



1961 Mountbatten Medal – Dennis James McLellan

Dennis McLellan, a schoolboy aged 14, was fishing from the bank of the channel near the Bunnerong Power House, Botany Bay on 4th January, 1961, when he heard a call for help. On the other side of the channel, he saw a man and a boy in the water with some greyhounds; the boy had got out of his depth in a current coming from the outlet of the Power House cooling system. McLellan pulled off his shirt and swam about 30 yards to the man who told him to help the boy. McLellan swam on to the boy who had been carried further down the channel and seized him by the hair as he submerged. Using the hip carry method of rescue, McLellan brought the unconscious boy to the bank of the channel, a distance of some 20 yards, when he turned him over to a girl who applied artificial respiration. McLellan again entered the water and swam about 20 yards to the man. After being towed for a short distance, the man was able to stand on his own feet and waded to the bank. The boy was tended by a doctor and oxygen was administered. He was taken to hospital and discharged on the following day. Dennis McLellan, who is a pupil at Gardeners Road School and holds the Intermediate Star of the Royal Life Saving Society for proficiency in life saving and artificial respiration, is of slight build and about 5 feet tall, the man and the boy, aged 17, who he rescued are both heavily built.