



AUSTRALIAN BRAVERY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

No. 29 October 2017

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 – John Thurgar SC MBE OAM RFD



The National Executive Committee have had a very busy first half to the reporting year thus far. Our minds have been focussed on a number of issues confronting the Association. Naturally there are the perennial issues that all associations face these days, such as, growing membership and fundraising. However, we also have turned our minds to the major issues of assisting our members who face the

reality of living with and trying to cope with PTS as a result of their brave act and the decision to rotate the annual Conference around the other State capital cities of Australia every second year (even numbered years) and returning to the national capital on 'odd' numbered years.

The 2018 Annual Conference will be in Melbourne. The provisional program is within the Newsletter with dates and events so that members can attend to booking transport and accommodation. The theme will be to 'highlight' Melbourne as a fun city and feature its history, the arts and entertainment. Movement about the CBD is easy with free use of the iconic Melbourne Tramway system at one's disposal. Keep an eye out for the confirmed program and event booking sheet.

It has also come to my attention that some people believe that the sole purpose of the ABA is that it is 'a social club'. That is completely untrue and I ask all members to 'scotch' that idea if you hear our association being referred to in such terms.

I find that viewpoint ill-informed, ignorant and offensive.

I use these strong words as the truth is that the ABA is actively involved in many community activities which are in accordance with our aims and objectives. Just because those undertaking the work do not seek publicity or applause for their valuable unpaid dedicated work does not mean that it does not happen. Much of what your office bearers do is similar to the duck gliding across a pond. The movement of the duck across the water looks smooth and gentle, yet beneath the surface, the feet are working away furiously to propel itself.

To demonstrate, in the past seven months, I, and your national executive members have seen a marked increase of requests from the

Coming events

Queensland: Surfers Paradise 13th – 14th October 2017

Check the web page and your invitation for more details -

- Barefoot bowls and welcome
- Beach Bar-b-q brekky
- Kayaking on the Tweed
- Buskers festival
- Formal dinner
- Catch a crab cruise & lunch on the Tweed

ABA National Conference Melbourne

8th - 11th February 2018

A provisional program enclosed

- Welcome to Melbourne
- AGM
- Alfresco dining
- Queen Victoria Markets
- Athenaeum Club Black Tie dinner
- Service of Remembrance
- These and other opportunities to visit the MCG and the National Gallery are options for your Melbourne visit.

Editors' Note:

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

general public about how to nominate and fill out bravery award forms. Most of these requests relate to acts of bravery which have occurred in the past and for whatever reason, were never recognised. In many cases it appears that apathy or the belief that 'someone else will fill out the forms', is what has prevented a nomination being submitted. It is indeed satisfying when you see some of these brave acts being belatedly recognised. Before leaving office, President Obama, recognised a number of American citizens with bravery awards and he used the old American saying of *'Justice delayed is better than justice denied'*, to sum up his personal feelings of gratitude to the recipients.

Further, hospital visits, attending funerals, writing notes and ringing members who (or members of their family) are ill, assisting families to 'get out of the house' and undertake social interaction when injury prevents them from doing so – all take time, effort and commitment. Your National Committee members also represent the ABA at various civic functions ranging from Government House Award Ceremonies in each State through to local community events.

In relation to PTS, two members of the National Executive attended a PTS seminar on our behalf and they report it was highly successful and hope that we can work with other organisations to organise this style of activity for attendance by our members at either minimal cost or subsidised. Also, the paddle for therapy activities, which are a joint ABA and 'Stay Afloat' initiative have been popular and once again will be on the agenda at the Queensland reunion in October. Research has shown that physical activity, avoidance of social isolation, eating well and talking about your problems (especially PTS) can have a positive impact on the individual. Stay Afloat has once again been recognised by DVA who have given support and are sponsoring Stay Afloat to conduct paddling activities during Veterans Health Week (21-28 Oct 2017) for our members, and current and former members of the ADF.

Further within this Newsletter you will also see fine examples of community involvement and social interaction with the Australian community by your ABA State Committee representatives. There will be reports on recent past activities and planning for future ones. All of this takes time and effort. I must also make mention, of the Brave Youth of the Year Award, and commend your representatives on their fine work with that excellent initiative. Well done team. Our ABA Representative in the UK will also report (in our next edition) on our 'sister organisation', the Gallantry Medallists' League activities and his attendance and representation at their activities on our behalf. The Deputy National President has been extremely active in the Queensland Bravery Memorial project and will report on its progress. This is an exciting and positive development, for the design recognises all the Queensland State Initiated Awards for Bravery as well as the Australian National Awards.

In closing, I urge all members to 'keep in touch' with your National Executive or other members just to see 'how they are going'. If you are able to afford to travel to Melbourne from the 8-11 February 2018, then it will be terrific to see you there and 'catch up' on your news.
Best wishes to you all and God Bless.

