

The Official Newsletter of the Australian Bravery Association

AUGUST 2022 ISSUE

FOR BRAVERY



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



Photo: The Mildura Weekend ABA Reunion 2022

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PATRON

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



Later this month, I will release the second Bravery List for 2022. The announcement serves two purposes: to celebrate the men and women who, in a moment of peril, chose to act; and to reflect on the sum of the individual stories of bravery. The people and the stories that are front and centre of every release of a Bravery List are a reminder of the goodness that exists in our community.

The response by local communities to the recent floods in many parts of New South Wales are also a reminder of that goodness. We will never know how many instances of bravery there were in these communities during the floods, but we do know that when confronted with adversity, our communities step up. As harrowing as some of the accounts have been, Linda and I have come away from our visits to flood-affected areas uplifted by the strength of people who, in adverse circumstances, have hit the auto button and simply done what needed to be done.

When I ask people if, in the moment when they decided to act, they thought about the risks involved, the answer is invariably no. Most said they simply had to help the person in need and would deal with the risk as it evolved. People who commit acts of bravery are not members of a mutually exclusive group. Some are in uniform and some are in civilian clothes. However, what both groups have in common is something that is worth bottling and which makes our communities and nation stronger – selflessness that is manifested in bravery.

In many of my speeches I have stressed the importance of celebrating achievement. The awarding of Bravery medals is part of that narrative. I again want to thank the Australian Bravery Association for all it does to raise awareness of acts of bravery committed in our community and of the wonderful Australians who selflessly put the safety, health and well-being of others before themselves.

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

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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; Doug Baird OAM and Richard Rolfe AM.

NATIONAL PRESIDENT REPORT

Andrew Kendall

Greetings all.

My wife Kitty and I were honoured to represent the Australian Bravery Association at the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Ball hosted by Their Excellencies, the Governor General and Mrs Hurley, at Government House in Canberra on 11 June 2022. It was a wonderful celebration of Her Majesty’s 70 years of service. Our thanks to Their Excellencies and their staff for the evening and outstanding support of the Australian Bravery Association.



Andrew Kendall and Kitty



ABA members enjoy mixing it up on the dance floor.

The ABA is pleased to announce the appointment of Richard Rolfe AM as a Vice-Patron of the Association. Richard, and his wife, Deborah Rolfe AM, are keen supporters of bravery award recipients and national honours and awards. Richard’s profile is contained later in this newsletter.

I am looking forward to working with Richard as we look to establish a permanent site for the display of the stories of bravery recipients at the Royal Australian Mint.

The planning for our 2023 National Conference (10-12 February 2023) is well underway. Highlights include the official reception at the Royal Australian Mint, the black-tie dinner at the Southern Cross Club,

and the Service of Remembrance at Government House. We also look forward to the ABA Brave Youth of the Year Award presentation. The program and an invitation to register will be sent out in September. We hope to see many members, family and friends there.

Finally, I would like to raise your attention to our new website (photo below), which has gone ‘live’ recently. Thanks to **Margin Media** for their work developing the site at www.forbravery.org.au

Thanks again to all our ABA members who make this such a wonderful family to belong to. I am looking forward to the remainder of this, another great ABA year!

Regards,

Andrew Kendall
National President



FOR BRAVERY, 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, its members and supporters, and our social (Facebook) platforms. If you have not yet contributed to this publication, then we invite you to do so. We received another historically intriguing article from Emily Harding in the UK in this issue. As many of you know, Emily is the Granddaughter of our ABA member, Chris Harding. Her article in our previous issue of **FOR BRAVERY** features on the UK's Metheringham Airfield Visitor Centre website. We sincerely thank **Caterina Scott**, Trustee of the Centre, for showcasing Emily's article and including a link to the ABA. We hope our ABA family are inspired by Emily's efforts and consider how they might build similar connections between the ABA family and others.

FOR BRAVERY, submissions should be commercially neutral and readable to a broad 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

Deadlines: MAR, JUL, NOV



Issue 1: Apr
 Issue 2: Aug
 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>

VICTORIA PRESIDENT REPORT

Coralee Lever



Dear ABA members and friends,

After two years without reunions and five cancellations in 2021, we finally enjoyed a wonderful weekend in Mildura.

Friday 10th of June 2022

A welcome was held at the RSL Mildura and was attended by 50 ABA Members and guests, which included the RSL President Gary Pearce, who appreciated my invitation. John Dooley from the *Mildura Weekly* also came along and conducted some interviews and took photos for the newspaper.

Saturday 12th of June 2022

Members were picked up by the Red Cliffs secondary bus organised by ABA member David Browne and Andrew Hamilton, a member of the Red Cliffs Lions Club. He generously gave up his weekend to support our reunion. The day began at the Mildura Sunraysia Farmers and Riverfront Boutique Markets, which was enjoyed by all. Then a short walk to the Mildura Wharf to enjoy a 4-hour cruise along the Murray River, including a light luncheon on board. The cruise was most relaxing and was a wonderful way to meet new and old members.

Saturday ABA Dinner

Our group of 32 arrived at Chaffey's Restaurant & Bar on Deakin Avenue to *Canapes & Bubbles*. Deputy Mayor Cr Jason Modica gave an excellent speech and mentioned flying our flag from the Mildura Rural City Council building for the weekend. The venue was beautifully set up with maroon-coloured material down the centre of our tables. Chaffey's donated three bottles of local wine to support our local auction. Good food. Good wine and great hospitality! The night was amazing. Fit for a Queen!

Sunday 12th of June 2022

At 1 pm, we enjoyed a casserole lunch at my unit, starting with sausage rolls and meat pies made by me! Then came a range of casseroles and some other tasty treats delivered by friends, including Josie Trees' famous trifle. "No road is long with good company!" It was a fantastic day and reminded me that there is something special in simply enjoying the company of others, realising you are not alone but among people willing to take the time to listen and genuinely care.

