

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Luther John BORGAS**, 5 Trawalla Street, Aspendale Gardens Vic 3195

During the afternoon of 14 January 2009, Mr Borgas helped rescue a swimmer from rough seas at Edithvale Beach, Victoria.

Mr Borgas and two friends were swimming some distance off Edithvale Beach when conditions became increasingly windy and choppy. A number of swimmers were in the water at the same time when cries for help went out from a group of four teenage boys in trouble. One of the victims was floating face up and unable to help himself. Mr Borgas stood by to check on his two friends as they swam out to the victim. The two took the teenager's weight, keeping his head above water. As they swam the victim closer to the shore, Mr Borgas could see that they were exhausted and beginning to struggle. Mr Borgas swam to his friends and helped them drag the distressed teenager through the water and out on to the beach to safety. Sadly, during related events a teenage boy drowned as a result of his attempts to rescue two friends.

For his actions, Mr Borgas is commended for brave conduct.

**Mr Juan Carlos BUSTOS**, Vic

On the night of 17 September 2008, Mr Bustos rescued a man from a burning house at Noble Park, Victoria.

Mr Bustos had completed a community nursing visit to a patient when, passing a nearby house, he saw that smoke was billowing from the roof tiles and from under the front door. He ran to the front of the property and called out to any inhabitants. He heard a man inside desperately trying to find the right key to access the deadlock. Mr Bustos encouraged the man to remain calm and to crouch down. He then checked with him that he could still see the back door through the smoke and directed him to try to get to the rear of the house. In the meantime Mr Bustos ran to the back door and made his way into the house through thick black smoke. He found the elderly victim in the hallway, weak and trembling from shock. Mr Bustos guided the disoriented man out of the house to safety where he then fainted from his ordeal. Both men were treated by ambulance for severe smoke inhalation.

For his actions, Mr Bustos is commended for brave conduct.

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Anthony Ignascius CANNATA**, 30 Raeleigh Street, Essendon Vic 3040

On the afternoon of 14 October 2007, Mr Cannata rescued two people from a burning townhouse at Brunswick, Victoria.

Mr Cannata was driving to work when he noticed smoke coming from a townhouse. He stopped at the scene, called fire authorities and began to check if any occupants were inside the building. Although he received no response to his cries, he was still concerned that someone might be trapped inside. He forced his way into the townhouse and began searching the lower level of the premises which was entirely filled with smoke and then he moved to the upper floor where he found a couple totally unaware of the fire and directed them to leave. Although they told him there were no other occupants present, Mr Cannata decided to search the remainder of the rooms until he was able to satisfy himself that the building was in fact empty.

For his actions, Mr Cannata is commended for brave conduct.

**Mrs Rhonda Margaret CANTON**, Gordonvale Qld 4865

During the morning of 16 April 2008, Mrs Canton assisted a woman who was being assaulted at the Gordonvale Police Station, Gordonvale, Queensland.

Mrs Canton was staffing the Gordonvale Police Station by herself while sworn officers were absent on official duties. Without warning, a woman rushed into the building, pursued by a hostile man threatening to continue his violent physical abuse of her. As the woman ran in through the foyer she encountered Mrs Canton at her desk. Endangering her own safety, Mrs Canton immediately placed herself between the offender and the victim. As she did so she was roughly shoved aside as the man tried repeatedly to apprehend the woman. While the offender was distracted, the victim fled to another part of the station, but was discovered by the man who was intent on dragging her away to continue the attack. While Mrs Canton activated the station's duress alarm and logged a call to '000', she was menaced and verbally threatened by the offender but continued to intervene on behalf of the victim. Police arrived a short time later and arrested the offender.

For her actions, Mrs Canton is commended for brave conduct.

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

### **Leading Aircraftwoman Jacqueline Lisan CLARK, Qld**

During the afternoon of 9 November 2007, Leading Aircraftwoman Clark rescued a boy from drowning at the Promenade, Springfield Lakes, Queensland.

Leading Aircraftwoman Clark was walking her dog along a pathway at Springfield Lakes residential estate when she saw a group of young boys playing at a nearby lake. Surrounded by construction work materials and hazardous debris Leading Aircraftwoman Clark believed the lake area was unsafe for children. Leading Aircraftwoman Clark went towards the boys to warn them of the potential dangers and as she did so she saw one of the boys topple into the lake. Although unable to swim, Leading Aircraftwoman Clark dived into the lake to try to rescue the victim. She searched below the surface several times and unable to see in the murky water, repeatedly reached around to grab at anything in front of her amongst the debris. At one point Leading Aircraftwoman Clark became stuck in the clay on the floor of the lake and had difficulty dislodging herself. Finally she located the boy and pulled him to the surface. In his distress he began to struggle causing Leading Aircraftwoman Clark to lose her grip on him. She dived and again found the boy, this time succeeding in pulling him from the lake to safety.

For her actions, Leading Aircraftwoman Clark is commended for brave conduct.

### **Mr James David CLARK, 37 Bayside Avenue, Edithvale Vic 3196**

During the afternoon of 14 January 2009, Mr Clark helped rescue a swimmer from rough seas at Edithvale Beach, Victoria.

Mr Clark and two friends were swimming some distance off Edithvale Beach where the conditions had become increasingly choppy. A number of swimmers were in the water at the same time when cries of help went out from four teenage boys in trouble. One of the boys was floating face up, unable to help himself. Mr Clark swam to the victim, bracing him, taking his weight and keeping his head above water. Mr Clark was joined by a friend and together they began to swim the teenager back towards the beach. As the rough conditions persisted Mr Clark and his friend became exhausted by the very choppy conditions and began to struggle. However they pressed on and as they approached a sandbar, another beachgoer helped them drag the victim through the water on to the beach to safety. Sadly, during related events a teenage boy drowned as a result of his attempts to rescue two friends.

