



**ROYAL HUMANE SOCIETY
OF
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Instituted 25th July 1877

Patron

HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR MARIE BASHIR AC CVO
GOVERNOR OF NEW SOUTH WALES

President

The Honourable Sir LAURENCE STREET AC KCMG QC

Chairman

Major General The Honourable Justice C.R. HOEBEN AM RFD

Vice Chairman

Rear Admiral A.L. HUNT AO RAN (Retd)

Honorary Treasurer

Mr E. TEMPLE FCA

Councillors

Mr A. F. BATLEY AM FCA	1988
Mr R.J.HEIN AM	1998
Ms C.J. HEWSON AO	1999
Commissioner G. MULLINS AFSM	2002
Rear Admiral The Honourable A. ROWLANDS AO RFD QC RANR (Retd)	2004
Mr R. MAY APM	2004
Mr J. TREVILLIAN	2005
Superintendent M. WILLIS ASM	2006
Commissioner A.P. SCIPIONE APM	2008
Assistant Commissioner M. MURDOCH APM	2009
Ms H. LYNCH AM	2009
Ms P MURPHY	2009

Honorary Secretary

Major R.H. MILLBANK MA (Retd)
Assistant Secretary – Ms N. SMITH

Office of the Society

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G.P.O. Box 61, SYDNEY 2001
Telephone (02) 9265 2773
www.braveryaward.org

Trustees

The Honourable Sir LAURENCE STREET AC KCMG QC
Rear Admiral A.L. HUNT AO RAN (Retd)

Honorary Auditor

Mr D. McGRANE

Honorary Solicitor

Mr A.J. McMINN

Honorary Publicity Officer

Mr S.J. DOYLE

Bankers

National Australia Bank

Past Presidents

1877 - 1921	Mr F. H. DANGAR
1922 - 1930	Mr A. F. ROBINSON
1931	No President
1932 - 1958	Mr W. A. MACKAY
1959 - 1966	Lieutenant General Sir JOHN NORTHCOTT KCMG KCVO CB KStJ
1967	No President
1968 - 1984	His Honour Justice Sir ADRIAN CURLEWIS CVO CBE
1985 - 1989	Sir NEVILLE PIXLEY MBE GCSStJ VRD
1990 - 1999	Air Marshal Sir JAMES ROWLAND AC KBE DFC AFC KStJ

Past Chairmen

1888 - 1910	Mr J. H. STOREY
1911 - 1937	Captain S. G. GREEN OBE
1938 - 1951	Commander F.W. HIXSON OBE VD
1952 - 1953	Captain J. C. REID
1954 - 1964	Lieutenant Colonel J. SHARP MBE
1965 - 1975	Mr R. A. FENWICK
1975 - 1984	Sir NEVILLE PIXLEY MBE GCSStJ VRD
1985 - 1987	Mr G. A. ARCHER
1988 - 1990	Major General R. J. SHARP AO RFD ED
1991- 1993	Mr A.D.M. GRAHAM AM APM
1994 - 1996	Major General G. L. MAITLAND AO OBE RFD ED
1997 - 1998	Mr R. W. EATON OBE
1998 - 2000	Major General G. L. MAITLAND AO OBE RFD ED
2001-2003	Vice Admiral I.D. MAC DOUGALL AC AFSM RAN (Retd)
2004-2006	Rear Admiral A.L. HUNT AO RAN (Retd)

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**ROYAL HUMANE SOCIETY
OF
NEW SOUTH WALES**

ANNUAL REPORT YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

The Council of the Society is pleased to provide the following Annual Report.

PATRON

The Society is most grateful for the Vice-Regal patronage it is accorded by Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO Governor of New South Wales. Her continuing interest and support are greatly appreciated.

PRESIDENT

The Society is most grateful for the continuing interest and involvement of its President, The Honourable Sir Laurence Street AC KCMG QC.

THE 2008 PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

For the first time in its history, in 2008-2009, the Society conducted two award ceremonies. At the annual ceremony, the Society was honoured to have the awards presented by Her Excellency The Governor at Government House on Friday 14th November 2008. The warm hospitality extended by Her Excellency and Sir Nicholas Shehadie following the ceremony was greatly appreciated by the recipients and guests present. Awards on this occasion comprised 4 Silver Medals, 25 Bronze Medals, 21 Certificates of Merit, and 11 Letters of Commendation.

The June 2007 storms in Newcastle and the Hunter involved a large number of heroic actions in saving lives. This provided the special need for the Society to hold more than the usual annual investiture ceremony. The Newcastle Investiture took place on Wednesday 24 June 2009 at the Newcastle City Hall. The awards were presented the Society President, The Honourable Sir Laurence Street AC KCMG QC. Awards on this occasion comprised 5 Silver Medals, 28 Bronze Medals, 31 Certificates of Merit, and 1 Letter of Commendation.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Society's 131st Annual General Meeting was conducted on Monday 8th December 2008, when Councillors and Office Bearers were elected for the ensuing twelve months.

FINANCE

The Society's Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2009 and its Income and Expenditure Account for the year then ended have been audited and appear at the back of this publication.

DONORS

The financial position was only achieved through the generosity of those donors who are listed later herein. The New South Wales Government is a long time annual helper, whilst NRMA Insurance also provides significant support.

2008 – 2009 AWARDS

The awards described in this annual report, for the two ceremonies, comprise 7 Silver Medals, 57 Bronze Medals, 56 Certificates of Merit and 1 Galleghan Award. In addition, the Society issued 5 Letters of Commendation. To all recipients, the Society conveys the thanks, admiration and congratulations of the people of New South Wales.

KINDRED SOCIETIES

A happy working relationship exists with the Royal Humane Society in London, Royal Humane Society of Australasia in Melbourne and Royal Humane Society of New Zealand, to which bodies, together with other kindred organisations, the Society offers warm greetings.

APPRECIATION

For the past 132 years the Society has been awarding medals and certificates for acts of outstanding bravery. However, the work of the Society depends on the generous support of many organisations and individuals. Our annual Sydney investiture is facilitated by the Office of the Governor and Her Excellency's Official Secretary, Mr Brian L. Davies LVO and his staff who provide outstanding assistance to this vice regal occasion.

The New South Wales Fire Brigades provides the Society with our office and meeting room and considerable I.T. support. The NSW Police Force, NSW Fire Brigades and Ambulance Service of NSW remain major contributors to investigating and reporting upon cases presented for consideration by the Council. The cost of calligraphy to prepare the Society's Bravery Certificates is funded by a grant from NSW Maritime, who has generously supported the Society for many years.

We are most grateful for the financial assistance from a number of generous donors mentioned in this report particularly the New South Wales Government and NRMA Insurance.

