



AUSTRALIAN BRAVERY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

No. 30 June 2018

Supporting those who risk their life to save life, property or the environment.

The official newsletter of the Australian Bravery Association.

NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Andrew Kendall



The year seems to be flying by and there are a number of wonderful events coming up for the association. We hope that you all get the opportunity to attend one or more of them. Details about each of the events can be found on the ABA website and ABA Facebook page.

I am pleased to report that we have had a very successful National Conference in Melbourne from 8-11 February. The highlights of the conference included the official reception and welcome by the Her Excellency the Honourable Linda Dessau AC, Governor of Victoria, and our Annual Black-Tie Dinner at the Athenaeum Club. Our Service of Remembrance, organised and presided over by Chaplain Jim Cosgrove, at St Paul's Cathedral was much enjoyed by our members and guests.

The association's motivation behind holding the National Conference in cities other than Canberra every second year is to promote the Australian Bravery Association around Australia, as well as draw greater attention to the Australian Honours and Awards. Our 2018 National Conference has certainly achieved this.

I also wish to advise that at our AGM the following members were elected to the various positions on the National Executive.

- National President:** Andrew Kendall
- Deputy National President:** Mike Pearson BM APM
- National Secretary:** Brian Harland
- National Treasurer:** Brenda Cochrane OAM
- Membership Secretary:** John Thurgar SC MBE OAM RFD
- Public Officer:** Peter White MBE MCS
- National Vice-President ACT:** Peter White MBE MCS
- National Vice-President NSW:** James Preston
- National Vice-President Qld:** Sally Gregory
- National Vice-President SA:** Bill Lowther SC
- National Vice-President Vic/Tas:** Coralee Lever

Thanks also to our Honorary and Ex-Officio members for their support and expertise. A full list of members holding positions of responsibility and their contact details are on the back page.

Coming events

Courageous Kids Campout (Qld) **23 June 2018**

- Fun filled afternoon and night for the kids
- Bonfire, games, music and camp-up
- Adults are welcome too

New South Wales Bravery Dinner **22 September 2018 (TBC)**

- More details to come

Ocean Kayaking Adventure **Project Stay Afloat** **November 2018 (TBC)**

Gold Coast

- More details to come

ABA National Conference 2019 **8 – 10 February 2019**

Canberra

- Reception – Royal Australian Mint
- Guided tour of ANZAC Parade
- Last Post Ceremony – Australian War Memorial
- Black –tie Dinner in ANZAC Hall, Australian War Memorial
- Service of Remembrance at the Australian Bravery Garden

Editors' Note:

This newsletter is authorised and published by the Australian Bravery Association, 243 Wallarobba-Brookfield Road, Brookfield, NSW 2420. E&OE.

A number of the National Executive are new to their positions. This ‘new blood’ strengthens the experience and skills of the group and I am confident we have the leadership to take the association forward to best meet the needs of our members and promote the Australian Honours and Awards system.

At the Annual Black-Tie Dinner on Saturday night, our guest speaker, Commissioner Craig Lapsley, Victorian Emergency Management Commissioner, said, “The heart of what you’ve got is the strength of the future.”

The heart of the Australian Bravery Association is very strong and I know we have a strong future.

Canberra Investitures

Peter White, National Vice-President ACT, and I had the pleasure of being invited to Bravery investitures at Government House in Canberra on 3 & 4 May. Congratulations to Jim Bobolas BM and his two sons, Nicholas Bibolas and Timothy Bobolas BM, who were awarded the Bravery Medal for the rescue of two people from a burning car. Congratulations also to Constable Zachary Rolfe BM who, in his first week on the job, rescued a couple from a flooded river (read more about Constable Rolfe on page 6), and to Mr Goch Isaac Kot BM who was awarded a Bravery Medal for restraining and disarming a machete-wielding man.

We hope to see both recipients and the families at the 2019 National Conference.



The Bobolas family with Sharon Prendergast (left), Director of the Australian Honours and Awards Secretariat.



Constable Zachary Rolfe BM with Allan Sparkes CV OAM, his father, Richard Rolfe AM and Andrew Kendall.

Queensland Bravery Garden

Planning continues for the Queensland Bravery Garden. We are current awaiting the go ahead from the Brisbane City Council. Interest has also been shown for the creation of a New South Wales Bravery Garden with an initial design currently being drafted.

Thank You

Thank you everyone for your support of the Australian Bravery Association and, most importantly, each other. In particular, I would like to thank former National Vice-President (ACT) and Membership Secretary, Melanie Warburton, for her service to the association over many years. Similarly, my thanks go to Alan and Brenda Cochrane who have taken a step back after many years of producing our newsletter. Finally, on behalf of all members, thanks to 2017 National President, Mr John Thurgar, for his leadership and dedication to the ABA, including the organisation of a wonderful 2018 National Conference.