John Thurgar
National President

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DEPUTY PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Andrew Kendall

Planning is progressing well on the Queensland Bravery Garden. After much negotiation with the Brisbane City Council, it is looking very promising that we may be able to secure Emma Miller Place in the Brisbane CBD as the site of the garden. We are currently having engineering plans drafted and preparing an application for final approval by the council. The aim is to have the garden finished and dedicated this financial year.

Emma Miller Place has a number of selling points. It is centrally located in the Brisbane CBD, 250m from King George Square (City Hall) and 350m from Roma Street Train Station. It is also located close to many of the Emergency

Services and other organisations. The proposed area is flat, has street appeal and some nice trees and gardens around the site.

The following renders illustrate the updated design which now includes lights to illuminate the garden at night.





ABA NATIONAL CONFERENCE MELBOURNE 8-11 FEBRUARY 2018

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

THURSDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2018

5.30pm till 7.30pm. Official Reception and Welcome to Melbourne.

Presentation of the A/Prof Geoffrey Boyce - Brave Youth of the Year Award and the Dennis Lever ABA Award.
(Venue cannot be named at this point in time due to security and protocol provisions.)

pm till late. Alfresco, a-la-carte, pay as you go dining at the series of South Bank Restaurants overlooking the Yarra River and city.

FRIDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2018

9am till 12pm. AGM.

ANZAC House, RSL Victoria HQ, Collins Street, City.

2-5pm. There is the opportunity this afternoon to visit the famous MCC National Sports Museum within the MCG.

7pm. Rendezvous at Young and Jacksons Hotel, Corner Flinders and Swanson Streets in the Chloe Bar for informal pay as you go refreshments.

Organise on the spot small dining groups and then move to Lygon Street Carlton by tram for alfresco a-la-carte small group dining at the abundant restaurants available in this exciting precinct of the city.

SATURDAY 10 FEB 2018

9am-12pm. Queen Victoria Markets in the City.

Afternoon. Free to either catch up with relatives and friends who may reside in Melbourne or to visit the National Gallery of Victoria on St Kilda Road (City end).

7 for 7.30pm. Annual Black-Tie Dinner at the Athenaeum Club in Collins Street.

SUNDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2018

10-11am. Service of Remembrance. (Venue close to CBD – TBC.)

Cup of tea and biscuit to follow and Dispersal.

TRANSPORT: Transportation by tram within the CBD of Melbourne is free.

SUGGESTED ACCOMMODATION: All are within the CBD and close to venues.

1. City Centre Budget Motel

(Currently at \$110 per night online) <http://www.citycentrebudgethotel.com.au/>

2. Ibis Budget

(Currently at \$110 per night online) <https://goo.gl/cZwTGY>

3. The Victoria Hotel

(Currently at \$130 per night) <https://goo.gl/w6vg29>



NOTES FROM YOUR EDITORS –

Alan Cochrane OAM & Brenda Cochrane OAM

The last few months have been a busy time for the ABA. Members have had a great opportunity to attend a reunion in February in Canberra, June long weekend in Mildura and the first ever gathering for South Australia in August. Upcoming will be the Queensland reunion in October. February 2018 will be in Melbourne. Another first for the ABA. At the last AGM, it was decided that on alternate years the annual muster will be outside of Canberra. It is hoped

that this diversity enables more members than ever to participate in these events, join in the camaraderie and link up with old friends whilst forging new ones. Both Coralee and Bill and Debbie were extremely pleased with the success of their reunions in Mildura and South Australia.

Your National executive members have worked extremely hard, some holding positions for quite some time and feel it time to hand the baton on for other members to take up positions on the National Executive committee. Read further in the newsletter how you can contribute to the ongoing success of our organisation. If you feel you have the commitment and skill to take on any of the positions please consider. Back up and support would be extended to you.

On Sunday, 10th September, Sally Gregory, Qld National Vice President, spoke with Macca on the ABC radio show Australia All Over. If you follow this link you can follow the conversation.

<http://www.abc.net.au/radio/programs/australiaallover/australia-all-over/8890556>

Take the slide control forward to 2:04:05 that will be the start of the segment. Macca was speaking about Victorian father Sean Oliver who drowned when he went to the aid of some children in the surf. Sal was able to give some great information about the ABA and the process for nominating someone for a bravery award as well as the wonderful value of HUGS!!

We are pleased to introduce Mrs Margaret Jardine in our “Meet Your Member” section. Margaret has been a great supporter of the ABA over the years. Unfortunately, we have not had the pleasure of personally meeting Margaret as she is unable to travel east but she is hoping to attend the WA gathering in November. Read her story of bravery – well done Margaret!

