

AWARDS BESTOWED SEPTEMBER 2009 to MARCH 2011

Case NO – 1650 MACKEY BOY POUWHARE

SILVER MEDAL

Shortly before 6.00pm on 22 November 2008, a car crashed into a power pole in Cravens Road, Blenheim, The pole collapsed, bringing down three live 6,500 volt wires which were hanging low over the road.

The occupants were two teenage mothers and their three infants, one of whom was a girl, 3 years old, and the other two, a boy and girl, 6 and 7 months old respectively.

Mackey Boy Pouwhare who lived close by, heard the collision and as he approached the crash site he saw that the two mothers had managed to remove their children from the car. Obviously dazed they were wandering around under the power lines. He saw one of them get electrocuted when she hit one of the wires with her head and when he arrived he saw that both adults had touched the wires and were lying unconscious on the road with the children around them. They were all under the power lines.

One of the mothers died at the scene while the other was removed to hospital where her life was saved.

Mackey Pouwhare went under the wires and first pulled one baby from near the front of the car, then encouraged the eldest girl to crawl towards him and safety. He then retrieved the second baby.

Once he had all three children out of danger Mr Pouwhare was assisted by his wife Suzanne in moving them to a safe area to await the arrival of emergency services.

The scene he faced on arrival would have been hard to comprehend and he showed great fortitude to control the situation and prevent further loss of life, including his own.

Case NO – 1651 GREGORY ZANE TOVIA BETHAM

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

At about 4.00pm on 20th November 2008 Police were informed that a lady had been seen at Whangarei Waterfalls, lying motionless beyond the safety fence and only a short distance from the edge.

When Constable Betham arrived and began talking to her she started crawling toward the cliff face. He climbed the rail into an area of unstable ground to intervene. By taking a hold by her clothing he endeavoured to restrain her. There was a struggle and they both ended up in the very loose soil right on the edge of the drop.

By taking a hold of a tree for support and with his feet in the loose soil Gregory Betham was finally successful in pulling the lady back and prevented the woman and himself from falling 25 metres down the cliff face.

Case NO – 1652 ALLAN WALTER MAXTED

SILVER MEDAL

On 1 July 2008 at 12.30am on Douglas Road, Amberley, a car crashed into a power pole and caught fire. The flames quickly spread throughout the vehicle which was wrapped around the pole.

Allan Maxted who lived nearby heard the car passing his house and then the impact. He dressed, called emergency services and ran 150 metres to the car where he opened the driver's side door and saw the unconscious driver slumped across the front seats. The heat was intense.

Mr Maxted entered the vehicle and began pulling the driver to remove him but had difficulty when the driver's legs and feet were caught inside. A Volunteer Chief Fire Officer who had arrived saw what was happening and, with flames building around them, he helped Mr Maxted to free the legs and drag the man to safety.

Allan Maxted's quick response had saved a life.

Case NO – 1653 DAVID BRIAN WRIGHT CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Just after midday on the 19th January 2009 Sergeant David Wright responded to a report that a worker at the cement works in Silverdale had climbed to the top platform of a 30 metre cement tower and was threatening to jump.

Access to the tower, which had a hand rail, was by an open steel ladder covered by a metal frame. Sergeant Wright climbed to the top landing where he found the man who had his back to him. He attempted to talk to him but received no acknowledgement.

When finally there was a response it was negative and challenging. The man suddenly spun around, was abusive and then moved toward the Sergeant who for his own protection wrapped his arm around a metal stanchion and called upon him to back off. The man ultimately turned away and started leaning over and putting his leg over the railing.

Sergeant Wright continued to talk to the man who was clearly distressed and after an hour and having built up a rapport he was able to convince him to climb down where he received medical attention.

David Wright had put himself at risk to achieve a solution and prevent a potential death or serious injury.

Case NO – 1654 KIM ROCHELLE REES LETTER OF COMMENDATION

On the 5th May 2008 at 8.30pm Mrs Rees heard an alarm sounding. Believing that it was coming from a nearby school she went to investigate but found instead that it was a smoke alarm coming from a neighbour's house. She saw a glow through the kitchen window. She could hear the crackling sound of something burning.

She ran to the rear of the house to a ranch slider door which was closed. She saw her neighbour lying on the floor 2 metres inside, with a pool of blood around his head. He had been severely injured. She saw flames in the kitchen. The house was rapidly filling with smoke.

When she went inside she saw that the fire and smoke, described as putrid by an attending Fire Station Officer, was coming from a number of items, but not food, burning on the top of the range. Kim Rees ran outside to alert others, and then returned.

Although she was being badly affected by smoke inhalation for which she was treated at the hospital, she assisted the injured man and sat with him until help arrived.

**Case NO – 1655 TREVOR - JOHN GURNEY
 PHILLIP ANTONNI LITTLE**

**CERTIFICATE OF MERIT
LETTER OF COMMENDATION**

On the 25th September 2008 at 10.45am a mentally disturbed woman entered the surf off Southshore, Christchurch where the estuary meets the sea. There was a strong current running.

When Constables Gurney and Little arrived at the scene she was already well out to sea. Constable Gurney ran into the surf, removing his outer clothing as he went, and swam 120 metres out to her where she was neck deep in the surf. She resisted his attempt to help. Constable Gurney managed to calm the woman to some extent and despite her continuing resistance and having to contend with the strong cross current, began to tow her towards the shore.

