

FOR BRAVERY



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



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ABA National Conference 2022 in Canberra

PATRON

His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC FTSE (Retd)



Anzac Day is one of our nation’s most solemn commemorative occasions – a day in which we pause, reflect, remember and honour those who made the ultimate sacrifice, and their families. We see the Anzac legacy writ large across our community as it is part of who we are. The legacy extends beyond service in uniform and is reflected in the way we respond to challenges.

As I write, Linda and I are between return visits to flood-affected communities in northern New South Wales and have spent much of the day attending official engagements in Wollongong. One of these engagements was a visit to the Port Kembla RSL War Memorial, images of which appeared in my Anzac Day National Address. Memorials tell the story of who we were in our darkest hours and, for mine, the story of who we still are when our backs are against the wall – the story of a people committed to service and putting others before self.

Linda and I have seen countless fine examples of ‘service before self’ during our visits to communities devastated by the floods. Many ABA members live in these communities. I’m informed that some members have been adversely impacted and that others have been busy on the ground, helping friends, neighbours and community members alike in their darkest hour and in the recovery and clean-up. It is what ABA members do. In the face of adversity they rally and, with grit and determination, support the community in a way that would make our Anzac forebears proud. Such characteristics are not solely the domain of the Anzacs nor people in these communities. Linda and I see these characteristics in communities all around Australia, in good times and in bad. It is the sum of these qualities and actions that make us a great nation.

Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia
 Government House
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 YARRALUMLA ACT 2600

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AUSTRALIAN BRAVERY ASSOCIATION NATIONAL EXECUTIVE, HONORARY & EX-OFFICIO MEMBER DETAILS

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PATRONS & VICE-PATRONS

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

NATIONAL PRESIDENT REPORT

Andrew Kendall



Dear ABA members and friends,

It was very exciting to see the National Conference go ahead again this year. My thanks to all who attended and those who helped organise and run the three days. In particular, I thank John Thurgar SC OAM MBE RFD, Melanie Warburton, Chaplain Jim Cosgrove, Peter White OAM ML MBE MCS and Colonel Michael McMahon BM for their contributions. Our gratitude is also extended to Chief Executive Officer, Mr Leigh Gordon AO CSM, and his staff for hosting us at the Royal Australian Mint for our Black-Tie Dinner, and to His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) and Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley for allowing us to hold our Service of Remembrance at the Australian Bravery Garden. Special thanks to Mrs Sharon Prendergast LVO, Director of the Honours and Awards Secretariat, for her address as our guest speaker at our dinner.

I would also like to acknowledge both the Australian Bravery Foundation and the ACT Government for their financial contributions towards the cost of the National Conference. Their generosity directly subsidised the cost of the conference for our members.

Congratulations to those who have been elected to positions on the National Executive for 2022 and those appointed to ex-officio positions. I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new South Australia President, William (Bill) Denny AM BM, and thank our outgoing South Australia President, William (Bill) Lowther SC, for his many years of service.

This year I awarded the Dennis Lever BM Memorial Trophy for outstanding contributions to the Australian Bravery Association jointly with ABA National Secretary, Michael McMahon BM, (below right) and ABA National Membership Secretary, Melanie Warburton (below left) with ABA ACT President, Peter White OAM ML MBE MCS (below middle). Their efforts to support the members and the National Executive are greatly appreciated.



Our challenge again this year is to maintain the positive focus we have had over recent times and ensure we plan and execute events and projects throughout the year that benefit our members, grow membership and build our reputation in the community. With the community opening up more and more, hopefully we can get some state and territory events happening again.

Projects & Events for 2022/2023

Subject to the deliberations and decisions of the NX, the following are events and projects that will be the focus of the next 12 months.

- National Conference – Canberra (10-12 February 2023)
- Developing our link with Royal Australian Mint as the “Home of the Australian Bravery Association”
- State and Territory gatherings
- Courageous Kids Campout
- Various Bravery Gardens
- Newsletters x 2 or 3
- State, Territory and National Investitures
- ABA Brave Youth of the Year
- Fundraising
- Membership growth and nurturing current membership

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the wonderful life of Jeanette Paulsen, wife of Chaplain Jim Cosgrove, who passed away recently. Jeanette, like Jim, was a great servant of our community and shared many wonderful moments with the members of the ABA. May she Rest In Peace. Both Jeanette and Jim have worked tirelessly for the community and others all their lives including the Red Rose Foundation Australia.



Thanks again to all of our members who make this such a wonderful family to belong to. I am really looking forward to a great year.

