



## **1971 Mountbatten Medal – Kenneth Robson**

At 5.00 am on 16th May, 1971, Mr K.J. Robson and his son Grant, aged 16, were fishing from the rocks on the headland outside Nelson Bay when Mr. Robson was washed into the sea by a large wave. Although injured he was able to sway him about 100 yards to avoid further injuries from rocks, over which a very rough sea was now breaking with waves of 10 to 15 feet. In the darkness Grant attempted to guide his father to calmer water by shouting instructions and the use of his torch but Mr. Robson had lost his glasses and was trying to reach a beach about half a mile away. He was impeded by his rod which was acting as an anchor and he was entangled in the line which prevented him removing his outer clothing.

After half an hour Mr. Robson shouted to his son to fetch help but Grant decided the situation was now critical and that he must take action himself. He entered the sea through the rocks and swam out to his father. He assisted his father towards the beach but became entangled in the line which he had to bite through to free himself. He decided that he must return to land the shortest way through the rocks and succeeded after 15 minutes in getting his father on to the shore at the second attempt, after being washed back once. He carried his father up the rocks to the beach half a mile away to their car. The area is known to be frequented by sharks.