



AWARDS FOR BRAVERY INVESTITURE

GOVERNMENT HOUSE

SYDNEY

Thursday 8 November 2018

At 3:00 pm

PROGRAM

Official Party Enters the Ballroom

His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd)
Governor of New South Wales and Mrs Linda Hurley
enter the Ballroom

(all stand)

National Anthem

His Excellency's opening remarks

Recipients are invested

His Excellency's closing remarks

His Excellency and Mrs Hurley followed by
Official Party move to the Arcade

Recipients and Guests move to the Arcade
where refreshments will be served

His Excellency and Mrs Hurley withdraw

Guests depart

Music by the
Australian Army Band

The Royal Humane Society of New South Wales

Patron-In-Chief

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

Patron

His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd)
Governor of New South Wales

President

Mr Donald McDonald AC

Chair

Mrs Beatrice Gray

Vice Chair

Ms Dianne Truss

Honorary Treasurer

Mr Jim O'Connell

Councillors

Major General The Honourable Justice Clifton Hoeben AM RFD (Ret'd)

Rear Admiral Anthony Hunt AO RAN (Ret'd)

Colonel Alexander Dangar (Ret'd)

Mr David Turner

Commissioner Michael Fuller APM, NSW Police Force

Represented by Chief Inspector Bruce Griffin

Commissioner Paul Baxter QSO, Fire and Rescue NSW

Represented by Deputy Commissioner Malcolm Connellan AFSM

Commissioner Dominic Morgan ASM, Ambulance Service of NSW

Represented by Superintendent Michael Bray

Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons AFSM, NSW Rural Fire Service

Commissioner Mark Smethurst DSC AM, NSW State Emergency Service

Represented by Deputy Commissioner Greg Newton

Honorary Secretary and Public Officer – Mr Peter Stathis AFSM

Assistant Secretary – Mrs Julia Simonides

Honorary Publicity Officer – Mr John Hoban

Life Governors

Major General Gordon Maitland AO OBE RFD ED (Ret'd)

Major General Raymond Sharp AO RFD ED (Ret'd)

Mr Alan Batley AM

Mr Stewart Doyle

Vice Admiral Ian Mac Dougall AC AFSM RAN (Ret'd)

The Royal Humane Society of New South Wales was instituted on 25 July 1887. The Society was formed as the National Shipwreck Relief Society and held its first meeting at the Royal Exchange, Sydney on Friday 25 July 1887.

In 1902 His Majesty King Edward VII gave approval for the Society to be known as the Royal Shipwreck Relief and Humane Society of NSW.

In 1968 Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II approved the change of name to the Royal Humane Society of NSW in common with all Commonwealth Nations.

The Society was Incorporated on 26 February 2010.

The objective of the Society is to give public recognition to acts of bravery by bestowing awards on those who risk their own lives in attempting to save the lives of others and by so doing promote brave and courageous acts in the community and benefit the public in general through encouragement of such acts.

The Society's Awards are the Galleghan Award, Gold Medal, Silver Medal, Bronze Medal, Certificate of Merit, Letter of Commendation and the Sir Neville Pixley Award. The latter is a special award to recognise bravery by a young person in the performance of a humane act.

The Galleghan Award, instituted in 1996, recognises the most outstanding act of bravery in the year. The winner of the Galleghan Award is nominated by the Society for consideration to receive the Stanhope Medal.

The Stanhope Gold Medal, which is an award of the Royal Humane Society (England), was instituted in 1873 as the English Society's highest award for bravery each year. Since 1962, all kindred Commonwealth Societies have been invited to nominate each year their best cases for adjudication for this Award.

SOCIETY AWARDS

The Galleghan Award

The Galleghan Award recognises the most outstanding act of bravery during the preceding twelve months.



Gold Medal



Silver Medal



Bronze Medal



Certificate of Merit

Letter of Commendation

Sir Neville Pixley Award

The Sir Neville Pixley Award is a special award for brave children or children who have performed humane acts.