THE UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES OF HEROISM OR ACTS OF BRAVERY ON CIVILIANS

By Tom Voigt

Tom Voigt is a dedicated member of the ABA. He is currently a PHD candidate at Deakin University researching the effects of heroism or acts of bravery on civilians. Tom is also a part-time Senior Research & Development Officer supporting and assisting in key areas such as disability, aged care and employment. He was awarded a Commendation for Brave Conduct for tackling, disarming and restraining an armed offender holding a fellow staff member at bay with a loaded sawn off shot gun in the reception area at Kempsey Community Health in 1998. Tom hopes his research will lead to greater support for civilians who suffer as a result of their brave acts.



Debbie Critchley, Tom Voigt and Wendy Pearson.

Together with Andrew Day and Susan Balandin, Tom recently wrote a chapter in a book titled “Heroism and Wellbeing in the 21st Century – Applied and Emerging Perspectives”. The following are some key points raised in that chapter.

While we may admire those involved in acts of bravery or heroism, we do not necessarily consider the unintended consequences of these actions. Although the impact of exposure to trauma in the military and emergency services is well researched and documented, there has been little research into the impact of acts of bravery on civilians, who may have been involved in life-threatening incidents. In this chapter, we explore the nature of acts of bravery, responses to trauma, resilience, supports and assistance, as well as post-traumatic growth. We conclude that heroism can foster positive change, but the unforeseen negative consequences of acts of bravery warrant further research and better understanding.

There were 4212 bravery awards given from 1975 up until 2015.

I reviewed a sample of 1468 citations for acts of bravery from 2007 – 2015 and found the following:

- 89% of award recipients were men and 11% were women
- 63.4% of award recipients were civilians
- 18.4% of award recipients were Police Officers
- 18.2% of award recipients were other emergency or military personnel

These 1486 citations for acts of bravery related to 1068 incidents (there can be multiple bravery awards resulting from one incident). In total there were 239 deaths associated with a recognised act of bravery with 35 of these involving the death of the actual award recipient. In total 21.9% of incidents involved a death.

Of the 1089 incidents involving acts of bravery, the top 10 types of incidents reported were as follows:

- 19.5% involved vehicle accidents
- 17.2% involved fires
- 14.9% were ocean/sea related incidents (rescues, drownings)
- 9.6% of incidents were flood related
- 9.0% of incidents were assaults/attacks involving knives
- 6.0% of incidents involved the use of a gun
- 3.7% were inland waterway related (rescues, drownings)
- 4.0% of incidents involved animals (sharks, dogs, crocodiles)

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- 2.6% of incidents were related to physical assaults
 - 2.5% of incidents involved aircraft

Of these incidents, just over 50% may have been eligible for compensable assistance or support through areas such as Victims of Crime Compensation, Transport Accident Schemes and Work related Compensation schemes; however; almost 50% of incidents were not eligible for any formal level of assistance or support.

While little research has explored the association between acts of bravery and trauma, there is substantial evidence supporting the development of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) as a result of trauma in those involved in active military service and in emergency service workers. Given the nature of many acts of bravery, that in many cases are life-threatening, it is plausible that many bravery award recipients will experience significant trauma. However, for some, their experience and trauma may also be a positive and life changing experience, through post-traumatic growth associated with positive changes in self, a changed sense of relationships with others and a changed philosophy of life. Clearly there is a need for further research that identifies the needs of this group.

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TOWER OF LONDON REMEMBERS

Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red was a work of installation art placed in the moat of the Tower of London, England, in 2014, commemorating the centenary of the outbreak of World War I. It consisted of 888,246 ceramic red poppies, each intended to represent one British or Colonial serviceman killed in the War. The ceramic poppies progressively filled the Tower's famous moat between 17 July and 11 November 2014. The artist was Paul Cummins, with setting by stage designer Tom Piper. The work's title was taken from the first line of a poem by an unknown World War I soldier.

The poppies encircled the iconic landmark, creating not only a spectacular display visible from all around the Tower but also a location for personal reflection. The scale of the installation was intended to reflect the magnitude of such an important centenary and create a powerful visual commemoration.



Each day in the moat at sunset, names of 180 Commonwealth troops killed during the war were read out as part of a Roll of Honour, followed by the Last Post. Members of the public nominated names for the Roll of Honour using a weekly 'first come, first served' nomination system to be read the following week in this nightly ceremony.

The installation was visited by the Princes William and Harry and the Duchess of Cambridge on the day of its opening, and by the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh on 16 October 2014. The Queen later spoke about the memorial in her annual Christmas Message, broadcast on 25 December 2014.

In all, an estimated five million people saw the memorial.



Recently Chris Harding (picture to the left), the ABA's United Kingdom representative, donated one of the poppies to the ABA. This particular poppy is dedicated to Private Ivor George Carter who served in the 1st/14th Battalion, London Regiment (London Scottish). Private Carter was killed in the Battle of the Somme in France on 1 July 1916. He was 24 years old.

Included with the poppy is the original of Private Carter's last letter, dated 28 June 1916, to his mother. The following is part of the letter.

Dear Mamma

I'm taking this chance of writing to you, although I have not heard from you lately. I hope everyone is going strong at home. I am quite fit and well, but the weather has turned very wet again.....

