

AWARDS BESTOWED**April 2004 to March 2009**

CASE NO. 1595	SHANNON JOEL LINDBOM, ANDREW LAWRENCE TRANTER DAVID LAWRY	BRONZE MEDAL BRONZE MEDAL LETTER OF COMMENDATION
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After a car crash in the outskirts of Christchurch in the morning of 27 January 2003 one of the vehicles burst through a fence and into a paddock. Andrew Lawrence Tranter saw the incident and ran to the scene. As he approached he could see the grass beneath the car beginning to catch alight. He opened the rear passenger door and helped out two small children.

Shannon Joel Lindbom was also quickly there and he observed that the driver was slumped in the front seat unconscious. He dragged her from the car to safety.

Police Inspector David Lawry arrived as the occupants were being rescued. He checked the inside of the vehicle and restrained the onlookers.

In a matter of seconds later the car burst into flames. Clearly the occupants owe their lives to their rescuers.

CASE NO. 1596 –	CRAIG WAYNE GLENTWORTH LEANNE MARIE GREANEY JAMIE STACY WOODS GRAHAM JOHN SINGLE	BRONZE MEDAL BRONZE MEDAL CERTIFICATE OF MERIT CERTIFICATE OF MERIT
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On Friday 13 December 2002 after hearing calls for help in Napier's inner harbour at 12:35 a.m. Constable Craig Wayne Glentworth saw two persons struggling in the swift flowing water. He immediately entered the water and swam to the pair. Constable Glentworth found it extremely hard to effect any rescue because of the panic and intoxication of the two people in difficulties.

Constable Leanne Marie Greaney joined Sergeant Graham John Single to go to the assistance of Glentworth. Sergeant Single, who was not a strong swimmer, had to return to the bridge from where he oversaw the rescue operations. Constable Greaney reached Glentworth and the intoxicated pair, but was also pulled underwater as the group was being swept into the inner harbour.

Jamie Stacy Woods, a police applicant, arrived to see the group 120 metres from the bridge. He told his supervising Sergeant that he was a strong swimmer and took the rescue tube from the Sergeant's car and swam out to the group. When Woods reached the group, the two people being rescued were close to drowning. The three combined to use the rescue tube to bring the two people to shore. Sergeant Single assisted in the later stages of the recovery. The water was cold, over 8 feet deep, with a swift in-coming tide, through the narrow gap of the inner harbour, causing whirlpool effects.

Without the courage and outstanding performance of these police officers and Mr Woods, the intoxicated pair would have drowned

CASE NO. 1597 –	ROBERT JOHN DOWNER TYRA MIA JACOBSEN	BRONZE MEDAL BRONZE MEDAL
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On 19 October 2002 the body of a female was observed floating downstream in the Waikato River, at Hamilton, she had been rendered unconscious when she impacted with the water.

Constable Robert John Downer who was off duty at the time jumped into the river. The water was very cold and had strong undertows. The female was some 50 metres from the bridge.

Upon reaching the woman, Constable Downer proceeded to pull her towards the shore. She regained consciousness and began to struggle, pushing Constable Downer's head under the water. Constable Tyra Mia Jacobsen saw Downer and the woman struggling in the middle of the river. Without hesitation she jumped in and swam to the pair and was able to assist Downer to bring the young lady to shore.

The river was running fast and the undertows increase at the narrows of the river below the bridge where the rescue was conducted. It is a well-known danger spot.

Both officers showed no concern for their own safety and were both aware of the real and immediate danger of this river.

There is no doubt the woman would have drowned had Constables Downer and Jacobsen not acted in the selfless manner that they did.

CASE NO. 1598 – FRANK NORMAN FIELDHOUSE IN MEMORIAM CERTIFICATE

Mr Frank Norman Fieldhouse was swimming with his wife at Browns Bay on 30 November 2002. The weather was fine with a strong sea breeze and choppy seas. They were both regular swimmers, but Mr Fieldhouse had only average competence.

Two children aged 6 and 8 had suddenly got into difficulties some 15 to 20 metres off shore. Mr Fieldhouse went to their assistance. He assisted the two young boys who were struggling underwater and out of their depth. He held the two boys above water until two teenage girls relieved him of this responsibility.

Once the boys were safely at the beach, it became apparent that Mr Fieldhouse was floating face down. He was pulled back into shore, but despite resuscitation attempts, he could not be revived.

Mr Fieldhouse certainly saved the two young boys from drowning, but unfortunately gave his own life in his courageous attempt.

CASE NO. 1599 CRAIG ELLIOT PRIOR BRONZE MEDAL

On 26 July 2003 at 1134 hours at Taylors Mistake, Canterbury, two persons were swept off the rocks while fishing.

Constable Craig Elliot Prior responded after hearing of the pair in the water. He ran 500 metres, donned his wet suit, entered the sea and swam out to the pair, some 50 metres off shore. The water was approximately 7 metres deep, 8 degrees C, with crashing waves and a southerly swell of 1 metre. Constable Prior grabbed the younger of the pair, but was unable to assist him back to shore and so he swam to the second man and supported them both until the rescue boat arrived. The pair had been in the water for over 30 minutes before being rescued.

It appears certain that the older fisherman would have succumbed to the elements had Constable Prior not assisted him until rescue help arrived.

CASE NO. 1600 ROBERT JOHN VAN HALE SILVER MEDAL

On 10 July 2003 at 1925 hours Mr Robert John Van Hale was driving on State Highway 8 near Beaumont, Central Otago in a line of three vehicles. In a passing manoeuvre, a vehicle lost control rolled on to its roof and burst into flames.

Mr Van Hale ran to the burning vehicle and could see movement inside. Upon approaching the driver's door he was driven back by the flames. He then opened the passenger's door and made four attempts before managing to pull the driver from the vehicle. At this point the man's clothing was well alight.

Mr Van Hale took the driver some distance from the blazing car and beat out the flames of his clothing and administered care until the arrival of the ambulance and medical staff. Unfortunately the driver had received burns to ninety percent of his body and died the following day.

Although Mr Van Hale received burns to both hands and was treated at the scene, he drove himself, in considerable pain and discomfort, to the Dunedin Hospital for further treatment.

Mr Van Hale displayed exceptional bravery in his attempts to rescue a fellow being in acute danger.

Case NO. 1602 ALEC DAVID GORDON CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

On Friday 5 March 2004 at approximately 4 p.m., Alex David Gordon saved a woman's life when he came to her rescue as she was being mauled by a pitbull cross dog in a remote and isolated area of Matarawa Park, Tokoroa.

He was walking his two German Shepherd dogs when two distressed young children alerted him to the dog attack. He went down a rise, near a creek to find a woman rolling on the ground with a dog savaging her. He approached the woman with his two dogs on their leads and kicked the attacking dog.

When it took no notice, he released both of his dogs who were able to distract the pitbull dog allowing him time to help the woman to safety.

The dog had ripped all the woman's clothing off her upper body, apart from her bra. It had caused major wounds to her upper left arm, shoulder and breast region and inner right thigh.

Had Alec Gordon not come to the woman's aid, police believe they could have attended a fatal scene. Alec Gordon placed his own life at risk as he went to the aid of this woman, who was being attacked by a savage and out of control animal.

CASE NO. 1604 CRAIG RAYMOND GODDARD SILVER MEDAL

On Wednesday 21 July 2004 at approximately 5:00 p.m. at the intersection of State Highway 30 and Kopaki Road, Benneydale a truck driver lost control of his vehicle. It knocked over a power pole and came to rest on its roof, on fire.

