

FOR BRAVERY



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



The Governor of QLD, Her Excellency the Hon Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM with Platinum Jubilee Medal recipients: Keith Payne VC AM, Benjamin Roberts-Smith VC MG, Daniel Keighran VC, and Victor Boscoe CV (29 Nov 2022).

INSIDE features

12

Emily Harding:
Stories of Bravery

19

Ballina Reunion 2022

21

Ensigned with the Crown
of Saint Edward

PATRON

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

I have been thinking a lot recently about bravery. As I write, Linda and I have just returned from consecutive days' visits to flood-affected communities in regional Victoria and northern New South Wales and, before that, north-west Tasmania. Earlier this month, we attended a 20th Anniversary National Memorial Service at Parliament House in honour of the victims and families impacted by the Bali bombings.



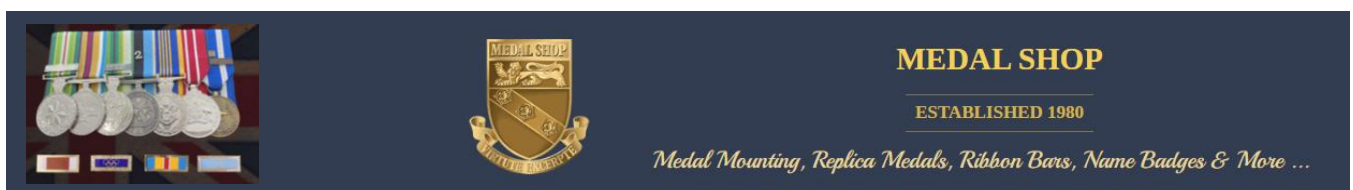
What strikes me about these very different events — natural disasters and an act of terrorism — is that the response of Australians was the same. The response by both groups of people — one at home, the other on holiday overseas — represents a microcosm of the best of Australia. People who, when faced with adversity, decide to act. It is impulsive, without consideration for what may lie ahead. In both the floods and in the aftermath of the bombings, many people either needed help or were in danger. Yet, in both instances, Australians stepped up, risking their own lives and injury.

Thirty-seven Australians received Bravery decorations for their response to the Bali bombings, including Senior Constable Timothy Britten and Richard Joyes who were awarded The Cross of Valour, Australia's highest civilian bravery decoration, for acts of the most conspicuous courage in circumstances of extreme peril. Bravery and supportive, caring, and compassionate acts say much about who we are.

In my role with Linda, we hear of countless acts of bravery — including in visits to disaster grounds, during Investiture ceremonies, and at commemorative and memorial services. It is important that acts of bravery are recognised. These individuals deserve our admiration. They are an inspiration and examples of the sort of selfless sacrifice that we can all aspire to.

I thank once again the Australian Bravery Association, and all involved in *For Bravery* for their strong advocacy on behalf of those Australians who have experienced harm or personal hardship as a result of performing an act of bravery.

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


 A dark blue banner for Medal Shop. On the left, there is a photograph of several medals and ribbon bars. In the center is the Medal Shop logo, which is a shield-shaped crest with a lion and the text 'MEDAL SHOP' and 'ESTABLISHED 1980'. To the right of the logo, the text reads 'MEDAL SHOP' in large yellow letters, followed by 'ESTABLISHED 1980' in smaller yellow letters, and 'Medal Mounting, Replica Medals, Ribbon Bars, Name Badges & More ...' in white cursive script.

Medal Shop Pty. Ltd. (formally Cary Corporation) is Australia's leading "licensed" manufacturer of locally produced Military medals, Emergency Service medals and other insignia.

www.medalshop.com.au

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

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Coralee Lever	Victoria President	ABAVICPresident@gmail.com
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Wendy Pearson	Merchandising Officer	ABAMerchandise@gmail.com
John Thurgar	National Conference Coordinator	ABANationalConference@gmail.com

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 VA; Tim Britten CV; Richard Joyes CV; Doug Baird OAM, and Richard Rolfe AM.

FOR BRAVERY, EDITOR
Dr Kay Danes, OAM



Dear ABA members and friends,

Welcome to the December edition of **FOR BRAVERY**— produced by a volunteer editorial team comprised of myself (photo right), 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 **FOR BRAVERY**, then we invite you to do so in the future.

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

Issue 1: Apr
 Issue 2: Aug
 Issue 3: Dec



Email: ABANewsEditor@gmail.com

Deadlines: 25 MAR, JUL, NOV

December is usually a busy time for most as the celebration of Christmas approaches. But we also wish to acknowledge that many in our ABA family may feel overwhelmed or even dread this time of year. The absence of a loved one can often be felt more keenly. Give yourself permission to relax and take some *time out* on your terms, away from the expectations of others. Whatever you choose to do or not do, remember that you always have the ABA family ready to offer support if needed. Wishing you and yours peace now and throughout the New Year. I hope to see you at the ABA Conference in Feb 2023.

Disclaimer: Every effort is made to provide at least three accurate **FOR BRAVERY** newsletters each year. The ABA and Editorial team are not able to guarantee the accuracy, completeness, or adequacy of the contents of its newsletters and expressly disclaim liability for errors and omissions of any material contained herein. We reserve the right to edit the content submitted. Some of the images in this newsletter may be subject to copyright. Please contact us if you wish to reproduce any of the images contained herein.

ABA SOCIALS ARE THE PLACE TO BE

Get to know your fellow ABA members and more recipients of bravery awards. 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>

ABA NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Andrew Kendall

Greetings all. As we head towards Christmas and New Year, I would like to thank all members and supporters of the Australian Bravery Association for your involvement. What started out as another COVID-19-influenced year has turned into a good return to normal in many ways.



Most recently, it was very pleasing to have ABA events hosted in New South Wales and Queensland. The Australian Bravery Association's St Andrew's Village Memorial Bravery Garden Dedication Ceremony and black-tie dinner on 15 October in Ballina, NSW, was a special occasion. Many thanks to Peter Kerkenezov BM, John Thurgar SC MBE OAM RFD, and Chaplain Jim Cosgrove for putting it all together, as well as Ballina Mayor Sharon Cadwallader, Ballina Shire Council, Member for Ballina Tamara Smith, the Ballina RSL Sub-branch, St Andrew's Village, the Merchant Navy War Memorial Fund, the Australian Lighthorse Association, and Ballina's Headliner's Chorus (amongst others) for their contributions.

