

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Ms Alison Patricia ARCHER, WA**

On the afternoon of 16 January 2017, Ms Alison Archer went to the assistance of a woman who was being attacked by a man, Western Australia.

Ms Archer was visiting a friend and young son at their home when her friend became aware of an unknown man in the front yard. The woman called out to the man telling him to leave, but he continued to stay in the yard.

Ms Archer's friend went into the garage, where the man charged at her and began assaulting her. Without consideration for her own safety, Ms Archer ran to her friend and attempted to pull the man off. The offender grabbed Ms Archer by the hair and attempted to push her to the ground.

He also grabbed the other woman, forced her to the ground and began dragging the two women along the gravel driveway, causing injuries to their arms and legs. He let go of the other woman and picked up a rock, striking Ms Archer on the back of the head before returning to the assault on the other woman.

At this point, the woman's young son jumped on the offender to try and stop the attack. Ms Archer managed to break away and together with the young boy, took shelter behind a car. The young boy used a mobile phone to call for the police. The offender then picked up a rock and was aiming it at the other woman, who was on the ground. On seeing this, Ms Archer jumped on the other woman to protect her and was again struck on the back of the head by the offender.

The young boy struck the offender with a branch, who then began to chase him. Ms Archer and the woman were able to make it to the safety of the house with the boy joining them soon after. The offender was attempting to steal a vehicle from the property when police arrived.

Both Ms Archer and the other woman were taken to hospital for treatment of their injuries.

By her actions, Ms Archer displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**The late Ms Kirsty Louise BODEN**, Late of SA

In the late evening of 3 June 2017, Ms Kirsty Boden went to the assistance of several people following a terrorist incident in London, United Kingdom.

Ms Boden was having dinner with two friends at a restaurant at Borough Market when they heard a crash on the nearby London Bridge.

Without hesitation, Ms Boden, who was working as a nurse at Guy's Hospital, told her friends that she was going to see if anyone was injured. She quickly left the table, running in the direction of the bridge.

Moments later, the area turned to a scene of mass chaos and panic as people began screaming and running from the bridge into Borough Market. Ms Boden's two friends lost sight of her in the melee. Pulled along with the crowd, they fled their seats and were swept around a corner away from the bridge.

As soon as they were able, they made their way back to where they thought Ms Boden would be. They located her on the pavement about 50 metres away from the restaurant. She had been attacked and severely wounded by terrorists who had been in the van, and a police officer was performing CPR on her.

Her friends explained to the police officer that Ms Boden had left them at the restaurant in an attempt to help others.

Sadly Ms Boden did not survive her injuries.

By her actions, Ms Boden displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**The late Mr Jack Thomas BRAY**, late of WA

In the early afternoon of 1 April 2017, Mr Jack Bray went to the assistance of a young woman in dangerous seas at Peaceful Bay near Denmark, Western Australia.

Mr Bray was visiting Peaceful Bay near Denmark with his girlfriend and was taking photos of her atop rocks when a strong wave swept her into the churning water.

He immediately threw an esky to her and alerted emergency services. Without consideration for his own safety, he grabbed a nearby boogie board and entered the five metre high swell.

He managed to reach the young woman and helped her onto the boogie board, which they clung to in the large swell for more than an hour. At one point a huge wave crashed over them and Mr Bray lost his grip on the board and entered the water.

The same wave then propelled the young woman on the boogie board towards the rocks and she was able to clamber up them to safety. She was later located by emergency services and transported to hospital.

Despite an extensive search for Mr Bray, he was unable to be located, and his body was discovered five days later.

By his actions, Mr Bray displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Senior Constable Ian Bruce BUCKMASTER**, Queensland Police Service  
**Mr Charles Wayne INGHAM**, Cleveland QLD 4163

On the morning of 10 July 1998, Queensland Police Officer Senior Constable Ian Buckmaster (then Constable) and Mr Charles Ingham (then Constable) rescued a young child from a burning car in Loganlea, Queensland.

