

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Matthew Kevin ALCOCK, South Australia

On 30 December 2010, Mr Matthew Alcock assisted with the rescue of a man from a rip at Pennington Bay, Kangaroo Island. While swimming with family and friends, Mr Alcock, who is legally blind, became aware that his future father-in-law was in distress and asked a nearby friend to point him in the right direction to offer assistance. Swimming through the rough surf, Mr Alcock reached his partner's father and assisted him by keeping him afloat in the rip. Concerned that the pair could be swept further out to sea, the swimmer urged Mr Alcock to return to shore without him, before he was rescued by a third man.

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

Mr Martin Maria ANCONÈ, 6A Marshall Street, Glengowrie SA 5044

On the afternoon of 14 November 1997, Mr Martin Anconè assisted in the attempted rescue of a man from a burning truck following an accident at Wannon, Victoria. Mr Anconè was travelling with a group of men in a bus on the Glenelg Highway when they stopped at the scene of the accident. A prime mover had separated from its trailer and crashed down an embankment, and the driver was trapped upside down. The men heard the driver calling for help. After ascertaining that the driver of the second vehicle was safe, Mr Anconè and several of his travelling companions went to the aid of the other driver. They saw that the engine of the truck was on fire and returned with a fire extinguisher. While the other men attempted to quell the flames and free the driver, Mr Anconè tried unsuccessfully to prise open the lower side door. Repeated attempts to free the driver failed and the men were forced to move away as the flames engulfed the truck.

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

Sergeant James Leonard ANSELL, Tasmania Police

During the afternoon of 12 January 2000, Sergeant James Ansell (then Constable Ansell), assisted with the apprehension of a violent and armed offender in New Norfolk. Constable Ansell arrived at the scene of a confrontation between two police officers and an armed youth who they were attempting to apprehend. Constable Ansell pursued the offender as he ran toward a public area. He diverted the youth's attention away from one officer who was under threat and protecting members of the public. He later assisted with the successful apprehension of the violent youth.

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

Phone No: Not available

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Shaun Dylan BAILEY, Port Elliot SA 5212

On the afternoon of 30 December 2010, Mr Shaun Bailey responded to cries for help to rescue a man from a rip at Pennington Bay, Kangaroo Island. When alerted to the situation by the victim's wife, Mr Bailey, without hesitation, left his family on the beach and paddled through the rip on his surfboard. The swimmer was struggling to stay afloat in the rough conditions and was heavily fatigued. Mr Bailey pulled the swimmer onto his surfboard, and despite being initially pulled further out to sea, managed to paddle across the rip and to the safety of shore.

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

Miss Gemma Ashleigh BALL, Happy Valley SA 5159

In the afternoon of 27 January 2011, Miss Gemma Ball attempted to rescue an eight year old girl who had got into difficulties in the surf at Glenelg beach. Miss Ball and a companion swam out to the girl who, in her distress, dragged them under the water. Unable to rescue the girl themselves, they alerted surf lifesavers who brought all three swimmers safely to shore. Miss Ball sustained multiple cuts and a suspected fractured ankle in the incident.

For her actions, Miss Ball is commended for brave conduct.

Mr Anthony John BEAMES, PO Box 409, Riverwood NSW 2210

In the evening of 2 March 2007, security officer Mr Anthony Beames prevented an armed offender from leaving a commercial premises in Riverwood after a patron was stabbed. Mr Beames was alerted to the incident while working nearby and attended the scene. He found a man lying outside a shop, bleeding from stab wounds. Mr Beames confronted the armed offender who was inside the shop and blocked his repeated attempts to leave before police arrived and arrested him.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mrs Lisa Jane BOSSLEY, 1932 Kings Highway, Nelligen NSW 2536

On the morning of 14 September 2004, Mrs Lisa Bossley (then Sergeant Chinnock), put her personal safety at risk to assist two people who were saturated in fuel as a result of a petrol tanker accident. The tanker, carrying 25,000 litres of fuel, had overturned and rolled down an embankment, coming to rest 60 metres from a house. The property owner alerted Sergeant Chinnock, who was off duty at the time, to the accident. When she arrived at the scene, Sergeant Chinnock discovered that the property owner had dragged the driver of the tanker from the vehicle and was providing first aid. Both men were covered in fuel and close to the overturned tanker. Sergeant Chinnock ran to the tanker to establish that no one else was trapped. Saturated in fuel, she returned to the property owner to urge him to leave because of a possible explosion.

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

Mr Mathew Kane BOYLE, Forreston SA 5233

In the evening of 1 September 2007, Mr Mathew Boyle saved a man from drowning in the Murray River. Mr Boyle dived into the cold water after seeing a man fall from the back of a boat near Walkers Flat. In the dark, Mr Boyle swam towards the distressed man and kept him afloat until the boat turned around and returned to the location of the two men. By this stage, both men were exhausted and had swallowed water. Mr Boyle assisted the man towards the boat where they were both helped aboard.