I don't expect I shall be able to write again for some little time, but you can be sure I shall write the first chance I have.....

Cheer up everybody, it is a long war I know, but I feel confident that the end of the war is near. So cheero.

*King regards to all.
Your affectionate Son
Ivor X*

We hope to include the poppy in the Service of Remembrance in Canberra next year. Thank you Chris Harding for your generosity.



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MERCHANDISE

Don't forget we have a large range of merchandise for purchase and further advertise the ABA. We have recently received fresh stocks of ties to go with the fine quality shirts. Full colour photos of the stock available and the merchandise order form are on our website.

All Orders to: Brenda Cochrane, ABA National Treasurer, PO Box 127, Bundaberg Qld 4670

Tie Bars/lapel pins/brooches	\$10	Cuff links	\$15	Association neck ties	\$25
Men's embroidered shirts	\$35	Ladies embroidered shirts	\$35	Name badges	\$20
Embroidered baseball style caps	\$20				

+ \$8 postage for above mail orders

Mark Whittaker's book - **BRAVE:**

\$20.00 + 10.00 postage

FIRST FOR BRAVE AUSTRALIAN

Constable Zachary Rolfe BM recently became the first Australian in history to be awarded a bravery award from the Hong Kong Government. Constable Rolfe was awarded the Medal for Bravery (Bronze) - MBB - for his exceptional courage in rescuing a Hong Kong citizen from flood waters in the Hugh River, near Alice Springs in December 2016. The MBB is the third highest award for Hong Kong's Order of the Medal for Bravery which is awarded for displays of bravery in an incident.



Constable Rolfe together with Senior Constable First Class (then Acting Sergeant) Kirstina Jamieson and Mr Michael Priestley were each awarded the Bravery Medal for their courage during the incident.

Constable Rolfe was presented his Bravery Medal by the Governor General in the May investitures at Government House. The citation for the incident is as follows.

In the early afternoon of 27 December 2016, Senior Constable First Class (then Acting Sergeant) Kirstina Jamieson, Constable (then Probationary Constable) Zachary Rolfe and Mr Michael Priestley rescued two tourists from floodwaters near Alice Springs.

Acting Sergeant Jamieson, Probationary Constable Zachary Rolfe and other police officers, went to a flooded river crossing, 50kms from Alice Springs from where they could see a man clinging onto a tree in the middle of the fast flowing river. The man had escaped from a car that had been washed off the river crossing and a second person who had been in the car was still somewhere in the river.

Without knowing the depth of the fast flowing water Acting Sergeant Jamieson and Probationary Constable Rolfe entered the river and made their way towards the stranded man. After reaching a small island, Probationary Constable Zachary Rolfe remained there whilst Acting Sergeant Jamieson returned to the crossing to gather rescue equipment. She then returned to the small island along with another police officer and Mr Priestley.

Acting Sergeant Jamieson entered the water again and was pushed downstream by the strong currents. Probationary Constable Rolfe and Mr Priestley also entered the water and swam further downstream to the small island, where Acting Sergeant Jamieson was located. Mr Priestly threw a rope to the man who tied it around himself. Using themselves as anchors they moved back into the water and encouraged the man to let go of the tree. Letting go of the tree he was pushed by the current to them. Acting Sergeant Jamieson and Mr Priestley then assisted the man to cross through the strong currents and debris to reach a waiting paramedic on the opposite side of the river.

Meanwhile Probationary Constable Rolfe went searching for the second tourist on land and by wading through the water. After travelling approximately 5kms he located the distressed woman on the opposite bank. He made his way through the water and carried the woman on his back across the fast flowing river before assisting her to walk back to the crossing and to waiting emergency services.

By their actions, Senior Constable Jamieson, Mr Priestley and Constable Rolfe displayed considerable bravery.

WEARING OF THE GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

The Group Bravery Citation is one of the five Australian Bravery Decorations. It is awarded for a collective act of bravery by a group of people in extraordinary circumstances that is considered worthy of recognition. The Group Bravery Citation is a bronze gilt sprig of wattle, Australia's floral emblem, positioned in the centre of a silver rectangle.



At the ABA AGM in February members raised a query about the wearing of the Group Bravery Citation. Thanks to Phil Hutson who provided the following clarification.

The Australian Bravery Honours and Awards are established under "Letters Patent and Australian Bravery Regulations" (as amended) given under the seal of Australia at the Court of St James on 14 February 1975. Section 13 of the Regulations states that (inter alia) that the manner of wearing the decorations shall be determined by the Governor General. On 1 September 2006, The Governor General Michael Jeffery amended the Regulation with regard to the Group Bravery Citation. The amendment to the Regulation set out the description of the device and how it will be worn.

Section 31 of the amended Regulations states: "The Group Bravery Citation is worn on the left lapel or left breast whenever orders decorations and medals are worn".

Section 32 of the amended Regulations states (inter alia) "..... the insignia of the Group Bravery Citation should be worn centrally, approximately 10 millimetres above other awards.