This year the Society farewelled Ms Caroline Hewson AO who, after several years service as a Councillor has relocated to Adelaide. Her inclusion into the Order of Australia as an Officer in the June 2009 Birthday Honours, was well merited.

New members joining the Council of the Society this year are Ms Helen Lynch AM, Chairman of the Westpac Foundation and Ms Pip Murphy, Joint Chief Executive of the Australian Charities Fund.

The ongoing business is in the hands of the Honorary Secretary, Roland Millbank very ably supported by Assistant Secretary Nina Smith. Ms Smith was recently awarded a "Certificate of Excellence" for her contribution to the Society over the past 20 years. I acknowledge the professional contributions provided by our Honorary Treasurer, Mr Edgar Temple, the Honorary Solicitor, Mr Anthony McMinn, the Honorary Publicity Officer, Mr Stuart Doyle and the Honorary Auditor, Mr David McGrane.

Heroism is, for most of us, a difficult concept. We are dealing with ordinary persons who, with some disregard for their own life, come to the aid of others. They have not taken these steps for recognition or reward, but out of their concern for fellow human beings. It is a humbling experience for those of us contemplating these acts. While it is true that not all acts of heroism come to the attention of the Royal Humane Society, we do attempt to seek out as many brave acts as possible.

I wish to thank our Patron, the President, Sir Laurence Street, particularly for his outstanding contribution to the Newcastle Investiture in June, my fellow Councillors and those who assist in supporting roles for the dedication they bring to fulfilling the Society's objectives.

**Major General The Hon. Justice
C.R. HOEBEN, AM RFD
Chairman**

BACKGROUND TO THE SOCIETY

The Society was established as a result of the loss of the 351- ton paddle steamer s.s.Yarra and its 17 man crew in a south-east gale on 15th July, 1877, while attempting to re - enter Newcastle Harbour.

Four days later, a public meeting of citizens, under the chairmanship of the Reverend Dr Lang, at the Royal Exchange, Pitt Street, Sydney, decided to form the Society "for the relief of the widows, orphans and others dependent upon men lost in the marine service of our coast, or elsewhere, such relief to be distributed at the discretion of the committee".

The Society was instituted on 25th July, 1877, and its first meeting, under the presidency of Mr F. H. Dangar, was held on Friday, 27th July, 1877. Subscriptions had by then exceeded two thousand pounds.

The Society was formed as the National Shipwreck Relief Society of New South Wales. In 1902, His Majesty, King Edward VII gave permission for the Society to be known as the Royal Shipwreck Relief and Humane Society of New South Wales.

In 1968, Her Majesty The Queen approved the change of name to the Royal Humane Society of New South Wales in common with all British Commonwealth Nations.

OBJECTIVES

The original objectives of the Society were:-

1. to afford relief to widows, orphans and other dependents of seamen who lost their lives or were injured in shipwreck;
2. to assist crews of vessels wrecked in New South Wales waters; and
3. to grant medals or rewards for bravery in saving human life.

The necessity for the first and second objectives ceased when it was considered they were adequately covered by legal provisions. Pensions ceased to be paid in the late 1960s. In recent years, however, the Society has noted cases in which the utilisation of provisions enabling financial grants in selected circumstances could have been a desirable course. Discussions have taken place with the Australian Bravery Association which has such provisions in their constitution.

The Society, of course, has maintained its third objective which was widened to include acts of bravery in attempting to save human life.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

Extracted from the Thirty Second Annual Report of the Royal Shipwreck Relief and Humane Society of New South Wales for the Year ending 30th June 1909.

George Whitfield Jenner: Awarded a Silver Medal and a Certificate of Merit

On February 18th, 1909, Mr. W.E. Hart was bathing on the ocean beach at Newcastle, where there was a very strong back current and a rough sea, and he was carried out with great swiftness. On hearing the shouts that a man was drowning, Mr. Jenner immediately swam out, and reaching Mr. Hart he endeavoured to bring him to the beach, but it soon became evident that this was an impossible task, as they were both fast drifting further out to sea.

Mr. Jenner then determined to try and get Mr. Hart on to a belt of rocks running out to sea, and after making desperate efforts he eventually succeeded in landing him safely on the rocks, both being in a very exhausted condition.

George Whitfield Jenner was born in 1873 and died in 1950. He had a continuous record of municipal service in Wickham, Hamilton and Newcastle over 37 years. He was Mayor of Wickham in 1916 and 1917. He was Mayor of Hamilton 1921, 1926, 1927 and 1933. He joined Newcastle City Council at its inception in 1938 and was Mayor in 1939.

Jenner Parade in Hamilton South NSW 2303 was named in his honour.

HOW THE SOCIETY FUNCTIONS

Today, the management of the affairs of the Society is vested in a Council consisting of a Patron, a President, a Chairman, and Vice-Chairman, an Honorary Secretary, an Honorary Treasurer, (Publicity Officer, Auditor and Solicitor) and Councillors.

Cases of reported bravery are investigated by the New South Wales Police, and copies of the reports are distributed to Officers and Councillors of the Society in advance of all meetings, to enable consideration to be given to them before discussion. Voting at meetings determines the granting of awards.

The Society is supported by a subsidy from the New South Wales Government, supplemented by donations from organisations, corporations and citizens.

THE SOCIETY'S AWARDS

The Society's awards are the Galleghan Award, Silver Medal, Bronze Medal, Certificate of Merit, Letter of Commendation and the Sir Neville Pixley Book Award.

With the permission of the New South Wales Government, the obverse of the medals includes part of the Arms of the State of New South Wales, surrounded by the name of the Society. The reverse of the medal exhibits a Civic Wreath, which was the Roman reward for saving life, with the words, "Awarded to.....for Bravery". The name of each medal winner and the date of the act of bravery is engraved on the reverse of the medal. The medal is also numbered on its edge to indicate the consecutive number of the award by the Society.

The ribbon for all medals is light blue with a strip of dark blue on either side.

The Certificate of Merit is a scroll bearing the Arms of the State of New South Wales. It is inscribed with the recipient's name and signed by the President, Chairman and Secretary.

WEARING OF MEDALS AND RIBBONS

Recipients of Medals are entitled to wear the medal or ribbon (as appropriate) on the right breast. When only the ribbon is worn, a silver or bronze star emblem is worn centrally on the ribbon to denote the class of medal awarded to the wearer. Such wearing is officially authorized for the members of all uniformed services.

The Society does not provide duplicate medals. Lost or stolen medals may be replaced only to the recipient after an appropriate investigation.

Miniature medals are available for purchase from the Society.

STANHOPE GOLD MEDAL

The Stanhope Gold Medal, an award of the Royal Humane Society, was instituted in 1873 as the English Society's highest award for bravery each year.

In 1962, all kindred Commonwealth Societies were invited to nominate each year their best cases for adjudication for this award.