Meanwhile Constable Little who had located a surfboard in a nearby property paddled out to assist, reaching them part of the way back where he was able to assist in walking the lady out of the water and back to the shore.

They had had to deal with both the elements and a reluctant patient who required treatment for hypothermia.

Together Trevor Gurney and Phillip Little had been able to bring the lady to safety thereby preventing a drowning.

Case NO – 1656 TONY BRYAN GREY

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

On The morning of 14 August 2008 on Flume Road Te Miro, near Cambridge, in very wet conditions, a car carrying an adult and three children on their way to school left the roadway when passing a stock truck which was turning over a small bridge into a farm property. The car finished up in a swollen creek. It came to rest submerged up to its windows in the deep water, and lodged under the bridge.

Tony Grey, who was taking his own children to school, was driving past and saw people standing on the side of the road looking into the creek. He stopped and could then see the car in the water with the three children inside.

Without hesitation Mr Grey jumped onto the roof of the car as it was snaking backwards down the creek and endeavoured to get the children out through the car window. Being unsuccessful he then slid off the roof and into the freezing water. In doing so he became pinned between the bank and the car, which was still moving. He freed himself and succeeded in removing the children to safety.

Tony Grey had acted instinctively and put himself at risk in removing the children from a dangerous situation.

Case NO – 1657 ISAAC SAMUEL OWEN

BRONZE MEDAL

On 31st May 2009 just before 10.00am two 17 year-old friends went out in a Kayak at East End Beach New Plymouth.

What had started out as a mild autumn morning soon changed into a bleak, cold day with a strong offshore wind.

Isaac Owen, an 18 year-old lifeguard who had gone out early to train on his Surf Ski had paddled from East End to the Port and was heading back to the Waiwhakaiho river mouth, when he saw the two teenage girls in their kayak off East End Beach. The weather had made a turn for the worse and he told the girls that they should head back in. However, when he arrived at East End Surf Club and was putting his ski away he became aware that they were still out there. The girls were trying desperately to make their way in to shore but were being blown further out into the Tasman. The weather had quickly deteriorated. The temperature had plummeted to well below 10 degrees on the beach. The water was cold and the wind was very strong.

Isaac knew time was critical as the temperature combined with the wind chill factor out to sea made hypothermia a real risk not only to both of the girls but also to him.

Despite being clad only in shorts and a rash top, he used a paddleboard and headed out towards the pair, reaching them some 400 metres away.

The girls were distressed and tired. He took control of the situation, calming and reassuring them. He made the decision to use the Kayak and take one of the girls on his board, whilst the other, a strong swimmer would try and make it back to shore. The task for Isaac was difficult as he was not only contending with the offshore winds and seas, but also having to stop several times to help the girl when she fell off the board.

The rescue took over one hour, at the end of which Isaac Owen was exhausted and very cold.

A jet ski which had been launched late in the piece finally reached him and the girl he had with him, when they were 50 metres from the beach.

By his action Isaac Owen ensured that a potential tragedy had been avoided.

Case NO – 1658

TONY JAMES HOLT

SILVER MEDAL

Early in the afternoon of 1st March 2009, Tony Holt was driving on Whangamata Road near Kinlock when an oncoming car crossed the centre line on a moderate bend causing him to swerve to avoid a collision.

When he looked back in his rear vision mirror he saw the car roll and come to rest on its roof, engine down, on the sloping grass verge.

He turned and went back to the upturned car where he found the driver in front, suspended and held by her seatbelt, and 4 year-old girl upside down in the back seat, trapped in her car seat and belt. He went to his vehicle to get a knife and tools to pry the door open and returned to the car by which time the engine compartment was fully alight with flames and smoke travelling back up into the car. The driver had managed to get her upper body out through the window but her legs were trapped.

Mr Holt reached in, cut the seat belt to free her and dragged the lady completely out of the car onto the road.

With the car now fully alight he then climbed into it to free the youngster by cutting the seatbelt. She fell into his arms and he backed out with her, handing her to another driver who had stopped.

The car exploded as he started to pick up the driver. He managed to lift her and carry her across the road out of danger. Others who had stopped then carried her further away down to where her daughter was being looked after.

By his actions Tony Holt had saved two lives.

Case NO - 1662

PAREKURA LEO TE TAURI BROWN BRONZE MEDAL
PAREKURA LAURENCE BROWN CERTIFICATE OF MERIT
MOANA THOMAS PARATENE LETTER OF COMMENDATION

On Muriwai Beach in the late afternoon of Sunday, 6th December 2009, a family were near the estuary setting a net when a young boy lost his footing, was caught in a strong rip and swept out to sea. His father swam out to rescue him and although exhausted he was ultimately successful in getting him back to the shore.

However, in the meantime, the boy's grandfather, Moana Paratene, 62, had entered the water to go to the assistance of his son and grandson, but he too succumbed to the rip and was swept past them both and further out to sea.

The Brown family members, who were also on the beach, heard the shouts for help.

Parekura Leo Te Tauri Brown, 16, with little regard for his own safety, immediately entered the water and swam 100 metres out through the rip and one metre surf to reach the grandfather and give him support and encouragement.

