

Wellington is proud of its young Heroine

Action is being taken by authorities in Wellington for recognition of the bravery of a 13 years old girl, Valda Stanley, who saved her grandfather, three brothers and one sister from the blazing ruin of her home last November.

Valda, whose 14th birthday occurred in January this year, has been praised for her courage by police and fire brigade men in Wellington.

They said she displayed courage of the highest order by running into the burning cottage seven times to rescue members of her family.

She stayed until the last possible moment to try to save her uncle, William Harris, who died in the fire. She gave up only when she herself was in great danger when the roof started to cave in.

Valda's own story of the fire and the rescue has been told by her baldly, and without any suggestion of the drama of the occurrence.

She said she was washing her 12 months old brother William when she smelt smoke.

"I put the baby down, looked in Mum's room, and then went to Uncle Ben's (Harris) room.

Above, The Rescuer and the Rescued. Valda Stanley stands happily with her brothers and sister whom she rescued from the fire in her home

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