

AWARDS BESTOWED SEPTEMBER 2009 to JUNE 2014

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.

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 – 1659

SHERRIL ANNE ADAMS

BRONZE MEDAL

HAYDEN BRETT ROBINSON

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

On the morning of 9th June, 2009, Masterton Police who had been alerted to a threatened attempt at suicide and had begun a search, became aware that the young man believed to be at risk might be at the Rennall Street Railway Station.

When Constable Sherril Adams arrived there she found the man. When she approached him he immediately began to walk away, heading South along the Railway tracks. As Constable Adams began to follow she saw the headlight of a train approaching from the south and began to run as the

male, when he saw the oncoming train, began to walk resolutely down the middle of the track towards the oncoming train, which was closing very quickly.

Constable Adams called to him to get off the tracks but was ignored.

She was however able to overtake him and used her body to push him off the track as the train was within 20 metres of them..

Constable Hayden Robinson who had also arrived at the scene realized what was going on and he too, began to run along the Railway lines, reaching the two just in time to assist.

Sherril Adams and Hayden Robinson were able to wrestle the man, who was struggling violently, onto the side of the tracks as the commuter train went past, a little over a metre away, at a speed of 50 Kph.

By their actions they had prevented a certain tragedy.

Case NO 1660 A Letter of Appreciation to **PHILIP WRIGHT** for praiseworthy action when saving a life of a man seriously at risk when suffering an adverse reaction to a bee sting

Case NO - 1661 COLE GARETH SIMMONS BRONZE MEDAL

On Thursday 17th May 2009, at about 11.30 pm, a car, driven by a 21-year-old lady, crashed near Porritt Park on Tramway Road in Hamilton. The vehicle slid into a fence, became airborne and crashed into a large cabbage tree before rolling in the air and coming to rest on its roof. The vehicle caught fire.

Cole Gareth Simmons was with two friends in a flat two blocks away. They heard the crash and went to help. While his friends went to get a fire extinguisher and ring for assistance, Cole heard a call, and moving through the burning trees, located the car upside down in the stand of native bush.

He approached it and found the young lady hanging from the driver's side window. Injuries she had suffered were making it impossible for her to get out unaided. Cole pulled her from the vehicle, and moved her away from it.

He then sat with her, taking steps to prevent her from losing consciousness, while waiting for the arrival of the emergency services.

She was admitted to hospital suffering a broken arm, multiple lacerations and concussion.

The actions of Mr Simmons were instrumental in saving her from burns or possibly death.

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
DEAN DANIEL HARRIS**

**CERTIFICATE OF MERIT
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
PENNI EGGLETON
RYAN DAVID KEMSLEY**

**CERTIFICATE OF MERIT
CERTIFICATE OF MERIT
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 Whitiara 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

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 November 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.

CASE NO- 1686

CHRISTCHURCH EARTHQUAKE COMMEMORATIVE GOLD MEDAL

At 12.51pm on Tuesday 22 February 2011 an earthquake measuring 6.3 on the Richter Scale, accompanied by unprecedented ground acceleration forces, struck Christchurch. It was felt severely in the Central Business District in particular, where power, water and other services were badly disrupted. Several buildings collapsed, many more were badly damaged and more than 180 people lost their lives. During that day, and in the immediate aftermath of this major natural disaster, there were many acts of conspicuous bravery and humanity in attempts to rescue and bring to safety or aid those trapped and injured in or as a result of building wreckage. There were many examples of people acting spontaneously and persistently in frightening and dangerous situations and courageously putting their own lives at risk to help fellow workers, friends and complete strangers.

In recognition of these numerous acts of bravery and humanity, the Court of Directors of the Society decided that, rather than attempting to recognise individual acts, the Society's highest award, the Gold Medal, would be presented to the Mayor of Christchurch, on behalf of all those people, known and unknown, who had put their own lives in danger in saving or attempting to save lives and rescue others or were involved in selfless acts of humanity, so that their actions would thereby be commemorated.

Case NO 1687	DEAN ANDREW HERRICK	SILVER MEDAL
	GEOFFREY ALBERT TAYLOR	SILVER MEDAL
	STEPHEN JAMES SMITH	SILVER MEDAL

On the afternoon of 11 October, 2011, a 64 year-old solo yachtsman was in a life threatening situation approximately 62 nautical miles off Cape Kidnappers, Hawkes Bay. He no longer had sails or control of steering. The sea was rough and the weather was deteriorating.

The location of the yacht was 35 minutes flying time away which in the conditions was near to the extreme range for a sea rescue by helicopter.

At 5.55pm the crew of the Lowe Corporation Rescue Helicopter Service, Pilot, Dean Herrick, Winch man, Geoffrey Taylor and St John Advanced Paramedic, Stephen Smith headed off knowing that once committed they had few options if they experienced difficulties.

When the yacht was located it became obvious that with the boat pitching and rolling in winds gusting to 35 knots and seas of between 2.5 and 5 metres it was not safe to try to winch the yachtsman directly from the boat. A highly involved and challenging winching operation and rescue unfolded with four lives potentially at risk. During the entire winching operation it was necessary for the Pilot and Winch man to raise and lower the helicopter and adjust the length of the cable as the peaks and troughs of the swell moved underneath them.

Too much or too little cable in the water would put the paramedic at considerable risk. The length of cable out was variously between 80 and 90 feet.

Stephen Smith had been lowered into the water and reached the boat, but getting the yachtsman into the desired position away from his boat proved to be extremely difficult. He was finally able to get the man into the harness. Complications which followed resulted in the winch line with

Stephen Smith and the yachtsman attached to it becoming entangled with a rope linking a life raft to the boat. It took great skill on the part of all three crew members to free the winch line. Smith, in the water, was being repeatedly battered by the sea and against the yacht. Meanwhile, to compound their problems, the man endeavoured to climb back onto the boat, became entangled, fell out of the harness and into the water. He could not be seen. The crew believed he had been lost.

Smith was winched back to the helicopter. He was physically spent and gasping for breath. The yachtsman resurfaced some distance away and was seen by the Pilot, Dean Herrick..

Mr Smith went back into the water. After being frequently submerged he managed to reach the man, and place him in the strop, bear hugging him to prevent him slipping out again. They were then winched back to the helicopter. The man was unconscious, and a dead weight requiring Stephen Smith and Geoffrey Taylor to use all their strength to get him on board.

Once inside Stephen Smith was completely exhausted, he could barely speak and was vomiting sea water.

He required hospital treatment for secondary drowning He had sustained a black eye and bruising to his neck, arms and shoulders.

By the time the helicopter had landed safely at the Hawkes Bay Hospital with only approximately 20 minutes of reserve fuel remaining, the operation had taken approximately two hours, including the one hour winch rescue on location.

Case NO 1688 CLAY ALEXANDER McCARTHY LETTER OF COMMENDATION

On 8th August 2011 shortly after midnight Constable McCarthy was called to an incident on Oteha Valley Road, Albany.

He saw three men running from the scene and towards a bush area. He followed them and when he reached the bush he could hear a sound suggesting that someone was in difficulty.

He found that it was one of those involved in the incident, who had fallen three metres down a bank and into a stream, which was approximately four metres wide,

Fully clothed Constable McCarthy went into the stream, which was waist deep at that point.

To his right he could see the person in the middle of the stream. The young man was in obvious distress gasping for air as his head periodically disappeared under water. It appeared that he could not swim. It was later established that he had hit his head when he fell.

Constable McCarthy moved toward him but, after going a short distance, he found that the water became deeper and was over his head. He swam to the man. When he reached him he grabbed him by the collar and dragged him back to the shallower water from which he had come. Other officers who had arrived gave assistance and helped the two up the bank.

The man was disoriented, cold and physically shaking.

To provide warmth Constable McCarthy put his raincoat around the man's shoulders and placed him in the patrol car with the heater running, until an ambulance arrived.