The Stanhope Gold Medal

The Stanhope Gold Medal is an Award made under the Charter of the Royal Humane Society (England). It was instituted in 1873 and is the English Society's highest award for bravery in each year.

In 1962 all kindred Commonwealth Societies were invited to nominate their most outstanding cases for inclusion in the adjudication for the award Stanhope Gold Medal.



2018 AWARDS

SILVER MEDALS

Senior Constable Timothy Duffy, NSW Police Force
Senior Constable Luke Warburton, NSW Police Force
Security Guard Allen Andrews

BRONZE MEDALS

Sergeant Troy Handley, NSW Police Force
Constable Lisa Myers, NSW Police Force
Security Guard Barry Jennings
Security Guard Barry Wright
Ambulance Paramedic Michael Fifield-Smith, Ambulance Service of NSW
Ambulance Paramedic Andrew Spasic, Ambulance Service of NSW

For their actions arising out of a violent incident in the Nepean Hospital, Penrith on 12 January 2016.

The police took an offender to Nepean Hospital for observation. After they departed he was in the emergency department where he took a female registrar hostage, forcing her to sit on the floor with his left arm tightly around her chest. In his right hand he held the pointed end of a pair of surgical scissors to her throat.

Senior Constable Warburton was the first to respond. He tried to defuse the situation which was escalating causing serious concerns for the registrar's safety.

When Senior Constable Duffy and Constable Myers arrived, Senior Constable Warburton applied capsicum spray and he and Senior Constable Duffy rushed the offender grappling with him to drop the scissors. They were assisted by Security Guards Wright and Jennings whilst Security Guard Andrews dragged the registrar to safety by her legs. Constable Myers struck the offender repeatedly with her baton.

In the ensuing struggle the offender removed Senior Constable Warburton's service pistol from its thigh holster and discharged one round striking the constable in the lower abdomen causing life-threatening injuries. Security Guard Andrews quickly dragged Senior Constable Warburton from the bay.

As Senior Constable Duffy tried to grab the pistol, the offender fired a second shot which ricocheted and struck Security Guard Jennings in the shin. During the struggle Senior Constable Duffy managed to cause a stoppage of the pistol but no-one present was aware of this and the offender waved the pistol at Constable Myers and others in the vicinity.

Ambulance Paramedics' Fifield-Smith and Spasic heard the gunshots and rushed to the scene where Constable Myers still had her pistol drawn and was yelling at the offender to drop the weapon. Without regard for their own safety, the paramedics commenced to treat the injured police officer and security guard.

When Sergeant Handley arrived, Senior Constable Duffy and Security Guard Wright were continuing to wrestle with the offender who was still attempting to fire the pistol. Sergeant Handley joined the struggle and the pistol was eventually released from the offender's grip and he was handcuffed.



BRONZE MEDALS

Sergeant Christopher YORK, NSW Police Force

Senior Constable Patrick RAFTERY, NSW Police Force

For their actions in the rescue of two women from a submerged motor vehicle at Condong on 23 September 2016.

A motor vehicle was accidentally driven into the Tweed River on the Tweed Valley Way at Condong. It became submerged, trapping the driver and her passenger.

Senior Constable Raftery attended and entered the river to rescue them. Sergeant York, who was off duty, came across the incident and entered the river to assist. The water was murky and cold and there was significant danger of the vehicle sliding deeper into the river further endangering the officers' lives.

They removed the two women from the submerged vehicle. The driver had suffered minor injuries. CPR was performed on the passenger who later died in hospital.



BRONZE MEDAL

Senior Constable Anthony HOPLEY, NSW Police Force

For his actions in preventing a suicide by self-immolation at Denman on 8 May 2016.