His father, Parekura Laurence Brown, 51, ran to a nearby bach to get a surfboard, which he used to paddle out to Moana and his own son.

All three of them made a safe return to the shore using the board as a floatation device. Moana Paratene was exhausted and had to be helped from the water. He was driven off the beach to a waiting ambulance for treatment.

But for the swift action of Parekura Leo Te Tauri Brown and Parekura Laurence Brown, who, at risk to themselves had swum out to recover him, Moana Paratene would undoubtedly have drowned.

Case NO - 1663

AARON LUKE HARRIS CERTIFICATE OF MERIT
DEAN DANIEL HARRIS CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

On Tuesday 20th October 2009, on the Southern side of North Head, Devonport, North Shore, a disturbed young woman who had apparently attempted to jump from a cliff, landed in trees on the edge and from there slipped further down a steeply grassed and bushed bank, to a spot where, as police had been informed, she was clinging onto a tree hanging over the cliff with a drop of approximately 20 metres to the rocks and water below her.

Constables Aaron and Dean Harris arrived at the scene together. Along with other officers they began a search in difficult terrain.

In the course of their search Dean Harris went to an unfenced area and thought he heard a faint voice coming through the trees. After calling to Constable Aaron Harris to alert him, he made his way down a steep slope leading to a small bush on the edge of the drop. Here he could clearly hear the woman calling and was able to locate her dangling over the edge. She was desperately holding onto a tree branch which was hanging out over the drop to the rocks and water below.

He was concerned that, in the position he was in, there was not sufficient support available to bear the weight of them both.

He stayed where he was above her while his partner, Aaron Harris, made his way to a position on the opposite side of the woman to Dean and they each found a strong branch, sufficient to support the weight of themselves and the woman.

Once they were both in a stable position, Aaron Harris reached out and grabbed onto the front of the woman's clothing. After ensuring that he had a strong hold, he lifted her towards Dean Harris who grabbed her wrists, pulling her up towards him while Aaron continued to push from below.

Together they managed to get her away from danger and assisted her up the bank where she was attended to by other police personnel before being taken to North Shore hospital.

With no regard for their own safety they had saved a young woman's life.

Case NO - 1664

**RICKY LEE TE HUKI
PAUL BERTRAM GRAHAM**

**SILVER MEDAL
BRONZE MEDAL**

Early in the morning of the 18th November 2009 in Hulke Street, Foxton, a house caught fire. At 2.15am a smoke alarm sounding alerted a neighbour, Ricky Te Huki, to the fire in the house which was on the opposite side of the street. He went over to it and saw smoke coming from the back of the house. He initially thought it may have been coming from a shed but then he saw a ball of fire and smoke coming from high on the wall in an area in which he knew there was a kitchen. Earlier in the evening he had heard noise and he felt sure that there were adults and a child inside. He ran to the house and banged on the window calling to the occupants to get out.

A woman, who was partially obscured by smoke, appeared at the window. She was obviously disorientated but finally opened the window and he was able to pull her out. He had difficulty trying to establish who else was in the house but finally learned that there were a baby and a female still inside. .

At that stage, his brother-in-law, Paul Graham who was a visitor to his house, arrived to help. He went to the back of the house and entered through the kitchen window. While he was opening the back door he looked into the kitchen and could see that the top 30cm of the walls all round were on fire and the room was full of thick smoke. He ran outside to get air and then re-entered through the back door. Ricky followed him in. Both were having difficulty in the conditions. Ricky is an asthmatic. They got out as quickly as possible. Paul then ran round to the front door which was locked and he had to break the glass with his hand to enable him to reach in and open it

Both men went into the house trying to get to a room where they thought the two occupants were. There was thick black smoke and the glow of fire. Smoke was making it difficult to see anything and there were no lights.

The door from the hall into that room was open. Both men were calling out encouraging those inside to come out, but there was no response. They could hear but not see them. Paul could hear the baby crying and the voice of a female adult as well. Attempts to find anyone in the room, by feeling around, keeping low because of the smoke, were unsuccessful.

Both of the men were forced to go out very frequently to get fresh air, each of them recalled re-entering as many as five times.

Constantly they were being affected by the smoke and heat. They were finally forced to stay out when orange flame and thick smoke came down the hall towards them and the heat became intense. At that stage there were no sounds coming from the room.

Despite their earnest endeavours, Ricky Te Huki and Paul Graham had been unable to reach the woman and child. They were both found to have perished and were recovered by the firemen.

Case NO - 1665

**GREGORY JONATHON ALISTAIR LARKIN
BARRY MALCOLM ROBERTSON**

**SILVER MEDAL
CERTIFICATE OF MERIT**

In the middle of the morning of 4th January 2010, at Peketa Beach near Kaikoura two teenagers went out into the sea in a small inflatable dinghy, in an area known as the “washing machine”. The sea current took them 300 metres south along the coast. They panicked and endeavoured to get back to shore through the 2 metre high waves, but the dinghy capsized.

One of the girls wearing a life jacket was able to reach the shore. The inflatable dinghy had drifted in, but the other girl was carried out to sea in the current.

Greg Larkin and Barry Robertson were further down the beach, at Kahutara River mouth, watching surfers. They noticed what appeared to be a small boat and people in the water, out beyond the 3 metre dumping shorebreak.

