

GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

Awardees comprise of several members from the Bedfordale Voluntary Bushfire Brigade, involved in fire-fighting operations in the Roleystone-Kelmscott area during bushfires in February 2011.

Mr Michael Kenneth HALL
Mr Alexander Bernard LEACH
Mr Michael Raymond McCAVANAGH
Mr Mark Anthony PUTTICK
Mr Antonino SCIDONE
Mr Stephen Edward SMITH

On 6 February 2011, a group of men from the Bedfordale Voluntary Bushfire Brigade rescued a family of four, including one in a wheelchair, from a bushfire in Roleystone. The crew were attempting to control the blaze on Keays Road when one of the men heard calls for help. Two men from the unit ran approximately 250 metres through thick smoke and fire toward a place where the family of four was being threatened by a wall of flames. The team leader stayed with the family, while a second member returned to retrieve the unit's fire truck and the remaining crew. In increasing heat and with the surrounding wall of flames now approximately 30 metres high, the crew repositioned their truck as a temporary fire break. This enabled them sufficient time to load the elderly couple, and other family members into the vehicle before evacuating them to safety and to the aid of an ambulance crew.

For their actions, the recipients are recognised by the award of the Group Bravery Citation.

Mr Michael Kenneth HALL
Bedfordale WA 6112

Mr Alexander Bernard LEACH
24 Aulini Drive,
Bedfordale WA 6112

Mr Michael Raymond McCAVANAGH
Bedfordale WA 6112

Mr Mark Anthony PUTTICK
Bedfordale WA 6112

Mr Antonino SCIDONE
19 Kersley Loop,
Harrisdale WA 6112

Mr Stephen Edward SMITH
28 Cresswick Parade,
Dalmeny NSW 2546

GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

Awardees comprise of members of the Marysville SES who assisted with the evacuation of residents during the Victorian Bushfires in February 2009.

Mr David Brandon BARTON
Ms Jennifer Anne BARTON
Miss Josephine Ann HUNTER
Mr Thomas Mark PEART
Mr Keith David RAY
Mr Ian Jeffrey WALTERS

In the evening of 7 February 2009, a group of State Emergency Volunteers assisted with the response to the devastating bushfires in Marysville. Following a tree-fall on a car and with the fire rapidly approaching, the group worked together for approximately 30 minutes to extricate a trapped driver to safety. Despite the bushfire directly threatening their own properties, the group then helped local police and other emergency workers to evacuate the isolated, vulnerable and elderly from the Marysville region to safety in Alexandra.

For their actions, the recipients are recognised by the award of the Group Bravery Citation.

Mr David Brandon BARTON
PO Box 1
Marysville Vic 3779

Ms Jennifer Anne BARTON
PO Box 223
Coldstream Vic 3770

Miss Josephine Ann HUNTER
Marysville Vic 3779

Mr Thomas Mark PEART
Marysville Vic 3779

Mr Keith David RAY
Buxton Vic 3711

Mr Ian Jeffrey WALTERS
Marysville Vic 3779

GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

Awardees comprise of members of the public who rescued a man from a burning vessel in Denham, Western Australia on 29 November 2011.

Mr George Ernest DIX

Mr Justin HEWITT

Mr Ronald David MARQUIS

On 29 November 2011, members of the public came to the assistance of a man who was trapped in a moored vessel at Denham. After witnessing an explosion onboard the fishing boat, they waded out approximately 20 metres to the burning vessel to provide assistance. A man was pinned on the burning deck under a large ice box. After freeing the man and moving him to the back deck, group members rendered first aid and started to fight the fire. Realising that the smoke was intensifying, they assisted the man into the water and floated him back to the safety of the beach. Soon after, the boat was engulfed by fire.

For their actions, the recipients are recognised by the award of the Group Bravery Citation.

Mr George Ernest DIX
Denham WA 6537

Mr Justin HEWITT
53 Vlamingh Crescent
Denham WA 6537

Mr Ronald David MARQUIS
Denham WA 6537

GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

Awardees comprise of voluntary members of the Kinglake Community Emergency Response Team who responded to emergency incidents during the Victorian bushfires in February 2009.

**Mr Ian James DUNELL
Mrs Victoria Lee DUNELL ASM
Mr Bartholomew WUNDERLICH**

In the afternoon of 7 February 2009, members of the Kinglake Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) were deployed in order to provide medical assistance during the devastating bushfires in Kinglake. The group responded to reports of an overturned fire truck engulfed by fire in Kinglake West. As they neared the location of the truck, they were beaten back by fireballs and an intensifying blaze. They identified an alternate route along a narrow road and drove approximately two kilometres through fire and thick smoke to join a fire crew. The group was advised that the fire truck and its passengers were safe. Later in the evening, despite the bushfire directly threatening their own properties, the group responded to a call from a mother with two children escaping their burning house. As they neared the house, they recognised that the fire was impassable and established communications with other emergency workers to provide assistance to the family, before being forced to retreat themselves.