Some ABA members have indicated that ADF regulations provide that the citation should not be worn on the left breast above other awards. However, it should be noted that the Letters Patent and Regulations promulgated by the Governor General take precedence with regard to how Australian Honours and Awards are to be worn by civilians and members of the ADF. There is no higher authority.

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QUEENSLAND BRAVERY AWARDS

The Queensland Bravery Garden includes a stone which reflects the State and other (non-Australian Honours System) bravery awards that Queenslanders can be awarded. The following are the awards will be represented.



The Queensland Police Valour Award (to become Queensland Police Valour Medal)

Instituted in 1993, this award is rightfully seen as the premier award for bravery available to Queensland Police. It is awarded to an officer who performs an act of exceptional bravery in hazardous circumstances. Including but not restricted to "arrests of armed offenders", "hostage situation where police show sacrifice by leaving cover and drawing the offender's fire at close range", "rescues in advanced fire situations" and "rescues by trained personnel which required extreme sacrifice."



Queensland Fire & Rescue Service (now Queensland Emergency & Fire Services) Commissioner's Medal for Valour



The Commissioner's Medal for Valour is awarded to an officer who performs an act of exceptional bravery in hazardous circumstances where there has been a clear and significant risk to life. Examples of this award include advanced fire situations where the probability of being trapped is evident, rescue situations where unique and perilous circumstances exist and rescues by trained personnel which require extreme sacrifices.

Queensland Ambulance Service Distinguished Service Medal

The Distinguished Service Medal is awarded to officers of the Queensland Ambulance Service to recognize conspicuous service and humane and brave acts.



Queensland Prison Service Superintendent's Meritorious Service Medal



Instituted in 1980 and awarded for acts of merit or bravery for which the superintendent deems an award of recognition is appropriate. This award is given sparingly to members since 1980 and has been presented for the rescue of a warden during riots, coming to the aid of an inmate during a bashing and for examples of diligent contributions to the Queensland Corrective Services through implementation of schemes or programs worthy of substantial recognition.

The Royal Humane Society of Australasia Clarke Medal

Instituted in July 1881 by the Honourable Sir William Clarke Bt MLC, the Clarke Medal is awarded to the most outstanding case(s) of bravery considered during the year.



Royal Life Saving Society – Australia Bravery Cross



The Bravery Cross is awarded for undertaking a rescue or attempted rescue in an aquatic environment under circumstances that endanger the life of the rescuer.

Thanks to the Commissioners from the various Emergency Services, the Royal Humane Society of Australasia, the Board of Royal Life Saving Society – Australia and Surf Life Saving Queensland who have kindly supported the Queensland Bravery Garden and donated replicas of the various medals for the memorial.

Source: Clive Johnson OAM, *Australians Awarded – A Comprehensive Reference for Military and Civilian Awards, Decorations and Medals to Australians Since 1772 (Second Edition)*. Copies of the book can be ordered at <http://www.australiansawarded.com.au/order/>. Clive is a member of the Queensland Bravery Garden Development Committee.



NOTES FROM YOUR EDITOR – Andrew McKillop

I am looking forward to the challenge of collate and editor the ABA Newsletter. We thank outgoing editors, Alan and Brenda Cochrane for their efforts over many years. They have the following message for all members and would like to let you know a bit about one of our wonderful members – John Burfitt. The story of Dr Peter Kerkenezov BM, our new Honorary Veterinarian, follows.

Alan Cochrane OAM & Brenda Cochrane OAM

We are taking a backseat from the ABA newsletter after a 10-year stint. During those years the publications have steadily morphed into the current issues. Our thanks and best wishes to Andrew McKillop for taking over the reins.



We have been thrilled to bring you the news from each state, advise what is to come, include articles supplied and set up the “Meet your Members” which we hope will continue. This segment shows the person behind the medal – their interests and hobbies as well as mentioning their citation. Next time you meet these folk you have a better understanding of who they are and perhaps they share similar interests and passions.

It’s a challenging job collecting articles and photos, editing text and photos to suit but the end result is always satisfying.

Whilst at the Melbourne rally we were privileged to meet John and Helen Burfitt from Red Cliffs. We had heard from Coralee, Vic/Tas NV President about this wonderful couple who fundraise in the Red Cliffs/Mildura area for a Children’s charity but had not met them before. John has also raised significant dollars for the Australian Bravery Association.

As our last contribution - Meet your Member - John Burfitt.

Cheers,

Brenda and Alan Cochrane.

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MEETING YOUR MEMBERS

JOHN BURFITT



John Burfitt. Photo: Sunraysia Daily.

John Burfitt is a name synonymous with fundraising in Sunraysia for over 35 years to help those in need. Much of the money has been aimed at helping families with children with life threatening conditions including Cancer, Leukaemia, Epilepsy and other diseases.

An official charity with tax deductible status was formed in 2015 so that families would continue to be supported long after John was unable to continue his fundraising. The name CHALIS came into being – Children Having an Illness Living in Sunraysia. With a volunteer board and a team

of dedicated volunteers working behind the scenes, fundraising, activities and events are hosted. Their work is so respected they have the support and sponsorship of many businesses and the generous communities in Mildura and Red Cliffs.

