



# AUSTRALIAN BRAVERY ASSOCIATION

Newsletter 12

May 2009

Supporting those who risk their life  
to

# *save life, property or the environment.*

## **Patrons**

**Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC, Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia  
and His Excellency Mr Michael Bryce AM AE**

## **Vice-Patron**

**Keith Payne VC OAM**

**Guardian of the Brave  
Mr Geoff Handbury AO**

## **Australian Bravery Association National Executive**

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### **Deputy National President**

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### **National Secretary**

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### **National Treasurer/ Membership Secretary**

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### **National Vice President – VIC/TAS**

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### **National Vice President – ACT / Public Officer**

Phil Spence BM  
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Email: phil.spence@forbravery.org

### **National Vice President – WA**

Vic Boreham CBC  
Ph: (H) (08) 9337 8885  
Email: vic.boreham@forbravery.org

**PLEASE NOTE:**

All postage mail should be addressed to our National Office -

**Our new Mail address is -** c/o PO Box 154, THIRLMERE NSW 2572

All of your Executive can be accessed by email on the “forbravery” addresses above and they will forward to their private emails.

**Our new Website address is -** [www.forbravery.org](http://www.forbravery.org) (or [www.australianbraveryassoc.com](http://www.australianbraveryassoc.com))

Items for the newsletter to- [newsletter@forbravery.org](mailto:newsletter@forbravery.org)

## Message from the National President



Sue and I hope that you all had a safe and enjoyable Easter break.



### **Governor General and Mr Bryce's Patronage**

We have been advised that H.E. Ms Quentin Bryce AC, Governor General and her husband H.E. Mr Michael Bryce AM AE have accepted patronage of the ABA. This is a milestone for the organisation and reflects the standing that we have in society and also carries with it responsibilities in terms of how we conduct ourselves. We are very grateful for this honour, which significantly enhances our capacity to achieve our aim of supporting those who by their brave act suffer physically or psychologically.

### **2009 AGM**

Well the 2009 Service of Remembrance and AGM weekend has come and gone. Geoff Handbury AO was appointed inaugural national 'Guardian of the Brave'. This weekend saw a significant changeover in some official positions in that John and Hedonna Thurgar retired after many years of service to the ABA. We thank them for their efforts and sad to say for them they don't yet get to put their boots up.

### **New in position**

We welcome Pam Davidson BM as our honorary psychologist. Pam's professional qualifications together with her Bravery Medal mean that she is exceptionally well placed to support those we seek to assist. With Honorary Chaplain Dr Royce Thompson we are indeed very well served in this area.

We also welcome Phil Spence BM as our new ACT National Vice President (in absentia as he was in Afghanistan at the time) and Peta Wilson as our new Treasurer and Membership Secretary.

### **Current activities**

Since our annual meeting your executive has been working tirelessly in many areas to achieve our goals as per the business plan.

Currently the web site is in transition to the new provider and this has resulted in a significant amount of work for all concerned. Thanks in particular to John Straskye, our 'webmaster' acting for our sponsor 'The Medal Shop', and John Thurgar for managing the project.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of May I am attending bravery award presentations at Government House in Canberra. I have also arranged to meet with Sharon Prendergast from Government House to discuss next year's Service of Remembrance. I will again thank her on your behalf for the 09 service, particularly the Government House staff initiative of providing flowers for all members to lay in remembrance.

## **ANZAC Day**

By the time you read this Anzac Day will have come and gone and I thank all who have laid wreaths in local services. As well as remembering our own and also representing the ABA in the wider community you also assist the organisation by forging closer links with the RSL.

## **ABA and RSL support for a First World War hero**

Speaking of the RSL, our Deputy National President, James Long had cause to interact with Major General David McLachlan AC, Victorian State RSL President, over a local event recognising the bravery of Lt Colonel Alexander White MID who died in 1915 leading his men in action and to certain death. Both the ABA and the RSL were of one mind in the need to recognise this brave soldier. We were able to assist the driver of this project - James – in his capacity of the Mayor of the City of Bayside. Chaplain Royce Thompson travelled from Sale and actually conducted the service to dignify the memory of this brave man.