STRESS

Our everyday lives can sometimes be weighed down with burdens and stress. Some interesting snippets which will make you smile -

Some words of wisdom to relieve stress –

- * Accept that some days you're the pigeon and some days you're the statue.
- * Always keep your words soft and sweet – just in case you have to eat them.
- * Drive carefully. It's not only cars that can be “recalled” by their maker.
- * If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.
- * If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.
- * It may be your sole purpose in life to be kind to others.
- * Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time because then you won't have a leg to stand on.
- * You may be only one person in the world but you may also be the world to one person.
- * Some mistakes are too much fun to only make once.
- * A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.
- * We could learn a lot from crayons.... some are sharp; some are pretty; some are dull and all are different colours; but they all have to live in the same box.

Looking forward to meeting up in Melbourne – Best wishes to all Bren & Alan

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AUSTRALIAN SERVICE MEDALS FOR THE GREAT WAR – CLIVE JOHNSON OAM

The following article highlights the imperial service medals awarded to Australians for World War One. With the 100-year anniversary of Gallipoli in April 2015, the interest in family heritage and the relevance of medals has surged, primarily due to the service name and details being impressed into each award.

The Great War, 'the war to end all wars', began on August 4, 1914, with England entering the conflict against Germany. Australia, like many colonies, offered her services, embarking a small contingent to New Guinea to suppress a minor German garrison supported by a handful of civilian missionaries. Although this was considered Australia's first military engagement of the war, its actions and events were soon paled into the history books, overshadowed by Gallipoli in 1915. Australians, alongside New Zealanders, Indians, Scots, Irish, English, Japanese, Fijians, French, and Newfoundlanders fought this campaign, but for Australia the term ANZAC and 'digger' would epitomise the character and identity of the young federated country.

Now, 100 years on, the service medals rattling around in the back of a drawer or old jewellery box will be dug out and revisited and perhaps for the first time in a century, the recipient's name and service details may be opened and the recipient's service brought to light.

As war raged through the Middle East, France, Germany, Belgium and Russia, across its seas and in its skies, the propaganda machine worked overtime recognising and promoting the actions of gallantry with stories of valour and bravery in the field. The local newspapers plastered headlines of bravery and awards of the Victoria Cross, the Distinguished Service Order and the Military Cross. Yet, whilst these decorated individuals provided hope and pride to the recipient's countries and hometowns, it was the unquestioning need to recognise 'every' individual, for their service or sacrifice in the war that weighed on the shoulders of the Ministry of Defence.

The cost, production, distribution and naming of any agreed service medal design remained an often heated discussion point, until 1917. The decision and financial burden to produce a Commonwealth service medal on such a mammoth scale was eventually agreed to, with each Commonwealth country undertaking the huge task of individually naming each medal and distributing it accordingly.

1914 Star

So, by late 1917, the fourth year of the war, Great Britain produced its first generic service medal, the 1914 Star recognising: *all those who had served in France and Belgium between 5 August and 22 November 1914*. The medal has a red white and blue ribbon representing the colours of the Union Jack and may have the inclusion of a clasp 5th Aug.-22nd Nov.1914 identifying those who were under fire between these dates. With almost 400,000 entitlements, the bronze medal was predominantly presented to recipients (or their next of kin) of Britain's pre-war army who landed in France and took part in the retreat from Mons. This gave the medal its nickname, the Mons Star, but due to geography, this medal was *not* an Australian award.



However, a very small number of medical personnel, nurses and hospital staff (approximately 233) who were overseas at the commencement of the war and attached to the Australian Volunteer Hospital along with two documented Australians attached to British units prior to the war, are the only Australians known to have been issued the 1914 Star. This medal regardless of recipient or country was never issued on its own, and was always accompanied by a British War Medal and Victory Medal.

1914-15 Star

In 1918, not long after the 1914 Star issue, a revised version was produced with a distribution of more than 2,350,000 throughout the Commonwealth. This service medal, called the 1914-15 Star was awarded: *to anyone who saw service in any theatre of war between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915 (unless already entitled/issued the 1914 Star)*. For Australians, because the relevance of the Star recognised service at Gallipoli, the misnomer of calling it the Gallipoli Star became common. Indeed, Australian recipients of this medal, in 98% of cases, would have received it for services in the Middle East and Gallipoli, so its association was justified. The 1914-15 Star was designed and struck in England whereby, after an initial period, unnamed medals were forwarded to Australia for naming and distribution. For Australia the process of naming* was delayed, due to the late arrival of special impressing machines in 1921. It was only after this, that distribution commenced. Again, this medal regardless of recipient or country was never issued on its own, and was always accompanied by a British War Medal and Victory Medal.



British War Medal 1914-1918



In 1919 two more imperial service medals were gazetted. The first, utilising the dates of armistice, was the British War Medal 1914-1918. This is the only one of the three medals that could be issued as a single medal. It recognised: *all those who served in a regular or mobilised capacity for the war effort-whether they saw active service or not*. This medal is possibly the most prolifically issued medal in history with more than 6,500,000 in silver and 110,000 in bronze (mostly for Chinese, Indian and Maltese personnel in labour battalions).