For his actions, Mr Clark is commended for brave conduct.

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr David John COKER**, 24 Moondarga Drive, Cranbrook Qld 4814

On the 26 November 2008, Mr Coker rescued a woman who was shot during terrorist attacks in Mumbai, India.

Mr Coker and his girlfriend were dining at the Leopold Café in South Mumbai, a venue popular with Western tourists. The same day a series of coordinated terrorist attacks were perpetrated across Mumbai. One of the first targets was the Café. Several gunmen entered the building and opened fire, randomly shooting into the crowded restaurant. As Mr Coker and his girlfriend dropped to the floor, he covered her body while the shooting continued. He received some shrapnel injuries and a bullet also grazed his thigh. During a short break in the gunfire, Mr Coker grabbed his girlfriend's hand, and attempted to run from the building, but in the confusion the two became separated. Mr Coker turned back to find his girlfriend had been shot and was crawling on the floor. In the face of indiscriminate gunfire, Mr Coker picked up his girlfriend and carried her out of the building to safety. Sadly, ten people died and numerous others were injured during the shootings and grenade explosion at the Café.

For his actions, Mr Coker is commended for brave conduct.

**Mr Christian George DAMIC**,  
Rainbow Bay Surf Club, Marine Parade, Coolangatta Qld 4225

During the afternoon of 26 January 2008, Mr Damic assisted New South Wales Police Officers during a serious public disorder incident at Rainbow Bay Surf Club, Coolangatta, Queensland.

Mr Damic, an off duty police officer, was performing volunteer surf life saving duties at Rainbow Beach. From an outlook tower he noticed that a group of some 300 intoxicated young people had gathered in the surf club car park. Mr Damic conferred with two police officers at the scene as fighting began to break out. A young girl ran to inform the officers that her boyfriend was being bashed. As the police moved into the crowd, Mr Damic and a surf life saving colleague followed to assist the police but their way was barred by the crowd, and they were targeted by bottles and other debris. As police attempted to rescue the victim, Mr Damic yelled out to one of the officers as an offender prepared to strike him from behind. The highly aggressive man then ran at Mr Damic and his colleague who both tackled the offender and subdued him until he could be restrained by handcuffs. Despite the continuing threats and hostile intimidation, Mr Damic stood his ground until police reinforcements arrived and dispersed the crowd.

For his actions, Mr Damic is commended for brave conduct.

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Bradley John EDWARDS**, 196 Priors Pocket Road, Moggill Qld 4070

During the afternoon of 25 September 2008, Mr Edwards rescued a man from under his capsized boat at Riverview, Queensland.

Mr Edwards, a ferry master, was operating a commercial ferry, crossing the Moggill Reach of the Brisbane River at Riverview. The ferry uses a series of cables to pull itself across the river. As Mr Edwards manoeuvred the craft, a four metre aluminium dinghy heading upstream struck the draw cable, flipped over and capsized. Mr Edwards immediately stopped the ferry and made it fast on the cable before jumping into the river, secured to a line by a life ring. Unaware of what potentially harmful debris might be present below the surface, Mr Edwards swam underneath the unstable dinghy where he found an unconscious man. Mr Edwards brought the victim to the surface and held him above the water as his crew hauled the two back to the ferry. Back on board his vessel, Mr Edwards oversaw first aid treatment for the victim until ambulance personnel arrived at the scene.

For his actions, Mr Edwards is commended for brave conduct.

**Mr Dany ELSAFIN**, Narre Warren Vic 3805

During the afternoon of 14 January 2009, Mr Elsafin helped rescue a swimmer from rough seas at Edithvale Beach, Victoria.

Mr Elsafin and several friends were swimming in waters off Edithvale Beach where conditions had become windy and very rough. The group were near a sandbar when they noticed a swimmer in distress, waving his hands for help. Mr Elsafin quickly swam into the deeper water and realised that two teenagers were in trouble. One of the boys grabbed Mr Elsafin's shoulder and the other clung to his waist. Mr Elsafin tried to pull the submerged teenager to the surface but the swimmer could not move. Struggling to hold both victims and keep himself above the water while they were buffeted by crashing waves, Mr Elsafin desperately called for help. One of the victims slowly lost his hold and let go. As Mr Elsafin struggled to tread water with the other teenager, his friend swam over and pulled him up keeping his head above water. Another friend grabbed the teenager and dragged him to safety however Mr Elsafin and his friends were unable to find the second victim. Sadly, the teenager drowned having earlier attempted to rescue two friends from the rough seas.

For his actions, Mr Elsafin is commended for brave conduct.

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Andrew FISHER**, 5 Raymond Avenue, Bundall Qld 4217

During the early hours of 3 October 2008, Mr Fisher rescued a man trapped inside a submerged vehicle in the Nerang River, Surfers Paradise, Queensland.