For their actions, the recipients are recognised by the award of the Group Citation for Bravery.

Mr Ian James DUNELL
6 Kelly Court
Pheasant Creek VIC 3757

Mrs Victoria Lee DUNELL ASM
6 Kelly Court
Pheasant Creek VIC 3757

Mr Bartholomew WUNDERLICH
Kinglake West VIC 3757

GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

Awardees comprise of members of the Reefton Country Fire Authority involved in fire-fighting operations during the Victorian bushfires in February 2009.

Mr Danny James BENNETT
Ms Rachel Lee BENNETT
Mr Andrew Jeramie McDONALD
Mr Ross Edward MINIFIE
Ms Kathleen Marie TILLEY

On 8 February 2009, a crew from the Reefton Country Fire Authority rescued an elderly woman who was trapped by a bushfire in Cambarville. They drove approximately 20 kilometres along a narrow winding road, negotiating fallen trees and poor visibility while under constant ember attack to reach the woman's isolated property. They convinced the woman to leave her house which was being immediately threatened by fire. Through thick smoke and intense fire, the crew was forced to clear fallen logs as they evacuated the woman and her pets to safety in Reefton.

For their actions, the recipients are recognised by the award of the Group Citation for Bravery.

Mr Danny James BENNETT
1640 Woods Point Road
McMahons Creek Vic 3799

Ms Rachel Lee BENNETT
1640 Woods Point Road
McMahons Creek Vic 3799

Mr Andrew Jeramie McDONALD
21 Fishermans Drive
Reefton Vic 3799

Mr Ross Edward MINIFIE
Reefton Vic 3799

Ms Kathleen Marie TILLEY
Reefton Vic 3799

GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

Awardees comprise of crew members of sail boat TryBooking.com, who rescued sailors from a stricken vessel during the Melbourne to Port Fairy ocean race 2012.

Mr Grant David DUNOON
Mr Klaus-Peter FECHT
Mr Gordon Ross FISHER
Mr Kimberley John WALKER

At around midnight on 7 April 2012, sail boat TryBooking.com and other vessels competing in the 2012 Melbourne to Port Fairy ocean race were experiencing the effects of a strong weather front with winds of up to 45 knots and 6 metre swells. One vessel, Inception, had taken on water and sunk approximately 7 nautical miles off the coast of Port Campbell. The six crew members tied themselves together and, wearing flotation devices and emergency beacons, drifted in the heavy sea awaiting rescue. In response to a mayday call, TryBooking.com made its way to the scene but in the darkness, located nobody. After communicating with race officials, the skipper plotted a course to another location that the Inception crew could have drifted to. At approximately 2am, the lights worn by the missing men were spotted. Despite the extreme conditions, the crew of TryBooking.com managed to pull the Inception crew aboard and eventually docked safely at Port Fairy.

For their actions, the recipients are recognised by the award of the Group Bravery Citation.

Mr Grant David DUNOON
Melbourne Vic 3000

Mr Klaus-Peter FECHT
14 Caramar Avenue
Brighton East Vic 3187

Mr Gordon Ross FISHER
2 Wright Street
Brighton Vic 3187

Mr Kimberley John WALKER
Brighton Vic 3186

GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

Awardees comprise of member of the public who rescued several people caught in a rip at Urquhart Bluff beach on 22 January 2012.

Mr Luke Connell BEAZLEY
Mr Angus Harker JOHNSON
Mr Benjamin James PANNELL
Mr Jason Richard PHIELER

On 22 January 2012, three women and four children were swimming at Urquhart Bluff, where conditions were treacherous with an easterly wind and a heavy swell. The swimmers were swept out to sea in a strong rip and were in trouble. When the alarm was raised, members of the group went to assist, entering the water at various times with either a surfboard or a body board. They managed to bring several of the swimmers to shore, and kept others afloat until rescue boats arrived. Six people were rescued suffering minor injuries and exposure. One woman who was later located by rescue helicopter was unable to be revived.

For their actions, the recipients are recognised by the award of the Group Bravery Citation.

Mr Luke Connell BEAZLEY
Windsor Vic 3181

Mr Angus Harker JOHNSON
Port Melbourne Vic 3207

Mr Benjamin James PANNELL
North Sunshine Vic 3020

Mr Jason Richard PHIELER
PO Box 267
Aireys Inlet Vic 3231

GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

Awardees comprise of members of the public who rescued two people from a submerged vehicle at Broadbeach Waters, Queensland on 10 June 2012.