The water was very cold and lighting in the area was limited

Case NO 1689 LALE SIOA TAIULU IN MEMORIAM CERTIFICATE

On the 9th January 2008, a group of family and friends aged between 12 and 28 were at the Waimakariri River by the main North Road Bridge playing with a ball in the river, on the Kaiapoi side. The water was cold but not flowing strongly. It was not deep.

However the party drifted downstream and soon found themselves on the other side of the river where the water was deeper and they were unable to touch bottom. The current was strong Three of the group, who were not good swimmers, were quickly in difficulty, unable to reach shallow water. Those girls managed to reach a bridge support and held on to it.

Sioa, as he was known, who was 16 and a good swimmer had reached the calmer water when he noticed that his younger brother was in trouble. He swam out and succeeded in getting his brother to the safety of one of the bridge supports, which he was able to cling to.

Very soon afterwards however, Sioa experienced difficulties himself and disappeared. He had drowned and his body was later found in the water near the piles under the Main North Road Bridge.

Case NO 1690 STEPHEN MICHAEL BIBBY BRONZE MEDAL

On the evening of 29 November 2011, Stephen Bibby was coming into the Stanmore Bay boat ramp in his small inflatable, when he saw a lady sitting in her car at the top of the ramp talking on her mobile phone.

Suddenly he saw the car accelerate down the ramp and into the water. It floated out some distance and began to sink, approximately 40 metres from the shore.

Mr Bibby could see the driver endeavouring to escape and he tried desperately to get her out of the car while it was sinking. He made a number attempts to break the window glass but without success until he used a fire extinguisher and was able to break the rear window. At this stage the car was almost fully submerged.

Stephen Bibby then tried to reach into the car to grab a hold of the driver. He did get hold of one arm and the lady's hair, but he was struggling to get her out through the back window, until he received the help that he needed; which came from a Police Constable who arrived and swam out to assist.

The water at this stage was approximately 3 metres deep.

A life had been saved .

**Case NO 1691 DEAN JOLLY BRONZE MEDAL
 LESTER GORDON KELLY BRONZE MEDAL
 JOHN FRANCIS GARCIA LETTER OF COMMENDATION
 MERVYN JOHN FARQUHAR LETTER OF COMMENDATION**

At Fitzroy Beach, New Plymouth on the 11th January 2012 in the evening, Lionel Ogilvy and his 10 year-old son, Sam, were swimming in the sea.

The tide was low and the surf moderate but offshore there was a strong rip running. The water was cold.

The swimmers experienced difficulties and their calls for help were heard by Lester Kelly who was running on the beach. He alerted Dean Jolly, who was with his family on the beach, to the situation. They were able to see two heads in the surf.

Lester Kelly took one of the Jolly family's small boogie boards and began to swim out. At that stage the two in the surf appeared to be about 10 metres from the shore but in a very short time as Mr Jolly watched, they were dragged much further out and one of the heads had disappeared under water..

Dean Jolly took another boogie board and followed. The water conditions were difficult for paddling and Mr Jolly passed Mr Kelly.

When Dean Jolly reached the first person, he saw it was the boy, who was calling for help for his father. He then saw the father face down in the water and not moving. When Lester arrived, he went to the father and was joined by John Garcia and Mervyn Farquhar who had arrived on surf boards. Their attempts at resuscitation were unsuccessful.

This situation had arisen after patrols by the Surf Lifesaving Club had finished for the day. Two of their boats were put back in the water and went out. One brought Lionel to shore where it was established that he had drowned and the other brought the rescuers and the boy.

Case NO 1692 DEAN MATTHEW KAIRE BRONZE MEDAL
PHILLIP RICHARD BOUGHEY LETTER OF APPRECIATION

On the afternoon of the 22nd of October 2011, at Bucklands Beach Auckland , Honorary Fishery Officers Dean Kaire 27, and Phillip Boughey 33, noticed a young boy about 25 metres offshore calling for help. They quickly realized that he was in serious difficulty.

Bucklands Beach which can appear calm to swimmers, is deceptive, with sudden changes in depth and strong currents when the tide is changing.

The eight year-old, Tevita Hiko was out of his depth, in a strong current and in obvious distress.

The Officers took off their protective jackets and still wearing their overalls and boots, dived into the sea.

Dean Kaire swam twenty five metres out, and reached the boy just as he went under. He found himself in a strong tidal rip, with the water over his head. He was having difficulty staying afloat with the weight of his overalls and boots. Dean is a strong swimmer but struggled against the tide.

He grabbed the boy by his wrist, pulled him up and towed him back to reach Phillip Boughey who had waded out until he was waist deep and remained there as cover, in the event that Dean should get into difficulty as well.

The two officers then took the boy back to the shore. The boy had swallowed water and appeared to be in mild shock. He was attended to by ambulance officers and taken to Middlemore Hospital for observation.

By their decisive actions, and at risk to themselves, the officers had saved a life.

Case NO 1693 LESLIE ALAN MacINTOSH BRONZE MEDAL

On the 8th of February 2011, a car and truck and trailer unit collided, four kilometres south of Milton, at approximately 9.30pm. Two of the occupants of the car, a mother and her 6 year-old daughter, were killed, but amazingly, 2 year-old, Abigail Coulter, survived .

Leslie MacIntosh who had been travelling some distance behind the truck for some time saw that the rear lights on the truck disappear in what he described as a plume of flame and smoke. He reached a devastating crash scene.

As he approached the debris of a silver station wagon he saw that the engine block was on fire and that the driver's side and back seat passenger side doors had been torn from the car in the collision. The truck and trailer unit had crashed off the road into the grass verge. The driver was uninjured and when he got out of his cab called emergency services on his mobile.

Mr. MacIntosh immediately parked his truck, and went straight to the badly damaged car which was on fire. He saw the driver lying on the road outside the vehicle .She had sustained very serious injuries.

He looked inside the vehicle but due to the devastating impact and resulting damage he was unable to confirm whether there was anyone else inside the vehicle. However as he made his way back to his truck Mr MacIntosh heard a whimper coming from inside the crumpled vehicle.

He tried to open the back left passenger door but couldn't.

He then went to the right side of the car where he lifted up part of the roof and saw the baby, in a car seat, in the rear.

With the engine block already burning he was concerned the car may explode or become engulfed in flame.

Disregarding the possible hazards, in and around the wreckage, Mr. MacIntosh removed the child from the car seat and took her away to a place of safety. Emergency services arrived. Volunteer Fire Officers were able to bring the fire under control.

Clearly, this tragic double fatality could have resulted in a third death had Leslie MacIntosh not acted as he did, without regard for his own safety,

Abigail Coulter who was semi-conscious throughout her ordeal, was airlifted to Dunedin Hospital where she was treated for a broken arm and bruising.

Case NO 1694

ANTHONY CHARLES HAWKINGS BRONZE MEDAL

On the evening of 29 November 2011, Constable Hawkings responded to an alert at Stanmore Bay boat ramp where a car with a woman occupant had gone down the ramp and into the water. It had floated out some distance and had begun to sink, approximately 40 metres from the shore.

When Constable Hawkings arrived at the ramp he used a light from his patrol vehicle to illuminate the scene and could see activity at the vehicle, where Mr Stephen Bibby who had seen the event develop and called police, was endeavouring to get the lady out of the car, the roof of which was submerged.

Removing his boots and protective vest, and taking with him a baton with which to break glass if necessary, he swam out to assist.

When he reached the car he found that Mr Bibby had just succeeded in breaking the rear hatch window. He had reached into the car and had a hold on the woman's hand, but was unable to get her out. Constable Hawkings swam to the rear of the car and saw that the exit was blocked by floating boxes and debris.

He could see that the woman was partially face-down in the water and not moving. He too, reached inside the vehicle, under the water, and grabbed her under her arms and around her torso. He placed his feet against the car and after several attempts, by pulling together, they were able to free her and drag her through the window.