Regards,

Andrew Kendall
National President

ANZAC

At the going down of
the sun, and in the
morning we will
Remember them. Their
Name for Evermore.

LEST WE FORGET

25 APR 2022



FOR BRAVERY NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Dr Kay Danes, OAM



Dear ABA members and friends,

Welcome to this edition of **FOR BRAVERY**—our newsletter is produced by a volunteer editorial team comprised of myself, Melanie Warburton and Andrew Kendall. This publication seeks to offer a connection between the ABA and its members and supporters in addition to our social (Facebook) platforms. We hope you enjoy reading the interesting articles that our members submit. If you have not yet contributed to this publication, then we invite you to do so.

FOR BRAVERY submissions should be commercially neutral and readable to a wide audience.

- Your rescue event (max 1 A4 page with photos),
- Investiture related content
- A bravery-related (real-life) encounter
- Something witty to give us a laugh or an inspirational poem
- Reflections on remembrance, celebration or festive messages
- Honouring someone in the ABA who has inspired you
- Something positive and uplifting to encourage others

Email: ABANewsEditor@gmail.com

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Issue 1: Apr
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Issue 3: Dec



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ABA SOCIALS ARE THE PLACE TO BE

Get to know your fellow ABA members, stay updated with ABA news, hear great stories and socially connect.

The **ABA Facebook Page** is our public page where anyone can view the posted content.

<https://www.facebook.com/australianbraveryassociation>

The **ABA Awardees Facebook Group** is a CLOSED GROUP for Australian bravery award recipients and their next of kin. This is not a general interest group.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/AustBraveryAssoc>

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT – Story by Emily Harding



Photo: Emily Harding with Mr Fox at the Metheringham Airfield Visitor Centre.

The RAF mascot that flew more than 30 bombing runs during WWII.

Emily Harding is a 17 year old College student and the grand daughter of ABA member Chris Harding. She penned this story about her visit to see her Great Grandfather's Mascot – the famous Mr Fox.

Coming from a military family that has served its country for generations has given me an interest in social and military history; hence my journey to visit RAF mascot, Mr Fox, (pictured left) with me at the RAF Metheringham Museum (UK). Being allowed to hold Mr Fox with protective gloves was an emotional moment, as it was hard to believe this 95yr old soft toy was the beloved childhood possession of my Great Grandfather Ken Hovey, and subsequently, his brothers Peter and Bill.

On reaching 18, Peter and Bill joined the RAF as Navigators. Bill being the oldest was the first to join up, taking Mr Fox with him. Peter passed Mr Fox onto Bill and he was immediately adopted as the 8th Lancaster

Bomber crew member as part of RAF 106 Sqn. He was such a vital crew member that the bomber wouldn't take off until Mr Fox was proudly sitting alongside Bill in his navigator's seat.

Mr Fox flew 35 sorties over Europe, including D-Day, and each sortie was inscribed on Mr Fox's jodhpurs. Once Bill had reached his maximum flying missions, Mr Fox was handed over to Ken, my Great Grandfather, who had completed his training in Canada and was waiting for a posting to India to fly against the Japanese. I was very close to my Great Grandfather, who I affectionately called Pops. He often told me stories of Mr Fox who went missing after someone took him out on loan and never returned him. Although Mr Fox was eventually found after the BBC put out a call to find him, sadly, my Pops died never knowing the good news. Mr Fox is now the navigator of the Lancaster aircraft display at the Metheringham Airfield Visitor Centre. It should mean he never gets lost again. The Metheringham Airfield Visitor Centre stands on the site of the old RAF Metheringham, where 106 Squadron were based for nearly three years until it closed in 1946.

Mr Fox is the last crew member of 106 Sqn, holding family memories of my Pops and his brothers from childhood to manhood. Together we will retain and share those memories with family, friends and visitors who take a passing glance at Mr Fox sitting proudly in his protected case in the RAF Metheringham Museum.



Photos: Emily's Great Grandfather Ken Hovey originally had Mr Fox as a child; he gave it to his older brothers (Peter & Bill Hovey) as a mascot whilst flying with RAF Bomber Command. Peter being the oldest had Mr Fox first, passing it down to Bill then finally back to Ken when joined his RAF Squadron in India as a 19 yr-old Navigating Officer. Most of the written sorties on Mr Foxes trousers were done by Bill Hovey's wireless operator, as he had the most downtime due to radio silence whilst flying to their destinations. Link to BBC story: <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-lincolnshire-39166052>

POST-TRAUMATIC GROWTH AMONGST AUSTRALIAN BRAVERY AWARD RECIPIENTS – PART 2.