## **Guardians of the Brave**

As a follow up James is arranging a meeting between he and I and General McLachlan to discuss opportunities for closer ties and to hopefully further the 'Guardians of the Brave' project.

## **Thanks**

Our ever supportive Vice Patron Keith Payne VC has been pushing our barrow in a number of areas and I thank him and Florence for their efforts on our behalf.

I have recently caught up with Coralee and it seems that she is toiling as ever to make the June Mildura event a major success. Sue and I look forward to catching up with you at that event. No doubt Sally's Queensland sojourn will also be a calendar highlight.

## **History**

Whilst the ABA is a young organisation it also has a significant history including minutes, membership lists, awards etc, that need to be properly recorded and managed. Secretary Sue Alt is in the process of collating that history and ensuring dispersed storage. I ask that any of you who have relevant material provide a copy to Sue.

**Media** - Don't forget to watch 'You Saved My Life' on Monday nights at 8.00 pm on Channel 9. Best wishes from Sue and I,

John Robinson BM

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## **Honorary Professional Support Team**

A special thanks to our professional support team for their services to the members of the ABA

Honorary Chaplain The Venerable Air Commodore Dr Royce Thompson Ph:0416 265 600 Email: royce.thompson@forbravery.org	Honorary Psychologist Pam Davidson Ph: Mobile: 0422 238 641 Email: pamela.davidson@forbravery.org
Honorary Web Master John Straskye Email: webmaster@forbravery.org	Honorary Historian Anthony Staunton Email: Anthony.Staunton@dva.gov.au

## **ACT REPORT - John Thurgar SC MBE OAM RFD**

I file this report as the protem National Vice President-ACT and Public Officer on behalf of Phil Spence who is on duty with the UN in Cyprus.



Phil has been undertaking an important task on behalf of the Australian Government with the UN in Cyprus and should return to Canberra in the second half of 2009 to resume his work with the AFP and assume his appointment with the ABA. Phil brings to the position a wealth of local knowledge about Canberra and the ACT region and its people. As a career police officer with the AFP, Phil has worked not only in the ACT, but also overseas on many occasions with the International Deployment Force. Phil has participated in many and varied community groups, and perhaps his stage performances in 'Les Miserables' with the Canberra Repertory Society, are the most memorable to local residents.

Phil will be back in Canberra on the 27 May 09 when he will represent the ABA at the dedication of the Captain Saunders' Room within the Canberra Services Club, where our Association's inaugural meeting was held. Captain Reginald (Reg) Saunders MBE was Australia's first indigenous commissioned Officer and fought in the most important campaigns of WWII in which Australian troops participated. He later served in the Korean War and was recognised by diggers and Generals alike for his leadership qualities.

Initially I thought it was possible to conduct another 'Christmas in July' dinner at the RMC Officers Mess at Duntroon, but unfortunately I will be overseas leading up to the event which means that Hedonna would be on her own and it is far too much work for one person to organise and conduct. So sorry to all of you who were looking forward to the night, but maybe Phil can organise something for next year.

A reminder to all our members that the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire Association will be conducting their 'Black Tie Dinner' in early October at the Commonwealth Club and we are all invited to join them. The OBE Assn always has an interesting Guest Speaker and the evening will provide our local members an opportunity to 'catch up' with each other as well.

The revamped ABA website has a section on 'Forthcoming Events'. I urge you to keep your eye out for future news about upcoming events by that means.

Best wishes to all, John Thurgar (jt@forbravery.org)

## **NATIONAL TREASURER / MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT –** **Hedonna Thurgar**

Greetings everyone. This is my final report to the ABA as the outgoing National Treasurer and Membership Secretary. I am very happy to be able to finish my tenure in the ABA National Executive with a great deal of confidence in the wonderful people who have volunteered to take on my various roles and responsibilities.