Senior Constable Hopley and another police officer responded to a report of a man threatening suicide by self-immolation. The man was in the backyard of a home. He was agitated and had doused himself in petrol and had a cigarette lighter. Senior Constable Hopley kept the cigarette lighter within his sight whilst he negotiated with the man.

After 30 minutes of negotiations the man said, "You have been good to me, but I need to go now" and then tried to ignite his clothing with the lighter. Senior Constable Hopley covered the lighter with his hands and a scuffle ensued whilst the man continued to try to ignite himself. Other police officers in attendance used a fire extinguisher to douse the lighter. During the scuffle Senior Constable Hopley suffered bruising and injuries to his face.



SILVER MEDAL

Constable Blake LANGELAAR, NSW Police Force

BRONZE MEDAL

Mr Mark SCHONELL

Mr Shane RUSSO

For their actions in the rescue of two teenage girls and a rescuer at Warriewood Beach on 9 January 2016.

Two teenage girls were swimming close to the shore at Warriewood Beach when one became caught in a rip and the other went to her aid. Mark Schonell, who was fishing from the beach, went to their rescue. Shane Russo ran down the beach and entered the water to assist.

In response to a 000 call Constable Langelaar and another police officer arrived to find the four persons still in the water with Mark Schonell now caught in the rip and experiencing difficulty.

Constable Langelaar ran across the sand removing his uniform and as he entered the water he was handed a rescue float. By this time the girls and Shane Russo had returned to a standing spot and were assisted from the water.

Constable Langelaar swam out to Mark Schonell, who, by this time was fighting for his life. Constable Langelaar tied the rescue float to him and then swam him sideways across the rip. Once out of the main pull of the rip he then swam him through the waves and dragged him onto the beach where he was found to be non-responsive. He was transferred to Mona Vale Hospital and remained in intensive care for 3 days. Constable Langelaar's prompt response had saved his life.

**BRONZE MEDAL**

Senior Constable Carl WILKINSON, NSW Police Force

For his actions in a cliff face rescue at Maroubra Beach on 6 May 2016.

Senior Constable Carl Wilkinson was off duty and on Maroubra Beach when he was told that a man had fallen over the nearby cliff edge. He saw the man lying face down on a rock ledge about 15 to 20 metres below the cliff top and he observed some movement.

He scaled down the cliff face. The tide was rising, and intermittent waves threatened to dislodge the injured man. Senior Constable Wilkinson did his best to shield them both from the force of the water, placing his own life in danger to preserve the injured man. He rendered first aid and stayed with him until help arrived about fifteen minutes later. A helicopter winched the man out, but he died from his injuries.



BRONZE MEDAL
Mr Travis BOLAND

For his actions in the rescue of two persons following a motor vehicle accident at Yeoval on 15 October 2016.

The driver of a Hilux and his 9-year-old son were travelling along Renshaw McGirr Way ahead of a vehicle being driven by Travis Boland. He noticed the Hilux drifting towards the left before leaving the road altogether. It uprooted a tree, spun and eventually landed on its wheels.

Travis Boland stopped to check on the occupants. The vehicle had caught fire, and, with the assistance of a second person he removed the two occupants to a safe location before the arrival of emergency services. Shortly after their removal the vehicle was engulfed by fire.

The driver and his son were airlifted to Westmead Hospital.



BRONZE MEDALS
Station Officer Jeffrey MORSE, Fire and Rescue NSW
Qualified Firefighter Stuart KING, Fire and Rescue NSW

For their actions in responding to a gas leak at Haymarket on 25 August 2014.

Fire crews attending a serious fire at Market City in Haymarket were advised that a truck had severed a gas main in the basement loading dock and that a large amount of gas was escaping.

The immediate area was evacuated and attempts to locate the gas isolation valves were unsuccessful. The gas company advised that there was no gas shut off to the building at street level. Power to the building could not be isolated as the main switch room was also in the basement loading dock.