In November, Dr Sally Gregory hosted a fun ABA Queensland Patio Party & Brekky. It was a relaxing gathering amongst good friends. Well done, Sally.

Next year we have a great National Conference planned for Canberra. This will be a wonderful opportunity for members to get together after a long separation. For our black-tie dinner we are excited to have a special guest speaker – Paul Featherstone BM or 'feathers' as he is often referred to. Feathers is a most exceptional and inspirational person who has spent more than 40 years assisting people in life threatening situations in Australia and internationally, frequently putting himself at risk to help save the lives of others. In 1972 Paul joined the New South Wales Ambulance Service and in 1976 established the Ambulance Service's highly commended Paramedic system. Then in 1986, Paul established the Special Casualty Access Team (S.C.A.T) and until his retirement in 2013, Paul was a team leader in developing patient access methods and systems for high levels of care under hostile environments and conditions. As a leader in his field, Paul has played an important role in assisting many victims from major disasters such as the Granville Rail Crash in 1977, the Thredbo Avalanche in 1997, the Bali Bomb emergency in 2002 and in 2006 the Mine Rescue in Beaconsfield, Tasmania. Paul is also the recipient of many prestigious awards such as the Ambulance Service's highest award for bravery (twice), along with an Australian Bravery Medal, the Humane Society's Gold, Silver and Bronze medals and the Ambulance Service Medal as part of the 2007 Queen's Birthday Honour List, to name just a few. (See more on page 18).

Another highlight of the Black-Tie Dinner will be a special gift to all those attending the event from ABA Vice-Patron Richard Rolfe AM. Richard is a very generous person. Together with his wife, Deborah Rolfe AM, they are keen to support the national honours and awards and bravery awardees by sponsoring the ABA Brave Youth of the Year Award. So, it will be a special occasion on the night to be able to present our 2021 Brave Youth of the Year to our community. The registration date for the National Conference has been extended to Monday, 12 December 2022. We hope this will give members, family and friends of the ABA the opportunity to snap up those final tables for the dinner. I would also like to extend my appreciation to the Australian Bravery Foundation which has again provided funds to subsidise our Annual Conference. Their continued support is sincerely appreciated.

Finally, I would like to thank all the National Executive, ex-officio members, our Patron and Vice-Patrons for their tireless work throughout the year. Your efforts help keep the ABA going strong.

Best wishes for Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

Andrew

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY PRESIDENT

Peter White

Warm greetings from the Canberra desk of the ABA. Our recent highlight, shared between our National Membership Secretary, Melanie Warburton; NSW State President, Jimmy Preston and yours truly was attendance at the first Government House Open Day since early 2019. COVID 19 had restricted the ability of our Association, and other patronages from engaging with members of the public on what has been colloquially known as the *Governor General's Patron's Day*. In a rare, but beautiful sunny Canberra Day, the general public decided to forego the weather bureau's forecast of a stormy and wet day and trusted what they had seen on the day – and they were not disappointed!

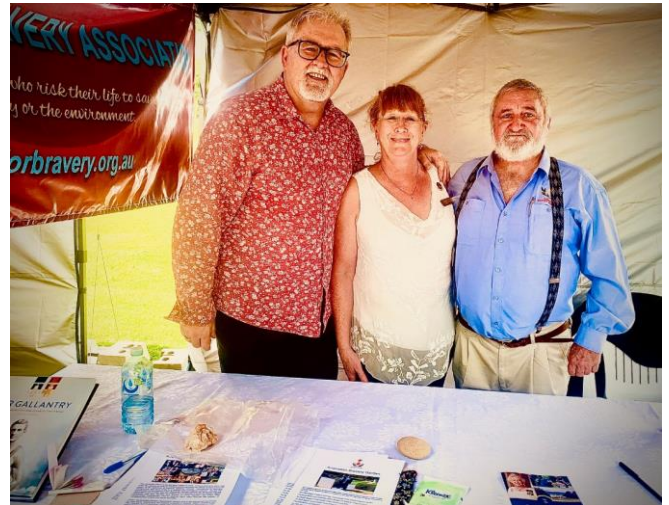


Photo: L to R: Peter White, Melanie Warburton, and Jim Preston.

Your ABA representatives took the opportunity to engage with attendees and introduce them to the Australian Bravery Garden. Many interactions occurred and the ‘team’ distributed flyers that provided information on the Bravery Garden and the functions of our Association. Hopefully, we have turned the ‘COVID Corner’ and we can participate in more community events.

The words, ‘Brave’ and ‘Bravery’ are known well to our membership, but are they easy to define? Each of us have been referred to as being brave, and undertaking an act of bravery – but do we all define these words in the same way?

“Wow, Peter is posing a philosophical question”, you may ask?

Notwithstanding the value of debating this subject, I wanted to share a humorous incident reported in *The Guardian* in May 2020. Please visit these links:

Crooked not courageous: Adani renames Australian group Bravus, mistaking it for 'brave' by Naaman Zhou
<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2020/nov/05/crooked-not-courageous-adani-renames-australian-group-bravus-mistaking-it-for-brave>

A Blog by Victor Mair titled: Bravus not Brave <https://languagelog.idc.upenn.edu/nll/?p=49013>

Whilst I form no view on the accuracy of the articles, I hope they bring a smile to your face. It would appear the mining company wanted to adopt ‘Brave / Bravery’ as a corporate identifier. However, the Latin word adopted by the company, ‘*Bravus*’, whilst it looks and sounds like ‘Brave and Bravery’, multiple Latin experts have pointed out that ‘bravus’ does not mean ‘brave’ and is more accurately translated as ‘crooked’ or ‘mercenary.’ Ouch! That is what we call an unintended consequence and ‘sub-optimal’ research.

I hope the article gave you a chuckle and brought a smile to your dial.
 Stay safe and healthy,

Peter

NEW SOUTH WALES PRESIDENT

Jim Preston

I proudly echo the accolades expressed for John Thurgar and Peter Kerkenezov on their extraordinary efforts in getting the Bravery Garden installed in Ballina, especially with all they have gone through personally with the floods in their respective locations. Thank you to the Lighthouse Association for the superb parading of the flags and colours on the day. It is always inspiring to see the horses and that distinct Lighthouse uniform. All who attended the dedication ceremony had a memorable time.