A big thank you to Mike McMahon for his wonderful speech. Thanks to all who contributed to the success of our ABA weekend. Thanks to neighbours and friends of Mildura Gardens for making rooms and units available for our members. Their hospitality helped us forge friendships. Thanks, Mel and Lynne, for making this special reunion a success. A big thank you to my son Roy Lever who supplied two slabs of his award-winning brews from the East Bendigo Brewing Company.

Let's start thinking about Mildura 2023!

Coralee Lever
Victoria President

THE MILDURA REUNION 2022



Thank you to everyone who made this such an awesome event!

QUEENSLAND REPORT BY SALLY GREGORY

Greetings ABA family members from the Gold Coast where plans are underway for our next Queensland get-together. Pencil in Oct 12th for a BBQ get-together at ABA HQ (Burleigh Heads). The format will be a casual but noisy afternoon celebration on the big deck at my beach house, followed by breakfast at Burleigh Heads, AKA Mowbray Park Surf Club on the beach at Burleigh on Sunday the 13th of October. More details to follow.

I am looking forward to seeing more of the ABA crew at the Ballina Bravery Garden opening and ABA reunion on Oct 15th. After that, I am planning a trip to Tassie in Jan, and WA in Feb 2023. I think it is a great idea to have a night out with Claire (Tas) and Richard (WA) to meet some of our members who don't normally make it to our Canberra events. I have been missing hugs from Vic Boreham (former WA President). So, watch this space for updates.

On the home scene, I had the honour of attending our first bravery investiture at Queensland Government house, since the onset of Covid, which curtailed our opportunities to support bravery award recipients. On May 10th I had the pleasure of attending the investiture of Michael Formica, who received the Bravery Medal for his rescue efforts in a shocking fire. His citation reads:

“Mr Formica, an off-duty ambulance officer, was visiting family in Harristown when he noticed a house on fire. As he approached the residence, he heard screaming coming from inside. He entered through the back door of the house and found a woman inside covered in soot and very distressed. He pulled her outside, and she told him that her eight-year-old daughter was still inside. He re-entered the house, which was full of thick, black smoke and, dropping to his knees, crawled in the direction of the living room but was forced back due to the heat and smoke. Using the torch on his phone, he crawled into the house again but was unable to locate anyone. He exited the house and broke some windows so all the smoke could ventilate. He went inside again and checked the living room, before making his way to a bedroom. On hearing a noise, he opened a cupboard and located a dog which he took outside to safety. He entered the house again and heard a noise coming from another bedroom. He went into the room and located another dog which he also took outdoors. Mr Formica noticed the young girl had made her way to the garage and took her to her mother before moving them to safety at the front of the house. He remained with the woman and the young girl until emergency services arrived. For his actions, Mr Formica displayed considerable bravery and is awarded the Bravery Medal”.

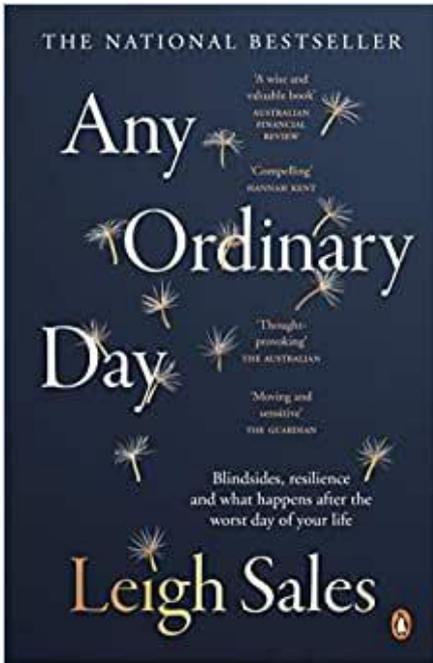
It's no wonder his wife Natalie (also an ambulance officer) and kids, Joe, Taylor and Dylan, are so proud of him. Extra points for rescuing the puppies – super cool. Michael was interviewed for the Nine News bulletin which he said was a more frightening experience than the fire! 😊



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Remember, if you know someone like Michael, think about nominating them for a bravery award. Just fill out the form on the Governor General's website: <https://www.gg.gov.au/>. You can Google the news report of the rescue and attach it to the application to get their story of courage and compassion recognised. Contact your State President or me if you need a hand with this or any other matter – We're here to help.



Before I finish, I'd like to share a little review of the book titled "Any Ordinary Day" by ABC Journalist Leigh Sales. It is a riveting read, especially for rescuers like us. The book is described as a national bestseller: *As a journalist, Leigh Sales often encounters people experiencing the worst moments of their lives in the full glare of the media. But one particular string of bad news stories – and a terrifying brush with her own mortality – sent her looking for answers about how vulnerable each of us is to a life-changing event. What are our chances of actually experiencing one? What do we fear most and why? And when the worst does happen, what comes next?*

In this wise and layered book, Leigh talks intimately with people who've faced the unimaginable, from terrorism to natural disasters to simply being in the wrong place at the wrong time. Expecting broken lives, she instead finds strength, hope, even humour. Leigh brilliantly condenses the cutting-edge research on the way the human brain processes fear and grief and poses the questions we too often ignore out of awkwardness. Along the way, she offers an unguarded account of her own challenges and what she's learned about coping with life's

unexpected blows. Warm, candid and empathetic, this book is about what happens when ordinary people, on ordinary days, are forced to suddenly find the resilience most of us don't know we have.

I found this book a fascinating exploration into the experiences of others who had their day flipped from uneventful to life-changing. I found my experiences and emotions mirrored by those who shared their stories and comfort in knowing I was not alone in feeling changed forever by my rescue experience. Phrases that spoke to me include: *"The traumatised brain revs like a car in neutral, expending its energy by frantically spinning its engine higher and higher while it goes nowhere (p. 167)"; "Data from studies show that anywhere from 30 to 80% of people experience posttraumatic GROWTH (p. 210)" and "In some cases, the emotions experienced (in traumatic events) are so strong that it's hard for the brain to process what occurred unless the victim actively wrestles to make meaning of it. Putting their feelings into words forces the person to clarify those feelings. And speaking with others who've been through something similar (social support) is another factor associated with high potential for growth (p. 212)."*

This is what we do at the ABA. Our social support is important to others and can generate feelings of well-being. So, if you have read a book that has helped you on your road to recovery after rescue, why not write a review for our *FOR BRAVERY* editor?