They knew that in those conditions something was obviously wrong and they immediately made their way by car through the Peketa Motor Camp to the northern end of the beach.

They grabbed one surfboard and their wetsuits, which they climbed into as they went, and ran the few hundred metres to where they could see that there was still one person in the water, out beyond the surfzone, with no boat and no life jacket. They could see that the girl was close to going under. She was struggling against the current and the big waves.

They agreed that Greg Larkin, 36, being the younger of the two, would take the surfboard, dive through the shorebreak and get out to her. Barry Robertson was to stay within the dumping shorebreak to grab them when they came back through. Mr Larkin successfully got through the huge wall of water and reached the 14 year-old girl. He put her on the board and paddled her into the break. The surfboard took a hammering on the way and broke in two, but Greg managed to hold onto the girl and get her to Mr Robertson, where he had waited for them within the break.

Together, all three were dragged up the steep beach, in the shorebreak, by others using a rope.

Gregory Larkin had put himself at extreme risk and with Barry Robertson, who was also at risk in the difficult conditions, assisting, had saved the girl’s life.

Case NO - 1666

**IKE HANSON
TOBY SEDDON WALKER
KYLE REES WILLIAMS**

**SILVER MEDAL
CERTIFICATE OF MERIT
CERTIFICATE OF MERIT**

On Friday 5th February 2010, at about 3pm a jet boat was crossing the Rakaia river mouth bar from the sea to head back up the river. There were two men aboard, Kerry Sutton and Edgar Russ, both in their mid 60’s. The outflow of the river was swift (15-20 knots) and was causing pressure waves to build up on the entrance to the river, where the river mouth opening had cut a diversion to the north directly along the beach causing an extremely dangerous rip along the coast.

As the boat approached the mouth, it was swamped by a following wave, and overturned.

Mr Sutton was able to get out from under the upturned hull. Mr Russ was trapped under the hull, pinned by his lifejacket, but able to breathe from the air pocket in the bow. After a few minutes he managed to discard his lifejacket and surface, just metres from the bow of the boat which was very low in the water.

Kerry Sutton managed to grab and hold onto him with one arm, and onto the bow of the boat with the other, until the boat sank shortly afterwards. Edgar Russ went under a twice, and Kerry had to recover him.

Fishermen at the river mouth had seen the action unfolding.

Ike Hanson, saw one fisherman waving from the shore, south of the river mouth and came in. When told that two men were in trouble on the north side of the river, he immediately sprinted along the shingle beach in his bare feet, carrying his surf board. When he came to the south stream where the tide was extremely swift with a horrendous break on the bar, he launched himself into the water on his surfboard, crossed the south stream quickly and then crossed the main river in the same manner. By now the two men in the sea and without the boat for support, had been caught by the river current and were being rapidly washed north. Ike sprinted along the stones until he was level with them, launched himself into the very rough surf and paddled out to the two men on his board.

Kerry asked him to take his friend in first as he now had no lifejacket, and was suffering from the onset of hypothermia. Ike Hanson started off, with one man on his board, but when he looked back he saw that the other man had started to sink. His lifejacket was no longer effective. Swimming back, he put him on the board as well. This meant that he had to swim, towing the board, in the strong rip, just in his wetsuit. The water temperature was 10° C.

His two friends who had been surfing with him, Toby Walker and Kyle Williams, who had followed behind Ike, arrived and were able to assist in getting the two back to shore, 300 metres to the north of the river mouth.

The two men from the boat were completely exhausted and could not get to their feet. The surfers dragged them ashore beyond the waves which were crashing onto the loose shingle. Paramedics on the rescue helicopter which had arrived assessed the two and found that their body temperatures had fallen significantly below normal. They were immediately flown to hospital.

There is no doubt that, had Ike Hanson not acted as he did, putting his own life at risk in the dangerous conditions, this episode which lasted for over 30 minutes, would have resulted in two fatalities.

Case NO - 1667 BRETT DARYL CUZENS CERTIFICATE OF MERIT
PENNI EGGLETON CERTIFICATE OF MERIT
RYAN DAVID KEMSLEY CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Just after 8pm on Sunday 29th November 2009 Sergeant Cuzens and Constables Eggleton and Kemsley responded to a call to a two-storied home on Homewood Avenue, Karori, Wellington.

A neighbour had raised the alarm after seeing smoke coming from the house. The occupant, a 60 year-old lady who lived alone, had not been seen for two days.

When they arrived the neighbour used a key to open the front door of the house. Despite being confronted by a house full of thick, black, acrid smoke, all three officers went in and began to search for the occupant.

During the search their visibility was severely limited by the smoke which they subsequently found was being generated by a fire in the kitchen. The officers experienced difficulty in breathing.

Constable Eggleton located the lady, who was unconscious, in her bed in an upstairs bedroom. She had an injury to her head which was later found to have been the result of a fall.

She called to her colleagues for assistance. Sergeant Cuzens and Constable Kemsley joined her and together they carried the lady down the stairs, out of the house, and onto the front lawn where Fire Officers who had arrived tended to her.

The woman was taken to hospital where she remained unconscious for some time.

By their swift actions in entering the smoke filled house as they did, putting themselves at risk, the three Officers were successful in removing the lady from a life threatening situation.

