

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Christopher John ANGWIN, Cape Woolamai, Phillip Island Vic 3925

On 14 January 2012, Mr Christopher Angwin helped rescue a fisherman from drowning near Phillip Island. Mr Angwin, a Senior Fisheries Officer, attended the scene and met up with two policemen. Using his binoculars Mr Angwin spotted the fisherman in the water. He was floating face down about twenty metres from the ledge and four metres below it, in a two metre swell. One of the policemen dived into the sea, took hold of the man and managed to drag him to shallower water. However, a large set of waves pulled the man, still unconscious, back into the sea. Mr Angwin and one of the policemen entered the sea and held the man's head above water. After struggling for about 25 minutes, they managed to drag him back to the ledge and push him up to safety.

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

Mr Robert Vincent BARRON, PO Box 330, Oakey Qld 4401

On 10 June 2011, Mr Robert Barron, aged 82, assisted in the rescue of a woman and a child from a burning house at Oakey. Alerted by smoke on his way to a nearby meeting in Oakey, Mr Barron and an acquaintance went to investigate and found smoke coming from a two storey timber house. Unsure if the residence was occupied, Mr Barron began knocking on the front door, waking a woman who was asleep inside. As she called 000, Mr Barron entered the house to look for further occupants and found a sleeping boy. He woke the child and after confirming no one else was in the house, escorted the boy and the woman outside and remained with them until the fire brigade arrived.

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

Mr Darren George BATES, Stockyard Road, Norfolk Island 2899

On 5 June 2012, Mr Darren Bates assisted a stricken yacht to reach Norfolk Island safely. Amid severe weather the previous day, Norfolk Island police received a distress call from the yacht Beau Geste, some 95 nautical miles offshore. A crewman advised that the yacht, with 18 people aboard, had suffered major structural damage and needed assistance. After being briefed by the police, Mr Bates and another local resident volunteered to rescue the crew. Just after midnight on 5 June, they set off toward the Beau Geste, encountering 40-50 knot winds and five metre swells on the way. Some two and a half hours later, Mr Bates and his colleague located the Beau Geste about 45 nautical miles from Norfolk Island. With weather conditions gradually easing, they escorted the Beau Geste to the island. Despite fears that the yacht might break up due to stress caused by head winds, it remained intact. The crew were transferred to Mr Bates' boat and then to safety.

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

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Senior Firefighter Corrie James BENSON, Townsville Qld 4810

On 12 December 2010, Senior Firefighter Corrie Benson attempted to rescue a girl who was trapped in a flooded creek in Townsville. Senior Firefighter Benson and two colleagues arrived at Alligator Creek following heavy rain, where friends of the girl pointed to a rocky area where she was trapped and submerged. After anchoring a safety line, Senior Firefighter Benson and one of his colleagues entered the water several times to try and free the girl. When, with darkness falling, their attempts were unsuccessful and they realised the girl was unlikely to be alive, Senior Firefighter Benson remained at the scene overnight. He joined other rescue personnel the following morning to retrieve the girl's body.

For his actions, Senior Firefighter Benson is commended for brave conduct.

Mrs Rosalie Michelle BRADES, Carine WA 6020

On 22 February 2012, Mrs Rosalie Brades, a teacher at an Early Learning Centre, helped apprehend an armed intruder who had seized one of the children at the centre by the arm. The intruder, who was carrying a 27 cm chopping knife, released the child when challenged by another teacher, and turned to walk away. The first teacher grabbed her by the wrists and escorted her out of the classroom. Three other colleagues came to assist, and eventually managed to disarm the intruder. Mrs Brades joined two other teachers in maintaining hold of the intruder until lockdown procedures were commenced and police arrived on the scene.

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

Mr Dean Laurent BURRELL, 29 George Hunn Nobbs Road, Norfolk Island 2899

On 5 June 2012, Mr Dean Burrell assisted a stricken yacht to reach Norfolk Island safely. Amid severe weather the previous day, Norfolk Island police received a distress call from the yacht Beau Geste, some 95 nautical miles offshore. A crewman advised that the yacht, with 18 people aboard, had suffered major structural damage and needed assistance. After being briefed by the police, Mr Burrell and another local resident volunteered to rescue the crew. Just after midnight on 5 June, they set off toward the Beau Geste, encountering 40-50 knot winds and five metre swells on the way. Some two and a half hours later, Mr Burrell and his colleague located the Beau Geste about 45 nautical miles from Norfolk Island. With weather conditions gradually easing, they escorted the Beau Geste to the island. Despite fears that the yacht might break up due to stress caused by head winds, it remained intact. The crew were transferred to Mr Burrell's boat and then to safety.

