged Mr Munro not to enter. Despite the warnings, Mr Munro squeezed himself between the seat and towards the injured driver. The inside of the car was alight and he assisted the injured man in trying to smother the fire, however, flames and smoke became more intense and he was forced to retreat from the car.

Meanwhile the other driver had obtained a tool from his car and smashed the rear passenger window and the two men attempted to remove the injured man, but to no avail. Flames then engulfed the car. Unfortunately the injured driver did not survive the incident.

By his actions, Mr Munro displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)

Senior Constable Adam David TICKNER, Queensland Police Service

In the early morning of 6 November 2014, Senior Constable Adam Tickner apprehended an armed offender at Noosa Heads in Queensland.

At about 4.45am a domestic violence incident occurred at a residence in Noosa Heads. A male discharged a firearm causing head injuries to a female who required hospitalisation. The offender fled the scene on a motorcycle before flagging down a motorist. In a distressed state the offender admitted to the assault, believing he had killed his partner. He surrendered his firearm to the motorist who then called triple 0.

Whilst waiting for police to arrive the offender opened the passenger door and retrieved the firearm. He then pointed it directly at the motorist before commandeering the vehicle and driving off.

Soon after, Senior Constable Tickner and a colleague arrived on the scene. The motorist got into the police car and provided vital information to the officers about the offender as they pursued the stolen vehicle.

A few kilometres down the road the offender crashed the stolen vehicle into a 7,000 litre liquid gas tank at a local service station before entering the service station shop. Senior Constable Tickner and his colleague immediately stopped the police vehicle and, with pistols drawn, ran across the forecourt. A strong smell of gas permeated the air and the gas could also be heard venting from the damaged tank.

Two other police officers then arrived at the scene. The offender left the shop and shuffled towards the leaking gas tank holding a jacket in front of his body which concealed his hands.

Senior Constable Tickner moved towards the man ordering him to stand down. Other officers, who were approximately 20m from the gas tank, were concerned about the danger from the leaking gas, particularly as bystanders were nearby. Senior Constable Tickner informed the offender of the victim's condition and convinced him to surrender before apprehending him with the assistance of another officer. The other officers quickly ran to the gas tank and attempted to shut it off.

By his actions, Senior Constable Tickner displayed considerable bravery.

Senior Constable Tickner is also receiving a Group Bravery Citation for this incident.

BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)

Mr Michael Gerardus VAN BAAST, Cootamundra NSW 2590

In the early hours of 17 September 2017 Mr Michael Van Baast rescued a man from a burning vehicle near Cootamundra in New South Wales.

Mr Van Baast was driving on the Olympic Highway near Cootamundra at about 2am when he noticed flashing lights in the distance.

As he neared the lights he could see that a vehicle had collided with a tree. The car was extensively damaged and had caught alight with a badly injured driver inside.

Without hesitation, Mr Van Baast got out of his vehicle and approached the vehicle. He saw the male driver was trapped by the legs and he tried several times to prize open the driver's door to get to the man.

As the flames became more intense and began to enter the interior of the vehicle, he gripped the driver's door and bent the frame backwards allowing him access to the injured driver. He quickly grabbed the man and managed to pull him out of the vehicle and away to a safe area as fire engulfed the car.

By his actions, Mr Van Baast displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Benjamin Gary WRIGHT, McMinns Lagoon NT 0822

On the afternoon of 24 September 2017 Mr Benjamin Wright went to the assistance of a young girl trapped by fire at McMinns Lagoon in the Northern Territory.

Mr Wright was at home when he saw fire developing at his neighbour's property. The fire, with flames 1.8 metres high, was out of control and burning towards a young girl who was on a ride-on lawn mower.

The young girl, in an attempt to get away from the quickly advancing fire, became trapped between the flames and a high chain mesh fence.

Without concern for his own safety, Mr Wright quickly moved toward the property, climbed over the chain mesh fence and ran towards the young girl. Despite the smoke and heat from the flames, he was able to grab the young girl and carry her towards the safety of a nearby horse stable. Moments later the fire consumed the ride-on mower.

By his actions, Mr Wright displayed considerable bravery.