Sitting on a ramp on the Nerang River, Mr Fisher and his fiancée saw a car travelling at high speed mount a gutter, smash through a steel barrier and plunge into the water. They called '000' and drove to the opposite side of the river. Only the boot of the submerged car was visible as Mr Fisher clambered across some rocks and swam out to check for victims. As the car began to sink Mr Fisher dived down and reached in through an open door. Feeling the driver in the middle of the front seats, he grabbed him by the legs and tried repeatedly to pull him free. Although exhausted and forced to continually resurface for air, Mr Fisher persisted in his rescue attempts. He eventually dislodged the man and dragged him to the surface and was helped to pull him to safety. Concerned there may be other victims as a baby capsule had earlier floated to the surface, Mr Fisher continued to dive for up to 15 minutes before being overcome by exhaustion. Mr Fisher was later informed that there were no other occupants in the vehicle.

For his actions, Mr Fisher is commended for brave conduct.

**Mr Clynton Scott HARDES**, Largs NSW 2320

On the night of 8 June 2007, Mr Harges helped rescue an elderly woman from floodwaters at Cardiff, New South Wales.

Mr Harges and a colleague were returning to Cardiff from an ambulance call out when they were stopped on the road and asked to rescue an elderly woman from her nearby house. The dwelling was surrounded by rising and fast flowing floodwaters some of which had begun to enter the house. With only a rope for safety, the officers entered the chest high water where they were buffeted by the strong current full of flood debris. They struggled through the water, unable to see where they were walking or anticipate what dangers lay underfoot, taking turns to carry the woman on their shoulders. While carrying the victim, Mr Harges' colleague was dragged into a water drain and submerged, letting go of her. Fortunately both officers were able to retrieve the victim from the floodwaters and with the assistance of a passersby she was pulled to safety.

For his actions, Mr Harges is commended for brave conduct.

## **COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT**

### **Mr Matthew Robert HARDING, Driver NT 0830**

On the night of 2 July 2008, Mr Harding rescued a friend attacked by dogs at Palmerston, Northern Territory.

Mr Harding was walking past a construction site with a friend when a pack of five guard dogs appeared, having broken free from the grounds through a damaged fence. As the two men tried to run from the scene, the animals lunged at Mr Harding's friend, biting him on the arms and legs. The victim eventually fell to the ground where he was repeatedly mauled by the animals, one of them biting him viciously around the face. Without any protection, Mr Harding repeatedly kicked the dogs and placed himself in direct line of attack as he attempted to drag the animals away and protect his friend. The dogs' owner arrived and was eventually able to call off the animals and restrain them away from the scene of the incident.

For his actions, Mr Harding is commended for brave conduct.

### **Mr Kevin Michael HARTY, 42 Browns Parade, Wendouree Vic 3355**

On the afternoon of 12 November 2008, Mr Harty rescued a man from a burning vehicle at Dead Leap, Victoria.

Mr Harty watched as a car, some distance behind his, veered from the Western Highway, and rolled several times. He quickly turned his vehicle and drove to the site of the crash where surrounding grass was alight and the underneath of the car was on fire. Mr Harty was joined by another man who identified himself as a police officer. Both men attempted to wrench open the driver's side door but it was jammed fast. As the fire continued to develop, the rescuers moved to the passenger door and successfully opened it. Together they pulled the driver from the wreck. Learning that the car was powered by gas the men moved the injured man further away as the car was fully engulfed in flames. Both men stayed with the victim until the arrival of the ambulance.

For his actions, Mr Harty is commended for brave conduct.

### **Constable Raymond William HOLMES, New South Wales Police**

On the morning of 19 July 2005, Constable Holmes rescued an elderly woman from a burning house at Towradgi, New South Wales.

Constable Holmes was called to the scene of a house fire where an elderly woman was thought to be trapped inside. The building was well alight and thick smoke was billowing from the house. Unable to see inside because of blackened windows, Constable Holmes attempted to force open the front door by kicking at it repeatedly but he was unable gain access. He ran to the rear of the building and managed to kick open the back door. Hearing cries for help, he made his way into the house which was entirely engulfed in black smoke. As he searched the kitchen he encouraged the victim to continue calling out so he could get his bearings and locate her. He eventually found the woman down the hallway collapsed and experiencing considerable breathing distress. Constable Holmes carried the woman through the burning house and was met by an ambulance officer who helped him carry the elderly woman to safety.

For his actions, Constable Holmes is commended for brave conduct.

## **COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT**

**Mr Mark Charles HOSKINSON**, Kikoira NSW 2669.

During the late afternoon of 21 December 2007, Mr Hoskinson rescued six people stranded in rising floodwater at Kikoira near Ungarie, New South Wales.

Late in the day after torrential rain had fallen, Mr Hoskinson was told about a mother and her three young children who were stranded in their car in a causeway. Mr Hoskinson drove off into failing light in heavy rain to rescue them. The level of floodwater was so high in places that it flowed over the bonnet and through the doors of his four wheel drive vehicle. The current was also so strong that the vehicle was being pushed sideways. Mr Hoskinson continued to drive on, reaching the neighbour's property where he swapped his utility for a tractor. The floodwaters intensified to the extent that the tractor was also pushed sideways with water penetrating the cabin. Initially Mr Hoskinson was unable to locate the stranded vehicle or raise a response from its occupants on the telephone. He persisted with the search in the dangerous conditions until the vehicle was found. The family was still inside although water was lapping the windows and had seeped in under the doors. Aligning the tractor with the car, Mr Hoskinson got the children and their mother out of the vehicle through the windows and into the cabin of the tractor and drove them to the safety of a nearby property. Mr Hoskinson then received another call advising that two men who were also stranded in the floodwater which pushed their ute up against a tree. Mr Hoskinson again drove the tractor and found them trapped with water up their windows. He placed a winch cable on their stranded vehicle and pulled them to safety.