Since that time, nominations by the Royal Humane Society of New South Wales have been successful on nine occasions:

1963	Frederick John KNIGHT
1965	Lieutenant Barry J. CAMPBELL RAA
1980	Bruce Wallace McPHERSON
1982	Dulcie KALMS
1992	Rodney Stephen PETERS
1994	Aaron John LEDDEN
1996	Senior Constable Ian Maurice BOUGHTON
2001	Dr Richard MORRIS
	Ambulance Paramedic Christopher WILKINSON
	Ambulance Paramedic Paul FEATHERSTONE
2006	Oguz (Alex) TASKUN SC

THE GALLEGHAN AWARD

The Galleghan Award was instituted in 1996, and recognises what the Society considers to have been the most outstanding act of bravery in the year.

It is designated by a bar reading "Galleghan Award" affixed to the ribbon of the medal award.

The award is named after Brigadier Sir Frederick Galleghan DSO OBE ISO ED who was the Society's Secretary from 1958 until his death in 1971.

Sir Frederick was twice wounded in the Great War, and was awarded the Distinguished Service Order in the Second World War for his leadership and gallantry when commanding the 2/30th Australian Infantry Battalion at the battle of Gemas in Malaya.

This year it is awarded to Naomi Roskell.

NEWCASTLE INVESTITURE

For the past 132 years the Royal Humane Society of New South Wales has held a single annual investiture in Sydney to honour and acknowledge brave deeds by the citizens of New South Wales. However, the result of the June 2007 storms in Newcastle and the Hunter involving a large number (61) of heroic actions in saving lives, caused an exceptional change in procedure.

The need to recognize all of these brave deeds, arising from the extra-ordinary event of the June 2007 floods, greatly increased the number of awards scheduled for 2009. It provided the special need for the Society to hold more than the usual annual investiture ceremony.

For the first time in over 100 years the Council of the Society agreed to hold a separate "one off" investiture away from Sydney in Newcastle in 2009. Following gracious permission from the Lord Mayor of Newcastle, the investiture took place on Wednesday 24 June 2009 at the Newcastle City Hall utilising three separate venues within the City Hall, the Lord Mayor's Rooms, the Concert Hall and the Cummings Room.

Prior to the ceremony there was a civic reception hosted by the Deputy Lord Mayor, Dr. Graham Boyd for invited guests. These guests include state and local dignitaries and Councillors of the Royal Humane Society of New South Wales. Immediately prior to the commencement of the Investiture the Deputy Lord Mayor and the Investing Officer, The Honourable Sir Laurence Street AC KCMG QC, President of the Royal Humane Society of New South Wales and principal guests entered the Concert Hall in procession to take their seats.

The Investiture Ceremony took place in the Concert Hall where some 220 invited guests attended. Prior to the Investiture the recipients and their guests were entertained by music performed by the Ambulance Service Band. The band also played at the conclusion of the Investiture when the guests retired to the Cummings Room for refreshments.

The Society gratefully thanks the event MC, Mr Brian Boughton; the marshal's Lt.-Col. L. Kelly AM RFD and Lt.-Col. T. O'Brien RFD; the Police protocol officer, Sergeant Paul Sullivan; the Ambulance Service Protocol Team led by Mr John Playford, the Ambulance Service Band directed by Mr Colin Dunn and Ms Tina Johnson from the NSW Premiers Department. The Society also acknowledges the considerable assistance provided by the Newcastle City Council, particularly the provision of services without cost, and work undertaken by the NCC Event Co-ordinator, Mr Craig Foot.

Medals and Certificates of Merit were awarded at the Newcastle Investiture in recognition of the following brave deeds

Recipient	Case No.	Recipient	Case No.
ANDREWS, Tracey	N10	NICKISSON, Graham	N12
BAKER, Stephen	N4	NOFFKE, Ray	N8
BAUER, Georg	N8	O'DONNELL, Mark	N7
BENNETT, Steven	N8	OSBOURNE, Ian	N12
BILLINS, Stuart	N16	PARKER, Steven	N4
BURNELL, Andrew	N17	PARTRIDGE, Jon	N4
COX, Alfred	N6	PEARCE, Gary	N8
DE GILIO, Jack	N4	PETERSEN, Brendan	N5
DEE, David	N9	PRAINESS, Peter	N12
DEVEREUX, Paul	N4	RADCLIFFE, Benjamin	N8 & N14
DOHERTY, Paul	N14	RAMPLIN, Glen	N12

GEE, Brad	N16	RINDAL, Nigel	N11
GORDON, Lance	N7	ROBINSON, David	N13
GREEN, Murray	N4	ROSKELL, Naomi	N1
HANDICOTT, Les	N4	SEMMENS, Paul	N11
HARDY, Ashley	N4	SEWELL, George	N4
HARRIS, Robert	N4	SHARP, Kym	N15 & N16 N14 &
HENSHAW, Aaron	N4	SMITH, Craig	N17
HIGGINS, Jason	N2	SMITH, Gary	N16
HOBSON, Matthew	N8	STEELE, Andrew	N11
HOOTON, Brendan	N11	TAYLOR, Stephen	N4
INKSTON, Gerard	N4	THOMAS, William	N6
IRONS, Anthony	N16	THORNTON, Bruce	N8
JOHNSON, Melanie	N3 N9 &	TUCKER, Marc	N8
KING, John	N10	TURTON, Ian	N4
LANGHAM, Nathan	N12	WATTS, Clay	N11
McARTHUR, Daniel	N13	WEARY, Peter	N4
McEWEN, Jonathon	N7	WILEY, Tom	N4
McFADDEN, Ian	N12	WILKINSON, David	N7
MINERS, Michael	N4	WILLIAMS, Jason	N6
		YOUNG, Stephen	N8

SILVER MEDAL

Ms Naomi ROSKELL

N1

for the rescue of 7 persons trapped in floodwaters at New Lambton, NSW 2305 on 8 June 2007

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Mr Jason HIGGINS

N2

for the rescue of a woman from floodwaters at Weston, NSW 2326 on 8 June 2007

BRONZE MEDAL

Ms Melanie JOHNSON

N3

for the rescue of her 6 year old brother from floodwaters at Singleton, NSW 2330 on 8 June 2007

Newcastle Tug boat Crews *Watagan* and *Wickham*

SILVER MEDALS

Capt. Jack DE GILIO

Capt. Aaron HENSHAW

BRONZE MEDALS

Mr Stephen BAKER

Mr Paul DEVEREUX

Mr Murray GREEN
Mr Les HANDICOTT
Mr Ashley HARDY
Mr Robert HARRIS
Mr Gerard INKSTON
Mr Michael MINERS
Mr Steven PARKER
Mr Jon PARTRIDGE
Mr Stephen TAYLOR
Mr Ian TURTON
Mr George SEWELL
Mr Peter WEARY
Mr Tom WILEY