A big shout out to everyone who helped with the clean-up and evacuations after the recent floods in NSW. Thousands were forced from their homes, and hundreds more had to be rescued from rising floodwaters. Fortunately, I was one of the lucky ones (this time). I lost seven of my precious Texel lambs and some fences as the water came within 5 mm of the house. I would say we were lucky.

On 12 November 2022, I attended Government House (Canberra) with Melanie Warburton and Peter White. It was the first Open Day since 2019 and was a spectacular day with a sizable crowd. I have since been in contact with Government House in Sydney, and I am pleased to inform our members that with COVID under control, Investitures will resume as normal. This is such great news!

Stay safe, everyone, and I hope to see you all in February 2023 for the ABA Conference.
Cheers JP

HONORARY PSYCHOLOGIST

Pam Davidson

When an act of bravery is completed, the aftermath can be difficult. Firstly, there is elation at having saved somebody's life or devastation if this did not occur because the rescued did not survive. This can then be followed by survivor guilt, or if all went well, then relief for surviving or disbelief for taking the risk one decided in that split second. What follows can be difficult if you are not surrounded by understanding, including gratitude to love and relief from family and friends. Sometimes this path is difficult because others react differently and sometimes unexpectedly. It is not unusual to process your act of bravery at various stages throughout your life. Each time you do this it is important to have others you can use as a sounding board, who listen without judgement. This may not be available, and that's where speaking to others who have had a similar experience can help enormously.



The ABA has amongst its members many who have and continue to make this journey and are willing to offer friendship and connection. The friendships made over the years are a testament to the great work done informally by all members who meet at events throughout the year. The next one coming up is the Canberra Conference weekend in February 2023. The ABA also has a range of professionals who can steer you in the right direction, and they are happy for you to reach them through the honorary membership list. We have assistance from a psychologist, lawyer and even a vet. Please reach out if you wish to discuss where to go from here, for you.

Best regards, Pam

QUEENSLAND PRESIDENT Dr Sally Gregory

Hi to all our ABA family members around Australia and the UK (G'day Chris)!

November was an exciting month for our ABA Qld reunion. This was the first face-to-face social event we had had in a long while. Kicking the evening off with a Patio Party on my back deck at Burleigh Heads, Ben Hoad, the father of brave Calyn Hoad BM, cooked the snags to perfection. The girls whipped out the salads and cheesecakes. Later that evening, the band pumped out some karaoke Uke tunes with Georgia on vocals, Jim Cosgrove on guitar, Kay Danes on Flute and accompanied by me on Uke and backup vocals. Smiley (my dog) sat in her corner, wagging her tail. She was not overly impressed with Kay's attempted tambourine solo.



Bright and early the next day, we headed off to our Beach Brekky BBQ at the beautiful Tallebudgera Creek. With the sun shining and the birds chirping, we got one of the best spots just south of the bridge. ABA members Shelley, Cayla and Blake Sweeney, joined us, along with the simply gorgeous Katie Sutton, Jim Cosgrove, Kay and Kerry Danes. The food and the company were superb!

Big congratulations to John Thurgar and Peter Kerkenezov for the fabulous Ballina Reunion (see official report inside this edition). This was my first ABA reunion since my husband's death last year. The ABA family indeed showed me the compassion and humour that we are most famous for. I travelled to Ballina with fellow Queenslander—Dr Kay Danes. We shared a room and had lots of laughs. Kay makes me look so well-behaved! Kay's good friend Dr Dan Mealey joined the reunion from Congo (NSW) and said the highlight of his visit was meeting "the legendary John Thurgar and Bernard Collaery." Dr Dan is a pretty impressive individual himself!



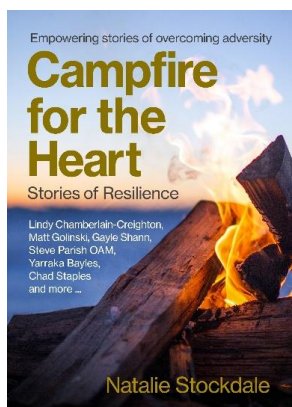
While in Ballina, I got to hang out with one of Australia's most decorated rescuers—Alan Playford, SC. Alan's experiences from over 40 years of being a first responder are so riveting that we sat spellbound listening to him recount some of the things he had seen and people he had supported in the worst time of their life. You can listen to one of Alan's most challenging rescue events on the *Elements Podcast*, presented by Thredbo Landslide Survivor Stuart Diver.

Earth: Newcastle Earthquake (Episode 4, Season 1)
<https://www.elementspodcast.com.au/gallery>

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Another fun aspect of the Ballina reunion was a visit to the farm of Bev and Kirk Trease. Kirk is a recipient of a Commendation for Brave Conduct. Their property is home to a fabulous treehouse with a double bed, TV, and loo. We also got a tour of their riverside camp spot that looked idyllic. What an amazing place, and what a fantastic couple! At the black-tie dinner, Kirk and Bev delighted everyone when they presented a fabulous hamper filled with yummy honeycomb from their beehives in appreciation for the ABA's support when they were flooded earlier this year (twice). Kirk and Bev are undoubtedly brave, as is Kirk's father, Ross Trease, who also attended the dinner with his wife, Colleen. It was a real buzz having father and son bravery recipients amid the fun. Both men are very handy, especially when rescues are required at sea! Only last week, Kirk and Bev were back on the job of rescuing when the river rose again and flooded their property—this time, they were saving chickens! How's that for versatility?



Another exciting event that I attended in Noosa (Qld) on 27th November 2022 was the launching of a new book published by Big Sky Publishing and authored by resilience coach, Natalie Stockdale. *Campfire for the Heart* is a collection of empowering stories from people who have overcome adversity. They share their insights on how they coped with trauma, grief, and tragedy and how they rose above their lows. The book features the bushfire experience of ABA member Mark 'Trigger' Tregellas and his family, along with other great survivors who are well-known champions of resilience—Lindy Chamberlain-Creighton, celebrity chef Matt Golinski, Steve Parish OAM, and Gayle Shann. Cave-diving legend and Co-Australian of the Year 2019, Dr Craig Challen, opens the book with a very inspiring foreword.