Constables Buckmaster and Ingham were in pursuit of a stolen taxi that was being driven erratically and at high speed through the streets of Loganlea. During the pursuit, the taxi at times mounted the footpath, cut in front of other motorists, collided with another vehicle, sped through vacant land and drove on the wrong side of the street. One of its front tyres had deflated and was separated from the wheel rim. With the stolen taxi reaching speeds of up to 120kmph, the pursuit was terminated.

As the officers slowed their vehicle, they approached a crest in the road and saw a large flash ahead. The taxi had collided with another vehicle, which had been extensively damaged and was now resting on its side with the rear of the vehicle alight.

They immediately stopped their police car and quickly made their way to the damaged car, where the male driver was attempting to remove a child from the rear seat.

Constable Ingham first went to the assistance of a female passenger and took her away from the car. He then went to the front of the vehicle where Constable Buckmaster was removing the windscreen.

Despite the threat of the vehicle igniting, Constable Buckmaster then crawled into the vehicle while Constable Ingham held onto him for balance. He made his way to the rear, where a three year old boy was in a car seat. He unbuckled the restraint and with the assistance of Constable Ingham, managed to remove the child from the burning vehicle.

Once the officers and occupants were outside the vehicle, it quickly became engulfed in flames.

By their actions, Senior Constable Buckmaster and Mr Ingham displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Mr Mitchell CAMPBELL, WA**

On the afternoon of 10 July 2004, Mr Mitchell Campbell went to the assistance of a surfer who had been attacked by a shark at Noiseys Beach near Gracetown, Western Australia.

Mr Campbell and another man were surfing when they witnessed a shark violently attack a nearby surfer. Noticing another shark nearby, they quickly made their way to the safety of the beach.

On seeing the body of the victim reappear on the surface of the water approximately 30 metres off shore, Mr Campbell and the other man ran out across a reef, scrambled onto their surf boards and swam to the assistance of the surfer. Mr Campbell did not know the whereabouts of the two sharks.

When Mr Campbell and the other man reached the severely injured surfer, they observed that he was most likely deceased. With some difficulty they managed to pull the man through the surf towards the beach.

Ambulance officers later arrived and confirmed the victim hadn't survived the attack.

By his actions, Mr Campbell displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Mr Matthew Simon CORLETT, WA**

**Mr Jason William FLETCHER, Lower King WA 6330**

On the morning of 12 October 2012, Mr Matthew Corlett and Mr Jason Fletcher were involved in a fire burnover event at Black Cat Creek, Western Australia.

The Black Cat Creek fire ignited around 9:00am and the firefighting effort was concentrated on two sectors. A change in wind direction to the south-west caused the fire to escalate dramatically and burn over the top of a group of firefighters, who were parked in the bush for a briefing.

The fire intensified so quickly that two trucks were unable to escape and were completely gutted. A number of the firefighters sustained burns, two seriously. The strength of the fire was unusually high, due to the existence of heavy fuels in the area and very strong winds fanning the flames up a slight hill.

Mr Corlett's and Mr Fletcher's truck was the easternmost vehicle in the group parked on the firebreak as the fire escalated. With their vehicle alight and in order to get away from the fire, they drove approximately 600 metres until they came upon an area where a bulldozer was clearing vegetation.

The men immediately got out of their vehicle, started the water pumps and extinguished their burning truck and some nearby vegetation, which was also alight. The fire was approaching rapidly and was extremely intense.

A volunteer bushfire brigade truck then burst into the clearing, having just driven through the fire. The truck and both its pump motors were alight. Despite knowing the safest place was inside their own vehicle, Messrs Fletcher and Corlett directed the burning truck towards themselves, where they used their hoses to extinguish the vehicle and fuel cans. They were spraying the cab of the truck when the intense fire front reached them.

