



AUSTRALIAN BRAVERY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

No. 26 May 2016

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

The official newsletter of the Australian Bravery Association.

NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Andrew Kendall



2016 will be a positive year for the Australian Bravery Association, building on the success of last year.

ABA 2016 National Conference – Canberra

The Australian Bravery Association started the year well with a successful National Conference in Canberra from 12 to 15 February.

The highlight of the conference was the Service of Remembrance at Government House, Yarralumla on the Sunday morning. It was a wonderful time for prayer and reflection in the Bravery Garden. Singing "That Day", the ABA song, to conclude the service was a moving experience for all. The presentation of the Geoff Boyce Brave Youth of the Year Award to Calyn Hoad BM by Associate Professor Geoff Boyce (ABA Honorary Surgeon) at the end of the ceremony was also very special. We were all very fortunate to share our time together in Canberra with Calyn and his family.

It was also a pleasure to award the Dennis Lever BM Perpetual Memorial Trophy to Chaplain Jim Cosgrove, ABA Honorary Chaplain, for his outstanding service to the Australian Bravery Association throughout 2015. The padre has a genuine interest in all members of the association and supporting our needs.

Thanks to all involved in organising and running the conference. The 2017 National Conference planning is well under way with a revamp of the planned events. We are hoping to hold our Annual Black Tie Dinner at the Royal Australian Mint, a keen supporter of Bravery award recipients and the National Honours & Awards System.

The Darrell Tree CV Prize 2015 Winners

Congratulations to the following students who are the worthy winners of the major prizes in The Darrell Tree CV Prize, The Australian Bravery Association's Schools Competition.

1st Prize: Harrison Walther (NSW)
2nd Prize: Maximilian Waaka (Qld)
3rd Prize: Jasmine Zande (NSW)

Harrison's winning essay is printed on pages 5/6 of the newsletter.

Coming events

Vic/Tas Bravery Reunion: Mildura
10th – 12th June 2016

- Mildura Rural City Council Welcome Reception
- Murray River Cruise
- Bravery Assoc. Dinner
- Mildura Markets
- Farewell Casserole lunch
- Your RSVPs to Mildura Council & Coralee for catering and bookings ASAP
- Book your accommodation

For more information check your posted invite or go to the ABA website.

Queensland: Surfers Paradise
14th – 16th October 2016

Mark on your calendar and book your early flights. More details to come.

'Woopi' Kayaking Adventure
21st – 23rd October 2016
Woolgoolga, North Coast NSW

Editors' Note:

These are fantastic events to enable you to meet up with old and new friends.

This newsletter is authorised by Alan & Brenda Cochrane, Australian Bravery Association, PO Box 127, Bundaberg. E&OE

Australian Bravery Association “Woopi” Kayaking Adventure

Project Stay Afloat and the Skee Kayak & SUP Centre have extended an exclusive invitation to the members of the Australian Bravery Association to join them on an exciting guided kayaking adventure on NSW’s picturesque north coast. Robyn Hill is organising a great weekend (21-23 October 2016) for ABA members of all ages and abilities exploring the waterways of the majestic Woolgoolga Reef, renowned for its dolphin, sea turtle and whale sightings. This is a wonderful opportunity for members and their families to have some fun and adventure whilst enjoying the camaraderie of fellow ABA members. If you can put a life jacket on, you can do it. Hope to see many of you there.

National Executive, Honorary and Ex-officio Positions

Congratulations all those members of the association who were elected to the National Executive or appointed honorary and ex-officio positions for 2016, and thank you for your vote of confidence in me as your National President. I, along with the other members of the National Executive, am committed to working collegially to serve all members well and promote the aims of the association.

In this respect, I would greatly value your feedback about the future directions of the ABA. What are your thoughts on how we can grow the association and better support you as a valued member? Please take a few minutes to give me your thoughts. I can be contacted via email on andrew.kendall@forbravery.org.au on my mobile number – 0412 446 459.

Have a great year.

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ABA BRAVE YOUTH OF THE YEAR CALYN HOAD BM

Each year the ABA awards a young Australian the ABA Brave Youth of the Year Award. This year the award was presented to Calyn Hoad BM by Associated Professor Geoffrey Boyce following the Service of Remembrance at Government House, Yarralumla.

Calyn is a special young man who attended our National Conference with his family.

The citation for Calyn’s Award reads as follows.

On the afternoon of 31 August 2013, Calyn Hoad, aged 7 years, rescued his brother from an oncoming vehicle at Springwood, Queensland.

Calyn’s mother was attending to his sister in the ladies washroom after her dance class whilst he and his younger brother waited for them. When his mother was distracted, his brother ran out of the dance studio building and through the carpark. Calyn closely followed the boy who proceeded to run into traffic on busy Watland Street. Calyn immediately grabbed his brother’s arm and pushed him back onto the footpath and out of the way of oncoming traffic. At this point a 4WD, which was unable to stop in such a short distance, hit Calyn causing severe injury.



Calyn Hoad BM with Allan Sparkes CV, Darrell Tree CV and Victor Boscoe CV.

By his actions, Master Calyn Hoad displayed considerable bravery.

The ABA congratulates Calyn on his award for such a selfless and brave effort.

AUSTRALIA REMEMBERS THEIR SACRIFICE

METHODS OF MEMORIAL RECOGNITION (Part 1) - Clive Johnson OAM

Welcome to another edition of the ABA newsletter. This month, with ANZAC Day prominently in our thoughts, I have selected for your interest, the First World War Memorial Plaque and other later forms of remembrance.

FIRST WORLD WAR MEMORIAL PLAQUE

In 1917, the concept of making some form of memorial gift for the next of kin of a deceased member was realised and a national competition to determine the design was published in the *Times* paper. In all, 800 entries were received and in January 1918 the winner's design was made public.



Often referred to as a Death Plaque or Dead Man's Penny, this bronze plaque (125mm diameter) was to be sent to the next of kin to commemorate the loss of a loved one during the war or after the war as a result of war service. It was designed to be placed onto a wall of honour, or gravestone, or simply kept in the home, with many commercial devices available to hold or display the plaque. The plaques were to be issued to all Commonwealth countries without discrimination to rank or position, accompanied by a memorial scroll. Australia accepted the offer of the issue but chose to issue nothing further, whilst Canada and New Zealand agreed to issue an additional Memorial Cross in silver to the next-of-kin.

