

# FOR BRAVERY



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



**Cover Photo:** Photo Left to Right: Wayne Carmady, Bill Dodson, David Golledge, David Farrell, Gary Clarke, Mr Guy Zangari MP, and Mick Pezzano.

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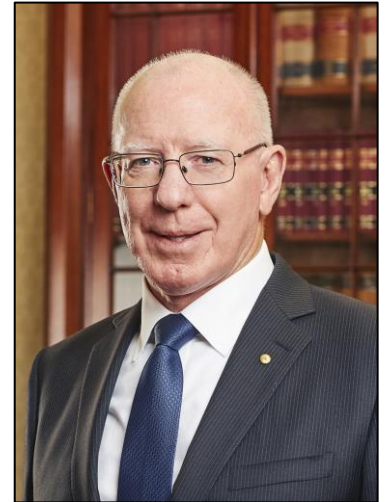
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## AUSTRALIAN BRAVERY ASSOCIATION PATRON

***His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd)***  
*Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia*



The Patron of the Australian Bravery Association is His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd), Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia.

I was delighted to receive an invitation from the *Australian Bravery Association* to contribute an article for its December newsletter. For nearly 30 years the Association has advocated on behalf of those Australians who have experienced harm or personal hardship as a result of performing an act of bravery. I thank all members of the Association, both past and present, for their contribution to the community.

When I speak to recipients of Bravery Awards, my message is a simple one: thank you for putting the safety of other people above your own. Such a decision, even if made almost without thinking, deserves our recognition.

I am writing this article just days after presiding over the investiture of Ms Ruth Dhurrkay SC in the remote Indigenous community of Galiwinku on Elcho Island within East Arnhem Land.

The circumstances that led to Ms Dhurrkay being awarded The Star of Courage, announced in the most recent Bravery List, might be familiar to you. At about 3 am on October 30 2018 in the community of Galiwinku, the then 13-year-old Ruth Mawi Dhurrkay went to the aid of her 12-year-old friend being attacked by a 16-year-old male who was intoxicated from paint solvent sniffing.

Without hesitation, Ms Dhurrkay ran to the assistance of her injured and distressed friend. She yelled at the male to stop and then grabbed him around the arms and torso to prevent him continuing his strikes upon the young girl. Ms Dhurrkay wrestled with the offender until she was able to stop the attack, sustaining personal injuries in the process. She assisted her friend to her feet and walked her to the safety of a nearby residence where Emergency Services was contacted. The injured girl was later transported by Air Ambulance to Darwin, where she underwent emergency surgery on her injuries.

The investiture ceremony brought the local community together and was a celebration of Ruth's bravery and selflessness. The ceremony highlighted to me that acts of bravery cannot be easily categorised. Anyone at any moment might find themselves in a situation where they are called on to act. That individual's response is instinctive rather than premeditated, motivated only by an instinctive need to help others. Recipients of bravery decorations are selfless, deserve our praise and recognition, and are an inspiration to all. On behalf of our nation, I thank all recipients for their outstanding contribution to our community.

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## PATRONS

The Australian Bravery Association is proud to have His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd), Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, as our Patron. He joins our Vice-Patrons Darrell Tree CV; Victor Boscoe CV; Allan Sparkes CV, OAM; Tim Britten CV; Richard Joyes CV; and Doug Baird OAM, father of Corporal Cameron Baird VC, MG.



## AUSTRALIAN BRAVERY ASSOCIATION NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**Andrew Kendall**



Dear ABA members and friends,

On 01 December, I was very fortunate to be invited by their Excellencies, General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) and Mrs Hurley, to the investiture ceremony and luncheon in honour of the late Ordinary Seaman Edward 'Teddy' Sheenan VC. Members of his family were on hand to receive Australia's 101<sup>st</sup> Victoria Cross. It was a special occasion to honour a great Australian, and I was grateful for the opportunity to represent the Australian Bravery Association (ABA).

Earlier that day, Melanie Warburton, ABA National Membership Secretary, Peter White, ABA ACT President, and I were pleased to meet with Ross MacDiarmid, the outgoing CEO of The Royal Australian Mint, and present him with Honorary Membership of the ABA. Ross has been a keen supporter of the ABA and Bravery Award recipients over many years, and has been instrumental in promoting the aim and objectives of the ABA. We thank him for his efforts and wish him the best for his future endeavours.

As a hectic and challenging year comes to an end, I would like to express my sincere thanks to some of those who have contributed towards making 2020 a good year for the ABA. We started with a very successful National Conference in February, and despite the restrictions of COVID-19, we have managed to maintain contact with our members, support their needs, and promote the Association.

The revamp of the **FOR BRAVERY** Newsletter, and the monthly online meetings for members, are good examples. Well done to our **FOR BRAVERY** Newsletter Editor, Dr Kay Danes OAM, and ABA Qld President, Sally Gregory, for leading these efforts respectively. Thanks also to all who have made contributions across both of these platforms.

ABA National Membership Secretary, Melanie Warburton, has also been instrumental in maintaining personal contact with members, and has brought great energy and guidance to the National Executive. The State and Territory Presidents have also done well to maintain contact with our members.

To all members of the National Executive and our Ex-Officio Members, we appreciate your work.

To all members of the ABA, your families, and all of our friends and supporters, may you each have a wonderful Christmas and Happy 2021.

Andrew Kendall  
National President



## AUSTRALIAN BRAVERY ASSOCIATION FOR BRAVERY NEWSLETTER EDITOR

**Dr Kay Danes, OAM**

The main purpose of the **FOR BRAVERY** Newsletter is to provide an essential communications bridge for the Australian Bravery Association (ABA) membership and its supporters. This publication is a team effort and together, Melanie Warburton, Andrew Kendall and myself have made a voluntary commitment to producing a quality newsletter, and we hope everyone enjoys all the stories and news items we present in each issue. Thus far, we have had an excellent response from the ABA community to our submission call-outs, which allows us to keep everyone updated on just some of the things happening in the ABA world. We welcome your submissions on the below topics. Articles should be commercially neutral and readable to a wide audience.

- Your rescue event (max 500 words), Investiture related content
- A bravery-related (real-life) encounter
- Something witty to give us a laugh or an inspirational poem
- Reflections on remembrance, celebration or festive messages
- Honouring someone in the ABA who has inspired you

The **FOR BRAVERY** Newsletter also enables us to engage important conversations that impact on those who may be experiencing anxiety, as a result of their rescue experience. We aim to reduce the stigma associated with mental illness, and encourage all our ABA members, especially those who may be struggling, to reach out to someone they trust and share how they are feeling. It is a well-recognised fact that in earning their awards, our members will have been subjected to enormous physical and or emotional stresses, and as a result, may suffer in varying degrees from some form of psychological trauma. Always shout out if you need a mate! You have a huge family here, who are ready to roll up their sleeves or simply lend an ear. The ABA family are here for you and one of our members, Pamela Davidson BM, is a qualified professional counsellor who has been appointed as the ABA's Honorary Psychologist: [ABAPsychologist@gmail.com](mailto:ABAPsychologist@gmail.com)

Finally, someone once asked me: "What's the purpose of the ABA?" I think our Deputy National President, Michael Pearson, put it best when he said: *"We are here to support ordinary people who have been recognised for doing extraordinary things, and promote the honours and awards units. We organise and promote gatherings for all members but most importantly, behind the scenes, we offer so much support for each other that cannot be measured."* What most impresses me about the ABA family is that we can be from extremely diverse backgrounds, and have very different life experiences and interests, but when one of us is feeling the pressures of life, we know that there is always someone in our midst who will make us feel valued. Thank you for welcoming my husband Kerry and I into the ABA family. We look forward to a time when we can all catch up together in 2021. In the meantime, stay safe and be kind to others, and to yourself!