They stayed outside and continued their efforts in the searing heat. Once the fire had diminished slightly, the other two volunteers and the bulldozer driver got out of their vehicles. Mr Corlett checked the volunteers for injuries while Mr Fletcher checked the dozer driver and his machine.

Concerned for the safety of other colleagues, Messrs Fletcher and Corlett decided to return to the fire ground. They managed to make their way to the control point to render further assistance.

By their actions, Mr Corlett and Mr Fletcher displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Mr Nicholas DANIELL**, NSW  
**Mr Hidayat HIDAYAT**, Armidale NSW 2350  
**Mr Ivan Patrick SMITH**, Armidale NSW 2350

On the afternoon of 14 September 2015, Mr Nicholas Daniel, Mr Hidayat Hidayat and Mr Ivan Smith rescued two people from a burning car at a petrol station in Armidale, New South Wales.

Just after 1:30pm, a car occupied by two people lost control and crashed into a petrol bowser at a service station in Armidale. The elderly occupants were trapped inside the vehicle, as the bowser and car ignited on impact.

Upon hearing the crash, Mr Smith rushed across the road towards the driver's side of the burning car and attempted to evacuate the driver. At this time, the driver fainted and Mr Smith was forced to drag the driver clear from the burning car.

Mr Hidayat also ran across the road as soon as he saw the collision. He arrived at the scene and assisted Mr Smith in the evacuation of the driver from the burning car.

Mr Daniell, who also saw the accident, quickly approached the scene. He noticed the driver was being assisted from the car so he immediately moved to the passenger side of the vehicle, where the female occupant was unable to free herself. Mr Daniell, assisted by Mr Hidayat, was able to release the female before he carried her away to a safe distance.

Two petrol bowsers, the vehicle and the service station forecourt sustained significant damage.

By their actions, Messrs Daniell, Hidayat and Smith displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Mr Matthew Ian FLANAGAN**, Wangaratta VIC 3677

On the morning of 18 January 2018, Mr Matthew Flanagan went to the assistance of a man caught in dangerous seas at Bithry Inlet, New South Wales.

At about 10am, Mr Flanagan noticed a man clinging to a capsized canoe being pulled out to sea. He paddled his sea kayak towards the man and assessed his condition. He stayed with the man, as they were drawn out past the breakers where they would be able to cope with the swell without being tumbled about.

Mr Flanagan left the man in the water holding onto the overturned canoe as a floatation device and quickly navigated his sea kayak to shore where he raised the alarm.

He then re-entered the water, located the man again and attempted to tow him and his canoe through the rough seas to a less rocky area; however, this wasn't successful. By this time, Mr Flanagan had been overturned in his kayak on numerous occasions by the turbulent sea. He managed to locate a lifejacket in the kayak and get it onto the quickly tiring man in the water.

After abandoning the canoe, Mr Flanagan towed the man further out to sea and away from the rocks. He left the man bobbing in the water while he went to search for a safe place to bring him ashore. Returning a short time later, he then was able to tow the man behind his kayak towards a small cove.

Upon reaching the area, Mr Flanagan instructed the man on a safe method to approach the shore. Using the waves for momentum, the man was swept onto a sandbar and then into shallow water. The waves continued to dump the man, before Mr Flanagan was able to grab hold of him and pull him onto the beach.

Mr Flanagan found clothing, a foil blanket and some food in his kayak for the man before he went to seek assistance.

By his actions, Mr Flanagan displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Mr Arthur Marin GERARD**, Vertou, France

On the afternoon of 9 September 2016, Mr Arthur Gerard, then 16 years old, went to the assistance of a young girl during a dog attack in Bassendean, Western Australia.

Mr Gerard, a French exchange student, together with four younger persons, was visiting Success Hill Reserve in the late afternoon. Three of the younger boys set off towards the river with a nine year old girl following at a distance.