I look forward to seeing you on our Australian Bravery Awardees Facebook group or at an ABA event near you soon.

Warmest wishes from the Chief Hugger – Sal x

Sales, L. (2018). *Any Ordinary Day. Blindsides, resilience and what happens after the worst day of your life.* Melbourne: Penguin Random House.

RICHARD ROLFE AM AND DEBORAH ROLFE AM

Local Canberra couple, Richard and Deborah Rolfe have both been recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours Awards with each receiving the Member of the Order of Australia (AM).

Richard Rolfe AM has been a member of the National Australia Day Council (NADC) Board since May 2016 and serves as the Chair of the NADC Audit & Assurance Committee. As a Director of the Audi Centre in Canberra, Richard has built a successful career in the motor industry over the past 34 years. He has developed a reputation for his acute business acumen. Both within the motor industry and the broader Canberra community, Richard is recognised for his expertise in developing business strategy, leadership, event management, marketing and communications and business planning. In addition to his business pursuits, Richard has a strong involvement in the Canberra community. In 2009, Richard was awarded the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for service to the community of Canberra through philanthropic support for sporting, service and charitable organisations. In 2017, Richard was elevated from the OAM to a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for significant service to the community of the Australian Capital Territory through philanthropic support of medical, cultural and social welfare organisations.



Richard and Deborah with Sir Peter Cosgrove

Currently, Richard is Patron of the Heart Foundation (ACT), Vice-Patron of the Cross of Valour Association, a major supporter of Lifeline, the Heart Foundation, Home in Queanbeyan and the founding member of the AUDI Foundation. Richard holds a Bachelor of Economics from ANU.

Well known in the community for working with charitable groups for many years, Deborah Rolfe AM is Chair of the Canberra Hospital Foundation, Ambassador for the Early Morning Centre in Braddon, and a strong supporter of Home in Queanbeyan. This has been achieved while playing a significant full-time role as a Partner at Maliganis Edwards Johnson, a prominent local law firm. Deborah was awarded the Member of the Order of Australia (AM) on the 12th of June 2017 for *“significant service to the community of the Australian Capital Territory through medical, social welfare and charitable foundations.”*

“It has been a pleasure and a privilege to support a number of causes, and without doubt, we have received far more in return as a result.” – Deborah Rolfe AM

Together the Rolfes have focused on physical and mental health but also provided enormous support to the Canberra Capitals, Canberra Raiders and Canberra Cavalry, and several Olympic and Paralympic athletes, as well as making significant contributions to the public collections of the Australian War Memorial and the Royal Australian Mint. The Australian Bravery Association welcomes Richard as a Vice-Patron and Deborah as an Honorary Member. We thank them for supporting the ABA, the ABA Brave Youth of the Year Award, our members and the national honours and awards system.

ABA HONORARY CHAPLAIN

Jim Cosgrove

I was ordained a priest in 1983 after studying since 1974. So this year is my 40th year of priestly ministry. During that time, I have had the privilege of being with people in some of the most important times in their lives – the birth of a child, a wedding day, a person preparing for their own death or grieving the death of a partner. In my own life, I have experienced the passing of my parents, my brother, other extended family, close friends, some of whom I met through preparing their funeral, and listening to their family tell their story.

This year, I experienced a new grief. My wife Jeanette died on the thirtieth of March, after 29 days in intensive care. Jeanette had gone into surgery to remove a small cancer in the right lower lobe of her lung. The surgery was successful, and she was to spend one night in Intensive Care to stabilise her condition before going to the wards for a few days before returning home. The doctors noticed that Jeanette needed more oxygen to keep her blood oxygen levels where they wanted them. So one day turned into three days, then five. Jeanette found it progressively harder to breathe. The doctors initially treated her with antibiotics, then more potent antibiotics, then strong anti-inflammatories. On day 13, Jeanette agreed to go on a ventilator as she was exhausted from trying to breathe. Jeanette kept going downhill, and on the 30th of March, we had to turn her ventilator off. The whole family was with her, loving her into heaven and crying our hearts out during the four minutes it took her to die.



Jim and Jeanette

Losing a partner differs from any other grief I have experienced. You lose a part of yourself. You lose a part of your heart and your soul. Even after being with people through 40 years of priestly ministry, I did not realise how much of yourself dies with your partner. I did not realise the constancy of the pain of loss nor the continuity of the awareness of her absence. My Christian faith is crucial to me during this grief. Part of my faith is that our loved ones continue on in the spirit world where God is. And as God is everywhere, permeating our very being, then indeed, our loved ones are also as close to us as God is. Jeanette is even closer now than she has ever been because now she is with me wherever I am. I can't see her of course – just as I can't see God. But we can often see the signs of God's presence in compassion, forgiveness, encouragement, acts of bravery, goodness and beauty.

When we express our belief in our church, we say we believe in the communion of saints. The communion of saints is an expression meaning a closeness and a unity between people living now, as well as people who have died and even people still to come. It is a unity of spiritual closeness - closer actually than any human relationship. It means that no matter where we are or what we are doing, we are accompanied by a great crowd cloud of witnesses. The communion of saints, those people who have meant so much to us and have already gone to heaven, are as close to us as a heartbeat, and present to us within our spirit. So each day, as I miss Jeanette, I also understand she is beside me - indeed, all our loved ones we miss and love are also beside us and with us. Our loved ones are with God; God is everywhere around us and as such, are with us. They don't make their presence known very forcefully, but in moments of beauty and great silence, we can sense them close by. I truly believe that even though Jeanette has left this earthly existence, she is still close to us through God's spirit, who is in each of us. It is not the same closeness as a physical presence. We don't feel our loved ones touching our faces or kissing our lips. But this presence is a beautiful part of Christian hope. Life is different for me when I know she is with me, even though I don't physically experience her. I know many of you have lost your loved ones. As your chaplain, I hope these words might help you to see your loved ones close to you through your heart and the eyes of faith. God bless you all.