For his actions, Mr Hoskinson is commended for brave conduct.

**Senior Constable Nigel JARVIS**, New South Wales Police

Details not released at the request of Senior Constable Jarvis.

**Federal Agent Paul Andrew JOHNSTONE**, Australian Federal Police

On the night of 26 April 2005, Federal Agent Johnstone rescued a child from the path of an oncoming vehicle at Nagoya, Japan.

During a holiday in Japan, Federal Agent Johnstone visited a popular entertainment complex with friends. As he and his friends left the venue, he saw a young unrestrained child run on to the street into the path of an oncoming vehicle travelling at some speed. Road conditions were dangerous as it was dark and rain had been falling. Federal Agent Johnstone ran out onto the roadway and grabbed the child, immediately placing himself in front of the vehicle. While screaming to the driver to stop, he quickly hoisted the young child into the air and dashed to the side of the road. Both he and the child escaped injury and the child was safely reunited with its parents.

For his actions, Federal Agent Johnstone is commended for brave conduct.

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Bill JORGENSEN**, 28 Mathoura Street, Horsham Vic 3400

On the night of 18 May 2008, Mr Jorgensen assisted in the rescue of a man from a burning house at Horsham, Victoria.

Mr Jorgensen became aware of flames and thick black smoke billowing from his neighbour's house. He raced to the house and with another neighbour tried to enter it to search for occupants. On their first two attempts the intense smoke and heat forced them to retreat. Mr Jorgensen repeatedly called out to the occupant of the dwelling and eventually heard an incoherent and disoriented response. A successful third attempt was made to enter the house. Mr Jorgensen's co-rescuer found the occupant in a disorientated state on the opposite side of the house. Mr Jorgensen remained just inside the dwelling and assisted by repeatedly calling out to his co-rescuer to provide him with audible bearings to assist him bring the victim through the thick, toxic smoke. As the victim was led from the house, the building was engulfed in fire and within moments sections of ceiling collapsed. Mr Jorgensen remained with the victim until emergency services arrived at the scene.

For his actions, Mr Jorgensen is commended for brave conduct.

**Mr Anthony Christopher JUX**, 591 Tinderry Road, Michelago NSW 2620

On the evening of 2 March 2007, Mr Jux helped rescued a young boy from a dog attack at Banks, Australian Capital Territory.

Mr Jux was out walking with his two young sons when he heard a woman screaming from the yard of a nearby property. He clambered over a rock wall and saw a man trying to drag a dog away from a young boy who was lying prone on a trampoline. The dog had the child's head in its jaw and refused to release the victim despite being repeatedly punched. Mr Jux quickly jumped on to the trampoline and joined the other rescuer in trying to get the dog to release its grip but without success. A knife was brought to the scene which Mr Jux used against the animal. Mr Jux eventually managed to subdue the dog, enabling the four year old boy's head to be freed from the animal's jaws. The child was rushed to hospital with serious head and neck wounds but survived the ordeal.

For his actions, Mr Jux is commended for brave conduct.

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

### **Mr David Warren KRINS**, Wantirna Vic 3152

During the night of 28 February 2008, Mr Krins rescued an elderly woman who was being stabbed whilst visiting Boronia Junction shopping centre.

An elderly woman had withdrawn money from an automatic teller machine when she was approached from behind by a young woman who grabbed at her handbag. The offender verbally abused her victim and dragged her to the ground. In the ensuing struggle the victim was stabbed in the right arm and left hand causing serious injuries. Mr Krins heard the woman's screams for help and ran to the scene yelling at the offender to stop the attack. He grabbed the offender and pulled her away, but was cut by her knife. In the momentary distraction the armed woman grabbed the handbag and fled the scene. Mr Krins followed the offender on foot for some 20 metres where she stopped and threatened to stab him again. Mr Krins returned to the elderly woman and comforted her until police and ambulance arrived. The suspect was later arrested by police.

For his actions, Mr Krins is commended for brave conduct

### **Mrs Michelle Dolores LAKIN**, NSW

During the afternoon of 21 April 2000, Mrs Lakin rescued two naval cadets after their dinghy capsized at Broken Bay, New South Wales.

Mrs Lakin as coxswain and two fellow naval cadets, all of them then in their mid-teens, were participating in a sailing expedition aboard a corsair dinghy on Broken Bay. As the dinghy crossed the Bay the weather and sea conditions deteriorated rapidly and it was swamped and capsized several times by heavy seas. After a number of such episodes the exhausted cadets were not physically able to right the dinghy. Mrs Lakin maintained her composure, reassuring and supporting the cadets as their situation worsened. More than once the teenagers were swept clear of the upturned dinghy, and each time Mrs Lakin swam out to recover them, then tying their life jackets together to prevent separation. Putting aside her own fears and exhaustion, Mrs Lakin comforted the cadets by singing and talking calmly about how to combat hypothermia until the group was able to be rescued by a naval safety boat.

For her actions, Mrs Lakin is commended for brave conduct.

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

### **Mr Garry Jay McCAULEY, Birkdale Qld 4159**

On the night of 19 September 2008, Mr McCauley helped rescue a man from a burning vehicle at Unanderra, New South Wales.