Craig Goddard heard the crash, rushed to the scene, negotiated a path through the power cables, checked the hazard signs on the vehicle, and then completely entered the truck cab, which by this time was involved in fire. He found the driver hanging with the seat belt wrapped around his legs. After releasing him, he dragged the unconscious driver from the cab to safety on a grassed area.

Undoubtedly without Craig Goddard's quick action, a fatality would have occurred as the vehicle began exploding as they exited the cab.

**Case NO. 1605 DION WAYNE PALMER BRONZE MEDAL
 BRENT LESLIE FLAVELL IN MEMORIAM CERTIFICATE**

On the afternoon of 17th January 2004 a fairly large group of people were gathered about one kilometre south of the main beach at Himatangi. Among them was a father Brent Leslie Flavell together with his seven-year-old son who was swimming. The weather was clear and sunny and the surf moderate, but as it transpired it was rife with undertows and currents. As a result, when the boy wandered slightly out of his depth, he was swept out to sea. The father entered the water to go to him and called for help.

Dion Wayne Palmer, who had been swimming, heard the call and saw the father and son together some 50 metres out to sea. He immediately re-entered the water to make his way towards them. As he progressed in the water he lost his footing and was caught in the strong undertow. However he did not hesitate and continued to swim after the father and son, eventually reaching them some 150 metres out to sea. Mr Flavell handed his son to Mr Palmer who took charge of the boy leaving his father to

make his own way back to the shore. With great difficulty Mr Palmer reached the beach where helpers took care of the child who subsequently made a good recovery.

Despite being exhausted Mr Palmer re-entered the water to search for Brent Flavell. He was not successful and he himself had to be assisted to the beach. Mr Flavell had however been trapped by the sea and had drowned.

Brent Flavell acted with humanity and courage in going to the assistance of his son and in so doing lost his own life

Without Dion Palmer's quick response and determination there would undoubtedly have been a double fatality.

CASE NO. 1606 VANESSA JOY POTTER LETTER OF COMMENDATION

On the morning of the 21st May 2004 Constable Vanessa Joy Potter was a member of a Police Patrol sent to a car accident at Clive, Hawkes Bay, having been advised that three occupants of one vehicle who were Asian men had left the crash scene. On the patrol's arrival they could not be located. However, shortly afterwards, Constable Potter was alerted by a member of the public to three people walking down a riverbed towards State Highway 2. With the aid of a four-wheel drive vehicle Constable Potter and the member of the public were able to catch up with one man running away on the edge of the Tutaekuri River.

As they neared him he jumped fully clothed into the river and started to swim to the opposite bank some 50 metres away.

Without hesitation Constable Potter removed her jacket and boots and leapt into the water to give chase. She reached the man half way across the river. He was at that stage exhausted and having difficulty staying afloat, but in her efforts to get him to the bank she found him heavy and unhelpful. The river was very cold and murky, approximately 3 metres deep, with little current at the time. The rescued man collapsed after his ordeal.

Had Constable Potter not acted as quickly as she did and not had the strength to overcome his resistance he could well have drowned

Case NO. 1607 ROSEMARY HOPE HOSIE SILVER MEDAL POSTHUMOUSLY

At Browns Bay Beach, Auckland on 16th January 2004, seven-year-old twins and an older sister were in difficulty 200 metres off the beach. The elder sister was seen to be holding her young sister up in the water.

Rosemary Hope Hosie who was a competent but not a powerful swimmer saw their situation and swam over to help. She took control of the seven-year-old and started to bring her to safety. A number of others on the beach entered the water to assist and the young girl was brought to safety. Mrs Hosie got into difficulty herself and was retrieved from the water by members of the public. Resuscitation was commenced and she was removed to hospital.

Despite the efforts of the intensive care unit she did not recover from the severe brain damage which she had suffered as the result of her near drowning and died two days later.

The part played by Rosemary Hosie in the rescue of the young girl who survived this incident was that of a compassionate individual who, when faced with a child in peril did not hesitate to act, thereby putting her own life at risk. Without her act of heroism the outcome of this incident could have been even more tragic. Her sacrifice is deserving of the highest praise.

Case NO - 1608 CHRISTLE KAY ROBINSON IN MEMORIAM CERTIFICATE

Christle Kay Robinson went swimming with her younger sister and brother at Browns Bay Beach, Auckland on the 16th January 2004. The younger seven-year-old twins got into difficulty some 200 metres off the beach. Christle aged 16 years was confronted by a life saving dilemma of two youngsters both in trouble at the same time. She was seen to be supporting her young sister by holding her up in the water.

Another swimmer went to her assistance, took the young sister from her and began to take her to the beach.

**Case NO – 1611 JONATHAN HARVEY MORGAN
KEVIN JOHN BOEKHOLT
CHARLES FREDERICK OLBERY**

**BRONZE MEDAL
BRONZE MEDAL
BRONZE MEDAL**

During the afternoon of July 30 2004 a guided heli-ski group were traversing the Ramsay Glacier in the Whitcombe Pass area. One of the party, the last in a group of three moving down the slope, fell into a crevasse when a snow bridge which had been covering it collapsed.

His guide James Spencer who was leading that skier's group became concerned when his client failed to join them at the transition point where they waited, and in company with two other guides, Jonathan Morgan and Kevin Boekholt retraced the run in a helicopter. Spencer observed a ski pole alongside a hole which he estimated was approximately one and a half metres square, in the snow about 100 metres above the position where he had previously stopped on the run. They landed uphill of the hole and proceeded to build an anchor in the snow from which Jonathan Morgan was lowered to the edge of the hole. He called and received a response which indicated that the skier who had disappeared 20 minutes earlier was conscious and aware. From his vantage point he could see down 10-15 metres where there was a second snow bridge also with a hole in it. The skier had apparently had an unbroken fall through this hole to the bottom of the crevasse approximately 35 metres from the surface. In the short period it took Morgan to prepare to abseil into the crevasse the lower bridge spontaneously collapsed filling the bottom of the crevasse with debris. There was no further contact. When he reached the floor of the crevasse Morgan used an avalanche transceiver to establish that the skier was buried at least 8 metres further down the hole. He proceeded to work his way under wedged blocks of ice to endeavour to reach him.

While Spencer remained on the surface to maintain communications, Jonathan Morgan was joined by lead-guide Kevin Boekholt and guide Charles Olbery and together they worked at moving blocks of unstable ice and snow in an endeavour to make it safe to work in the crevasse bottom. The narrow working space made headway difficult. After a period of one hour, danger from falling ice and darkness forced the three to abandon their recovery efforts.

The situation was one of grave danger with the potential for further fatalities involving those attempting the rescue.

Case NO - 1612 KIRITOEKA MATATAHI

IN MEMORIAM CERTIFICATE

During the afternoon of January 20th 2003 Kiritokea Matatahi was supervising a group of six children in a swimming hole in the Waitangi Stream, Glenbervie, near Whangarei.

Supporting herself on a boogie board she was floating in the deeper part of the hole keeping an eye on her charges. The depth of water in the hole was between two and three metres. A four-year old boy joined her and climbed onto her back. Mrs Matatahi lost her hold on the board and both she and the boy began to submerge. The boy panicked when underwater and was soon in need of help.