N4

for actions responding to vessels in distress at sea off Newcastle Harbour, NSW 2300 on 8 June 2007

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Probationary Constable Brendan John PETERSEN

N5

for the rescue of a woman motorist from floodwaters at Kotara, NSW 2289 on 8 June 2007

CERTIFICATES OF MERIT

Sergeant Alfred Alexander COX
Sergeant William Patrick THOMAS
Senior Constable Jason Thomas WILLIAMS

N6

for actions in the search for a missing person washed from roadway by floodwaters at New Lambton, NSW 2305 on 8 June 2007

CERTIFICATES OF MERIT

Leading Senior Constable Lance Raymond GORDON
Senior Constable Mark Joshua O'DONNELL
Senior Constable David WILKINSON
Constable Jonathon Michael McEWEN

N7

for the rescue of several persons from floodwaters at Edgeworth, NSW 2285 on 8 June 2007

SILVER MEDALS

Mr. Gary PEARCE
Mr. Matthew HOBSON

BRONZE MEDALS

Constable Ray Peter NOFFKE
Mr Steven BENNETT
Mr Marc TUCKER

CERTIFICATES OF MERIT

Leading Senior Constable Stephen William YOUNG
Senior Constable Georg BAUER
Senior Constable Bruce George THORNTON
Probationary Constable Benjamin Geoffrey RADCLIFFE

N8

for the rescue of a 12 year old boy from floodwaters at Maryland, NSW 2287 on 8 June 2007

CERTIFICATES OF MERIT

Sergeant John Anthony KING
Senior Constable David Brian DEE

N9

for the rescue of a man from floodwaters at Redhead, NSW 2290 on 8 June 2007

CERTIFICATES OF MERIT

Sergeant John Anthony KING
Senior Constable Tracey Lee ANDREWS

N10

for the rescue of a family trapped by floodwaters at Teralba, NSW 2284 on 8 June 2007

CERTIFICATES OF MERIT

Mr Andrew STEELE
Mr Brendan HOOTON
Mr Clay WATTS
Mr Nigel RINDAL
Mr Paul SEMMENS

N11

for attempted rescue of the Bragg/Holt family from a flooding creek at Somersby, NSW 2250 on 9 June 2007

BRONZE MEDALS

Senior Pilot Ian OSBOURNE
Senior Pilot Ian McFADDEN
Air Crewman Peter PRAINESS
Air Crewman Graham NICKISSON
Rescue Crewman Nathan LANGHAM
Rescue Crewman Glen RAMPLIN

N12

for the airborne rescue of the crew of the bulk carrier Pasha Bulker off Nobbys Beach, NSW 2300 on 8 June 2007

BRONZE MEDALS

Chief Inspector David Kenneth ROBINSON
Constable Daniel James McARTHUR

N13

for the rescue of two persons trapped by floodwaters in a vehicle at Narara, NSW 2250 on 8 June 2007

BRONZE MEDAL

Senior Constable Paul James DOHERTY

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Probationary Constable Benjamin Geoffrey RADCLIFFE

N14

for the rescue of a man from a burning building at Mayfield, NSW 2304 on 9 June 2007

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Sergeant Kym Francis SHARP

N15

for the rescue of a man trying to commit suicide at Brisbane Water, NSW 2250 on 9 June 2007

CERTIFICATES OF MERIT

Sergeant Anthony George IRONS

Sergeant Kym Francis SHARP

Ambulance Officer Stuart BILLINS

Ambulance Rescue Officer Gary SMITH

Ambulance Rescue Officer Brad GEE

N16

for the rescue of a bus driver trapped by floodwaters at Gosford, NSW 2250 on 9 June 2007

CERTIFICATES OF MERIT

Senior Constable Andrew John BURNELL

Probationary Constable Craig James SMITH

N17

for the rescue of a number of residents trapped in homes and vehicles at New Lambton, NSW 2305 on 8 June 2007

MEDALS AND CERTIFICATES OF MERIT AWARDED AT THE SYDNEY 2009 INVESTITURE IN RECOGNITION OF THE FOLLOWING BRAVE DEEDS

Recipient	Case No.	Recipient	Case No.
ABBOTT, Grahame	19	LEARNED, Michael Rae	34
ACE, Craig	38	MAXWELL, Paul	16
ANDERSON, Gregory	27	MOORE, Dino	36
BAILEY, Peter	11	NEAL, Gregory	14
BELLISSIMO, Alex	42	PACKHAM, Nicole	24
BERNARD, Brendan	7	PAULL, Michael	13
BOYD, Gavin	45	PURCELL, John	12
CARTER, Michael	35	REDDISH, James	10
CLOAKE, Darren	23	RODGERS, Anthony	1
COLLINS, Phillip	52	ROSKELL, Naomi	57
CONGRAM, Glenn	26	RYAN, Richard	31
CRAWFORD, David	41	SALWAY, Mark	51
CROSSAN, Brett	53	SCHEMBRI, Curtis	22
CROSSAN, Louise	54	SCOTT, Troy	43
DELLA VEDOVA, Kyran	56	SMITH, Anthony	17
DUCKER, Paul	18	SMITH, Brent	4
FINLAY, Kim	25	SMITH, Paul	39
FLOOD, Gregory	29	STANDEN, Gregory	37
FLOOD, Nerida	32	TAYLOR, Gregory	30
FORD, Scott	6	TAYLOR, Jenell	33
GAUNT, Andrew	5	THOMPSON, Paul	40
GHOSN, David	20	TOBIN, Kian	21
GIBSON, Peter	2	TOOMEY, John	8

GOSLING, Taylor	55	VEITCH, Anthony	46
GUNN, Ian	44	VIDAL, David	15
HAILSTONE, Scott	47	WATERS, Mark	9
HODGE, Robert	3	WHITEHEAD, Alexander	49
HOWARD, Edward	48	ZOSARS, Kelsie	28
JOHNSON, Christine	50		

1. 2. **BRONZE MEDALS**

Senior Constable Anthony RODGERS, NSW Police Force
Senior Constable Peter GIBSON, NSW Police Force

08/18

for their actions at the scene of a house fire at Condobolin, NSW 2877.

At about 10.20pm on 2 August 1998 Senior Constables Rodgers and Gibson attended a house fire in Condobolin. Advised by the Fire Brigade that there was a man still inside, Senior Constables Rodgers and Gibson went into the house and commenced searching.

After being forced to exit the building due to smoke, the police officers re-entered the smoke filled building and eventually succeeded in locating the unconscious man. Despite being carried from the building by Senior Constables Rodgers and Gibson the man failed to respond to CPR and died early the following day.