A motor vehicle travelling at high speed along the Princes Highway clipped a power pole and spun out of control before coming to rest on top of a high pressure gas main. The vehicle's fuel tank was ruptured and caught alight, igniting the gas main which shot up flames that engulfed the car. Witnessing the accident, Mr McCauley and his son ran to the vehicle. As someone appeared to be moving in the car, Mr McCauley jumped up on to the vehicle and repeatedly punched and kicked at the windscreen sustaining an injury to his right hand. By this time the vehicle was well alight. Mr McCauley continued to batter away at the windscreen, grabbing a piece of shattered bumper bar as he attempted to get to the trapped victim. He also tried repeatedly to prise open the driver's door. At the urging of other rescuers the victim was able to struggle across to the driver's side window where he was eventually pulled free from the burning wreck. The victim survived the accident despite burns to 30 per cent of his body, but sadly, three passengers in the car died at the scene.

For his actions, Mr McCauley is commended for brave conduct.

### **Mr Jason Garry McCAULEY, 483 Kurmond Road, Freemans Reach NSW 2756**

On the night of 19 September 2008, Mr McCauley helped rescue a man from a burning vehicle at Unanderra, New South Wales.

A motor vehicle travelling at high speed along the Princes Highway clipped a power pole and spun out of control before coming to rest on top of a high pressure gas main. The vehicle's fuel tank was ruptured and caught alight, igniting the main which shot up flames that engulfed the car. Mr McCauley pulled over his van and together with his father ran back to the scene. The vehicle and its interior were well alight as Mr McCauley and his father attempted to smash the windscreen to free a trapped victim. A third man arrived with a fire extinguisher and was spraying the victim to protect him as he moved closer to the driver's side window. Mr McCauley leaned forward and grabbed the victim around the neck and shoulders and helped pull him through the window. As a result the man was able to be dragged from the burning wreck and carried to safety. Sadly, three passengers in the car died at the scene.

For his actions, Mr McCauley is commended for brave conduct.

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

### **Mr Rodney Peter McNAIR, Vic**

On the afternoon of 14 May 2007, Mr McNair assisted in the rescue of three people from a burning house at Mount Waverley, Victoria.

Mr McNair and two colleagues were undertaking contract plumbing at a block of units, when they became aware that one of the apartments was on fire. Emergency services were alerted and the men acted quickly to try to raise the alarm with the occupants. Failing to get a response, Mr McNair and his co-workers forced their way into the unit and entered a blazing lounge room. The men raced through the unit until they found a man and his son asleep in a bedroom. The men woke the two and got them safely out of the building. Hearing that a second child was still in the burning unit, Mr McNair and his colleagues searched again, finding a young boy engrossed in his computer in another room, oblivious to the fire and the earlier evacuation. As fire engulfed the unit, Mr McNair and his colleagues removed the child from the scene and waited for the fire brigade to take control of the situation.

For his actions, Mr McNair is commended for brave conduct.

### **Mr Johan MALM, 10D/33 Thornton Street, Surfers Paradise Qld 4217**

During the early hours of 3 October 2008, Mr Malm helped rescue a man trapped inside a submerged vehicle in the Nerang River, Surfers Paradise, Queensland.

Alerted by a loud bang, Mr Malm saw from his apartment balcony that a car had crashed through a traffic barrier into the Nerang River. Only its boot was visible above the surface of the water. Fearing there may be people trapped inside the car, Mr Malm ran to the scene and swam out into the murky water. As he reached the submerged car he saw another person pulling a man free of the wrecked car. Together they dragged the victim from the area and swam him to the safety of nearby rocks. Concerned there may be other victims trapped as a baby capsule had earlier floated to the surface, Mr Malm and the other rescuer swam back to the car and continued to dive for up to 15 minutes, searching inside and around the vehicle before being overcome by exhaustion. Mr Malm also suffered a serious cut to his hand. No other victims were involved and the rescued man survived his ordeal.

For his actions, Mr Malm is commended for brave conduct.

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Christian Kyne MAPPERSON**, 57 Knightsbridge Avenue, Glenwood NSW 2768

On the morning of 19 June 2008, Mr Mapperson assisted a man and his dogs who suffered an unprovoked attack by two larger dogs at Glenwood, New South Wales.

Mr Mapperson was at home when he heard calls from outside. On investigation, he saw that a man and his two miniature schnauzers were being attacked by two much larger dogs. One of the small animals was being held high by its owner to prevent further injury however it was grabbed by the leg and pulled to the ground where it was repeatedly mauled. The man tried to kick the aggressive dogs away to protect himself and his dogs. Although aware of the dogs' aggressive behaviour in the past, Mr Mapperson raced to assist. He gathered up one of the injured dogs and headed back into his house. Both of the large animals followed him inside, one of them biting him severely as he tried to protect the young schnauzer. Despite the disturbing scene and his injuries, Mr Mapperson maintained his stand until the dogs were sufficiently distracted and could be removed from the house.

For his actions, Mr Mapperson is commended for brave conduct.

**Mr David Ian MAREK**, 33/590 Pine Ridge Road, Coombabah Qld 4216

On the morning of 25 September 2005, Mr Marek attempted to rescue his brother from the sea near Yallingup, Western Australia.

Mr Marek and his brother were fishing from rocks near Yallingup when they decided to move on because of the threatening waves and ocean swell. As they were collecting their belongings, Mr Marek's brother was hit by a wave and washed into the ocean. Mr Marek quickly grabbed a rope and threw it out to his brother but it was too short. Moments later a strong wave crashed over the rocks washing Mr Marek himself into the ocean. Fully clothed, he swam to his brother who now appeared unconscious and struggled to keep him afloat. While being continually pounded by waves he called out to bystanders for help. The bystanders pushed a surfboard in his direction but a crashing wave washed it away. Mr Marek tried to swim his brother back to the rocks but they became separated and his brother disappeared below the surface. Although exhausted, Mr Marek repeatedly dived in the hope of recovering his brother but he was eventually forced to swim back to shore and was washed onto the rocks. Sadly, Mr Marek's brother drowned in the incident.