Kiritokea, an average swimmer, managed to hold him above water and then assisted him to the bank. When she herself reached the side following this exertion, she was in a very distressed physical state and unable to leave the water. She lost consciousness and was supported by another of the children until assistance arrived. She was then pulled from the water, but when ambulance staff arrived it was apparent that her exertion in achieving the rescue had caused a heart attack from which she had died. By her actions Kiritokea Matatahi prevented a potential drowning.

Case NO - 1613

JASON RICHARD HOMAN

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

On 22nd June 2004 at Remuera, Auckland, Constable Jason Homan attended an incident at Omaha Bridge where it was believed a 40 year old woman was apparently about to attempt to jump from the bridge which spans the Main Trunk Line.

Upon his arrival Constable Homan observed the lady moving along pipes outside the safety rail and towards the centre of the bridge. He was immediately aware that a train, sounding a warning, was already approaching.

With considerable difficulty Constable Homan managed to take a hold on the woman's arm and applied a restraint. The woman was of large build and was attempting to break free and while still

held she stepped off the pipe on which she had been standing and was at that stage dangling over the line.

While maintaining a hold Constable Homan attempted to pull the woman onto the pipe. She had increased her resistance, and as a result had pulled the Constable off his feet and partially over the rail.

He persisted with his attempt however, and was finally able to bring her back onto the pipe while he awaited assistance.

Constable Homan' prompt and determined action, as the result of which he placed himself at considerable risk, prevented an otherwise certain fatality.

Case NO - 1614

**DAVID JEFFREY MEULI
STEVEN ROBERT HALES
PAUL ANTHONY HORLER**

**BRONZE MEDAL
CERTIFICATE OF MERIT
CERTIFICATE OF MERIT**

On the afternoon of 8th February 2005, at 2pm at Papamoa Beach, Papamoa, David Jeffrey Meuli was alerted to the situation of two women who had been caught in a rip and were clearly in trouble, in water estimated to be 15metres deep, with heavy surf running. They were at that stage already beyond the breakers and were being swept further out. They had been swimming with a young friend who had been able to return to the beach to raise the alarm.

David Meuli, immediately swam out to the two women with the aid of a boogie board, reaching them approximately 150 metres from the beach. Using the board, he gave support to the two, the elder of whom was clearly in a very distressed state and close to collapse. He assisted her onto the board and supported her there. Despite their attempts to swim through the rip they were unsuccessful and all three were being carried by it, further out to sea.

At about 2 45p.m. they were joined first by Steven Hales and then by Paul Horler, two Police Constables who had arrived at the beach in response to a telephoned alert received from another resident.

Upon his arrival, Steven Hales had immediately entered the water and swum out to them. He too endeavoured to tow them back to the beach, but without success.

Paul Horler, who had in the meantime obtained a rescue tube, swam out to reach the group, whereupon Constable Hales attached the tube to the elder of the two women, and, towing her, swam back to the beach. She was unable to stand and had to be given assistance.

Steven Hales then returned to the water and swam out again to reach Constable Horler who was at that stage in the process of towing the other swimmers towards the beach, using the board for support. Constable Hales then attached the tube to Dr. Meuli, who having earlier been the first to reach the women, was by then also exhausted, and towed him back through the surf, and to the beach.

Constable Horler and the remaining lady reached the shore safely. David Meuli, Steven Hales and Paul Horler had each, by their actions in this rescue, in what were difficult conditions, placed themselves at risk. They clearly averted at least one fatality and ultimately secured the safety of all those who had been in the water.

Case NO -1615

**JAMIE FISHER
DAVID TREVOR WILLIAMS**

**SILVER MEDAL
BRONZE MEDAL**

On Sunday 24th April 2005, while approximately 19 miles West of Muttonbird Islands the yacht Shady Lady with one elderly person aboard put out a Mayday alert. The boat was taking on water, the main pump was not working and the occupant who had been operating a hand pump for some 12 hours was unable to keep up with the water. In winds of 40 knots with wave heights of 5 metres the yacht was heeling 30-40 degrees in both directions.

MV Sea Emerald which was anchored at one of the Muttonbird Islands was asked to go to the assistance of Shady Lady. Aboard Sea Emerald were its skipper David Williams and his young

crewman Jamie Fisher. They responded to the call, and some 3 hours later, after travelling through the atrocious conditions, reached the yacht which had no sea anchor and was beam on to the sea.

A helicopter which had also been called was overhead but, because of the dangerous conditions, was unable recover the exhausted yachtsman.

It was decided to try to tow the yacht to safer water where it would be possible to take him off by helicopter. This was achieved.

Sea Emerald had initially got a line aboard the yacht but the tow was lost when the equipment to which the owner had attached it failed under stress.

Jamie Fisher then volunteered to take another line across. Using an inflatable dinghy with limited freeboard and with the tow rope over his shoulder, he reached and boarded the yacht, He attached the rope to the mast.

In the course of this manoeuvre the tow rope became entangled with the propeller of Sea Emerald and it became necessary for David Williams to leave the wheelhouse of his boat to free it. There was a collision and both boats were damaged.

Throughout the 4 hour tow Jamie handled Shady Lady. In the trying conditions great skill was required from both seamen to avoid putting stress on the tow rope and causing it to break. Had this happened there was a real risk that the yacht could have foundered with possible loss of life.

The actions of Jamie Fisher and David Williams had undoubtedly led to the safe retrieval of the owner of Shady Lady from a life threatening situation.

Case NO -1616 JOERN CHARLES WALTER BOSTELMANN BRONZE MEDAL

On the afternoon of 16th January 2004, at Browns Bay Beach, North Shore City, seven-year-old twins and their older sister were in difficulty 200 metres off the beach.

Joern Bostelmann swam out to assist and initially helped in the recovery of one of the twins who had drowned and brought him ashore. Although suffering from exhaustion, he then swam the 200 metres into deep water a second time and was instrumental in bringing the surviving twin, a girl, to safety. When Mr Bostelmann reached her she was distressed and attached herself around his neck and shoulders. The difficulty of his situation was compounded when he came upon another female swimmer who had earlier been involved in the rescue attempts but had succumbed to her efforts and was by then floating face down in the water.

Joern rolled her onto her back and then proceeded to swim both the girl and the adult lady to the beach.

Once there he was successful in resuscitating the lady. Unfortunately she did not survive her ordeal. This tragic episode claimed the lives of three. By his acts of bravery Joern Bostelmann had ensured that yet another fatality was prevented.

Case NO - 1617 ANTHONY JOHN LANDL BRONZE MEDAL

In the evening of 16 January 2005 at 2 Mile Bay, Lake Taupo a float plane with the pilot and a passenger aboard crashed and flipped, coming to rest upside down on the surface of water which was 10 metres deep at that point. Anthony Landl, with his son, observed the crash from the slipway of their sailing centre and immediately launched an inflatable rescue boat. They motored to the crash site where they found the plane, by then completely submerged with a slick of aviation fuel on the water.

Mr Landl dived into the water and, with his son assisting, put the passenger who had managed to free herself and surfaced, into the inflatable, before diving under the wreck to attempt to locate the pilot. He found him, unconscious and strapped into his seat. Attempts to free him were hampered by the restricted visibility forcing Mr Landl to rely upon touch, which made it difficult to find and release the harness clasp.