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

Mr Kerby Thomas BROWN, Kalbarri WA 6536

In the morning of 10 May 2011, Mr Kerby Brown assisted with the rescue of two men after their boat capsized in the Murchison River at Kalbarri. When the alarm was raised, Mr Brown rode his jet ski through debris towards the men who were struggling to stay afloat in the turbulent water. Realising that one man was being swept towards a reef, Mr Brown skilfully manoeuvred his jet ski alongside the man in the water, and with the assistance of a local resident, pulled him to safety and returned him to shore. The second man was rescued by a passing fishing boat.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr John William BRYCE, 476 Princes Highway, Nowra NSW 2541

In the evening of 12 September 2010, Mr John Bryce rescued a woman from a vehicle that had become submerged in the Shoalhaven River in Nowra. The vehicle had been propelled into the river and quickly sank below the water after colliding with another vehicle. One of the occupants managed to escape the vehicle and swim to the surface, despite being injured. A fisherman was trying unsuccessfully to pull the woman onto his boat, and Mr Bryce heard his shouts for help. Mr Bryce jumped into the water and swam about ten metres to reach the boat, where he assisted the first man to drag the woman on board. They took the woman to shore where they resuscitated her. Mr Bryce then swam back to where he thought the submerged car lay, and dived down several times in an attempt to find the driver. Unable to find the vehicle and with his eyes burning from fuel in the water, he returned home and drove a tractor back to the bank. He re-entered the water and located the vehicle, then secured a chain between it and the tractor in an attempt to stop it from sinking further.

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

Warrant Officer Class One Kenneth John BULLMAN OAM, ACT

In the afternoon of 12 March 2011, WO1 Kenneth Bullman fought a fire in the historic library and museum building at the Royal Military College Duntroon. WO Bullman was the first person to notice the fire. He ran to the burning building and raised the alarm before smashing a window to gain entry. He then broke through a glass door to the library's reading room, where the ceiling was on fire. WO Bullman used a fire extinguisher to attack the flames, and smashed another window to release thick smoke that had accumulated. WO Bullman and a colleague assisted fire fighters to get the hose from the truck to the building's entrance.

For his actions, Warrant Officer Bullman is commended for brave conduct.

Senior Constable Stephen William CASE, New South Wales Police

In the evening of 26 October 2004, Senior Constable Stephen Case rescued a man trapped in a burning vehicle at Burrawang. The man was driving the car along the Illawarra Highway when it left the road, careered 65 metres into a paddock, rolled and caught fire. A woman passenger was able to get free but the driver was knocked unconscious and remained inside. Arriving at the scene, Senior Constable Case saw a cloud of smoke and called for ambulance and fire brigade attendance. He and a colleague ran across the road and negotiated several obstacles to reach the car. He instructed the woman passenger to move further away and then, despite intense heat from the fire, he attended to the driver. As flames shot out from under the bonnet toward the windscreen, Senior Constable Case and his colleague pulled the man from the vehicle. They carried him about 30 metres away, and lay over him as the car exploded and was engulfed by fire.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Jefferey CLARKE, Mudgeeraba QLD 4213

In the early morning of 13 February 2007, Mr Jefferey Clarke helped to rescue a man from a burning vehicle in Mudgeeraba. The car had left the road, rolled several times down an embankment and come to rest upside down, catching alight immediately. Mr Clarke was one of several motorists who arrived at the scene to find the driver of the vehicle semi-conscious and held by his seatbelt. Mr Clarke helped other rescuers to lift the driver to safety, shortly before the vehicle exploded.

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

Mr Robert COCKBURN, New South Wales

On the night of 19 September 2008, Mr Cockburn 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 engulfing the car. Having witnessed the accident, Mr Cockburn quickly phoned for emergency services and joined several others at the crash site where a couple of men were attempting to break their way into the vehicle to rescue a man trapped inside. As the victim moved towards the driver's side window, Mr Cockburn helped others pull the man to safety away from the burning vehicle. Concerned for the safety of oncoming traffic, Mr Cockburn positioned his vehicle to alert oncoming cars, and helped ensure they remained at a safe distance. The victim survived the accident despite burns to 30 per cent of his body. Sadly, three other passengers in the car died at the scene.