For his actions, Mr Marek is commended for brave conduct.

## **COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT**

**Mr Warren Mark MASTERS**, 33 Candlebark Road, Queanbeyan NSW 2620

On the evening of 2 March 2007, Mr Masters helped rescue a young boy from a dog attack at Banks, Australian Capital Territory.

Mr Masters heard loud screams of distress coming from a neighbour's backyard and jumped over the fence to investigate. A woman was screaming for help as a young boy, lying on his side on a trampoline was being savaged by a dog. Mr Masters raced to the child and attempted to drag the dog away from the victim. However the animal was obsessed by its attack on the victim and continued to clamp the boy's head in its jaws. The child had already sustained deep wounds to his scalp and neck and lost a great deal of blood. Mr Masters continued punching and pulling at the dog and in the struggle, suffered broken bones in his hand and wrist. A passer-by joined Mr Masters and a household knife was used to subdue the dog enabling the men to free the seriously injured four year old boy who was then rushed to hospital for emergency treatment.

For his actions, Mr Masters is commended for brave conduct.

**Mr Luke Elliott PARRY**, 66 Mascot Avenue, Bonbeach Vic 3196

During the afternoon of 14 January 2009, Mr Parry helped rescue a swimmer from rough seas at Edithvale Beach, Victoria.

Mr Parry and two friends were swimming some distance off Edithvale Beach where the conditions had become increasingly windy and choppy. A number of swimmers were out in the water at the same time, when cries for help went out from a group of four teenage boys in trouble. One of the victims was floating face up, unable to help himself. Mr Parry swam over to the teenager to take his weight and keep his head above water. With the help of one of his friends, Mr Parry swam the victim towards the shore. However they both became exhausted by the very choppy conditions and began to struggle. As they continued their efforts and approached a sandbar, one of their friends swam over to help them drag the distressed victim from the water and out on to the beach to safety. Sadly, during related events a teenage boy drowned as a result of his attempts to rescue two friends.

For his actions, Mr Parry is commended for brave conduct.

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

### **Mr Ashneel Sanjesh PRASAD, St Clair NSW 2759**

In the early morning of 4 November 2007, Mr Prasad helped rescue a man from a burning vehicle on the M4 motorway near Silverwater, New South Wales.

Mr Prasad witnessed a serious single motor vehicle accident whilst travelling on the M4 motorway. A car travelling at high speed had collided head-on with a separation safety barrier. The car was alight and the driver was slumped unconscious against the door. Attempts were made by police at the scene to force open the driver's side door but it was jammed fast. Mr Prasad and two other civilian witnesses assisted police to try to remove the victim through the vehicle's side window as flames began penetrating the interior of the car. The man's feet were pinned below the dashboard and repeated efforts to pull him through the window were unsuccessful. Mr Prasad, together with the other rescuers, continued to manoeuvre the victim until his feet were free and he could be lifted away from the burning vehicle and carried to safety. Moments later the car was entirely engulfed in flames.

For his actions, Mr Prasad is commended for brave conduct.

### **Mr AI QVIST, 14 Asher Street, Georgetown NSW 2298**

On the night of 8 June 2007, Mr Qvist helped rescue an elderly woman from floodwaters at Cardiff, New South Wales.

Mr Qvist and a colleague were returning to Cardiff from an ambulance call out when they were stopped on the road and asked to rescue an elderly woman from her nearby house. The house was surrounded by rising and fast flowing floodwaters some of which had begun to enter the house. With only a rope for safety, the officers entered the chest high water where they were buffeted by the strong current. At one point Mr Qvist placed the woman on his shoulders to carry her through the water. As he struggled to keep upright, he missed his footing and slipped into a drain. He was submerged beneath the water for some time and in the process broke an ankle. Finding his way to the surface, Mr Qvist saw the victim as she floated past and despite his injuries was able to grab her before she disappeared into the fast flowing water. Mr Qvist held the woman until his colleague could get to them with a rope and help pull them both to safety.

For his actions, Mr Qvist is commended for brave conduct.

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

### **Senior Constable Adam Troy RABONE, Victoria Police**

On the afternoon of 12 November 2008, Senior Constable Rabone rescued a man from a burning vehicle at Dead Leap, Victoria.

Senior Constable Rabone was off-duty, driving along the Western Highway, when he saw a vehicle break from a line of traffic and veer off the road. The car rolled several times, coming to rest amongst a pile of tree branches. Senior Constable Rabone raced to the vehicle which was on fire and attempted to speak with the driver. However the victim was incoherent and severely incapacitated. Senior Constable Rabone and another man attempted to prise open the driver's side door but it was jammed fast. As the fire continued to develop, Senior Constable Rabone moved to the passenger door and successfully opened it. With the help of the other man, he pulled the driver from the wreck. Learning that the car was powered by gas the men moved the injured man further away as the car was fully engulfed in flames. Senior Constable Rabone directed bystanders to keep their distance while he arranged for emergency services to attend the scene.

For his actions, Senior Constable Rabone is commended for brave conduct.

### **Mr Jeremiah John ROUWHORST, Tas**

During the afternoon of 20 May 2007, Mr Rouwhorst assisted a man injured during a riot at Dili, Timor Leste.