Various sources quote that between 910,000 and 1.3 million plaques were made and based on my research, the latter number is probably more accurate.

The plaques were produced at two factories, initially Acton and later Woolwich, but no records exist to confirm accurate numbers, as the records were stored at the Records Office in London, which was destroyed during the Blitz. Debate exists about the process of manufacture for the plaques, however as the process required the name of every casualty to be made in relief, it essentially meant that each and every plaque had to be made individually. Examples of the naming are varied and can be formatted over one, two or three lines, use initials, full name and – on rare occasions – may include post-nominals. The first plaques were produced at the Acton foundry in 1918.

When the Acton foundry lost the contract in 1920 due to financial difficulties and possibly production accountability, the process was moved to Woolwich. It was suggested the bronze plaques that were sub-quality, mistakes or duplicates were sold off quietly with the factory manager pocketing the profits. Whatever the reason, the contract was moved to Woolwich.

The names for those who died was provided by the War Department which in turn supplied lists of casualties to the factory and to the Central School of Scribes, where a scroll to accompany the plaque was named by hand.

Mid way through issuing the plaques, someone asked how women were going to be recognised (as the casts all had He died for freedom and Honour). A cost effective method was soon implemented by altering one letter on the plaques.

Types of Plaque:

Type 1: **HE DIED FOR FREEDOM AND HONOUR** with a wide **H** and wide **E** – see bottom plaque in the image (around 800 000 issued before type 2 was implemented)



Type 2: **SHE DIED FOR FREEDOM AND HONOUR**

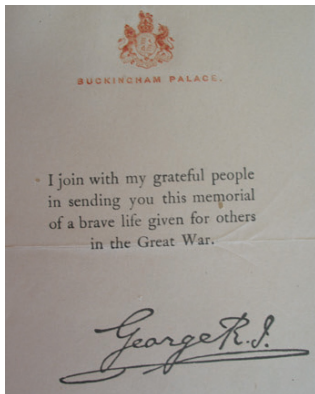
It was determined that a 'SHE DIED' plaque needed to be made and would be issuable in respect of nurses and other women serving with the forces under direct contract with the military authorities. So although more than 1500



women died on service during the war, only 650 were eligible for the plaque and scroll. It would not have been economical to produce a new die, so the master was adapted in mid to late 1922 by polishing off the **H** and replacing it with a temporary **SH**.

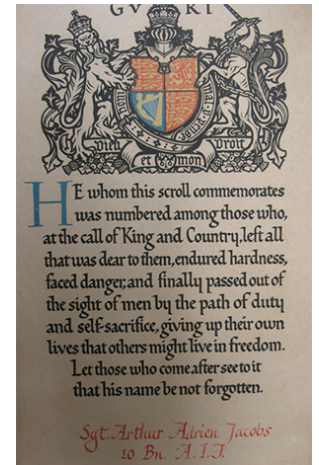
Type 3: **HE DIED FOR FREEDOM AND HONOUR** Once the 'SHE DIED' plaques were made; the **S** was removed from the die, leaving the narrow **H** and broad **E**. Thus from this point on any plaques to male recipients would have a narrow **H**. See top plaque in the second image above.

Woolwich Arsenal continued producing plaques until 1927 when the dies were mothballed. After this point no more plaques were produced, so a process was needed to deal with corrections to naming or failure for a plaque to have been issued. As the individual casting process was closed, the preferred method for renaming was for the family to return the plaque to defence or to the foundry, whereby the original naming was ground back and correctly engraved or machine named.



The memorial plaque was issued in a composite cardboard box and a standard letter from Buckingham Palace that was enclosed in an embossed cream envelope. This was in turn enclosed in a registered, addressed and numbered yellow envelope. Each plaque also had a related scroll as mentioned before.

The memorial scroll, issued with the bronze Memorial Plaque, was a gift from the King and his people as a memento of solace and bereavement for the next of kin of the deceased. The scroll is of thick paper, approximately 30cm x 19cm, with a standard inscription followed by the rank, full name, decorations if any and unit of the deceased in red and or blue hand calligraphy. The handwritten name and regiment at the bottom of every scroll was carried out by students/scribes at the Central School under the supervision of Mr. F. H. Burriged. The Government paid 1. 1/2d for each scroll to be inscribed.



Three variations exist for members of the different services:

Army: The first letter "H" is blue and will have the hand-done name and service all in red ink.

Air Force: The first letter "H" is black and will have the hand-done name in red ink, with the service in blue ink.

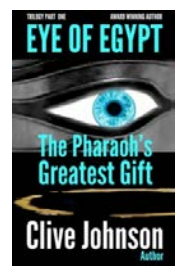
Naval services: The first letter "H" is red and will have the hand-done name and service all in blue ink.

MOTHERS AND WIDOWS RIBBON WWI



First issued in February 1919 and granted to: Mothers or widows (if listed as next of kin) of members of the AIF or RAN who have been killed or died of wounds or other causes while serving during the war or who, after discharge, died from causes directly attributable to wounds or sickness incurred in the service. It was available only on application to the relevant office by eligible persons. A single star represents one serviceman, with additional stars for further members of the same family. The AIF/AFC (including nurses) version depicts the familiar Rising Sun, while the Navy depicts an anchor.

Clive Johnson OAM is the author of *Australians Awarded – A Comprehensive Reference for Military and Civilian Awards, Decorations and Medals to Australians Since 1772*. Copies of the book can be ordered at <http://www.australiansawarded.com.au/order/>. Clive has also just published his first eBook, *EYE OF EGYPT: The Pharaoh's Greatest Gift*, an action adventure set in Egypt in the 1800s. It is the first in a trilogy and is available through Amazon (<http://www.amazon.com>). Why not download it and read it?



THE DARRELL TREE CV PRIZE
THE AUSTRALIAN BRAVERY ASSOCIATION SCHOOLS COMPETITION

WINNING ESSAY 2015 - HARRISON WALTHER

Harrison Walther is currently a Year 10 student at Picnic Point High School in New South Wales. This is the winning essay he wrote last year.

**THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ORDINARY AUSTRALIANS
(BRAVERY AWARD RECIPIENTS) TO THE AUSTRALIAN WAY OF LIFE**

One of the most confusing aspects of human nature is the concept that someone would endanger *themselves* at potentially great personal cost in order to benefit a stranger. If humans are rational beings *motivated* by self-interest, what personal benefit is gained by putting your life at risk with no *view* of personal benefit, and *every view* of loss - with the sole benefit being the welfare of a total stranger?

Recipient of the Star of Courage, Mr John Thurgar rushed out into a minefield without hesitation when a tractor struck a mine and rolled, injuring the driver. Clearly at great risk to himself, Mr Thurgar retrieved the driver and carried him back across the minefield.

While pessimists might argue that the fact that this act of valour has been rewarded by the award of a medal may have been sufficient motivation for Mr Thurgar to take on the risk of saving a complete stranger; the observation is that the decision by Mr Thurgar to assist was entirely spontaneous. Mr Thurgar clearly had no time to anticipate any long term benefits from his actions - his only capacity would have been recognition of the immediate hazards.

So what is it that *motivates* individuals like Mr Thurgar to undertake such an arguably irrational action?

Cross of Valour recipient Mr Darrell Tree witnessed a crane which was removing telegraph poles become *live* with electricity. When this occurred Mr Tree quickly rushed to the crane and risked his life to push the man clear - an action that left Mr Tree electrocuted and unconscious. Upon regaining consciousness, he *saved* the man's three year old son - despite clearly being aware of the personal dangers - and was again electrocuted. When Mr Tree regained consciousness again he was able to see that neither the boy nor his father were breathing. Although multiple attempts were made to *revive* the boy and the driver, only the boy responded to the resuscitation.

In society we call these actions acts of 'bravery'.

Bravery implies courage, pluck and fearlessness. A brave person is one who is a risk taker - someone who enjoys the thrill of looking danger in the eye; testing their pluck (or potentially their luck); someone who derives a personal rush from that behaviour and the admiration of lesser people who are in awe of their boldness.

The base jumper who stands at the top of the cliff contemplating the 200 metre fall to base is clearly brave. The Iraqi refugee who boards a flimsy, overloaded and underpowered boat in order to take on kilometres of open ocean to reach a foreign shore is arguably quite brave. However, society does not recognise their behaviour with a medal.



Andrew MacDonald SC ABA Deputy
National President & Harrison Walther.

What is it about some acts of bravery that we feel, as a society, we should applaud and recognise the actions of these people with a medal?

Perhaps the difficulty is the term 'bravery'. When looking at the actions of people like Mr Thurgar and Mr Tree, it is not boldness or fearlessness that is evident. It is selflessness.

The term 'bravery' sells these heroes short. Because it misses the defining feature of these acts.

The defining feature of actions such as those by Mr Tree and Mr Thurgar is selflessness - giving to others without thought of personal gain.

Perhaps the ultimate act of selflessness is that of sacrifice. When Sergeant Walter Brown VC, DCM during the rushed evacuation of Singapore in WW1, gave up his seat in the evacuation boat to an eighteen year old, he did so at the cost of his own life. He died, a wife lost a husband and a daughter a father, simply, so that a stranger would live.

Acts of selflessness are not limited to the 'brave'. It is not necessarily those who engage in risk taking activity before breakfast; who stand head and shoulders above their peers; those recognisable as a man amongst men, who can take their place amongst those recognised by society for their visible acts of selflessness.

So why should society recognise selfless people and their actions?

Clearly there is a benefit to the individual who has received the benefits of these selfless actions. But it is not necessarily the case that the benefit at this individual level exceeds the cost. It is possible in a case such as a talented young doctor losing his or her life saving an elderly person from a house fire, or a skilled Sergeant giving their life for an eighteen year old Private, that there was a net loss to society. Should we be assessing these selfless actions on the basis of personal gains versus personal losses?

No. Because there is a much greater benefit from these acts of selflessness.

As a society we recognise these people and their selfless actions because there is a clear societal benefit from these demonstrations of selflessness.

The proper functioning of a society is best achieved when people trust one another. People are more productive when they have a positive outlook and can each focus on their jobs without having to be distracted by having to protect themselves and their homes from other members of society.

Noticeable acts of selflessness remind us that people have a natural tendency to help one another - even when there is no possible gain to them; and even when there may possibly be a significant personal cost to them.

Selflessness builds trust. And trust benefits a community because it means that people naturally seek to cooperate willingly. They can go to work confident that others wish them well. They won't have to spend their time protecting themselves from unwanted actions of others.

Selflessness reminds us that we are designed for more than rational self-interest.

The benefit of a tendency to provide positive support to strangers is massive. It results in highly productive communities, and a better standard of living for everyone.

Mr Thurgar, Mr Tree, Sergeant Brown and everyone else who shows bravery did not each just save a person. They saved a society.

MEETING YOUR MEMBERS

LEN WILLIAMS BM

Len and wife Carmen live happily in retirement at Coffs Harbour, NSW. Len's *brave* story began in January 1983 when, as a railway train guard, his life changed forever. On a routine day on the New South Wales central coast line Len was riding the train when he and the driver spotted something on the track up ahead. As they came closer, they recognised a toddler sitting on the tracks. With his train travelling at 80 kph and an express coming in the opposite direction at 100 kph it seemed that the child would be killed. In a split second, Len jumped from his train with its screeching wheels as it tried to slow down, ran and grabbed the child by the arm and fell down an embankment as the express train passed. Both Len and the boy lived to see another day. The story had a happy ending with grateful parents and the grown boy visiting in later years. In 2002 his bravery was again recognised in a television show "Undercover Angels" where Ian Thorpe presented Len with a beautiful Jayco caravan. Len's full story of this rescue and other traumatising railway incidents he has witnessed can be read in the Brave book.



Len is an inaugural member of the ABA and has served on the National Executive as the National Vice President - NSW. Now Len is happy being a member, enjoys the Queensland yearly reunion and on Anzac Days and other Remembrance days he lays a Red Poppy wreath with the Australia Bravery Association logo.

PHIL HUTSON (My Story)

I was born in 1953 and was raised in the sea-side suburb of Chelsea in Victoria with my older sister and younger brother. My father served with the RAAF during the World War II and remained with the Air Force until the mid 60's when he became a Defence Department civilian. My mother, like many other of that era, was engaged in "home duties".