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

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Mr Timothy John BUSHELL-HAZELL, Adelaide SA 5000

On 5 August 2012, Mr Timothy Bushell-Hazell saved his sister from their burning house in Sheidow Park. Mr Bushell-Hazell woke and was alerted to the danger when fire caused his bedroom window to shatter. He ran to his sister's bedroom, woke her and led her towards the front door to escape, only to be driven back by intense heat and smoke. Retreating to a nearby room and calling for help, Mr Bushell-Hazell, assisted by a passerby, used his fist to smash and clear a window of glass, so that he and his sister could escape.

For his actions, Mr Bushell-Hazell is commended for brave conduct.

Mr Gregory James DARLINGTON, 3 Yuruga Place, Maryborough Qld 4650 **Mrs Joan Marion DARLINGTON, 3 Yuruga Place, Maryborough Qld 4650**

On 9 April 2010, Mr Greg and Mrs Joan Darlington rescued a man who was being assaulted by three others in Maryborough. Mr and Mrs Darlington were at home when they heard screams from a nearby residence. They ran toward the property where they saw their neighbour lying on the ground being attacked by three men, watched by another man and two women. Mr and Mrs Darlington protested verbally before they were personally threatened by the attackers. Mr Darlington and his wife, who had returned home in the meantime to call 000, again confronted the attackers to stress that police were on their way. They continued to be threatened themselves until the group left before police arrived.

For their actions, Mr and Mrs Darlington are commended for brave conduct.

Mr Ryan Donald HOUSTON, 90 Wendouree Road, Wilson WA 6107

On 15 December 2011, Mr Ryan Houston rescued a boy from drowning in the sea at Lancelin. Mr Houston had been fishing from the jetty and was aware of two children playing nearby. At the time, 9pm, it was dark and a breeze was making the ocean choppy. Hearing a loud splash, Mr Houston realised that one of the children had fallen into the water. Mr Houston immediately dived in. With his arms outstretched, he found the boy approximately three metres down and brought him to the surface. Holding the boy, he swam about 20 metres against the current to the jetty landing where he was able to lift him to safety.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Coel Kenneth IBBERTSON, Emu Park Qld 4710

On 1 January 2012, Mr Coel Ibbertson saved a family from a burning house at Emu Park. While visiting his mother, Mr Ibbertson noticed the verandah of a neighbour's house was on fire. He called 000, passed the phone to his mother, and ran to the burning building. With the front door locked, he entered the property through a window and began searching for occupants through a haze of smoke. Mr Ibbertson found two adults and three children asleep in their beds and waking them, evacuated the family through a rear door, to safety outside.

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

Mr Scott JAMES, 17 Kista-Dan Avenue, Tregear NSW 2770

On 24 January 2010, Mr Scott James helped detain a man who had attacked a woman with a knife in Tregear. Alerted to the attack by the woman's screams, Mr James and another man went to investigate. They found the assailant had been disarmed and being restrained in a nearby residential unit. Mr James and his companion then detained the offender while the victim escaped. They released him when they believed the situation had calmed but immediately gave chase when the offender left the unit to pursue the victim, managing to pull him from the victim's vehicle, which he had entered, and to detain him until the arrival of police.

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

Mr Michael Thomas KENNEDY, Bateau Bay NSW 2261

On 26 November 2011, Mr Michael Kennedy, then 17 years old, attempted to rescue his friend who had been electrocuted in Kuta, Bali. The victim accidentally brushed against a pole which had been electrified by a live wire from a nearby neon sign and took the full brunt of the electric current. Mr Kennedy realised what had occurred and, putting his own life at risk, moved forward and dragged his friend away from the live wire and began applying CPR until assistance arrived.