Jim.



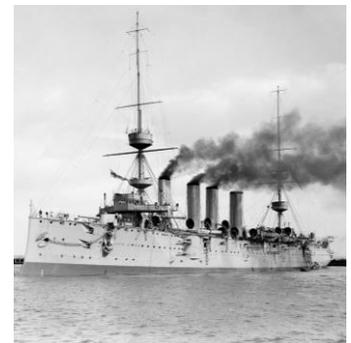
EMILY Harding

Stories of Bravery

Greetings to all the ABA members. My name is Emily Harding; I am 18yrs old and the Granddaughter of ABA member Chris Harding (top right). I have a real passion for military and social history. My own family's military history dates back many generations, including one ancestor who fought alongside King Charles I during the English Civil War (1642 – 1651). He got a birds-eye view of the Thames River from the Tower of London.



Another of my ancestors, a 3x great-uncle (last name *Gambling*), also gained notoriety on a Tasmanian Police 'Wanted Poster' after going absent from the HMS Powerful (pictured right). The authorities posted a hefty £5 reward for his capture. A small fortune in those days. As the story goes, he wanted to be with his older brother, who decided to remain in Australia after completing his service on the same ship. My great-uncle followed him but was never actually captured. Years later, he signed up for service in the Australian Imperial Forces under his mother's maiden name (*Lampard*) and followed his brother into battle. Sadly, both were killed in 1917 in France. Unbeknownst to them at the time, four of their cousins were also killed in France whilst serving King and Country.



Our family's history is littered with stories of bravery. Some of you may recall me writing about Mr Fox (pictured right) in the previous issue of the ABA's *FOR BRAVERY* Newsletter. Mr Fox was the mascot for the 106 Squadron and flew over 30 combat missions from Metherringham. He was also the beloved childhood possession of my great-grandfather Ken Hovey and was handed down to my great-uncles Peter and Bill Hovey. Great-uncle Bill was a navigator in the 106 Squadron. He and Mr Fox flew all kinds of sorties in those famous Lancaster Bombers.



During World War II, 106 Squadron operated on 496 nights and 46 days, flying 5,834 operational sorties. They lost 187 aircraft in total, but on the credit side, its gunners claimed 20 enemy aircraft destroyed, three probably destroyed, and 29 damaged. A total of 267 decorations were won by the Squadron, including a Victoria Cross awarded to Sgt Norman Cyril Jackson for conspicuous bravery during an attack on Schweinfurt on the night of 26/27 April 1944.

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If you ever get a chance to visit Metheringham, make time to visit the Metheringham Airfield Visitor Centre. I learned much about the 106 Squadron when I visited the centre with my Grandfather [Chris] Harding. Most of the aircrew were from Metheringham, but surprisingly, many were from Australia. I read the names of 62 Australian Aircrew on a plaque in the Commonwealth section. These were young men who joined the 106 Squadron barely out of their teens and some nearer to my age now. Of those brave crew, 12 men never returned from missions. They flew over Giessen, Karlsruhe and Varrelbusch in Germany, and Brion-Thibouville and Ouzouer le Doen in France. Flight Sergeant Robert Hudson McLean (AC426666) was born on 15 Nov 1921 in Parramatta, New South Wales, Australia. He grew up in Cairns, QLD and played cricket in high school. He was a plumber apprentice when he enlisted into the RAAF on 18 July 1942 at 20 years and eight months old—



Robert Hudson McLean

married Thelma Patricia Brady only a month before, on 12 June 1942, and then killed in action on 30 August 1944. German documents showed that F/Sgt McLean's aircraft crashed in the vicinity of Gut Tarpienen, just northeast of Neuhausen, near Königsberg, East Prussia. His Wing Commander wrote that despite heavy opposition from either ground defences or night fighters, the operation was a success. He remembered F/Sgt Hudson as a 'wireless operator of considerable ability.'

RIP

Robert Hudson McLean (Documents and Files)

<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=5534954>

<https://nominal-rolls.dva.gov.au/veteran?id=1021390&c=WW2>

<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=1073272&S=53&R=0>



The remains of two RAF members of the crew, together with one unknown, were interred in the New Cemetery, Neuhausen. Owing to circumstances outside British control, it was impossible to obtain the burial place of the five crew members. In consultation with the Imperial War Graves Commission, it was agreed that their names would be commemorated on the *Memorial to the Missing* at the Runnymede Air Forces War Memorial, which stands upon the crest of Coopers Hill overlooking the River Thames and the field of Runnymede (pictured left). The 106 Squadron has many fascinating stories of bravery, like that of F/Sgt McLean and the adventures of Mr Fox. Sadly many of those amazing men who flew with Mr Fox

are no longer with us, and so I suppose, in a way, Mr Fox keeps all their stories of bravery alive, as do we, who seek to learn about their epic adventures.

Some useful links: <https://www.facebook.com/MetheringhamAirfieldVisitorCenter/>

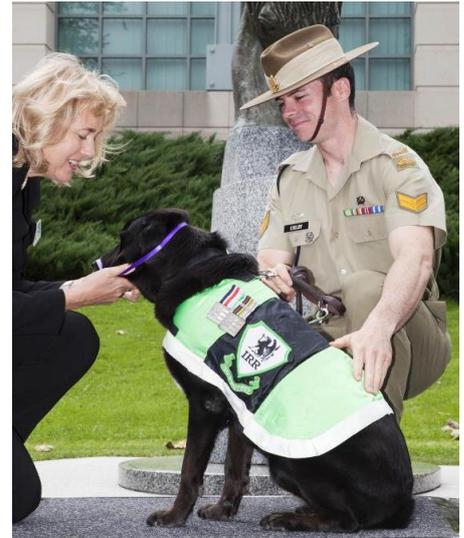
Footnote: Emily will go to the Gallantry Medallists' League Muster in September with her grandfather, Chris Harding. During that weekend, they are having a private tour of Buckingham Palace and will attend a special dinner in celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the League. Emily plans to write a short article about this experience for the next issue of *FOR BRAVERY*. Ed.

