

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Allen Gregory ALDERTON
5 Zillah Street,
MERRYLANDS N.S.W. 2160

On 13 December 1979 at about 10.30 p.m. a man of heavy build fell from an overhead walkway at Homebush Railway Station, New South Wales, on to the railway lines below. He was rendered unconscious by the fall. Mr Alderton, then employed at the Homebush Railway Station as a Station Assistant, a slightly built man, aged 19 years jumped down to the railway lines to rescue him. Notwithstanding the fact that he then observed a through train travelling at speed just entering the Station, he succeeded in performing the almost impossible task of lifting the man up on to the platform with no time to spare. Mr Alderton then dived on to the platform and held the man's leg which was hanging over its edge to keep him free of the train.

His actions in such hazardous circumstances saved the man from death or serious injury.

Mr Gary Patrick YATES
22 Honeysuckle Street,
UMINA N.S.W. 2257

On 4 August 1980 at about 11 a.m., a man armed with a semi-automatic rifle entered the Commonwealth Bank, Padstow, New South Wales, vaulted the counter, menaced the staff and demanded money. Mr Yates, a customer in the bank, jumped over the counter behind him. As the man turned Mr Yates dived forward and tackled him. Both men grappled with the firearm until bank staff were able to assist Mr Yates in overpowering the offender.

By his actions Mr Yates displayed considerable bravery.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Station Officer Gary Thomas CRONIN
15 Scarlet Ash Court
ELTHAM VIC. 3095

On 14 January 1981 at about 7.30 p.m. Station Officer Cronin of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade Melbourne attended, with other Brigade personnel, the scene of an apparent drowning of a 12 year old boy in the area below the water fountain in the Melbourne City Square. Station Officer Cronin, and another Brigade Officer, donning compressed air breathing apparatus, searched for approximately one hour underwater in a large sump area some 4½ metres below the bottom of the fountain until the boy was located in an air pocket about 4 metres inside a branch tunnel. They then dragged him out of the tunnel and assisted him to the surface.

By their actions Station Officer Cronin and his companion displayed commendable courage in such circumstances.

Mr Richard GRANT
5 Douglas Court
LEONGATHA VIC. 3953

On 6 April 1980 at about 3.30 p.m. at Kilcunda Beach, Victoria, Mr Grant observed four young boys run to the edge of the water. One, aged 4 years, was dragged into deep water by the severe turbulence and undertow. Mr Grant immediately attempted to rescue the boy and although he managed twice to take hold of him could not sustain his hold because of the severity of the sea and the strongly running current. The boy was drowned.

Mr Grant displayed commendable courage in attempting a rescue in such circumstances.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Anthony Francis McEWAN
40 Warren Road,
NANNUP W.A. 6275

On 26 October 1979 at about 5.30 p.m. a fire occurred in the laundry/toilet section of the home occupied by the McEwan family at Wembley Downs, Western Australia. Anthony's step-mother, who was trapped in that part of the house, called for help. Anthony, aged 15 years, wearing light clothing and without footwear ran through the flames and despite being badly burned as a result, broke a window and assisted his step-mother to safety.

Anthony Mc Ewan displayed commendable courage in such circumstances.

Station Officer John William RODDA
147 Holland Road,
BLACKBURN VIC. 3130

On 14 January 1981, at about 7.30 p.m., Station Officer Rodda of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, Melbourne attended, with other Brigade personnel, the scene of an apparent drowning of a 12 year old boy in the area below the water fountain in the Melbourne City Square. Station Officer Rodda, and another Brigade officer, donning compressed air breathing apparatus, searched for approximately one hour underwater in a large sump area some 4½ metres below the bottom of the fountain until the boy was located in an air pocket about 4 metres inside a branch tunnel. They then dragged him out of the tunnel and assisted him to the surface.

By their actions Station Officer Rodda and his companion displayed commendable courage in such circumstances.