Dr Kay Danes, OAM  
Editor

# Australia makes VC Official

**FOR BRAVERY ED**

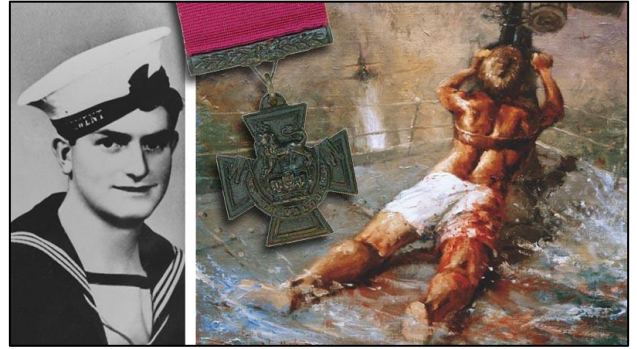
**December 1 1942**

A young sailor in the Royal Australian Navy, **Edward 'Teddy' Sheean** was killed on board the HMAS Armidale. The ship came under aerial bombardment and torpedo attack from Japanese aircraft, off the coast of what is now known as Timor-Leste. An eighteen-year-old Teddy was unwounded when he ignored orders to abandon the sinking ship, rejecting the potential safety of an escaping motorboat, and strapped himself to an anti-aircraft gun to fire in defence of his shipmates. Teddy's extraordinary actions were credited with damaging two enemy aircraft and helping save the lives of 49 crew. He continued to fire until the ship sank and took him to his death. Now, 78 years later, this farm labourer-turned-war hero has finally been awarded a VC posthumously.

**December 1 2020**

In his address, the Governor-General of Australia said:

"Today is a momentous and historic day.... For the Sheean family — many of whom are here with us at Yarralumla; other family members are watching online... For the Tasmanian community... For the Royal Australian Navy and entire ADF... And, for Australia... It is a day to remember Ordinary Seaman Edward 'Teddy' Sheean. To acknowledge the gallantry, courage and selflessness, he showed 78 years ago today. And to reflect on his legacy and what it means to us today... His story resonates because as Australians we continue to see — and hope to see — part of Teddy in the world around us: selflessness, loyalty and honour... On behalf of all Australians, I acknowledge his remarkable service, gallantry and sacrifice. May we all remember it, honour it and learn from it."



Link to: [The Governor-General's official announcement of Her Majesty's approval of a Victoria Cross to Teddy Sheean.](#)

<https://fb.watch/26xg5TgfeR/>



Garry Ivory (above) accepts the VC on behalf of his Uncle Edward Teddy Sheean.



Tasmanian Veterans Affairs Minister Guy Barnett MP (who assisted with the long campaign to have Edward 'Teddy' Sheean recognised with the VC) and Andrew Kendall.



# SES Members Awarded Group Bravery Citation

**FOR BRAVERY ED**

In our March 2020 issue of our **FOR BRAVERY** Newsletter we introduced three of our ABA members\* who hold key appointments in the SES, and who were part of the team awarded the Group Bravery Citation on 18 September 2020.

Claire BROWNING (Tas) \*  
James FERGUSON (Qld)\*  
Samuel FOURAS (Qld)  
Christopher HOLLOWAY (Qld) \*

**Congratulations on a job well done!**



Photo: Chris Holloway, Claire Browning and James Ferguson after their rescue event.

## The Group Citation Reads:

In the early hours of 31 March 2017, members of the Queensland State Emergency Service and one member of the public were involved in the rescue of a family stranded in floodwaters following Cyclone Debbie in Queensland. State Emergency Services (SES) in Luscombe were requested to go to the assistance of three people stranded on the roof of their home following the destructive effects of Cyclone Debbie. Three SES volunteers prepared a boat and set off in the dark, in water that was strong flowing and rising rapidly. Despite floating debris, the trio continued upstream, often being required to duck to avoid damaged powerlines. They came upon a small group of people, one of whom offered assistance and he was subsequently briefed as the group of four continued upstream. When the boat was approximately 150 metres from the stranded family on the rooftop, a group of locals assisted in manoeuvring the boat through the shallow water to a deeper part of the river. At this point another person replaced one of the people in the boat, and it continued upstream over submerged fence lines and trees. The family on the roof of the house were sighted and after a quick reconnaissance of the scene, the boat was manoeuvred alongside the house, near a balcony. With the floodwater continuing to rage, the boat was secured and one of the SES members jumped over a railing and onto a balcony. He spoke with an older man who informed him that the other family members were on the roof. Flood water was rising higher as the SES volunteer climbed out over the balcony and then crawled on his hands and knees along an awning until he located a woman and two children. The three were individually brought along the awning and another SES volunteer assisted them onto the balcony. The children were then fitted with life jackets and helped aboard the boat. The older man refused to leave without his dogs so it was agreed that the dogs would also be evacuated. The boat then set off into the swift flowing water and encountered large trees and debris as it fought the currents. On reaching a safe site, other members of the public helped to secure the boat to a power pole and the family was then able to disembark. Soon after the house was dislodged from its foundations by the water and was pushed down the river, coming into contact with other houses, trees and power poles. For their actions, the recipients are recognised by the award of the Group Bravery Citation.

## SES Group Leader Chris Holloway

**FOR BRAVERY ED**

**FOR BRAVERY ED:** What is the nature of your SES Work?

**CHRIS HOLLOWAY:** Group Leader. I manage the members and equipment of the Beenleigh Group, Logan City Unit, South East Queensland. This involves training new recruits, organising training and exercises for general members and ensuring that our equipment is ready to go when we need it. I'm also a regional trainer in Working Safely at Heights and Flood Boats.

**FOR BRAVERY ED:** When did you first become a member of SES, and what was your motivation for joining the SES?

**CHRIS HOLLOWAY:** June, 2012. The Brisbane 2010-2011 floods. I helped a friend of ours clean up her house in Fairfield. We were her own little *Mud Army*... oh, and there was a photo of a friend of mine who had just joined the SES, sitting in the back of a Black Hawk Helicopter out West. While I have done some pretty interesting things, I have to say, I haven't been in the back of a Blackhawk ... yet!

**FOR BRAVERY ED:** Can you share some of your insights into the type of training required to become an SES officer? What typically goes through your mind when you are going out to a rescue?

**CHRIS HOLLOWAY:** Basic training for a Queensland SES member consists of short courses: Volunteer in the Community, Safety, Basic First Aid, CPR, How to use Ladders, Ropes and Knots, Emergency Lighting, Land Search, Communications and Storm Damage Repairs. These are just a few courses, but there are more advanced courses like: Chain Saws, Working Safely at Heights, and operating Flood Boats. Then, there's the ongoing training and exercise to hone those skills and keep them current. We train every Wednesday night for 3 hours and one some weekends too. Having only done the one rescue I can't say what would, or should, typically go through a person's mind. However, using our group experience of an actual rescue, as an example, I broke my experiences down to small steps, so as to focus on a small part of the job at any one time. I prepared the boat before we left the shed; drove to the location where we launched; parked the vehicle and trailer where it wouldn't get washed away while we were gone; helped launch the boat, and waded into the flooded river, in waist-high water, to climb into the boat... These next parts had my entire attention which was good because they were the scariest in hindsight. I drove the boat upstream without getting smashed by falling trees; dodged powerlines at head level (stuff like that); conducted the rescue; returned to the river bank; made sure everyone was safe, and released all that pent up emotion that I hadn't had a chance to deal with over those 2 hours. The short answer is: Do the job; focus on what you're doing; rely on your training; don't give yourself time to think about how dangerous it is, or what could go wrong; just act, and think about how it all went down later!