Orders:

<https://www.bigskypublishing.com.au/books/campfire-for-the-heart/>

In other news, did you know that Mark and Cate Tregellas feature in the ABC TV production *The People's Republic of Mallacoota*, which recorded the town's plight after it was devastated by bushfires in December 2019? Watch the series on ABC iView:

<https://iview.abc.net.au/video/DO2010V001S00>



On the investiture side of the diary, the scheduled Queensland bravery awards presentations of May 10th were postponed due to the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. However, the August 17th announcements of bravery awards revealed twenty-six new recipients, of which six are Queenslanders. I look forward to greeting them at the next investiture. View the August 2022 Bravery List at this link: <https://www.gg.gov.au/august-2022-bravery-list>

I am also excited about seeing you all at an ABA event soon. There are some planned for in Tassie and West Australia. Don't forget our Canberra National Conference is just around the corner. I hope to see your smiling faces there. Sending hugs and best fishes to all the ABA family – Cheerio from the Chief Hugger.

Warmest wishes – Sal x

TASMANIA PRESIDENT Claire Browning

Tasmania now has three ABA financial members. We had a lovely catch-up earlier this year with our families at a casual lunch in Burnie. We invited Terry Townsend, who is considering joining. It was lovely to be able to check in face-to-face. Tasmania did not have any investitures this year, but I am looking forward to attending the next one in May 2023.



Rear: Terry Townsend and Claire Browning. Front R to L: Walter Jones, Marjorie Jones, and Graeme Jones.

TASSIE 2023 EVENTS:



Saturday, January 14, 2023

An informal dinner at the Lenah Valley RSL and Community Club at 5.30 pm. Pay As you Go.

Venue: <https://lenahvalleyrsl.org.au/>



Sunday, January 15, 2023

Lunch Cruise \$48.00 (12.15 pm to 1.45 pm). This cruise goes both up and down the river. Guests can spend an enjoyable 1 ½ hour seeing the sights and having a proper one-course meal. Bookings must be made directly with Hobart Historic Cruises.

Book direct: https://www.hobarthistoriccruises.com.au/cruises_option

Phone: (03) 6200 9074
Mobile: 0401 488 195
Email: info@hobarthistoriccruises.com

WESTERN AUSTRALIA PRESIDENT Richard Wells

18 March 2023

Inviting all members and guests to join us for dinner at the Fremantle Sailing Club at 6:30 pm

Book direct here: <https://fsc.com.au/>

19 March 2023

Fremantle Lunch Cruise at departing the Fremantle 12:45 pm

Book direct here: <https://www.captaincookcruises.com.au/cruises/fremantle-lunch-cruise>



Need more information? ABA contacts are listed on Page 3.

VICTORIA PRESIDENT

Coralee Lever



Dear ABA members and friends,

On Tuesday, 15th of November 2022, I attended the Investiture of Australian Bravery decorations in Victoria. Twenty-four recipients received bravery awards. It was a delight to attend the ceremony since it had been two years of not having investitures due to Covid. I was honoured to represent the Australian Bravery Association. Her Excellency the Honourable Linda Dessau, AC Governor of Victoria and her husband, welcomed dignitaries; the Honourable Shaun Leane MP, Vivien Allimonos, Acting Deputy Commissioner Anthony Langdon APM, Fire Rescue Victoria Jason Heffernan, bravery recipients and their guests.



The Governor's address:

First, I acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we gather – the Wurundjeri and Bunurong People of the Kulin Nation – and pay my respects to their Elders, past and present, and to Elders of other communities who may be with us. Tony and I are delighted to welcome you all here to Government House for the presentation of the Australian Bravery Decorations and the Order of Australia. One of the most rewarding parts of this role is getting the opportunity to meet so many Victorians who, in one way or another, have made significant contributions to help others. The Australian Bravery Decorations show us some of the very best of those contributions. The awards

recognise the bravery of Australians who have 'put themselves in jeopardy to protect the lives or property of others.' They are for those who have gone above and beyond to help their fellow Victorians, and they demonstrate the goodness at the heart of so many in our community.

As you have heard, between them, the award recipients recognised today have gone to the rescue of people in burning vehicles, floodwaters, rough seas and flash flooding. They have helped people in road accidents, in danger from assault, and during an armed home invasion. They have responded to an incident on an aircraft and a rescue at an incident on a ferry. All this has occurred in different parts of our State – in the inner city, in our suburbs and in the regions. Some only recently, and others some years ago. But in all their differences, what these acts share is that at their core was a selflessness, a courage and a sense of shared humanity. In danger, you – our award recipients – thought not of yourselves but of others. For their safety and for the trouble they faced. Today is an opportunity for the community to say 'thank you' to each one of you. And to formally recognise your bravery and your efforts. I am mindful that participating in this formal acknowledgment today might be difficult, having to relive your experiences. Please know that we stand beside you. Please know too that we are grateful for all that you have done and sacrificed. We hope that you feel proud of what you have done. We do. On behalf of all Victorians, we thank you again and hope that you enjoy your time at Government House. We look forward to meeting as many of you as possible after the ceremony

It was an unforgettable day for all recipients and their families and a very special honour for me too! Stay safe and well. I hope to see you all again very soon.

Coralee



EMILY Harding

Stories of Bravery 

Emily Harding is the Granddaughter of ABA member Chris Harding.



My recent visit to London was genuinely fascinating and unforgettable. This year’s Bi-annual Gallantry Medallists League (GML) London Muster 2022 was held one year later than planned due to Covid, a few days after our late Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II’s funeral. Leaving the Underground Station for our hotel, we had to walk through Green Park, which at the time, was used by the public as a memorial garden for our late Queen. It was very moving to see the grounds awash with flowers and cuddly toys, especially the Paddington Bears, which were recovered and hygienically cleaned before being given to the children’s charity—Barnardos (www.barnardos.org.uk) by the Queen Consort, and with a special message from the King attached to Paddington’s label. They retrieved over 100 bears. The Green Park atmosphere created a poignant place to reflect on everything our Queen had done for us and humanity. Hundreds of people walked silently to pay their respects, crouching reverently to read personal messages from those grieving. It was a special moment in our nation’s history and one that my Grandfather and I will never forget.