As the number of children supported by CHALIS continues to grow with many new families needing help, so does the fundraising with 100% of this money going to help families. Over \$32,000 was paid in 2016/2017 to families to ease the financial burden associated with having a sick child.



John and Helen Burfitt. Photo: Sunraysia Daily.

John has also raised significant dollars for the Australia Bravery Association by different means. His mind is always ticking over for new inventive ways to raise funds. On one occasion raising money for the ABA, he spent the day in the local town pool treading water up and down the length of the pool. By the end of the day he came out looking like a shrivelled up dry prune but what the heck – the event was more than successful!!

With wife, Helen, beside him helping with administrative tasks, a wonderful volunteer board and local volunteer workers, John has surrounded himself with this amazing group getting remarkable results to help families in their community coping with adversity. Any donations are gratefully received.

John is a proud member of the Salvation Army and for all you footie fans, John is an Essendon Supporter! We dip our lid to you, John!

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DR PETER KERKENEZOV BM

Dr Peter Kerkenezov BM is a relatively new member of the ABA and has been keenly involved in many of our events. His story below is a very interesting one. Peter has recently been appointed ABA Honorary Veterinarian.

Peter graduated from the University of Queensland Veterinary School at the age of 22 years and later graduated from the Australian Maritime College (University of Tasmania). Probably the only veterinary surgeon to ever become a full captain/master mariner (unlimited ship size and area of operation) in the Merchant Navy, Peter has spent a life at sea, under the sea and caring for animals. He has had command on numerous vessels up to 50,000 gross tonnes, worked as a marine pilot, compass adjuster, marine surveyor, commercial diver to 60m depth and yet always found the time to practice veterinary medicine when ashore.



Peter Kerkenezov BM atop Healthy Gorgeous. Photo: Gold Coast Photography.

Peter's special veterinary interest has been horses and he has worked as an equine veterinarian in England and Australia at many of the main racetracks.

Peter remains registered a veterinarian and all his maritime certificates are still current.

Peter is a member of the Company of Master Mariners, the Australian Light Horse Association, and an ordinary member of the Australian Bravery Association having been awarded the Commodore's Gold Certificate for bravery in 1984 and, more recently, the Bravery Medal, for an act of bravery in 1983.

Peter's citation for his Bravery Medal reads as follows.



Jim Runham SC AFSM OAM, Peter Kerkenezov BM, Darrel Tree CV and Jadeelle Brown.

Dr Peter KERKENEZOV, Ballina NSW 2478 On the evening of 29 September 1983, Dr Peter Kerkenezov was involved in the rescue of a person from a capsized vessel near the port of Ballina, New South Wales. Dr Kerkenezov skippered his vessel with two crew members on board out through the Ballina Bar in order to escort two vessels into the port on behalf of the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard. After safely escorting one vessel into port he was asked to return to sea to escort the second vessel. When the second vessel was located he began to turn his vessel around when it was struck by a massive wave, causing it to capsize.

Still inside the submerged wheelhouse, Dr Kerkenezov managed to escape out through the wheelhouse door. He was then able to pull himself from under the bulwark and swim to the surface. With the engine still operating and the boat still afloat and drifting out to sea with the tide, Dr Kerkenezov climbed aboard the upturned vessel and, after a short period during which the engine stopped, he heard a crew member yelling and banging from inside. He slid off the bottom of the boat, dived into the dark water, and made several unsuccessful attempts to re-enter the wheelhouse where he worked out that the crew member may be trapped in the hydraulics compartment. As he was preparing to dive again, the trapped crew member managed to exit the vessel and Dr Kerkenezov dragged him up onto the vessel's hull from where they were later rescued. Sadly, the second crew member did not survive the incident.

By his actions, Dr Kekenezov displayed considerable bravery.

Peter has proudly accepted the role of Honorary Veterinarian and has advised that all ABA members are welcome to contact him for advice about their animals.

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NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT – Mike Pearson BM APM

On 23 and 24 June 2018, my wife Wendy and I hosted the ABA Courageous Kids Camp Out in Ormeau, Queensland. Pizza making, ukulele playing, giant bonfires, singing, dancing, lots of fun and lots of laughs were the order of the day. Thanks to Sally Gregory for her entertaining ukulele lessons and to all that turned up. The kids loved the weekend, as did the big kids.



NSW REPORT – Brian Harland

The first week of May started with attending seven Investiture Ceremonies over four days at Government House in Sydney with Jim Preston, Pam and myself. A total of 51 people and 61 awards were presented including 8 Stars of Courage, 16 Bravery Medals, 7 Commendations for Brave Conduct and 30 Group Bravery Citations. The investitures were live streamed for the first time and can be viewed at <https://www.governor.nsw.gov.au>. You can also follow the Governor on Facebook which also has a link.

Thanks to the Governor, Mrs Hurley and the staff at Government House for making the Investitures so enjoyable and welcoming. The Administration staff are now helping the ABA with the presentation and distribution of our letters to the recipients and we are very thankful for their help.

