

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.