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

Mr Peter Anthony COLLINS, 2 Curnow Street, Brighton SA 5048

On the afternoon of 14 November 1997, Mr Collins assisted in the attempted rescue of a driver from a burning truck at Wannon, Victoria. Mr Collins was travelling with a group of men in a bus on the Glenelg Highway when they stopped at the scene of the accident. A prime mover had separated from its trailer and crashed down an embankment, and the driver was trapped upside down. After ascertaining that the driver of the second vehicle was safe, Mr Collins and several of his travelling companions went to the aid of the other driver. They saw that the engine of the truck was on fire. While the other men attempted to quell the flames with a fire extinguisher, Mr Collins climbed onto the top of the smoking cab and unsuccessfully tried to open a door, using a tree branch as a lever. Repeated attempts to free the driver failed and the men were forced to move away as the flames engulfed the truck.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Constable Luke Edward COLQUHOUN, Victoria Police

In the afternoon of 24 June 2010, Constable Luke Colquhoun confronted an armed man and was attacked while attempting to subdue the offender in Meadow Heights. Constable Colquhoun and another officer arrived at the scene of a stabbing and found a man with several wounds collapsed in the street. While the police officers were attending to the victim and establishing a crime scene, the offender, armed with a knife, ran into the street and confronted Constable Colquhoun and the other officer. Constable Colquhoun attempted unsuccessfully to subdue the offender with capsicum spray before his colleague shot the offender a number of times. The offender continued to pursue Constable Colquhoun, who fell over and was stabbed in the arm. The offender was shot again and apprehended by officers at the scene.

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

Major Patrick William DAVISON, Qld

At around 2.30pm on 29 September 2010, members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) were in six armoured vehicles travelling along the Bruce Highway towards Townsville when they witnessed a collision between an Army truck and another truck, near Bajool. Upon impact, the trucks burst into flames, spreading debris over 100 metres. The ADF members cordoned the roadway immediately and went to the assistance of the occupants of the trucks. Major Patrick Davison, then Captain Davison, and others climbed onto the bonnet of the Army truck, spraying a fire extinguisher onto the fuel tank. Captain Davison and his colleagues pulled two soldiers in the Army truck to safety through the windscreen and provided first aid until emergency services arrived.

For his actions Major Patrick William Davison is commended for brave conduct.

Mr Alan David DUNDAS deceased, late of Queensland

In the evening of 15 November 2010, Mr Alan Dundas assisted with the rescue of his nephew at Agnes Waters. Mr Dundas was fishing with his brother when he observed his nephew lose his footing and get swept from shore in a rip. Mr Dundas swam to his nephew's aid and assisted in holding him afloat until others arrived and were able to pull the boy to safety. Mr Dundas was taken further from the shore by the turning tide and after being rescued by local surfers, was unable to be revived.

For his actions Mr Dundas is commended for brave conduct.

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Mr Stewart DUNDAS, 15 Hancock Street, Rangeville Qld 4350

On 15 November 2010, Mr Stewart Dundas rescued his son who was caught in a rip at Agnes Waters. Mr Dundas jumped into the water to retrieve his son who had been swept approximately 40 metres from shore. With the aid of his brother, who later drowned at the scene, Mr Dundas kept his son afloat until a surfboard rider arrived and assisted the boy back to the beach.

For his actions Mr Dundas is commended for brave conduct.

Mr Matthew Keith DUNN, Beaudesert Qld 4285

In the early morning of 13 February 2007, Mr Matthew Dunn helped to rescue a man from a burning vehicle in Mudgeeraba. The car had left the road, rolled several times down an embankment and come to rest upside down, catching alight immediately. Mr Dunn was one of several motorists who arrived at the scene to find the driver of the vehicle semi-conscious and held by his seatbelt. Mr Dunn ran to find a fire extinguisher and on return helped others to lift the driver to safety, shortly before the vehicle exploded.

For his actions Mr Dunn is commended for brave conduct.

Mr Gary Wayne FOLEY, 33 McGregors Road, Wannon Vic 3301

On the afternoon of 14 November 1997, Mr Gary Foley assisted in the attempted rescue of a man from a burning truck at Wannon, Victoria. Mr Foley and a colleague were at work when they heard the sound of an accident nearby. Driving to the scene, they discovered a semi-trailer had crashed and its trailer, loaded with woodchips, had separated from the prime mover. The prime mover was upside down and the driver was calling for help. Mr Foley and his colleague tried to free the trapped driver, as flames emanated from the truck's engine. After several attempts, Mr Foley began to beat out the growing fire with tree branches. Despite assistance by several passers-by to quell the flames with fire extinguishers, the fire grew, forcing the men to safety. Soon after, fire engulfed the truck and the driver sadly perished.

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

Mr Russell Ian FRASER, 1 Orton Place, Roxburgh Park Vic 3064

In the afternoon of 24 June 2010, Mr Russell Fraser went to the aid of an unknown woman before being stabbed multiple times in Meadow Heights. Mr Fraser was driving when he noticed a woman lying across a street gutter. He pulled his car over and went to see if the woman was conscious. While he was with the woman, Mr Fraser noticed a man carrying a large carving knife walk toward him. The offender stabbed him several times, causing severe injuries to Mr Fraser. The police arrived and provided assistance to Mr Fraser and were able to apprehend the offender.