3.4.5.6. **BRONZE MEDALS**

Senior Firefighter Robert HODGE, NSW Fire Brigades
Senior Firefighter Brent SMITH, NSW Fire Brigades
Senior Constable Andrew Maxwell GAUNT, NSW Police Force
Constable Scott Andrew FORD, NSW Police Force

08/20

for their actions at the scene of a house fire at Bradbury, NSW 2560.

At about 11.20pm on 2 March 2006 Police and Fire Brigade officers arrived at a house fire at Bradbury, NSW 2560 where neighbours Mr. Craig Moloney and Mr. Paul Faulks, using garden hoses, were attempting to extinguish the flames.

Two persons were trapped inside the building. Senior Constable Gaunt and Constable Ford attempted entry at the rear of the building which was hampered by thick smoke until Senior Firefighter Smith (wearing breathing apparatus) forced an entry. Although faced with tremendous heat, smoke and zero visibility the three officers (Gaunt and Ford without breathing apparatus) succeeded in locating an unconscious woman and removed her to safety prior to administering first aid.

Senior Firefighter Hodge (wearing breathing apparatus) entered the front of the burning building. Locating an unconscious man in a rear bedroom he dragged the man through the house where Constable Ford helped him remove the man to safety.

Mr Craig Moloney and Mr Paul Faulks received the Society's Letter of Commendation for their actions during this incident.

7. **CERTIFICATE OF MERIT**

Mr Brendan BERNARD

08/21

for his actions at the scene of a town house fire at Homebush West, NSW 2140

At about 6am on 12 April 2004 at Homebush West, NSW 2140 Mr. Brendan Bernard awoke to find a neighbouring town house on fire. After phoning the fire brigade Mr. Bernard was advised that a young woman was trapped inside. After climbing onto the roof Mr Bernard punched open the glass bathroom window (cutting his right forearm in the process) and assisted the young woman to safety.

8. **BRONZE MEDAL**

Mr. John TOOMEY

08/23

for the rescue of a woman from a villa fire at Mathoura, NSW 2710

At about 7.20pm on 16 November 2005 Mr Toomey became aware that an adjoining villa was on fire. Inside the burning villa was a 73 year old woman recovering from hip surgery.

Due to thick smoke Mr. Toomey was unable to penetrate the front of the villa so he entered by a side entrance. After being forced out due to smoke inhalation Mr. Toomey entered the burning villa a second time and although faced with zero visibility he succeeded in locating the unconscious woman and proceeded to drag her to safety.

Mr. Toomey was treated for smoke inhalation at Deniliquin hospital; unfortunately the woman with 60% third degree burns did not survive.

9. **BRONZE MEDAL**

Retained Firefighter Mark WATERS

10. **CERTIFICATE OF MERIT**

Deputy Captain James REDDISH

08/24

for their actions, as members of Fire Brigade Station 383 Morisset, in the rescue of a family from a home unit fire at Morisset, NSW 2264

At 2.15am on 22 November 2005 firefighters from Station 383 Morisset attended a home unit fire above a Pizza Shop at Morisset. With access to the unit via the rear stairway denied due to flames and smoke, firefighters were only able to approach the first floor unit via a shop awning.

While other members of Station 383 Morisset assisted a boy aged 14 and a girl aged 7 from the shop awning Retained Firefighter Waters (experiencing problems with smoke inhalation due to a dislodged SCBA mask) and without a partner, entered the unit and succeeded in locating the unconscious mother in a bedroom and her 16 year old daughter (not breathing) in another part of the unit. After removing the unconscious woman from the unit Retained Firefighter Waters with the assistance of a partner carried out a final search of the building before going to hospital with smoke inhalation.

On the shop awning Deputy Captain Reddish performed CPR on the young woman for approximately 2 minutes until breathing and pulse were detected. She was then lowered to a waiting ambulance.

11.12. BRONZE MEDALS

*Senior Constable Peter Bruce Patrick BAILEY
Senior Constable John Edward PURCELL*

13.14. CERTIFICATES OF MERIT

15.16.

17. *Senior Constable Michael David PAULL
Sergeant Gregory David NEAL
Sergeant David John VIDAL
Constable Paul Robert MAXWELL
Senior Constable Anthony James SMITH*

08/25

for their actions at the scene of a home unit fire at Cabramatta, NSW 2166

Patrolling Cabramatta, at about 11.20pm on the 13 December 2005 Senior Constables Purcell and Bailey observed a third floor home unit fire. After calling for backup, they immediately went to the top floor running up the stairwell, alerting other residents in the process. Senior Constable Purcell forced entry into the unit and despite thick smoke and smoke haze, with assistance from Senior Constable Bailey, dragged an elderly burned and injured man outside the unit.

Backup police officers Senior Constable Paull, Sergeant Neal, Sergeant Vidal, Constable Maxwell and Senior Constable Smith then assisted in carrying the injured man down three flights of stairs to safety.

Even though the injured man indicated he was alone in the burning unit Senior Constables Purcell and Bailey re-entered the unit and despite heat and exploding glass checked all the rooms before exiting the burning unit.

18. 19. CERTIFICATES OF MERIT

20.

*Sergeant Paul Francis DUCKER
Leading Senior Constable Grahame Frederick ABBOTT
Senior Constable David John GHOSN*

08/26

*for their actions in the rescue of a man from the waters of the Hawkesbury River
(Bobbin Head Cowan Creek, NSW 2081)*

At about 8pm on 10 January 2006 police were called to Bobbin Head where a man in the water had injured himself and was threatening further self harm. After negotiations from police officers in a boat had failed, Sergeant Ducker, Leading Senior Constable Abbott and Senior Constable Ghosn in full police uniform entered the water and despite a strong tide and a protracted struggle succeeded in getting the man into the boat.

The man was transported to hospital in a police van and later transferred to psychiatric care.

21. SILVER MEDAL

Kian TOBIN (age: 5)

09/01

for his actions following a motor vehicle accident near Bourke, NSW 2840

At about 5pm on 11 March 2006 Kian Tobin and his father were returning home after putting out some yabby nets south west of Bourke. Mr. Tobin, with Kian in the front passenger seat, lost control of the vehicle causing it to run off the road and roll. The accident occurred about 5 ½ km west of the Mitchell Highway intersection.

Kian, who had minor cuts and abrasions, was unable to arouse his father. Realizing his father was in urgent need of medical attention, Kian set out on an unsealed road dressed only in a swimming costume and shirt and with only one sandal. Without a map, despite being disorientated from the collision, Kian worked out the correct direction to walk to find help.

With no water, little shade and 35 degree plus temperatures Kian walked for over 2 hours, covering about 5 kilometres despite two large blisters on his bare foot from the loose rocky road surface.

Kian managed to flag down a car near the Mitchell Highway and directed them to the accident scene and waited patiently until the ambulance arrived. Unfortunately Mr. Tobin did not survive the accident.

22. CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Curtis Michael SCHEMBRI (age: 9)

09/02

for his actions in trying to prevent a motor vehicle collision on the M5 motorway at Prestons, NSW 2170

At about 5.30pm on 1 May 2006 Curtis Schembri and his younger sister were rear seat passengers in a motor vehicle driven by their father along the M5 motorway. Taken ill suddenly, with his foot still on the accelerator, Mr. Schembri caused the vehicle to reach a speed of around 100km/h.

Although in heavy peak hour traffic Curtis, realising his father was unable to control the vehicle climbed into the front seat and steered the automobile until it collided with the metal guard rail and concrete barriers and came to rest.

Mr. Schembri and his two children were conveyed to Liverpool Hospital with Curtis in a neck brace.

23. BRONZE MEDAL

Sergeant Darren John CLOAKE, NSW Police Force

09/03

for his actions at the scene of a house fire at Auburn, NSW 2144

At about 5 pm on 23 May 2006 whilst driving home after completing his rostered shift, Sergeant Cloake saw a weather board house on fire in Auburn. Residents informed him that there were still two occupants inside. Entering the burning house through a rear entrance, although the whole house was completely filled with smoke and hot gases, Sergeant Cloake quickly located the occupants and led them to safety.

Sergeant Cloake then re entered and despite dense smoke checked all rooms to ensure everyone had been evacuated.

Before the arrival of emergency services, Sergeant Cloake alerted residents in adjoining properties of the potential danger.

24. CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Ms Nicole PACKHAM

09/04

for her actions at the scene of a fire in a backyard at Engadine, NSW 2233

Around midnight on 28 May 2006, at a backyard barbeque at Engadine a bottle of methylated spirits caught alight and blew flaming liquid onto a man sitting on a folding chair less than a metre away. An off duty Ambulance Officer, Nicole Packham immediately took charge of the situation. She placed

herself between the injured man and the barbeque, gave instructions for blankets, scissors and water before smothering the flames on the burning man and administering first aid.

The man was transported to hospital in a critical condition with third degree burns. He remained in hospital for seven weeks receiving several skin grafts and operations.

At the time of the accident Ms Packham was herself recovering from major injuries from a head on motor vehicle accident she was involved in several years earlier. Injured herself in the rescue attempt, she required ongoing treatment and surgery before returning to full duties as an ambulance officer.

25. BRONZE MEDAL

Mr Kim FINLAY

09/05

for the rescue of a man from the surf at Queenscliff, NSW 2096

On the afternoon of 11 June 2006 a Czech tourist who was surfing at Queenscliff Beach, North Steyne became caught in a rip. With surf ranging between 5 to 7 metres and sets coming in quickly the man was about 500 metres offshore and was unable to return to the beach under his own strength. His raised arm was noticed by Mr. Finlay who was observing the beach from his home unit balcony.

In failing light, with high seas and strong wind weather conditions, Mr. Finlay donned his wet suit and took his surf board down to the beach. Despite Water Police on the scene unable to get close enough to the victim due to the rough seas it took Mr. Finlay about 5 minutes to paddle out to the man through the rough surf and another 15 minutes to return the swimmer safely to the shore.

The victim was met by Police and Ambulance on the beach but declined any medical treatment.

26. 27. BRONZE MEDALS

Ambulance Officer Glenn CONGRAM

Ambulance Officer Gregory ANDERSON

09/06

for their actions at the scene of a motor vehicle accident at Dolphin Point via Ulladulla, NSW 2539

At 12.50 am on 15 January 2006 Ambulance Officers Congram and Anderson of Ulladulla Ambulance Station were in attendance with other emergency services personnel at the scene of a motor vehicle accident at Dolphin's Point. A vehicle had collided with a power pole trapping a male passenger in the wreckage. Although injured, the driver had been removed from the vehicle.

Due to the accident, power lines were arcing and an explosion occurred. Despite the danger of electrocution Ambulance Officers Congram and Anderson continued medical treatment to the injured man. A second explosion occurred this time with power lines down and in close proximity to the accident site however the ambulance officers, again continued medical treatment to the injured man.

After the power was turned off at 1.10 am emergency services were able to release the passenger from the vehicle at 1.40 pm when he was conveyed to hospital.

28. CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Ms Kelsie ZOSARS (age: 15)

09/07

for the rescue of 3 boys from a swimming hole at Urunga, NSW 2455

On Saturday 11 February Kelsie Zosars was at a local swimming hole near Urunga.

As she entered the water a branch from a large tree, on which three 13 year old boys were swinging from a rope, broke hitting the boys as they fell into the river. Only two boys surfaced, one covered in blood. Kelsie helped this boy to shore and gave him her shirt to stop the bleeding. With the second boy still in the water, Kelsie then dived under the water where she found the third boy trapped by the foot under the broken branch. Kelsie freed his foot and brought him to the surface. At this point the third boy was panicking and thrashing about in the water. Kelsie also swam to this boy and was assisted by another bystander to bring him to shore.

Kelsie gave instructions to other children at the scene before running to the nearest house for help. Later in the day she called at each of the boy's homes to enquire about their welfare.

29.30. BRONZE MEDALS

31.

*Mr Gregory John FLOOD
Mr Gregory Michael TAYLOR,
Mr Richard Leslie RYAN*

32.33. CERTIFICATES OF MERIT

*Mrs Nerida FLOOD
Mrs Jenell TAYLOR*

09/08

for their actions during a house fire at Shoalhaven Heads, NSW 2535

At about 1am on 26 June 2006 people at a social gathering noticed smoke rising in the sky. On investigation they found a house nearby on fire. The roof was intact but large flames could be seen inside.

Mr. Gregory Flood entered the rear of the house and found a male lying on the floor. He re entered the building with Mr. Richard Ryan and together they carried the badly burnt man from the building. After again re-entering the building through the rear of the house, Mr. Flood checked for possible further persons.

Mr. Flood joined Mr. Ryan and Mr. Gregory Taylor at the front of the house where all three entered the front rooms and checked for possible occupants until forced to retreat with the roof collapsing.

Mrs. Nerida Flood and Mrs. Jenell Taylor assisted in carrying the injured man from immediate danger. With no medical equipment available they administered first aid until emergency services arrived.

34. SILVER MEDAL

Mrs Michael Rae LEARNED

09/09

for her actions following a car accident at Coolatai, NSW 2402

On 13 July 2006 at about midnight Mrs Michael Rae Learned while travelling home on a country road with her two children aged 5 and 3 years, swerved to avoid a kangaroo and ended up in a ditch where the vehicle's exhaust pipe ignited with the long grass and fire then consumed the vehicle.

Mrs Learned's clothing caught fire as she rescued her children and she suffered 70% partial thickness burns to most of her body. The accident occurred in an isolated area. Still suffering from the accident Mrs. Learned carried her children for about two kilometres in darkness until she came upon a remote homestead. The homestead owner, Todd McMaster, succeeded in contacting emergency services and directed them to his property by UHF radio and flashing lights on his 4WD vehicle.