### I would like to thank:

- ❖ Brenda and Alan Cochrane for taking on the job of compiling, editing, printing and posting the newsletters,
- ❖ James Long for looking after the National Executives' official stationery requirements and all the lovely certificates for the ABA,
- ❖ Melanie Warburton for managing orders and sales of merchandise, and offering to be on hand to help Phil Spence organise the AGMs,

- and last but definitely not least;
- ❖ Peta Wilson for offering to take on the National Treasurer and Membership Secretary position. John and I drove to Sydney last week to do the physical handover of the National Accounts and Membership Database to Peta.

#### Current Financial Situation.

I am thrilled to tell you that to date the ABA has just over **\$100,000** in the bank! **\$70,000** is earmarked for the Australian Bravery Foundation, from 2 particularly generous donors – \$50,000 from Mr. Geoff Handbury AO, and \$20,000 from another donor who wishes to remain anonymous for the time being.

The remaining **\$30,000** has been raised by you, the members – through functions and gatherings, from donations, raffles and auctions. You may recall that the ABA only became ‘financial’ in March of 2003, so I think this is a very impressive effort, and a credit to all members, their families, friends, and supporters. Well done, you can be proud of your efforts.

#### Merchandise on Hand.

We have a good quantity of good quality merchandise on hand to see us through the next 12 months, with no outstanding monies owing.

#### Membership.

At handover we had a total of 196 members.

#### Summary.

Overall, I feel the ABA is in very good shape financially and the commitment of the National Executive and members will ensure that it continues to forge ahead with a very exciting future.

Standing down with me is husband John – (we are looking forward to making a long awaited move to northern NSW - look out Sall) and also Colin Fereday OAM, who, as the ABA’s Honorary Auditor has been faithfully auditing the National Accounts for the past 6 years, including the NSW and QLD Accounts. Sincere thanks to Colin, for his invaluable guidance, advice and service over that period.

And finally, I wish say that I have enjoyed my tenure as the National Treasurer / Membership Secretary, having the opportunity to be part of a dynamic National Executive team working together to best represent members and take the ABA forward. My sincere thanks go to the NX and members who have supported me over the years. In particular I would like to say how honoured I feel to have been bestowed with Life Membership at the last AGM. I am very touched that the members saw fit to grant me such prestigious recognition. I look forward to being able to spend some time with you all at ABA events, in a little more relaxed fashion!

Yours Sincerely, Hedonna Thurgar.

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#### **NATIONAL TREASURER / MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY (Incoming) – Peta Wilson**

Thank you for your warm words of support at the AGM in February in taking on the role of National Treasurer for the Australian Bravery Association. I have some **HUGE** shoes to fill I know, but am excited to be working with you for this very worth while cause.

I look forward to working with you all and thank you for your support and encouragement. It is amazing to see how far the ABA has come in a relatively short period. This success is a credit to all ABA members, their passion, and contributions of time, money and effort.

Yours sincerely, Peta Wilson

## **WA REPORT – Vic Boreham CBC**

*Vic has sent the following report regarding his recent experience with the TV crew for the program “You saved my life”.*



The first interview involved clearing out most of the furniture from the lounge room so the film crew could set up booms, microphones, lights and cameras.

Quite a process! The interview recording was halted when aircraft flew over and no phone calls or noise was allowed in any part of the house. The interview itself was quite a traumatic experience as old memories, events and emotions that had been successfully buried for many years were dug up. I won't go into those personal and family feeling here but suffice to say, some still hurt. The interviewer, Damien Comerford, flew into Perth from Sydney for the day and was most patient and understanding. Even the sound effects man admitted afterwards to hanging on to every word of the interview.

A few days later, Tara Brown from Channel 9 flew in from Sydney and the director flew in from New Zealand for the day for the interview. After 5 hours in 34° heat with no shade and no hats allowed I was interviewed to retell the whole incident at the original scene. Towards the end, we were all tired but things lifted when a surprise was sprung. I won't tell you any more. I can say that as a result of the previous interview, this one was a little more difficult because of the dredging up of things previously forgotten.