Once she was free Constable Hawkings rolled her onto her back and she took a breath.

A short while later a small inflatable boat came to their assistance. They placed the lady onto it and were towed to shore, where emergency services were waiting.

Case NO 1695

AARON JAMIE CAMPBELL

STEPHEN CHRISTOPHER JONATHAN DAVID VOIGHT

ELIZABETH JANE CHUDLEIGH

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

On 26 August 2010 at 8.00pm in Fitzgerald Avenue, Christchurch an horrific collision at the intersection with Gloucester Street resulted in the death of the driver and the passenger in one of the vehicles. Their vehicle was extensively damaged when it flew into the air and rolled several times, after being T-Boned on the driver's side, The driver's window appeared to have been pushed almost into the passenger's seat. The engine began to smoulder and escaping petrol was running out in a steady stream, flooding the road and draining towards the driver's side of the vehicle, creating a risk of it igniting. Constable Campbell who was one of the first on the scene began administering assistance to the critically injured driver. He was aware of the petrol which was running between his feet.

He was joined by Stephen Voight

They were unable to open the driver's side door to gain access, but when they tried the left rear passenger's door it opened freely.

Stephen Voight climbed into the back seat and attempted to open the driver's airway while supporting his neck and head, severe injuries to both of which were obvious.

Meanwhile Elizabeth Chudleigh, a registered nurse, was attending to the female passenger, who was at that stage responding, but it was obvious to her that both occupants had suffered severe injuries. She then went to check the driver. He was unresponsive. When she went back to the passenger her condition had markedly deteriorated.

At some point during the course of rendering assistance to the victims, all three were inside the vehicle.

Case NO 1696

OWEN HAYMAN WOODHOUSE

LAURENCE HAYMAN WOODHOUSE

BRIDGET KUZMA

BRONZE MEDAL

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

On 26th March 2010 a group of Geography students from Tangaroa College, Otara visited Muriwai Beach on a field trip. It was a particularly rough day with a large swell and strong currents. During the trip two of the students, were swept out to sea by a large wave as they conducted an experiment in waist deep water. The two became separated and one, Edward Magalogo, got in to serious difficulties.

Owen Woodhouse who had just finished surfing was walking back up the beach when class mates of the two who had been swept out called out imploring him to go back out to where their friends were.

Although exhausted, Owen battled his way back through the heavy surf until he reached Tu'a Alo, pulling her on to his board. She immediately pointed to Edward who was face-down nearby. Owen reached him, turned him on to his back and tried to pull him up onto his surfboard.

Owen's brother, Laurence Woodhouse, who had already returned to the beach, noticed that something was wrong. He took his own surfboard and paddled out again to assist his brother.

Another local surfer, Bridget Kuzma, also became aware of the rescue effort and went in to assist the brothers. Between them, they were able to get both of the students onto boards and take them to the beach.

Ms Alo was relatively unharmed but Mr. Magalogo, who had been partially submerged for several minutes, was unconscious.

Muriwai Surf Club Lifeguards and members of the public applied CPR to him until medical staff arrived. Edward was subsequently airlifted to Auckland hospital in the Westpac Rescue Helicopter.

Sadly, despite the best efforts of everyone involved, he died in hospital two days later.

Case NO 1697

OLIVER JASPER DONALD GEORGE CRELLIN CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

On Wednesday 23 November 2011 at 1.45am Constable Crellin was walking home after finishing his shift, when, near the intersection of Victoria and Wakefield Streets Wellington, he found a 44 year-old woman asleep in a City Council garden.

He identified himself and approached her to check on her wellbeing. After speaking to her for some time it became apparent that she was not well and posed a risk to herself.

While he was reassuring her that she was safe and that he would get help, she ran off in the direction of the harbour with Constable Crellin close behind.

Fully clothed in a heavy winter coat and heavy shoes she jumped into the lagoon at Frank Kitts Park and began to swim out to the middle of it.

The water was cold and the lagoon was dark.

Without hesitating, Constable Crellin stripped to his underwear and swam to the woman, who was by that time exhausted and struggling to keep her head above water.

Taking hold of her, he swam with her to the shore where he provided support until a night shift unit arrived. She was taken to hospital.

Constable Crellin's swift action had saved her life.

Case NO 1698 ANDREW JAMES REID CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

In Whangateau Harbour on 9th March 2012 at 12.30 pm, Andrew Reid who was sitting on the beach, saw an upturned small inflatable boat about 200 metres out. It was being carried out into Omaha Bay on the strong outgoing tide, He saw a man in the water beside the boat, trying to hold onto the bow ring.

He alerted police on his mobile, but fearing there was little time for rescuers to arrive he decided that, although weak from influenza, he would have to act. Taking a board he had in his vehicle he set out into the water.

A strong cross wind and metre high swells proved difficult to handle, but he was able to reach the upturned boat. The man, who was elderly, was very tired and Mr Reid pulled him onto his board while he flipped the small inflatable over.

He then put the man back into his boat and began to paddle back towards the shore pulling it behind him.

Mr Reid was feeling the effects of his exertions and was concerned that the boat he was towing would overturn again when he tried to go back through the surf with it.

Just as he reached the surf break he welcomed the arrival of two lifeguards and the surf club president, in an IRB which they had launched, They took charge of the man and took him back to shore in the IRB, where an ambulance was called as he was clearly hypothermic.

Mr Reid had been out on the water for 20 minutes when the help arrived and although he was seen to be exhausted he declined the offer of help and continued on, taking the inflatable to the beach.

By his prompt response Mr Reid had clearly saved a life.

Case NO 1699

JULIA MARY UBERUAGA

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

On Sunday 11 March 2012 at 1.25 pm Tony Hallams, 63, was paddling across the lagoon at the mouth of the Hurunui River, North Canterbury, when half way across, he was hit from behind by a squall producing waves with white caps. His kayak capsized.

He was wearing plastic chest waders which filled with water, pulling him under. He was also wearing a gas operated life jacket but he was unable to activate it. The water was approximately 4 metres deep and cold. He was in danger of being carried out through the nearby river mouth.

His predicament was seen by Julia Uberuaga who was on the river bank opposite where Mr Hallams was in the water, some 80 metres away. She launched her own kayak but in the urgency of the situation she did not have time to get a life jacket.

The pressure waves formed by the wind blowing against the river flow were close together which made conditions dangerous.

Ms Uberuaga was, however, able to reach Mr Hallams in time. He wrapped his arms around the stern of her boat and she towed him to the shore.

In the conditions she was faced with, her prompt and skilful response averted an almost certain tragedy.

Case NO 1700 DAMIEN JEFFREY MURRAY

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

At Coal Creek near Greymouth on 21 November 2011 during severe flooding over his farm, Alastair Inman was in the water in one field, moving sheep when a stray broke away and moved toward deep water. Mr Inman, 69, began to follow but was soon in difficulty.

Damien Murray, 22, was walking along State Highway 6, past Wigan Park, and had been watching the farmer about 150 metres away, who was trying to rescue sheep in the flooded field. He noticed one of the sheep swimming out into deeper water with the farmer following. He saw the farmer go under the water and not surface. He ran across to the paddock, removed his outer clothing and entered the water, swimming to where he had seen the farmer disappear.

He found an oilskin raincoat but could not find the farmer. However as he began to swim back towards the road, his bare feet touched against the submerged farmer. He dived down and pulled him to the surface. He was unconscious.

Mr Murray dragged him to shallow water, a foot deep, and propped him against a fence to keep his head out of water, while he made a 111 call to ambulance services, on his cell phone.

When a Police Constable arrived soon afterwards he found Mr Murray, ringing wet and barefoot, holding the unconscious Mr Inman with one hand over a fence, whilst still speaking to emergency services.