Mrs Learned and her children were conveyed by ambulance to Goondiwindi where they were airlifted to hospital.

Mr Todd McMaster has received the Society's Letter of Commendation for his actions during this incident.

35. BRONZE MEDAL

Mr Michael Hastings CARTER

36. CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Mr Dino Anthony MOORE

09/10

for their actions at the scene of a motor vehicle fire at Nyngan, NSW 2825

At about 2pm on 24 August 2006 near Nyngan a car and caravan ran off the road, hit a tree, and jack-knifed trapping a woman in the driver's seat. The passenger, her husband, was injured. The front of the vehicle was badly damaged and a fire broke out.

Mr Carter, travelling behind, immediately went to their assistance. After helping the injured man from the crashed vehicle with the assistance of Mr Moore, Mr Carter then re entered the smoke filled vehicle and proceeded to pull the woman across the console and drag her out of the passenger side door. Again, in the latter stages he was assisted by Mr Moore

The man and woman both suffered serious injuries which required hospitalisation.

37.38. CERTIFICATES OF MERIT

Mr Gregory James STANDEN

Mr Craig Allan ACE

09/11

for the rescue of a man from a home unit fire at Lithgow, NSW 2790

At about 10.45am on 12 September 2006 a fire broke out in a second floor home unit in Main Street, Lithgow. Two neighbours, Mr Standen and Mr Ace immediately went to the unit. After forcing access to the unit, despite extreme heat and thick black smoke they located a man lying against the door of the unit. It was necessary to force the door further to gain access however once inside, the two men picked up the occupant and carried him out of the unit and down to the ground floor landing.

The occupant of the unit sustained upper airway burns and was transported by helicopter to Sydney.

39.40. BRONZE MEDALS

41.

Constable Paul SMITH, NSW Police Force

Constable Paul THOMPSON, NSW Police Force

Constable David James CRAWFORD, NSW Police Force

09/12

for their actions at the scene of a fatal motor vehicle accident and fire at Padstow Heights, NSW 2211 .

At about 4pm on 2 October 2006 Constables Smith and Thompson on duty, and Constable Crawford, off duty in a private vehicle, responded to a serious motor vehicle accident on Henry Lawson Drive, Padstow Heights. In a high speed, head on collision, the single woman driver died on impact and the other driver, a young male, was severely injured and trapped in his vehicle which had caught fire in the engine bay.

Several bystanders had unsuccessfully attempted to open the male driver's door prior to the officers' arrival. Constables Smith and Thompson tried unsuccessfully to extinguish the fire now inside the vehicle. Constable Crawford entered the rear of the vehicle and released the man's seat belt whilst Constables Smith and Thompson entered the front area of the vehicle. Although parts of the victim's

body were on fire, together the three officers successfully removed the man from the vehicle through flames and smoke. Despite his skin being very slippery from his burns, they were able to drag the victim to a safe distance away from the burning wreck.

42.43. CERTIFICATES OF MERIT

***Mr Alex BELLISSIMO
Mr Troy Brendan SCOTT***

09/13

for the rescue of a man from the surf at Collaroy Beach, NSW 2097

At about 6.10am on 27 October 2006 a man about 50 metres from the shore got into difficulties in the surf at Collaroy Beach. After being alerted to the man's cries for help, Mr Bellissimo and Mr Scott, attending a fishing clinic nearby, immediately entered the water and swam out to him.

After reaching the exhausted man, Mr. Bellissimo and Mr. Scott laid him on his back and brought him back to the shore. Once on the beach because he had swallowed a lot of water and was barely conscious, he was placed in the recovery position whilst awaiting the ambulance.

44. BRONZE MEDAL

Mr Ian Peter GUNN

09/14

for the attempted rescue of a man from the surf at Kianga Beach, NSW 2546

At about 2.45pm on 23 November 2006 Mr Gunn and his wife took some visiting English friends to Kianga Beach. The Englishman entered the surf and got caught in a rip taking him off shore. Realizing his friend was in trouble Mr Gunn entered the water to go after his friend who was now about 300 metres from the shore. When he reached his friend he appeared to be totally exhausted.

Mr Gunn began towing the man, swimming with the rip and trying to get him to float his legs instead of letting them drop. A number of times Mr Gunn lost his grip and had to dive down to bring the man back to the surface. Each time the weight of the man pulled Mr Gunn under water also. Finally the man dropped so far below the surface that Mr Gunn was unable to see him. At this point Mr Gunn was struggling to stay afloat himself and only just made it back to the shore in a state of exhaustion assisted to the beach by his wife who ran into the waist deep water.

The man's body was located at about 3.20pm by emergency services using a Jet Ski. He was unable to be resuscitated.

45.46. CERTIFICATES OF MERIT

***Mr Gavin BOYD
Mr Anthony VEITCH***

09/15

for the rescue of two girls from the surf at Manning Point, NSW 2430

While swimming at Manning Point on 26 November 2006 two girls started being swept out to sea and soon signalled for help. Mr Boyd ran to his nearby home to get his surf board and also to contact his friend Mr Veitch. Returning to the beach, Mr Boyd made his way through the waves and at the same time Mr Veitch arrived at the beach and started swimming out.

Both girls were totally exhausted and struggling to stay afloat. Mr Veitch swam to the nearest girl and kept her afloat whilst Mr Boyd paddled out to the other girl. Mr Boyd took that girl to the shore and then returned to take the other girl from Mr Veitch who then swam back to the shore himself.

47.48. CERTIFICATES OF MERIT

***Mr Scott HAILSTONE
Mr Edward HOWARD***

09/16

for the rescue of a woman from a vehicle on fire after crashing over an embankment at Mount Panorama, Bathurst, NSW 2795

At about 3.15pm on 5 December 2006 a vehicle left the picnic area at Mount Panorama. It careered about 150 metres down the hill and after crashing, a container of petrol in the vehicle was ignited by a cigarette and the car caught alight.

Although she had exited the vehicle, the woman collapsed nearby as her vehicle became engulfed in flames. With the grass on the hillside on fire Mr Hailstone and Mr Howard went down the hill to the woman's assistance. She was conscious but failed to respond to them. Flames were coming out of the car windows and as the woman seemed unable to help herself, the two men picked her up and carried her about 100 metres up Mount Panorama to safety.

At the time of the accident the wind had picked up and was blowing up Mount Panorama which caused the fire to spread fast and burnt about half a hectare of grass. The car was destroyed by the fire and the woman was admitted to hospital.

49. CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Alexander WHITEHEAD (age: 12)

09/17

for the rescue of a woman who was drowning at Shaws Bay in Ballina 2478

At about 10.30am on the morning of 19 January 2007 Alexander, in an inflatable dinghy, went to the aid of an unconscious woman in the water at Shaw Bay, East Ballina. With the assistance of a man in the water, who had attracted his attention, Alexander managed to reach the woman and hold her head above water. With the man holding the woman and the dinghy, between them they managed to reach the shore where the man (subsequently identified as the woman's husband) performed Expired Air Resuscitation until the ambulance arrived.

The woman had suffered an epileptic seizure from which she subsequently recovered.

50. BRONZE MEDAL

Ms Christine JOHNSON

09/18

for the rescue of an elderly woman from a house fire at Arncliffe NSW 2205

At about 11am on 1 February 2007 a fire broke out in a house at Arncliffe. Observing that an elderly woman had entered the burning house and did not reappear, Ms Johnson, Principal of the school directly opposite, entered the building on her hands and knees. Grabbing the completely disorientated elderly woman, Ms Johnson guided her through the dense smoke, crawling up the hallway until they reached the front door and safety.

The lounge room area was completely destroyed by the fire and smoke. Fire Officers informed Police that this fire was one of the hottest fires they had encountered.

51. BRONZE MEDAL

Mr Mark David SALWAY

09/19

for his actions in the rescue of a man from the surf at North Wollongong NSW 2500

On the afternoon of 17 February 2007 a man entered the surf at Puckey's Beach, North Wollongong, got caught in a rip and was dragged approximately 100 metres out to sea.

Noticing the man was in distress Mr Salway, who had been jogging along the beach, obtained a body board from some children on the beach and swam out to the man. The man was in a distressed and exhausted state when Mr Salway reached him. Mr Salway helped him onto the board and stayed with him until Surf Life Savers reached them with a rescue board and returned the man safely to the beach.

Sea conditions were described as, "very choppy with a strong rip and large groups of blue bottles in the water".

52. BRONZE MEDAL

Mr Phillip John COLLINS

09/20

for his actions at the scene of a heavy vehicle road accident at Tumut NSW 2720

At about 11.00 am on 24 February 2007 a timber truck driver lost control of his vehicle whilst negotiating a bend on Bombowlee Creek Road, Tumut. The vehicle rolled onto the driver's side and ended up down an embankment. The driver and his 14 year old son were trapped within the vehicle which caught fire shortly after impact.

Mr Gordon Booby, in a water truck, and Mr Collins responded to the accident. Despite the fire in the truck cabin, fuelled by the pierced fuel tank, Mr Collins climbed to the cabin area and after obtaining a large piece of timber pried the door open and assisted the boy, who had serious injuries to his arm, from the cabin and took him across to the other side of the road.

Mr Collins returned to the burning cabin and although he tried desperately to help the driver, he was unable to pull him free as his legs were trapped under the crushed console.

During these actions Mr Booby had positioned his water truck next to the crashed vehicle and was attempting to extinguish the fire.

Unfortunately despite the rescue attempts of Mr Collins and Mr Booby, the fire engulfed the cabin of the prime mover resulting in the death of the driver.

Mr Gordon John Booby has received the Society's Letter of Commendation for his actions during this incident.

53.54. BRONZE MEDALS

Constable Brett James CROSSAN
Constable Louise Anne CROSSAN

09/21

for their actions during an attempted surf rescue at Byron Bay, NSW 2481

Responding to a report that a swimmer was in trouble at Belongil Beach, Byron Bay at 4.15pm on 6 March 2007, Constables Brett Crossan and Louise Crossan entered the water immediately on reaching the beach.

The swimmer, a 26 year old Japanese national woman, had been swimming with her sister and a male friend when she was dragged by a strong undertow into a seaweed filled gutter, estimated as being 20 metres long and 30 metres wide with depth being about chest level.

In heavy seas with overcast conditions, intense rain and a strong active rip pushing into the gutter the officers searched for the woman in these treacherous conditions for approximated 20 minutes until the arrival of other emergency services including surf life savers and two rotary wing aircraft.

Conditions were so extreme that a search of the gutter could not be continued by surf life saving craft due to propellers being fouled by the seaweed. Unfortunately after extensive searching over several days, the woman was not located and presumed drowned.

55.56. BRONZE MEDALS

Mr Taylor GOSLING

Mr Kyran DELLA VEDOVA

09/22

for the rescue of a man from the surf at Woonona Beach, Bulli NSW 2516

On 31 March 2007 at about 9.30am, riding their bikes near Woonona Beach, Mr Gosling and Mr Della Vedova were approached by a man who alerted them to a person floating in the surf. The men ran about 100 metres to the beach where they removed some of their clothing and both entered the water, swimming about 40 -50 metres across a deep channel to reach the unconscious swimmer. The man was face down, wearing a wetsuit and helmet. His surfboard was still attached. Aware that the man may have spinal injuries Mr Gosling and Mr Della Vedova carefully rolled him over, taking care to support his neck. It took several minutes to swim with the unconscious man back to the beach.

Once on the beach, the two rescuers took control by placing the man in the recovery position before a lifeguard arrived on a quad bike with oxygen. Mr Gosling and Mr Della Vedova assisted Ambulance personnel in removing the man from the beach.

57. GALLEGHAN AWARD

Ms Naomi ROSKELL

09/N1

for the rescue of 7 persons trapped in floodwaters at New Lambton NSW 2305

On Friday 8 June 2007 the coastal city of Newcastle, New South Wales and the adjacent Hunter Valley and adjoining Central Coast experienced continuous gale force winds and torrential rain from prevailing severe low pressure systems for an extended period of almost 24 hours. In addition to the severe weather at sea with 18-20 metre swells with high winds, there were numerous acute emergency situations arising throughout the city due to extensive floodwaters (often containing sewage), falling trees and downed power lines.

Ms Roskell noticed that a number of persons had been caught by floodwaters and were trapped in their cars. Responding to this emergency situation on the evening of 8 June 2007, Ms Roskell demanded assistance from the attendant at a service station who, at that time had the doors locked. She obtained 2 lengths of rope from the service station and after attaching one end to a light pole and the other to her waist, she then entered the chest deep floodwaters.

She made her way to the three people who were trapped on the roof of their car. She assisted these people to the safety of the service station. Ms Roskell then returned to the raging floodwaters and assisted an elderly male who was clinging to the bull bar of a 4 wheel drive vehicle. This male was wearing gum boots filled with water and was in danger of being swept away. Ms Roskell managed to assist him to the safety of the service station.

Finally, Ms Roskell again entered the floodwaters and assisted three stranded children back through the floodwaters to the service station.

During the year, the following awards were also made:

LETTERS OF COMMENDATION

Probationary Constable Craig James Smith

Craig Moloney

Paul Faulks

Todd McMaster

Gordon John Booby

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from:-**

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THE YEAR ENDED
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