My father's role with the Department of Defence took him overseas from time to time and in 1969 he was posted to Papua New Guinea (PNG) for 2 years. I remained in Australia to continue my final years of secondary school and in school holidays would travel to PNG and had the opportunity of living in Port Moresby and visiting the Trobriand Islands.

1972 with HSC completed I started work with the Law Department of Victoria as a Clerk of Courts.

1977 appointed City Court Bench Clerk assisting the Chief Stipendiary Magistrate of Victoria.

1979 whilst at the City Court, I was approached by a senior officer of the Commonwealth Police to apply for a position within the organisation. The Commonwealth Police, ACT Police and the Narcotics Bureau of the Australian Customs Service later merged to become part of the AFP. As I had studied criminal law at University and exposure to the criminal law administrative process my interest was piqued and in August 1979 I joined the Commonwealth Police. My decision was made easier in the knowledge that the Commonwealth police had roles overseas. I also had the desire to be part of a disciplined service. I had observed the pride my father had in his service and the fact that my grandfather, his brother and their uncle all served in the First World War. I saw my role as a police officer as continuity albeit not as a member of the defence force.

1979 I was appointed to a plain clothed branch of the Commonwealth Police. With the change to the AFP and the merger of the narcotics bureau I volunteered for duties with the drug squad.

1988 Completed my detective training programme and was promoted to Senior Sergeant. I remained in covert drug and organised crime investigations. In February 1982 I crushed my left leg in a motor cycle accident and as a result I contracted incurable osteomyelitis. Despite the disability I returned to work and eventually regained sufficient use of the leg to be fully operational. Fortunately as the accident occurred on duty I was fully covered by Comcare.

1988 I became involved in establishing the Criminal Assets Investigation Units, nationally.

1990 I was appointed the first full time AFP officer at the Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre.

The Commonwealth Police/AFP has been contributing to the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) since 1964. So when a position arose in 1991 for a Station Sergeant I applied for it and in March 2001 left Australia for 12 months. The UN police, at that time, consisted of about 28 Australians and 20 Swedish police who had the responsibility of policing the buffer zone that separated Turkish and Greek military forces as well as perform humanitarian duties across the island. The UN military consisted of UK, Austrian, Canadian and Danish battalions.

I returned from Cyprus in 1992 and worked in the Fraud and General Crime areas and in 1995 I was seconded to the Royal Commission into the NSW Police Service as an investigator.

In 1997 I returned to the AFP and appointed as a Team Leader of Surveillance where I remained until 1998 when a Superintendent's position arose with UNFICYP and in August of that year I once again deployed to Cyprus where I was responsible for the day to day activities of the Australian Contingent and liaison with the Irish police who now formed part of the UN mission.

I returned to Australia in March 1999 and expressed interest in a new mission being raised for East Timor. In April I was appointed as a Superintendent in the First Detachment.



Xanana Gusmau and myself in 2000.

In early June 1999, after much planning and pre-deployment training, the detachment deployed to Darwin for acclimatisation and further training. We were deployed to Maliana, in Bobonaro District, which I knew would be a difficult role as Maliana was the heartland of the militia "Pang Lima" (supreme commander). Balibo is a village within Bobonaro District and was the place where five newsmen were murdered during the Indonesian invasion in 1975

I deployed to Maliana with two other AFP officers, Craig Mann and Brendan Withers, both fine officers. Not long after establishing the UN Headquarters the compound was attacked by the militia and there were many serious injuries fortunately non fatal. However as a result of the attack all non essential UN personnel were ordered to return to Dili until the situation could be resolved. I took the decision to stay in Maliana with 4 other key staff. (The ABC who were in town at the time filmed the attack)

After a negotiated agreement with the Indonesian police and military regarding the maintenance of security, UN staff returned to the District and with the return came David Savage a sergeant with the AFP who would play an important part in securing the district. The situation for the UN in Maliana was tenuous as there were murders of pro-independence people being reported everyday together with numerous cases of rape, arson, assault and torture.

Despite the intimidation, the UN was able to conduct the referendum in Bobonaro District which resulted in an overwhelming vote for independence. Prior to the announcement of the vote the Indonesian military and police, with the assistance of the militia, systematically burnt down the villages in the District and commenced to kill pro independence leaders, their families, locally engaged UN staff and house hold staff that supported the UN. Maliana was destroyed.

A convoy of the remaining UN staff and East Timorese departed Maliana on 3 September for Dili. A day after arriving in Dili the UN Headquarters compound was besieged by the militia under the direction of the Indonesian military. The East Timorese displaced persons camp next to the compound came under fire from the surrounding hills and as a result hundreds of East Timorese, in a state of panic, entered the UN compound seeking safety.

A decision was taken by the UN to evacuate and as a result the ADF secured the Dili airport and the RAAF supplied aircraft to transport UN staff and East Timorese to Darwin. AFP members unanimously petitioned to remain in Dili however the petition was rejected and most of the AFP personnel were evacuated. This forced repatriation has played on the minds of many AFP officers who have found it difficult to cope with.

Later in 1999 as a result of my service in East Timor I was presented with a Distinguished Service Award from the Commissioner of the AFP. I also received a Group Bravery Citation under the Australian Bravery Awards from Governor General William Dean.

A book written by David Savage, who also received the above awards, titled 'Dancing With the Devil' sets out the circumstances of our deployment. A dramatised mini series, based on the book, was produced by the ABC and the CBC. It is called "Answered by Fire"

1999 - 2000 I was Team Leader of Security Intelligence and diplomatic Liaison in Melbourne. Also a two months posting to Islamabad, Pakistan as a Police Liaison Officer.

2001 – 2002 Back in East Timor with the UN Mission in East Timor (UNTAET) and appointed Deputy District Commander and District Commander of Lautem District located in the east of East Timor.

2003 – 2004 I took a Police Liaison position to the Australian Embassy in Jakarta. Shortly after the AFP Commissioner appointed me Adviser to the Indonesian National Police on the establishment of a Trans-national Crime Analysis Centre. The Centre was to be established as part of a number of initiatives to assist the Indonesian Police with counter-terrorist operations.

In September 2004 I was the senior AFP officer on duty at the Jakarta Embassy in September when a car bomb exploded at the south gate which resulted in 12 deaths and more than 300 injuries. I and another AFP colleague assisted in the evacuation of the building and later with the protection of the crime scene. Not long after the explosion other members of the AFP who were outside the embassy returned to assist in the assessment process and to establish a command and control room.