Photo: Chris Holloway receives his award at Government House.

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**FOR BRAVERY ED:** Reflecting on the rescue that you conducted on 31 March 2017, is there any advice you could give to others on what to do while waiting for help to arrive?

**CHRIS HOLLOWAY:** I've not dwelled much on the evacuee's point of view in that specific context before, but I can say that the Gallo family were in a unique situation in that the 000 operator had told them that no help was coming. The Police jet skis were too far away, the Swift Water Rescue techs from the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service didn't have the boats to get up the river, and the Rescue500 helicopter couldn't approach the house because of nearby high voltage powerlines and huge trees. What advice can you give to people, other than don't give up! Have faith that someone, somewhere will come to rescue you and your family. The Gallo family didn't know we were coming, but they still clung to each other on that roof, as though someone was. Oh, and get up high. That helps too.

**FOR BRAVERY ED:** What is the best thing about your SES job?

**CHRIS HOLLOWAY:** Helping those who can't help themselves. I love every aspect of our work, from replacing a broken tile on a roof that's been damaged by a storm, to saving someone's life. Seeing the appreciation on a person's face for what you've done is pretty special too. Our actions aren't a big deal to us, but you can see it means the world to those you assist.

**FOR BRAVERY ED:** Is there anything, in particular, you would like people to know about the SES?

**CHRIS HOLLOWAY:** We may be volunteers but we're professionals too. I know that most of the people who will read this, already know that we are volunteers but it's amazing how many people don't know. With that comes the belief that we're not professionals. I can't really speak for anyone else, however, being in the Qld SES it was a struggle at first to get the respect of the agencies around us, like the Fireies and the Police. But the community is coming to know more about what we do, and I hope they continue to get behind us. Like I said, we are all just volunteers.

**Join the SES and become part of a diverse,  
community-oriented team.**



Link to Video: [https://youtu.be/jWp7576FC\\_4](https://youtu.be/jWp7576FC_4)

## SES Deputy Group Leader - Claire Browning

**FOR BRAVERY ED**

**FOR BRAVERY ED:** What is the nature of your SES Work?

**CLAIRE BROWNING:** At the time of the rescue, I was the deputy group leader of the Beenleigh group in QLD. I have now moved to Tasmania, although I am still an SES member. My role with my new Unit in Derwent Valley is in road crash rescue. We are first responders to car accidents, where people are trapped. We are in charge of getting people out of their vehicle, as safely as possible. We have the assistance of Fire and Police services, as needed. Tasmania's Ambulance Services are usually onsite or not far behind, so while we do first aid at the scene, we are usually backed up quickly with their support. We still do the occasional storm damage job, and as well, assist other First Responders and Emergency services as needed.



Photo: Chris Holloway and Claire Browning with His Excellency David Hurley and Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley.

**FOR BRAVERY ED:** When did you first become a member of SES, and what was your motivation for joining?

**CLAIRE BROWNING:** I joined the service in May 2012. My husband was a member and encouraged me to give it a go. (He had a lot more faith in my abilities, at the time, than I did)!

**FOR BRAVERY ED:** We learned from the previous article prepared by Group Leader Chris Holloway, what it takes to become an SES officer. You have obviously undertaken a great deal of that training, and I know that all of our ABA members value the work that you and your colleagues do. Reflecting on the rescue that you conducted on 31 March 2017, is there any advice you could give to others, on what to do while waiting for help to arrive?

**CLAIRE BROWNING:** Be prepared and leave early if you can. In saying that, sometimes you just can't predict what might happen. Stay together. Stay as safe as you can. Be patient.

**FOR BRAVERY ED:** What is the best thing about your SES job? Is there anything in particular you would like people to know about the SES?

**CLAIRE BROWNING:** I like the feeling that I can help others, and the strong friendships you make in service. Also, I'd like to say that we are simply average people getting out there. If you think you can, give it a go and you might love it as much as we do. You get taught and encouraged to do things you may never have tried or even thought you could do. Trust me on that..... I once said "I will never get on a roof or in a flood boat..." Turned out I could do both of these and do them well!



Photos: James Ferguson with His Excellency the Hon. Paul de Jersey, AC at the Government House Qld Investiture on 16 September 2020



## SES Local Controller James Ferguson

### *FOR BRAVERY ED*

**JAMES FERGUSON:** I am the Local Controller for Logan City SES. Logan City is just south of the City of Brisbane and is divided into about 70 suburbs with a population of around 326,000. I manage 6 groups that are part of Logan City, and the Beenleigh group being one of them.

**FOR BRAVERY ED:** When did you first become a member of SES, and what was your motivation?

**JAMES FERGUSON:** I joined the SES in October 2010 for a career change. I wanted to work in an environment that offered excellent managerial opportunities, training and combined work with a touch of excitement.

**FOR BRAVERY ED:** Reflecting on your service, is there anything the general public should know about the SES?

**JAMES FERGUSON:** I guess firstly that we are volunteers. Too many people expect us to turn up when they want us to, and often they do not understand that we have other work and family commitments. Secondly, everybody can do something in the SES but that doesn't necessarily mean it's a job for everyone. Managing human resources in a disaster situation is relatively easy, if you have the right skills, attitude and experience. There are always people who are willing to take on the challenge of this type of work. But as I said, it's not for everyone, and there's a down side to everything. The SES offers many opportunities to go beyond and above the call of duty, but it's the quiet times that are challenging. In these times, it's important to look after your mates, and make sure you look after your own physical and mental health.

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## The ABA's National Fundraising Coordinator

**FOR BRAVERY ED**

Our ABA National Fundraising Coordinator, Suzanne Kennedy, also has a strong connection to the SES as Deputy Group Leader, Beenleigh Group, Logan City State Emergency Service (SES) Unit.

Suzanne joined the SES on 01 September 2014 and says the job's taught her a lot about herself: "SES has provided me the opportunity to learn new skills. It's challenging and very fulfilling. Prior to joining, I couldn't even tie a knot. My motto was *"can't tie knots, tie lots."* I'm now a Ropes & Knots trainer for the SES."



Photo: Suzanne Kennedy with James Ferguson during their SES service in response to the 2019/2020 Qld Fires at Boonah, Qld (21 Nov 2019)

**FOR BRAVERY ED:** We've been asking our ABA members to reflect on their SES service. Is there anything in particular you would like people to know about the SES?

**SUZANNE KENNEDY:** Two things come to mind with this question. Firstly, that we are asked all the time if we are paid. SES members are most definitely not paid. We are volunteers. Secondly, SES do so much more than provide sandwiches. We are highly trained and skilled in disaster & emergency operations. My particular role as a SES volunteer in Logan City entails things such as: building resilience within the Logan community via PR events & social media etc. I also help recruit new members by actively engaging the community and participating in community events, and on social media platforms. I assist in the management of the Logan City SES Social Media account, and coordinate various fundraising events and activities to raise money for both local charities and Logan City SES. (E.g., the biannual Logan SES ball, which raises over \$13k each time, for local charities.)