Case NO - 1668

MARCUS IVOR ELLIOTT CERTIFICATE OF MERIT
MARK DAVID STRONGMAN CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

While they were on patrol in Hamilton, in the afternoon of 25 March 2010, Constables Marcus Elliott and Mark Strongman responded to a call that a woman had entered the Waikato River. They went immediately to the Whitiora Bridge, from which they were able to see the woman who had entered the river upstream of the bridge. She was at that stage floating in midstream. The Waikato River is deceptively fast flowing with many dangerous undercurrents and snags . At this point was 11.8 metres deep. The water temperature was 18 .5°C.

Constable Elliott, had difficulty clambering down the steep bank beneath the bridge, losing his footing and falling suffering minor cuts and abrasions in doing so. He then removed his uniform clothing and swam out to the woman who was clearly suicidal. Constable Strongman followed him down the bank and out to the middle of the river.

Together they were able to keep the lady afloat and bring her safely to the shore, some 200 metres from where they had entered the water.

Undoubtedly their actions saved a life.

Case NO - 1669

JESSICA ANELLA MUNRO BRONZE MEDAL
ASHLEIGH JANE HODGE BRONZE MEDAL

On Sunday 20th June 2010 at 2.15pm Jessica Munro with Ashleigh Hodge as her passenger was driving across the Victoria High Level Bridge crossing the Waikato River in Central Cambridge when she saw other vehicles stopped on the bridge. She drove to the northern end of the bridge and parked. As the girls, both 17 years of age, got out of the car they were told that a woman had jumped from the bridge.

They were able to see a person on the opposite south side of the river, face down in the water and moving swiftly with the current.

The river at this point is wide, access to it is very difficult and the conditions are dangerous with debris, eddies and whirlpools and a strong current.

Both girls swam across the river and together waited until they were able to intercept the woman as she reached them, turned her onto her back and began swimming across the current back to the northern bank, dragging her with them. They were now distressed because, having seen the injuries she had sustained, they realized that she was most likely dead.

On the river edge they reached, the bank was too steep and they were forced to swim back into the current to find a better place to leave the water downstream. They finally came ashore 400 metres from where they had entered the water. They attempted resuscitation to no avail and remained where they were for 45 minutes before a boat could get to them.

This was an act of bravery far beyond their years.

Case NO - 1670

GODFREY TREVOR EVANS SILVER MEDAL

At their Rangiora home on 29 September 2009, shortly before 9.17pm, Jack and Mary Jean Chaston, an elderly couple, were caught in their house when a fire developed

As he made his way down the hallway towards the conservatory Mr Chaston, told his wife to follow him. When he reached the sliding door that gave access from the conservatory to the outside, he found the door locked. He lay on the floor to get some air and while doing so he called out to his wife to come to get some fresh air.

Godfrey Evans who was driving south down Victoria Street, Rangiora, saw the house on fire and went to investigate. He walked up the driveway, to the conservatory door (a metal grilled security door). He called out and received a reply from Mr Chaston

Mr. Evans tried to open the locked door and after some minutes was finally able to pull it off its hinges.

He entered the conservatory, leaning right over to avoid the heavy smoke. There were flames also.

He saw a man lying on the floor about 3 metres away. Conditions were extreme; visibility was very poor. The only light was coming from the flames. He went over to the man, who was calling "Get Jean out". He tried to get Mr Chaston to explain the layout of the house. He was told that his wife was in the lounge.

Godfrey Evans then dragged him outside, down the driveway, and about 5 metres away.

He returned to the house intending to rescue Mrs Chaston. Windows were starting to explode and the flames were towards the rear of the house. By this time the fire had got much larger and the flames were bigger, some witnesses describing the flames being higher than roof height.

Mr Evans went back into the house through the conservatory. He was forced to crawl along the floor on his stomach because the smoke was so thick and heavy. He was unable to see more than half a metre. It was pitch black and much worse than the first time. He was calling out to Mrs Chaston but there was no response.

He crawled past the glass door leading from the conservatory into the lounge and then crawled about 3 metres into the lounge. The smoke was even heavier in there with almost zero visibility. He could find no trace of Mrs Chaston

At this stage, badly affected by the smoke, he realised that he would have to leave. He crawled back out of the house and made fire-fighters who had arrived aware that there was a woman still in the house.

Fire-fighters first on the scene reported that there were flames over 3- 4 metres in height coming from the house and the heat and smoke were intense with the threat of a "flashover" very possible.

Jean Chaston was located by fire-fighters, in her bedroom; she died later that evening in hospital.

Case NO - 1671

CRAIG ALISTAIR MacGILLIVRAY BRONZE MEDAL

On the 19th of January 2010, at 8.15pm a 17 year old male was driving south on the Clifden Blackmount Road when he lost control on a gentle right hand corner and hit the pillar on the left hand side of the road. The car caught fire.

Craig MacGillivray a Stock Manager at work on the nearby Wairaki Station heard the crash, saw smoke and went to the road to investigate. He could see the wreck and after putting out a call for assistance made his way to the crash site.

Very dark smoke was coming from inside the car. Because of the smoke Craig could not see into the vehicle.

The driver's window was down however and he put his head through the hole, expecting the worst given the state of the car, but instead could see the eyes of an occupant, who was conscious, in a front seat. The car was alight with very heavy smoke.