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

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Sergeant Iain Gillanders, Victoria Police

In the afternoon of 24 June 2010, Sergeant Iain Gillanders assisted with the arrest of an armed offender who had stabbed two people at Meadow Heights. Arriving at the scene of the stabbing, Sergeant Gillanders was inside his police van when a man ran toward it, armed with a knife, and struck the driver's side window. Sergeant Gillanders quickly drove a safe distance away from the offender before exiting the van. He saw the offender menacing two other officers, one of whom had been stabbed. Sergeant Gillanders used his firearm to subdue the offender and arrested him with the assistance of another officer.

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

Lieutenant Colonel Jason James HEDGES CSC, Qld

In the afternoon of 12 March 2011, Colonel Jason Hedges fought a fire in the historic library and museum building at the Royal Military College Duntroon. Colonel Hedges called emergency services when he was alerted to the fire, then ran to the library where a colleague had started to attack flames in the ceiling with a fire extinguisher. Officer cadets arrived on the scene with more extinguishers, which Colonel Hedges used to contain the fire. When the fire brigade arrived he assisted the fire fighters to grab the hose from the truck to the building's entrance.

For his actions, Lieutenant Colonel Hedges is commended for brave conduct.

Mr Joseph Thomas HICKEY, Geeveston Tas 7116

In the evening of 19 August 2004, Mr Joseph Hickey helped to rescue members of a family whose house was on fire in Geeveston. Mr Hickey arrived at the scene to find the house ablaze. As the gate to the residence was locked, he and three other men climbed over the fence and ran to the rear of the house where the fire was less intense. While banging on the windows, they heard screams from inside the house. Mr Hickey and one of the other men smashed a window to let out the smoke, and called to the occupants of the house. When no one appeared, the other man climbed inside. He was able to locate four children and their unconscious mother, who he handed through the window, where Mr Hickey and others lifted them to safety.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr John Francis HOLLAND, Glengowrie SA 5044

On the afternoon of 14 November 1997 Mr Holland assisted in the attempted rescue of a man from a burning truck following an accident at Wannon, Victoria. Mr Holland was travelling with a group of men in a bus on the Glenelg Highway when they stopped at the scene of the accident. A prime mover had separated from its trailer and crashed down an embankment, and the driver was trapped upside down. The men heard the driver calling for help. When Mr Holland and several of his travelling companions went to the aid of the driver they saw that the engine of the truck was on fire. Mr Holland returned to the bus to collect a fire extinguisher. The men then attempted to quell the flames with tree branches and fire extinguishers and free the driver. Repeated attempts to free the driver failed and the men were forced to move away as the flames engulfed the truck.

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

Mr Vu Phong HUYNH, 9 Cleeland Court, Roxburgh Park Vic 3064

On the afternoon of 24 June 2010, Mr Vu Phong Huynh attempted to assist a woman lying in the driveway of a Meadow Heights home after being attacked. Mr Huynh was driving when he noticed the woman on the ground and a man leaning above her. Mr Huynh approached to see if he could help. Mr Huynh asked the man if the woman was all right but received no answer. Mr Huynh attempted to call an ambulance. The man turned to face him and punched him in the head several times.

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

Senior Constable Michael Andrew JESSUP, Queensland Police

At Aitkenvale on 31 March, 2011, Senior Constable Jessup was off duty and having dinner at a restaurant when he saw a man threatening a woman with two tomahawks next to a bottle shop. Senior Constable Jessup approached the man from behind and grabbed hold of one of the tomahawks, but let go after failing to grab the second tomahawk. Senior Constable Jessup then identified himself as a police officer and told him to release the tomahawks. The man began to calm and Senior Constable Jessup was able to escort the man back to his vehicle, where he secured the tomahawks in the boot. After taking the man back to the shop to await police, the injured woman began to abuse the offender, forcing Senior Constable Jessup to again restrain him.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Tim JONES, “Nangkeeta” 1044 Kenilworth Road, Belli Park Qld 4562

On the afternoon of 14 November 1997 Mr Jones assisted in the attempted rescue of a man from a burning truck following an accident at Wannon, Victoria. Mr Jones was travelling with a group of men in a bus on the Glenelg Highway when they stopped at the scene of the accident. A prime mover had separated from its trailer and crashed down an embankment, and the driver was trapped upside down. The men heard the driver calling for help. When Mr Jones and several of his travelling companions went to the aid of the driver they saw that the engine of the truck was on fire. They attempted to quell the flames with tree branches and fire extinguishers and free the driver. Mr Jones managed to enter the cab through the underside of the truck, but was unable to release the trapped driver. Repeated attempts to free the driver failed and the men were forced to move away as the flames engulfed the truck.