**FOR BRAVERY ED:** It certainly sounds like the organisation is a very busy place. What other sort of tasks do you do?

**SUZANNE KENNEDY:** Our work includes setting up Evacuation Centres during disasters, and assisting other emergency services and agencies as required, such as: Council, QFRS, QPS, QAS, Red Cross etc ...We provide support during disaster and non-disaster periods, attend emergency activations, whether they be large or small, such as: flood boat operations, chainsaw operations, working safely at heights, conducting temporary roof repairs from storm damage, search and rescue (forensic & missing persons) etc. I've personally been involved in designing and delivering training and exercises in SES disaster response for new recruits, in both the Beenleigh Group and Logan Unit.

**FOR BRAVERY ED:** That must give you a great sense of pride to be so active in the community? Can you tell us a little about the role of SES during the COVID pandemic.

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**SUZANNE KENNEDY:** Yes, indeed I do take great pride in wearing the orange uniform and I love my “orange family.” During Covid, our Unit assisted the Queensland Police Service at the border sites. We delivered daily food and essentials in parcels to Logan City’s more vulnerable residents, and to those in isolation.

**FOR BRAVERY ED:** What was your motivation for joining the SES?

**SUZANNE KENNEDY:** I was working in the Disaster Management team at Logan City Council. Jim Ferguson (Group Bravery Citation Awardee), Logan City SES Local Controller, sat at the desk next to me. I found I had a lot of spare time on my hands, especially since my two children were teens and independent. I mentioned this to Jim who suggested I put my boredom to good use by joining the SES. I had listened to many of Jim’s SES stories, and truly admired what they did. From a very young age I have been involved with charities of some description: CWA, Red Cross, and the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal, just to name a few. I think it was a natural progression for me to join SES. It aligned with my values, my inherent need to help people, and my community spirit, especially during times of disaster.

**FOR BRAVERY ED:** What is the best thing about your SES job?

**SUZANNE KENNEDY:** There are so many things I could mention, but mainly, the work we do in SES is incredibly rewarding. Greeting a distraught resident upon our arrival, then watching their obvious distress melt into a big smile when we are finished, is the best feeling on earth. To provide comfort to someone during disaster is a true honour. SES volunteers are incredible humans. They are a bunch of selfless, like-minded people, donating their valuable time to their community. Not expecting any reward, purely the satisfaction of a job well done.

## AUSTRALIAN BRAVERY ASSOCIATION **FOR BRAVERY** NEWSLETTER

- Your rescue event (max 500 words), Investiture related content
- A bravery-related (real-life) encounter
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Issue 4: Dec



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## All In A Day's Work!

### UDO STARKIS

My first rescue dates back to 1964. At the time, I was around 16 or 17 years of age. The bridge over the Colo River in N.S.W. was flooded, with a semi-trailer stalled about 50 meters out. Other truck drivers informed me that the driver was still in the truck. I told them that I would get him, and asked if they could get me a rope. I stripped down to my speedos, tied the rope around my waste, then waded out to the truck. I convinced the driver to get out as the water washed over the front wheels. I secured the rope around his waist, and held on to the rope while the other drivers pulled us back to dry land.

My second rescue was in the late 1960's, at Sussex Inlet, N.S.W. I was on a weekend bivouac with my Military Police unit. It had been raining on and off. After I set up camp, several of us went down to the waterfront. There I observed an aluminium runabout, loaded with adults and children. I yelled out to them, and was informed that they could not restart the motor. I told my mates to get a rope. I swam out towards the boat and had to go a fair way upstream, as the current was strong. I swam closer and managed to get to the rear of the boat. I asked the occupants to secure the rope to the front of the boat so my mates and I could pull them ashore. As the boat was being pulled to the shore, I stayed in the water and hung on to the back of the boat. All occupants returned safe and well.

Next came an incident in 1976, when shots were fired in the grounds of the Parramatta Psychiatric Hospital one night. I was stationed at the Parramatta Police Station at the time. I arrived at the station at 2230hrs and was sent straight out, with a Constable from the Highway Patrol who had been about to go home. We were told that shots had been fired in the grounds of the Parramatta Psychiatric Hospital. We drove there and after a short time we found the offender carrying a rifle. My colleague fired a warning shot but still the offender would not put down his rifle. My colleague tackled him when he turned his back on us. I grabbed the rifle from the offender, and after a short struggle, we managed to handcuff him. It took us about half an hour. Other Police arrived and the offender was conveyed to the Parramatta Police Station, where he was charged. He appeared in Court the next morning, and was sentenced to two years gaol. As a result of our actions, my colleague and I were awarded the Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct, and the Police Commissioner's Commendation for Courage.



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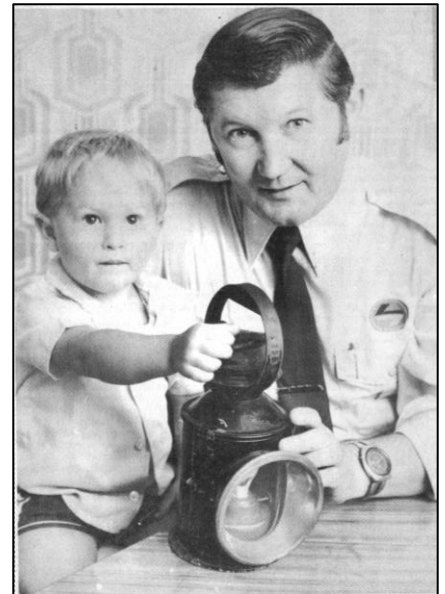
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Something different. Contemplation of Suicide at Copacabana, N.S.W. Early in the 1990's, I was working for the Department of Social Security, when I went to an address in Copacabana. I was called out to review a male person's entitlement to his social security benefits. We started chatting and I could sense that he was pretty depressed. Under normal circumstance, I would have only been there 20 minutes, however that day, I stayed 2 hours. When I left, the man appeared to be in a much better mood. Several years later, my wife was with a group of friends and that same man was introduced to her. On hearing her name he asked "Do you know Udo Starkis?" To which she informed him that I was her husband. He then said, "Next time you see him, please thank him for saving my life. Last time I met him I was contemplating suicide ... by jumping off the cliff at the back of my house." Turns out he had turned his life around, met a lovely young lady, and had a baby together. My wife gave him my mobile number. When he rang, I invited him to my home. He came with his wife and baby. They both thanked me in person. It made me think, you never know what some people are going through. That one act of kindness can make a real difference!

## The Reluctant Hero

FOR BRAVERY ED

Mark Whitter's book aptly titled 'BRAVE' brings to life the incredible true stories of ordinary Australians and their extraordinary acts of courage. The story of train guard, Len Williams, begins at Chapter 9 with a harrowing scene of a train hurtling down the track at 80 kilometres an hour, sparks flying off the wheels and whistleblowing. There's a toddler on the tracks. Another train is coming in the opposite direction. Len Williams yells to his driver over the squealing of the train's wheels, desperately grinding to a halt. His train slows enough for Len to leap onto the tracks and race headlong towards the toddler. He is convinced the child has only seconds to live. It's close, so close. Now he thinks he won't have time to save him. Won't be able to bend over to pick up the child. But as luck or fate would have it, Len grabs the child and dives over an embankment. Together they roll for 8 metres to safety.