At this time, Mr Gerard noticed two Staffordshire bull terrier dogs were also in the park, off-leash, with their owner following. The owner told Mr Gerard that if the dogs began to approach him, that he was to stand up.

As he stood up, he saw the dogs were now running in the direction the young girl had just taken. He then heard the girl scream. He quickly ran down the path and observed the young girl on the ground covering her head with her hands as the dogs attacked her.

Without hesitation, Mr Gerard grabbed the jaw of one dog that was attacking the girl and managed to push the other dog away. He then lifted the young girl into his arms. One of the dogs then bit the young girl on the leg and Mr Gerard lifted her up higher and out of reach of the dogs. The other dog then turned on Mr Gerard, biting him on his right leg. The owner pulled the dogs away and left the scene.

By his actions, Mr Gerard displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Ms Breanna Jeanne GILBERT**, Rye VIC 3941

On the evening of 18 May 2016, Ms Breanna Gilbert went to the rescue of an elderly man who had fallen into the Isar river in Munich, Germany.

Ms Gilbert was on the Prinzregenten Bridge in Munich when she observed a lifeless body floating face down in the water. She and another man jumped into the river, which was flowing extremely fast due to recent flooding. The temperature of the water was approximately 11 degrees.

Ms Gilbert and the other man managed to move through the fast flowing water to the injured elderly man. With difficulty, they were able to grab hold of the man and head to the river bank down-stream from the bridge.

On reaching the river bank, emergency services and police removed the injured man from the water and began resuscitation efforts. Sadly the elderly man did not regain consciousness.

By her actions, Ms Gilbert displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Mr Ronald John GREEN**, Katherine NT 0850

In the early hours of 15 March 2016, Mr Ronald Green went to the assistance of a woman during a domestic dispute in Katherine, Northern Territory.

Shortly after midnight, Mr Green heard shouting and yelling coming from a property opposite his home. He went to his front door and witnessed a physical altercation between a man and a woman. The man was in possession of a 30cm kitchen knife.

Mr Green grabbed his phone, left his home and went to the woman, who was sitting in the gutter with the man standing in front of her. The man was attempting to persuade the woman to go with him, however, she was refusing.

Mr Green tried to calm the situation and then called the police and handed the phone to the woman. The offender continued to verbally abuse the woman and Mr Green placed himself in between them to diffuse the situation.

Despite the offender now brandishing the knife above his head with the blade pointing down, Mr Green again positioned himself in between the man and woman. The armed man lunged past Mr Green towards the woman. The offender then made repeated attempts to stab both the woman and Mr Green. A struggle ensued and Mr Green and the woman managed to wrestle the knife from the offender, before immobilising him.

By this time, the offender had been released and Mr Green continued to observe him until Emergency Services arrived.

By his actions, Mr Green displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Mr Peno Juan HAU, Orana WA 6330**

On the morning of 12 October 2012, Mr Peno Hau was involved in a fire burnover event at Black Cat Creek, Western Australia.

The Black Cat Creek fire ignited around 9:00am and the firefighting effort was concentrated on two sectors. A change in wind direction to the south-west caused the fire to escalate dramatically and burn over the top of a group of firefighters, who were parked in the bush for a briefing.

The fire intensified so quickly that two trucks were unable to escape and were completely gutted. A number of the firefighters sustained burns, two seriously. The strength of the fire was unusually high, due to the existence of heavy fuels in the area and very strong winds fanning the flames up a slight hill.

As the fire swept over and engulfed the firefighting vehicles, Mr Hau and his colleague crouched down low in the foot wells of their utility. The paint was peeling off their vehicle and the doors were too hot to touch. In efforts to remove themselves from the danger, they quickly drove through flames and thick smoke towards a safe zone.

Mr Hau and his colleague, without concern for their own safety, then made the decision to return into the fire to assist others. As they were making their way through the fire, they came upon three colleagues who were using a fire blanket for protection. They provided them with water before they were evacuated to the control point.