BRAVERY RECOGNITION FOR WAR ANIMALS

"Man's best friend" is a common phrase used to describe domestic dogs and cats, referring to their millennia-long history of close relations, loyalty, friendship, and companionship with humans. Many of man's best friends have served in armed conflict and disasters over the years and remind us that *bravery* sometimes comes in a bundle of fur or soft pelt.

During World War II, Maria Dickin, founder of the UK veterinary charity People's Dispensary for Sick Animals (PDSA), was so touched by the plight of animals in wartime that she instituted the PDSA Dickin Medal, the animal equivalent of the Victoria Cross in the UK. The bronze medallion is inscribed "We Also Serve." As of February 2022, the Dickin Medal has been awarded 74 times to animals in the UK.

In Australia, some, not many, of man's best friends have been officially recognised for their exceptional bravery and service to humans. Sarbi (pictured right), Australia's most decorated war dog, served in Afghanistan and was only the second Australian animal after one of Simpson's donkeys to be awarded the RSPCA Australia medal (2011).



RSPCA Nat. President Lynne Bradshaw presents Sarbi with the RSPCA Australia Medal. Accompanied by Corporal Adam Exelby, Sarbi is wearing her ceremonial jacket with the motto "To protect." (Steve Burton, AWM)



Nigel Allsopp (pictured left) is the CEO of the Australian War Animal Memorial Organisation Inc (AWAMO). The organisation has four main core activities:

1. The establishment of memorials.
2. Fiscal and material sponsorship to veteran Service dogs.
3. Education.
4. Sponsorship of other animal projects assisting veterans or animals.

Nigel says that aside from seeking to establish a war animal medal for Australian Military working dogs and their handlers, the AWAMO has also advocated the plight of animals in Ukraine. Since the war began, at least 977

Ukrainians have been killed, and at least 3.6 million have fled to other countries, though the actual numbers could be far higher. But the war has also upended the life of Ukraine's animals. Ukraine was home to some 750,000 dogs and 5.5 million cats. In the desperate rush to flee war, their owners left many of those animals behind, especially the larger dogs. Those owners who fled and owners who remained have found it increasingly difficult to provide a basic level of care to their pets. There can be no doubt that the support that Nigel and his team continue to raise for so many at-risk animals, ordinarily forgotten in the chaos of war, is critical. In partnership with *PETstock*, AWAMO is helping to facilitate the delivery of more than \$500,000 worth of essential pet care supplies to animals impacted by the war in Ukraine. This shipment is already sea bound and will be dispatched to warehouses along the border of, and within, Ukraine. Nigel says its other Ukraine charity partner, *UPAWS*, also delivers supplies to the most affected areas or needy animals. They have dispatched funds to support the Bear Sanctuary Domazhyr in Lviv, providing essential care to abused brown bears. Nigel says that the war has also impacted more than 100,000 horses in Ukraine. The AWAMO have provided funds for those horses most at risk via a USA Charity: *Fleet of Angels*.

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In a recent ceremony at the Ukrainian Embassy in Canberra, Nigel Allsopp presented **Ambassador Vasyl Myroshnychenko** with a bronze plaque and medallion honouring the animal heroes of the war. The plaque and medallion will be dispatched to the Prime Minister of Ukraine for eventual display at an animal memorial.

The following animal and bravery associations in Australia support and recognise the deeds and sacrifices animals have made and continue to endure during war.

Nigel Allsopp
President Australian War Animal Memorial Organisation

Andrew Kendall
National President Australian Bravery Association

Ray Thomas
President Australian Air Force Military Working Dog Association

Lawrence Watts
National President Australian Lighthorse Association

Greg Kakoschke
Chairman Australian National Pigeon Board

If you would like further information on the work that Nigel Allsopp and his team are doing, please follow the links below:

Australian War Animal Memorial Organisation
 ABN: 50224792966
 Website: <http://awamo.org.au/>
 13 Primrose Street, South Toowoomba 4350
 Contact: 0415 980 804
 Email: info@awamo.org.au

Donations:

AWAMO
 BSB: 034 139
 Account: 221639
 Charity #: IA41424
 Reference: Ukraine Animal Fund



Nigel Allsopp in Canberra with Ukraine Ambassador to Australia Vasyl Myroshnychenko. (Photo provided)



CONGRATULATIONS TO ABA QLD PRESIDENT

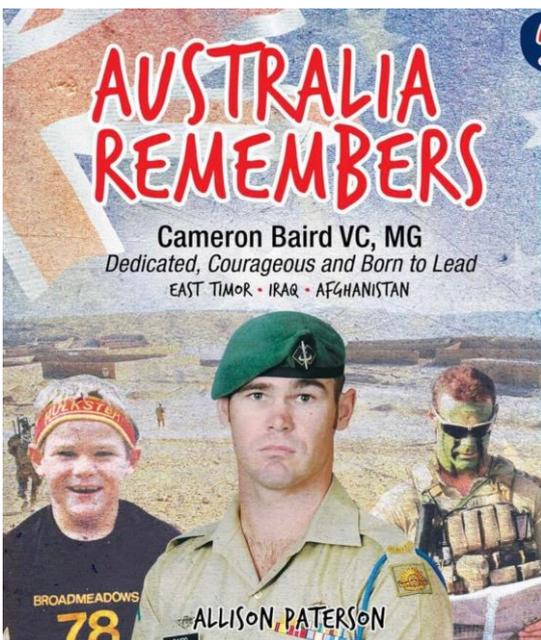
Congratulations, Dr Sally Gregory. The Dean of Southern Cross University’s Graduate School recommended on 03 August 2022 that Sally Gregory be awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. Her thesis: DEEP: A Qualitative Study of the Leisure Constraints, Negotiation and Benefits Experienced by Adventurous Baby Boomer Women who Scuba Dive.

Whilst undertaking her PhD, Sally faced many challenges, including losing her dear Mum and husband Kev. Sally’s never-give-up attitude is inspirational and brave! The ABA is super proud of **Dr Gregory** and looks forward to seeing her don the Doctoral robe and floppy hat to become an official Scholar! Well done, Sal!