It may help others to understand their own feelings a little more, in the knowledge that as a group, we do understand each other and have an empathy that most people can never feel.

Vic

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## **NSW REPORT – Adam Wilson BM**

We really don't have much news at the moment in New South Wales, things have been fairly quiet. Just a very quick welcome to our new Treasurer, Peta Wilson, who has bravely volunteered to take over the role from Hedonna and deal with my record keeping. Both Peta and I would like to extend our thanks to Hedonna for her dedication and effort in the role of Treasurer/Membership Secretary and the support she has provided to the ABA since its inception.

Attached to the back of this newsletter is a quick survey for our members to complete to get some idea of what they would like for future reunions in NSW. Should you have any queries or wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact Adam Wilson BM on 0414 908 895 or [adam.wilson@forbravery.org](mailto:adam.wilson@forbravery.org).

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## **MERCHANDISE**

Don't forget we have a large range of merchandise for you to purchase and further advertise the ABA.  
**All Orders to: Treasurer, Peta Wilson, ABA, PO Box 154, THIRLMERE NSW 2572**

- |   |      |                             |      |
|---|------|-----------------------------|------|
| ▪ Tie Bars/lapel pins/cuff links and brooch | \$10 | ▪ Book donation kits        | \$8  |
| ▪ Men's embroidered shirts and ties         | \$50 | ▪ Ladies embroidered shirts | \$50 |
| ▪ Name Badges                               | \$20 |                             |      |

**NEW!! - ABA EMBROIDERED BASEBALL STYLE CAPS \$20 each  
+ \$5 postage for all mail orders.**



## QLD REPORT – Sally Gregory CBC

Hi there sun lovers – Great news!

Dates for this year's Sunshine State dinner have been finalised. Put November 6 & 7 in your diary for our Bravery Weekend at the fabulous Gold Coast. So here's plenty of notice to help you pick up a cheap air fare. As always, you can get a special ABA room rate at the nearby Estuary Motor Inn – 07 5534 5566. Nov 6<sup>th</sup> will be the Dinner at Currumbin RSL – if you saw the Anzac day service on the Sunrise show, you will have seen our friend and host Ron Workman who is the President of the CRSL. More details of other activities on the weekend will be listed on our new web site. Here are our smiling bravery award recipients at the 2008 Qld dinner. They are - left to right – Dave , Alicia , Udo , Joshia (New), Gordon & Bill (Our CRSL hosts), Rose Marie McRae (Guest Speaker – Australia's First Commercial Helicopter Pilot, author and recipient of 2 rescue awards), Jim, Lyall, Collin, Matt, Victor, Linton & James. Thanks for your support and the support of our associate members & Friends of the ABA. The evening was a great success and our fundraising was boosted by the generous donation of \$500 Gift vouchers from ABA friend Gail Austen of Goodtime Water sports. She has the largest water sports store in Qld and sells mail order too. Check [www.goodtime.com.au](http://www.goodtime.com.au) for surfing, kayaking or water gear you may need. While on the subject of generous donations, I would like to tell you about the



Geoff Boyce Award for the Young & Brave. Our first winner of the GBA is James Foley BM. Pictured on the Right. His citation reads - *In the early hours of 17 October 2006, Mr Foley rescued family members from their burning house at Vinifera, Victoria. Mr Foley (18 at the time) was awoken by his father yelling that the family home was on fire. The house was filled with smoke, and in the darkness, Mr Foley woke his younger sister. He immediately smashed a window and helped push her through the opening to the side of the building. Concerned for the safety of his two younger brothers, Mr Foley ran to the rear of the house to check their whereabouts. He pulled doors off their hinges and crawled through the building which was now being engulfed by fire. Mr Foley*

