**TO RECEIVE THE BRAVERY MEDAL**

1. **The late Mr Roger Bertocci**

 *(to be received by his wife Mrs Helen Bertocci)*

On the afternoon of 14 December 2014, Mr Roger Bertocci attempted to stop an assault on a woman at North Altona, Victoria.

Mr Bertocci was driving along a street in North Altona when he noticed a pregnant woman being physically attacked by an aggressive male. He quickly stopped his vehicle to render assistance.

The offender ran towards Mr Bertocci's vehicle and, on reaching the passenger side door, attempted to punch the windows. Mr Bertocci exited his vehicle and the offender then proceeded to chase him around the car, and verbally threaten him. The man pulled a large kitchen knife out of a sheath and continued to chase Mr Bertocci around the vehicle.

Attempting to protect himself, Mr Bertocci began to wave his arms around in a submissive manner and was walking backwards and away from the armed man. At this time, the female was standing close by in a distressed state.

The armed offender moved towards Mr Bertocci and stabbed him, before grabbing him by the shoulder and repeatedly assaulting him with the knife. The man fled the scene and Mr Bertocci collapsed. Tragically he did not survive his injuries.

By his actions, Mr Bertocci displayed considerable bravery.

**TO RECEIVE THE BRAVERY MEDAL**

2. **Mr Richard Ashleigh Collier**

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.

**TO RECEIVE THE BRAVERY MEDAL**

3. **Mr Laurence James Deal**

and

4. **Mr Sohan Dilruk Senanayake**

On the morning of 17 July 2013, Mr Laurence Deal and Mr Sohan Senanayake went to the rescue of a woman who had fallen onto train tracks at Richmond, Victoria.

As he was waiting for a train at Richmond station, Mr Senanayake witnessed a woman stumble from the platform and fall onto the train tracks. He quickly glanced at the timetable board and could see that the next train was due in one minute.

Mr Deal was also waiting for a train and became aware that a woman had stumbled on the platform and fallen onto the train tracks.

They immediately jumped down onto the tracks to assist the woman who was unconscious and despite their efforts, the woman remained unresponsive.

With the imminent arrival of the next train into the station, they hastily lifted the woman up off the tracks to by-standers on the platform. Mr Deal and Mr Senanayake then quickly got off the tracks and back onto the platform.

By their actions, Mr Deal and Mr Senanayake displayed considerable bravery.

**TO RECEIVE THE BRAVERY MEDAL**

5. **Mr Mathew Paul Dunham**

On 27 April 2012, Mr Mathew Dunham rescued a colleague after a barge capsized at Patterson Lakes, Victoria.

A push-boat and barge were travelling along the Patterson River with the barge carrying a thirteen tonne excavator. The barge began to tip over and then capsized near the middle of the river.

Mr Dunham, one of three men who were on the vessel, found himself under the push-boat however managed to swim out from under it. He noticed one of his colleagues about 30 metres away and called to him to see if he knew where their other colleague was. The excavator operator had become trapped inside the machine's cabin as it sank beneath the water.

Mr Dunham then swam to where the barge had sunk and duck dived several times as he tried to locate the side of the excavator cabin. After a few minutes he swam over to assist his other colleague, who was struggling in the water, and they began to swim towards the shore.

He then saw the excavator operator come to the surface. The man was floating lifelessly in the water. When he saw the man move his arms he immediately swam to him and grabbed hold of his right arm. He retrieved a life jacket from the water and placed it over the man before swimming him to shore.

By his actions, Mr Dunham displayed considerable bravery.

**TO RECEIVE THE BRAVERY MEDAL**

6. **Mr David Alan Gray**

In the late evening of 9 August 2014, Mr David Gray was involved in an altercation with an armed offender at Kerang, Victoria.

Mr and Mrs Gray and their six children were at their home in Kerang when Mrs Gray's ex-partner arrived on the front porch. The offender made verbal threats to the Grays through their partially open glass front door.