Station Officer Morse and Firefighter King volunteered to enter the basement loading dock area to attempt to locate the main gas valve and shut it off. Wearing breathing apparatus, they made their way to the bottom of the ramp and into the loading dock.

They discovered that their protection hose line was not long enough to reach the location of the leak nor the main valve room. To further compound their difficulties, painters had removed all signage from the doors in the loading dock area and the keys which had been provided to them did not fit any of the locked doors.

Despite the danger of explosion and the deafening noise caused by the escaping gas, they systematically forced entry into the locked doors and inside the third door they located the valve room and successfully shut off the main gas valves.



SILVER MEDAL

Senior Constable David DYKES, NSW Police Force

For his actions in the attempted rescue of a child from a house fire at Claymore on 5 March 2013

When Senior Constable Dykes responded to a report of a house fire at Claymore, a number of occupants had escaped but he was informed that a 4-year-old child was believed to be upstairs.

Without regard for his personal safety, Senior Constable Dykes made two attempts to enter the house, which was well ablaze, to rescue the child. Both times he ran up the stairs to the landing but was forced back by flames and smoke which had become more intense and on the second attempt the paint was melting on the walls and debris was falling.

The child's body was later found in an upstairs bedroom and Senior Constable Dykes was treated at the scene for shock and smoke inhalation.



BRONZE MEDALS

Mr Bailey COOPER

Mr Ryan BARRETT

For their actions in going to the rescue of a taxi driver being assaulted by two persons at Woollooware on 11 June 2016.

Bailey Cooper and Ryan Barrett were in the 7-Eleven store at a service station at Woollooware when they witnessed a taxi driver being kicked and punched by a man who had opened the driver's door. The taxi driver tried to drive away but a woman entered the taxi on the passenger's side and assaulted him. The taxi driver got out of the vehicle and was knocked to the ground where he was kicked and punched by both assailants.

Bailey Cooper and Ryan Barrett insisted that the console operator unlock the door and they ran from the safety of the shop to assist the taxi driver who was now unconscious. They put him into a recovery position and sought to protect him from further assaults whilst they were subjected to abuse and assaults until the assailants hailed another taxi and fled. Bailey Cooper gave chase and provided sufficient information to enable the police to locate and arrest the offenders. The taxi driver was admitted to St George Hospital.



CERTIFICATES OF MERIT

Mr Adrian POLLEY

Mr Nabil BARDOUH

For their actions in the rescue of a man from a house fire at Berala on 20 January 2015.

A fire started in a house at Brixton Road Berala. Nabil Bardouh and Adrian Polley were in the vicinity when they both noticed grey smoke coming from Brixton Road.

They arrived at the house to find the front engulfed in flames. Mr Bardouh went to the rear where he got the door open but was unable to enter due to smoke and heat. He yelled out to see if anyone was inside but after receiving no response he ran to the driveway side of the house. Meantime Mr Polley went to two cars in the driveway to see if they were unlocked and could be moved away.

At this point they both heard and saw the fingertips of a person tapping on a window. They could not see a face due to the thick smoke. Between them they smashed the window and when there was sufficient clearance they grabbed onto the person (a 51-year-old man), pulled him through the window, walked him to a safe place and ascertained that no-one else was inside. The man was treated at the scene for minor injuries and the house was destroyed by the fire.



SIR NEVILLE PIXLEY AWARD

Miss Georgia RITTER

For her actions in going to the aid of her mother who was trapped under a vehicle at Bundook on 2 May 2017.

Mrs Natalie Ritter was driving a rugged terrain vehicle on the family's remote rural property at Bundook. The only other person at the property was her daughter Georgia, then aged 4, who was in the house about 700 metres away. Whilst attempting to make a three point turn the vehicle went off a steep embankment and rolled before coming to rest pinning Mrs Ritter underneath.

Georgia ran to her mother, falling and grazing her face as she negotiated the steep terrain. She then returned to the house and telephoned 000 providing sufficient detail to the Emergency Services for them to give life saving information and to locate the accident site.