With great difficulty he managed to drag the door open to get sufficient room to allow him to get inside and behind the driver. He managed to take a hold under his arms and pull him out, as flames emerged from the engine bay and from the wheel arch. He moved the young driver away from the vehicle which very soon became engulfed in flames. The car was completely destroyed.

By his actions Craig MacGillivray had saved a life.

Case NO - 1672

BRUCE ANDREW McLEOD LETTER OF COMMENDATION

Sergeant McLeod, while off duty, was out walking his Police dog, in Cutfield Road, New Plymouth, on 22 August 2010 in the early afternoon, when he heard a smoke alarm sounding. From the footpath he could see by looking through the windows that there was thick smoke inside the house.

He opened a door and called out. Getting no response he entered what was the kitchen area. Black smoke had filled the rooms but he could see that at that stage there was approximately a metre of crawl space under the smoke. He went in on hands and knees and made his way to the stove, on which he found a pot, not on yet on fire, but generating vast quantities of thick black smoke. He took it to the door and threw it outside. With the crawl space getting less he went back into the house on hands and knees to try to locate any occupant.

He made his way to the back of the house and into the lounge where he found an elderly lady, apparently asleep on a couch. He woke her and took her outside to safety. Throughout the incident smoke was a problem, twice causing Bruce McLeod to leave to get fresh air and re-enter.

Case NO - 1673

ROBIN PELLING OLIVER CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

On the 27th July 2010, at Clive, a Police Officer Senior Constable Alan Daly was being seriously assaulted on the ground by the two occupants of a stolen vehicle. He had been attacked and punched to the ground.

Robin Oliver who was working nearby was alerted to what was happening and ran down to the Senior Constable's vehicle. He saw him on the ground with a male holding him and a female assaulting his head with a great deal of force. At some stage the Constable became unconscious. Mr Oliver immediately intervened by pulling the male assailant off the constable, grabbing him by the shoulders and pushing him away and then placing himself between the Constable and the two offenders, one of whom endeavoured to continue the fracas when the Constable had managed to get himself to his feet, but was unsteady.

His action prevented further harm to the already seriously injured Senior Constable.

Case NO - 1674

CHRISTOPHER PAUL WATKIN CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

At Hokio Beach, near Levin, on the 9th of May 2010, in the middle of the afternoon, a boat capsized in the surf putting four men into the water. The sea was rough with breaking waves

approximately 3 to 4 metres high. Three of the four men made their way to the shore but the fourth could not and when Police Officers arrived he was seen to be in difficulty, being battered by the waves, between 150 and 200 metres out in the surf. He appeared to be clinging to something and was making no attempt to swim.

Constable Watkin removed his uniform and proceeded to swim out to him. The conditions were difficult. When he reached the 21 year-old man he found that he was in a state of panic, exhausted and apparently unable to swim. Without a life jacket, he was clinging to a petrol can for buoyancy. The man, being bigger than his rescuer and fully clothed, was a heavy weight to handle.

Constable Watkin turned him onto his back and proceeded to tow him back to shore, taking advantage of the surf for assistance.

Christopher Watkin's intervention had prevented a likely fatality.

Case NO - 1675

KIMA MATHEW SAMPSON

SILVER MEDAL

On the 5th September 2010 at 5.00am a fire started in a bedroom at the rear of a house in John Street, Trentham, Upper Hutt, trapping a 29 year-old man.

A neighbour, Kima Sampson, was awakened by yelling and from his window saw extensive smoke coming from the house.

He ran next door and gained entry by forcing the back door. He was met by smoke and intense heat. There was no visibility.

Guided only by a gargling sound coming from the trapped man, he crawled along the hallway until he found the man, unconscious on the floor. He dragged the man out of the house before he himself fainted on the driveway. The rescued man was only just breathing and Kima Sampson was also having extreme difficulty breathing . When fire fighters arrived minutes later, he was seen to be in a very distressed state, crawling on his hands and knees up the drive to safety.

Ambulance staff treated both men for smoke inhalation before they were sent to the Upper Hutt hospital and admitted. The rescued man suffered burns to parts of his body not covered by clothing.

Had Kima Sampson not acted as he did in the dangerous situation he faced, the occupant could have died or at the very least suffered debilitating injuries

Case NO - 1676

ANDREW DIXON KING

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

On the 1st July 2010, on East Coast Bays Road Auckland Detective Sergeant King was off duty and on his way to pick up his children when he saw the vehicle travelling in front of him leave the road at speed and disappear over a grassy embankment.

To investigate what appeared to be a serious accident he drove down an adjacent driveway and saw that the car had driven through the side of a house creating a large hole with only the rear of the vehicle still visible. He went to the car but could see no-one in the car and received no response to a call. He did however see an elderly man lying on the floor inside the house amongst the

wreckage, in obvious distress. He could not reach the man and found his way to the back of the house where he found the occupants in shock and disoriented. He entered the damaged area of the building and located the man he had seen, beneath debris which had fallen on him. He uncovered him. He had suffered serious injuries to his leg which was bleeding profusely, he did not appear to be breathing and there was no obvious pulse. Andrew Dixon commenced CPR. He applied a makeshift tourniquet to the leg and continued with CPR. While engaged in this he heard another voice coming from the car, calling for help. He cleared debris from the front of the car and discovered the driver in his seat. He wrenched the passenger side door open, found that the driver was not injured and helped him out. He then returned to the casualty to continue with first aid until the arrival of emergency services.