ABA Member Tom Voigt



Research Findings around Australian Bravery Award recipients and Post Traumatic Growth (PTG) published in peer reviewed International Heroism Science Journal – February 2022

As a follow up to the July 2021 ABA FOR BRAVERY newsletter contribution, Tom is pleased to advise that the first part of his PhD research exploring the unintended consequences of acts of bravery and heroism was published in the peer reviewed International Heroism Science Journal – Volume 7, Issue 1, Article 2, pp. 1 – 29 (22 February 2022).

For those interested in this research, the following link will take you to a complete public domain version of Tom's journal article which you can download or copy freely. <https://scholarship.richmond.edu/heroism-science/vol7/iss1/2>

As highlighted in the July 2021 ABA FOR BRAVERY newsletter, Tom explored the prevalence of Post Traumatic Growth (PTG) amongst a sample of 65 ABA members (37 civilians and 28 non-civilians) finding that civilians reported higher levels of growth than non-civilians with Police reporting the lowest levels of PTG. Female civilian Bravery Award recipients reported the highest levels of PTG and civilians exposed to gun or firearm related incidents also reported high levels of growth.

Post Traumatic Growth has been defined as a response to trauma, whereby some individuals experience changes moving beyond the previous status quo, and experiencing change and improvement in their lives that for some people is life-changing and profound.

Tom is now busily working his way through those interviews with 24 Australian Bravery Award recipients looking more closely at those 'unintended consequences' related to acts of bravery and heroism. He is using a qualitative constructed grounded theory approach. Initial results have identified a number of common responses and impacts upon individuals. Tom hopes to be able to report and present findings from the second part of his research by late 2022.

Congratulations to our Australian Bravery Association ACT President and Public Officer Peter White OAM ML MBE MCS who was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in 2022 for service to public administration. Peter is a member of the Australian Maritime Safety Authority Executive and has extensive executive leadership and management experience across the national security, law enforcement, intelligence and regulatory environments. He is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management; Fellow of the Australian Institute of Managers and Leaders; Fellow of the World Association of Professional Investigators; Member of the Australian Institute of Professional Intelligence Officers; Member of the Australian Institute of Professional Investigators; Member of the Espionage Research International Institute and Member of the Australian Bravery Association. Well done Peter!



QUEENSLAND REPORT BY SALLY GREGORY

As the summer season winds down I can report we have definitely had good times with the ABA family here on the Gold Coast. I got a lovely visit from Cayla Sweeney CBC and her mum Shelly and brother Blake who took me up on my offer of Auntie Sal's snorkelling lessons in Tallebudgera Creek. All three are great swimmers, and volunteer life savers, so did a great job helping me remove dumped fishing line and hooks from the bridge pylons. Anyone wanting to join me in another creek snorkel can drop me a line and come stay for a night and a splash in our beautiful creek.



Last month, kind Jamie Ferguson BM shouted me a good time with a ticket to join him, his wife Chris, daughter Georgia and the Sweeney family at the 'By the C Festival' at Coolangatta. Anyone who knows Fergie knows he's a mate of Jimmy Barnes and a huge fan. This was my first Barnsey show. I'm amazed he didn't blow an artery as he was so full-on. He did a great show with his wife Jane (on bagpipes) and talented kids in the band. Also on the bill was Jon Stevens, Vanessa Amorosi, Killing Heidi, Ian Moss, and Diesel. Who knew Fergie was such a rocker, eh?



In other news, recently the Governor of Queensland announced that 12 Queenslanders would receive a bravery award this year: two Bravery Medals, nine Commendations for Brave Conduct and one Group Bravery Citation. Fingers crossed that Covid no longer prevents us from attending investitures because it's so important to welcome new recipients into the bravery family and find out if they need any support for their life after rescue. Don't forget that YOU can nominate anyone for a bravery award. Just fill out the form on the Governor General's website: <https://www.gg.gov.au/> You can simply Google the news clipping and attach it to the application to get their story of courage and compassion recognised. In this way, you can help to access recognition for a brave Aussie and create an heirloom for their family. Contact me or your State President if you need a hand with this or any other matter – we're here to help.

As this newsletter reaches you, you will no doubt be aware of the suffering of many of our neighbours or community members who were impacted by the terrible floods in March. We have reached out to the members we thought may have been impacted but are keen to assist others. So if you suffered any flood-related damage and losses, please let your state president know. We may be able to assist.