As a result of my activities that day I received a Group Bravery Citation under the Australian Bravery Awards from Governor General Michael Jeffery. I also received a Group Bravery Citation under the AFP awards . (Citations listed on <https://www.itsanhonour.gov.au>)

In 2007 I returned to the Melbourne Office of the AFP and in September left the AFP to take up a role as a senior police advisor to the Iraqi National Police and as a senior investigator with the Law and Order Task Force (LAOTF). The taskforce was located at Forward Operating Base Shield and operated as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Multi National Force Iraq. The Australian police positions came under the Department of Defence with funding from AusAID.

As a result of my service I received the "outstanding Civilian Service Medal" from the United States Army. In addition to the five awards I have already mentioned I have also received the following awards

- Police Overseas Service Medal (Cyprus and East Timor)
- National Medal
- United Nations Medal East Timor
- Group Citation for Excellence in Overseas Service (Indonesia)
- National Police Service Medal
- United Nations Medal Cyprus
- Australian Federal Police Medal



Members of the family at Tim's graduation from the AFP College.

In April 2008 I returned from Iraq and retired from further government service. I then became involved in consulting with multinational and national companies operating in Indonesia and other regional countries on security risk management issues.

I married Maree in 1982. Maree was also a member of the AFP we have two sons Michael and Tim and two grandsons.

I am very much looking forward to spending more time with my grandchildren, buying a convertible and doing more travelling.

NSW REPORT – Brian Harland

In April I attended the Investitures at Government House in Sydney with Pam and although only seven people were receiving awards, again I am amazed at the stories told. The NSW Governor, His Excellency General David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd), to his credit, conducted the Investitures on Wednesday and Thursday before attending his mother's funeral on Friday, after she had passed away at the beginning of the week.

Before the Friday morning Investiture it was announced that the Lieutenant Governor Mr Tom Bathurst would conduct the Investitures and as NSW is the only state in Australia where the Lieutenant Governor is appointed by the Queen permission had to be sought through the Governor General. A proclamation was read before the Investitures appointing Mr Bathurst to conduct the ceremony and with the help of the excellent staff at Government House it ran like clockwork. Apparently this has only happened once before back in 1946.



It was also a very moving moment when we spoke to Mrs Fiona Rixon who had just received her late husband's Bravery Medal. Senior Constable David Rixon died after being shot while apprehending an offender in Tamworth in 2012.

Mr Joel Donkin (pictured left with Sarah Winter), a United Nations paramedic, together with another colleague, assisted UN personnel following an attack by Taliban militants in Kabul, Afghanistan in 2009. They secured, protected and treated with dignity the deceased bodies of their UN colleagues until the police arrived and the violent attack ceased.



Brian Harland with Mr Mustafa Akkan BM & Mr Nattapat Penpanussak BM.

Mr Mustafa Akkan BM and Mr Nattapat Penpanussak BM assisted in the apprehension of a man who had violently stabbed three backpackers at a hostel in Sydney in the early hours of 3 October 2013.



Many thanks to Udo Starkis for looking after NSW over the past year. Due to work and other commitments he is not able to continue this year. Also special thanks to Udo for his generosity to other members and his continued support of the ABA. While he likes to keep a low profile I believe the special help he has given needs to be acknowledged.

I look forward to catching up with as many NSW members as possible this year and am only too pleased to receive calls should anyone wish to make any comments that will help the ABA into the future.

NSW Governor His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd) with Udo Starkis and Brian Harland last year.

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MERCHANDISE

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

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

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

+ \$8 postage for above mail orders

Mark Whittaker's book - **BRAVE**: \$20.00 + 10.00 postage

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY REPORT – Melanie Warburton

I had the honour of attending the Investiture at Government House in Canberra on Friday 15th April 2016. Their Excellencies General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd) and Lady Cosgrove were both in attendance.

Mr Andrew Lock OAM was awarded the Commendation for Brave Conduct and received the most rousing applause of the day from those in attendance. Andrew's citation reads:

On 16 May 2004, Mr Andrew Lock rescued three oxygen-starved mountain climbers on Mount Everest in Nepal.

Mr Lock climbed to the summit of Mount Everest in May 2004, taking with him three bottles of oxygen needed to survive an 18 hour return trip to the summit. On his descent he encountered three people who were all semi-comatose and suffering from various stages of altitude sickness. Mr Lock gave two of the men his own oxygen bottles and sourced another oxygen bottle for the third person. He arranged for one of the climbers to make the descent accompanied by a Sherpa.

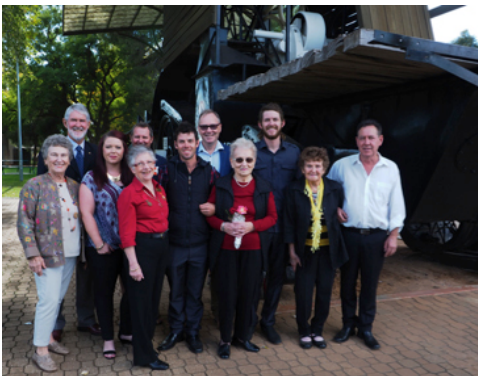


After delivering the second climber safely to camp, and with his own oxygen running out, Mr Lock was beginning to feel the effects of hypoxia. Undeterred, he made his way back up to the third climber, connected a fresh oxygen bottle to the man's mask, and escorted him safely back to camp.

I spoke with Andrew who was in hot demand, everyone wanted to shake his hand and congratulate him on his award. Andrew is the only Australian to climb all 14 of the world's 8000 metre mountains, making him the country's most accomplished high altitude mountaineer. Andrew has written a book called Summit 8000, a memoir of his spectacular high-altitude mountaineering achievements, death-defying ascents and his passion for climbing.

* * * * *

VICTORIA & TASMANIA REPORT – Coralee Lever



Whilst organising the ABA Mildura reunion to be held in June, Coralee has also been facing up to the 20-year anniversary of the Port Arthur massacre and fronted up for interviews with both television and the press media. Both Coralee and dear friend Vera Jary, also an ABA member and Red Cliffs resident, are survivors of the Port Arthur incident and both husbands were amongst those shot dead. They chose to stay in their community this year instead of travelling to Tasmania.