At this time, Mr Hau and his colleague decided to again return to the fire ground to search for missing crew members. They drove for approximately 200 metres before coming across a severely injured female colleague. They placed her inside their vehicle and began the journey out of the fire ground.

Mr Hau then went back into the fire ground to continue the search for colleagues.

By his actions, Mr Hau displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

### **The late Mr Raymond Edward JEROME, Late of NSW**

In the early hours of 14 April 2012, Mr Raymond Jerome displayed considerable bravery during a fire at a block of home units in Penshurst, New South Wales.

Mr Jerome was asleep in his home unit in Penshurst when he was awoken by the sound of fire alarms. He went to investigate and observed thick dark smoke coming from Unit 3. Together with his daughter, he alerted the two occupants of Unit 3 and helped them to evacuate their burning unit.

Mr Jerome then re-entered the burning building and attempted to put out the fire with a hand held fire extinguisher. As the thick smoke began to quickly fill the stairwell, he ran up and down the stairs several times, calling out to occupants and knocking on doors to raise the alarm for residents to evacuate.

As a qualified electrician, he also spent time searching for the main switchboard to turn off the electricity to the block of units. He continued with these actions until Emergency Services arrived.

Ambulance officers noticed that Mr Jerome's health was deteriorating. He then suffered a seizure and cardiac arrest and sadly was unable to be revived.

By his actions, Mr Jerome displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Mr Glen KEAUGHRAN**, Singleton WA 6175

**Mr Matthew James LODGE**, Falcon WA 6210

**Mr Benjamin Stuart LONG**, Halls Head WA 6210

On the afternoon of 31 May 2016, Messrs Glen Keaughran, Matthew Lodge and Benjamin Long went to the rescue of a man who had been attacked by a shark at Gearies Beach near Falcon, Western Australia.

Messrs Keaughran and Long were waiting on a wave in the surf when they witnessed a shark attack on a nearby surfer. Without consideration for their own safety, they paddled over to the injured man, reassuring him that he wasn't on his own.

They managed to get the man back onto his damaged surfboard and began to swim him towards the shore, stopping to make sure that he remained on his board and that his head was above the water.

At one point the man came off his board, and Messrs Keaughran and Long dove into the water to push the man back onto the surfboard.

As the group neared the shore, Mr Lodge observed that the men were having difficulty in getting the injured surfer to the beach. Despite warnings from other onlookers and not knowing the whereabouts of the shark, he quickly grabbed a long board from another surfer and paddled out through the waves to offer the group assistance.

The three men then paddled towards the shore, where the injured man was carried onto the sand and emergency first aid procedures were commenced. Emergency Services then arrived and transported the victim to hospital.

Sadly the victim did not recover from his injuries.

By their actions, Messrs Keaughran, Lodge and Long displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Mr Hugh Cameron McCLELLAND**, Kallangur QLD 4503

**Mr James Robert McCLELLAND**, Woolloowin QLD 4030

In the early afternoon of 9 January 1974, brothers Hugh and James McClelland (then aged 15 and 16 years respectively), rescued two young girls at Bulcock Beach, Queensland.

James and Hugh, then members of the Ithaca Life Saving Club, became aware of two young girls being swept out to sea. The brothers quickly ran along the beach to gain closer access to the girls, who were using small boogie boards.

Despite not being trained for surf rescues, they entered the choppy surf and made their way in the washing machine-like conditions towards the two girls. As they reached the girls, the group was swept across the Caloundra Bar and out towards open sea. They were then dumped and pushed underwater by the cyclonic conditions, and the girls lost hold of their boogie boards. On several occasions they were separated, forcing the brothers to re-locate them in the treacherous conditions.

As they made it past the last surf break, James and Hugh managed to carry one girl each on their backs and fought the currents for over an hour to bring the girls back to shore near Bribie Island.