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

Mr Raymond Eric MCMILLAN, PO Box 210, Freeling SA 5372

On 16 January 2005, Mr Raymond McMillan came to the rescue of a man in a cattle yard near his home at Sheoak Log. The man had been attacked by a bull when attempting to unload the animal from a van, and he was lying on the truck floor with serious injuries as the bull continued to butt him. Mr McMillan climbed into the truck and distracted the bull, then enticed it toward the back of the truck before securing it behind an internal gate.

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

Mr Rupa MANIMUA, Darwin NT 0800

Just before noon on 15 March 2010, Mr Rupa Manimua, a diver, came to the rescue of a fisherman who had been attacked by a crocodile while diving for trepang near Knocker Bay. The man had been bitten on the head, shoulders, neck and arms. Mr Manimua pulled the victim and the crocodile to the surface then used a screwdriver to fight off the crocodile while releasing the man and bringing him aboard to safety.

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

Mr Rod MARSH

On the afternoon of 13 July 2011, Mr Rod Marsh assisted in the rescue of a man from an oncoming train at Central Station in Brisbane. Mr Marsh was standing on Platform 3 when he saw a man fall onto the train tracks. The man, lying on the tracks before an oncoming train, appeared unable to move. Acting quickly and with the assistance of a second man, Mr Marsh jumped onto the tracks while onlookers shouted for the train to stop. Mr Marsh, now joined by a third man, pulled the man from the tracks and lifted him to safety on the platform.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Mustafa MERDIVENCI, Hobart Tas 7000

On the evening of 19 August 2004, Mr Mustafa Merdivenci helped to rescue members of a family whose house was on fire in Geeveston. Mr Merdivenci was the first person to notice the fire and raise the alarm. He arrived at the scene to find the house ablaze. As the gate to the residence was locked, he and three other men climbed over the fence and ran to the rear of the house where the fire was less intense. While banging on the windows, they heard screams from inside the house. Mr Merdivenci ran back to get a torch which one of the other men used to find a two year old boy inside the house. He then helped to carry the boy's mother, who was unconscious, out of the house.

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

Ms Bianca Kate MILLS, Warradale SA 5046

In the afternoon of 27 January 2011, Ms Bianca Mills attempted to rescue an eight year old girl who had got into difficulties in the surf at Glenelg beach. Ms Mills and a companion swam out to the girl, who in her distress, dragged them under the water. Unable to rescue the girl themselves, they alerted surf lifesavers who brought all three swimmers safely to shore. Ms Mills sustained multiple cuts in the incident.

For her actions, Ms Mills is commended for brave conduct.

Mr Tony Michael MORRIS, Bellevue Crescent, Seaford Vic 3198

In the afternoon of 25 May 2011, Mr Tony Morris rescued a baby from a house fire in Bentleigh East. Mr Morris was driving in the area when he saw a plume of smoke and went to investigate. When the occupant of the house alerted him to the presence of her eight month old daughter inside, Mr Morris and another man tried to enter the house through the front door but flames and intense heat drove them back. They then made their way down a narrow passage at the side of the house and using a lump of broken concrete and a piece of wood, broke the window of what they thought was the baby's room. Thick black smoke billowed out preventing them from seeing inside the house, but they heard the baby crying. The men reached into the room and felt around for the cot and the baby, who they lifted out. The baby had stopped crying and was struggling to breathe. The men handed her to a neighbour who resuscitated her. Mr Morris and the other man, meantime, collapsed, and required emergency medical treatment.

For her actions, Mr Morris is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Stephen Matthew MORRISSEY, Deception Bay Qld 4508

In the early morning of 13 February 2007, Mr Stephen Morrissey helped to rescue a man from a burning vehicle in Mudgeeraba. The car had left the road, rolled several times down an embankment and come to rest upside down, catching alight immediately. Mr Morrissey was one of several motorists who arrived at the scene to find the driver of the vehicle semi-conscious and held by his seatbelt. Mr Morrissey kicked in one of the vehicle's passenger windows, causing the flames to retreat sufficiently for another man to enter the vehicle and free the man. He then helped to lift the driver to safety, shortly before the vehicle exploded.

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

Mr Christopher David OATES, "Windrush", 25 Okines Road, Dodges Ferry Tas 7173

During the afternoon of 12 January 2000, former Tasmanian Police Officer Constable Christopher Oates was involved in the apprehension of an armed and violent offender in New Norfolk. Constable Oates was on patrol, accompanied by another police officer, when he was called to an incident involving a knife wielding youth. Constable Oates left his police vehicle to speak to the youth but was punched in the face and assaulted. Constable Oates later joined the pursuit of the offender to a public area and was involved in a violent struggle with the youth before his apprehension.

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

Mr Warren Alan PAGE, 35 Frederick Street, Cygnet Tas 7112

In the evening of 19 August 2004, Mr Warren Page helped to rescue members of a family whose house was on fire in Geeveston. Mr Page arrived at the scene to find the house ablaze. As the gate to the residence was locked he and three other men climbed over the fence and ran to the rear of the house where the fire was less intense. While banging on the windows, they heard screams from inside the house. Two of the men smashed a window to let out the smoke, and called to the occupants of the house. When no one appeared, one man climbed inside. He was able to locate four children and their unconscious mother, who he handed through the window, where Mr Page and others lifted them to safety.