That evening we dined with the honourable members of the GML. I was captivated by their stories and individual accounts of bravery. During the dinner, the members were given an opportunity to have their or their family’s medals valued by a medal specialist from one of London’s famous auction houses. I presented the medals and death penny of my 3 x Great Grandfather who had fallen on 18th Dec 1914 during the opening stages of WW1. His death left behind a widow and five children (under 11yrs). Already a Royal Marine Veteran of the Boer War, my Great Grandfather signed up again — with the Royal East Surrey Regiment-- at the outbreak of WW1. His medals had quite a journey, having been lost for 60yrs with the conclusion drawn that they had either been lost forever or his Widow had sold them. She gave them to her eldest son, my Grandfather’s Grandfather, who secretly gave them to his youngest son. With the recent death of my Grandfather’s Uncle, they reappeared and were gifted to my Grandfather. It was a bizarre experience learning

the history behind each medal, especially his 1914 Mons Star, which was only awarded for that year with fewer than 40,000 issues. (The 1914 Star, colloquially known as the Mons Star, is a British World War I campaign medal for service in France or Belgium between 5 August and 22 November 1914.)

One thing I love about history is the narrative behind every story—one typically unlocked with a key—an inquiring mind. The medal specialist was curious about my Grandfather’s Australian medal since he had not seen one set alongside British Army medals. He politely asked my Grandfather if permission had been sought from the Queen to wear the medal. My Grandfather confirmed that the medal had been correctly mounted after his British medal, as per the Queen’s regulations for overseas awarded medals.

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The following morning in tribute to our late Queen, the GML held a service in the Chapel Royal of St James Palace to celebrate the life of Her Majesty. Sitting quietly in the Chapel pew, it was hard to believe that this small Royal Family Chapel houses generations of our Royal family, dating back to Henry VIII.

To close the Muster, my Grandfather and I travelled in one of London's famous red buses for a formal dinner at the London Scottish Regiment Great Hall, hosting special guest Lord Lieutenant of Great London Sir Kenneth Olisa OBE and Garter Kings Arm Principal who read King Charles III's proclamation on the balcony of St James Palace. The hall was very special to my Grandfather, as one of the War Memorials held the name of Private Ivor Carter, who was killed on 1st July 1916 at the Battle of the Somme, aged 24.

In a stamp shop in York 40 years ago, my Grandfather found a letter penned by Private Ivor Carter to his dear Mother. My Grandfather sent the letter to ABA President Andrew Kendall, along with a Tower of London *clay poppy* he had won in a national draw. A carpet of these clay poppies, created by artists Paul Cummins and Tom Piper, flow from the Tower's walls (pictured below right), marking the 100th anniversary of the start of WW1. Each clay poppy represents a British military fatality during WW1.

Private Ivor G Carter's last letter to his Mother, dated 28th June 1916, read:

Dear Mamma

I'm taking this chance of writing to you, although I have not heard from you lately. I hope everyone is going strong at home. I am quite fit and well, but the weather has turned very wet again. I have not yet received writing pad etc but hope to do so very soon. You will be sorry to know that the parcel Mr Blair sent me has not arrived yet. I'm afraid it won't turn up now. I have been unlucky with parcels, don't you think so?

I don't expect I shall be able to write again for some little time, but you can be sure I shall write the first chance I have. I have had plenty of baths lately. In fact, I have had 3 hot shower baths in a week! It is a very fine feeling to feel clean, I can tell you. By the way, I should like you to send me another tin of Harrison pomade as I have practically exhausted my stock. It is very useful stuff. How did Celine's big spread go off? I should like to hear all about it - the more I hear from home, the better I like it, as you know. I hope Alf is getting on well, although I have not heard from him yet. I went into the village not far away. I had a good square meal, consisting of roast steak of beef, hot rolls & cafe au lait. We bought the stuff at various places and took it to a baker to get it cooked! But it was well worth the trouble.



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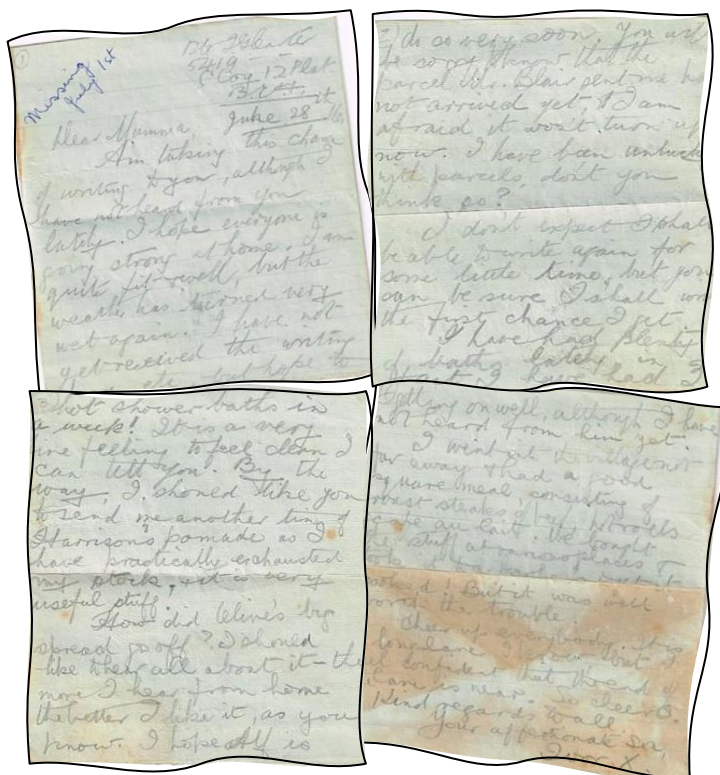
Cheer up, everybody. It is a long war, I know, but I feel confident that the end of the war is near.

*So cheero. Kind regards to all.
Your affectionate son*

Ivor. X

Footnote:

1. Harrison pomade was used for lice and nits; Ivor being a soldier in the London Scottish Regiment, would have gone into battle wearing a kilt, which was a great breeding ground for lice.
2. Villagers traditionally took their pies, meats, and stews to the bakery once the bread was baked, taking advantage of the heat from the ovens.
3. Square meal, a naval expression as sailors during Nelson's time ate from square plates, as round plates would have rolled during bad weather.



Before leaving the great hall, my Grandfather left a personal message at the foot of Private Ivor Carter's name. In that message, he wrote:

Dear Ivor,

Your last words to your Mother now lay safely with your fellow brave in Australia. And every year when I march at the London Cenotaph on Remembrance Day, I take a copy of your letter in my pocket, next to my heart, to remind me of your sacrifice. Sleep well, Ivor. You're not forgotten.

Chris H

Ours was an enjoyable weekend, solemn and entirely memorable, especially meeting so many people who have been so deservedly decorated for their outstanding acts of bravery.