Thank you also to Rob at Rob Tuckwell Photography for allowing the ABA to use some of the official photos on the ABA website. It is very much appreciated.



Jarrod Morton-Hoffman BM with Jim Preston.

Mr Jarrod Morton-Hoffman was awarded a Bravery Medal for an act of considerable bravery during an armed siege at the Lindt Café in Martin Place, Sydney on 15 and 16 December 2014.

Mr Morton-Hoffman, who was working part-time as a waiter at the cafe, was awarded the medal for mediating with gunman, Man Haron Monis, and helping to defuse threats that the gunman made against other hostages.

His citation says he "remained composed when speaking with the offender. He followed the offender's instructions in making calls to the media and acted in a non-hostile manner to placate the man despite having the gunman's weapon pointed directly at him". He also "formulated a number of plans to assist the hostages".

Jarrod is now studying Law and we wish him well.

Mr Simon Ross (then Detective Senior Constable with New South Wales Police) was awarded a Commendation for Brave Conduct for his action when he attended an armed robbery incident at a hotel in Canley Heights, New South Wales, on 1 September 2009.

When they arrived at the hotel, Detective Senior Constable Ross and his colleague observed the offenders moving around inside. The Officers drew their weapons as the offenders, who were both armed with guns, approached the front doors of the hotel holding a hostage. Detective Senior Constable Ross' colleague shouted for the men to put down their weapons. At this point the second offender aimed his rifle directly at his colleague who then discharged a single shot in the man's direction. The offender wasn't wounded but fell against a wall and dropped his weapon. Detective Senior Constable Ross was then able to discharge a shot at the other offender, hitting him and allowing the hostage to break free. The Officers then secured the offenders until police backup arrived.



Simon Ross with his wife Lisa.

Also receiving bravery awards were several current and former officers of the New South Wales Police Force, and a young woman, Madeleine Pulver, who were involved in a collar bomb incident at a residence in Mosman, New South Wales, on 3 August 2011.



Brain Harland with Senior Constable Karen Lowden SC and Madeline Pulver.

During the incident, 18 year old Madeline Pulvar had a collar bomb placed around her neck. In the 10 hours after the incident started, officers examined the device around the young woman's neck and, following a thorough inspection of it, a decision was made to cut the wires and release the victim. For their actions, the 15 recipients (pictured below with ABA National Secretary, Brain Harland) were recognised by the award of the Group Bravery Citation.

Further, Senior Constable Karen Lowden was awarded the Star of Courage by remaining with the young woman throughout the ordeal, interacting with her to keep her calm and ascertaining details of the situation.

Detective Senior Constable Gregory Camilleri, Detective Senior Sergeant (then Detective Senior Constable) Mary Crumlin, Mr (then Inspector) Mark Smith and Sergeant Elise Teeling also were awarded the Bravery Medal for displaying considerable bravery during the incident.



Other interesting and brave people receiving awards were involved in a petrol tanker incident on Mona Vale Road in 2014, an ocean rescue at Boomerang Beach in 2016, an armed offender incident at NSW Police Headquarters in Parramatta in 2015, a bush fire at Yellow Rock in 2013, a floodwater rescue near Lismore in 2016, an armed hostage situation at a hospital in Penrith in 2016 and a shark attack at Shelley's Beach near Ballina in 2015.

Congratulations to all the people who received awards at the Investitures and I still find it one of the most humbling and exhilarating experiences to talk to them and their families on the day.

On a lighter note, after explaining to Liz Ellis AO, who had just received her Order of Australia, what the ABA was there for and what we were trying to achieve, I decided to ask for a few netball tips to pass on to my granddaughter who was very happy to see the photo.

VICTORIA & TASMANIA REPORT – Coralee Lever



John Burfitt with ABA members during the ABA Mildura Bravery Reunion this year. Photo: Sunraysia Daily.

The ABA Mildura Bravery Reunion started with John Burfitt, Coralee Lever, Jim Preston, Melanie Warburton and others conducting a walk through the main CBD of Mildura in order to raise funds and awareness of the ‘Say No To violence’ campaign. This aims at promoting public awareness and to encourage our Governments to legislate harsher penalties against people who commit violent acts against vulnerable Emergency Service workers who are trying to help people in need. In addition, the profile of the Australian Bravery Association was also promoted and a proportion of monies raised also donated to the ABA.

The welcome reception was conducted at the Mildura RSL, Wirraway Bistro. It provided an enjoyable atmosphere for the evening and it was great to catch up with old friends and meet new ones. Welcoming speeches by Mr Peter Crisp MP, Member for Mildura, and Cr Glenn Milne of Mildura Rural City Council set the tone for the rest of the weekend. Coralee welcomed all participants and even though it had started to rain it would not dampen our spirits or stop any event during the weekend. In fact, the relief from the dry spell is most welcome and hopefully a sign of new life and prosperity; a freshness in the Sunraysia Region. Most had travelled considerable distance that day and most were happy with an early night, in preparation for the rest of the weekend.