In all Anthony made three dives and it was on his third attempt that he managed to remove the pilot from the wreckage and bring him to the surface. Throughout these endeavours in little or no visibility,

he was exposed to the risk of getting entangled in the wreckage which contained loose wires, belts and pieces of broken fuselage. There was a danger that the aircraft could have submerged further while he was working under it.

Mr Landl succeeded in his rescue but unfortunately the rescued man had suffered severe head injuries from which he later died.

**Case NO -1618 CRAIG ALEXANDER HOOPER
 DEAN ROLAND FINDSEN**

**SILVER MEDAL
BRONZE MEDAL**

In the early afternoon of 8 January 2005 at Greta Cutting on State Highway 1, North Canterbury, three vehicles were involved in a crash which resulted in all three being destroyed by fire.

The first vehicle in the collision, a camper van, immediately caught fire, as did the others in quick succession.

Craig Hooper, who had been following, managed to avoid the wreckage and stopped immediately after passing beyond it. He noted that the underside of the van was already alight. He ran back to the van and found a female passenger who was slumped forward and unconscious with her seatbelt fastened. The fire had by then broken through the floor, setting her feet and lower clothing alight. Her hair was also burning. The van was rapidly filling with smoke.

Mr Hooper entered the vehicle from the driver's side. Kneeling on the driver's seat and reaching over the engine cover, he undid the seatbelt. Holding her under the shoulders and with some difficulty he commenced to pull her back over the engine and towards the driver's door.

At this point he was joined by Dean Findsen, a passenger in another passing vehicle. Standing on the road, Dean leant over the steering wheel and took a hold of the lady also. Together they pulled strongly and were successful in getting her out of the van and away from it. She had suffered burns and broken limbs.

The heat in the smoke filled vehicle was now intense with a constant risk from toxic fumes and of explosion from fuel and an LPG gas bottle. The fire took a firm hold of the whole vehicle immediately after the passenger had been removed from it.

It is certain that without the bravery displayed by Craig Hooper and Dean Findsen, the lady would have perished.

Case NO -1619 ROBIN MICHAEL NEIL

BRONZE MEDAL

At Greta Cutting North Canterbury on 8th of September 2005 at about 8 pm, a car which had been seen by a highway patrol to be travelling at high speed on State Highway 1, left the road at a bend, went down a bank and crashed into a stand of pine trees.

Senior Constable Robin Neil who had earlier attempted to stop the vehicle but had lost sight of it, came upon the crash scene minutes later and found the badly injured driver trapped in the wreckage. Almost immediately fire spread from the engine bay into the foot-well in which the driver's legs were trapped. Senior Constable Neil succeeded in opening the driver's side door sufficiently to gain access and with his head and shoulders inside the vehicle, leant across the injured teenager to release the seat belt and began to remove him. Meanwhile the fire was becoming more intense.

He was hindered by the driver's feet being entangled in the wreckage. With considerable difficulty he finally succeeded in freeing the driver and was able to pull him out.

Assisted by a local resident who had also arrived at the scene, he moved the driver away from the vehicle which was, by then, engulfed in flame. Senior Constable Neil returned to the wreck and began a search for a passenger, who was also thought to have been in the car. He was however driven back by the heat.

It was later established that the driver had been alone.

The Bravery displayed by this Officer, at some personal risk, clearly saved a life.

CASE NO - 1620

**DAVID JOHN ANDERSON
HAYDEN NEPIA STOWELL**

**BRONZE MEDAL
BRONZE MEDAL**

On 25th January 2006 at Örete Beach, Waihau Bay, two young people, a 15 year-old boy and a 13 year-old girl were swimming. They became caught in a rip, were being carried out to sea and were in difficulty approximately 350 metres from shore. The conditions were hazardous with a strong offshore wind and a 3metre swell. The two were observed to be struggling to stay afloat. While the young girl did manage to get herself to shore, the boy continued to struggle offshore.

When David Anderson who was staying at a nearby motor camp became aware of the situation he immediately went to the beach and began to swim through the surf, out to the boy. He was joined a short time later by Hayden Stowell. A Cray boat which had been deployed to the area was unable to get close due to the conditions and the very rocky shoreline. After some 10 minutes the two reached the boy at about the same time, when he was approximately 300 metres from shore. The boy was barely conscious and could not stay afloat. When Anderson and Stowell retrieved him and succeeded in getting him to shore with chest injuries and suffering from hypothermia he had been in difficulty for over 50 minutes. Rough surf and rocks hindered their efforts. Both suffered cuts and abrasions.

By their efforts in very trying conditions David Anderson and Hayden Stowell had clearly averted a loss of life.

Case NO - 1621

CRAIG JOHN DONALDSON

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

At Whangamata Beach in the middle of the afternoon 19th February 2006, a heavily built middle aged man suffering from multiple sclerosis was swimming, with the aid of a boogie board, in relatively calm water but on an outgoing and swiftly running tide. He did not appreciate that he was being carried out towards the breaking surf, which was rough with the outgoing tide acting against the incoming waves.

His situation was recognised by Craig Donaldson, an off-duty Constable who was walking on the beach, with his partner, near the estuary entrance at the southern end. While his partner sought assistance Constable Donaldson swam out and reached the man as he hit the line of surf. He managed to pull him across the estuary and was able to reach rocks some 30 metres distant where they clung until a boat from the surf lifesaving club reached them some 10 minutes later.

The rock reached was the last at the estuary entrance before the open sea where conditions were dangerous.

On two occasions the swimmer was washed from the rocks by large waves and had to be assisted back. The man was incapable of helping himself to move further to safety and due to his large size and the barrage of incoming waves it was not possible for Constable Donaldson to gain more secure ground.

When the boat arrived and it was possible to get it in close enough Craig assisted in getting the man safely into it.

In conditions which constituted a risk to himself, Craig Donaldson, by his actions, was successful in avoiding a potential loss of life.

Case NO -1622

ALASTAIR ROSS DICKIE

SILVER MEDAL

At a Motel in Christchurch at 2.15 a.m. on the morning of 23rd May 2006, a fire took a hold in a ground floor Unit. Three of the occupants had managed to get out but one, a 10 year old boy could not.

The occupant of another Unit, Senior Sergeant Alastair Dickie, on hearing the call of “fire” put on some outerwear and went to the downstairs Unit where he found two males endeavouring to extinguish the flames which were by then well established in the centre of the lounge.

The smoke and heat were intense. Earlier attempts at re-entry by the boy's parents had been unsuccessful and had resulted in injury to both of them.

Alastair Dickie heard a call for help coming from the boy.

Barefooted and with protection about his face from wet furnishing material only, he entered the Unit in thick smoke and intense heat.

After stumbling over furniture in the lounge he followed the sound of moaning and finally located the boy on the floor in a rear bedroom, by using touch alone as there was no visibility.

He gathered up the boy and hampered again by and falling over unseen furniture he managed to find the way out.

Senior Sergeant Dickie suffered minor burns to an arm, a cut to a foot and was treated for smoke inhalation.

With no regard for his own safety Alastair Dickie had rescued the boy from an obviously life threatening situation.