A riot involving almost 200 people broke out near the World Bank building in Dili, escalating into violence with several police personnel injured and vehicles damaged. As events intensified, a man was hit by stones and knocked unconscious. While he lay defenceless on the ground, rioters continued to attack him with sticks and rocks. Witnessing the callous act, Mr Rouwhorst left the safety of the Bank and tried to drag the victim into the bank compound. While dragging the victim into the compound he came under heavy attack. Once inside Mr Rouwhorst began administering first aid to the victim but was forced to retreat deeper into the compound to shelter from the barrage of stones. Realising the victim required hospital treatment, Mr Rouwhorst placed the man in a bank vehicle, and as they headed out into the crowd of rioters to drive to hospital, their windows were smashed in a sustained attack. Sadly the victim later died as a result of his injuries.

For his actions, Mr Rouwhorst is commended for brave conduct.

Phone No: Not available

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

### **Mr Vinit Ashal SHARMA**, Blacktown NSW 2148

In the early morning of 4 November 2007, Mr Sharma helped rescue a man from a burning vehicle on the M4 motorway near Silverwater, New South Wales.

Mr Sharma witnessed a serious single motor vehicle accident whilst travelling on the M4 motorway. A car travelling at high speed had collided head-on with a separation safety barrier. The car was on fire and the driver was slumped unconscious against the door. Attempts were made by police at the scene to force open the driver's side door but it was jammed fast. Mr Sharma and two other civilian witnesses assisted police to try to remove the victim through the vehicle's side window as flames began penetrating the interior of the car. The man's feet were pinned below the dashboard and repeated efforts to pull him through the window were unsuccessful. Mr Sharma, together with the other rescuers, continued to manoeuvre the victim until his feet were free and he could be lifted away from the burning vehicle and carried to safety. Moments later the car was entirely engulfed in flames.

For his actions, Mr Sharma is commended for brave conduct.

### **Sergeant Murray STAPP**, New Zealand Police

On the afternoon of 31 July 2008, New Zealand Police Sergeant Murray Stapp restrained an armed offender during a car-jacking at St Kilda, Victoria.

Sergeant Stapp and his wife were on holiday in Australia when, at a local shopping centre, he was alerted to a vehicle that had just been stolen and was being driven away by an offender armed with a knife. Sergeant Stapp approached the moving vehicle, yelling at the offender to stop. He tried to open the driver's door but it was locked. As he did so the offender held up the knife against the window in a menacing pose. Sergeant Stapp climbed into the vehicle through a rear door and grabbed the offender by his jacket, pulling back hard to restrain the man's movements. The offender retaliated by striking backwards repeatedly with the knife. Sergeant Stapp increased his pressure on the man causing him to release the weapon, enabling it to be tossed onto the floor. With the assistance of a bystander, Sergeant Stapp removed the offender from the vehicle and restrained him until police arrived at the scene.

For his actions, Sergeant Stapp is commended for brave conduct.

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

### **Mr Bobby STOJANOVSKI, Unanderra NSW 2526**

On the night of 19 September 2008, Mr Stojanovski helped rescue a man from a burning vehicle at Unanderra, New South Wales.

A motor vehicle travelling at high speed along the Princes Highway clipped a power pole and spun out of control before coming to rest on top of a high pressure gas main. The vehicle's fuel tank was ruptured and caught alight, igniting the main which shot up flames that engulfed the car. Mr Stojanovski was at a nearby mechanical workshop and heard the sound of the accident and saw a ball of fire. He grabbed a fire extinguisher and raced to the scene where several other people were attempting to rescue a man from the burning car. People were encouraging the victim to try to get out of the car. As he attempted to manoeuvre himself towards the driver's side window, Mr. Stojanovski used the extinguisher to retard flames in the forward section of the interior. The victim was then able to manoeuvre himself towards a window from where he was dragged from the car and carried to safety. Sadly, three other passengers in the car died at the scene.

For his actions, Mr Stojanovski is commended for brave conduct.

### **Constable Thanh Sang TO, New South Wales Police**

In the early morning of 4 November 2007, Constable To helped rescue a man from a burning vehicle on the M4 motorway near Silverwater, New South Wales.

Constable To and a colleague attended the scene of a serious single vehicle accident on the M4 motorway. The car was on fire and the driver was slumped unconscious against the door. With the assistance of his colleague and several civilians at the scene, Constable To attempted to remove the victim from the burning vehicle. Initially Constable To tried to force open the driver's door but it was jammed fast. The driver's feet were also pinned below the dashboard and repeated efforts to pull him through the side window were unsuccessful because of this. Constable To and the others persisted with their joint rescue operation and were finally able to free the victim's feet, and drag him through the window and on to the road. Concerned about a possible explosion as the car became engulfed in flames, the rescuers removed the driver to a safer distance where he was cared for until an ambulance arrived at the scene.

For her actions, Constable To is commended for brave conduct.

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

### **Constable Ellen TROY**, New South Wales Police

In the early morning of 4 November 2007, Constable Troy helped rescue a man from a burning vehicle on the M4 motorway near Silverwater, New South Wales.

Constable Troy and a colleague attended the scene of a serious single vehicle accident on the M4 motorway. The car was on fire and the driver was slumped unconscious against the door. Her colleague tried to open the door but it was jammed shut. Constable Troy assessed the scene and called for fire and ambulance services. Her colleague and several civilians attempted to remove the victim from the vehicle through a side window as flames began penetrating the interior. Repeated efforts were unsuccessful as the driver's feet were pinned below the dashboard. His feet were eventually freed and Constable Troy with others worked to remove the man from the burning vehicle. Concerned about a possible explosion as the car became engulfed in flames, she helped to take the driver to a safe location. Constable Troy comforted the victim until ambulance officers arrived at the scene to administer first aid and transport him to hospital.