*continued to check for his brothers, yelling out their names. Fearing for their lives, he crawled further into the house where he discovered both boys, and was able to assist them out of the building and to safety with the rest of the family. Mr Foley ran for help to a next door neighbour and then moved the family car from the scene of the fire, getting his brothers and sister into the vehicle to ensure their safety. By his actions, Mr Foley displayed considerable bravery.* It was a privilege to meet James and his lovely family. A special presentation was made to James by the Governor General's representative at the memorial service at Yarralumla. The Governor General HE Ms Quentin Bryce was unable to personally attend as the service co-incided with her tour of support to the affected areas of the terrible bush fires in Victoria. Tragically James' father, Steve did not survive the fire and was awarded a BM posthumously which his wife Pippa accepted on behalf of his family. James said it was his Dad that got him out of the fire and told him what to do to save his brothers. What a fine job he did. Our support and love goes to all the Foleys and family friend "Tiger" (above left). We welcome them to our ABA family. We also extend our thanks to Geoffrey Boyce, without whose generous donation this wonderful award would not be possible. The benefits for recognising "The Young and Brave" are numerous & include encouraging younger bravery award recipients into the ABA activities; Greatly assists in raising the public profile of the ABA; Offers greater opportunity for media interest in the ABA. Offers personal growth and professional development opportunities for young Aussies. Affords superior peer support for rescuers and their family members who may be experiencing PTSD. Educates youth about the benefits of peer support and inter age communication. Access to debriefing by professional & experienced psychologists. Educates young Australians about The Australian Honours and Awards System and provides them entree to the Governor General and to experience our National Capital. Includes them in ABA functions at State & National levels, family picnics, annual dinners (held in most states) and formal functions such the black tie dinner or charity events. Something for all budgets. Provides an opportunity for our youth to meet unique Australians.

Facebook. The ABA is on Facebook! A web site where we can chat on line to other ABA members, share our party pics, see ABA related video clips. You can visit us there at facebook.com and then do a search for the ABA and you can see who's in it. It's easy to join up and it's free. You can even join it with an alias name if you are protective of your privacy – and then you can still enjoy it. Still not sure? Email me –That's it from Queensland – hope you are enjoying whatever life brings your way. I'm looking forward to our next get together and opportunity to laugh and tell tall stories.

*Best Fishes – Sally G.*

## VIC/TAS REPORT – Coralee Lever



### **Mildura Weekend**

Plans are underway for the great Mildura Getaway Weekend and you would have received invitations by now!! I have once again been working closely with the Mildura Rural City Council to host the ABA weekend 5/6/7th June. I truly believe the MRCC are leading the way in supporting the ABA and once again they will host the Civic Reception for us on the Friday evening. Saturday night will be Dinner with music and dancing. A tour of the district, with lunch at a winery and a 2 hour paddle boat trip are all on the weekend agenda, along with a relaxing Sunday at the market at Red Cliffs finishing with a Bar-b-q at my home.

Presently, I am running a raffle from my shop for a wall clock and lovely dress ring – to be drawn on the weekend and I have a few large items to auction. I would be most appreciative of any donations for raffle or auction.

I would really like to have as many members possible make this trip to Sunraysia to show our appreciation for what the Mildura Rural City Council do for us, and I am sure it can only lead to a better understanding of the A.B.A. and our achievements. I will have some T/Shirts printed with Mildura 2009, very popular last year. If you would like raffle tickets or Tshirts please let me know and I will put the orders in.

Hope to see you all in Mildura - Coralee

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## WELCOME TO HON. PSYCHOLOGIST - Pamela Davidson BM



Pam's Credentials

BA Grad Dip Ed: Maj Psych: Grad Dip Psych:  
Psych Reg Qld: Member Aust Psychological Society

Pamela started her career working with children as a secondary school teacher in Victoria between 1975 and 1983. Having two daughters in 1981 and 1984, she was a stay and work from home mother, and it was during this period that she was involved in a plane accident in 1988, resulting in her Bravery Awards.