**Case NO - 1623 TONY WILLIAM BURDON CERIFICATE OF MERIT
 MATTHEW THOMAS ELLIOTT LETTER OF COMMENDATION**

On 29 July 2006, on the Wairau River, near Onamalutu, Constables Tony William Burdon and Matthew Thomas Elliott responded to a call for assistance to a man, trapped by his feet in his kayak which had hit a submerged rock. The kayak was wrapped around the rock, held against it by the force of the water in the fast flowing river, pinning the occupant who by the time of their arrival had been in the water for a half hour. The water was icy cold. The occupant was clearly having serious problems endeavouring to hold himself above the water. His kayak was submerged

With difficulty the two Constables, having themselves entered the water, managed to attach a rope to the bow of the kayak and after a number of unsuccessful attempts finally managed to pull it away from the rock. The kayaker then was able to extricate himself but was exhausted and he sank below the surface.

Constable Burdon dived down and brought him to the surface and while he held him they began drifting down the river. During this time Constable Burdon having lost his hold, had to dive again to retrieve the Kayaker from beneath the surface.

Constable Elliott, who had by this time swum after the two, then joined him and gave assistance in bringing the man to the shore.

The rescued man was hospitalised suffering from hypothermia and extreme exhaustion.

By their actions in very trying conditions and with little regard for their own safety Tony Burdon and Matthew Elliott had succeeded in preventing an almost certain tragedy.

**Case NO – 1624 ZACK JAMES FURNISS SILVER MEDAL
 SHANNON STUART BARWOOD BRONZE MEDAL
 EDEN JAMES SEWELL CERTIFICATE OF MERIT**

On the afternoon of 11 February 2006 near the Aquarium at Marine Parade, Napier, a party of children were playing on the beach close to the water's edge. There was a huge swell rolling in causing large breaking surf and a severe undertow.

Zach Furniss and Shannon Barwood who were both nearby observed that a 9 year old girl was caught by a large roller which broke and surged up the beach. She was engulfed by it and quickly dragged into the surf and out beyond it. An 11 year old boy who had entered the water was caught in the enormous breakers and was immediately in difficulty.

When Constable Eden Sewell arrived he saw Zach Furniss out beyond the breakers supporting the girl and Shannon Barwood in the surf attempting to retrieve the boy.

Zach Furniss had entered the water to go to the assistance of the girl who he could see was having trouble keeping her head above water. He was caught in the breakers, being repeatedly knocked back in shore and washed up the beach. He eventually succeeded in getting beyond the surf and out to the girl who was completely exhausted, as he was also as the result of his exertions in reaching her after swimming fifty metres in atrocious conditions.

He managed to keep her afloat and swam her toward the beach. The two were caught by a breaker, carried in and dumped while still short of the beach. Constable Sewell managed to take the girl from Zach who was by then totally exhausted and after finally managing to get himself to the beach, required hospital treatment.

Shannon Barwood, who had been first in the water, was meanwhile attempting to recover the 11 year old boy. He was chest deep in the surf and was having great difficulty as he was being dumped by the waves and being swept in and out by the surge. Try as he may he was unable to make contact with the boy who was affected as he was.

Constable Sewell, who was by then in the water close by, eventually secured a hold and dragged the boy to the beach. Shannon was totally exhausted.

Constable Sewell who was at times also chest deep in the enormous surf break was ultimately successful in completing the rescue of the two youngsters.

All three rescuers were subjected to severe buffeting and had ingested a considerable amount of seawater.

By their actions, at great risk to themselves, they had been successful in preventing almost certain fatalities.

Case NO - 1625

**ERIK GAWAIN BRADSHAW
CHRISTINE JANE RYAN**

**SILVER MEDAL
SILVER MEDAL**

On 12 January 2005, near "The Pylon", at Cascade Saddle in Mt Aspiring National Park, at approximately midday, a male and a female climber who were descending a snow tongue, slipped, fell over a bluff and then down a 250metre rock face into a drainage gut. They came to rest against a small snow bridge on a wall platform within the gut.

When, shortly afterwards, Erik Bradshaw and Christine Ryan became aware of the accident they went down to the ridgeline from where the two climbers had fallen. Moving with caution to the bottom of the snow slope and to the edge of the bluff they were able to see one of them.

Realizing that this part of the terrain was impossible to descend without specialist equipment, they followed the track down further until they found a thin ridge and decided to attempt to descend to the fallen couple from there.

Between them they had one short 30 metre guiding rope and no additional equipment.

Without the aid of any technical equipment, they both climbed down the particularly steep and difficult face and were able to reach the fallen couple some 150 metres below. In doing so they had put themselves at great personal risk.

Any slip on their part could easily have had fatal consequences.

They found that both of the fallen climbers had suffered severe injuries.

Erik reached the female climber first. She was coherent. He placed her in a sleeping bag and then climbed further down into the gut to reach the male victim who was obviously in a very serious condition.

Christine Ryan followed Erik down and assisted him to put the man into a sleeping bag which she had been able to recover.

She then climbed back again and attended to the female climber, who was still conscious. She remained with her until a cliff rescue team arrived.

Erik Bradshaw stayed with the man, who after a short time, stopped breathing. Erik commenced CPR, which he continued for 50 minutes until the rescue team arrived. Unfortunately the man had not survived.

By responding as they did to the situation in which they found themselves, and without thought for their own safety, Erik Bradshaw and Christine Ryan had made a significant contribution to the eventual rescue of one of the victims of this tragedy and were able to bring assistance, both physical and emotional, to them both.

Case NO -1626

RICHARD ARTHUR KIRBY

BRONZE MEDAL

On 18 January 2007 at McLeods Bay on Whangarei Harbour, an elderly man who had entered the water for a swim from an anchored yacht, was immediately in considerable difficulty.

He was being carried away by a strong current and was unable to make his way back.

When attempts by others to provide assistance failed, Richard Kirby, aged 75, whose eyesight was seriously impaired, left the yacht and swam to him with a life jacket.

Richard then endeavoured to tow him back to the yacht. When he found that he was unable to do so he stayed, kept him calm and provided support until assistance arrived some 20 minutes later.

By his timely action Richard Kirby prevented a possible drowning.

Case NO -1627 WARWICK BRUCE ALEXANDER STAINTON

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

On 19th June 2006 at Beach Haven, Auckland, a 71 year old man attempting to reach the wharf was in difficulty when his small dinghy was swamped by a one metre high wave and he was washed into the sea. He was not wearing a life jacket. The water was extremely cold with wind gusting up to 40 knots. Caught by the fast ebbing tide he was quickly being carried out of the bay and towards the harbour.

When Constable Warwick Stainton and a partner arrived at the scene the man was seen, in an exhausted state, clinging to the dinghy which was by then 50 metres off the end of the wharf and drifting further out.

Constable Stainton ran to the end of the wharf to endeavour to make contact but couldn't.

He knew that a Water Police launch was coming but that it was still some time away.

He became concerned that, in the state the man was obviously in, the elderly man would be unable to maintain his hold or stay afloat until that help arrived.

He dived off the wharf to give assistance and in the difficult water conditions with the wind against the tide creating whitecaps, he swam to the man who was in a very distressed state when he was finally reached 50 metres further out.

Using the partially submerged dinghy for buoyancy Constable Stainton supported the victim until they were both taken aboard the Police launch.

The man had been in the water for a considerable time and was hospitalised suffering hypothermia.

Warwick Stainton's intervention had clearly prevented a fatality.

Case NO – 1628 KERRY LESLIE SIMPSON

KURT JOHN LAWRENCE SAMSON

LETTER OF COMMENDATION

LETTER OF COMMENDATION

On 11th June 2006, at 1.30pm, on the Makapua Bridge between Tuai and Wairoa a car with five occupants hit the right railing, left the road, and after rolling three times, came to rest on its roof in the streambed. It immediately filled with water.