The Ambulance Services arrived minutes later and provided first aid to Alastair Inman who was later hospitalised in a critical condition. He has recovered.

Damien Murray's prompt reaction, to what he saw developing, had saved his life .

Case NO 1701

BRETT MARK DELAMERE

SILVER MEDAL

ERIC ROBERT SPITTAL

BRONZE MEDAL

Shortly after 9.00am on 6th October 2008, on State Highway 1 near Richmond Road, Oamaru, a car collided with a power pole bringing down an 11kv live transmission line which came to rest across the roof of the vehicle. Power was arcing through the vehicle causing the surrounding ground to become live.

Fire developed in the engine bay and the tyres caught alight.

Rural Fire Officer, Eric Spittal, was one of the first persons to arrive at the scene. He immediately approached the vehicle intending to assist the passengers to get out, but soon became aware of the danger caused by the arcing power and had to move away. He then took a small hand held extinguisher and approached the car to attempt to put out the engine fire. That proved to be inadequate and he retired to get another. However, this time, as he climbed under the vehicle, which was at rest over the grass verge, he experienced pain and a tingling feeling throughout his body. Realizing the danger he was in he quickly moved away from the car.

A number of people were using fire extinguishers to attempt to deal with the burning tires which were filling the car with smoke, but they kept reigniting.

Police, Ambulance and Fire services arrived. An oxygen bottle and mask were thrown into the car, which provided some relief from the smoke. However there was no indication of when power to the line could be isolated.

Faced with the live power line touching the roof of the car and the burning tires likely to collapse in a matter of minutes and earth the car, putting the occupants at very seriously at risk of death, the Fire Service personnel concluded that immediate action was essential and that an attempt had to be made, using a fibreglass pole, to lift the power line off the vehicle, long enough for those in it to get out.

Fire Officer Brett Delamere undertook the task. At his first attempt he could not lift the heavy cable sufficiently and the electricity arced back to the roof, burning it. Lowering his grip on the pole he made a second attempt and succeeded in lifting the cable high enough to break the contact for a matter of seconds and provide sufficient time for others to safely remove the occupants.

Case NO 1702 SAMUEL ELLIOT POWELL

BRONZE MEDAL

On the morning of 15 December 2011 two young students were travelling by car along the Tokanui-Gorge Road towards Tokanui, Southland, when the driver lost control on a section of road works. His vehicle left the road and fell into the Mataura River which ran alongside the road. It was completely submerged. The driver was trapped in the car. His passenger was thrown from the car and into bushes on the bank.

Samuel Powell, a local truck driver, was driving in the same direction some distance behind them, when he noticed a wheel with a portion of the axle attached, lying in the road, and then saw the passenger coming out of the willows, waving him down and calling for help.

He stopped and went to the river, stripped down to his underwear and jumped into the water which was discoloured, limiting visibility to two feet. The top of the bonnet of the car was waist deep.

Mr Powell, together with an overseas tourist who had stopped (his name is unfortunately unknown) dived and found the car. The roof was caved in and the doors were buckled and could not be opened. The windows were broken.

Both dived many times endeavouring to find the driver, but were unable to do so.

When an attempt was being made by others who had arrived on the scene, to drag the car up the bank, Mr Powell was back under the water again attaching towing equipment to the body of the car and reaching into it. He could not see anyone but did finally locate the young man's body and assisted in its recovery.

**Case NO 1703 TOBY BARRINGTON OFFICER
CAMPBELL COLIN READ**

**BRONZE MEDAL
CERTIFICATE OF MERIT**

Close to midday on Friday 20 July 2012 Police became aware that a male had been washed off the rocks, on the break water, at Moa Point, where he was fishing and was unable to get back to shore. Constable Officer and a partner responded and were first at the scene.

They saw that the man was about 30 metres off shore and was floating on his back. He had been in the water at that stage for over 10 minutes. The water was extremely cold and there was a large swell coming onto the breakwater, which combined with a strong current was making it impossible for the man in the water to get back to the rocks by himself.

When Constable Officer realized that the victim was not responding to his voice commands he decided to enter the water and attempt to reach him.

The Westpac Rescue Helicopter was alerted but there was to be a delay.

Meanwhile his colleague made contact with Campbell Read, a surfer who was close by, and requested his assistance in a rescue. He made his way to the breakwater.

Constable Officer had removed his Police Uniform and entered the water. Mr. Read followed him on his surf board.

They managed to reach the man in the water, who by now was totally exhausted and suffering the early effects of hypothermia, and succeeded in getting him onto the surf board and began making their way back to the shore.

In the difficult water conditions with a large swell coming in, it took them at least 10 minutes to get back to the rocks which were large and sharp and get the man, who was not able to provide them with any assistance at all, onto the rocks and to safety.

Case NO 1704 MARK TERRY STUART CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

At approximately 4.45pm on State Highway 1 in the Dome Valley between Warkworth and Wellsford a station wagon full of smoke with the engine running was parked on the side of the road. A passer by stopped and opened the driver's door but was driven back by the billowing smoke from within the vehicle and quickly closed the door. The vehicle moved and was driven across the road and into a bank on the opposite side of the road.

Constable Stuart ,who was off duty, was with his wife and driving past. He stopped and was told that there was someone inside and that an attempt to remove him had failed.

Although the vehicle was full of smoke which was escaping through the door frames, Constable Stuart opened the front passenger side door and looked across to the driver's seat. Dense smoke prevented him from seeing the driver clearly but he could hear him gasping and saw him convulsing forward in spasms.

Stepping back, he removed his shirt and with that over his face re-entered from the passenger's side and first dragged the driver across and into the passenger's seat and then out of the station wagon and into a nearby drain, where he placed him in the recovery position.

Mrs Stuart then bought water from their own vehicle and this was applied to the man's head area which was severely burnt.

Mark Stuart then returned to the station wagon to be certain that there was no other occupant. He then remained with the injured man until emergency services arrived. The injured man, with burns to his face neck arms and a leg, was airlifted to Middlemore Hospital Burns Unit where he remained for several weeks in an induced coma.

Clearly Mark Stuart's prompt action had contributed to saving his life.

Case NO 1705 AARON STANLEY REDAELLI BRONZE MEDAL

At 2.15am on 21 June 2012, Police were called to the Earnslaw Wharf at Queenstown where a man had been seen to jump into the water and disappear from sight.

When they arrived their attention was directed towards the Bath House from where yelling had been heard. Constable Redaelli and a colleague, who were on the way to the Bath House, were joined by several members of the public. They ran along the beach until they were opposite where the man could be seen bobbing in the water approximately 20 metres out from the beach. Attempts were made, by calling to him, to encourage him to come in.

The man, who was fully clothed and wearing shoes, was splashing around and it was thought that he was responding to the calls, but then it seemed that he had turned and was heading away from the beach.

He was seen to be struggling and submerging 30-40 metres from the shore

Constable Redaelli disrobed, jumped into the water and swam out to him. The swimmer was uncooperative, hindering the Constable's attempt to help him.

Water temperature in the lake was between 8 and 10 degrees; hypothermic conditions. Air temperature was sub-zero and an ambulance was called to await their arrival on the beach.

Constable Redaelli assisted the man ashore where he was attended to by bystanders and ambulance staff.

Aaron Redaelli was coughing up water and shivering uncontrollably. He was taken by colleagues back to the Police Station to shower and warm up.

The swimmer was hospitalized, and treated for hypothermia. He was referred to Mental Health services the next day.

Case NO 1706 MICHAEL IAN JOHNSTON SILVER MEDAL

On the afternoon of 1 January 2012, whilst exploring a stream above a waterfall in the Motatapu Gorge near Wanaka, Dion Latta (15), a school pupil of Palmerston, slipped and fell backwards into the waterfall and became trapped, with his leg caught between two rocks.