Although it has the dates 1914-1918, the medal was still issued to 200 Australians who fought in the Russian War of intervention (1918-1919) as well as navy personnel up to 1920.

Victory Medal



The second service medal for 1919 was the Victory Medal. It was often referred to as the allied war medal because thirteen other allied countries adopted the same basic design with the same rainbow ribbon. The ribbons colours are said to represent the combined colours of all the allied forces united together in a single cause. This medal was produced in bronze with a light gold plate called yellowed bronze and is also named around the edge or rim*. As this medal was never issued without the 1914 or 1914-15 Star and British War Medal 1914-18, it completed the World War One Ministry of Defence service medals known as the trio (when a Star was issued) or a



pair (where only the War and Victory were issued). The trio identifying service from 1914 and adopted the affectionate identity of Pip, Squeak and Wilfred from the popular comic strip of the day. In much the same vein, the pair of service medals identifying service after 1915, were sometimes referred to as Mutt and Jeff.

*Australian issues will be identified by the inclusion of the impressed acronyms AIF or AN&MEF on the reverse of the 1914-15 Star and around the edge or rim for the British War Medal 1914-18 and Victory Medal. For Navy issues of the 1914-15 Star no identifying Acronym was used, so refer to the other medals in the group and look for the inclusion of RAN or RANB.

Mercantile Marine War Medal, 1914-1918

Also in 1919, under the pressure to recognise members of the Merchant Navy who were part of the civil trades during the war, the Board of Trade issued a service medal called the Mercantile Marine War Medal, 1914-1918 to: *the members of the Mercantile Marine who served one or more voyages through hostile waters*. This medal was struck in bronze and the ribbon colours represent the red (port) green (starboard) and white (mast running light). This medal is easily identified to an Australian, as it will include AUSTRALIA in the impressed details on the medals rim.



Memorial plaque



Also, in 1917 with the service awards of recognition debate, the issue of creating a tangible form of recognition for those who paid the supreme sacrifice became a problem. It was decided that a memorial 'gift' would be produced and sent to the next of kin. For this, a national competition was run in 1918 with over 800 conceptual designs entered. The chosen design was a large 120mm bronze, called the Memorial Plaque, which was detailed on one side with Britannia and the British lion, bestowing a laurel wreath onto the boxed name of the deceased. The words HE (SHE for women) DIED FOR FREEDOM AND HONOUR is around the circumference. These plaques were individually cast in England and then sent to Australia (and other colonies) with an A4 scroll with the deceased members name hand written on the bottom. Identifying an Australian relies on the scroll or other medals to confirm. Although some 1.3 million of these were cast, only 60,000 were for

Australians and of these, only 32 to Australian women.

ANZAC Commemorative Medallion 1967.

Referred to as the 'Simpson and his donkey Medallion' or "Anzac Medallion" This commemorative piece was designed for veterans on the 50th year of the evacuation of Gallipoli in December 1915. Qualification was *service on the Gallipoli Peninsula or direct support of operations from offshore in the period April 25, 1915 – December 31, 1915*.

When it was finally issued, just over 12 months late, it was issued with a lapel of the same design to surviving veterans, with only the medallion available to the next of kin.

Although three other key medals for service in World War 1 were produced, they were not awarded to the Australian military services during the period, or are so scarce to Australians between 1914-18, that they are beyond the scope of this article. These will include the India General Service Medal (1908-1935 awarded to only 10 Australians from 1919-1921), the Naval General Service



Medal (1915-62 none known to Australians for the period 1914-1920) and the General Service Medal (1918-1962 awarded to 50 Australians between 1918-1919)

The Silver War Badge

This badge was issued on 12th September 1916. The 33mm badge was originally issued for wear on civilian attire to identify the member had served and was discharged with 'services rendered'. These were discharged or retired from the military forces as a result of sickness or injury caused by their war service. Around the rim of the badge was inscribed "For King and Empire; Services Rendered". Each issue has a unique number on the reverse, although this number is not related to the recipient's Service number. Australian issues have this number preceded with a capital A. There were about 1,150,000 Silver War Badges issued in total for First World War service with around 100,000 to Australia. A large scroll was also issued with this badge incorporating the recipient's name and unit and where archive records are not available, the only way to connect the recipient is with the other medals, or this scroll.



MID



Mentioned in Despatches has a long history, originating at sea in the late 1700s when commanders wanted to bring the services of deserving officers to the notice of higher authorities. In 1843, Sir Charles Napier made mention of certain non-commissioned men and, by 1850, the concept of mentioning particular service became commonplace. In most instances the simple list of members mentioned could be preceded by a description of a particular incident, or action worthy of the mention. With the beginning of WWI, the number of mentions increased

exponentially. The large number resulted in very few receiving any detail as to the reason for the recommendation and so it lost favour with those who received the notation in their file. By 1919, King George decided to create a tangible form of recognition by creating a certificate, but it did not receive the gratification expected, presumably because there was no wearable emblem to recognise the award. Hence, in 1920, and backdated to 1914, all mentions were issued with a wearable bronze emblem: *to be worn by those mentioned in despatches for operations 5th August 1914 and 10th August 1920.*

The cluster of oak leaves and acorns represents the token of peace and recognition and is worn on the ribbon of the Victory Medal.