AUSTRALIA REMEMBERS 5: CAMERON BAIRD, VC, MG - DEDICATED, COURAGEOUS AND BORN TO LEAD

ABA National President, Andrew Kendall, was honoured to represent the ABA at the book launch of *Australia Remembers 5: Cameron Baird, VC, MG - Dedicated, Courageous and Born to Lead* written by Allison Paterson. The book was launched by Her Excellency, Mrs Linda Hurley, at Government House in Canberra on 27 June 2022. It is a wonderful resource for all children and schools. The book is a story of Australian military service in East Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan. It is a story of mateship, dedication, leadership and sacrifice, and one we should never forget. Pictured below in the second photo are Andrew Harrison (Cam’s Cause Vice President), Her Excellency Mrs Hurley and the author, Allison Paterson. Congratulations to Allison on an excellent publication. *Australia Remembers 5: Cameron Baird, VC, MG - Dedicated, Courageous and Born to Lead* is available online.



THE AUSTRALIAN HONOURS AND AWARDS BRANCH REPORT 2017-21

The Honours and Awards Secretariat periodically publishes a report on the last five years of its operations, most recently covering the financial years 2017-2021. The full report, including details for all Honours and Awards, can be downloaded from the link below:

<https://www.gg.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-11/FINAL%20Honours%20and%20Awards%20Branch%20-%20Five%20Year%20Statistical%20Report%202017-21.pdf>



The Australian Bravery Decorations were introduced as one of the original components of the Australian honours system. There are four levels of individual award, and a group bravery citation, for collective acts of bravery by a group of persons. In order from the most senior, the individual awards are:

- Cross of Valour (CV)
- Star of Courage (SC)
- Bravery Medal (BM)
- Commendation for Brave Conduct (no post-nominal)

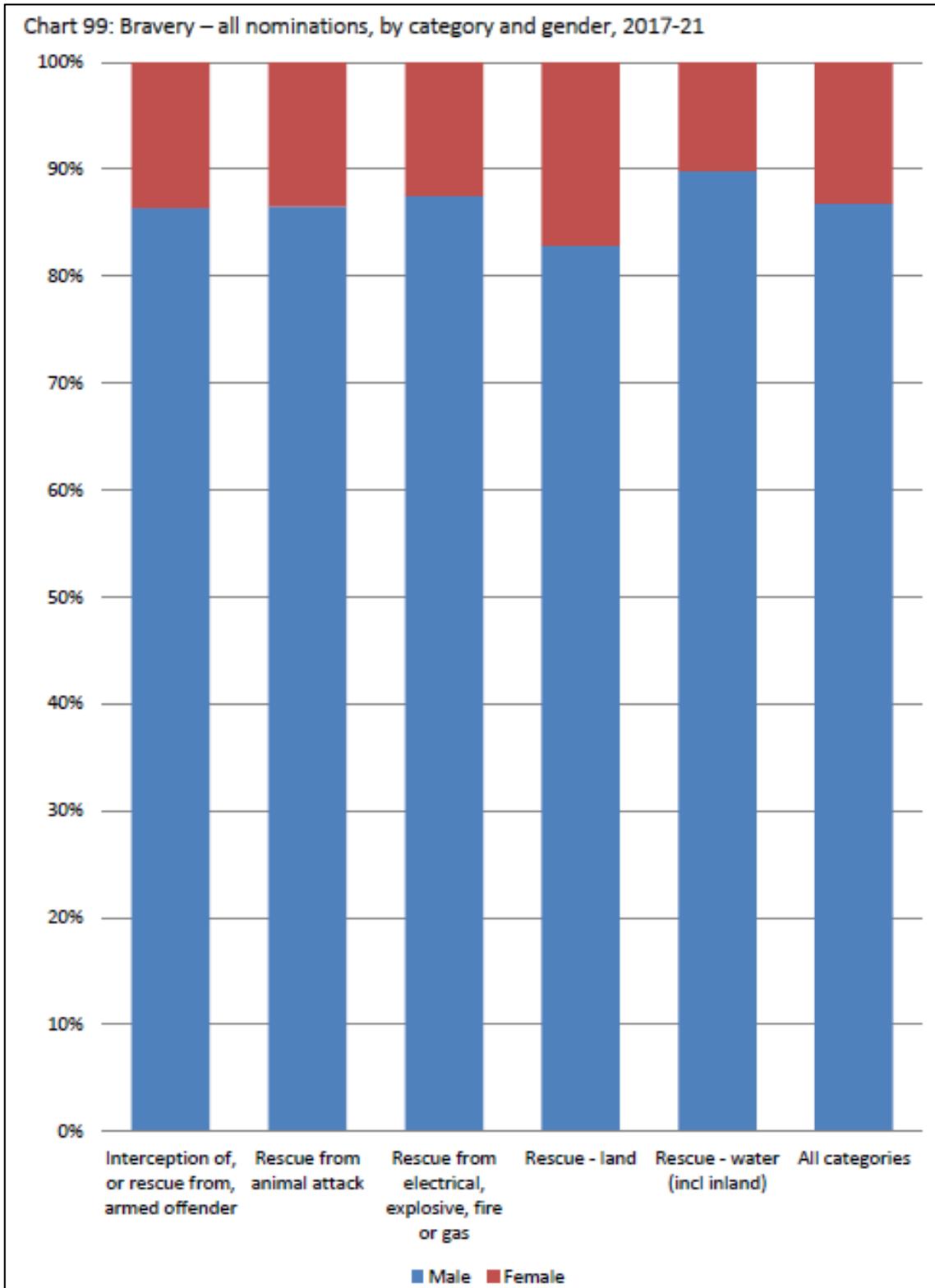
The Cross of Valour is the highest Australian decoration a civilian can be awarded. Anyone can be nominated, and anyone can nominate – awards are not restricted to Australian citizens. The brave act does not have to have occurred in Australia either, provided that the act itself was considered worthy of recognition in the interest of Australia. The Australian Bravery Decorations Council meets twice per year to consider nominations and to make its recommendations to the Governor-General. The approved awards are announced in two bravery honours lists, usually published in March and August. The Council consists of fourteen members, including representatives of each state and territory, two ex-officio members and four community members. The Council uses 19 categories of brave acts to assist with comparative decision-making.