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

Mr Peter John LUCAS, 22 Beach Street, Yamba NSW 2464

On 14 August 2011, Mr Peter Lucas intervened at the scene of an armed attack on a neighbour in Yamba, escorting the victim to safety and preventing the attacker from escaping. Mr Lucas was alerted to the incident after hearing calls for help by another man who had initially rescued the woman after she had been stabbed several times in the neck, chest and hand. Mr Lucas came on the scene after another neighbour's actions had enabled the victim and her rescuer to leave the scene. He escorted the victim to his house where she was assisted by his wife. Returning to the victim's house, he remained at the front steps while the first neighbour continued to defuse the situation and calm the aggressor until police arrived.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Senior Constable Brigitte Ann MANNING-JONES, Queensland Police

On 13 May 2012, Senior Constable Brigitte Manning-Jones prevented a woman from committing self harm on Mornington Island. The woman, who was intoxicated, had been seen climbing a decommissioned thirty metre water tower. Senior Constable Manning-Jones and a colleague saw the woman sitting on the edge of one of the water tanks. She told them she was going to drown herself and jumped into the tank. Senior Constable Manning-Jones and her colleague quickly climbed over a three metre barbed wire perimeter fence and scaled the water tower and an uncaged tank ladder. They pulled the woman from the water and lifted her onto the tank platform. When the woman attempted to jump from the platform, they held her arms and dragged her back from the edge, pacifying her before they descended the tower.

For her actions, Senior Constable Manning-Jones is commended for brave conduct.

Mr Graham William PAGDEN, 6 Surrey Park Court, Glen Innes NSW 2370

On 16 June 2012, Mr Graham Pagden and a colleague from the Glen Innes Rescue Squad rescued two elderly people trapped in a motor vehicle following a crash that had caused a fire nearby. The vehicle had collided with a power pole on the highway near Glen Innes, snapping the pole and causing live power lines to start a grass fire. Mr Pagden and his colleague gained access to the vehicle from an adjacent paddock. When the wind changed direction causing the fire to spread toward the front of the vehicle, Mr Pagden moved forward to assist the woman passenger out of the vehicle. He then returned to drag the driver out, moments before the vehicle was engulfed in flames. Mr Pagden assisted the couple to safety through a nearby fence where ambulance personnel waited to assist them.

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

Mr Steven Samual PRICE, PO Box 264, Paradise Point Qld 4216

On 10 June 2012, Mr Steven Price rescued two people from a submerged vehicle at Broadbeach Waters. An elderly man had lost control of his vehicle and driven it down an embankment at high speed before it crashed into the Broadbeach canal. Mr Price and several others entered the canal to reach the vehicle which, with the driver and a passenger, was already half-filled with water. Attempting to drag the vehicle out of the canal, they managed to open the rear hatch. The occupants tried to escape but the vehicle quickly sank. Mr Price dived under the water several times until he was able to take hold of the passenger and pull her to safety. He and another member of the group managed to open the rear door and pull the driver from the cabin and then to shore, where he was given CPR until the arrival of ambulance personnel.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Senior Constable Daven Bruce RICHARDS, Queensland Police

On 7 January 2011, Senior Constable Daven Richards rescued two people after their vehicle had become submerged in flood waters at Kilkivan. Senior Constable Richards and his colleague responded to an incident in which two people were trapped in a bus stranded in rising water at Widgee Creek. Arriving at the scene, Senior Constable Richards learned that the vehicle was about 200 metres from the water's edge. In darkness, he waded out to a point where he could locate the bus, then he swam toward it. After reaching the bus he realised that the current was too strong to rescue the people safely except by boat, he swam back against the current and secured the attendance of an SES boat which then brought them to safety.

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

Senior Constable Bill Leslie RICHARDSON, Victoria Police

On 14 January 2012, Senior Constable Bill Richardson helped rescue a fisherman from drowning near Phillip Island. Senior Constable Richardson and a colleague responded to an emergency call that a man had been swept into the sea near Pyramid Rocks. On arrival they met up with a fisheries officer and, using his binoculars, spotted the fisherman in the water. He was floating face down about twenty metres from the ledge and four metres below it, in a two metre swell. Senior Constable Richardson's colleague dived into the sea, took hold of the man and managed to drag him to shallower water where Senior Constable Richardson was waiting to assist. However, a large set of waves pulled the man, still unconscious, back into the sea and dragged Senior Constable Richardson back along the ledge where he suffered cuts and abrasions. While his colleague and the fisheries officer re-entered the sea to hold the man's head above the water, Senior Constable Richardson remained at the rocks to coordinate the rescue and maintain communications. When the man was eventually able to be dragged to the ledge and pushed up, Senior Constable Richardson pulled him onto the ledge and then helped the two other men from the sea.