Four of our families in the Northern NSW region were flooded. Our co-brave youth of the year 2018, Jae Waters BM (right) jumped in with his Mum Gina and Dad Aldo (right) to dig out his grandparents at Lismore. Mike and Lovey Pearson (far right) put on the gumboots to help Susie & Peter Kerkenezov BM get the mud out of their home at Ballina. Our co-founders, Hedonna and John Thurgar SC OAM MBE RFD were flooded at Mullumbimby and are working hard to assist others in the weeks following the flood.



Mr Resilience Kirk Trease CBC looked on the bright side of life when his farm flooded. He took time out from cleaning to share this funny video of the new Uralba Valley Marine Park, which appeared in his street (he's a funny bloke). Free dive gear hire – who knew?

UNCLE KIRK'S Uralba Valley Marine Park promo. Bookings essential



<https://www.facebook.com/100000272259564/videos/348353567171973/>

To all our flood-affected members, we send our love and support. Know that your ABA family are thinking of you.

Warmest wishes from the Chief Hugger – Sal x

PLEASE WELCOME ABA MEMBER MARIO SARDELICH

Mario Sardelich, has received a civilian bravery award, 42 years after the fateful incident at Manly Dam.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Mario Sardelich is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the rescue of people from Manly Dam in New South Wales on 5 December 1978.



Three teenage boys were attending an end of year picnic at Manly Dam at Manly Vale when one of the boys, who was swimming in deep water, got into difficulty. As one of the boys tried to keep him afloat, the other boy swam to seek assistance. Mr Sardelich, who was working at the dam, heard the boys' cries and ran from his office. He dived into the cold and dark water, located one of the boys, and took him to shore. He then learned another boy was still in the water and immediately entered the water again. Despite his repeated dives into the dam he was unable to locate the missing boy. The missing boy's body was later recovered by police divers.

Mario Sardelich was honoured with the Commendation for Brave Conduct in the Federal Government's Australian bravery decorations on the 24th of March 2021. The award itself is only ever given to those who perform acts considered worthy of recognition. Though the incident happened over four decades ago in 1978, his heroism has not gone unnoticed or forgotten.

ABA NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2022 IN CANBERRA

ABA National Conference 11-13 February 2022 held in Canberra was amazing and included an informal lunch at the Hellenic Club, a formal dinner at the Royal Australian Mint, and the Remembrance service at the Bravery Garden, Government House. If you missed us this year please consider joining us in Canberra again next year!







REMEMBERING OUR ANZACS

The National Address, delivered by the Governor-General reflected on what the Anzac legacy says about who we were, who we are and who we aspire to be.

“On Anzac Day we are drawn to memorials, to marches, to moments of reflection – both in groups and privately.

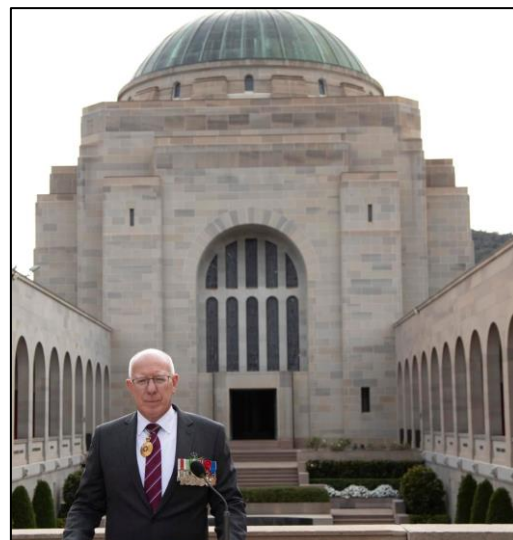
We remember those who have served, those who have sacrificed and the contribution they have made to our country.

On one hand, we do not need to question ‘why’ we do this. It is obvious – to honour those who have served and continue to serve our nation, and to acknowledge the debt we will always owe them.

On the other hand, considering why we pause to reflect and remember tells us much about who we were, who we are and who we aspire to be ...

The Anzac legacy is not reflected in a single individual nor a single event. Instead, it is the sum of thousands of stories. Of ordinary Australians who, when given a job to do, got it done, did it in a way that made us proud and looked after each other during and after. The characteristics that we take from the Anzac legacy to define us – mateship, endurance, courage, and sacrifice – are inherent in Australia. They always have been. They’ve been strengthened and reinforced in conflict and on peacekeeping operations, but they have always been at our core.

Lest we forget.”



AUSTRALIAN BRAVERY ASSOCIATION

Patron:

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

Vice-Patrons:

Darrell Tree CV; Victor Boscoe CV; Allan Sparkes CV, OAM; Tim Britten CV; Richard Joyes CV; and Doug Baird OAM, father of Corporal Cameron Baird VC, MG

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