For his actions Mr Page is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Steven PAUNER deceased, late of Newtown NSW 2042

In the evening of 24 January 2010, Mr Steven Pauner rescued three children caught in a rip at Lake Conjola. Mr Pauner was watching his two sons and a family friend swim close to shore when his youngest son was caught in a strong undercurrent. Mr Pauner immediately entered the surf and was able to assist his son and the other two boys back to waist deep water. Exhausted from the experience, Mr Pauner was swept back out to the breaking waves and, sadly, drowned.

For his actions Mr Pauner is commended for brave conduct.

Mr Kenneth PEARCE, 725 Bungendore Road, Bungendore NSW 2621

Late in the afternoon of 9 December 2010, Mr Ken Pearce and a colleague set up a temporary walkway under a torrent of water coming from the Captains Flat dam in order to access critical release valves and relieve pressure on the dam wall. The dam was overflowing after heavy rain and there were fears it could collapse. As the walkways to access the release valves had been destroyed, Mr Pearce and his colleague crawled across ladders over fast flowing water and stood underneath a heavy torrent coming over the top of the dam, to reach the release valves.

For his actions Mr Pearce is commended for brave conduct.

Mr Matthew Thomas PICKERING, Upper Hermitage SA 5131

In the early morning of 6 February 2010, Mr Matthew Pickering attempted to rescue a man from a burning vehicle in Upper Hermitage. Mr Pickering was at home when he heard a car crash nearby. Along with a neighbour, Mr Pickering ran, barefoot, to the scene, where a vehicle was on fire. He opened the passenger door and attempted to rouse the driver of the car. Along with his neighbour, Mr Pickering attempted to push the vehicle onto its wheels, despite the possibility of being pinned to a fence. As the fire intensified, Mr Pickering rang for assistance while his neighbour smashed the rear windscreen of the vehicle. Mr Pickering then leaned into the burning vehicle to try and remove the driver. However, he was forced to move away as fire engulfed the vehicle.

For his actions Mr Pickering is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Leading Senior Constable Sean POTOCKI, New South Wales Police

In the evening of 24 February 2010, Leading Senior Constable Sean Potocki was off-duty when he restrained a youth armed with a screwdriver while being threatened by another youth in Carlton, New South Wales. Leading Senior Constable Potocki was at home when he heard aggressive shouts. In plain clothes and unarmed, he walked outside and noticed two youths running from a house. Leading Senior Constable Potocki pursued one youth and identified himself as a police officer. Grabbing the youth, he noticed he was concealing a screwdriver in his trousers. At this time, another youth armed with a machete approached Leading Senior Constable Potocki and threatened to kill him unless he released his friend. Leading Senior Constable Potocki continued to restrain the youth, while identifying himself as a police officer. The other youth ran off and Leading Senior Constable Potocki continued to restrain the youth until police arrived.

For his actions Leading Senior Constable Potocki is commended for brave conduct.

Mr Alan Terrence RANKIN, 1 Elouera Crescent, Kanahooka NSW 2530

Late in the afternoon of 9 December 2010, Mr Allan Rankin and a colleague set up a temporary walkway under a torrent of water coming from the Captains Flat dam in order to access critical release valves and relieve pressure on the dam wall. The dam was overflowing after heavy rain and there were fears it could collapse. As the walkways to access the release valves had been destroyed, Mr Rankin and his colleague crawled across ladders over fast flowing water and stood underneath a heavy torrent coming over the top of the dam, to reach the release valves.

For his actions Mr Rankin is commended for brave conduct.

Mr Philippe RAVENEL, Cobargo NSW 2550

In the afternoon of 17 February 2008, Mr Philippe Ravenel rescued two people caught in a rip at Haywards Beach. While walking along the beach, Mr Ravenel noticed two swimmers in distress approximately 100 metres from shore. He immediately entered the water to render assistance. With both victims physically exhausted and struggling to stay afloat, Mr Ravenel pulled one of the swimmers back to shore and then returned to the water to assist the second swimmer. Although the second victim had been swept further out to sea, Mr Ravenel was able to drag her back to the beach for stabilising medical treatment before she was airlifted to Canberra Hospital.

For his actions Mr Ravenel is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Senior Constable Belinda Megan REEVES, Queensland Police

In the evening of 26 December 2011, Senior Constable Belinda Reeves came to the assistance of two people who had been attacked by a python outside a home in Port Douglas. Senior Constable Reeves ran to the scene when she heard a two year old boy scream after being bitten by the snake. Another person on the scene removed the snake, which had wound itself around the boy's leg and torso. Senior Constable Reeves called for medical assistance and administered first aid to the child. Meantime, the python wrapped itself around the other person's arm. Senior Constable Reeves began to remove the snake and with assistance from other neighbours, brought the animal under control.