Mrs Ritter remained trapped for 3 hours and was airlifted to hospital in a serious condition. But for Georgia's actions this accident could have ended in tragedy.



SILVER MEDALS

Mr Thomas MILLER

Mr Michael LEACH

For their actions in the attempted rescue of a woman driver following a motor vehicle accident near Cowra on 27 August 2016.

On 27 August 2016, a motor vehicle was driving along the Mid-Western Highway, when it veered across the road, collided with a tree, rolled and then came to rest. Major damage was caused to the driver's side trapping the driver in the vehicle, and the fuel lines were severed causing a fire in the engine.

Thomas Miller and Michael Leach came upon the scene and noticing flames from the front bonnet of the car, they went to assist. It was dark as the area was unlit. Thomas Miller contacted emergency services and with Michael Leach assisted the passenger who, although injured had got himself out of the car and was trying to release the driver who was still in the car.

Mr Miller and Mr Leach carried the passenger away from the vehicle and then returned to the vehicle and attempted to rescue the driver who was pinned behind the steering wheel and appeared to be losing consciousness.

Whilst they were trying to gain access to the driver's side of the vehicle the flames entered the cabin and the vehicle caught fire. The fire intensified driving them back so that they were unable to save the driver who was incinerated in the vehicle. Both were distraught and suffering shock when the emergency services arrived.



GOLD MEDAL

The late Mr Antonio ROKOV

Posthumous Award for his actions in saving the life of a teenage boy, at the cost of his own, in a skydiving accident at Goulburn Airport on 21 November 2015.

Mr Rokov was a very experienced skydiver who had completed many jumps including during military service.

On 21 November 2015, while working as an instructor for a private company, he performed a tandem skydive with a teenage boy. Up to that point the weather conditions had been considered suitable for skydiving.

They jumped from the aircraft and the parachute deployed but when they were only a short distance from the ground and preparing for landing a sudden wind gust caused the parachute to collapse thereby accelerating their descent.

Just before impacting the ground Mr Rokov rolled and positioned himself so as to take the brunt of the impact for the boy who landed across his body. Mr Rokov died instantly but his actions saved the life of the boy who, although seriously injured, survived.

Mrs Samantha Rokov will accept the award on behalf of her late husband.



SILVER MEDAL
Mr Colin SEMAAN

For his actions in apprehending a male who had stabbed another male at Camperdown on 10 December 2015.

An altercation occurred in the street between two men, one of whom was holding a long-bladed knife and lunging at the other. The victim was eventually pinned to the ground screaming for help, with the attacker standing over him.

Colin Semaan, who was driving past, saw the altercation, stopped his car and approached on foot. Mr Semaan then attempted to subdue and disarm the attacker who repeatedly lunged towards them with his knife. Eventually Mr Semaan and a member of the public managed to detain the offender until the police arrived.

The victim died after being admitted to hospital.



CERTIFICATES OF MERIT
Mr Duncan HASKINS
Mr Mackenzie HASKINS

For their rescue of 5 occupants of a motor vehicle following an accident at Currowan on 7 January 2016.

Duncan Haskins and his son Mackenzie were travelling along Kings Highway at Currowan behind a vehicle which left the road at speed, struck a tree, and came to rest down a steep embankment trapping all 5 occupants inside.

Mackenzie Haskins called 000 while Duncan Haskins, without any equipment and wearing only light clothing, broke a window of the car, removed all 5 people and carried them to the top of the embankment where he and his son administered first aid and managed their airways. They used their vehicle as a triage area and surfboards to stabilise suspected spinal injuries. They had assessed the various injuries, some of which were critical, by the time of arrival of the emergency services whom they assisted.

They both suffered minor injuries from the thick vegetation and Duncan Haskins, who fell heavily when carrying one of the passengers, was taken to hospital with suspected broken ribs.