She returned to teaching in NSW from 1991 until 1994. A career change resulted in her working as a School Psychologist in NSW from 1995 until 2005 with children from Kinder to Year 12 and their families.

In 2000 Pamela established a part time private practice specialising in consulting to private industries and government departments. The work undertaken was varied, being based in a major regional area of NSW and included mediation, court reports, child protection and both clinical and victims of crime counselling. Pamela has a particular interest in the field of Post-traumatic Stress Disorder.

Pamela established a private practice in Brisbane in 2005 and is honoured to be asked to fill the role of Honorary Psychologist to the Australian Bravery Association. She passionately believes in the work of the association and particularly in the need to find appropriate support for those recipients and their families that experience psychological difficulties as a result of their act of bravery.

## Notes from your editors – Brenda & Alan Cochrane OAM



Hedonna Thurgar is stepping down and Peta Wilson is taking up the challenge of National Treasurer/Membership Secretary. There are many expressions of thanks to Hedonna for a mighty job she has done. Several people have taken over the many tasks she has consistently performed - an indication of the enormity of the duties she has performed on our behalf. On behalf of everybody we sincerely say “thank you and well done” to Hedonna and John.

**ANZAC DAY** – Many of us would have attended a service somewhere – Keith Payne VC OAM & Ken Shewan CBC had a day with a little difference.

A few days ago, Florence and Keith Payne made a flying visit to Bundaberg for a function. Over breakfast Keith told us how he was surreptitiously taken half way round the world and spent his day with the Australian Troops in Afghanistan which was no mean feat. A flight to Dubai, then a C130 Hercules, then a Chinook and lastly a Bushmaster took him to the outpost. Fantastic, Keith! I’m sure our troops were very appreciative of your visit. So for all of those looking for him on the 25<sup>th</sup> – that’s where he was!

Ken represented the ABA in Kimbe, PNG and sent in the following report. Thanks Ken.

“Amongst other floral tributes laid by local dignitaries and ex service members a wreath was laid on behalf of the ABA at a dusk service on Anzac Day 2009 at the war memorial in Kimbe, West New Britain Province of Papua New Guinea. Ken Shewan ABA member from Port Melbourne, who happened to be working in the area, laid the tribute on the base of the memorial which commemorates the airmen who lost their lives in the area during WWII.

West New Britain was invaded by the Japanese in January 1942 and retaken by US and Australian troops later in the war. Kimbe is surrounded by several airstrips with Hoskins Field the current civilian airport. Medium bomber Hudsons and Spitfires were based there and seaplane Catalinas were based in the port area. The memorial lists 27 airmen who lost their lives.

The ceremony was organized by members of the San Remo Golf Club which is situated on a picturesque bay along from the main shipping wharf. A catafalque party was provided by the local police station. The anthems of PNG, Australia and New Zealand were sung by the children from the Kimbe International School. Representing the Australian High Commissioner in Port Moresby at the ceremony was Major Jeremy Webb, military attaché who also gave the address.

Another speaker was Mrs. Cecilie Benjamin of Walindi Diving Centre who gave an update on the fate of Hudson bomber A16-126 which disappeared whilst on a mission in 1942 and the wreckage of which was only discovered in 2008. Of the five crew on board who died, some of the next of kin were pleased to have received news of their relative after 66 years but others would have been quite happy to let matters rest. After the ceremony, participants enjoyed refreshments on the open verandah. A bottle of “bundy” donated by the major didn’t last too long.”

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### **NEW BOOK OUT**

For those of you following Keith Payne’s story, his new book, “Payne VC” by Mike Colman is now available from bookshops near you. Compelling reading!

### **“YOU SAVED MY LIFE”**

Great to see member Len Williams BM kick off the show. Congratulations Len and all others who participate. Thanks for sharing your stories and emotions. Vic Boreham CBC advises as we go to press that the show recommences on 1<sup>st</sup> June at 8pm and his story will feature very soon. Stay tuned.