When Senior Constable Johnston of the Wanaka Police Search and Rescue SAR and a leader in the Wanaka Land SAR swift water rescue team became aware of the mishap he immediately drove to the Gorge. He had been there previously and knew that the best access to the accident site would be by swimming and climbed up to it.

He saw a foot sticking out of the water approximately 50cm below the rocks on the right of the waterfall and could see the silhouette of the boy in the main flow.

He climbed into the pool of water above where the boy was trapped and underwater, using a dive mask, was able to see the foot. He made several attempts to reach it, but could not due to the strong current. He then attempted to reach it by lying across a rock on the top of the waterfall. He reached down the leg but could not budge it.

The strong current striking his shoulder caught Michael Johnston by surprise, resulting in him slipping down the face of the rock and into the 1.5 metre deep pool of turbulent water below the waterfall.

He climbed back and took hold of the boy's hand attempting to pull him to the side and out of the flow of the waterfall but was unable to move him even slightly.

Several members of the Wanaka Alpine Cliff Rescue ACR team arrived and one, Milo Gilmour, wearing a dry suit was lowered down the waterfall to a point above Constable Johnston to block the flow of water and reduce the water pressure on him. That permitted him to dive low enough to get a sling around the foot. Another team member, Geoffrey Wayatt, succeeded in attaching a sling to the boy's wrist. Joined by another team member, Richard Raynes, the three were able to manoeuvre Dion Latta out of the waterfall and on to the rock beside it.

CPR was commenced and the boy, who was unconscious, was taken by helicopter to Dunedin Hospital.

Regrettably he did not recover.

Case NO 1706 A	GEOFFREY WESTON WAYATT	CERTIFICATE OF MERIT
	MILO GILMOUR	CERTIFICATE OF MERIT
	RICHARD LEONARD RAYNES	CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

On the afternoon of 1 January 2012, whilst exploring a stream above a waterfall in the Motatapu Gorge near Wanaka, Dion Latta (15) a school pupil of Palmerston, slipped and fell backwards into the waterfall and became trapped, with his leg caught between two rocks.

Members of the Wanaka Alpine Cliff Rescue team responded to the call-out.

Geoffrey Wayatt donned a dry suit and abseiled into the Gorge landing into a fast flowing torrent. He saw a hand moving out of the waterfall.

He rigged ropes to gain access across a blank and slippery rockslab to the side of the waterfall. Dion's arm was no longer visible so he lunged onto the waterfall several times and eventually secured Dion's arm with a prussic sling. In a combined effort Dion's leg was released by Senior Constable Johnston enabling Geoffrey Wayatt to haul the boy sideways out of the waterfall.

Milo Gilmour donned a dry suit, abseiled into the gorge and positioned himself upstream of the waterfall to block the torrential water-flow to allow Michael Johnston to dive and attempt to secure Dion's trapped foot. By so doing Milo provided vital support. Milo put himself at significant personal risk by standing and battling in waist to chest deep fast running water, risking being swept into the boulder trap or over the 2m waterfall.

Richard Raynes abseiled into the gorge to assist Michael Johnston, and take-over as the Operation Team Leader on the boulders. He was involved with patient care and the choice to lift the patient out of the gorge by winch. As the most experienced "heli-strop" person he volunteered to

accompany the patient as stretcher attendant, placing himself in a highly committing manoeuvre attending to an unconscious hypothermic patient.

The actual raise, exiting out through the tree lined cliffs, was dramatic. Near the top the stretcher started spinning rapidly. It must have been a terrifying experience. Once clear of the cliff the pilot successfully counteracted the spin and returned to a controlled raise. Richard and the patient were delivered safely to the waiting medical team.

Case NO 1706 B

JEFFREY DAVID SIMMERS

BRONZE MEDAL

LATHAM ROBERT WARDHAUGH

BRONZE MEDAL

On the afternoon of 1 January 2012, whilst exploring a stream above a waterfall in the Motatapu Gorge near Wanaka, Dion Latta (15) a school pupil of Palmerston, slipped, fell backwards into the waterfall and became trapped, with his leg caught between two rocks at the top of it.

Prior to this happening, Dion and young friends had swum and climbed up the gorge.

Jeffrey Simmers was on the other side of the river just watching them swimming and climbing as they went.

He decided to go up himself as he wanted to keep an eye on them.

He was joined by Latham Wardhaugh. Youngsters who were ahead of them became concerned and began calling. Both men went straight up by different paths.

The first thing they saw was Dion's foot sticking out of the water. Getting to him proved difficult. Apart from the foot there was very little to see. There was a torrent of water going through the rocks where the boy was. He was under the water and pinned against the rocks.

Jeffrey Simmers supported Latham Wardhaugh while he leant over the rock to try and grab the foot but couldn't reach it. Then Jeffrey Simmers tried because he was taller and he did get hold of it. He tried to move it but couldn't. He went round the river side to try to get to him but got swept into the waterfall by water pressure, and down into the turbulent pool below. He had difficulty surfacing.

He climbed up again and tried to reach the boy's head or arm from the bottom, but the water pressure prevented it. He couldn't get into a strong enough position,

The men climbed back up and, from the water side, both had turns at trying to hold his foot and release it. All they knew was that his foot was moving. That he was alive.

To secure the boy they hitched a tie-down to Dion's foot and used a pair of shorts to protect it.

Their attempts had continued for two hours until members of Wanaka based Search and Rescue teams, which they had alerted, arrived and took control.

Case NO 1707

SINELE PILI

A Letter of Appreciation of his commitment to the

safety of others. When attempting to carry a hose to a neighbour's burning housing unit, which was one of three in a group, he was confronted by a person who was intent on causing him injury. In the resulting struggle Sinele Pili received severe burns to his arms, legs and feet.

Case NO 1708

**JACK MAYNARD WIKI
MATTHEW RICHARD SHETERLINE
RUSSELL SCOTT STEINER
ANDREW DOUGLAS BUCKNELL
LEAH ROSE WHITE
KERRY GLYNN SINCLAIR**

**IN MEMORIAM CERTIFICATE
BRONZE MEDAL
CERTIFICATE OF MERIT
CERTIFICATE OF MERIT
CERTIFICATE OF MERIT
LETTER OF COMMENDATION**

On the morning of 29 December 2009, Jack Wiki was gathering seafood at The Bluff, on Ninety Mile Beach.

Two of his grandchildren were playing, in the shallow water up to their knees, approximately 50 metres away, when they were caught by a wave and carried into a rip running around the rock.

Mr. Wiki realized that they were in trouble and made his way onto rocks and jumped into the water, intent on saving them. Russell Steiner, who was fishing nearby, saw what had happened. He waded out to where the children, grandson Jezieu and granddaughter Jezaya were. At the time he reached them they had been swept out and the water was over Mr Steiner's head. He grabbed the young boy by the hand while the young girl put her hands around his neck and hung on. As he made his way back to shore through the waves he lost his hold on the boy who then drifted some distance away.

When Jack Wiki reached them he attempted to support his grandson by holding him above his head, but he was struggling to keep himself afloat.

Matthew Sheterline and Andrew Bucknell saw the drama unfolding and headed into the water to help.

Mr Bucknell took the boy from Jack and started to swim back to the shore with him but soon needed help himself. Leah White who had seen his difficulty swam out to take the boy from him. Through the extremely trying conditions in the rip and against the strong current Russell Steiner, Andrew Bucknell and Leah White were able to reach the shore safely with their young charges.

Meanwhile Mr Sheterline was attending to Mr. Wiki. The state of the sea and the power of the waves were overwhelming and both men were being swept further out to sea. Not a great swimmer, Mr. Sheterline was struggling to keep himself afloat while holding onto Mr. Wiki, who had become submerged. A big wave separated the pair and Jack floated away. Matthew endeavoured to find him but could not.