Saturday saw the Red Cliffs Secondary College (who kindly donated their bus) pick up everyone and attended the River Queen for a Murray River cruise. They made all Members feel at home and fed us an amazing morning tea and lunch. The view and ambiance was so peaceful and relaxing everyone would have been happy to stay on board for the rest of the weekend. It was such a beautiful cruise even Cat Woman, Wonder Woman and Where’s Wally were seen enjoying a weekend cruise as well!

Thank you to the Crew of The River Queen for providing us with a beautiful cruise along the Murray River.

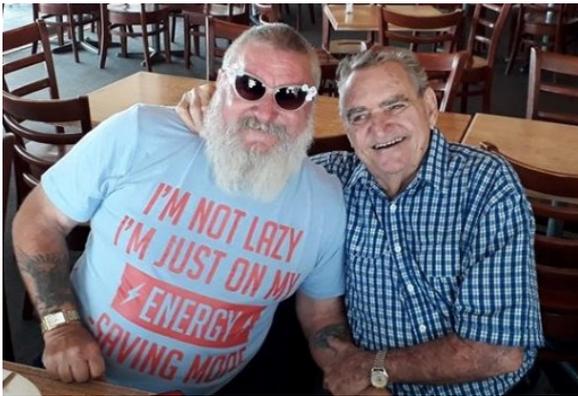
Restaurant Rendezvous provided the perfect venue for the reunion dinner. The atmosphere allowed Members to gather in fellowship, making all feel welcome, and to share our experiences. Mildura Rural City Council Mayor, Councillor Mark Eckle, and Mrs Janice Eckle joined us. Councillor Eckle welcomed the ABA to Mildura and acknowledged Coralee’s efforts not only for the ABA but also Mildura.

We were joined by Tyson Keebe, a School Captain from Red Cliffs Secondary College. He spoke about how he enjoyed our company, recognised the resilience of Members and saw the value of supporting each other as a group. Tyson is a mature young man, who plans to study Information Technology. We wish him all the best for his future endeavours.

Our very own John Burfitt presented Coralee and the ABA with a Donation of \$380. Thank you John and Helen Burfitt for your tireless and amazing philanthropic work.

A wonderful way to finish a great reunion weekend with great friends of the ABA. Some Mildura resident’s kindly made dishes for Members lunch and afternoon tea. There was plenty of great food, great conversation and great memories. Everybody thoroughly enjoyed themselves and the consensus is it was a winner again. If you have thought about attending but as yet haven’t made it, come along next year and join in on the fun and friendship at the next Mildura Reunion on Queen’s Birthday long weekend.

QUEENSLAND REPORT – Sally Gregory



Hi ABA friends and family.

Greetings from the state that gave you Kevin 07 and Bob Katter's hat. It's been a busy time here and a happy one too. October 13 last year was the start of the Queensland Bravery Reunion, and even though it was a bit rainy, we made the most of it.

Our beach barby was well attended and, despite having an excess of liquid sunshine, the company was enjoyed by all. If nothing else, it physically brought us together as we huddled under the shelter of the covered table area.

Phil from Project Stay Afloat did the big drive from Tamworth to provide a memorable kayaking experience in the Tweed River where the water was enjoyable and the company excellent. Our 'Kayakeers' reported they thoroughly enjoyed the event, discovering long lost muscles! The kayaking was supervised by our own John Thurgar.

Our Vice Patrons Florence and Keith Payne joined us from Mackay and enjoyed hanging with their bravery buddies, young and old. Jimmy Preston drove up from his home in the bush and generously bought some of his beautiful laser cut metal fabrications to donate for the auction. All up, we raised \$1465, which is a great outcome. Thanks to our generous sponsors Mares Diving, Tweed Head Bowls Club, Love Lara Jewellery, Jimmy Preston, Flo Payne, Jamie Ferguson and the Klaebes. Without such support, there can be no winners.



Our guest speaker Hanabeth Luke (CBC) stunned us all with her story of loss and learning from the tragic Bali Bombing in which her boyfriend was killed, along with her long road to recovery. Fifteen years down the track, it was wonderful to see her with a loving husband and a gorgeous baby girl. Our favourite junior 4WD accident rescuer, Calyn Hoad BM, loved meeting bubs and hearing Hanabeth's story. Calyn and his family (including Nan & Pop) joined us at the dinner, as did our two newest BM recipients, Kayleigh (12) and Zane Caulfield (7), their sister Samantha (5) and carer Cassie.



It was lovely having so many kids joining in the celebrations and getting to know all their ABA "Aunties and Uncles". Also in the photo to the left is Georgia Ferguson, songbird daughter of Jamie Fergie BM and Chris. Jamie is an enormous help in the numerous projects that the Queensland branch is involved in, and has a special super power he uses to keep kids in line: he does a great impression of a robot. I'll like to take this opportunity to thank him and Mike Pearson BM for being my wing men and a big part of our productive and hard-working team.