Australian Bush poet, Irene Conner lives in Jurien Bay, Western Australia. Irene penned a wonderful tribute to courage and bravery, dedicated to Len Williams.

**IRENE CONNOR (nee Keogh):** "I came in on the mid-late section of the show 'You saved my life' that ran on SBS and listened to part of his story. It moved me immensely, and I could not get over the courage it must have taken to run directly toward a fast-moving train - and keep going! That courage stayed in my mind all night, and the next morning the poem basically wrote itself. I was encouraged to send it to SBS for Len but was reluctant to do so, as I felt it wasn't my story to write, and I hadn't heard all the story. However, I did send it and not long after had a phone call from Len. It was wonderful to hear more of what happened, and how he coped with the aftermath, as well as the fact that he did receive recognition for his bravery."

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## A Friendship to Share

The twenty six years have passed by in a flash  
But the nightmares still shadow his night  
Just twenty six years since he left from his train  
In response to a terrible sight

A Toddler he saw—maybe eighteen months old—  
Just sitting alone on a track  
While off in the distance a fast moving train  
Cast the shadow of death on his back.

No time to consider the dangers he faced  
A little tot's life was at stake  
No time to be fearful; no seconds to spare  
As he ran he could feel the earth shake.

The little child raised tiny arms in the air  
And screamed as he desp'rately lunged;  
The driver's eye's burnt their horror in his  
As with one final effort he plunged.

They rolled down the bank with the wind at  
their back

The train screeched and roared as it passed  
He lay there unmoving, in stunned disbelief  
And the little child's arms held him fast.

The images play through his mind in the night  
Imagining what could have been  
Now twenty six years, and today is the day  
He will talk with the man he's not seen.

His courage ensured that the little child lived  
And now, that small child is a man  
Today they will build on a friendship to share  
That his courage and caring began.

**By Bush Poet, Irene Conner.  
Jurien Bay, WA**

Fast forward to the year 2000 and baby Gavin, who Len rescued, is now a man. The two men met at Len's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday party. Their reunion became the subject of not one, but two television shows. A group photograph taken at the Niagara Park Railway, during the filming of the Ch9 television series "You Saved My Life" shows (from left to right) Len Williams, Vicki Armstrong (Gavin's Mother), Carmen Williams, Ch9 TV host Tara Brown, Gavin's father Ray Armstrong, and Gavin (28 yrs old).



A newspaper article shows Len on the day he was given a Jayco Caravan from the 'Under Cover Angels Ch7 TV program' for his act of Bravery.



**FOR INFORMATION OR ADVICE**

**1300 22 4636**

**[www.beyondblue.org.au](http://www.beyondblue.org.au)**

## The Chaplain's Corner

CHAPLAIN JIM COSGROVE



A verse from the bible says “Do not let your hearts be troubled.” That’s good advice in these trying times. The bible is saying you can trust God. It’s a bit like a mother or father giving a frightened child a hug and saying – don’t worry, everything is going to be OKAY. I guess that’s one of the most important jobs of parents, is giving reassurance that everything is going to be okay. Historically it has probably fallen more to mothers than fathers to be the nurturer and carer, but in more recent years, dads have also been right at the forefront of care and nurture, shaking off the distantness and aloofness of past centuries. And this is the message we hear throughout the bible.

We’re receiving a verbal hug from God. We also know that God is known as *comforter*. A friend of mine was in a terrible accident in which her husband died, but as she lay in the tangled wreckage, she heard a voice saying to her – don’t worry, you will be all right. The comforter was right there with her. So as we listen to this verse from the bible, the care and love and concern of God come strongly through. God is just like our parents comforting us. And I think we can realise something very special about God. Parents in their loving and caring for their children give us a beautiful picture of God – a beautiful image and likeness. I’m sure those words “image and likeness” recall to us God’s words, at the creation of humankind.

**Gen 1.27** So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God, he created them; male and female he created them. Because we understand that God is God, God is not human, God is not male or female, God is God. God is perfection, and certainly – God is perfect love. Nothing else in creation is such a wonderful image of God – not even the most perfect sunrise, the most beautiful rainbow, the most amazing images the Hubble [Space Station] can produce from the Universe. God is present to us, and in us, in many ways. Present in the least of our brothers and sisters. But scripture teaches us that we can see God’s image most clearly in love shared in the beauty and familiarity of marriage; in the closeness of couples who have shared years and years of togetherness, and in the love of parents, of fathers and mothers. There are many male images of God in the bible – and surprisingly, there are many female images of God as well. In the Old Testament, the Spirit, or wisdom, is always spoken of in the feminine. The Hebrew word for Spirit, *Ruach*, is in nearly all cases feminine. The first Christians, all of whom were Jews, took this over. Also in Aramaic, the word for Spirit, *rucha*, is feminine.

**Hosea 11:3-4 God described as a mother:** God; “Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk, I who took them up in my arms; but they did not know that I healed them. I led them with cords of human kindness, with bands of love. I was to them like those who lift infants to their cheeks. I bent down to them and fed them.”

**Hosea 13:8 God described as a mother bear:** “Like a bear robbed of her cubs, I will attack them and tear them asunder...”

**Deuteronomy 32:11-12 God described as a mother eagle:** “Like the eagle that stirs up its nest, and hovers over its young, God spreads wings to catch you, and carries you on pinions.”

**Deuteronomy 32:18 God who gives birth:** “You were unmindful of the Rock that bore you; you forgot the God who gave you birth.”

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**Isaiah 66:13 God as a comforting mother:** God: "As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem."

**Isaiah 42:14 God as a woman in labour:** God: "For a long time I have held my peace, I have kept myself still and restrained myself; now I will cry out like a woman in labour, I will gasp and pant."

**Psalms 131:2 God as a Mother:** "But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother; my soul is like the weaned child that is with me."

**Psalms 123:2-3 God compared to a woman:** "As the eyes of a servant look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to you, YHWH, until you show us your mercy!"

**Matthew 23:37 and Luke 13:34 God as a Mother Hen:** Jesus: "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!"

Through Jesus, God invites us into the unity of the Godhead. This could not happen if we weren't somehow similar to God: if we didn't carry the divine spark; if God hadn't breathed into us and given us life, or if we weren't created in God's image and likeness. God clearly presents Himself as God, the Father, in the bible, not as God, the Mother. However, focusing on God's motherly traits and motherly actions, as repeatedly displayed in scripture, is biblical. Understanding all the characteristics of God can be of great comfort to those who may have difficulty relating to God, as Father. Blessedly, God also says, "I am the LORD, your healer" (Exodus 15:26). So as we draw near to God, he can heal the hurts that cause our discomfort in relating to him, and he can enable us to know him as he really is. I would like to finish with two reflections. Thank you to our mothers, and to all mothers whose care and compassion, sacrifice and service, whose gift of life and nurture, along with loving fathers, have given us a glimpse of the image and likeness of the compassionate and loving God. They also share the frustration and sadness and tragedy that God feels when their children turn away from love and life lived well. Secondly, I would ask you to pray with me this wonderful prayer, which reminds us that there are many human images of God, but that even all together, they fall short of the beauty and splendour and mystery of the Godhead.