## COMMUNIQUE FROM ABROAD Foundation for Civilian Bravery, Sri Lanka

*Philip Chandraratne contacted John Robinson some months ago and has sent in the following news.*

The Foundation for Civilian Bravery was formed by me as a trust in 1993 to recognize civilians who voluntarily risk their lives to save the lives of others. Recently established by an act of Parliament, the Foundation was organized with benefit of moral support from the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission (USA), the Royal Humane Society of the U.K., and the Royal Humane Society of Australasia. These organizations contributed excellent cooperation and guidance from a range of experience spanning more than 100 years.

The Foundation has just embarked on an international award by presenting the **Gold Medal for Civilian Bravery for Asia**. Although we have the support of The Readers Digest, it is an enormous task and responsibility to be undertaken by an organization like ours as we run our office with minimum facilities. We are convinced, however, that the world will recognize the value of our work one day and extend support. The inaugural Asian Medal was presented to a citizen of Pakistan in 2004 and then to citizens of Maldives and India.

In 2008, the Foundation commenced the **Gold Star for the Brave Student**, to recognize students who act with courage. We hope the award will foster good citizenship for our young people, as we want them to become models for society.

The awardees of the Foundation during the past 15 years are scheduled to meet on 23rd this month to form the *Association of Civilian Heroes*. This is the first occasion of such meeting in Sri Lanka.

Finally, the Foundation dreams of a **World Gold Medal**, for which the support of the reader is invited—the task is a tall order.

Philip Chandraratne [info@civilianbravery.org]

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### OUR THANKS



Mr. Colin Fereday OAM, Honorary Auditor for the ABA has announced his retirement from that position and wishes the Association the best for the future.

This recent photo shows Colin with our Patron at the launch of an exciting oral history project called A Track Winding Back. As one of the contributors, he described what it was like to ‘loop the loop’ in a Tiger Moth in his pre-WWII flying days. He served with distinction in the RAAF in WWII.

The Association sincerely wishes to thank Colin for his generous and professional support as our Honorary Auditor over the past 6 years, and we look forward to his continued attendance at ABA functions.

### **Point to Ponder**

“If we are strong, our character will speak for itself. If we are weak, words will be of no help.”

— *John Fitzgerald Kennedy*

### AGM Special Thanks

- to all who generously donated items for the raffle/auction, with special mention going to Coralee who once again came forward with a huge array of items. We raised \$2,875 on the night! Thanks to all the bidders too!
- to the minibus drivers who gave up any drinking rights for the weekend to transport members to and from events – Jim Preston, John & Hedonna Thurgar, and Peter Davis.
- to those who jumped in to help out at the barbeque; Vic Boreham on tongs, Alison and David Hooper ‘opening shop’ to sell drinks and merchandise, and Hedonna’s sister Tanya for going on picket duty from 9am till 1pm to ensure we had a barbeque site to turn up to! Incidentally, all the delicious food that was not consumed was promptly delivered to the ‘Little Sisters of Mercy’ nuns (Mother Teresa’s order) who conduct a luncheon stall every Saturday for local people in need of a good meal. They were most grateful for your donation and nothing was wasted.

### Sincere thanks to the following donors for 2008:

National Account				NSW	
Dr Geoffrey Boyce	\$500.00	W Dempsey	\$5.00	Sir William Deane	\$250.00
Vic & Lyn Boreham	\$40.00	E Kelly	\$10.00	Mindy Sutherland	\$50.00
Margaret Jardine	\$50.00	J Maynard	\$10.00	Margaret Jardine	\$30.00
Paul Breen	\$100.00	Robinson	\$10.00	Mr. RB Inkster	\$100.00
Peter White	\$50.00	Geoff Hanbury	\$50,000.00	Police Credit Union	\$1,340.00
Kerry Barry	\$75.00	Aust Independent Retirees Ass.	\$65.00	Gary Ramond	\$15.00
Sandra Hewett-Lacon	\$55.00			<b>QLD</b>	
Dr Geoffrey Boyce	\$5,000.00			View Club	\$110.30
J Blair	\$5.00			Probus Club	\$106.05
				Aust Independent Retirees	\$111.35
				<b>VIC</b>	
<b>Total Cash Donations 2008</b>		<b>\$58,167.70</b>		Margaret Dawborn	\$80.00

### **Out and about in Queensland –**

- ❖ Bill & Alicia Sorohan SC have become grandparents again. A baby girl on 21<sup>st</sup> April to son Jason and wife Dee. Congratulations!
- ❖ An offer from Sally Gregory – too good to miss!