The offender, who was armed with a double barrel shotgun, discharged two gunshots through the door, wounding both Mr and Mrs Gray. Despite having upper body injuries Mrs Gray quickly located three of the children, fled to a shed in the backyard and called 000.

With the threat of the armed offender entering the house, and with the safety of the remaining three children foremost in his mind, Mr Gray rushed at the offender. Despite being injured, he grabbed the barrel of the gun and the two men fell through the door and onto the lawn in the front of the house. The struggle continued as both men had both of their hands on the weapon.

At this point a neighbour of the Grays, who had heard the gun shots, ran to the scene. He grabbed the offender by the shoulders, dragging him off Mr Gray. The offender then fled the scene in a vehicle and later tragically took his own life.

By his actions, Mr Gray displayed considerable bravery.

**TO RECEIVE THE COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT**

7. **Mr Kenneth John Byrne**

In the late evening of 9 August 2014, Mr Kenneth Byrne went to the assistance of a man grappling with an armed offender at Kerang in Victoria.

Mr Byrne's neighbour and his wife were at their home in Kerang with their six children when the ex-partner of the man's wife arrived carrying a shotgun.  A verbal altercation occurred before the offender discharged two shots through the front door, injuring both husband and wife.

Mr Byrne's neighbour then grabbed the barrel of the shotgun and the two men began to struggle with the shotgun on the front lawn.

On hearing the gunshots and commotion that followed, and without consideration for his own safety, Mr Byrne immediately ran to the house and approached the two men who were continuing to struggle. He quickly grabbed the offender by the shoulders, dragging him off his neighbour.

The offender got to his feet and bolted across the lawn to his vehicle and drove away. A short time later, the offender took his own life.

For his actions, Mr Byrne is commended for brave conduct.

**TO RECEIVE THE BRAVERY MEDAL**

8. **Mr Christopher Colin Hadwell**

In the early hours of 6 August 2015, Mr Christopher Hadwell rescued a woman from a burning house in Byron Bay, New South Wales.

At approximately 5am Mr Hadwell was on his way to work when he noticed a large orange glow in the distance.  He immediately drove to the source of the glow and discovered a house on fire.

On arriving at the house he was met by another person and together they made their way to the entrance of the house.  The smoke was very thick and they both called out to see if anyone was inside.  They were just inside the door when the roof cracked and then collapsed and Mr Hadwell quickly pulled the other person out of the building.

Mr Hadwell and the other person approached the door again and entered the house, positioning themselves inside the doorway.  They began calling for the occupant.

When they heard a moan off to their right, Mr Hadwell and the other person crouched down low and began to crawl in the direction of the moan.  Feeling his way along a wall, as visibility was minimal, Mr Hadwell felt the limb of the barely conscious occupant under the rubble of the collapsed roof.

He pulled the occupant towards him and at this point the woman's clothing became snagged on the debris.  He managed to wrench her free and drag her out of the house where he immediately placed her in the recovery position and checked her breathing.  The woman regained consciousness and
Mr Hadwell and the other person assisted the victim until emergency services arrived.

By his actions, Mr Hadwell displayed considerable bravery.

**TO RECEIVE THE COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT**

9. **Mr Nicolas Desire Bompas**

On 4 January 2013, Mr Nicolas Bompas rescued a woman from a burning vehicle at Geelong in Victoria.

Mr Bompas and his family were travelling along the Surf Coast Highway near Geelong, when he witnessed a collision involving a 4WD and a van on the roundabout in front of him.

He immediately stopped his vehicle and rushed towards the 4WD that had skidded for a few metres and flipped onto its side.

On reaching the overturned vehicle he was aware of oil leaking from the 4WD and it was smoking. Despite the personal risk, he climbed onto the top of the car to assist the young female driver inside.

He was able to remove her seatbelt and after several attempts lifted her out of the car and onto the ground. Moments later the car exploded.

For his actions, Mr Bompas is commended for brave conduct.

**TO RECEIVE THE COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT**

10. **Ms Marion Faye Dalziel**

In the early hours of 29 November 1970, Ms Marion Dalziel, then aged 15 years, attempted to evacuate an injured man from a burning vehicle after an accident in Pakenham East in Victoria.