Researching Australian medal recipients.

Fortunately for Australia, Army and Australian Flying Corps military records are comprehensive and well collated in Australian National Archives. Better still, the access to these period records is easy online and free. www.naa.gov.au and search the collection either as a member (free to log on) or as a guest. Simply open the search bar and type the recipient's number and surname.

Another free and beneficial site is the Australian War Memorial. www.awm.gov.au. This site allows you to search for confirmation of bravery awards, citations, and recommendations. It also gives access to photographs, service records, and other useful links for related sites.

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MEETING YOUR MEMBERS

Margaret Milling Jardine (nee Sinclair) was born in St Kilda, Victoria, on the 27th June 1923. She is the daughter of Frederick Ringwood Sinclair and Elsie Victoria Milling and had a sister called Winifred. Margaret lived her early life in Acland Street in St Kilda before moving with her family to Manly in NSW.

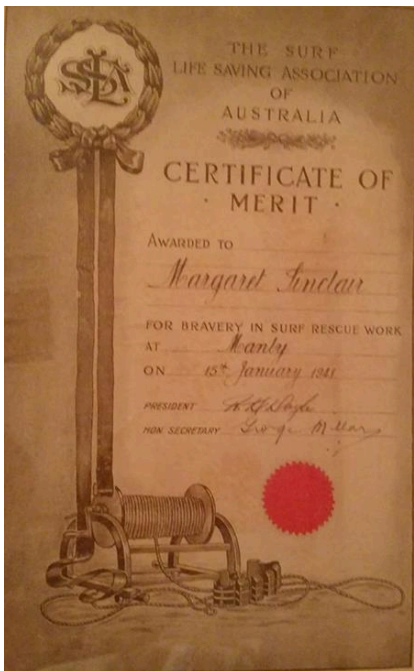
Margaret was a keen sportswoman and participated in tennis at a high level, representing NSW against Victoria in the Combined Insurance Companies championships several times.

Margaret worked as a stenographer for a council and an insurance company in Sydney and it was during this time, in 1941, that she received a bravery award for her part in the rescue of two young girls from the treacherous surf at Manly Beach.



In the early 1950s, Margaret went on a holiday to visit her relatives in Western Australia and it was there that she met the love of her life, Frederick Jardine. They married soon after and lived in Melville, producing four children—John, Alan, Heather and Joy. Their family extended over the years to thirteen grandchildren and to date, nine great grandchildren with two more about to be born.

Margaret was widowed in 2001 and moved to a retirement home where she has continued to lead an active life with friends and family. She closely follows all sport on TV and regularly produces knitted baby garments for foster children as well as blankets for different charities.



Margaret's brave action in rescuing two young girls from drowning was recognised by the Royal Shipwreck Relief and Humane Society of New South Wales by awarding her the Society's Bronze Medal. The incident was noted in newspapers and by the Royal Life Saving Association. Margaret was 17 years old.

The citation reads (in part) ***Miss Margaret Scott McDonald and Miss Margaret Sinclair saved the lives of Misses Pauline Webster, 12 and Joan Upham, 13, about 1.20 pm on 15th January 1941. Misses McDonald and Sinclair being on the beach at Manly noticed two girls in dangerous waters being carried out to sea about 150 yards from the beach. Miss McDonald immediately entered the water fully clothed and Miss Sinclair (after removing her shoes and dress) followed her and swam ashore with Miss Webster who was unconscious and had to receive first aid attention and admission to the Manly District Hospital. Miss McDonald swam ashore with Miss Upham. Awarded Bronze Medals and Certificates.***

NEW SOUTH WALES REPORT – Andy MacDonald SC & Brian Harland

Sydney put on some fine weather at Government House this year and I was there on the first of three days of investitures in September to meet some heroic new faces.

Messrs Sean Carlow, Peter Lynch and Constantinos Sakoulas, were first brought together on the night of the Ferry Cat collision in Sydney harbour in 2007. Braving the black and freezing harbour water, these men aided in the rescue and first aid of several passengers that night, some of whom were even there to see them receive their medals at Government House. For their actions they were awarded Bravery Medals.



Messrs Carlow, Lynch and Sakoulas

Mr Shaw took a little bit longer than usual to get his morning paper in June 2016 his wife told us. Turns out he had heard a commotion inside his local news agent. He raced in to interrupt a robbery with the knife wielding offender. Mr Shaw recovered from his injuries well, but had some explaining to do! Today Mrs Shaw stayed close after the ceremony to make certain he didn't wander off again. Mr Shaw received a Commendation for Brave Conduct.