Dennis Lever BM and Ron Jary were well known in their Red Cliffs' community and were involved in church, service and school groups across the district. The Red Cliffs' community rallied behind the two families and the Lever/Jary Memorial Trust Fund was set up to celebrate the legacy of these men. As a first project retirement units were built and sold to grow the fund. In the ensuing years the local swimming pool, community resource centre, netball courts, skate park, golf club and retirement home are amongst the beneficiaries of this trust. Over \$61,000 has been spent in the Town of Red Cliffs from the Funds - a fitting memorial to these two men.

Pictured in red above are Coralee and Vera with past and present members of the L/J Committee in front of the "Big Lizzie" Tractor (Photo: The Sunraysia Daily). A \$10,000 contribution will be used in its restoration. The Mildura/ Red Cliffs community supports the ABA and Coralee looks forward to you joining her there for the Vic/Tas Reunion in June.

DEPUTY NATIONAL PRESIDENT 2015 & WESTERN AUSTRALIA ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2015 – Vic Boreham

The year 2015 started well with a thoroughly enjoyable weekend in Canberra which included informal social evenings, the welcome meeting, black tie dinner, memorial service and the successful annual general meeting. Catching up with old and dear friends, along with making new friends is always one of the highlights that we all look forward to.

Throughout the year I assisted with the organising of the 2016 AGM weekend in Canberra. What a heck of a lot of work goes into that. Until directly involved, we may not appreciate just how much work goes on behind the scenes. Thank goodness for the great work done by Melanie Warburton, John Thurgar and Andrew Kendall. Not to forget Brenda Cochrane and Brian Harland for their input as the financial organisers. Each has a lot on his/her plate but never the less, took over in areas that would have caused me no end of problems if they had been left to me. Thanks Melanie, John, Andrew, Brenda and Brian.



One of the most difficult tasks undertaken during the year by the nominated subcommittee, was the selection of the recipient of The Brave Youth of the Year Award. Each year it becomes more difficult to arrive at one particular person. This year was no different, however without any doubt in my mind, my selection was young Calyn Hoad aged 7 years at the time. Calyn risked his own life to save his young brother who had run onto the road into heavy traffic. On pushing him to the footpath Calyn suffered very severe physical injuries as a consequence of being hit by a four wheel drive vehicle. Calyn is still fighting to improve his ability, physical and mental processes. What an inspiration young Calyn is! His family has been overwhelmed by the support and generosity of the general public.

I've had a setback with the organisation/construction of the Bravery Memorial Garden at Manning Park, Spearwood. The City of Cockburn is reviewing its financial commitments and has packaged them into one big item instead of assessing each expense on an individual basis. My understanding, even though all approvals have been obtained, we are back to square one with regard to financing the project. I was very down in the dumps and quite dispirited when Lyn and I left the meeting with the council bean counters. Still, while there is breath left in the old body, I will ensure that the project is not filed away and forgotten...it will be re-introduced to council as often as needs be.

Tim and Shannon Britten, Lyn and I received our invitations to witness the Investitures at Government House during the year and met with the recipients afterwards. Lyn and I were unable to attend the latter of the two invitations as we were holidaying in Busselton so Tim and Shannon admirably filled this task meeting and congratulating each recipient and making the recipients aware of the existence of The Australian Bravery Association. Last month Tim and Shannon and Lyn and I met with 4 new Bravery Awardees at Government House. I always ensure that a letter of congratulations and an application form to join the ABA is included in the folder that is presented to each bravery award recipient. I am very grateful to the staff at Government House for permitting me to do this and we look forward to receiving new membership applications.

Invitations for Tim Britten CV, Victor Boscoe CV (our vice patrons), Shannon Britten and I to attend a function marking the visit of HRH Prince Charles and Camilla to Perth last year was a real highlight. I was chastised by the Official Secretary to the Governor for not submitting Lyn's name so that she also could attend. We are well received at Government House with all the staff friendly. My appreciation to Lyn must be expressed here for driving Victor and myself to and from the venue. Prince Charles sought out Victor and me, shook our hands, enquired about our awards and concluded our chat with the comment, "the world needs more people like you." As you are reading this, please accept that all Bravery Award recipients, and those who have not been acknowledged, are all included in this, his personal compliment to all of us. Meanwhile Tim and Shannon were in another part of the grounds and made the society pages as well as the TV coverage.

The weather during the afternoon was perfect but by evening dark clouds, spectacular lightning and thunder accompanied the singing of Happy Birthday to HRH. Thunder and lightning lit up the grounds as the song finished and Prince Charles chuckled and quipped, "Now that was a grand finale." After that we all scattered to find shelter.

I have been disappointed with myself for being unable to arrange a social function for WA members of the ABA. One WA member mentioned there is very little in our newsletter about happenings in WA. That is because there has been no response to my invitations/suggestions for arranging social functions and/or other events. Now is the right time to remind WA Membership as a whole, to show a little enthusiasm and actively participate in initiating events. If nothing is happening, obviously there will be nothing to report. In the absence of any suggestions to date, I have emailed each of you to gauge interest in having a BBQ at my home. I am happy to supply the meat, but it would be BYO drinks....all that singing syrup could get too pricey for me. My landline is 08 9337 8885, Lyn's mobile is 0412 635 181.

To conclude, Lyn and I hope all of you enjoyed a happy and holy Christmas with family and friends. May the New Year bring with it, love, health, and happiness to each and every one of you.

* * * * *

SOUTH AUSTRALIA REPORT – Bill Lowther SC

Recently I delivered a PowerPoint presentation to the members of the RAAF returned airmen informing them of the ABA. Their members now have the information to contact or gain information about the Australian Bravery Association. They enjoyed the PowerPoint as I introduced them to our meetings in Canberra and Mildura sharing with them some of our experiences like a family helping each other.



Darrell Tree CV, Elissa Clarke BM and William Denny.

On Thursday 21st April I attended Investitures at Government House with Darrell Tree CV. I am grateful to Darrell who travels 2 days to Adelaide and back to attend these events. Ms Elissa Marie Clarke was awarded a BM and Mr William Edward Denny a CBC for outstanding action in attempting to stop a man assaulting a woman in Adelaide on 5 November 2014.

They were very interested in the information we gave them on the ABA and issued them an invitation to join. The Mildura function was mentioned and they have all the details to contact us.