In an extremely fatigued state he then tried to swim back to the beach but could not make any progress against the current. He then made a decision to swim towards The Bluff rocks. He reached them but, as he was about to climb up, a wave caught him and dragged him back into the water. As he tried again, friends Russell Steiner and Grant Bolten, who had gone out on the rocks, took hold of him and pulled him out of the water to safety. His legs were bleeding and he was completely exhausted. He had to be carried back to the beach.

Kerry Sinclair, a Volunteer Ambulance Officer who was driving on the beach, was alerted to the tragedy. As he went to help he saw Mr. Wiki's body floating in the breaker line 100 metres from the shore. He along with three others waded out and brought Mr. Wiki in. Mr Sinclair, with two others, who relieved him occasionally, administered CPR for 30 minutes attempting to revive Mr. Wiki but was unable to do so.

**Case NO 1709 MARZENA URSZULA SIMPSON
MATTIEU GILLES MEREAU**

**SILVER MEDAL
SILVER MEDAL**

On 25 February 2013 at 9.00am. A young lady,22, who was travelling in an electric wheelchair, was attempting to cross the rail lines at the Morningside Drive, Auckland, railway level crossing, when the rear stability wheels of her chair fell into the gap between the path and the rail behind her, leaving her in the middle of the track. She was unable to free the wheels, or to move out of the chair.

While this was happening an oncoming freight train travelling from the city at approximately 50 km per hour as it rounded the corner approaching the crossing, had triggered the crossing alarm bells and the barrier arm had come down. When the train driver realized what was happening ahead of him, he applied the emergency brakes and sounded the warning horn continuously as the train, towing approximately 50 unladen carriages slid towards the trapped girl, Mattieu Mereau,25, and Marzena Simpson,35 were nearby. Realizing her plight they rushed to help. They had only seconds in which to achieve anything.

Mattieu was behind the chair trying to wrestle it free, while Marzena was alongside it doing likewise. The chair was between her and the train which was bearing down on them.

Neither rescuer was having any success until, finally, a matter of a second before the train hit the group, Mr. Mereau managed to tip the chair forward and the trio fell, still in the path of the train which, after it had collided with them came to a stop 90 metres past the crossing.

The chair with the 22 year-old still in it was hit and dragged along the side of the train for a considerable distance. She received massive injuries to her legs and head.

The train struck Marzena Simpson a glancing blow. She suffered grazes and received significant injuries to her leg. Both were hospitalised. Mattieu Mereau was not injured and provided support to Marzena until others arrived on the scene.

Their lifesaving actions had averted a certain death and could well have cost them their own lives.

Case NO 1710 TEUTERONOME ZEBEDEE PUA SILVER MEDAL (Posthumously)

At 2pm on 19 January 2012 at O'Neill Bay, an unpatrolled beach in West Auckland, Holly Reichs, Aged 7 years and her 11 year old brother Brodie, went swimming.

Both of them had limited swimming experience.

The beach has an existing rip around the rock cliff area of Kauwahaia Island.

Holly was swimming near the rocks while Brodie stayed in shallow water.

After a period Brodie came out of the water and shortly after that Holly began having difficulty staying afloat. She was caught in the rip and was being carried out to sea. She called to her brother for help.

Teuterenome Zebedee Pua, 15 years of age, known within his family as Zebedee, and his brother Raymond aged 12 had come to O'Neill Beach after being at nearby Bethells Beach with family. They were about to jump into the water to swim when they saw Holly about 15 metres away from them with her head bobbing in the deep water. They heard her call to her brother for help.

Both Pua boys jumped into the water with the intention of saving her but Raymond found that he had problems himself and returned to the beach.

He saw Zebedee reach Holly and put her on his back. He was treading water trying to keep them both afloat.

Holly's father heard the call and ran into the water. Zebedee who was a strong swimmer was able to keep treading water long enough for him to reach them. Taking his daughter from Zebedee, her father put her on his back and started to swim to the shore. Zebedee very soon had difficulty staying afloat and called for help, but none came.

Exhausted by his own exertions Zebedee was carried out to sea by the rip and despite all of the efforts to find him, made by lifeguards from Bethells Beach and by helicopters, he drowned.

His body was recovered five days later at Kirikiri Bay.

Case NO 1711 STEVEN COOPER BRONZE MEDAL

At 2pm on 19 January 2012 at O'Neill Bay, an unpatrolled beach, near Bethells Beach, West Auckland, two youngsters, a 7 year-old girl and her 11 year-old brother, neither of whom were strong swimmers, were swimming in an area which was known to be dangerous, when the girl, became caught in a rip around the rock cliff area of Kauwahaia Island. She was being swept out to sea and required help.

With assistance, first from a teenager and then from her father, she reached safety. However, the teenage rescuer aged 15, who was exhausted by his efforts, became caught in the rip himself and was carried out to sea, where he later drowned.

His plight attracted the attention and concerns of many visitors to the beach, among them an English tourist, Steven Cooper aged 59 and his wife, Nancy.

While Mr. Cooper was following the developments he noticed a boy swimming close by, 10-15 metres away. The boy appeared to be quite comfortable initially but he was soon out of his depth, and in trouble in the rip. He panicked. He tried to swim out of the rip but could make no progress. He called to Steven Cooper for help.

Although he was not a strong swimmer, Mr. Cooper swam out to him.

He encouraged the boy to put his arms around his neck and, with him on his back, he began to swim breast stroke toward the rocks three metres away. He was confident they could reach them but soon realized that he could make little progress, until a wave pushed them closer and his legs brushed against a submerged rock.

He grabbed it with his hands and held on until the swells eased and they were able to swim six metres to the safety of the main rocks and climb out.

Mr. Cooper's life and that of the boy had clearly been at risk in the turbulent water pulsing through to narrow channels between the rocks.

Case No 1712 DEAN JEFFRY OSWALD BRONZE MEDAL

On 2nd February 2013 at a Beach in Port Ohope, near Whakatane, Charles Houhia 36 and two young boys, Elijah Houia aged 11 and Raymond Pahi aged 13, were in difficulty in the surf. They had gone for an evening swim and had become caught in a rip.

When Constable Oswald arrived at the beach at 7.45pm he saw what he originally thought were two children in difficulty in the surf. He stripped off his uniform and swam out to Elijah and, with the assistance of two men who had arrived with life jackets and gone out to help Raymond, he succeeded in bringing him in.

He was then told by Elijah that his uncle was still further out in the surf,

The sea was rough with large multiple swells, up to three metres high, coming into the shore.

Constable Oswald was then able to see a large man, lying on his back in the breakers with the waves washing over him. He immediately went back into the surf to go to him.

When he reached Charles, he was conscious but unresponsive.

Dean Oswald applied his surf lifesaving skills to swim him through the huge waves and into the shore. He had been unable to help himself in any way.

Getting back in was a difficult task in the trying conditions and it took Constable Oswald 15 minutes to reach the beach with his patient.

The three swimmers had been in the water for 40 minutes.

They were taken by air ambulance to the hospital where two of the three were found to be in a serious condition.

Thanks to the efforts of Dean Oswald and the hospital treatment they received they survived their ordeal.

Letters of Appreciation

To Mia Georgia Sinclair, recognizing her presence of mind and praiseworthy actions, in March 2013, when she provided assistance to a young friend in difficulty in Lake Taupo at Kinloch, thereby saving a life.

To Caroline Snowden, a student nurse recognizing her praiseworthy actions which saved the life of a neighbour's two month-old baby who had stopped breathing.

Case NO. 1713

ROBERT JOHN FENTON

BRONZE MEDAL

On Tuesday 12 February 2013 at 11.45pm Police Officers were at the New Brighton Pier, Christchurch, responding to call that a 40 year-old man, in a disturbed state of mind, was intending suicide.

He was seen to be swimming away from the beach, through the waves a metre and a half in height and out into deep water well over his head.