Mr Shaw and Andy MacDonald SC

A big Bravery Association congratulations to all. Andy Mac.



What a glorious day for the Investitures at Government House in Sydney which looks out over Sydney Harbour. Andy and I share attending the investitures to meet and greet new Bravery recipients.

Zachary Bissell was posthumously awarded a Bravery Medal. On 5th May his parents Craig and Sharon and sister Charlotte attended Government House Sydney to receive his Bravery medal. Zachary was also awarded the ABA Brave Youth of the Year for 2017 and his family also accepted that award in February at our Canberra reunion.

Sharon, Charlotte, Craig Bissell with NSW Governor the Hon David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd)

Mr Clive Redfern, with the NSW Governor the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd), Mr Andrew Watts and Brian Harland after the September investitures.

Mr Clive Redfern was awarded the Bravery Medal for his rescue of the driver of a truck that had left the highway and hit a tree before catching fire near Narrabri in north west NSW.

Mr Andrew Watts received his Commendation for Brave Conduct for the rescue of a young girl from the back of a utility that had started to roll down a steep incline in Merriwa. Andrew received a broken leg in the incident which is still causing problems for him.



Clive Redfern BM, the NSW Governor the Hon David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd), Andrew Watts and Brian Harland

VICTORIA & TASMANIA REPORT – Coralee Lever

Thank you to Peter Crisp M.P. and his staff for organizing and printing of the Vic/Tas Invitations to our beautiful city of Mildura. This year he welcomed our A.B.A Members at the Mildura R.S.L. I am sure Peter feels part of our A.B.A Family and the friendships he has made along the way. The Mildura Regional City Council was also well represented by Councillors and their wives. Many submitted apologies as they were heading off to China the following day. Members of the Mildura Men's Shed who create our Mallee Stumps (trophy) for the Dennis Lever Award came along to the welcome as well, and found out just a little of what our A.B.A. is about! I am sure there is more meaning in making up our "Special Award Trophies" now from this part of the world, the "Mallee". A wonderful welcome and night was had by all.

Tammy Reilly, a new member and husband Shane travelled to attend their first A.B.A Reunion! Tammy and I have a special bond since meeting and relate with similar experiences in our lives! Tammy went onto South Australia's first Reunion and joined in the Friday night Dinner before heading off to Bali!! Sadly, I was unable to attend because of work commitments. Hopefully next year Bill and Debbie!! Tammy is looking forward to our Melbourne Function.

Our 4-hour River Cruise was fabulous, so much so, we have booked it again for next year!! Stopping part way through our cruise for a B.B.Q and abundance of salads was most relaxing. I put my order in for a perfect day and it was granted.

A big thank you to the Red Cliffs Secondary College for their School Bus and Driver (Graham Holmes a retired Secondary teacher) for the weekend. I am sure Graham will put his hand up for next year. Graham also came along to the Dinner as well as two of the Red Cliffs Secondary College School Captains who were most impressive with their appreciation of being invited to be with our A.B.A. Members, and the stories behind the Medals. The Rendezvous was unavailable this year, the dinner was held at the home of Ashley and Helen Allford, our well-known Chef from the Rendezvous including staff members who put on a wonderful dinner. A big thank you also to John Burfitt and his lovely wife Helen who presented a Cheque for \$1035. John who has not been well this year, still worked hard to raise funds for the A.B.A. in which he is a proud member. John is hoping to attend Melbourne if his health allows him. A Raffle and Silent Auction was successful.



All spruced up for our Saturday night dinner

On behalf of the A.B.A. I engraved a Mallee Stump to be sent to the wife of the late Brett Forte who lost his life in a tragic shooting. Thank you Peter Morrison APM. from S.A. who gave a very moving speech at the dinner, and very kindly sent the Mallee Stump to the appropriate Police department to be passed onto the late Brett Forte 's wife. It has been a couple of years or so since Peter and Leonie came to Mildura, and this time they brought a daughter and son along.

Sunday's Casserole Luncheon. Thanks a million to Mel, Josie, Darrell, Jim, Lyn, Bill, Debbie, Helen, John, Karen and Gail, who's support I have had for many years on this wonderful Vic/Tas Reunion, and many of my friends who contributed to the wonderful spread. This was my 11th year for the Vic/Tas Reunion and I am truly blessed with so much support from my home town of Red Cliffs including

a local Member of Parliament, Mildura Regional Council and all the venues. Just a few phone calls and dates supplied is all it takes to makes this fantastic weekend happen!

Thanks Melanie for your wonderful help being in control of the Silent Auction/money/receipts/forwarding Invitations to members, and other duties as it is difficult to handle on your own. I appreciated the few days we had together visiting member Vera Jary who is now 92 or is it 93(?) before heading back home. Darrell & Josie Jim & Lyn, thanks for making my home come to life!! My Life would not be the same without you and my A.B.A Family.