For her actions Senior Constable Reeves is commended for brave conduct.

Mr Nathan Edward RHEINBERGER, 4 Investigators Place, Yamba NSW 2464

On 7 February 2009, Mr Nathan Rheinberger rescued two teenagers caught in a rip at Turners Beach, Yamba. After seeing people on the beach waving the two swimmers in, Mr Rheinberger paddled his surfboard approximately 100 metres to the teenagers who were distressed and struggling to stay afloat. In crashing waves and a strong current, Mr Rheinberger pulled one of the swimmers on to his surfboard and supported the other with his free arm. Despite cramping legs, Mr Rheinberger negotiated the rip and assisted the pair to waist deep water.

For his actions Mr Rheinberger is commended for brave conduct.

Ms Naomi Nicole ROSKELL, 8 Moola Avenue, Valentine NSW 2280

In the evening of 8 June 2007, Ms Naomi Roskell assisted with the rescue of several people from floodwaters at New Lambton. During a storm emergency, major flooding caused vehicles to become submerged and their occupants stranded in rising waters. Ms Roskell tied one end of a rope to a light pole and the other end around her waist before wading into chest deep water to assist three people from the roof of their vehicle to safety. In similar fashion, Ms Roskell then rescued an elderly man who had been clinging to his vehicle's bullbar, and three children who were caught on the other side of the road.

For her actions Ms Roskell is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Senior Constable Dennis Richard RUTLAND, New South Wales Police

In the evening of 26 October 2004, Senior Constable Dennis Rutland rescued a man trapped in a burning vehicle at Burrawang. The man was driving the car along the Illawarra Highway when it left the road, careered 65 metres into a paddock, rolled and caught fire. A woman passenger was able to get free but the driver was knocked unconscious and remained inside. Arriving at the scene, Senior Constable Rutland grabbed a fire extinguisher and ran with a colleague across the road and negotiated several obstacles to reach the car. He used the fire extinguisher on the car's bonnet, then, as flames shot out from under the bonnet toward the windscreen, he and his colleague pulled the man from the vehicle. They carried him about 30 metres away, and lay over him as the car exploded and was engulfed by fire.

For his actions Senior Constable Rutland is commended for brave conduct.

Corporal Shawn Allan SCOTT, NSW

At around 2.30pm on 29 September 2010, members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) were driving six armoured vehicles along the Bruce Highway towards Townsville when they witnessed a collision between an Army truck and another truck, near Bajool. Upon impact, the trucks burst into flames spreading debris over 100 metres. The ADF members cordoned the roadway immediately and went to the assistance of the occupants of the trucks. Corporal Shawn Scott and others climbed onto the bonnet of the Army truck, spraying a fire extinguisher onto the fuel tank. Corporal Scott and his colleagues pulled two soldiers in the Army truck to safety through the windscreen and provided first aid until emergency services arrived.

For his actions Corporal Shawn Allan Scott is commended for brave conduct.

Mr Peter Graham STANTON, 170 Albatross Road, Nowra Hill NSW 2540

In the evening of 12 September 2010, Mr Peter Stanton rescued a woman from a vehicle that had become submerged in the Shoalhaven River in Nowra. The vehicle had been propelled into the river and quickly sank below the water after colliding with another vehicle. One of the occupants managed to escape the vehicle and swim to the surface, despite being injured. Mr Stanton, who was fishing from his boat nearby, heard the collision and raced to the scene. He leant from the boat and grabbed the injured woman, but he was unable to pull her from the water and called for help. At that point, another man swam to the boat and helped Mr Stanton pull the woman on board. They took the woman to shore where they resuscitated her.

For his actions Mr Stanton is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Zachary Peter TAYLOR-NUGENT, Lot 3 Oaklands Road, Jerilderie NSW 2716

On the evening of 25 October 2009, Mr Zachary Taylor-Nugent, who was driving along the Riverina Highway near Saversnake, noticed flames coming from the engine of a vehicle that had come to rest against a tree on the edge of the road. Stopping nearby, Mr Taylor-Nugent ran to the vehicle where he discovered a man slumped across the front seat. Although the fire was spreading to the inside of the vehicle, he was able to open a door and drag the man out. After checking for signs of life, he pulled the man's body further away from the burning vehicle.

For his actions Mr Taylor-Nugent is commended for brave conduct.

Mr Jason Tod TIPPETT, Mount Annan NSW 2567

On the afternoon of 24 June 2011, Mr Jason Tippett rescued a man from a burning truck in Cataract. Mr Tippett and a friend were driving along Picton Road when they discovered a truck accident. The truck was alight and lying on its side, the driver was trapped. Mr Tippett and his friend smashed holes in the windscreen of the truck and pulled the man to safety. Soon after, the truck burst into flames.