In closing, you may recall my previous articles about my Great Grandfather's famous soft toy—Mr Fox. (Refer to the August 2022 Issue of FOR BRAVERY). I am excited to announce that the Visitor Centre Westmoor Farm in Metheringham has since made Mr Fox a centrepiece in a display for children who can now follow his trail throughout the museum that finishes at the shop where a lovely lapel pin (photo right) has been crafted for purchase.

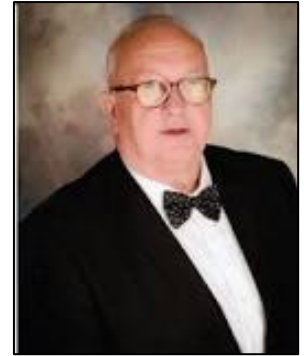
Mr Fox Clasp: £13.50

<https://mavc.onlineweb.shop/product/mr-fox>



Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct

Anthony Staunton



Anthony is a long-standing ABA member and was the ABA Honorary Historian. He and his wife, Anna Garcia-Staunton, live in Buderim, QLD.

The Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct (QCBC), a British (Imperial) award, was recommended by Australia from 1952 until 1987. Queen Elizabeth II approved most Australian QCBC recommendations. Still, many were approved by Governors-General who, since 1942, had a delegation granted by King George VI to approve Mentions in Despatches and Commendations.

The Website '*It's an Honour*' is an excellent reference for honours and awards. So too is the book titled '*Australians Awarded*' by Clive Johnson. It lists the presentation of awards to a total of 336 Australian recipients. A search of the *London Gazette* and the *Commonwealth Gazette* confirmed 310 of the 336 QCBCs listed on *It's an Honour* plus an additional 23 QCBCs to Australians not listed on *It's an Honour*.

Governors of Australian states retained the ability to make recommendation for British Honours when Australia federated in 1901. State Governors could request the Governor-General to use the delegation granted in 1942 to approve QCBCs. Only Queensland made regular requests. These QCBCs were proclaimed in the Queensland Government Gazette. Twenty-six QCBCs are listed on *It's an Honour*, though unverified in either the London Gazette or the Commonwealth Gazette. Notably, twenty-five were Queensland awards, and one was a Western Australia award. Finding QCBCs announced in the *Queensland Government Gazette* was laborious, with no digitised or online version between 1952 and 1987.

I have collected 437 QCBC gazette notices for Australians from the *London Gazette* – 278, the *Commonwealth Gazette* – 55, the *Queensland Government Gazette* – 103 and the *Papua New Guinea Government Gazette* – one. I came across an article in the *Canberra Times* of three QCBC awards approved by the Governor-General of Papua New Guinea. Sergeant Donald Douglas Cameron, Royal Australian Engineers attached to the PNG Defence Force and two PNG soldiers were awarded QCBCs for their part in saving the lives of others during the capsizing of the MV Julie Ross off Port Moresby in September 1977. I found the notice in the Papua New Guinea Government Gazette held at the National Library in Canberra.

National or State gazette notices have not been found for five QCBC recipients; three Queensland Police and two civilians. Two are mentioned in the Queensland Police Force Gazette and Detective Senior Constable Arnold Edward Williams has a NAA File (A2880, 5/4/3) which shows the QCBC was approved. The three Queensland Police are mentioned in the relevant Queensland Police Annual Reports.

In 1961, as a young earthmoving equipment operator, Bruce Robertson wrestled a gun from a man threatening to shoot another man at a remote camp at Uralla Creek, Western Australia. The Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General advised that the Governor-General approved the QCBC to Bruce Robertson, The Right Honourable the Viscount De L'Isle VC, on 2 February 1962. However, it was not until 47 years later, in September 2009, that the Governor-General, the Honourable Dame Quentin Bryce, presented Bruce Robertson a QCBC at Government House Canberra.

In the New Year, I will publish the complete list of Australian QCBCs. If anyone has photos of QCBC recipients, please email Anthony Staunton at seendyaj@outlook.com

Bar to the Bravery Medal: recognition of an act of bravery in hazardous circumstances

What makes a hero? Most of the time, it is a spur-of-the-moment reaction when a surge of adrenaline sparks deep, hidden instincts. Only three Bars to The Bravery Medal have been awarded, and of those three recipients, the ABA has two as members. Here are their citations.

Mr David KEY BM and Bar

In the late afternoon of 7 February 2009, during the 'Black Saturday' Victorian bushfires, Mr David Key (then a Sergeant in the Police Air Wing, Air 490 helicopter crew) assisted in the rescue of four people as the fire approached the community of Kinglake West.

Sergeant Key and two Police Air Wing crew members flew their helicopter to Coombs Road in Kinglake West in response to reports that four people were trapped due to the firestorm surrounding their property. On arrival at the scene, the crew observed a large wall of smoke and flames approaching the property from the north and northeast. The fire had cut off the driveway to the property, and flames were approximately thirty metres from the house.



Sergeant David Key (Photo: POLICE LIFE)

Despite the aircraft being buffeted violently by the strong winds, Sergeant Key, in his role as a 'down-the-wire' crewman, was immediately winched down to the lawn near the house. As he was preparing to winch a woman and a dog to safety, they were hit with a very hot wind gust and embers which then caused the dog to panic and run off. Sergeant Key then released the woman from the winch, and she went to retrieve the dog.

As the fire closed in, the helicopter crew were forced to abort the rescue and Sergeant Key disconnected himself from the wire, remaining on the ground. He then set about reassuring the four people. He gathered them into three vehicles, one with a horse float attached. They drove away from the property, with another horse held by the reins, running beside one of the vehicles. With the smoke and fire affecting their visibility, the helicopter flew above and guided the convoy away from the fire to a clearing about two kilometres away. Later, it was found that the blaze had spared the house. Sadly, eleven people died, and many homes were destroyed on Coombs Road. By his actions, Mr Key displayed considerable bravery.

FOOTNOTE ABOUT DAVID KEY:

Victoria Police Force (Police career of 35 years)
 Rank of Sergeant, Police Air Wing Tactical Flight Officer (Specialist area of the Police Force)
 Married to Vicki (a Policewoman of 23 years)

Bravery Medal awarded: In 1998, David, off the coast of Victoria, rescued five yachtsmen in the Sydney to Hobart Yacht race.

Bar to Bravery Medal: In 2009, during the Black Saturday Bushfires, David rescued three people, a dog and three horses from a farm that was surrounded by fire on three sides in Kinglake West, Victoria.