The Red Cliffs Lions Club held a market day Bar-b-q to fundraise for the Australian Bravery Association. Lion Coralee invited Melanie Warburton to the Lions Club meeting for the presentation. The Lions Club is raising the awareness of situations that everyday people face each day. They recognise that with great strength and diversity people can go on to a more positive place in their lives. President Darryll said it was great the Lions club supported the ABA.



Red Cliffs Lions Club President Darryll with Mel and Coralee at the presentation

Looking forward to meeting up again with you all in Melbourne.
Coralee Lever

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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: National Treasurer, Brenda Cochrane, PO Box 127, Bundaberg Qld 4670

Tie Bars/lapel pins/brooches	\$10	Cuff links	\$20	Association neck ties	\$27
Men's embroidered shirts	\$35	Ladies embroidered shirts	\$35	Book donation kits	\$8
Embroidered baseball style caps	\$20	Name badges	\$20		

+ \$8 postage for above mail orders

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

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ABA ON FACEBOOK

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



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

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

QUEENSLAND REPORT – Sally Gregory



Hi everyone, it's been a busy year here in the Sunshine State, where I've been organising lots of fun for our local and interstate members. The annual Qld bravery weekend is happening at Tweed Heads/Coolangatta, 13-15 October and a fun filled weekend is booked, so if you haven't got your invitation, you can download it from our website on this link: <http://www.forbravery.org.au/>. It's in the upcoming events section. The pic on the left shows where we will be staying and playing. Guest speaker for the dinner is Hanabeth Luke (CBC) aka "The Angel of Bali" who became a legend due to her courage in rescue in the tragic Bali Bombings. Here's her story: [The Angel of Bali](#). Activities planned include a game of barefoot bowls – CBC's vs BM's & SC's (just kidding), a

beach side picnic, kayaking, cruising up the Tweed River, the Buskers Festival [Buskers Festival](#) and of course our famous formal Bravery Dinner where we get to frock up, wear our medals and have a ton of fun. Please RSVP pronto. **RSVPS due 30 Sept**. You can find more information about the weekend on our Facebook group: Australian Bravery Awardees.

Big thanks to Mike and Lovey Pearson who hosted the inaugural Courageous Kids Campout where the kids and their parents were treated to a day of games, a big bonfire, toasting marshmallows, ghost stories, and a sleepover in the paddock. The excitement was *intents!* So much fun, was had by our brave kids, small (Samantha Moore – 6) and big (Jamey Fergie (21?). Jade-Elle and her family came down from Maryborough and Calyn Hoad BM brought his family who all slept over too which was a huge thrill for Calyn. He has had a tough year with a cerebral infection which put him back into hospital for 9 weeks and then a corrective surgery to improve the flexibility of his left leg which was affected by the shocking injury he suffered saving his brother's life.



Calyn, Rachael and families are looking forward to seeing everyone at the Qld bash. More good news for our brave kids, The Royal Flying Doctor service has appointed Jade-Elle (CBC) and her sisters as ambassadors. Their Winter Appeal featuring the girls' rescue has raised the RFD over \$60k. Here's their story: [RFD Brave Sisters](#)



The second round of Bravery Award Investitures for Qld were held on 12 & 13 Sept and hosted by a very supportive Governor who was "choked up" when he discussed the shocking rescue event performed by the four young children of Rachael Moore. Her brave sons Jayden (14 at time of rescue) and Cameron (12) were awarded the Star of Courage, their sister Kaylea (9) and young Zane (4) were awarded the Bravery Medal. Those who are not familiar with their story can view it at: <https://vimeo.com/145828068>. Rachael



too is showing great bravery undergoing surgery #40 to save her shattered arm. She's a trooper. The investiture was also attended by Mike Pearson BM and Jamey Ferguson BM who assisted in chauffer duties and did a fine job in their special roles as Man Bag (Qld) and Deputy Chief Hugger, roles they take very seriously indeed. Also attending

the investitures were our newest bravery award recipients who had remarkable stories of rescue, courage and kindness. I look forward to introducing you to them as they join in our future events. Many of you will have heard our much-loved Padre Jim Cosgrove on ABC's Australia All Over with Macca which airs every Sunday morning. Thanks to Jim, the ABA got some great publicity (including a plug seeking a corporate sponsor to help fund the Qld bravery Garden) on the 17 September show in which Macca and I discussed the process of how any member of the public can nominate someone for a bravery award. It's easy, all you have to do is download the Bravery Award Nomination form from the It's an Honour website, using this link: <https://www.gg.gov.au/australian-honours-and-awards/nomination-forms> and attach a paper clipping or fill in the details as you know them. I hope that in the future more acts of bravery will be nominated and more of our brave rescuers acknowledged and appreciated for the countless acts of bravery and courage that occur in our communities.



