



# **AWARDS FOR BRAVERY INVESTITURE**

**GOVERNMENT HOUSE**

**SYDNEY**

**Friday 29 November 2019**

**At 3 pm**



# PROGRAM

Official Party enters the Ballroom

Her Excellency The Honourable Margaret Beazley AO QC  
Governor of New South Wales and Mr Dennis Wilson  
enter the Ballroom

(all stand)

National Anthem

Her Excellency's opening remarks

Recipients are invested

Her Excellency's closing remarks

Her Excellency and Mr Wilson followed by  
Official Party move to the Arcade

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

Her Excellency and Mr Wilson withdraw

Guests depart

Music by the  
Royal Australian Navy Band

# The Royal Humane Society of New South Wales

## **Patron-In-Chief**

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

## **Patron**

Her Excellency The Honourable Margaret Beazley AO QC  
Governor of New South Wales

## **President**

Mr Donald McDonald AC

## **Chair**

Mrs Beatrice Gray

## **Vice Chair**

Ms Dianne Truss

## **Honorary Treasurer**

Mr Chris Honey

## **Councillors**

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

Colonel Alexander Dangar (Ret'd)

Mr David Turner

Commissioner Michael Fuller APM, NSW Police Force

*-Represented by Assistant Commissioner Michael Fitzgerald APM*

Commissioner Paul Baxter QSO, Fire and Rescue NSW

*- Represented by Deputy Commissioner Malcolm Connellan AFSM*

Commissioner Dominic Morgan ASM, Ambulance Service of NSW

Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons AFSM, NSW Rural Fire Service

Commissioner Carlene York APM, NSW State Emergency Service

**Honorary Secretary and Public Officer** – Mr Peter Stathis AFSM

**Assistant Secretary** – Mr Michael Delman

**Honorary Publicity Officer** – Mr John Hoban

## **Life Governors**

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)

Rear Admiral The Honourable Alwynne Rowlands AO RFD QC RANR (Ret'd)

Rear Admiral Anthony Hunt AO RAN (Ret'd)

## **Life Member**

Mr Robert May APM

Major Roland Millbank MA MPhil JP

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 acts of bravery in the year. The recipient 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 Gallegan Award

The Gallegan 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 Medal

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

## The Stanhope Medal



# 2019 AWARDS

## **SILVER MEDAL**

Mr Sivei Ah Chong

## **BRONZE MEDALS**

Mr Derek Ah Chong

Mrs Pearl Ah Chong

## **CERTIFICATES OF MERIT**

Constable Andrew Spalding, NSW Police Force

Constable Julianne Savage, NSW Police Force

*For their actions in rescuing a man from a terrorist act involving attempted murder at Minto on 10 September 2016.*

A man exclaiming Islamic extremist statements attacked one of his neighbours with a large hunting knife stabbing him multiple times causing significant blood loss and permanent damage. The offender was mentally disturbed at the time. It was later established that he was an ISIS sympathiser willing to die for his cause and that this was a premeditated attack.

The offender was confronted by the Ah Chong family. Mr Sivei Ah Chong bravely placed himself between the victim and the offender who lunged at him with the knife. His wife Pearl and son Derek protected the victim who was able to take refuge in a nearby hairdressing salon. Mr Sivei Ah Chong attempted to disarm the offender, using a fence paling and a rock, while the other family members tried to calm him and persuade him to put down his knife.

When Constables Savage and Spalding arrived the offender ran at the police vehicle stabbing at the windows. They used a taser and he tried to cut the wire and still refused to let go of the knife. Messrs Sivei and Derek Ah Chong attempted to assist the police. Other officers arrived and the offender was disarmed and taken into custody.

But for the courage and fearlessness of Mr Ah Chong it is very likely that the offender would have achieved his stated aim of killing the victim whose life Mr Ah Chong placed before his own.

*Constable Spalding is unable to attend today's Investiture.*



## **GOLD MEDAL AND GALLEGHAN AWARD**

The late Mr Shaun Oliver

## **BRONZE MEDAL**

Paramedic Andrew Brooker, Ambulance Service of NSW

## **CERTIFICATE OF MERIT**

Mr Thomas Parkinson

*For their actions arising out of the rescue of two children at Wollongong City Beach on 10 September 2017 which resulted in the loss of Shaun Oliver's life.*

A family with four sons, was walking along the beach which was closed for swimming due to treacherous conditions. The boys entered the water and soon got into difficulties. The father got the 2 youngest boys out of the water but the two older boys, aged 10 and 12, were pulled out to sea by the rip.