After a short rest on the beach, the boys then walked the girls back to the northern tip of Bribie Island at the Caloundra Bar.

By their actions, Messrs Hugh McClelland and James McClelland displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**The late Mr Luke Edward MITCHELL**, Late of VIC

In the early hours of 24 May 2009, Mr Luke Mitchell displayed considerable bravery during an armed attack in Brunswick, Victoria.

At 2am, Mr Mitchell and a group of friends were exiting a nightclub in Brunswick when they became aware of an altercation between four men across the street. Three of the men were attacking the fourth man, who had intervened when the trio had begun arguing with a woman. The men began kicking and punching the fourth man before he managed to flee; however, two of the men began to chase after him.

As one of his friends yelled at the men to leave the fourth man alone, the men stopped and confronted her. Mr Mitchell then stepped forward to protect the woman and a fist fight broke out, with Mr Mitchell being knocked to the ground. One of the attackers was standing nearby with an old pram that he threw towards Mr Mitchell, narrowly missing him.

The fight appeared to end at this point and Mr Mitchell and their friends got into a vehicle and left the scene. They drove to a nearby convenience store and parked in the carpark. Mr Mitchell and some of their friends got out of the vehicle. Another car containing the men from the previous altercation stopped behind their car and got out. They were now armed with knives and a cleaver.

One of the men, who was armed with a knife, ran towards Mr Mitchell. As he tried to get to the entrance of the store, the other two men from the vehicle blocked his path. The men began to assault Mr Mitchell, who was knocked to the ground, and the attack continued, resulting in him being stabbed multiple times.

As one of their friends quickly called Triple 0, the three offenders got into their vehicle and left the scene. First-aid was provided to Mr Mitchell and he was later transported to hospital, but sadly he did not survive his injuries.

Three men were later apprehended and charged.

By his actions, Mr Mitchell displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Mr Troy Barry SHEPPARD**, Two Rocks WA 6037

On the evening of 25 December 2017, Mr Troy Sheppard went to the rescue of a young man at Sorrento Beach, Western Australia.

Mr Sheppard, a paramedic with the St John Ambulance Service, was on duty when a call came in advising about a distressed young man with a range of health issues, was seen entering the dangerous water conditions at Sorrento Beach, outside of the beach's shark safety net.

He immediately went to the area and learned that the man's father had entered the water and swum out about 100 metres in the rough conditions looking for his son.

While police officers and onlookers shone torches into the water, Mr Sheppard entered the water after he believed he heard a call for help. He caught up to the man's father and directed him back to the beach. He then proceeded to swim out a further distance in order to locate the man.

Once he had located the young man, he guided him to the safety of the beach.

By his actions, Mr Sheppard displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Mr Ulrich Peter SNELL**, Alkimos WA 6038

On the afternoon of 20 September 2016, Mr Ulrich Snell rescued two friends from treacherous surf at Scarborough Beach, Western Australia.

Mr Snell was swimming with two friends in an unpatrolled area of the beach. As they were making their way to shore, they became caught in a strong rip. Mr Snell reached the shore first and looked back for his friends, both of whom were still in the rip and waving frantically.

Despite knowing how strong the rip was, he quickly swam back out and helped one boy to safety. Mr Snell then saw that his other friend was now much farther out. Although he was becoming tired, without hesitation, he made his way out again into deeper water and saw that his friend was lying face down in the water unconscious.

He checked for a pulse and couldn't find one, but managed to flip the boy over and began to pump his stomach. He then started swimming the boy towards the shore. His calls for help were heard by a surfer, who paddled over to the pair. With Mr Snell's assistance, the unconscious boy was placed on the surfboard and they headed for the beach.

On reaching the safety of the shore, Mr Snell began CPR on his friend. Despite being unresponsive for several minutes, the swimmer was rushed to hospital and made a full recovery.