At around 12:40am Ms Dalziel was travelling home with another family along Bald Hills Road when the vehicle they were in was involved in a head-on collision.  After the collision, the engine of the vehicle Ms Dalziel was in caught alight.

When the vehicle came to rest, Ms Dalziel managed to exit the rear seat before leaning back inside to assist her friend out of the vehicle. With two adults still seated in the front, she saw flames coming from under the bonnet and attempted to get the male driver out of the car, but despite her attempts she was unable to open the damaged driver's door.

As others arrived on the scene, Ms Dalziel quickly went to a nearby residence and attempted to call emergency services.  The injured male driver managed to exit the vehicle but unfortunately the female passenger died at the scene.

For her actions, Ms Dalziel is commended for brave conduct.

**TO RECEIVE THE COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT**

11. **Master Samuel Thomas Edmends**

On the morning of 30 August 2015, Master Samuel went to the assistance of a woman during a physical assault at Wendouree in Victoria.

Samuel, aged 11 years at the time, was at his family home in Wendouree when he heard raised voices coming from the bedroom of his parents.

He quickly entered the room and saw his father sitting on top of his mother, pinning her to the bed with his knees and he had his arms on her chest. He was also applying pressure to her neck in an attempt to choke her.

Samuel immediately went to his mother's aid and tried to get his father to release his grip on his mother but the man shoved him away from the bed and continued the assault. His mother then yelled at him to call the police.  Samuel ran from the room and called triple 0.

A short time later, after a further assault on the woman by the offender, police arrived at the scene.

For his actions, Master Samuel is commended for brave conduct.

**TO RECEIVE THE COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT**

12. **Mr Robert James Manning**

In the early afternoon of 5 June 2014, Mr Robert Manning rescued an unconscious diver off Leonards Island near Eden in New South Wales.

Mr Manning, an experienced free diver, and his friend, another experienced free diver, were conducting a scout for fish in the water off Leonards Island.

During a dive Mr Manning noticed his friend's float line in front of him. He followed the line down and saw the man lying on his back, not moving, 12 metres from the surface on the sea floor.  Quickly rising to the surface to breathe, Mr Manning then swam back down to his friend.  He undid the man's weight belt and immediately swam him to the surface.

Once on the surface he removed the man's face mask, finding him unresponsive.  Despite being approximately 300 metres from their boat, Mr Manning immediately began CPR and swam the man towards the boat.

On reaching the boat he managed to drag the unconscious man aboard and continued to perform CPR.  He quickly called triple 0 and then returned to administering CPR.  Finally the man regained consciousness and began to breathe on his own.

A nearby fishing boat was called over and the crew provided assistance until emergency services arrived.

For his actions, Mr Manning is commended for brave conduct.

**TO RECEIVE THE COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT**

13. **Mr John Rodney McLeod**

On the morning of 15 June 2015, Mr John McLeod, a Country Fire Authority volunteer, rescued two people from a burning house at Mount Helen in Victoria.

At about 8am, Mr McLeod returned to his home and saw smoke billowing from his neighbour's two storey property.  He immediately rushed to the property and saw his two neighbours sitting on the roof of the home.  The male neighbour had managed to drag his barely conscious wife through a window and onto the roof.

Mr McLeod quickly obtained a ladder and attempted to climb up to the couple but was forced back by acrid smoke.  He made a second attempt and eventually made it onto the roof where he assisted his neighbour to move the woman away from the smoke.

He then descended to the ground and retrieved a harness before returning to the house and again climbing up the ladder to the couple.  With smoke now coming from the eaves and windows, Mr McLeod placed the harness on the woman and, with the assistance of two Ballarat City Firefighters who had arrived on the scene, lowered the woman from the roof to waiting paramedics.  Both neighbours were taken to Ballarat Hospital and treated for smoke inhalation.

For his actions, Mr McLeod is commended for brave conduct.