In conditions which were bad with a strong wind, poor visibility, difficult surf conditions and very cold water, Constable Fenton volunteered to swim out. He removed his uniform and entered the surf in his underwear.

When he was reached the man he was uncooperative and although clearly exhausted continued to swim further out. The Constable followed and took hold of him. By then they were a considerable distance from the shore

The attempted return to the beach was made difficult due to the strength of the current and they were carried under the pier and out the other side.

At that point Constable Fenton was finally able to persuade the man to assist by kicking and, aided by some favourable waves, they made a slow return to the beach.

Once on the beach the man was exhausted and had difficulty breathing. He was taken to hospital by ambulance

Letter of Appreciation to Jack Henry Marshall-Lee (12) for his presence of mind, when he was faced with a fire in an upstairs bedroom in their home, and followed the families predetermined safety procedures in alerting emergency services and guided his younger brother along with their grandfather to safety.

Case NO. 1714

JULIAN MANTOAN

BRONZE MEDAL

While playing with friends on the beach at Marine Parade, Napier on Sunday 10 March 2013 at 5pm Joshua McQuoid aged 12 was standing with his back to the waves when a large wave broke on the shore and sucked him into the surf where he was trapped between the sets of breakers. He was being pounded by the waves and being washed out. He was soon swept 150 metres down the beach.

When Julian Mantoan, a German Tourist, saw this he went into the surf and was able to reach the boy who held on to him as he endeavoured to pull him in.

He was able to make some headway but near to the beach the waves were too strong and Mr Mantoan who was seen to be tiring very quickly and was having difficulty swimming with the use of one arm, lost his hold of the boy and was unable to continue. He managed to return to the beach out of breath

Case NO. 1714	BRYAN BENNET FARQUHARSON	BRONZE MEDAL
	PAUL ANDREW BAILEY	BRONZE MEDAL
	SETU PIO	CERTIFICATE OF MERIT
	MICHAEL CHARLES STEVENSON	CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

While playing with friends on the beach at Marine Parade, Napier on Sunday 10 March 2013 at 5pm, Joshua, McQuoid aged 12 was standing with his back to the waves when a large wave broke on the shore and sucked him into the surf where he was trapped between the sets of breakers. He was being pounded by the waves and washed out. He was soon swept 150 metres down the beach.

Police were alerted. Senior Constable Farquharson (59) was the first officer to arrive. He removed his protective vest and equipment belt and ran into the surf. He set off to reach the boy but the waves were too high and too fierce, knocking him over where he was sucked down in the undertow. This happened several times He kept getting to his feet and trying to reach the boy but could not. He remained where he was continuing calling to him with instructions and encouragement.

When Constable Bailey (31) arrived he stripped down to his underwear. He could see that the boy was struggling to stay afloat. He noticed that at times the boy was able to stand in the water between waist and chest deep. Realising this he ran through the surf and was able to reach the boy. He grabbed a hold of him and tried to push him as close to the shore as he could. He managed to reach Constable Farquharson. They grabbed each other but with the force of the undertow they lost their grip and Bailey with the boy ended up tumbling under the waves again and lost his grip several times, ultimately losing sight of him. Joshua had been underwater in the undertow for 20 seconds when Paul Bailey felt him brush against his leg. He pulled him out of the water again and held him.

Constable Farquharson began calling to bystanders to form a human chain to try to drag them out of the undertow.

A chain was formed with Senior Constable Farquharson, Constable Pio (22) and Senior Sergeant Stevenson (42) who had entered the water, becoming integral part of it at the surf end.

When Constable Bailey saw the chain he pushed the boy forward on a wave towards it. Joshua was caught and passed back to the beach.

Brian Farquharson and Paul Bailey who were exhausted followed and were assisted to the safety of the beach.

Joshua was unresponsive and unable to move unaided. Members of the public carried him to a higher point on the beach.

His rescuers had saved a life.

Case NO. 1715

**ALEXANDER ANSON SMITH
THOMAS IAIN MACFARLANE**

**BRONZE MEDAL
CERTIFICATE OF MERIT**

At Seconds Beach on Cliffs Road, St Clair, Dunedin on 4 June 2013 in the middle of the afternoon, Alexander Smith (29) who was walking in the cliff area saw clothing and a bag at the top of a 5 metre cliff. Looking down the cliff he could see a female body floating in the kelp amidst an area of rocks.

Weather conditions were overcast with drizzle and a cold, 4-5 degrees Celsius.

He caught the attention of Thomas Macfarlane (22), who was cycling past and then, while removing his clothes down to his underwear, he climbed down the cliff face onto the rocks. In the dangerous conditions he faced he swam out to the female and “rescue swam” her back to the shore.

Thomas Macfarlane, who had followed him down the cliff, waded into the water to help drag her onto the rocks. Throughout she had made it clear that she did not want to be rescued.

Mr Macfarlane then climbed back up the cliff and cycled into St Clair to call for an ambulance, while Mr Smith stayed with her. He had suffered several cuts to his feet and legs and was extremely cold

Ambulance Officers found that the lady did not appear to be injured but was possibly hypothermic and would not have survived had she been in the water much longer.

Alexander Smith and Thomas Macfarlane had both put themselves at considerable risk to save her.

Case NO. 1716

**CALLUM PATRICK WILLIAMS
ANDREA MARGUERITE SKELLY
IZAIAH DION LANGE
LUCAN WESLEY BATTISON**

**BRONZE MEDAL
BRONZE MEDAL
BRONZE MEDAL
BRONZE MEDAL**

On 19 January, 2013 shortly after four o'clock in the afternoon Analisa Tipu (21) and Leilani Wong (18) were swimming at Waipatiki Beach, Tongoi, Napier, when they became caught in a rip and as they were being dragged further out they panicked and called for help. There was a strong current and undertow coupled with large waves and with rocks in close proximity. The depth of the water where the swimmers were was over head height.

A number of friends on the beach responded and initially tried to enter the water from the rocks on the left side of the bay but could not do so in the rough conditions.

Callum Williams (15) ran down to the water and began a difficult swim out to Analisa who had been dragged much further out than Leilani and was by then 250 metres from the beach.

Lucan Battison (14) Andrea Skelly (16) and Izaiah Lange (15) then became involved. Izaiah had a boogie board with him.

Lucan swam to Leilani, taking over five minutes to reach her in the difficult conditions. He guided her back to the beach with assistance from Paul Reynolds, who had a boogie board, and other friends. She was out of breath, exhausted and after a short time developed signs of shock.

It took Callum a long time to reach Analisa who was coughing up water and having trouble staying afloat. A tee shirt she was wearing was weighing her down. Callum put her arm around his shoulder and tried to keep her above the water. He reassured her and warned of approaching large waves as they were being hit by them and forced under water.

After what was described as a very long time Andrea and Izaiah reached them as did Andrew White, a surfer, and a kayaker (name unknown) providing a means of support, allowing them to rest for a short time. Callum was exhausted.

The three youngsters took a life jacket from the kayaker and helped Analisa into it.

Shortly afterwards they were all caught unawares by a large wave which crashed down on them. The kayak rose with it and fell onto Andrea. She was knocked under water and she found herself unable to see, coughing and going into shock. Izaiah was pounded into nearby rocks suffering scrapes in his chest area.

Andrew White was able to help Andrea into the shore where she became unwell and required attention. Izaiah was able to make his own way in.

After Callum had brought her closer to the shore, bystanders put Analisa onto a surfboard and brought her in.

Callum was struggling with exhaustion and after friends helped him ashore he had difficulty walking.

Analisa was taken to hospital by helicopter while Leilani went by ambulance. Both of them recovered

Case 1717 SANJAY SAFAYA BRONZE MEDAL

In the early afternoon on 25 April 2013, at Hunua Falls ARC Park, Hunua, in the Franklin area Daksh Modasia, an overseas student, who could not swim, was with a family group who were visiting the 30 metre high falls for the first time. The pool at the foot of the falls is regarded by locals as very deep and dangerous with ledges and underwater caves making it very hazardous.