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Mr Timothy Brown BM and Bar

Mr Timothy Brown displayed considerable bravery during the rescue of a trapped driver in Heatherbrae, New South Wales, on 9 June 2020.

On the evening of 9 June 2020, during the rescue of a trapped driver in Heatherbrae, New South Wales, Mr Brown witnessed a vehicle collided with a power pole on the Pacific Highway. Mr Brown ran across a 4-lane highway towards the driver's side of the car but was unable to open the door as the outer skin and handle had been stripped away. Confirming the vehicle was safe from damaged power lines, Mr Brown proceeded to the passenger side, where he saw a male driver slumped towards the passenger seat. Mr Brown forced open the passenger door, smelt smoke and observed the driver was unconscious. Mr Brown attempted to release the seatbelt; however, a fire had started behind the driver's seat in the passenger footwell. Thick black smoke forced Mr Brown out of the vehicle repeatedly for air. Mr Brown opened the rear passenger door to release some smoke from the car. The passenger had regained consciousness and was trying to move due to the heat. A fire extinguisher was used under the rear of the vehicle to stop the fire from spreading. Mr Brown was handed a knife, and a bystander appeared with another fire extinguisher. Re-entering the vehicle, Mr Brown saw the fire had engulfed the back of the driver's seat. He cut the seatbelt, but due to the smoke and extinguisher powder used by the bystander, he had to exit the vehicle again for air. Mr Brown re-entered the car, pulled the driver out and dragged him towards the rear of the vehicle, where others dragged the driver to safety.



Tim Brown with his dog Zag.
Pic: Darren Pateman, AAP

Struggling to breathe, Mr Brown collapsed and was dragged away from the burning vehicle. Mr Brown and the victim were transported to a hospital for treatment, where he was treated for smoke inhalation and leg lacerations, and the victim was treated for serious injuries. By his actions, Mr Brown displayed considerable bravery.

FOOTNOTE ABOUT TIM BROWN:

New South Wales Police Force (Police career of 26 years)
The rank of Senior Constable, Dog Squad (Specialist area of the Police Force)
Married to Jenny (a Policewoman of 38 years)

Bravery Medal awarded: In 2006, Tim rescued three people from a house fire in Lochinvar, NSW
Bar to Bravery Medal: In 2020, Tim rescued the driver from a car that had caught on fire in Heatherbrae, NSW



David and Tim (LEFT) met for the first time on Saturday, 19 Nov 2022, at Lake Macquarie (NSW). Their conversation lasted for hours as both men shared many similarities of their respective careers and other parts of their lives, and often completed each other's sentences. During Tim's career, both he and his police dog flew all over NSW in helicopters. David did too across the state of Victoria with police dogs and their handlers. As the afternoon progressed, both men also discovered a shared passion for Morris Minor motorcars.

Tim and Jenny Brown with David and Vicki Key are all retired from their respective Police Forces. We salute their bravery and thank them all, respectively, for their service!

A portrait in his honour

A new portrait of the late Corporal Cameron Stewart Baird VC MG by Archibald-winning artist, Marcus Wills, was unveiled at the Australian War Memorial today. Corporal Baird was killed in action on 22 June 2013 in Afghanistan. In 2014, he was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross for Australia, the nation's highest honour. Archibald Prize winner Marcus Wills said he painted the work after conducting extensive research and speaking with Baird's family and friends.

"I wanted to paint Cameron as a soldier," Wills said. "I thought about how he might like to be portrayed and how his family and the men who served with Cameron might wish to see him."

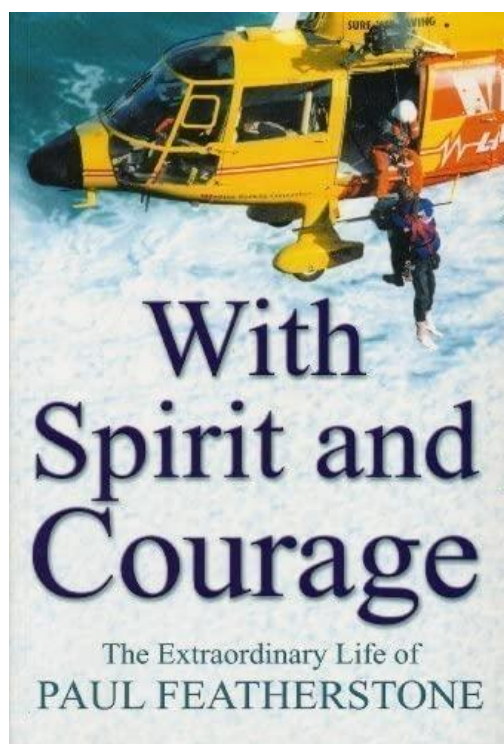
Baird's family and friends described him as a compassionate, courageous, and gentle man. Baird's father, Doug Baird OAM, said the painting was at home in the Australian War Memorial along with his Victoria Cross: "It is something we are extremely proud of...it means the world to us."

The portrait of Corporal Cameron Stewart Baird VC MG is located at the entrance to the First World War Gallery on the ground level. It will be on display in 2023. Read more: <http://ow.ly/V0L850LOt9B>

Artwork: Marcus Wills, Corporal Cameron Stewart Baird VC MG, 2021–22, egg tempera and oil on linen
190 x 118 cm, acquired under commission, 2022, AWM2019.1225.1. © the artist



Photo: Corporal Cameron Stewart Baird VC MG's parents, Mr Doug Baird OAM, and Mrs Kaye Baird, with His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC FTSE (Retd), Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia and Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley.



2023 ABA Conference Speaker

The Australian Bravery Association is thrilled to announce that one of Australia's most experienced and awarded rescuers, paramedic Paul Featherstone BM, will be the guest speaker at the ABA National Conference in Canberra, Sat Feb 11, 2023.

Paul 'Feathers' Featherstone is a passionate and understated Aussie who is immensely qualified to talk about courage, persistence and resilience due to his extensive experience in rescuing countless Aussies in times of great danger. Feathers was onsite and amongst the peril in the worst rescues imaginable, including the shocking Granville Rail Disaster (1977), the tragic Thredbo landslide (1997), the terrible Bali Bombing (2002), the Beaconsfield Mine collapse and countless more life-changing rescues.