Shaun Oliver, a Melbourne resident who was working in the area, was on the beach and immediately went to the aid of the two boys.

Andrew Brooker, an off duty ambulance paramedic, also responded to the calls for help and swam out for 15 to 20 metres to the 10 year old. He swam him back towards the beach and handed him over to other persons and then re-entered the water.

By this time Mr Oliver and the 12 year old had been swept about 50 to 60 metres out. Mr Brooker grabbed the boy and tried to make his way back to the beach but they were pulled under by the waves and became separated several times. After he had gained about 20 metres Mr Oliver came to assist. He handed the boy over to him and started to make his way back to the shore as he was exhausted.

Mr Oliver and the boy then became separated. Meantime Thomas Parkinson paddled his surfboard out into the swell. He located the boy, put him on his board and paddled him back to shore. He then returned into the breakers to look for Mr Oliver who unfortunately had drowned.

Mr Oliver displayed great courage in unhesitatingly trying to save the lives of the two boys until he was overcome by the conditions.





## **BRONZE MEDAL**

**Mr Michael van Baast**

*For his actions in rescuing the driver of a vehicle following an accident near Cootamundra on 17 September 2017.*

Mr van Baast came upon an accident scene on the Olympic Highway where a car had collided with a tree. The driver was unable to free himself from the vehicle and a fire had started in the engine.

As the driver's door could not be opened due to the impact, he used brute force to peel down the window frame and was able to extract the injured driver through the opening just before the vehicle was engulfed by fire.

He dragged him to a safe location and remained with him until the Emergency Services arrived. Mr van Baast sustained minor injuries in the rescue and without his efforts it is unlikely that the driver would have survived.



## **CERTIFICATE OF MERIT**

**Retained Firefighter Shane Green, Fire and Rescue NSW**

*For rendering assistance whilst off duty to a man following an explosion in Portland NSW, on 24 July 2015.*

Firefighter Green was off duty and out walking when he heard a loud explosion in a laneway and saw a fireball. He ran towards it and found the body of a man who had suffered the full force of the explosion.

He directed people away from the scene and administered CPR and first aid until the arrival of the paramedics who pronounced the victim deceased.

Firefighter Green placed the lives of others ahead of his own and exposed himself to the risk of further explosions.



## **SILVER MEDALS**

Captain Mitchell Parker, Fire and Rescue NSW

Deputy Captain David Robinson, Fire and Rescue NSW

Deputy Captain Andrew Viner, Fire and Rescue NSW

Retained Firefighter David Evans, Fire and Rescue NSW

## **CERTIFICATES OF MERIT**

Retained Firefighter David Wells, Fire and Rescue NSW

Retained Firefighter Rodney Muddle, Fire and Rescue NSW

Engine Keeper Matthew U'Brien, Fire and Rescue NSW

*For the rescue of multiple persons trapped by floodwaters at Stroud on 21 April 2015.*

On the night of the rescues Stroud was struck by a major storm and by 4 am the showground and Cowper Street were inundated with deep fast flowing floodwaters laden with debris. Heavy rain was falling, there were strong winds and the waters were rising rapidly.

Deputy Captain Robinson drove a tanker from Dungog through 1.5 metres of swiftly flowing water to 37 Cowper Street. Captain Parker and Firefighter Evans linked arms and hauled themselves onto the verandah to gain entry. Meanwhile Deputy Captain Viner positioned the tanker's ladder as a bridge between the verandah and the tanker. And the family was evacuated. The crew then proceeded to number 39 and again using the ladder as a bridge rescued the two occupants.

Deputy Captain Robinson navigated solely by his local knowledge avoiding submerged fences and other objects in the dark.

The crew returned to the showground where two people on the roof of the toilet block needed urgent medical attention. The motor of the SES swift water punt failed and it drifted downstream to a bridge. The Dungog crew then drove the tanker through floodwaters to re-launch the punt.

Firefighters Muddle and Wells then attended a house at 49 Cowper Street with Captain Parker in the same tanker and successfully rescued 4 persons from the roof. They were assisted by Engine Keeper U'Brien who with his chainsaw had created the only access for additional rescue crews.