By his actions, Mr Snell displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Mr Ian Hugh STODDART**, Narellan Vale NSW 2567

On the morning of 10 January 2014, Mr Ian Stoddart went to the rescue of three people caught in a rip at Burrill Lake, New South Wales.

At about lunchtime, Mr Stoddart was swimming at Burrill Beach when a man and his two young sons got into difficulties in a strong rip. He immediately paddled out for 80 metres to the boys and assisted them safely to shore.

Despite being tired from his efforts to rescue the boys, Mr Stoddart entered the water again and began to make his way to the man.

The man disappeared from his view and when the waves cleared, he saw the man face down in the water. On reaching the man, Mr Stoddart turned him over, placed him on his board and began to head to shore.

The waves were very large and the man slipped underwater twice, forcing Mr Stoddart to swim down to retrieve him from underwater.

Some surfers heard Mr Stoddart's calls and came to assist. The unconscious man was placed onto a surfboard and floated to the beach. On reaching the shore, some bystanders came to assist and commenced CPR on the unconscious man until ambulance and police officers arrived.

Sadly the man was unable to be revived.

By his actions, Mr Stoddart displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

### **Corporal T**

On 16 July 2014, Corporal T, part of an Australian Army group, was involved in the rescue of an injured soldier from a crevasse on Mount Cook, New Zealand.

The Army Group was undertaking technical mountaineering training on the Hochstetter Glacier on Mount Cook. As a soldier was probing the snow with ski poles on top of an indistinguishable ice bridge, the ice bridge collapsed, causing the soldier to fall into a deep crevasse of two metres by one metre in dimension.

Corporal T and another soldier immediately responded to the incident and sensing the danger, immediately began instructing others to maintain safety precautions. With temperatures below freezing and the unfavourable weather conditions, Corporal T, without hesitation and despite the inherent danger, accepted the task of being lowered into the crevasse to find the injured soldier.

In the pitch black and able to use only a head torch, Corporal T located the soldier 40 metres below the surface. Although unresponsive and displaying no signs of life, Corporal T managed to safely manoeuvre the injured soldier to assess his injuries, keep his airway open and connect him to the safety line.

The team above the crevasse then began to haul the injured soldier to the top. Corporal T assisted this procedure by climbing the ice on a belay while concurrently managing the soldier's airway and head position. Due to the confined space, Corporal T remained inside the crevasse, with debris falling on top of him, as the team continued to haul the injured soldier to the surface. Corporal T was hauled out of the crevasse approximately 10 minutes later.

Other team members carried out CPR procedures while waiting for a medical team to arrive. Sadly the soldier did not survive his injuries.

By his actions, Corporal T displayed considerable bravery.

## **BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Ms Jessica Claire VARNEY**, Waggrakine WA 6530

**Mr Justin Leigh WILSON**, Geraldton WA 6530

On the afternoon of 4 May 2016, Ms Jessica Varney and Mr Justin Wilson were involved in the rescue of a young student caught in rocks in Champion Bay, Western Australia.

Ms Varney, Mr Wilson and a teaching colleague from Geraldton Senior College were undertaking an outdoor education excursion with students from the college. A number of students were body boarding in the water when one student was swept against the rock wall, trapping his arm below the water line.

The tide was coming in, the swell was rising, and waves were crashing down on the student who was struggling to breathe.

Whilst their colleague provided directions from the shore, Ms Varney and Mr Wilson quickly entered the water and made their way to the student. Ms Varney positioned herself so as to act as a buffer from the incoming waves. She held the student's head above the water and provided constant physical and emotional support to the boy.

Despite the waves and rising swell, Mr Wilson repeatedly dove under the water and attempted to move the large rocks that were trapping the student's arm.

After receiving an emergency call from one of the students on the shore, Geraldton Fire and Rescue Service members rushed to the scene. A crow bar was sourced and the team were able to lever the rock up and free the student's arm. He was then transported to hospital.

By their actions, Ms Varney and Mr Wilson displayed considerable bravery.