The Tweed River Catch a Crab cruise was a lot of fun and, even though it rained (again), the whole gang enjoyed fishing in the rain, eating crabs, prawns and some refreshing bevies too. John and Alison Klaebe joined in the fun and so did Andrew and Michelle McKillop, who were keen and happy participants in all the activities, including ukulele Lessons and bevies on the balcony at ABA



Queensland HQ. Those who know Jimmy Preston know how much he likes hanging with big birds who are good swimmers, so we arranged something special for him – more pelicans than you could poke a stick at. He was so thrilled, he threw a dead fish at me. This was a big surprise – who knew he was such a good shot? We’ve since had a talk about it and he says he won’t do it again.

Until next time, do be kind to yourselves & enjoy this wonderful life.

Hugs Sal (Chief Hugger – ABA).

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WESTERN AUSTRALIA REPORT – Victor Boreham

My thanks to our members who joined forces for a very pleasant Western Australian Bravery Lunch and a couple of hours of “chatting” at the Ocean Beach Hotel at Cottesloe.

Margaret Jardine’s son, John, drove from Mandurah to pick up his Mum, enabling her to join with us yet again. We hope Heather (Margaret’s daughter) can make it next time.

In total there were 15 attendees, with three apologies. An excellent response. The weather was kind, the tucker good and the camaraderie strengthening as we get to know each other a little more.

Cheers all. Vic.



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AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY REPORT – Peter White MBE MCS



I was fortunate enough to attend an investiture on behalf of the Australian Bravery Association at Government House, Yarralumla on 4 May 2018.

Congratulations to Mr Goch Isaac Kot BM who was awarded the Bravery Medal by the Governor General. Mr Kot (pictured second from the left) received his Bravery Medal for restraining and disarming a machete-wielding man in Belconnen, ACT in the late evening of 12 October 2015. Mr Kot is originally from South Sudan and arrived in Australia through our Refugee Program.

Photo: Peter White MBE MCS (left) with Goch Kot BM and Mark Hoskinson AFSM (left).

ANZAC DAY 2018

Many ABA members commemorate ANZAC Day and pay homage to the sacrifice our ANZAC ancestors and many Australians since then who have made Australia what it is today. On this page we share the experiences of a few of our members who attended ANZAC Day 2018 memorial services and activities, the centenary of the end of the First World War.

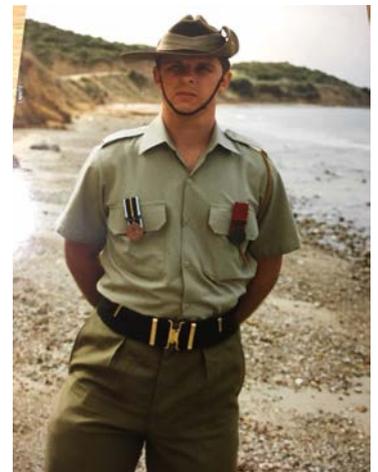
Lest we forget.

Deputy National President, Mike Pearson, and Wendy Pearson attended the dawn service at Currumbin, Queensland. What an honour it was to see our great ABA mate Peter Kerkenezov BM in all his Australian Light Horse finery and looking dapper atop Healthy Gorgeous.



Photo: Gold Coast Photography.

Paul Gatenby BM proudly marches with inspiring veterans and Duncan MacDonald BM at ANZAC Cove.



CONGRATULATIONS

Mark Hoskinson AFSM awarded the Australian Fire Service Medal

Congratulations to ABA member, Group Captain Mark Hoskinson AFSM who was awarded the Australian Fire Service Medal this year for his professionalism, resilience and commitment to the New South Wales Rural Fire Brigade.

Mark joined the Kikoira Brigade in July 1979 and has demonstrated his leadership capabilities on numerous occasions by leading by example and taking responsibility for his decisions as Deputy Captain, Captain, Deputy Group Captain and Group Captain. He also played a significant role in his capacity of Group Captain in the 1997 Tullibigeal fire, 2009 Mt Mologone fire, 2011 Monkey Top fire, 2015 Yalgogrinn fire, and 2007 Paynes Road fire.

Mark was presented his award by the Governor General at an investiture on 3 May 2018.



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MEETING ROYALTY

Mark Charteris was very lucky to meet Prince Charles recently in the Northern Territory, receive a hand shake and share a little banter. He thinks he was a little star struck afterwards.



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ABA ON FACEBOOK

The Australian Bravery Association has two Facebook pages members can access.



Australian Bravery Association: This is an open community page (open to the public) which provides information about the association, including upcoming events, and matters relating to Bravery awards and recipients and the Australians honours and awards system.

Australian Bravery Awardees: This page is the original Australian Bravery Association page. It is a closed group, a private and discreet discussion portal for rescuers and their families. If you need someone to chat to who has walked in your shoes, this place is for you.

PHOTO GALLERY – MELBOURNE 2018



ABA VICE PATRONS

Keith Payne VC AM, Darrell Tree CV, Victor Boscoe CV, Allan Sparkes CV OAM, Tim Britten CV, Richard Joyes CV, and Doug Baird (father of CPL Cameron Baird VC MG)

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