## **BRONZE MEDAL**

**Mr Gerran Smith**

*For his actions in rescuing a kitesurfer at Tuggerah Lakes on 24 June 2014.*

Mr Smith and Mr Galea were kitesurfing together. When Mr Smith was about 300 metres away he noticed Mr Galea's kite become airborne over a jetty projecting into the water. His board appeared to clip the jetty causing him to fall head first onto it. His kite then dragged him into the lake and he was being blown away from the shore.

Mr Smith surfed across the lake and found Mr Galea face down and partly submerged. He rolled him over and held his head above the water. As Mr Galea was unresponsive he applied compressions to his chest and he commenced shallow breathing but remained unconscious. Mr Smith then used his own kite to drag them both towards the shore. He struggled to keep Mr Galea's head above the water whilst also controlling the kite in the wind and choppy waters.

Eventually he waded him slowly towards the shore through thick sludge which made walking difficult. Mr Galea was airlifted to hospital in a critical condition.



## **SILVER MEDAL**

**Sergeant Tyrone Stacey, NSW Police Force**

*For his actions in rescuing a man attempting to commit suicide at Malabar Headland on 4 February 2017.*

Sergeant Stacey responded to a welfare concern call at the headland. He located the victim who was in an agitated state and sitting on the cliff top with his legs hanging over the edge.

Despite suffering from vertigo he approached the victim to draw him away from the edge to which he had moved closer. He tried to take hold of the victim's arm and a struggle ensued during which he placed his body between the victim and the cliff edge. He overpowered the victim and handcuffed him to reduce the risk to both of them.

With the assistance of other police officers the victim was removed to safety. Sergeant Stacey exposed himself to extreme danger to save the victim's life.



**SILVER MEDAL**  
**Mr Ian Stoddart**

*For his actions in the rescue of two children and the attempted rescue of their father from a rip at Burrill Lake on 10 January 2014.*

A British tourist and his two sons were caught in a rip when swimming in the lake. The father went to the aid of the boys who were being dragged away from the shore and signalled for help.

Mr Stoddart, who was in the water closer to the shore, swam out to assist. By this time the father was also in difficulty. With extreme difficulty Mr Stoddart swam the boys together back to shore.

Despite being exhausted by the conditions, he re-entered the water and found the father face down in the water. He turned his body over and thumped his chest but kept losing his hold in the conditions and was struggling to get back to shore.

Bystanders went to his aid with a surfboard and brought the father back to the beach. CPR was given but he did not survive.



**SILVER MEDAL**  
**Senior Constable Troy Cutler, NSW Police Force (Ret'd)**  
**Senior Sergeant Bradyn Murphy, Queensland Police**

*For the pursuit and arrest of an armed offender and accomplice at Tweed Heads on 5 February 2015.*

Senior Sergeant Murphy was in pursuit of a stolen vehicle which was travelling south into New South Wales. One of the occupants was armed and they had committed a series of offences in Queensland.

As the vehicle crossed the border Senior Constable Cutler (Ret'd) took over the primary pursuit with the vehicles travelling at high speeds. Tyre deactivation devices caused the vehicle to slow to a stop in the airport tunnel.

The offenders had alighted from the vehicle before it came to a complete stop and the driver fired a single shot from a handgun towards Retired Senior Constable Cutler as he alighted from his vehicle.

They crossed the median strip and attempted to carjack two vehicles firing two shots into one and opening the doors of the other.

As the driver ran he fired 3 shots in the direction of the two police officers who continued the pursuit. The first bullet landed near Retired Senior Constable Cutler. He drew his firearm but decided not to fire because of the risk to motorists. The second bullet missed both a passing vehicle and Retired Senior Constable Cutler.

The third bullet was fired in the direction of Senior Sergeant Murphy who was also unable to return fire due to the presence of other vehicles on the road.

The offender then pointed the gun at a passing vehicle which swerved but struck him causing the gun to dislodge from his hand. He was unable to retrieve it as by this time Senior Sergeant Murphy had his firearm drawn on him and both offenders were arrested.



## **BRONZE MEDALS**

**Sergeant Justin McEvoy, NSW Police Force**

**Senior Constable Grant Haydon, NSW Police Force**

**Senior Constable Christopher Cooper, NSW Police Force**

*For the rescue of a man from a house fire at Punchbowl on 31 July 2015.*

Sergeant McEvoy responded to a domestic violence incident which was upgraded to a house fire. When he arrived the second storey of the house was well alight with smoke billowing from the windows. The owners advised him that their son, who suffered mental ill health, was inside.