GOLD MEDAL and GALLEGHAN AWARD

Mr Robert STRANGE

For his attempts to save a wounded colleague's life when detained at gunpoint near Moree on 29 July 2014.

The offender, a 79-year-old farmer, and his family had been involved in a bitter dispute with the Office of Environment and Heritage regarding illegal land clearing. The victim, who was murdered on this day, was a compliance officer with the Department and had been the primary investigator.

The victim, and Mr Strange were conducting inspections in the area when they stopped on the road to investigate some suspicious activity on one of the offender's properties.

The offender was alerted to their presence and drove to their vehicle with a loaded rifle in the tray of his utility. Without saying a word, he shot the victim in the neck. He then fired a second shot to his chest causing soft tissue damage.

Mr Strange tried to reason with the offender saying that the victim was "injured and needed help". Several times he tried to approach the offender but was told to "get back". By this time the victim had reached their vehicle and entered the rear. The offender then fired further shots through the back canopy.

Mr Strange continued to plead with the offender to be allowed to obtain assistance, but the offender repeatedly made reference to the department having ruined his family and he stated that the victim would be leaving in a body bag.

The offender told Mr Strange to leave but he refused and as night fell he again approached the offender who pointed his rifle at him telling him to get back or he would shoot.

Finally, the victim, who was bleeding from his wounds, ran towards the fence line. The offender fired the fatal shot into his back. He then lowered the rifle, told Mr Strange that he could leave and that he was going home to await the police. The victim died before the emergency services arrived despite Mr Strange's efforts.

For his actions Mr Robert Strange is awarded a Gold Medal and the Gallegghan Award.



CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Retained Firefighter Simon ANDERSON, Fire and Rescue NSW

For the attempted rescue of an elderly woman from her burning home at Saratoga on 24 December 2016.

Retained Firefighter Simon Anderson, who was off duty and at home, responded to a fire in a house across the road. He turned off the electricity and gained access by forcing open a locked door. He and another resident attempted to extinguish the fire using a garden hose.

He then entered the house and found the woman huddled on the floor in a corner with her bed alight and emitting toxic fumes. He removed and wet his shirt to use as a shield across his face but was forced back and suffered smoke inhalation. A fire crew using breathing apparatus removed the victim who later died in hospital.



SIR NEVILLE PIXLEY AWARDS

Miss Ayumi BAILEY

Miss Aja BAILEY

For their actions in administering first aid to Colin Bailey following a serious injury on a property at Moonbah on 5 October 2017.

Colin Bailey, father of Ayumi Bailey (then aged 12 years) suffered a partial amputation of his right arm in an accident when moving a horse float out of a shed on his property.

Upon hearing the accident Ayumi and her friend Aja Bailey (no relation, also aged 12 years) rushed to the shed where they found him unconscious and suffering significant blood loss.

Ayumi called 000 and the two girls applied a tourniquet using a horse rope which stopped the bleeding and they placed the severed arm in a plastic bag to give to the ambulance officers. When Mr Bailey regained consciousness, they kept him alert until the ambulance arrived. Their actions undoubtedly saved his life.



BRONZE MEDALS

Senior Constable Wade FULLER, NSW Police Force

Senior Constable Craig HANSEN, NSW Police Force

For their actions in rescuing 4 people from the surf at Caves Beach on 29 September 2016.

On 29 September 2016 Caitlin Camilleri, her brother Rhys and a friend Jarmira Borwich were swimming at Caves Beach in an unpatrolled area and they became caught in a rip. Their father entered the water to help them but also became caught in the rip and was dragged out to sea.

Senior Constable Fuller and Senior Constable Hansen who arrived in response to a 000 call immediately ran towards the water. As it was almost dark and there was a one metre swell they were unable to see anyone, however a bystander pointed out the last known location of the 4 persons.