Interception of, or rescue from, armed offender	
Interception of armed offender	Rescue from armed offender
Rescued from animal attack (no grouping)	
Rescue from electric, explosive, fire or gas hazard	
Rescue from electrical hazard	Rescue from explosive hazard
Rescue from fire - aircraft	Rescue from fire - building
Rescue from fire - bushfire	Rescue from fire - motor vehicle
Rescue from fire - other	Rescue from gases, toxic fumes etc.
Rescue - land	
Rescue from heights, cliffs	Rescue from holes, wells or mines
Rescue from path of oncoming vehicle	Rescue from other situation
Rescue – water (including inland)	
Rescue from inland waters	Rescue from water – other
Rescue from water – sea	Rescue from water - submerged vehicle

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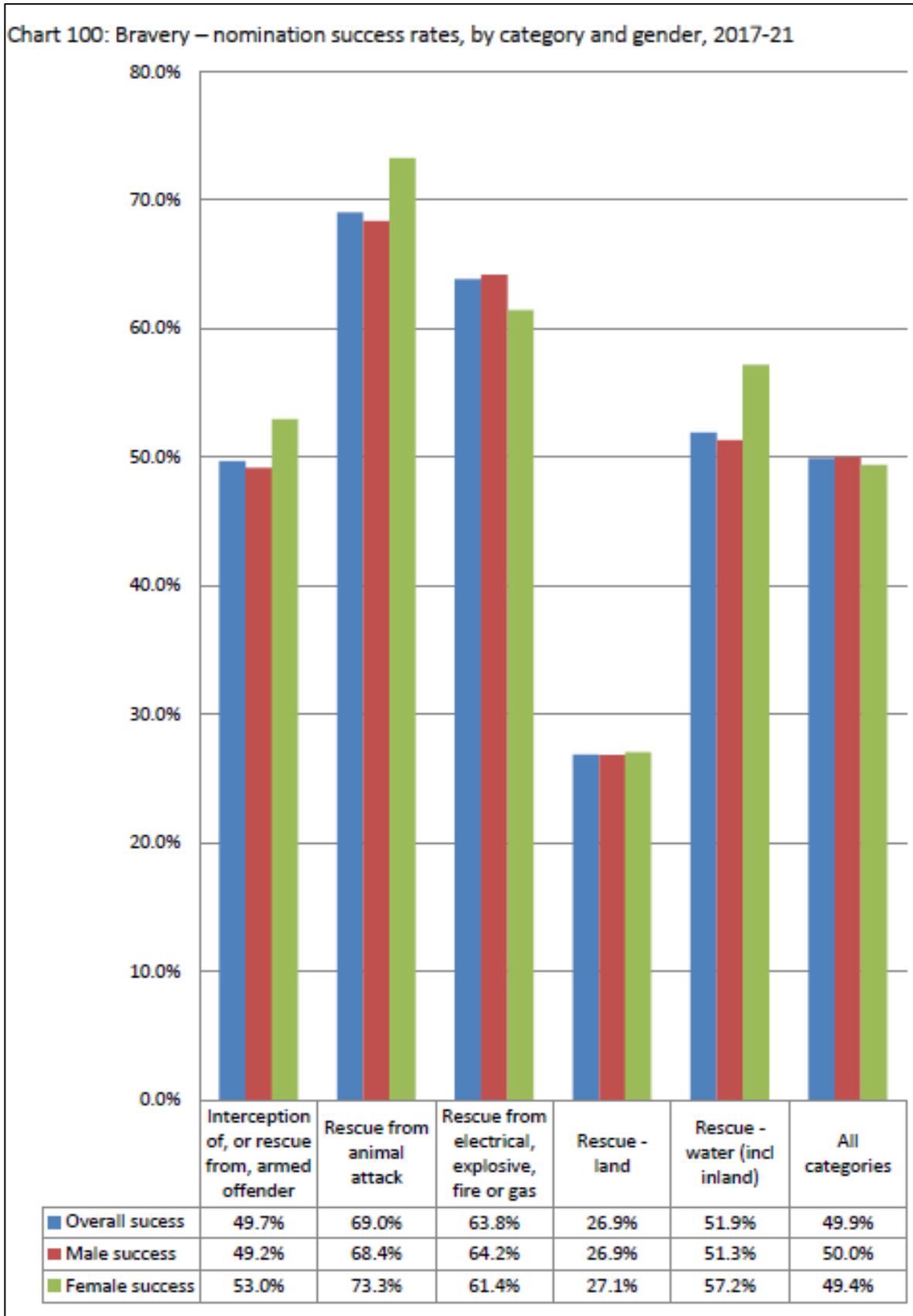
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The figures presented below also include the two Stars of Courage and seven Bravery Medals considered and awarded out of session, in July 2018, to Australians who participated in the rescue of children from a submerged cave complex in Thailand.