#### **Need a dive in clear, warm water?**

Join Super Sal on this year's

Thrill Seekers Dive Adventure to Amazing Palau.

Enjoy Diving, Kayaking, Snorkelling, Jelly Fish Lake, WW2 touring and lazing by the pool. 5 star comfort. Suitable for all levels of adventure or experience & great for non diving

partners. The shopping is great in Guam! 11 nights Inc 2 at Guam (see links below) - \$2714 (\$3859 for divers) + taxes ex Cairns Sept 7 to 17<sup>th</sup>.

More info or a free DVD? Call Sal on 0418 664141 or [sallydiml@optusnet.com.au](mailto:sallydiml@optusnet.com.au) check out [www.samstours.com](http://www.samstours.com) [www.palauppr.com](http://www.palauppr.com) + [www.fiestaguam.com](http://www.fiestaguam.com).

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- ❖ That's it from us, keep safe, keep well and keep those articles coming in - Regards Brenda & Alan

**Expression of Interest for the  
Australian Bravery Association  
New South Wales Branch annual social event**

Dear member,

We are calling on expressions of interest and ideas so we may organise an annual social event for our New South Wales members, their families and friends. Could you please fill in the below form and return to Adam Wilson, **Australian Bravery Association, PO Box 154, THIRLMERE NSW 2572** at your earliest convenience. Our aim is to hold an annual event so that **our members** can meet, socialise and **have fun!** These results will enable us to organise **events** that **you choose** when it is most **convenient for you** to attend and so your **input is invaluable** and very much appreciated.

**I would be interested in attending a:**

- Cricket day            **Yes – only if I could actively participate**  
      **Yes – only if I could be a spectator**  
      **Yes – in any capacity**  
      **No - thank you but cricket is not my thing**

**Comments (if any):** .....

- Camping trip            **Yes – I love to camp in tents with minimal facilities**  
      **Yes – only if there is the choice of tents or cabins with full facilities**  
      **Yes – in any capacity**  
      **No – thank you but camping is not my thing**

**Comments (if any):** .....

- Lunch / Dinner            **Yes – I love dressing up and prefer a formal dinner with a guest speaker**  
      **Yes – I love dressing up and prefer a formal lunch with a guest speaker**  
      **Yes – I prefer a family friendly casual BBQ**  
      **No – thank you but lunch/dinners are not my thing**

**Comments (if any):** .....

**None of the above** ideas are of particular interest to you? **No problem**, please use the space provided below to **share your ideas and suggestions**, we are serious about serving our members and value your opinions.

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Now we know a little bit about the type of occasion you would enjoy, when would be the most **convenient time of year** and **how much notice** would you like prior to an event date?

- Time of year**
- Summer is best for me and my family/friends**
  - Autumn is best for me and my family/friends**
  - Winter is best for me and my family/friends**
  - Spring is best for me and my family/friends**

**Comments (if any):** .....

- I require notice of**
- One (1) month prior**
  - Three (3) months prior**
  - Six (6) months prior**
  - More than six (6) months prior**

**Comments (if any):** .....

Please indicate below how you would like the results of this questionnaire reported;

- I am happy for my results to be openly discussed and disclosed.**
- I would prefer my results to be anonymous and my identity to be confidential..**

**Name of member completing this form:** .....

**Initial:** ..... **Date:** .....

**Thank you** for your valuable time and patience in completing this form, we look forward to the collective results and moving forward with your suggestions.