O God because you are the source of all life and love and being: *WE CALL YOU CREATOR*. Because we know the history of your presence among your covenanted people and honour their tradition: *WE CALL YOU LORD*. Because our saviour Jesus Christ, your obedient child, knew you intimately and spoke of you so: *WE CALL YOU FATHER*. Because you are present in each act of birth and because you shelter, nurture and care for us: *WE CALL YOU MOTHER*. Because you hold us up and give us strength and courage when we are weak and in need: *WE CALL YOU SUSTAINER*. Because we have known you in our pain and suffering: *WE CALL YOU COMFORTER*. Because beyond pain lies your promise of all things made new: *WE CALL YOU HOPE*. Because you are the means of liberation and the way to freedom: *WE CALL YOU DELIVERER*. Because you have chosen to come among us and share our common lot, making the hard choices, suffering and dying; because you rose victorious bringing new life: *WE CALL YOU REDEEMER*. Confident that you will hear, we call upon you with all the names that make you real to us, the names which create an image in our minds and hearts, an image which our souls can understand and touch. And yet we know that you are more than all of these: *BLESSING AND POWER, GLORY AND HONOUR BE UNTO YOU OUR GOD. AMEN.*

**FOR BRAVERY ED:** Not everyone has religious or spiritual beliefs, and that's fine, but if you would like to express your faith in some way as Jim has done, then write to us. Email: [ABANewsEditor@gmail.com](mailto:ABANewsEditor@gmail.com)

## Andrew (Andy) Forsdike

**ABA MEMBER IN THE SPOTLIGHT**



In this issue, we are proud to put **Andrew Forsdike** in the spotlight. Andy received a Commendation for Brave Conduct, his citation reads:

Mr. Andrew James FORSDIKE OAM, On the night of May 23 2002, Mr Forsdike took actions to assist the victims of a two-car collision at Vincentia, New South Wales. Mr Forsdike witnessed a head-on collision between two cars in very dark and rainy conditions. He raced to one of the vehicles to find a small fire in its engine bay. The car's horn continued to blare, and the ignition wasn't able to be switched off. The female driver was injured but not trapped, although the front doors of the car were jammed shut. Calmly assessing the scene and reassuring the conscious driver, Mr Forsdike moved to the second vehicle where the male driver, who had sustained serious head injuries and was pinned against the steering wheel. He monitored the man's very weak pulse but was unable to assist him. Mr Forsdike checked the condition of four passengers who were lying on the ground before returning to the first vehicle to ensure the fire had been extinguished by the rain and no longer posed a threat to the life of the female driver. Mr Forsdike remained at the scene to reassure the injured until police and emergency services arrived. For his actions, Mr Forsdike is commended for brave conduct.

Andy was granted the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) on 12 June 2000 for service to veterans and their families through the Returned and Services League of Australia and the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia.

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On 01 January 2001, Andy was also granted the Centenary Medal for service to the community through St Marys, the Vietnam Veterans Association, Judo and the RSL. Below is an informal portrait of 216951 Bombardier Andrew (Andy) James Forsdike, of the 12th Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery (RAA), standing outside a sandbagged tent, probably shortly before the Battle of Coral. Bombardier Forsdike was the youngest soldier in the Regiment at the time.



The Battle of Coral–Balmoral (12 May – 06 June 1968) was a series of actions fought during the Vietnam War between the 1st Australian Task Force (1 ATF) and the North Vietnamese 7th Division, and Viet Cong Main Force units, 40 km north-east of Saigon. On 12 May 1968, Andy oversaw a heavy machine gun set up on a dirt track, which was part of the Ho Chi Min trail. Andy saw an enemy soldier running towards the command post, to throw a satchel charge down into the command post, where two high-ranking officers were working. Had Andy not killed this soldier, the officers would have been killed.

On Good Friday 2015, Andy Forsdike was leaving his daughter's house in St Marys, to take his granddaughter and dog for a walk. Andy spotted a young girl running down the road, screaming. When he looked down the road to see what might be frightening the girl, he saw a large pit bull dog running towards her. Andy threw himself between the girl and the dog. The pitbull turned its attention from her to himself and his dog. The pit bull attacked, ripping open Andy's dog's chest. Andy jumped on the pitbull's back and tried forcing open its mouth to make it release his dog. The pitbull locked its jaws on Andy's left hand, ripping it open and inflicting crushing injuries. Andy's daughter grabbed a hose and forced it into the pitbull's mouth until it finally let go. But then it turned and attacked Andy's granddaughter, biting her on the finger. The commotion of this event attracted the attention of several passerby's, who attempted to get the pit bull on a leash and under control. Had Andy not reacted the way he did, the young girl would have sustained terrible injuries. Andy was rushed to Penrith hospital. His own dog was taken to the vets. Andy spent two days in the hospital where he received forty stitches and still cannot use his thumb properly. Andy's dog had its chest stitched up and made a full recovery.



## Meet Sally Gregory, CBC

### FOR BRAVERY ED



Sally Gregory (nee Neale) is the ABA Qld President, the Chair of the Brave Youth of the Year Award Committee, the administrator of the Australian Bravery Awardees Facebook group, and is affectionately known to ABA members as 'Our Chief Hugger.' Sally's ABA membership commenced in 2004. She was awarded the Commendation for Brave Conduct (CBC) in 1995. Her citation reads:

On ninth of June 1993, Miss Neale swam through water where a shark had been sighted to give comfort and assistance to a distressed woman near Julian Rocks at Byron Bay. Miss Neale, a diving instructor and aware of the danger, entered the water and swam approximately 10 meters to another vessel to attend a distraught woman whose husband had just been attacked by a large shark. Miss Neale stayed with the woman, while a search for her husband was conducted calming and comforting her. Then accompanying her to shore where she received medical attention for her actions, Miss Neale is Commended for Brave Conduct.

**FOR BRAVERY ED:** When did you first learn of the ABA?

**SALLY:** It was in 2002. My dive partner in rescue, Jeff Brackenrig SC (now deceased), and I received an invitation to attend an ABA event at Coffs Harbour, run by Len Williams BM. We were made to feel so welcome at that event, and humbled by the stories we heard. I immediately wanted to know more about the ABA. We both felt that we had found our tribe and became strong supporters of the ABA. I've been involved with the ABA ever since and was honoured to be awarded Life Membership on 13 February 2013. Sadly, Jeff succumbed to cancer in 2015. This still makes me very sad, especially when I read what he did to protect me, which he only divulged in the [BRAVE Book by Mark Whittaker](#). I dive on for Jeff and have made supporting our brave Aussie rescuers in the ABA, my life's 'porpoise'.

**FOR BRAVERY ED:** Who was the first ABA member you ever met? Can you recall how they introduced you to the ABA? Was there anything they said that stood out in your memory or inspired you to join?

**SALLY:** Pam Davidson BM, Alan Sparkes CV and Jim Runham SC. You can watch Pam's amazing story at this link. Pam really inspired me to join the ABA: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FrB-zUKMPiE&t=95s>



**FOR BRAVERY ED:** That's pretty impressive, Sally, and the other two gentlemen are pretty impressive too. As we know, [Allan Sparkes](#) is one of just five Australians to be awarded the Cross of Valour, and [Jim Runham](#) received the Star of Courage. Pretty impressive indeed. The ABA has so many members who do some pretty extraordinary acts, doesn't it?

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**SALLY:** Indeed. It's an inspiring group, and I am proud to serve our members here in Queensland.

**FOR BRAVERY ED:** What exactly do you do as an ABA President in your State? How many ABA members do you look after in your State?