Limited seating for the 3-course dinner and drinks (\$100) is available up to Monday, 12 DEC 2022. Reserve your seat at this inspirational event by contacting:

Melanie Warburton at abanationalmembership@gmail.com

THE BALLINA REUNION 2022

On Saturday, 15 October 2022, an unveiling and dedication ceremony for the St Andrews Village Memorial Bravery and Rose Garden was conducted in Ballina—in memory of fallen Defence Force personnel. This solemn occasion was the vision of ABA Honorary Veterinarian Peter Kerkenezov BM and was made possible with the support of funds from the estate of his beloved Mother, the late Bonnie Kerkenezov, the Ballina RSL Club - Grants Scheme, and the Merchant Navy War Memorial Fund. ABA's Immediate Past-National President, John Thurgar SC MBE OAM RFD, orchestrated the entire reunion weekend with all the grace and diligence one would expect of a Grand Master of Ceremonies. Well done, Jack!

ABA Chaplain Jim Cosgrove and 6 RAR Long Tan Veteran, Chaplain CPL Dennis 'Shorty' Brown MM, shared the solemn responsibility of leading the memorial commemorations to the fallen. Lawrence Watts and the Australian Light Horse Association Commemorative Troop provided something special with their impressively turned-out *mount of honour*.

Among the throng of St Andrews Village residents, dignitaries, and special guests were Sharon Cadwallader - Mayor, Ballina Shire Council and Tamara Smith MP - Member for Ballina NSW, Dick Wills - President, Ballina RSL Club Sub-Branch and Darren Murnane - Chairman Ballina RSL Club Ltd. ABA's Johan Overbeeke, Sally Gregory and Kay Danes were joined by Afghanistan Veteran Dr Daniel Mealey and Barrister (and Guest Speaker) Bernard Collaery. Roy Mientjes and Capt. Ted Van Bronswijk represented the Merchant Navy Association. Gerry and Margaret Burnage paid their respects on behalf of the Ballina SES and were accompanied by SES members who had all lost their homes in the devastating floods but still went out to rescue many others—Ashley Slapp-Coraki, Dan Clark and Kevin Boyd-Woodburn.

A Gala Black-Tie Dinner was held at the Ballina RSL Club, with Ballina's renowned chorus group 'The Headliners' who were simply AMAZING! This was followed by a special guest speaker, Mr Bernard Collaery, who captivated the audience with his incredible life experiences and concluded with a poignant reminder that INTEGRITY should be part of all that we do in life. Special thanks to Hedonna Thurgar for arranging the auction items, which included a lovely selection of chocolates and liquors. Jim Preston generously donated exquisite jewellery that had all the ladies in a bidding frenzy. We also appreciate Sally Gregory for her generous donation of assorted auction items. While the wines and whiskies were highly sought after, we think the water purifier made a return journey back to Burleigh Heads. Special thanks to the *Baird family* who, on behalf of *Cams Cause*, donated the '*Burnie Boy portrait of Cameron*'—their beloved son and Australian war hero—the late Cameron Baird VC MG. This was a treasured auction item and certainly attracted a great deal of interest among members and guests, a generous contribution to the ABA and the ABA Benevolent Fund. ABA favourites Kirk and Bev Trease also took the opportunity to express their appreciation to the ABA membership by presenting a rather large hamper of glorious honeycomb from their busy Bees. Kirk and Bev's property was twice devastated by floods. Theirs was a lovely gesture and appreciated by all who beat the competition to secure a slab!

The Ballina reunion was by all accounts a huge success and only made possible because of the selfless efforts of volunteers who play such an essential role in our ABA family and communities.



*So, sing a song of Bravery, Sing a song with friends
Sing loud, sing with passion, resolve that never ends
Rejoicing in our unity no one can take away
We sing with pride because we cared and gave a hand that day.*

THE BALLINA REUNION 2022



ENSIGNED WITH THE CROWN OF SAINT EDWARD



Cross of Valour recipients from L – R: Tim Britten, Allan Sparkes, Richard Joyes, Darrell Tree, Victor Boscoe.

A week full of emotions, both proud and sad, when the world watched the service that lay to rest Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. The ceremony was attended by several outstanding Australians, including our four living Victoria Cross (VC) recipients, our last living George Cross (GC) recipient and a representative of the Australian Cross of Valour (CV).

Whilst a lot of information is made about the VC and GC community worldwide, not a lot is mentioned about the CV recipient community. The CV was introduced to the Australian honours system in 1975 to replace the GC, with the first award

being issued in 1989 to Mr Darryl Tree CV. This award is an equivalent level one award with the VC and GC and is awarded for ‘acts of conspicuous courage in circumstances of extreme peril.’

To date, only five CVs have been awarded:

- 1989: Mr Darryl Tree CV
- 1995: Mr Victor Boscoe CV
- 1998: Mr Allan Sparkes CV OAM VA
- 2003: Mr Tim Britten CV and Mr Richard Joyes CV

Further information on the Cross of Valour:

<https://www.ramint.gov.au/cross-valour-cv>
www.crossofvalour.org.au



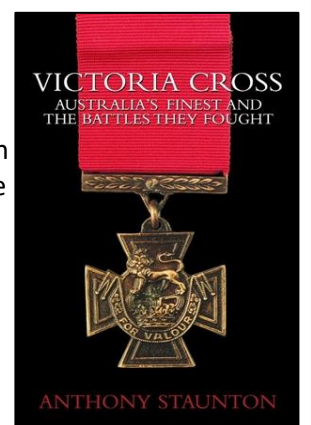
Victoria Cross

Anthony Staunton

The book sets out the history of the Victoria Cross. These dramatic stories will arouse both admiration for the courage of these gallant men, and pity for the enormous sacrifice required by war.

<https://www.hardiegrant.com/au/publishing/bookfinder/book/victoria-cross-by-anthony-staunton/9781740662888>

Hardie Grant Publishing | ISBN: 9781740662888



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Donations to the Australian Bravery Association can be made via direct debit to the account below.

Bank: Westpac
Account Name: Australian Bravery Association
BSB: 034122
Account Number: 688064
Reference: Reason for donation (e.g., ABA Brave Youth of the Year) and your name/details.

PayPal or Secure Credit Card through PayPal

Donations to the Australian Bravery Association can be made via Paypal. Please leave a note with a donation if it is for a particular cause.

Cheque

Cheques should be made out to the **Australian Bravery Association** and posted to the National Treasurer. Please include a covering letter with your name and the reason for the donation.

Postage details are:

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