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

Mr William Bruce RILEY, Toowoomba Qld 4350

On 10 January 2011, Mr William Riley rescued two people from a car that was caught in rapidly rising flood waters in Toowoomba. When Mr Riley left his workplace he noted that the water in East Creek was rising quickly, to the point that parked vehicles were becoming submerged. After moving some vehicles belonging to himself and a colleague, Mr Riley noticed another car at a nearby intersection, with water up to the middle of the doors. A person inside the car was waving for help. Mr Riley, assisted by another person, took some rope and waded toward the car, but was forced to retreat when the water became waist deep. By then, water had started to pour over the roof of the car and the torrent lifted and moved it several times, about 30 metres along the flood way. Obtaining more rope, which was tied around Mr Riley at one end and a street sign at the other, Mr Riley moved through the water to the car. He assisted a pregnant woman from the car, and a man who was with her followed, hanging onto the rope to reach safe ground.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Detective Sergeant Peter John ROBSON-PETCH, Queensland Police

On 16 May 2010, Detective Sergeant Peter Robson-Petch evacuated the occupants of a burning building in Red Hill, Brisbane. Detective Sergeant Robson-Petch, off duty at the time, was driving along Musgrave Road when he saw smoke coming from the second storey of a hostel. He stopped and ran toward the building, climbing over a locked gate en route. He entered the front hallway, covered his mouth with a wet shirt and began searching the building for occupants. Although the top floor was well alight and filled with acrid smoke, he found several people there and assisted them outside. Re-entering the building, he checked that the top floor was clear and then went downstairs where he found several other people, who were dazed and confused, congregated in a living room. He assisted this group out through a rear exit. Before seeking medical attention for himself, Detective Sergeant Robson-Petch assisted firefighters with their hoses. He was later hospitalised for smoke inhalation and burns to the back of his throat.

For his actions, Detective Sergeant Robson-Petch is commended for brave conduct.

Mr Jason Dale ROFF, Australian Capital Territory Mrs Jodie Marie ROFF, Australian Capital Territory

On 27 April 2009, Mr Jason and Mrs Jodie Roff rescued two people from a burning house in Wanniasa, Canberra. Mr and Mrs Roff were driving along Langdon Avenue when they saw smoke coming from the house. They stopped their car and Mr Roff called 000 while they were running into the house. The two elderly occupants were trying to save personal possessions and search for their cat, and were reluctant to leave. Mr and Mrs Roff convinced them to go outside to safety. Soon afterwards, the house was engulfed by fire.

For their actions, Mr and Mrs Roff are commended for brave conduct.

Mr Ronald Lloyd SCHEUERLE, 31 Weise Street, Oakey Qld 4401

On 10 June 2011, Mr Ronald Scheuerle, aged 83, assisted in the rescue of a woman and a child from a burning house at Oakey. Alerted by smoke on his way to a nearby meeting in Oakey, Mr Scheuerle and an acquaintance went to investigate and found smoke coming from a two storey timber house. Unsure if the house was occupied, Mr Scheuerle went the rear of the property to search for occupants, whilst his acquaintance started at the front of the house. As fire engulfed the building, Mr Scheuerle moved to the front of the house and helped care for a distraught woman and child, the two occupants of the house who had been brought outside, until the fire brigade arrived.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Station Officer Bernard William TRACEY, Townsville Qld 4810

On 12 December 2010, Station Officer Bernard Tracey attempted to rescue a girl who was trapped in a flooded creek in Townsville. He and two colleagues arrived at Alligator Creek following heavy rain, where friends of the girl pointed to a rocky area where she was trapped and submerged. After anchoring a safety line, Station Officer Tracey and one of his colleagues entered the water several times to try and free the girl. When, with darkness falling, their attempts were unsuccessful and they realised the girl was unlikely to be alive, Station Officer Tracey led the girl's friends across the creek to the rescue command post. The following morning, he joined other rescue personnel to retrieve the girl's body.

For his actions, Station Officer Tracey is commended for brave conduct.

