

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Junior AFUIE, 54 Branston Road St Albans VIC 3021

On the afternoon of 30 June 2004, Mr Afuie rescued his two young nieces from their burning house at Sunshine, Victoria.

Mr Afuie, then 17 years old, was at home with his two young nieces, Lee 6 years old and Caitlan 6 months old. Lee was watching television in the lounge room and Caitlan was asleep in a front bedroom when Mr Afuie heard a loud bang. Lee ran into the kitchen saying that the couch was on fire. Mr Afuie immediately ran to the lounge room and found both the couch and the curtains alight. He grabbed hold of Lee and made his way out of the house. As the fire continued to burn in the lounge room and the house filled with dense smoke, Mr Afuie used his hands to smash the bedroom window where the baby was sleeping. He crawled into the room and felt around for Caitlan. Once he found her, he lifted her out of the cot and crawled back to the window where he climbed out to safety.

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

Mr Matthew Henry BARNES, 43 Station Street, Newtown NSW 2042

On the afternoon of 18 December 2001, Mr Barnes assisted in the rescue of a man from a burning building at Cooks River, New South Wales.

Mr Barnes, a railway signalman at the Cooks River Signal Box, was with another signalman changing shifts when they heard an explosion and immediately went to investigate. They saw that a garage opposite the signal box was on fire and, knowing that an elderly man lived there, quickly ran towards it. Although flames had already completely engulfed one side of the building and it was rapidly filling with smoke, the men entered the garage by a roller door and found the man inside in a state of shock. Mr Barnes attempted to pull the man out of the building but was unsuccessful. While his colleague assisted the man, Mr Barnes dragged a gas cylinder away from the flames into a nearby laneway. Unable to re-enter the building because flames had by then blocked the doorway, he ran to alert authorities. During this time his colleague had successfully evacuated the man through a rear door.

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

Mr Maurice William BREWER, 5/380 Milton Road, Auchenflower Qld 4066

On the afternoon of 23 October 2003, Mr Brewer went to the assistance of an off-duty police officer who was being assaulted by two men at Auchenflower Railway Station, Queensland.

A police officer, who was on his way to work, had asked two men to stop using obscene language towards elderly people waiting on the platform. Because he was in civilian clothes, he identified himself as a police officer and asked the two men for identification. The two men then verbally and physically assaulted the police officer, punching him about the head and body. Mr Brewer, then 69 years old, saw this happening and immediately came to the officer's assistance. He grabbed hold of one of the men and dragged him away from the police officer. Although Mr Brewer was being continually punched he was able to restrain the offender until other police officers attended the scene and arrested the two men.

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

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Mr Anthony Clifford CADDEN, 15 Chapel Street, Lilyfield NSW 2040

In the early hours of the morning of 19 July 2001, Mr Cadden took action against an armed offender at the Taverners Hill Hotel in Leichhardt, New South Wales.

Mr Cadden was in the hotel bar when two men, one armed with a knife, the other with a handgun, attempted a robbery. The man armed with a gun ordered patrons to the rear of the bar, while the man with the knife emptied the cash registers. Seeing the gunman momentarily distracted, Mr Cadden grabbed hold of a barstool and hit him on the side of the head. As a result of this action, the gunman ran from the hotel.

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

Sergeant Jan Pieter GARRELS, Queensland Police

On the afternoon of 10 October 2004, Sergeant Garrels attempted to rescue a young boy from a house fire in Roma, Queensland.

Sergeant Garrels was on duty at Roma Police Station when he was informed of a house fire. On arriving at the scene he saw flames coming through the roof of the garage area of the home and was informed that a child might still be inside. Sergeant Garrels twice entered the house and, in thick smoke, searched for the missing child. He was unable to access the garage area because of the extreme heat. Sergeant Garrels informed fire officers, who had just arrived, of the situation and helped them to set up hoses. He then arranged a search of surrounding paddocks for the child and worked to control the crowd of onlookers. Sadly, the child was in the garage of the home and died in the fire.

By his actions, Sergeant Garrels is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Mario LANZA, PO Box 4473, Knox City Centre Vic 3152

On the afternoon of 8 April 2005, Mr Lanza helped to rescue a man from a burning vehicle after an accident at Knoxfield, Victoria.

At about 4.30pm a driver lost control of his vehicle while driving at high speed on Scoresby Road and crashed into a power pole. Mr Lanza, who had been travelling in the opposite direction had seen the accident, stopped and ran over to the car. As the car began to burn and fill with black smoke, Mr Lanza and two other men tried to open the doors to rescue the driver but found them jammed shut by the force of the impact. Mr Lanza fetched a wheel brace from his own car and again tried unsuccessfully to open the doors. On being handed a fire extinguisher, he sprayed the inside of the car through the driver's side window and then, when the driver moved into the back seat, used the empty extinguisher in an attempt to break the glass in the rear window. Despite the car being in flames, with the assistance of another man wielding an iron bar, he was able to break the window and together they pulled the injured driver to safety.

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

Mr Simon LEUNIG, 450A Cambridge Street, Floreat WA 6104

On the morning of 5 August 2003, Mr Leunig went to the aid of people injured when a car bomb exploded outside a hotel in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Mr Leunig was in his room on the seventh floor of the Marriott Hotel in Jakarta when, at about 11.30am, he felt his room vibrate and the windows cracked and broke. He went down to the lobby of the hotel and found two women who had been injured in the blast. Although badly shaken from the blast and believing that there could be further explosions, Mr Leunig helped the women outside and assisted in administering first aid. He then saw a taxi driver lying on the ground near some taxis that were engulfed in flames. He grabbed hold of the man and dragged him a safe distance away. He then continued to administer first aid to others who were injured.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Richard MONROCHE-CABON, 3/171 Carrington Road, Coogee NSW 2034

On the morning of 24 December 2004, Mr Monroeche-Cabon helped to disarm and restrain an offender at Matraville, New South Wales.