For her actions, Constable Troy is commended for brave conduct.

### **Mr Vasilios George VAVASIS**, Aspendale Gardens Vic 3195

During the afternoon of 14 January 2009, Mr Vavasis went to the assistance of teenage swimmers caught in rough seas at Edithvale Beach, Victoria.

Mr Vavasis and several friends were swimming during the afternoon in waters off Edithvale Beach where conditions had become windy and very rough. The young men heard cries for help but could not immediately see anyone in distress. Minutes later Mr Vavasis heard one of his friends call out as he saw two teenagers in distress grasping his friend and trying to keep their heads above water. Their weight started to drag Mr Vavasis' friend under the surface. Noticing this, Mr Vavasis went to his assistance and desperately tried to drag them all through the water to safety. The rough conditions made this extremely difficult and as he struggled to keep the group together and scream for help, Mr Vavasis swallowed considerable amounts of water and was in some trouble himself. Another friend swam out and assisted him, pulling him back towards the shore. On the beach Mr Vavasis yelled repeatedly for assistance for the victims before finding someone to call emergency services. Sadly, during related events a teenage boy drowned as a result of his attempts to rescue two friends.

For his actions, Mr Vavasis is commended for brave conduct.

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Dallas James WADE**, 6 Pepper Bush Place, Garden Suburb NSW 2289

In the early hours of the morning of 23 May 1996, Senior Fire Fighter Wade assisted at the site of an exploded motor vehicle at Rankin Park, New South Wales.

Mr Wade was called to the scene of a car fire in a residential street where police were in attendance. While a pump was operated and a line run out in the direction of the fire, Mr Wade stopped beside a man who was lying prone on the ground with burns to his entire body. He sprayed the victim with water before moving on to the vehicle. Mr Wade joined police as they attempted to search the interior of the car for other victims. The vehicle was entirely filled with thick smoke and unstable. Mr Wade stood with the officers ready to spray down the interior of the car but it exploded without warning, hurling the men backwards. Mr Wade was shaken and was so overcome by toxic smoke inhalation that he was unable to render any further assistance. He was transferred to hospital for treatment. While no other victims were found inside the car, sadly the burns victim died at the scene.

For his actions, Mr Wade is commended for brave conduct.

**Mr Cameron James WILSON**, 25 McDonald Avenue, Upper Coomera Qld 4209

During the early hours of 3 October 2008, Mr Wilson searched for victims of a car which crashed and became submerged in the Nerang River, Surfers Paradise, Queensland.

During the early hours of the morning while at work, Mr Wilson received a radio call from one of his colleagues that a car had crashed through a traffic barrier and plunged into the Nerang River. As he approached the scene, Mr Wilson saw two men already in the water trying to rescue the driver from the submerged car. By the time he had run down the road and climbed out on nearby rocks he saw that the driver had been freed from the car and was being brought back towards the river bank. Fearing there might be other people trapped in the vehicle, Mr Wilson swam out through the murky water to the sinking vehicle and dived down into the car with two other men to search for victims. Mr Wilson continued to dive for up to 20 minutes until he was satisfied that no one else was inside the car or in the surrounding water. No other victims were involved and the rescued man survived his ordeal.

For his actions, Mr Wilson is commended for brave conduct.

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

### **Mr John David WILSON**, Hughes ACT 2605

On the morning of 15 October 2008, Mr Wilson apprehended a man armed with a knife following a robbery at Hughes, Australian Capital Territory.

From his nearby business premises Mr Wilson noticed a man wearing an open-faced motorcycle helmet enter the Post Office agency at Hughes. Minutes later he heard screams from the agency, and recognised the voice of one of the female shop assistants. Mr Wilson saw the man in the helmet in the Post Office and the shop attendant behind the counter, distressed and crying. He raced across the roadway and as he approached the post office the man in the helmet was making his way through the post office door. Mr Wilson attempted to detain the man and in doing so was cut by a knife. As the two struggled, Mr Wilson managed to overpower the offender. With the assistance of another person the armed man was pinned to the ground. Mr Wilson grabbed the knife and passed it to a third person who had arrived at the scene to assist. Police arrived minutes later and arrested the offender for attempted robbery.

For his actions, Mr Wilson is commended for brave conduct.

### **Mr David WOODALL**, Rainbow Bay SLSC, 2 Snapper Rocks Road, Rainbow Bay Qld 4225

During the afternoon of 26 January 2008, Mr Woodall assisted New South Wales Police officers during a public disorder incident at Rainbow Bay Surf Club, Coolangatta, Queensland.

Mr Woodall was performing volunteer surf life saving duties at Rainbow Beach and was concerned by the behaviour of a group of 300 intoxicated young people who had gathered in the surf club car park. Two police officers arrived as fighting broke out, and moments later a young girl ran to the officers to say that her boyfriend was being bashed. As the officers moved into the crowd, Mr Woodall and a colleague followed to assist the police but their way was barred by the crowd, and they were targeted by bottles and other debris. As the police attempted to rescue the victim, Mr Woodall and his colleague tackled and subdued a highly aggressive offender until he could be restrained by handcuffs. Despite the continuing threats and hostile intimidation, Mr Woodall maintained his stance until police reinforcements arrived and dispersed the crowd.

For his actions, Mr Woodall is commended for brave conduct.