Mr Sam Ash-Lee TWEEDALE, North Lakes Qld 4509

On 15 May 2012, Mr Sam Tweedale saved a child from a burning house at Eight Mile Plains. Mr Tweedale was at home when a woman's screams alerted him to a neighbour's house being on fire. Running to assist, Mr Tweedale became aware that the woman's son was in the burning building. He attempted to gain entry to the house through both the front door and the garage but was forced back by intense heat and smoke. Mr Tweedale then ran to a side entrance and kicked the heavy duty, and deadlocked screen door sufficiently to crack the frame, before ripping the door open far enough to allow the man to escape.

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

Ms Danica Lea Van den BOGERT, Esperance WA 6450

On 16 July 2010, Ms Danica Van den Bogert rescued a teenage companion who had slipped off rocks into the ocean at Esperance. Whilst attempting to cross a mossy rock face, Ms Van den Bogert's companion lost her footing and slid down the steep rocks to the ocean below. Ms Van den Bogert used her mobile phone to raise the alarm, before descending 30 metres down the rock face to rescue her companion. When she was close enough, Ms Van den Bogert lowered her leg sufficiently to allow her companion to grasp her ankle which she then slowly raised, allowing the girl to climb onto the rock face. Ms Van den Bogert then guided her companion up the rock face to safety.

For her actions, Ms Van den Bogert is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Harley Paul WALLIS, Armidale NSW 2350

On 16 June 2012, Mr Harley Wallis and a colleague from the Glen Innes Rescue Squad rescued two elderly people trapped in a motor vehicle following a crash that had caused a fire nearby. The vehicle had collided with a power pole on the highway near Glen Innes, snapping the pole and causing live power lines to start a grass fire. Mr Wallis and his colleague gained access to the vehicle from an adjacent paddock. While his colleague dragged the passengers out of the vehicle, moments before it was engulfed in flames, Mr Wallis used a fire extinguisher to create a safe path for them to move to safety through a nearby fence where ambulance personnel waited to assist them.

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

Dr Joe William WEIR, Oakey Qld 4401

On 6 February 2006, Dr Joe Weir rescued a man from a vehicle that was sinking in a dam at Gumlu. Dr Weir was travelling on the Bruce Highway when the driver of the vehicle in front of him lost control, crashing bonnet first into Wilson's Creek. Dr Weir stopped, ran to the creek and saw that water had covered the vehicle's bonnet and was rising quickly. He entered the water and swam 30 metres to the vehicle. The elderly driver's door was jammed, and Dr Weir was unable to open it. Instead, he opened a rear door, and when the driver was able to float to the back seat, Dr Weir pulled him out of the vehicle and held his head above water, pulling him to safety as the vehicle sank.

For his actions, Dr Weir is commended for brave conduct.

Senior Constable Kristie WILLIAMS, Queensland Police

On 13 May 2012, Senior Constable (then Constable) Kristie Williams prevented a woman from committing self harm on Mornington Island. The woman, who was intoxicated, had been seen climbing a decommissioned thirty metre water tower. Senior Constable Williams and a colleague saw the woman sitting on the edge of one of the water tanks. She told them she was going to drown herself and jumped into the tank. Senior Constable Williams and her colleague quickly climbed over a three metre barbed wire perimeter fence and scaled the water tower and an uncaged tank ladder. They pulled the woman from the water and lifted her onto the tank platform. When the woman attempted to jump from the platform, they held her arms and dragged her back from the edge, pacifying her before they descended the tower.

For her actions, Senior Constable Williams is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Brendan William WINTER, Dalby Qld 4405

On 14 December 2010, Mr Brendan Winter protected customers of a bank in Dalby after an armed robber entered the premises. Mr Winter, the bank manager, was alerted by another staff member to a man, who was carrying what looked like a handgun and an explosive device. Engaging the offender, Mr Winter obtained his permission to lock the front doors to prevent other persons from entering the bank. He attempted to negotiate the release of a woman and two children who were in the customer area, motioning them toward the door, but the offender panicked, pointed the gun at them and told them to remain. Mr Winter then ordered staff to activate alarms and security screens which caused the offender to be isolated in the customer area. Unable to proceed with the robbery, the offender left, and was shortly afterwards arrested by police.

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