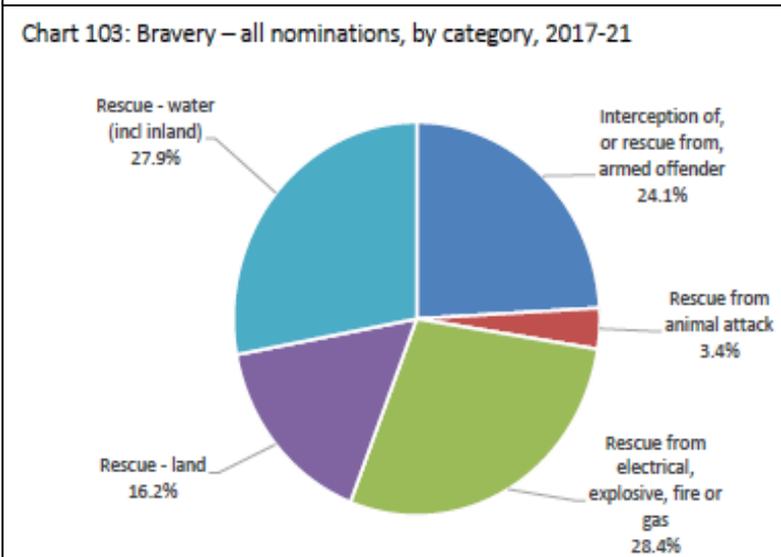
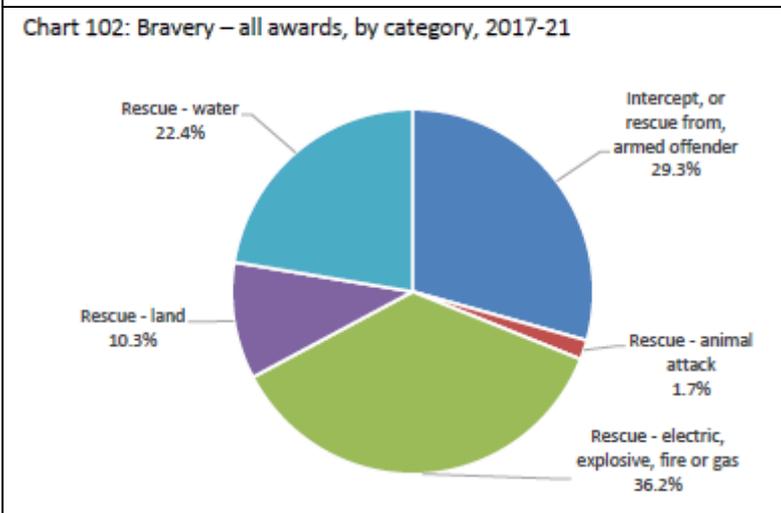
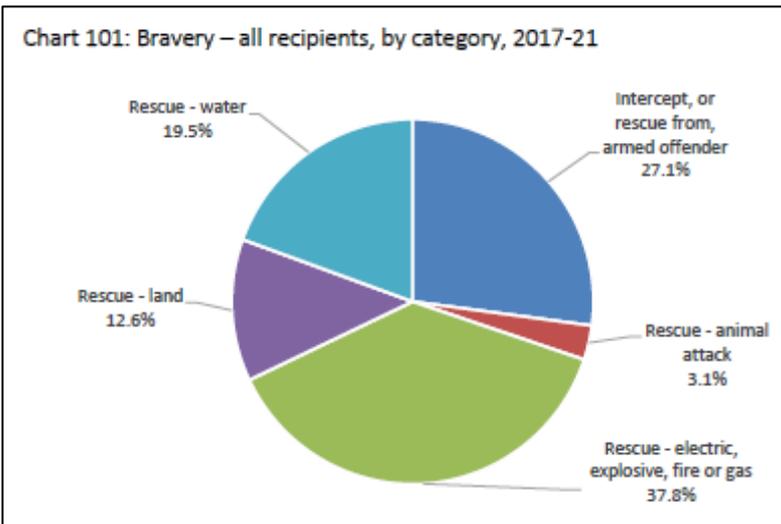
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Bravery Decorations

Bravery and gallantry decorations recognise acts of bravery by individuals or groups. Gallantry decorations were instituted for the purpose of according recognition to members of the Defence Force and certain other persons who perform acts of gallantry in the circumstances similar to armed combat or actual operations under military command.

Bravery decorations are for civilians, and members of Australia's armed forces are also eligible under certain circumstances. Bravery and gallantry decorations at all levels except the commendation level, and group citations, come with a post-nominal entitlement.

"Australian Bravery Awards recognise and celebrate Australians who, faced with a dangerous or perilous situation, think not of themselves or their own safety but about others. These individuals deserve our admiration – they are an inspiration and examples of the sort of selfless sacrifice that we can all aspire to."

Governor-General, General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd)



The Cross of Valour, The Star of Courage, The Bravery Medal, Commendation for Brave Conduct, Group Bravery Citation.

This information from this report is attributed to the Commonwealth of Australia, Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General, *The Australian Honours and Awards Branch – Report 2017-21*.

NOMINATE SOMEONE FOR A BRAVERY AWARD

Australian Bravery Decorations recognise people who, without thought of personal risk, displayed courage and bravery to protect or defend others. To nominate someone, complete the Australian Bravery Decorations Nomination Form at the link:

<https://www.gg.gov.au/australian-honours-and-awardsaustralian-bravery-decorations/nominate-someone-bravery-award>.

You will need to include:

- The contact details of the person you are nominating (if known)
- A description of the incident where the brave act occurred
- Details of what the person you are nominating did; which could be supported by
 - Photographs of the incident or the place it occurred
 - Links to media articles or other information about the incident
- If available, the contact details of any other witnesses to the incident
- Your own contact details.

Anyone can nominate someone for an Australian Bravery Decoration.

- Australian Citizens.
- A person who is a citizen of another country and who carries out an act that may be considered worthy of recognition by Australia and in Australia's interest.
- Members of Australia's armed forces who carry out an act in times of peace, or of war (where the act was carried out in circumstances other than in actions against the enemy).
- Service personnel from other countries, whether in Australia or overseas.

Awards may be made posthumously and presented to the next of kin. All nominations are strictly confidential. After a nomination is received, it is registered, and an acknowledgement is sent to the nominator. The Honours and Award Secretariat research and gather information. All nominations are then presented to the Australian Bravery Decorations Council, which either:

- Recommends the Governor-General present an award
- Recommend not issuing an award; or
- defers the nomination to be considered at a later meeting.

Prior to the Council recommending an award to the Governor-General, a letter is sent to establish whether the nominee would be willing to accept an award. Once the Governor-General has considered and approved those recommended for an award, congratulatory letters are sent to successful recipients. Recipients attend investitures around Australia to receive the insignia of their award from either the Governor-General or state Governors.



Mr Jack Mohr is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the rescue of a woman from rough surf at Peregrine Beach, Queensland on 18 February 2018.

AUSTRALIAN BRAVERY ASSOCIATION



ABA 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
Doug Baird OAM
Richard Rolfe AM