**SALLY:** As a volunteer, I attend investitures at Government house to support Bravery recipients. I also administer the Australian Bravery Awardees Facebook Group, which has 236 members and who are award recipients, next of kin or supporters of bravery awards. I'm also a very proud member of the [Rotary E-Club of Global Trekkers](#) that have a membership across 7 countries, and who support our ABA Brave Youth. Queensland is home to 71 current (financial) ABA members and six honorary members, including our treasures Keith and Flo Payne VC AM, our much loved Padre Jim Cosgrove, and everyone's favourite dad, Doug Baird OAM – father of Cameron Baird VC (dec).

**FOR BRAVERY ED:** Oh, everyone loves Doug! What sort of events does your State usually have (pre-Covid/post-Covid)?

**SALLY:** Since 2004, and up until 2017, I hosted an annual Qld dinner (which became a bi-yearly event in 2018) to provide our Qld ABA members with an affordable, inclusive, meaningful and FUN social get-together. But when COVID struck and new social-distancing restrictions were put in place by the Qld Government, those group dinners were put on hold. Our no/low-cost family event, a wonderful family camping weekend at Mike and Lovey Pearson's Ormeau acreage, was also put on hold. Those camps generated countless happy memories and new friendships, so it was very sad when we could not continue with them. As an alternative, however, myself and others have planned, promoted and facilitated monthly online meetings, to enable ABA members to stay connected. We have a lot of fun, but we also try and make sure our members are well supported. The online 'Member's Mingle' is accessible through the ABA Awardees Facebook Chatroom. You don't need a Facebook account to join but it makes things easier if you have one. Details for the Member's Mingle are listed on page 26 of this newsletter.

**FOR BRAVERY ED:** Speaking of getting back to business, what kind of support do you provide members?

**SALLY:** Where do I start?

- Liaison and support of bravery award recipients, their families and carers including maintaining vigilance in identifying recipients who you feel may need extra emotional support or follow up calls,
- Maintenance of investiture records for invitations to prospective members,
- Printing or writing of congratulations card and membership invitation to new recipients,
- Promote and facilitate membership applications,
- Creation and maintenance of accurate financial records and their submission to audit,
- Creation and presentation of regional activity reports on request from our board (NX),
- Compile reports on the activities of ABA activities and initiatives in our State,
- Identify press releases, promotional opportunities associated with bravery, and rescue events,
- Support the NX in matters of strategic development, members support and fundraising,

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- Respond to emails and phone calls about the ABA in a timely, friendly and efficient manner,
- Involvement in all clerical aspects of the job,
- Assist with telephone duties related to the role,
- Undertake other duties as requested by the NX,
- Develop and manage Queensland ABA activities and events, face-to-face or online during COVID restrictions, and provide,
- Free hugs – anywhere and any time 😊

**FOR BRAVERY ED:** That's an incredible commitment as a volunteer. I applaud you for giving so much of your personal time, especially since I know that you are undertaking a PhD, and have many other commitments in the broader community. What has been one of your most pressing issues relating to ABA members in your State?

**SALLY:** Restrictions due to COVID really played havoc with our being able to access bravery recipients. We simply weren't able to attend the few 2020 investitures that took place. As a result, most new bravery recipients would have no idea of the support we provide to help our members and their families in order to navigate the challenges of life after rescue.

**FOR BRAVERY ED:** Indeed, COVID really set challenges for everyone. What do you personally like most about the ABA?

**SALLY:** I like that all Bravery awards are equal. Each recipient is special and valued. Every ABA member can assist another. Kindness, resilience and optimism abound. I especially enjoy watching these beautiful, brave youth (below) grow with confidence and courage, knowing their life is better because of the experiences they have shared, and the rescuers they have met through the ABA.





# Everton Park State High School

## ANZAC Memorial

**JAMIE FERGUSON**



In 2019, the Everton Park State High School was awarded some funding for various projects, and since the locality of the school is so close to the Gallipoli Barracks at Enoggera, and has a large service community, it was decided to dedicate a part of the school grounds to an Anzac Memorial Garden.

On completion of the gardens, parents and students were invited to donate plaques for serving and ex-serving members, those who made the ultimate sacrifice to honour their relatives and Australia. With the blessing of the National Executive of the Australian Bravery Association, I took the liberty of donating plaques for Corporal Cameron Baird VC MG, and Keith Payne VC AM. Given our connection to both these men, I felt they both deserved to be honoured in a place of education so that their legacy and bravery is never forgotten. The inscription on the plaque in this photo signifies that the garden was officially opened by the Federal Member for Brisbane, Mr Trevor Evans MP, on 09 November 2020, just in time for Remembrance Day!

Whilst it is a very functional school, the Head Mistress, Ms Sue Wallace, reports that this area is treated with the greatest respect by all students. Despite the struggles of the year, with the COVID-19 pandemic, construction of new buildings at the school, and the genuine tenacity of the first year 12's facing the new ATAR system in Queensland, our educators and students have committed a special place for the brave heroes that we, in the ABA, treasure as do our patrons and supporters. Community members of Everton Park may purchase a brass honour name plaque for \$50 each. Please email [sgall129@eq.edu.au](mailto:sgall129@eq.edu.au) to place an order.

## Only A 34 Year Wait...

### **FOR BRAVERY ED**

In the SEPTEMBER 2020 issue of **FOR BRAVERY** we learned about the 1986 Long Bay Riot, where the brave men of the Malabar Emergency Unit (MEU) put their lives on the line for their colleagues and those who had been taken hostage by some of Australia's most violent criminal inmates. 34 years later, the men of the MEU came together for the first time with one of the hostages, Mick Pezzano, and in an investiture ceremony in Sydney on 04 December 2020, they received the Group Bravery Citation. The Governor of Sydney, Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC, QC awarded the Group Bravery Citation in recognition of their brave conduct. The men were joined by Mr Guy Zangari MP for Fairfield, who played a significant part in helping support the group achieve their award. Also attending the ceremony was Mrs Dorothea Russo, receiving the award for her husband, the late Mark Anthony RUSSO. Mr Stephen Wright received the award for his father, the late Stephen John Wright.



#### **Investiture Ceremonies November 2020 on Livestream**

<https://livestream.com/blive/investitureceremonynovember2020/videos/214387682?fbclid=IwAR1RXZc-AfxJkEf2c5bUEj5U0RLsi4PFmBOExtfMPeqvk-oqgu7cnUiTsKg>

Photo: Wayne Carmady, Bill Dodson, David Golledge, David Farrell, Gary Clarke, Mr Guy Zangari MP for Fairfield, and Mick Pezzano.

**Citation:** The recipients are recognised with the award of the Group Bravery Citation for their actions during a prison riot at Long Bay Gaol in New South Wales.

On the evening of 23 October 1986, a prison riot broke out at the Metropolitan Remand Centre at Long Bay Gaol in New South Wales. Three prison officers were taken hostage by inmates armed with makeshift weapons and, despite attempts by the officers to negotiate with the prisoners, they were locked in a nearby cell. Seventy inmates then took control of a section of the Centre. Meanwhile 11 members of the Malabar Emergency Unit assault team moved in to free the prison officers. As they entered the Centre they were violently attacked by the inmates, with some members being badly injured. The team pushed through the chaotic fighting, freed the prison officers, removed them to safety, and then returned to regain control of the Centre.