Mr Monroeche-Cabon, an employee of a retail store at Matraville, was at the back at the loading dock unaware that two offenders were inside attempting to rob the store. When he heard gunshots he ran to the front of the store and saw his employer lying in the street and a fellow employee wrestling with an offender. Mr Monroeche-Cabon ran to the aid of his colleague. He pinned the offender to the ground and, having been informed that the man had a gun concealed underneath him, forced the man to release the gun and a third colleague was able to remove it. Mr Monroeche-Cabon and his colleagues then held the offender until the police arrived. Sadly, Mr Monroeche-Cabon's employer died from a gunshot wound sustained during the incident.

For his actions, Mr Monroeche-Cabon is commended for brave conduct.

Master Tyler Stephen MOON, PO Box 776, Ulladulla NSW 2539

On the morning of 8 May 2004, Master Moon, although severely injured, sought help for his father after a quad bike accident near Milton, New South Wales.

Tyler, then 7 years old, was a passenger on the back of a quad bike driven by his father on their family property. A branch became wedged under one of the front wheels of the bike tipping it over and trapping both Tyler and his father underneath, causing multiple injuries to both. However, they managed to free themselves and attempted to walk back to their home some two kilometres away. After walking less than one kilometre, Mr Moon collapsed and was unable to go any further. Tyler, in an effort to get help for his father, walked to a neighbour's house but found no-one home. He then continued to his own home, another 500–600 metres away. After telling his mother about the accident, Tyler collapsed suffering a broken left arm, a broken left scapula, seven broken ribs and punctured lungs.

For his actions, Master Moon is commended for brave conduct.

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Mrs Rebecca Deanne SELDON, 11 Basswood Court, Albany Creek Qld 4035

On the afternoon of 28 February 2005, Mrs Seldon rescued a boy who had been carried out to sea by a rip at Moreton Island, Queensland.

Mrs Seldon, a teacher, was one of several adults supervising a group of Year 6 students who were swimming in the surf at Moreton Island. Four of the students were caught in a rip and swept out to sea. Another teacher was able to assist all but one of them to shore. The remaining student was carried further out to sea. A teacher contacted emergency services but was told that help would have to come from the mainland and would take some time. Mrs Seldon then volunteered to swim out to rescue the boy. She entered the water and swam out some 300 metres to him. The boy was distressed and fatigued. Mrs Seldon supported him and swam for around 200 metres before a boat picked them up and returned them to shore.

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

Mrs Kerrie Anne SOUTHON, 170 Wilsons Hill Road, Marong Vic 3515

On the afternoon of 20 May 2005, Mrs Southon went to assist in the rescue of a woman and child from a burning vehicle after an accident at Marong, Victoria.

Mrs Southon and her husband were in a paddock on their property at about 1.00pm when they saw a car drive past and crash into a tree, after the driver had lost control on the gravel road. Mrs Southon and her husband immediately drove to the accident and as they approached saw flames coming from beneath the car. Mrs Southon reached into the burning car and removed a baby from the back seat. While her husband began throwing dirt on the flames to put out the fire, she drove with the baby to her house to be cared for by their daughters and then returned to the accident site with two fire extinguishers. Mr Southon had meanwhile removed a woman from the driver's seat. Mr Southon took the fire extinguishers and made further attempts to put out the flames. He was unable to extinguish the fire and fearing an explosion, Mr and Mrs Southon moved the woman further away from the car and comforted her until ambulance and emergency services officers arrived. The car was subsequently completely incinerated.

By her actions, Mrs Southon is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Peter Brian STANOVSEK, 34 Rooding Street, Brighton Vic 3186

On the morning of 30 June 2005, Mr Stanovsek intercepted and restrained two armed offenders attempting to rob a hotel at Yarraville, Victoria.

Mr Stanovsek, the owner of the hotel, had just opened for trading when a person wearing a balaclava entered and walked into the hotel's strong room. Mr Stanovsek saw the person start to put cash into a bag. He went into the office and confronted the offender. After Mr Stanovsek grabbed the offender he noticed he was holding a gun. Mr Stanovsek reached out and was able to take the gun. The hotel maintenance man who was also present ran to help Mr Stanovsek drag the offender out of the office. At this stage they realised that the offender was a woman and the maintenance man restrained her while Mr Stanovsek called the police. Mr Stanovsek was then attacked by the offender's accomplice who had now come into the hotel. The man hit Mr Stanovsek several times over the head with a baton. However, Mr Stanovsek was able to wrestle the man to the ground and restrain him until police officers arrived.

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

Mr William Murray WATSON, 9/51 Herbert St, Boronia Vic 3155

On the afternoon of 8 April 2005 Mr Watson helped to rescue a man from a burning vehicle after an accident at Knoxfield, Victoria.

Mr Watson was driving along Scoresby Road at about 4.30pm when a car driven at high speed overtook his vehicle, lost control and collided with a power pole. Mr Watson immediately stopped and attempted to open the doors of the crashed car. When the car burst into flames, Mr Watson and two other men continued to try to open its doors but found them all jammed. The car was filled with black smoke but Mr Watson heard banging on the rear window and tried to break the glass with an iron bar, while another man did the same with a fire extinguisher. Eventually they managed to break the glass and pull the driver to safety.

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