Kerry Simpson and Kurt Samson who were travelling together towards Wairoa noticed the damage to the bridge and saw the vehicle upside down in the stream below. They climbed down the steep bank and on reaching the car heard an occupant calling for help.

The water on the bank side was waist deep and in the centre of the stream it was chest deep. The tops of the car doors were embedded in the stream bed and could not be opened.

Kerry Simpson kicked in the windows on the driver's side but the persons inside could not be reached.

Both men then got between the bank and the car and by using their legs against the bank for leverage were able to roll the vehicle into an upright position.

Working from the driver's side of the vehicle Mr Simpson removed one passenger who had not survived the crash and then took hold of the driver and held his head out of the water, but after a short period his breathing stopped. He then assisted Mr Samson before going to call emergency services.

On the passengers' side Mr Samson removed a lady from the centre back seat, assisted her to the bank and returned to car. He removed the front seat passenger who had a disability and, with some difficulty, assisted her to the bank also before returning again. He held a third rear seat passenger out of the water for 5 minutes until two people who had arrived gave him assistance to remove her. The seat belts worn by all but one backseat passenger had had to be cut to release them.

By their timely intervention, their supreme efforts in righting the vehicle and their attention to the passengers, Kerry Simpson and Kurt Samson doubtless saved the lives of three of the five. Unfortunately two had drowned.

Case NO -1629

CLIFTON DENNIS LONG

BRONZE MEDAL

In the evening of October 26 2006, at 8.00 pm a fisherman was whitebaiting at the mouth of the Hokitika River at high tide, while standing in the water on a ledge. The water was cold and rough. He was wearing chest waders.

Where he was standing, the water was not very deep, but beyond him the ledge fell away quickly.

When he was caught by a substantial cross-wave he lost his footing and was very soon out of his depth a distance from the bank.

With his waders full of water he could not stay afloat and was in danger of drowning.

Clifton Long, who had been standing on the bank in a position behind the man, quickly realised the danger and dived into the river to go to his assistance. Clifton was wearing a wet suit.

He took hold of the man and managed to keep him above water until others formed a human chain and brought the fisherman ashore.

Had Clifton Long not responded as positively as he did, there would clearly have been a tragedy.

Case NO -1630

NATHAN CRAIG CLARK

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

On March 3rd 2007 at 3.00 a.m. a fire occurred in a house at Waikaia, Southland. The house had been deliberately set alight. Six men were asleep there at the time. All had been drinking.

When a neighbour, Nathan Clark, woke, saw the glow and realised the situation he ran across the road to assist. The front decking and the roof were alight.

He found the front door was locked but was able to gain entry through an attached garage.

There was fire coming down from the ceiling in the living room and smoke throughout the house.

Mr Clark found one man asleep on a couch in the living room. He woke him, got him on his feet and helped him out to the door.

He then turned his attention to a bedroom where he found five others still asleep. He had to shake each of them awake and as a number were unable to help themselves he had to physically assist them to safety.

But for Nathan Clark's prompt action and lack of concern for his own safety in entering the burning house, the lives of the occupants could well have been lost.

Case NO -1631 JONATHON ALAN CRICKETT

BRONZE MEDAL

On 15th May 2007 at Petone Wharf, Lower Hutt a 20 year-old man fell from the end of the wharf into deep, cold and choppy water.

Jonathon Crickett, who was on the wharf fishing with a friend, heard the splash and saw the young man floating on his back, fully clothed. He did not respond when called to.

Notwithstanding the rough conditions, Mr Crickett dived into the water and took hold of the man, who was unconscious, and proceeded to swim approximately 100 - 150 metres back to the shore, towing the unconscious man who was wearing a bag on his back.

Police who had been alerted arrived and assisted in getting him from the water.

The man was hospitalised in a serious condition.

But for Jonathon Crickett's bravery in entering the water in the difficult conditions to retrieve the unconscious man, this incident would have ended tragically

Case NO -1632

DAVID HAUPAROA HIROTI

BRONZE MEDAL

On 22nd January 2007, three members of a family and a friend were in difficulty in the Whanganui River after their dinghy overturned near rail bridge at Aramaho. The river at that point is very deep and fast flowing.

Constable David Hiroti who was off duty at the time was crossing the bridge. He saw the three adults and a child in difficulty and entered the water to go to their assistance.

Constable Hiroti brought the 5 year-old child and one adult to the river bank and then returned to assist the child's mother who was still in the water near the upturned dinghy. She was showing signs of being very distressed and she panicked when David Hiroti approached her. During his attempts to assist her he was pushed under the water several times

David Hiroti put his own life at risk to achieve the rescue of all those involved and by so doing avoided a potential tragedy in a river noted for its dangers.

Case NO - 1633

**DAVID STANLEY McKENZIE
HAYDEN TAPPER**

**CERTIFICATE OF MERIT
LETTER OF COMMENDATION**

On 8TH July Sergeant David McKenzie and Constable Hayden Tapper were called to an incident at the Invercargill BMX track where a 29 year old man had been observed climbing a large Macrocarpa tree, obviously intent upon doing himself harm.

There had been a heavy frost and the temperature was very cold.

Upon his arrival Sergeant McKenzie saw that the man was at that stage 12 metres from the ground. His attempts to communicate with him were unsuccessful and he therefore commenced to climb to reach the man. He had gone only a short distance when, without warning, the man stepped off the tree and was suspended by a piece of clothing around his neck and tied to the tree.

When Sergeant McKenzie and Constable Tapper who had followed him in the climb reached the man they were able to remove the attached clothing and support him until the Fire Service with a ladder were able to recover all three and return them to the ground some 20 minutes later.

In acting as they did David McKenzie and Hayden Tapper put themselves at significant risk and by so doing clearly prevented a loss of life.

Case NO - 1634

**JASON DEWAR
KATRINA SAVAGE**

**BRONZE MEDAL
BRONZE MEDAL**

In the late afternoon of 27th October 2007, a fire took a hold in a house in suburban Christchurch trapping the occupant.

Neighbours Jason Dewar and Katrina Savage who lived across the street entered the external door to the lounge in the face of large volumes of smoke. They found the occupant face down on the floor of the lounge near the bedroom door. The heat and smoke in the lounge was intense causing Katrina to leave to catch her breath before re-entering to assist Jason to carry the unconscious man from the house to a place of safety.

Jason Dewar was hospitalised for a period suffering from smoke inhalation. The rescued man suffered severe burns to his back and injury to his respiratory system. He survived.

Jason Dewar and Katrina Savage in acting as they did clearly prevented a fatality.

Case NO - 1635

STEPHEN JOHN HUNT

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Shortly after midnight on 1st September 2007 in Whangaparaoa Constable Hunt and two colleagues who were travelling to an incident elsewhere noticed smoke coming from the rear of a building and stopped to investigate.

They found a vehicle parked between two others. It had smoke coming from under the bonnet and the car itself was filled with thick black smoke. The engine well was on fire and this had spread into the wheel arches. The tyres were starting to burn

Constable Hunt approached the vehicle on foot. The smoke prevented him seeing into it. He tried the back door as the front of the car was too hot with flames coming from the right front wheel arch. The rear door was locked and he therefore went to the front door. It was not locked and he opened it to provide himself with some protection from the heat. To his surprise a man's arm fell out. He could not see anything and therefore pulled on the arm hoping to extricate the person who was reclined in the driver's seat. He could not move him and leant into the vehicle, grabbed the occupant around the chest and pulled him out. The man was unconscious. Constable Hunt was at this stage assisted by a partner in dragging him clear.