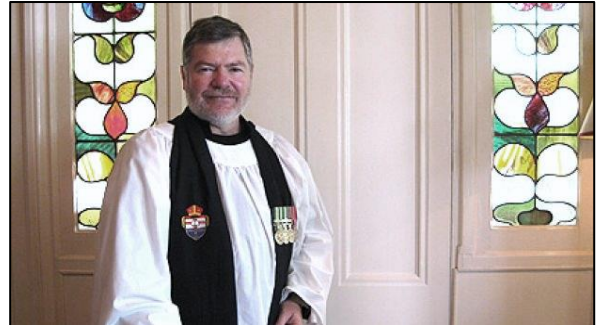
## ABA MEMBER'S MINGLE CHAT ROOM

Get to know your fellow ABA members, stay updated with ABA news, hear great stories and have some laughs.

**Guest Speaker**  
**Monday 14th Dec 2020**

**"Everything you've wanted to know about being an Army Chaplain, but were afraid to ask!"**

**From 7:15pm**



Daylight Savings Time – NSW, VIC, TAS (7:15pm), QLD (6:15pm), WA (4:15 pm), NT (5:45pm) and SA (6:45pm)

**Do you have a Facebook Account? Join the Chatroom**  
**Australian Bravery Awardees Group**  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/AustBraveryAssoc/>

If you don't have a Facebook Account you can still join the chatroom, however, you will need an invitation link.

**All Enquiries Contact:** Sally Gregory - ABAQLDPresident@gmail.com



### DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

**Carmen Anne Williams & Leonard Richard Williams BM**, celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary (60 Years) on the 12th November 2020. Both were born and educated in Coffs Harbour, and married in St Augustines Catholic Church there, at 4pm on Saturday 12th November 1960. They have 2 sons, 1 daughter, 12 Grandchildren and 9 Great Grandchildren.

**Congratulations from the ABA Family!**

On 01 December 2020, Melanie Warburton, ABA National Membership Secretary, Peter White, ABA ACT President, and Andrew Kendall met up with Ross MacDiarmid, the outgoing CEO of The Royal Australian Mint, to present him with ABA Honorary Membership. Ross has been a keen supporter of the ABA and the ABA Brave Youth of the Year Award recipients over many years. His support has been instrumental in promoting the aim and objectives of the ABA. We thank him for his efforts and wish him the best for his future endeavours.





# AUSTRALIAN BRAVERY and the ROYAL AUSTRALIAN MINT

Bravery is a deliberate choice to go from a place of safety to danger or remain in a perilous position to provide help. The Australian Honours and Awards recognise the outstanding service and contribution of Australians, as do many of the commemorative images on the coins millions of Australians carry in their pockets. As such, in 2015, the Royal Australian Mint partnered with the Australian Honours and Awards Secretariat of Government House to produce a coin to commemorate the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Honours System. The Mint specifically focused on the Australian Bravery Decorations which recognise acts of bravery by members of the community.



Back Row: Ross MacDiarmid, Richard Joyes CV, Tim Britten CV, Michael Pratt GC. Front Row: Allan Sparkes CV, OAM, Michael Bryce AM, AE, Quentin Bryce AD, CVO, Darrell Tree CV and Victor Boscoe CV

People who selflessly put themselves in jeopardy to protect the lives or property of others. The resulting *Australian Bravery* collectible coin was developed to commemorate and recognise the highest Bravery Decoration awarded to Australians – the Cross of Valour. The \$5 gold plated fine silver coin, featured the design of the Cross of Valour and the names of the five recipients of the medal to date – Darrell Tree CV, Victor Boscoe CV, Allan Sparkes CV, Timothy Britten CV, and Richard Joyes CV. The photo shown here was taken after the Bravery coin was minted.

The obverse of the coin featured the Queen's effigy and the George Cross alongside the names of the 22 recipients of this medal. Introduced in 1940 by King George VI, the George Cross was replaced in Australia by the Cross of Valour in 1975.

During the manufacturing process, all living recipients of the Cross of Valour and Australian George Cross were invited onto the Mint's high-security factory floor where they were able to strike their own individual coin. Accompanied by the Honourable Dame Quentin Bryce AD, CVO and Mr Michael Bryce AM, AE, this event was one of the only times where all five Cross of Valour and last living Australian George Cross recipients have been altogether in one place.

The public was able to view this unique event from the factory observation windows and given the opportunity to meet some real-life heroes.

Royal Australian Mint  
Denison Street Deakin  
ACT, 2600  
[www.ramint.gov.au](http://www.ramint.gov.au)



# SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

**SUNDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2021**

## SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

10.30am - 11.30am.

Australian Bravery Garden, Government House  
Dunrossil Drive, Yarralumla ACT 2600

Arrive by 10.00am to clear security.

## DRESS

A suit or jacket and tie for men and daywear for ladies. Full-size medals to be worn.

## INFORMAL LUNCH & FAREWELL

12pm – 2.00pm.

## Poppy's Café, Australian War Memorial

15 Treloar Cres, Campbell ACT 2612

Cost: Pay as you go

**Enquiries about the Service of Remembrance and Informal Lunch may be directed to:**

**Peter White ML MBE MCS** ACT National President Mobile: 0408 443 507

Email: [abaactpresident@gmail.com](mailto:abaactpresident@gmail.com) or

Melanie Warburton

National Membership Secretary Mobile: 0437 042 099

Email: [abanationalmembership@gmail.com](mailto:abanationalmembership@gmail.com)



Please return the REGISTRATION FORM (next page) to:

**Melanie Warburton**

National Membership Secretary Australian Bravery Association  
16 Embling Street, Wanniasa ACT 2903

Email: [abanationalmembership@gmail.com](mailto:abanationalmembership@gmail.com)

**PLEASE RSVP BY: 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020**

## REGISTRATION FORM

### SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE – SUNDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2021

**1. Member**

Title: Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Post nominal/s: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Postal Address: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Service of Remembrance (no charge)  
☐ Informal Lunch & Farewell

**2. Member/Partner**

Title: Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Post nominal/s: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Postal Address: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Service of Remembrance (no charge)  
☐ Informal Lunch & Farewell

**3. Guest**

Title: Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Post nominal/s: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Postal Address: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Service of Remembrance (no charge)  
☐ Informal Lunch & Farewell

**4. Guest**

Title: Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Post nominal/s: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Postal Address: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Service of Remembrance (no charge)  
☐ Informal Lunch & Farewell

**5. Child under 12**

Title: Master/Miss First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Post nominal/s: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Postal Address: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Service of Remembrance (no charge)  
☐ Informal Lunch & Farewell





## AUSTRALIAN BRAVERY ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL SONG

*So sing a song of Bravery, Sing a song with friends  
Sing loud, sing with passion, resolve that never ends  
Rejoicing in our unity, no one can take away  
We sing with pride because we cared and gave a hand that day.*

[Click here](#) to download full lyrics. [Click here](#) to play the song or visit our website (below).

[www.forbravery.org.au](http://www.forbravery.org.au)

Written by Chaplain Jim Cosgrove.

Lyrics and song are copyright to the Australian Bravery Association 2015

facebook

Search for **@australianbraveryassociation** on Facebook or in Messenger, or visit our **Australian Bravery Awardees** page which is a closed group for private and discreet discussion <https://www.facebook.com/groups/AustBraveryAssoc/>

**Donate Now**



**ABA MERCHANDISE:** Please visit our website:  
<http://www.forbravery.org.au/merchandise/>

ABA PAYPAL: - [www.paypal.me/AustralianBraveryAss](http://www.paypal.me/AustralianBraveryAss)