At risk to his own safety, Andrew King had entered a badly damaged and possibly unstable building, to render assistance.

Regrettably, the man he attended to did not survive his injuries.

Case NO - 1677

FELISIANO PULEANGA	BRONZE MEDAL	Posthumously
BRADLEY WALTER WRIGHT	BRONZE MEDAL	
NICOLAS CHEIBAN	LETTER OF COMMENDATION	

At Glenbrook Beach, Auckland on the 2nd of January 2010, in the late afternoon, Felisiano Puleanga was standing on the beach at the water's edge, watching over his young son Tino 8 , and his niece Helena Latu 10, who were swimming about six feet from him.. Sometime after 4.00pm Tino got into difficulty where a tidal current flows, and Helena went to the rescue. She also got into difficulty. At the time there was a strong outgoing tide running. The water was between 2 and 3 metres deep. Mr Puleanga 37, went to their rescue.

He reached Tino and handed him to Mr Bradley Wright, a bystander, who had also entered the water. He helped the boy back to the shore.

Mr Puleanga then went to the assistance of Helena who had been swept even further from the shore. He reached her and was seen to be holding her above his head while he was repeatedly going under water. Mr Wright took the girl from him and pushed her in the direction of the beach and then began to tow Felisiano towards the beach. He was a dead weight.

Mr Nicolas Cheiban had joined Mr Wright and assisted in getting the girl to the rocks. Then, together, the two men got Mr Puleanga to the shore where they and others attempted to revive him. He had swallowed a lot of water and did not respond.

Felisiano Puleanga had given his life so the children might live

Sadly, the brave intervention of Bradley Wright and Nicolas Cheiban could not avert the tragedy.

Case NO - 1678

MARTIN HAMILTON MILLER	BRONZE MEDAL
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On 21 February 2010 at around 2.00 pm, Martin Miller, his uncle Latu and brother Christopher were putting out a fishing net at Bayleys Beach, near Dargaville, dragging the 30 metre long net against the surf, in line with the beach. There was a 2 metre swell and the waves were choppy. When the party were chest deep and 100 metres from the beach Latu, who was at one end, was seen to be in difficulty. Being shorter than his companions the water was washing over his head.

He dropped the net and was drifting out to sea when Martin Miller, who was at the other end, seeing what was happening, let go of the net also. It began to drift away. Martin swam out to sea and around the net to avoid becoming entangled in it and after some considerable time was able to reach his uncle.

He had great difficulty trying to turn him onto his back and was struggling to keep Latu from going face down in the water. Even as he tried to tow or push him through the waves the two were being driven back and forth by the tide. Martin was having difficulty in keeping himself afloat. Eventually he managed to reach shallow water where his brother and a passer-by helped drag Latu up the beach. Others took over and attended to him until emergency services arrived. Martin was totally exhausted and disoriented. He collapsed, struggling for breath.

Martin Miller had put his own life at risk to save a life.

Case NO - 1679

ROBERT BRIAN JOHNSON

BRONZE MEDAL

On 17th July 2009 at 1.30 in the morning Robert Johnson was travelling in a vehicle along Blenheim Road Christchurch with others, when they saw fire in a house, with flames and a large amount of smoke coming from a window.

Mr Johnson and two others went to the front door. A female voice could be heard making moaning sounds.

They broke down the door and entered the hallway but were forced back by heat and smoke.

Robert Johnson then decided to try again. He pulled his tee shirt over his face for protection and re-entered the hallway, making his way to the door leading into the room where the fire was located. He entered that bedroom which was full of smoke and very hot making visibility difficult, but he was able to find the lady, crouching down between the TV and the wall.

He took hold of her and dragged her out into the hallway and towards the front door, where he received assistance in getting her away from the house and then when the fire became even more intense, to a neighbouring property.

Fire services and ambulance staff treated her before she was taken to hospital suffering from serious burns and smoke inhalation. Sadly, she did not survive.

Case NO - 1680

APRIL KAYE GARDENER

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

NICHOLAS DESMOND GARDENER

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

GEORGIA JANE KIMBER-THORNLEY

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

On 28th December 2010 at Waipapa Bay, north of Kaikoura, Gavin Gardener, his two children and a young family friend went out for an afternoon fishing in a 12 foot dinghy. When he became aware of an imminent wind change he began to head back to the shore but, when still 1 kilometre off shore a southerly change swept along the coast causing waves which swamped and overturned the boat.

All four occupants were wearing lifejackets.

Mr Gardener was experiencing chest pains and encouraged the children April 16, Nicolas 14 and Georgia 15, to leave him and make their way to shore. However, before they could leave he became unconscious.

The three youngsters then began swimming towards the shore taking turns towing him with them.

They were in the water for over an hour and had reached to within 30 metres of the shore when rescue services arrived.

Mr Gardener was hypothermic, barely breathing and unresponsive.

The actions of the three young people, working together as they did, had saved a life.

Case NO - 1681 RICHARD WILLIAM TROTTER SILVER MEDAL

On 18th December 2010 at Portobello, Dunedin, Nita Notman who had limited mobility necessitating use of a walker, was caught in a fire at her home. Her eyesight was not good. At approximately 9.25pm she was in her bedroom when she became aware that there was fire in her house. She could smell smoke. When she began to move she hit her head on a door and fell to the floor.