Hunt then returned to the car to feel around for others but there were none. At this point the car was well alight with the tyres exploding and he retired.

Stephen Hunt's intervention clearly saved a life.

Case NO - 1636 ANTHONY GEORGE WILLIAM CHURCH SILVER MEDAL
JOSEPH GREGORY HARDING SILVER MEDAL
ALBERT EDWARD COLLINS BRONZE MEDAL

On the 30th of October 2007, on State Highway 1 near Horotiu, north of Hamilton, a fully laden diesel fuel tanker was involved in a head-on collision with a north bound truck and trailer unit. The tanker rolled onto its side and the driver was knocked unconscious. Anthony Church along with Joseph Harding, who had stopped their own vehicles short of the crash, ran to the crashed fuel tanker and truck both of which had started to burn. Mr Church found the tanker driver, lying on his back in the bottom left hand side of his cab. Mr Church broke a hole in the windscreen and both he and Mr Harding wrapped an arm in clothing, put their arms through the windscreen and pulled it away from the cab to create an opening, through which Mr Church pulled the driver. Mr Harding then assisted him to carry the driver some 20 metres away from vehicle. Mr Church, led to believe that there had been a passenger in the cab, then returned twice to the vehicle but despite a thorough search of the cab could not locate anybody else and he withdrew approximately 50 metres. At that point the cab exploded and the tanker was completely engulfed in flame. The driver suffered concussion.

Meanwhile the driver of the truck, who had taken a blow to his head when he had been buffeted around in his cab, and was bleeding profusely, was having difficulty in getting out of his vehicle. On impact, fire had erupted at the front of his cab. He finally managed to release his seatbelt, but the driver's side door was jammed. After freeing his foot which had become caught in the pedals he managed to climb through the driver's window and collapsed next to the cab. He had been affected by leaking steam and diesel.

Albert Collins who had also stopped his vehicle short of the crash on the opposite side of the scene and had run to the burning truck and trailer unit, found the driver where he had fallen and pulled him to safety. Explosions were coming from both of the vehicles. The driver had suffered multiple injuries, burns and the effects of diesel on his body.

By their intervention, Anthony Church, Joseph Harding and Albert Collins had clearly been successful in saving two lives.

Case NO - 1637 DESMOND JOHN HARBORNE BRONZE MEDAL

On the morning of the 12th of July 2007 at an orchard near Cromwell a worker attempted to walk across a 50 metre wide frozen pond formed behind an irrigation dam. The morning was cold and frosty with the air temperature around minus 5degC.

About two thirds of the way across the lake the ice began cracking and he tried to run to the other side but tripped and fell through the ice into the water cold enough to quickly cause hypothermia.

Attempts by a companion to provide assistance were unsuccessful.

Desmond Harborne 46, a fellow worker at the orchard, who had been alerted to the situation, arrived and made three attempts at crawling out onto the ice on his hands and knees but the ice began cracking under his weight and he was forced back to the edge each time.

While attempts were being made to get help to the man in the water using a hose as a make shift rope, Mr Harborne began to make his way out on the ice once again, now using a wooden pallet to evenly distribute his body weight over the ice. The man in the water was repeatedly slipping under the water and resurfacing and his attempts at pulling himself from the water had made the hole larger and he was losing the feeling in his limbs.

Mr Harborne reached within 10 metres of him and was able to assist in redirecting the hose to a point from which it could be grasped. This was ultimately successful and rescuers on the pond edge were then able to pull the man from the water towards Mr Harborne who was able to lift him onto the pallet. Both men were then pulled across the ice and to the edge of the dam.

The rescued man had spent more than 10 minutes in the freezing water and was hypothermic when admitted to hospital for observation.

Through Desmond Harborne's endeavours a tragedy had been prevented.

Senior Constable Robbins reached the first of them and although being pounded by heavy waves she was able to keep his head above water and to work her way back with him, to the shore and safety.

Senior Constable Bright reached the second boy who was further out and in most difficulty and held on to him despite the fact that they were both being pushed under and further out by the waves, at times being lost from sight from the shore. Eventually he was successful in reaching the shore with the boy in tow.

The actions of Roger Bright and Kylie Robbins had clearly prevented two probable fatalities.

Case NO -1642 DONNA MAREE KITCHENER SILVER MEDAL

At 4.30 pm on 30th January 2006, at Green Bay Beach on the Northern shore of the Manukau Harbour, a 10 year-old boy got into difficulty in the mud flats. He could not swim and had become caught in the mud as the tide was coming in. His father went to his assistance but he too became caught in the mud. He managed to free the boy but was unable to free himself and tragically lost his life as the water rose over his head.

Donna Kitchener, who was walking her dog on the beach, was alerted to the situation and went to their assistance. With great difficulty, and impeded by the knee-deep mud, she managed to reach water deep enough for her to swim. She was not a strong swimmer but was able to reach the boy. He was in a state of panic and climbed over her shoulders which compounded her own distressed state. She used a kick board she had with her to keep the boy afloat, and towed him towards the shore until they reached knee-deep water and she was able to pull him in further until he could stand.

Utterly exhausted she collapsed on the beach and fell into the mud from which she had to be helped. Without doubt, Donna Kitchener, with great presence of mind and by her outstanding effort had saved the boy's life.

Case NO- 1642 A KAFOA NGAUAMO IN MEMORIAM CERTIFICATE

At 4.30 pm on 30th January 2006, at Green Bay Beach on the Northern shore of the Manukau Harbour, Kafoa Ngauamo went to the assistance of his 10 year-old son Moteiva. The boy had been paddling in the shallow water but was in difficulty in the mud flats when he went out further into chest deep water. He could not swim and had become caught in the mud. The tide was coming in.

His father, who was a good swimmer, swam out to him, wrapped his arms around his son and being able to stand, he was able to free him and pull him out of the water. This took some time and he soon found himself being sucked deeper and deeper into the mud with the water steadily rising.

With considerable difficulty he had able to free the boy, who fortunately was rescued, but sadly he was unable to free himself from the mud.

Kafoa Ngauamo lost his life; drowning as the water ultimately rose over his head.

A brave act on his part ended tragically.

Case NO - 1643 ROBERT JOHN FRY BRONZE MEDAL

Very early in the morning of 27th March 2008, in Wanganui East, Robert Fry, who lived in a neighbouring property, was woken by a strong smell of burning and saw smoke coming from a sleep-out at the rear of the property next door.

He knew that there was a man in the sleep-out.

He ran to the front door of the building. It was unlocked and when he opened it he was confronted by dense smoke and there was flame in a corner. It was subsequently established that the fire was from burning bedding and the slat bed frame itself.

He went in but was unable to see anything and was forced out because he was having difficulty breathing.

On entering a second time he was able to make out melted material in the area of the bed but was unable to locate the occupant and was forced out again by smoke and heat.
When he went back in a third time he found the badly burnt occupant lying on the floor alongside the bed and dragged him out of the building, which was by then well alight.
In moving the man away from the burning building Robert was assisted by his partner Tamsyn Hansen-Hill. The man had not survived the fire.