I'll finish up by sending big congratulations to our buddy Cpt Peter Kerkenezov who yesterday received the news he will receive the Bravery Medal for his courageous rescue at sea, when he headed out to rescue a family on a yacht in conditions that were too rough for the Coast Guard, and saved the life of a crew member who was trapped under the capsized vessel – to cut a long story short. Here's a pic of Peter, Jim Runham SC, Darrell Tree CV and Jade-Elle Brown (CBC) at the Canberra reunion where he cut a dashing figure in his ship captains mess gear. Stay well everyone and don't forget to count your blessings. Remember, "yesterday's history, tomorrow's a mystery and today is a gift, which is why it's called The Present". Hugs from here – Sal.

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WEST AUSTRALIA REPORT – Vic Boreham

Lyn and I attended the investitures to represent the ABA and meet Bravery awardees. We, along with other dignitaries were escorted to our seats and our names announced as well as who and what we represented...in our case of course, the Australian Bravery Association. That is always mentioned. Because of the public's lack of knowledge about the Australian Honours and Awards system, particularly the Bravery Awards, it is always pleasing to hear these announcements.

Tim Britten CV and wife Shannon also accompanied us as representatives of the ABA and Dr Penny Flett who is on the National Bravery Award committee sat alongside us in the 2nd row from the front. Tim and Shannon are always proud to be publicly associated with the Australian Bravery Association.

There were to be 7 recipients of Bravery Awards but 2 could not make it so only 5 were invested with their particular awards....1 x Bravery Medal, 2 x Commendations for Brave Conduct and 2 x Group Citations. I ensured a few days earlier that Government House Executive Officer received my "welcome to recipients" envelopes for inclusion in the recipients' folders. Tim and I, as always, made contact with each Bravery Awardee, had a welcoming chat with each, then went on to enjoy the evening with awardees and families, staff and dignitaries who we have got to know over the years including the Governor who made a point of meeting each of us as we left the ballroom for the reception area after the investitures. While an official function, it is always a happy and casual affair after the investitures with finger food and drinks being served for a couple of hours. As always, a very rewarding and humbling afternoon/evening, hearing for a change what wonderful and caring people make up our community.

I am currently organising a social function for Western Australian recipients and their families. I have recently been in contact with Mrs Margaret Jardine who features in the "Meet your Member" section. Whilst Margaret is unable to travel to our usual annual reunions I am thrilled that she and her daughter are hoping to attend the West Australia gathering in November and share social time with other members.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA – Bill Lowther SC

Last month we held the reunion for our ABA members in Adelaide.

On arrival, everyone met for dinner at the Christies Beach Hotel. It was so good to see friends old and new. The meal was very good and the evening most enjoyable.

On Saturday, we went on a day trip with our bus driver Rick. First stop the Tintara Winery in McLaren Vale where we had a tour of how Tintara and Hardy's winery got off the ground and became very popular. The event was very interesting with our winery guide Jo who possesses a great deal of knowledge. Of course, tasting the product was all part of the process!



Quite a tasty drop!

We then carried on to Middleton Tavern for lunch where we met the Mayor of Victor Harbor, Graham Philp and one of his counsellors, Peter Charles. We discussed many things with the mayor including the possibility of a place in the Victor Harbor area to honour Bravery recipients. A great opportunity again for the profile of the ABA to be showcased.

After lunch, we continued into Victor Harbor for a horse and cart ride across the Granite Isle where there are penguins. Some of us sat in the top section of the cart and watched a seal playing in the bay. It was an enjoyable ride and the rain stayed away as ordered. Coffees and hot chocolate were relished before getting on the bus for the trip back.

Evening dinner was enjoyed at the Port Noarlunga hotel, then off home to bed.

Sunday breakfast was hosted at the Lowther home, saying a "See ya later" to the people having to make a move and leave. Lunch followed where laughing, Ukulele playing by our own Sal and much over eating was the order of the day.

Until we all meet up again, thank you for joining us and making the weekend a success.



Coffee and hot chocolate after the horse cart ride

Darrell Tree CV and Jim Preston just had to check out where all that wine was stored!



PHOTO GALLERY

SOUTH AUSTRALIA REUNION AUGUST 2017



ABA VICE PATRONS

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

AUSTRALIAN BRAVERY ASSOCIATION NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

National President

John Thurgar SC MBE OAM RFD
Ph: (M) 0439 610 913
Email: john.thurgar@forbravery.org.au

Deputy National President

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

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

National Vice President - NSW

Andy MacDonald SC
Ph: (M) 0412 816 373
Email: andy.macdonald@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 93378885
Email: vic.boreham@forbravery.org.au

HONORARY & EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

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

Honorary Legal Officer: Bernard Collaery

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

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

Web Administrators: Andrew Kendall & Mark Tregellas - Email: mark.tregellas@forbravery.org.au

Merchandise Officer: Mick Travers APM

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

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

ABA WEBSITE: www.forbravery.org.au

FACEBOOK: Australian Bravery Association