Senior Constables Haydon and Cooper also arrived and the 3 officers entered the house where they could hear a faint voice and they ran up the stairs. Flames were billowing across the stairs and the heat was intense. The son was in a locked room but refused to come out. Sergeant McEvoy kicked the door open and pursued him onto the balcony.

Eventually he dragged the son back through the bedroom and into the hallway where Senior Constables Haydon and Cooper assisted in dragging him downstairs through the heat, flames and smoke.



## **BRONZE MEDAL**

**Chief Inspector Brenton Charlton, NSW Police Force**

*For the rescue of a woman from a house fire at Tempe on 12 October 2017.*

Chief Inspector Charlton, who was off duty, saw smoke and an orange glow coming from a house as he was driving past. He stopped and neighbours told him that an elderly couple lived there.

He hammered on windows and yelled out but received no response. By this time the roof was ablaze. He forced the front door open and saw the hallway in darkness and filled with thick acrid smoke. Although he was told that Fire and Rescue were on their way he borrowed a mobile telephone and used the torch as he re-entered the house and, holding his breath, crawled along the hallway only dressed in light clothing including shorts and thongs.

He grabbed a woman standing in the hallway and pushed her to the front door where others assisted to remove her. He was told that the man was at the rear of the house and he and another person dragged him to safety along the side of the burning house to the footpath as the roof collapsed.



## **SILVER MEDAL**

Mr Marco Elice

## **BRONZE MEDALS**

Qualified Firefighter Genevieve Delves, Fire and Rescue NSW  
Paramedic Officer Sandra Macken, Ambulance Service of NSW

*For saving the life of a tradesman who had suffered a severe electric shock at a house at Roseville on 6 December 2016.*

Marco Elice and Grant Morgan were installing air-conditioning equipment in the roof cavity of a house. Mr Morgan was on his stomach in the roof while Mr Elice had been feeding electric cable up to him. The power was not switched off. When Mr Elice climbed up through the manhole to investigate an interruption he found Mr Morgan attached to a live cable and convulsing. He grabbed him and received a shock which threw him across the roof space. He grabbed him again receiving another shock but this time he managed to pull him free from the live cable. In the process he suffered burns to his hands.

Emergency Services were notified and Fire and Rescue NSW and Ambulance Services of NSW responded. Ausgrid were called to isolate the power but they were delayed by traffic. Firefighters Delves and Broinowski entered the roof space where Mr Morgan was unconscious, bleeding from a severely lacerated tongue and convulsing uncontrollably. They ascertained that the wiring next to him was still live and that his convulsing was causing him to move backwards towards it placing them all in a situation of grave danger.

They administered oxygen as best they could and through considerable physical exertion in a very confined space managed to hold him clear of the wiring for about 40 minutes pending the arrival of further Emergency Services as he continued convulsing.

Paramedic Officer Macken entered the roof space and administered sedation to Mr Morgan who continued convulsing while she herself was also in danger being in close contact with him and the two firefighters.

Mr Morgan was eventually removed from the roof cavity via the roof, further sedated and taken to hospital.

Without the combined actions of these 5 persons it is unlikely that Mr Morgan would have survived.



## **GOLD MEDAL**

**Saybah (Mary) Kpaba**

*For rescuing her children from a house fire at Doonside on 6 August 2016 before the arrival of emergency services.*

At about 6.30 am Mrs Kpaba awoke to the smell of smoke coming from the lounge room. She woke her husband and evacuated their 3 youngest children through their bedroom window. She then went back through the house and located their oldest child and evacuated her through the same window.

By this time the fire had engulfed the lounge room and kitchen and visibility was poor due to the smoke. On the ground between the two rooms Mr Kpaba located their fifth child Miata, aged 9 years who had been diagnosed with autism. He attempted to drag her from the house but was overcome by smoke and heat.

Neighbours helped Mrs Kpaba back into the house through the bedroom window. She located her daughter who was unconscious and dragged her towards the window and then through it with the assistance of neighbours. She commenced CPR on the daughter and neighbours poured water onto her severe burns until the ambulance arrived. Sadly Miata did not recover from her injuries and died in Hospital.



# 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 Her Excellency The Honourable Margaret Beazley AO QC Governor of New South Wales.

Our annual investiture is facilitated by the Office of the Governor and Her 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, NSW Police Force, Employees of the NSW Fire Brigades Relief and Welfare Fund, Police Association of NSW, TPI Association of NSW Limited and Mr J.D.O Burns.

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