I had read about a sea rescue in the newspaper and after a long search I was able to contact and meet up with a chap who had rescued a woman who had been washed out to sea with her husband. Because of privacy laws it is very difficult to find these people but after many phone calls I eventually tracked him down, heard his story and have processed a nomination form to have him recognised for his brave deed.

The mayor of Noarlunga has told me that she would put on a civic reception if we have a gathering for the ABA in South Australia. So if any of our members would like to come over here then we need a date when they are free for a long weekend. I can arrange a boat trip down the Coorong, a winery visit, a dinner, and a get together of other bravery people. Would members please respond to me with feedback regarding interest in a South Australian weekend and suitable time of year? I look forward to your emails!!

Gillian Lowther's eBook 'Novice in the Outback' will be available next month alongside my book "Step Beyond Courage" and I will make the first volume, Boy in the Blitz, available as a free introduction to the whole book. This should be completed in hard copies shortly.



William Denny, Darrell Tree CV and Governor SA His Excellency the Hon Hieu Van Le AO.

QUEENSLAND REPORT – Sally Gregory

Hi there ABA friends and family! Greetings from the warm place, where it's shaping up to be a fun year. We started off well with many banana benders joining in the fun of the annual Canberra Bravery weekend, where I had the pleasure of presenting this year's winner of the Brave Youth of the Year award, generously sponsored by Associate Professor Geoff Boyce (pictured below).



This year's worthy winner was Master Calyn Hoad BM who saved his brother's life by pushing him out of the way of an oncoming vehicle, an action which saw Calyn incur catastrophic injuries to his skull. For those of you who are not familiar with Calyn's story, I recommend you do a Google search for "My brother – my hero" where you can view a story Channel 7 did on his rescue, injuries, recovery and the kindness of his family and community. I guarantee you'll need to reach for the tissues. How wonderful, that the ABA is part of his happily ever after.

His lovely family consisting of siblings Kya and Ashanti, Mum and Dad – Shanalee and Ben, and Grandma and Pa – Jenny and John

Hoad brought Calyn to Canberra and the ABA family embraced them warmly - as we do. Calyn also met our previous Brave Youth of the Year winner, Shane Allen, who is nearing completion of his university studies. He joined us for lunch at the yacht club after the government house event. As you can see in the photos, Calyn is making a great recovery and has recently started school which is a wonderful achievement considering the extent of his injuries only 2.5 years earlier.

Calyn's family received an overwhelming amount of support from their community who assisted by renovating their home to make it wheelchair friendly, and as an exercise of appreciation, they now host a public fundraiser event to help kids charities, by inviting their community to Calyn's birthday party. This year they raised \$6000 – wow!

Eleven enthusiastic local members of the ABA family joined in the fun of Calyn's 10th birthday. John Tyson, Warren McErlean BM, Michael Pearson and Jamie Ferguson BM showed up for a good time and bought their loved ones too. Although Wazza normally rides a white Harley, we did seem to have trouble getting him off this fancy green number, and for once, he was in no danger of getting a speeding ticket, despite the fact Mike Pearson (Qld police) was keeping him under surveillance for obvious reasons. I'm looking forward to doing it all again next March, and I know the boys are too.



The first of two announcements for the year of Bravery Awards by the office of the Governor General occurred in March. The honours list makes for fascinating reading and the stories of rescue and kindness that it portrays are truly uplifting.

One in particular which gave me much joy is the announcement of a Bravery Medal for young Jordan Rice who gave up his only chance to be rescued, to save his brother Blake. The fine fellow who went into the raging waters to save them is our Wazza (Warren McErlean BM). He and Jordan's dad, John Tyson, both brothers for life after that terrible day, and staunch members of our ABA family are seen in the photo to the left with Jamie Ferguson, another ABA brother and funny guy. It was a privilege to accompany John to government house in May to see him accept Jordan's posthumous Bravery Medal. I know John will wear it with pride and tell its story on behalf of Jordan and his mum Donna who cannot.

(NB: You can view a replay of the Queensland Investitures at <http://www.govhouse.qld.gov.au/livestream>).

And now for a slight change of pace. Introducing my dive buddy Robyn Hill who has developed Project Stay Afloat to help our ABA members enjoy the health benefits of water sports in managing stress in the great outdoors. Robyn has served as a volunteer nurse in African war zones and has walked in the shoes of many of us with PTSD. Project Stay Afloat is an initiative to assist members who are affected by PTSD, depression, stress or anxiety. Refer to the article below and watch for more details.



Queensland Bravery Reunion 2016 has been confirmed for 14-16 October 2016, so **put it in the diary**. Planning is underway for a fun weekend at Surfers Paradise. The following weekend (21 – 23 October) is the Gold Coast 600 car race, and I know that already one member is coming paddling whilst their better half is staying at Surfers for the race weekend – fun for all. I will send further details as they come to hand, so keep an eye out for airfares to the Gold Coast on sale and book your discounted room at the Watermark Hotel Surfers Paradise, and we'll even get you a discount for when you have to pay. Yay!



Finally, here's a pic of me and Robyn frolicking in the sun, surf and sand with Wazza, John and Jamie (who doesn't run as fast as we do and is just out of shot). Trev is supervising from his motorbike in the car park and Michael is watching our belongings on the beach in case any bad guys are lurking. Lovey is keeping an eye on Michael and Deidre is running behind the boys as she says' "the view's better from there". Yep, it's just another day in

paradise. Hope you can join us for more fun in October.

Keep smiling and be kind to yourself. Hugs Sal.

* * * * *

AUSTRALIAN BRAVERY ASSOCIATION - 'WOOPI' KAYAKING ADVENTURE 21ST -23RD OCTOBER 2016



Robyn Hill from Project Stay Afloat, in conjunction with the Skee Kayak & SUP Centre, has extended an exclusive invitation to the members of the Australian Bravery Association to take part in an exciting guided adventure at Woolgoolga on NSW's picturesque north coast. (Note: The town of Woolgoolga has a local nick name of 'Woopi', because Woolgoolga is way too hard to spell and even harder to say!) Project Stay Afloat aims to support any individual who may be affected by PTS, depression and anxiety through the process of participating in paddle sport activities. They aspire to bring people together in a supportive and recreational environment; offering camaraderie, challenge and exercise.