After paddling in the shallows with other family members, Daksh (21) was attempting to wade in thigh high water across the pool, carrying a 6 year old youngster, when he stepped off a ledge and into a hole. Both were then in serious difficulty in the deep cool water.

Hearing a call for help, Sanjay Safaya (42) who was also a visitor to the falls, went to their assistance.

He was, at best, only a moderate swimmer and was potentially at risk of being forced under the falls.

Sanjay was able to reach the young girl and bring her to safety. He also attempted to rescue Mr Modasia who was brought to the side of the pool where attempts to resuscitate him failed.

Case 1718

**KYLE ROPATA PAKI PAKI
ADAM PAUL BLACK
PHILIP GORDON WALKER
GARY REX MILLER**

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

On Saturday 13th July, 2013 just before midday, the driver of a car approaching the intersection of Wildman Avenue and QE11 Drive, Nelson, lost consciousness. The car crossed through the intersection and went on down into Saltwater Creek, which is tidal. As the tide was then high it was approximately 4 metres deep. The water was very cold and murky. The car in which her husband and 2 year old grandson were passengers, quickly submerged.

Kyle Paki Paki, Adam Black Philip Walker and Gary Miller who had all come upon the scene each played a part in recovering the occupants from the sunken vehicle.

Kyle Paki Paki removed some layers of clothing and his shoes before diving in and swam 5 to 6 metres over to the sinking vehicle. Only the back was still above water. Reaching the front passenger side he saw the door opening and felt the head of the passenger Filemoni Fa'avae (67) who grabbed his arm and when he surfaced he told Kyle of others in the car and was frantically pointing to his grandson Mika Ali Fa'avae.(2) in the back with water up to his neck and steadily rising.

Finding the rear doors locked Mr. Paki Paki tried to break the left rear passenger glass. He was unsuccessful until Adam Black who had followed him into the water handed him a wheel brace which had been thrown to him from the bank.

He then dived down to reach into the car and feel around. He felt the boy's head and the seat belt but was forced to resurface for air. Diving again he was able to unfasten the child's restraint enough to extract him and bring him to the surface where, having difficulty staying afloat himself, he held him above the water while Adam Black helped him struggle through the water to the bank where the boy was handed to Philip Walker and to his grandfather. The boy's condition was critical.

Mr Black had broken the back glass with a rock to attempt to get to the boy. He received injuries from broken glass.

Gary Miller had entered the water and by diving several times had tried doors on both sides and the rear hatch, finding all were locked. At the driver's door, he found that the window was slightly open and he was able to reach in to clasp the driver's hand. There was no response.

Kyle and Adam, though exhausted, returned to the car and were seen standing on the submerged car by Philip Walker (54) Walker who had taken off his jacket and swum out, then dived to endeavour to find the driver Janice Fa'avae (69)

He tried the Driver's side door but found it locked. He came up for breath and when told that the front passenger's side door was open he went down again and found her in her seat with the seatbelt still fastened.

After surfacing again for breath he returned, found the seatbelt and released it. He then pulled her towards him and out of the vehicle.

When he got her to the surface, firemen who had arrived helped bring her to the bank where sadly, attempts to resuscitate her failed. Mr.Fa'avae and his grandson were both hospitalized.

But for the intervention of the rescuers there would certainly have been more fatalities.

**Case 1719 ANTONY JOHN MILNER
 ANDREW SCOTT DOUGLAS**

**BRONZE MEDAL
BRONZE MEDAL**

In the early hours of 9th June 2013, a young man, Ryan Kellahan, (22) fell 120 metres down a cliff face on the coastline 3Km north of Makara Beach, Wellington, severely injuring himself. Dog handlers, Senior Constable Milner and Constable Douglas responded and after considerable effort searching both from the top of the cliff and from the beach, located him on a small ledge 60 metres up from the foot of the cliff.

Constable Douglas (33), had climbed down the near vertical cliff face where they thought the victim could have fallen and about 20 metres down located a fingerless glove which was confirmed as belonging to the missing person.

The cliff that Ryan fell down is approximately 180 meters from top to bottom and is extremely steep; it is very hard to negotiate in the daylight let alone in the conditions they faced in the dark with gale force winds and rain.

Search and Rescue had been alerted but the officers knew that they would be at least an hour away.

Senior Constable Milner was acutely aware of how time and weather factors would affect the missing man, particularly if he was injured and with this in mind the officers, with Police dog Ike, set off in Milner's Land Cruiser to find a farm track which led down to the beach below.

Their intention was to conduct a shoreline search for the victim. They drove north along the beach until they could go no further.

As they then walked, Constable Douglas also tasked the dog with searching up the cliff as far as it could climb.

After approximately two kilometres of searching and stopping to call out, they were rewarded with the sound of a faint voice from somewhere ahead and up high. Due to the wind and rain conditions they were not able to establish an exact location except that the voice was somewhere up the cliff.

Again Constable Douglas utilized the dog's wind scenting abilities and followed the dog up the cliff. Senior Constable Milner followed.

After a vertical climb of approximately 60 meters the victim was located perched on a small flat area that was held together by a flax bush. There was little room.

Ryan had sustained multiple injuries to his head and face but he was breathing and conscious. He could speak but was groggy and incoherent.

Their exact location was still unknown which meant Search and Rescue could not be counted on to assist with the recovery. The two dog handlers became concerned for the victim's health and safety.

Constable Douglas volunteered to climb, unassisted, up the cliff hoping to bring the rescue team to the victim.

In the pitch - black, the pouring rain and gale force winds, he started the climb up about 120 metres to the cliff top.

Meanwhile Senior Constable Milner was left in the dark with a severely injured man and a restless dog perched on a flax bush half way up the cliff face for two hours, in the rain and wind.

Ryan's condition seemed to deteriorate; he was going into shock. Milner managed to shelter him and keep him warm as best he could.

Once at the top Douglas discovered that he was in fact at the original fall point and so was able to explain to Search and Rescue where the victim was.

Constable Douglas climbed down to the bottom of the cliff again and then up to join those on the ledge.

They waited for Search and Rescue to arrive.

A Paramedic arrived with a stretcher and between the three of them they managed to get the victim into it. The paramedic and Milner then carefully negotiated the stretcher up the cliff with the assistance of Fire Officers at the cliff top. Douglas took his dog down the cliff and walked to the Land Cruiser to return.

Ryan was checked by medical staff, treated and kept in a hut until daylight, when he was evacuated via helicopter.

Case 1720 TAMSIN MAREE DUCKMANTON SILVER MEDAL

On 14th January 2014, the interior of a large car, a "people mover", parked in the Supermarket car park in Ferguson Street Palmerston North, near the pharmacy, caught fire.

In the car were two young children, one aged 10 months and other 3 years. Their 7 year old sister was standing outside. The children's mother was in the nearby pharmacy collecting medication.

Some distance away, Tamsin Duckmanton (26) was loading her groceries into her own car when she heard calls that there were children inside the burning car.

She responded immediately and ran to the car where she found people trying to remove the children's car seats by pulling them. Knowing that that would not be possible as they would be secured, she jumped into the car to unbuckle the children.

The flames were intense. An eyewitness described the burning interior as a fireball.

Tamsin found the children in the back; the baby in the first row of seating and the other further back.

With the flames burning round the seat she unbuckled the baby and then, holding that girl in her arms, she reached over and unbuckled the three year old.

Tamsin told the youngster to jump to her because, while holding the baby, she was unable to reach far enough. She jumped and Tamsin gathered her up and then carried both children out of the car.

Throughout her ordeal she had been apprehensive that the vehicle might explode.

St John ambulance staff treated her and the two children for smoke inhalation and burns. The baby was taken to hospital for observation.