Mr John CHAMBERS
Mr Evan Dougald DALTON
Ms Tanya Maree MATHEWS
Mr Steven Samual PRICE

On 10 June 2012, several members of the public became aware of an incident in which 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. They 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. One member of the group 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 their actions, the recipients are recognised by the award of the Group Bravery Citation.

Mr John CHAMBERS
Mermaid Waters Qld 4218

Mr Evan Dougald DALTON
2/54 Hooker Boulevard
Pacific Keys
Mermaid Waters Qld 4218

Ms Tanya Maree MATHEWS
2/54 Hooker Boulevard
Pacific Keys
Mermaid Waters Qld 4218

Mr Steven Samual PRICE
PO Box 264
Paradise Point Qld 4216

GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

Awardees comprise of three young boys who went to the assistance of a girl from an offender at Palm Island, Queensland on 12 May 2011.

Master Harry Frederick FRIDAY
Master Ralph Paul HUGHES
Master Carey Lenny NUGENT

On 12 May 2011, Ralph Hughes, Harry Friday, and Carey Nugent, then 11, 12 and 15 years of age respectively, rescued a girl from a known criminal offender on Palm Island. The offender had persuaded the three boys and the girl to follow him to a house. There, he sent the boys outside but when the girl tried to leave, he seized her and pulled her inside. After the man closed the door, the boys managed to open the door and pull the girl out to safety.

For their actions, the recipients are recognised by the award of the Group Bravery Citation.

Master Harry Frederick FRIDAY
Lot 190 Dee Street
Palm Island Qld 4816

Master Ralph Paul HUGHES
Lot 165 Palmers Crescent
Palm Island Qld 4816

Master Carey Lenny NUGENT
Lot 212 Dee Street
Palm Island Qld 4816

GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

Awardees comprise of Royal Australian Navy personnel involved in the winch rescue of a man from floodwaters at Laidley Creek during the Queensland floods on 11 January 2011.

Petty Officer Nicholas Edward ANDERSON
Chief Petty Officer Kerwyn Louis BALLICO
Lieutenant Simon Paul DRIESSEN
Commander Scott Christopher PALMER

On the evening of 11 January 2011, the crew of a Navy Sea King Helicopter were conducting evacuation operations in response to the flash flooding at Laidley when they spotted a man being swept along Laidley Creek. The crew elected to attempt a winch rescue as the man continued to be swept along the swollen creek. One of the crew members was lowered down to a point approximately 3 feet above the stranded man however, was unable to grab hold of him. As the man in the water was swept towards a tree, the pilot of the helicopter manoeuvred the craft away, moving the crew man on the wire out of its path. The stricken man then managed to grab hold of the tree and pull himself out of the water into the tree canopy. This allowed the crew man on the wire to be lowered into the tree and, after calming the man, connect a harness to him. The two men were then winched up into the helicopter to safety.

For their actions, the recipients are recognised by the award of the Group Bravery

Petty Officer Nicholas Edward ANDERSON
4 King Street
Berry NSW 2535

Chief Petty Officer Kerwyn Louis BALLICO
Nowra NSW 2541

Lieutenant Simon Paul DRIESSEN
Shoalhaven Heads NSW 2535

Commander Scott Christopher PALMER
Canberra ACT 2600

GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

The following awardee is added to the Group Bravery Citations awarded and gazetted on 25 March 2013

Awardee assisted of members of the Queensland Police Public Safety Response Team who conducted rescue operations during the Queensland Floods in the Lockyer Valley in January 2011

Mr Anthony James ALTHAUS

On the evening of 10 January 2011, thirteen members of the Police Public Safety Response Team were deployed to assist with the significant flooding event in the Lockyer Valley. In darkness, and in major storm conditions, they negotiated damaged bridges and flooded roads, where they encountered large piles of debris, downed trees and powerlines. As they approached Grantham, they were held back by a vast expanse of high flood water. Assisted by a council driver with a front end loader, some of the officers climbed into the bucket while others held onto the outside of the vehicle as it was driven into the water. They got out of the loader to search damaged houses and submerged vehicles for any missing or trapped people. After the officers completed their search of Grantham, at about 5:00am on 11 January, they redeployed to Murphy's Creek and later to Postman's Ridge where they continued to search for people along creeks and rivers. Despite a severe weather warning that further major flash flooding was likely, the officers continued their operations and located several people. At Postman's Ridge, the officers conducted door-to-door checks and advised the community about the latest severe weather warning. The team worked continuously for 24 hours.

For their actions, the recipients are recognised by the award of the Group Citation for Bravery.

Mr Anthony James ALTHAUS
Placid Hills Qld 4343