Case NO – 1644 TINO LILO BRONZE MEDAL

On the 20th November 2007 a 9 year-old boy, who could not swim, had been floating on an inflated inner tube near the Manukau Yacht Club and was soon in difficulty when the rope to which it had been attached came free. He began to drift out and down the harbour. The area is an exceptionally tidal stretch of fast flowing water.

Tino Lilo, 60 years of age, who was walking on the beach, saw what was happening.

Without regard for his own safety he immediately went to help, swimming 400 metres to reach the boy who was tired and cold. He had fallen from the tube and it was floating away.

Mr Lilo used a plastic container, which he had taken out with him, to support the boy and, with him in tow, swam back to shore.

The rescued boy was taken by ambulance to hospital for assessment.

Tino Lilo was assessed at the shore but declined further assistance.

Case NO – 1645	JOE NUNUFOLAU	SILVER MEDAL
	KARL ANTHONY HOGAN	SILVER MEDAL
	JOHN DAVID JAMES TAVITA	SILVER MEDAL
	SHANE DAVID ROBINSON	SILVER MEDAL

On the 8th of June 2008 in the late afternoon on Karaka Road State Highway 22, a car and a van were involved in a head-on collision. The driver of the car was killed. The driver of the van, a mother, her two children, a son aged 5 and a daughter 15, along with her 15 year-old friend, were trapped in the vehicle. The car and van had caught fire on impact. The fuel tanks on both vehicles had ruptured, resulting in a fireball which engulfed both vehicles.

The driver and her passengers all suffered severe multiple injuries.

Occupants of other vehicles, which had been able to avoid the crash, ran to the van and between them were successful in removing all four of those inside.

Joe Nunufolau forced the side door to gain access and with help removed the two teenagers from the rear seats and then went back to get the boy who was then on the floor by the front passenger seat.

Karl Hogan climbed into the van to help free one of those girls who was seated behind the driver. Her seatbelt was jammed. Her legs were also caught and he helped free them.

John Tavita went into the vehicle to help pull that girl from a rear seat and assisted in getting the boy from the well in the front.

Shane Robinson, whose car was travelling in front of the van, had only just managed to avoid being hit by the oncoming car by driving over a ditch. He ran back to the crash, forced the van driver's door open and pulled the children's mother out.

All of this activity took place in the presence of fire, within seconds before the site became engulfed in flame which extended over an area of four metres around both vehicles.

But for the intervention of these four men, those in the van would not have survived.

Case NO – 1646 GARTH STOCKLEY CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

On the afternoon of Saturday 22nd March 2008 at Piha Beach, three swimmers were swept by a strong current along the beach and into an area of very rough white water. The beach was not patrolled at that point.

Conditions were very difficult and the surf huge.

Senior Sergeant Garth Stockley who was off duty and had been body surfing, noticed what had happened and when, five minutes later, he saw one of swimmers come ashore and run off down the beach and could see one other struggling with somebody in the huge surf, he realised that something was very wrong.

He ran 400 metres along the beach and found a teenager waist or chest deep in the water struggling to hold onto another male and keep his head above water.

Garth ran into the waves and found that the man being held was limp and unresponsive. From his appearance he feared the man was dead.

Taking hold of his arms, and with assistance from the teenager, he dragged the man towards the beach through surf which frequently knocked he and the teenager off their feet.

On reaching the shallows he found that the victim's pulse was weak, and his breathing very light and laboured.

Garth commenced emergency first aid which he continued until the arrival of lifeguards, an ambulance and a paramedic. The patient was unconscious and in a critical condition. He was transported by helicopter to hospital, where he recovered.

By acting as he did in the difficult conditions Senior Sergeant Garth Stockley had put his own life at risk to prevent a drowning.

Case NO - 1647 DAVID LYDON UTTING BRONZE MEDAL

At about 5.00 pm on Wednesday the 10th of September, 2008 at Whiritoa Beach, near Whangamata, a young man took his Kayak out into rough water with a two metre swell running. A steep drop to deep water close to the shore makes this beach dangerous. Water temperature that day was near 14° C.

The kayaker, was not wearing a life jacket. When conditions worsened he was knocked from his boat by a wave while trying to return to shore. He was caught in a rip and lost contact with it. He was unable to swim to the shore.

His calls for help were heard by 58 year-old David Utting, a resident living adjacent to the beach. He knew that emergency services would not be able to reach the beach for at least thirty minutes.

Mr Utting, wearing a life jacket but not a wet suit, launched his own kayak and through hazardous conditions paddled out to the man in trouble to give him the spare life jacket which he had taken out with him.

At this point a wave knocked David out of his own kayak and it, too, drifted away.

He stayed with the man and they attempted to swim to shore but were unable to do so because of the rip and holes in the sandbar just off the beach.

Fortunately David Utting's kayak had drifted back towards them and they were able to swim to that.

Using it for floatation and with the assistance of the substantial waves they were able to reach the beach. They were both exhausted and were assessed by ambulance staff.

Putting himself at risk by entering the sea in conditions which he would have normally avoided, David Utting succeeded in saving a life.

**Case NO 1648 PETER JOHN MACINTOSH CERTIFICATE OF MERIT
ALEX STUART BRITTON LETTER OF COMMENDATION**

Just after midday on the 5th of August 2007 at Jellie Park in Bryndwr Christchurch, a Staffordshire Terrier cross attacked two young children and mauled a 2 year-old girl. The dog was savaging her head when 46 year-old Peter Macintosh who was walking his own dog, heard screaming and went to her assistance. An older girl had been making an unsuccessful attempt to drive the dog away.

He threw himself on the dog and after a significant struggle he succeeded in throttling it, forcing it to release its hold on the child's face.

Alex Britton, joined Peter in the struggle with the animal until, after several minutes, it released the girl and then he restrained it, holding it down by the neck, until help arrived and it was removed.

Once the dog had been restrained the girl was taken to a park bench where Peter MacIntosh and two ladies took care of her, applying pressure to her severe wounds, until an ambulance arrived.

The girl suffered multiple lacerations to her face, a broken eye socket, a broken jaw, and lost a number of teeth. She underwent extensive surgery. Injuries to her face required 290 stitches.

Had Peter Macintosh and Alex Britton not placed their own lives at risk in the struggle with the dog, the attack would almost certainly have resulted in a fatality.

Case NO - 1649 JASON JOHN PAGE CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

On the 27th of February 2008 at about 10.30 pm a young man jumped from the Wanganui City Bridge.

Constable Jason Page arrived on the scene and from the bridge endeavoured to direct the man in the water towards a support column which he would be able to hold onto. His advice was ignored. When the current carried the man against the column he pushed himself back into deep water and was soon seen to be struggling to stay above the water, submerging for long periods of time, while drifting under the bridge.

Constable page climbed down a five metre rock embankment to the waters edge where he removed his uniform and, swimming in an arc to counteract the current, he reached the fully dressed man. His help was resisted.

Jason Page forced the man into a rescue position and then swam some 30 metres back to the water's edge where he pulled him up onto the bank.

Jason was by this time extremely cold and exhausted but administered first aid while at the same time directing the activities of other services on the scene which were assisting in the rescue effort.

Restraints were required to counter the rescued man's attempts to get back into the water.

Logs ,which move with the tide and current to accumulate against the bridge supports, present an ominous hazard to people in the river at this point.

There is little doubt that by his action Jason Page, at considerable risk to himself, had prevented a loss of life.