The two constables removed their heavy gear, picked up two body boards from the beach and entered the water. Senior Constable Fuller swam out to Caitlin and Rhys who were the furthest out and exhausted. He put them on the body board and towed them back to the shore.

When Senior Constable Hansen reached the father and Jarmira the rip was pulling them towards the rocks at one end of the beach. He gave the board to Jarmira who was struggling to stay afloat. The father held onto the board to rest before he was able to return to shore unassisted. Senior Constable Hansen pulled Jarmira through the water on the board to the sandbar and then assisted her to the shore.



Gold Medal

Dr Martha KNOX-HALY

For her actions in coming to the rescue of a female work colleague who was being attacked by her estranged husband at Carramar on 18 August 2015.

The victim separated from the offender in June 2015 and reported serious concerns for her safety. In early August 2015 she commenced employment with a welfare service in Carramar which also employed Dr Knox-Haly as a clinical psychologist.

On 18 August 2015 the offender drove to the welfare service carpark, and when the victim arrived he blocked her in. She remained seated in her car with the door open and they were having a conversation when Dr Knox-Haly arrived and asked the victim if she was all right. The offender said "She is fine. I'm her husband", and Dr Knox-Haly walked away. The offender then pulled a kitchen knife from his pocket and stabbed the victim in a number of places.

Upon hearing the victim's screams, Dr Knox-Haly turned to see the offender dragging her from the car. She shouted at him and moved towards them. The offender then dropped the victim and turned to face Dr Knox-Haly with the knife in his right hand. He raised it above his head and stabbed her on the top of her skull with considerable force causing a deep laceration and mildly displaced fracture of the skull.

The victim collapsed and Dr Knox-Haly went to her aid. The offender returned to his car which he drove into the victim and a parked car narrowly missing Dr Knox-Haly. He then drove his vehicle at the victim a second time causing further injury before driving off. Both women were taken to Liverpool Hospital.

For her actions Dr Knox-Haly is awarded a Gold Medal.



The following award is being presented on behalf of the Royal Humane Society of Australasia.

BRONZE MEDAL

Second Lieutenant Ingrid Van der VLIST, Australian Army

For her actions in going to the rescue of a man from a crashed and burning car at Cooyar, Queensland on 21 July 2016.

At 6.45pm the flight crew of an Australian Army helicopter which included Second Lieutenant van der Vlist observed a single vehicle traffic accident while conducting flight operations. The vehicle had left the road, collided with a tree and caught fire.

They landed their helicopter 400m from the site of the crash and Second Lieutenant van der Vlist ran to the scene where she observed an elderly man who had managed to remove his seatbelt but was unable to get out of the burning vehicle. She saw that he had extensive burns to his torso, arms, neck and head.

Second Lieutenant van der Vlist pulled the man free and began to extinguish the flames with her gloved hands. She looped her elbows under his arms and she dragged him onto the other side of the road well clear of the fire. Shortly afterwards there was an explosion and the car became engulfed in flames.

Sadly, the man passed away from his injuries the following day.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Society depends upon the goodwill and help of many.

The Society is most grateful for the Vice Regal patronage it is accorded by His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd) Governor of New South Wales. Our annual Investiture is facilitated by the Office of the Governor and His Excellency's Official Secretary Colonel Michael Miller RFD who provides outstanding assistance to this Vice Regal occasion.

Fire and Rescue NSW provides the Society with our office and meeting room.

The NSW Police Force, Fire and Rescue NSW and Ambulance Service of NSW remain major contributors to investigating and reporting upon cases presented to the Council.

We are most grateful for the financial assistance provided by the NSW Government, Fire and Rescue NSW, Employees of the NSW Fire Brigades Relief and Welfare Fund and Mr J.D.O. Burns.

Photographs are provided by Rob Tuckwell Photography, Official Photographer to the Governor of NSW.

The Society acknowledges the service of our former Honorary Secretary Major Roland Millbank (Ret'd) who after ten years of service to the Society retired in July 2018.