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

Mr Warwick TODD, Vic

In the afternoon of 25 May 2011, Mr Warwick Todd rescued a baby from a house fire in Bentleigh East. Mr Todd, who was working at a nearby property, heard screams and went to investigate. When the occupant of the house alerted him to the presence of her eight month old daughter inside, Mr Todd and another man tried to enter the house through the front door but flames and intense heat drove them back. They then made their way down a narrow passage at the side of the house and using a lump of broken concrete and a piece of wood, broke the window of what they thought was the baby's room. Thick black smoke billowed out preventing them from seeing inside the house, but they heard the baby crying. The men reached into the room and felt around for the cot and the baby, who they lifted out. By then, the baby had stopped crying and was struggling to breathe. The men handed her to a neighbour who resuscitated her. Mr Todd and the other man, meantime, collapsed, and required emergency medical treatment.

For his actions Mr Todd is commended for brave conduct.

Mr Bradley Richard TUCKWELL, Narellan Vale NSW 2567

On the afternoon of 24 June 2011, Mr Bradley Tuckwell rescued a man from a burning truck in Cataract. Mr Tuckwell and a friend were driving along Picton Road when they discovered a truck accident. The truck was alight and lying on its side, the driver was trapped. Mr Tuckwell and his friend smashed holes in the windscreen of the truck and pulled the man to safety. Soon after, the truck burst into flames.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Scott Alan TUNNIE, Cairns Qld 4870

In the evening of 26 December 2011, Mr Scott Tunnie rescued a two year old boy from a python. Mr Tunnie ran to the scene when he heard the boy scream after being bitten by the snake outside his home in Port Douglas. The python had wound itself around the child's leg and torso. Mr Tunnie squeezed the snake's head and removed it from the boy's body. The snake then wound itself around Mr Tunnie's arm and had to be pulled away by another person on the scene.

For his actions Mr Tunnie is commended for brave conduct.

Mr Gregory Norman TURNER, 32 Insignia Street, Sadleir NSW 2168

Around 1am on 24 October 2008, Mr Greg Turner attempt to rescue his daughter from a fire in Sadleir. Mr Turner was woken by the bright glow of a fire in a caravan adjacent to the house where he was staying. The caravan was occupied by his daughter and Mr Turner rushed to the van to try and reach her. With the fire intensifying, he sustained burns to his hands and was forced to retreat. He made further attempts, aided by a neighbour, to extinguish the fire with a garden hose, but was unable to save his daughter's life.

For his actions Mr Turner is commended for brave conduct.

Mr John Francis WELSH

In the afternoon of 13 July 2011, Mr John Welsh assisted in the rescue of a man from an oncoming train at Central Station in Brisbane. Mr Welsh was standing on Platform 3 when he saw a man fall onto the train tracks. The man, lying on the tracks before an oncoming train, appeared unable to move. Acting quickly and with the assistance of a second man, Mr Welsh jumped onto the tracks while onlookers shouted for the train to stop. Mr Welsh, now joined by a third man, pulled the man from the tracks and lifted him to safety on the platform.

For his actions Mr Welsh is commended for brave conduct.

Mr Neil John WILDMAN, Gympie Qld 4570

In the morning of 27 November 2009, Mr Neil Wildman assisted in the apprehension of an armed youth who had stabbed a man in Gympie. Mr Wildman was approaching a car park when he noticed two men wrestling nearby. After hearing a warning that one of the men had a knife, Mr Wildman ran to aid the pair and attempted to grab the armed man. Noticing the offender was holding a bayonet, Mr Wildman put the armed youth in a headlock. Both Mr Wildman and the other man restrained the youth until police arrived.

For his actions Mr Wildman is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Stephen Philip WISEMAN, Kalbarri WA 6536

On 10 May 2011, Mr Stephen Wiseman came to the assistance of two men after their boat overturned in the Murchison River at Kalbarri. Mr Wiseman witnessed the boat capsize from his house and immediately drove to the Volunteer Marine Radio Station to raise the alarm. Noticing a local resident at the water's edge with a jet ski, Mr Wiseman boarded the jet ski and directed its driver to the last known position of the overturned boat. As the driver manoeuvred the jet-ski, Mr Wiseman pulled a man to safety and assisted him back to shore.

For his actions Mr Wiseman is commended for brave conduct.

My Tyson James YOUNG, 42 Seagull Avenue, Hayborough SA 5211

On the morning of 24 October 2010, Mr Tyson Young, then 16, rescued his younger brother who had fallen into a bonfire pit. Mr Young lifted his brother under the armpits and pulled him out of the fire. He carried the boy over to a small plastic pool and laid him in the water, removing the burning coals from his body. The boy sustained serious burns and remained in hospital for ten days.

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