The highlight of the weekend will be the Woopi Beach to Reef Adventure. Accompanied by qualified instructors, this is an opportunity to explore the unique waterways of the Solitary Islands Marine Park during the whale migration season. Majestic Woolgoolga Reef is renowned for its dolphin, sea turtle and whale sightings. From the novice to the experienced, this is an adventure to suit all skill levels. There will also be time throughout the weekend to explore the area, take part in other activities and share experiences and friendship together over lunch and dinner in some lovely local establishments.

This is a fantastic opportunity for all ABA members and we hope you attend. The ABA will be sending out full details including the schedule and costs very soon. For more information please contact Robyn Hill on 0415 514 708 or robyn@stayafloat.com.au .



NOTES FROM YOUR EDITORS - Alan Cochran OAM & Brenda Cochran OAM

By now many of you would be aware that the ABA last year helped sponsor Schindler Productions in their film making of *KNOWN UNTO GOD*. We wrote briefly of it in the September 2015 newsletter. Since then the film has met with remarkable success and below are comments from John Schindler to John Thurgar. Certainly a good news story.

*Hi John, I am delighted to inform you that our attempts to have *KNOWN UNTO GOD* seen by a larger audience has taken a giant step forward. The GI Film Festival aka GIFF is a most significant annual American film festival being held May 21, 2016 to May 29, 2016 and their selection panel has selected *KNOWN UNTO GOD* for screening.*

Here is a link to the page of their web site which shows you the caliber of the people who decide if a film should be selected for screening or otherwise: <http://qifilmfestival.com/qi-film-festival-advisory-committee/>

*What does this mean to the ABA? In a word "exposure". So far we have managed to license *KNOWN UNTO GOD* to the FOXTEL HISTORY Channel in Australia and New Zealand and we are in a position whereby we may license this film in all other territories throughout the World. Producers are not paid for the screenings of *KNOWN UNTO GOD* at Film Festivals in fact the opposite is the case - we have to pay an entry fee in the hope we will be selected for screening.*



All GIFF "official selections" without distribution are eligible for the American Heroes Channel Award, which may include broadcast on the Discovery American Heroes Channel.

*All film entries are also eligible for consideration in a number of "first look" arrangements the festival's partners have with major television networks, movie studio executives, theater chains, online portals and DVD distribution companies. Herewith a link to the GIFF web site: <http://qifilmfestival.com/> A comment made by the person informing us of the good news stated (quote) **Congratulations on making such a great film!***

*In addition to this the selection panel of another film festival the Julien Dubuque International Film Festival in the USA <http://julienfilmfest.com/> has selected *KNOWN UNTO GOD* for screening. This film festival reaches the 'Moms and Dads of America and Beyond'.*

It is therefore very satisfying when kudos and recognition are forthcoming to the ABA who helped at a time when we really did need assistance. A personal thanks once again to the Management and members of the ABA from Schindler Productions.

NEWS FROM CANBERRA



We have news from our dear Canberra member Mindy Sutherland. Many of you attending ABA functions in Canberra, Mildura and the Gold Coast will have had many a conversation with her and enjoyed her sparkling company. She held the position of National Vice President - ACT for a couple of years until she resigned from that position at the 2016 AGM. While in this position she admirably represented the ABA at Government House and met with new bravery recipients.

Unfortunately, her cancer has returned. With the assistance of our effervescent member and her long-time friend, Melanie Warburton, Mindy is still able to keep in touch with her friends and associates at the movies and luncheons. We're told there are lots of laughs and reminiscing going on! We're all with you in spirit Mindy!!

PHOTO GALLERY
NATIONAL CONFERENCE CANBERRA 2016



ABA VICE PATRONS

Keith Payne VC AM, Darrell Tree CV, Victor Boscoe CV, Allan Sparkes CV, Tim Britten CV,
Richard Joyes CV, and Doug Baird

AUSTRALIAN BRAVERY ASSOCIATION NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

National President

Andrew Kendall
Ph: (M) 0412 446 459
Email: andrew.kendall@forbravery.org.au

Deputy National President

Andy MacDonald SC
Ph: (M) 0412 816 373
Email: andrew.macdonald@forbravery.org.au

National Treasurer

Brenda Cochrane OAM
Ph: (H) (07) 4152 2648
Email: brenda.cochrane@forbravery.org.au

National Secretary

Brian Harland
Ph: (M) 0417 280 965
Email: brian.harland@forbravery.org.au

National Membership Secretary

Melanie Warburton
Ph: (M) 0437 042 099
Email: melanie.warburton@forbravery.org.au

National Vice President – ACT

Melanie Warburton
Ph: (M) 0437 042 099
Email: melanie.warburton@forbravery.org.au

Public Officer

Tony Hall OBE
Ph: (M) 0417 067 484
Email: tony.hall@forbravery.org.au

National Vice President - NSW

Brian Harland
Ph: (M) 0417 280 965
Email: brian.harland@forbravery.org.au

National Vice President – QLD

Sally Gregory
Ph: (M) 0418 664 141
Email: sally.gregory@forbravery.org.au

National Vice President – SA/NT

Bill Lowther SC
Ph: (M) 0402 112 146
Email: bill.lowther@forbravery.org.au

National Vice President – VIC/TAS

Coralee Lever
Ph: (W) (03) 5024 1917
Email: coralee.lever@forbravery.org.au

National Vice President – WA

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

HONORARY & EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Honorary Chaplain: Chaplain Jim Cosgrove - Email: jim.cosgrove@forbravery.org.au Ph: (M) 0412 960 894

Honorary Psychologist: Pamela Davidson BM - Email: pamela.davidson@forbravery.org.au

Honorary Surgeon: Associate Professor Geoffrey Boyce FRCP (Edin and Glas) FRACP FACP FAAN FAADEP

Webs Administrators: Andrew Kendall - Email: andrew.kendall@forbravery.org.au

Mark Tregellas - Email: mark.tregellas@forbravery.org.au

Newsletter Editors: Alan Cochrane OAM & Brenda Cochrane OAM - Email: cochranes@forbravery.org.au

POSTAL ADDRESS: National Office: 243 Wallarobba-Brookfield Road, Brookfield, NSW 2420

ABA WEBSITE: www.forbravery.org.au

FACEBOOK: Australian Bravery Association