Finding a safe exit was difficult for her.

Richard Trotter who was driving in the direction of her house saw smoke and stopped to investigate.

At the rear of the house he saw flames rolling over the kitchen ceiling. The room was well ablaze. He alerted the Fire Service and called to find out if there was anyone inside but got no reply. The roar of the flames and the noise of breaking glass made hearing difficult.

Mr Trotter went into the house and started crawling through it looking for any occupants. Although visibility was poor he succeeded in finding Mrs Notman in the living room. Holding her under her arms he dragged her over the floor until he was near to a door and then got her to her feet and outside.

Reports from Fire Service officers indicated that when they arrived the house was well alight and that the fire had been particularly intense and fast burning. In their opinion, had Mr Trotter not acted as he did it would have been unlikely that Mrs Notman would have survived.

He would have been subjected to considerable life threatening smoke and heat.

Mrs Notman was hospitalised and treated for burns and smoke inhalation

Case NO - 1682

STRATTON JAMES KEMPLEN CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

On 31st December 2010 at Kaitoke Beach, Great Barrier Island, a group of six teenage girls were at the beach and despite having been warned not to enter the water, did so.

The beach has extremely dangerous surf and swimming without adult supervision is actively discouraged.

The girls very quickly became caught in a strong rip current and began to struggle. Five of the girls were able to get back to the shore. One, a 13 year-old, could not.

Constable Kemplen who was relieving on the Island and was off duty at the time, had gone to the beach with a colleague who had begun board surfing. A short while later he noticed the girl in the

water about 50 metres off shore. She was caught in a powerful rip, struggling to stay afloat, and calling for help.

He attracted the attention of his colleague, Constable Campbell McEvedy, who was surfing a little further out and he began to paddle in the direction in which Constable Kemplen was pointing. He could see two people in the water, the girl and a teenage boy who was trying to assist her but was unable to continue to keep her afloat. Neither of them had any type of flotation device.

After running 100 metres down the beach, Stratton Kemplen entered the water and swam out to the pair. He reached them while Constable McEvedy was still some distance away. Satisfied that the boy would be able to make his way to shore under Campbell McEvedy's supervision he swam the girl back to shore. She was extremely distressed.

Had Stratton Kemplen not intervened there could well have been a fatality.

Case NO - 1683

JASON MICHAEL REYNISH LETTER OF APPRECIATION

On 6TH February 2011 on London Street Whanganui, at 6.00am, a motor cyclist collided with a traffic Island and pedestrian safety bars and suffered a life threatening injury. His lower right leg had been severed.

Constable Reynish who was on his way to work had heard the crash up ahead of him and when he reached the scene he found the cyclist lying in the middle of the road with blood pulsing from the wound.

Jason applied his belt as a tourniquet around the upper leg and was successful in stopping the bleeding.

An ambulance arrived within minutes and the injured man was immediately taken to hospital. With another Constable driving, ambulance staff worked on their patient while Jason continued to maintain pressure on the tourniquet

The ambulance officers were of the opinion that had Constable Reynish not acted in the way he did the rider would have died by the time they arrived on the scene.

Case NO - 1684

PATRICK JAMES NALLY CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

On 24th October 2010, at Okorito Estuary, South Westland, at 8.55am three elderly men were scoop netting for whitebait, in the surf at the river estuary entrance. The tide was low and on the turn. Incoming waves were breaking. They were inconsistent in height, between 1 and 3 metres.

Detective Constable Patrick Nally, visiting from Nelson to fish for whitebait himself, had initially seen these men in what he considered to be a somewhat risky position and then, minutes later he saw that they were in the water and being rapidly dragged out to sea. He lost sight of one of them and could see the two remaining men being pounded by crashing surf.

They too became separated and he could then see only one, floating prone on his back, 100 metres from the beach.

Meanwhile others in the area had launched two boats to attempt to reach those in trouble. One of these reached and recovered one man, while the other was swamped and the two men in it had to be helped ashore

Patrick Nally however entered the water and swam out through the surf to the last man he had seen. He found that man alive although exhausted, cold and beginning to sink. He was wearing waders and these were full of water.

Towing the man, he swam back through the surf to the beach. In the time this took he experienced considerable difficulty being forced to counteract an undertow which was carrying them away from it.

Once at the beach others assisted them to get out of the water

Case NO - 1685

PAUL MICHAEL DAVIS

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

On the 3rd of January 2009, just before 2.00am, Paul Davis became aware that there was a fire in the kitchen of his elderly neighbour's house in Brookfield, Tauranga.

He ran over to the property and endeavoured to enter through the back door. Finding it locked he broke through a glass panel and crawled into the house to look for the lady.

Food in a pot on the stove was burning, with flames reaching the ceiling causing heavy smoke which made breathing extremely difficult.

Mr Davis finally located his neighbour, unconscious, in a chair in her lounge, which was upstairs on a mezzanine floor where the smoke was heaviest. Before he had been able to find her and take her outside to safety he had been forced downstairs a number of times seeking fresh air. He required treatment for smoke inhalation.

Other neighbours were able to assist Mr Davis in the rescue and in extinguishing the flames.

