

GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

Mr Cyril Idres CAIRNS, Arundel Qld 4214

Mr John Francis COLLINS, Beenleigh Qld 4207

The late Mr Geoffrey GRANT, formerly of Sunnybank Qld 4109

Mr David JEFFERSON, Parkinson Qld 4115

Mr Michael James KINDNESS, Boondall Qld 4034

Mr Roy Stanley KOPLICK, Eagleby Qld 4207

On the morning of 2 December 1987, Queensland Correctional Officers provided assistance during a fire and inmate riot at a maximum security prison in Dutton Park, Queensland.

At around 11.45 am prisoners at the former jail in Dutton Park began to throw furniture, set fires and destroy property. Prisoners armed themselves with makeshift weapons and were rampaging through the corridors.

About 20 inmates not involved in the mayhem, who were concerned for their safety, approached a correctional officer who allowed them to cram into his office.

External police officers and emergency service vehicles began to appear outside the walls and attempts to extinguish flames were made at the back of the prison. With the intent to restore control from the outer perimeter, orders were issued for correctional officers to secure records and evacuate the prison.

Some officers remained inside to provide safety to inmates not involved in the rioting. Prison hospital staff was also discovered inside the hospital area and, after inmate patients were secured, staff were escorted from the prison.

Other officers who had evacuated re-entered the prison to provide assistance when a fire was noticed in C Wing. On entering C Wing, officers discovered panicked prisoners concerned for their safety. Other officers arrived and assisted the panicked inmates over locked barriers and to the stairways, allowing them to access the lower level and be released from the burning C Wing.

At H Wing several hundred prisoners were locked into their cells to ensure their safety and, despite the danger of approaching armed rioting inmates, several officers used hoses in an attempt to extinguish fire breakouts.

Despite the state of mayhem and danger two officers also remained at the Reception Chief Officers' Station to preserve the security of keys and other vulnerable items.

A short while later correctional officers re-entered the prison and quelled rioting inmates.

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

GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

Mr Trent Mitchell DOLE
Constable First Class Blake Peter GOODWORTH
Constable Timothy Liam GOUVERNEUR
Sergeant Benjamin Samuel WATSON

On 25 May 2017, four Northern Territory Police Officers rescued a woman from a burning home unit at Katherine in the Northern Territory.

At 6:30pm on 25 May 2017, the four police officers attended the scene of a home unit fire. As they arrived they heard the fire alarm sounding and thick, dark smoke could be seen inside the unit. The windows and doors were closed and the officers could feel the heat emanating from the building.

The officers were informed that the unit was occupied and so they immediately attempted to enter. Two officers managed to kick the door open, and all four officers then entered the unit in search of occupants.

The unit was full of black smoke coming from the kitchen and the heat was intense. Household items were melting and damage was being done to the walls.

An unconscious and unresponsive woman was found lying on the kitchen floor. Two officers immediately removed the woman from the unit and to safety, whilst the remaining officers searched other rooms for other occupants.

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

GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

Miss Elizabeth Ann ADAMS, Palm Beach Qld 4221

Dr Ashok GANGASANDRA BASAVARAJ, Clear Island Waters Qld 4226

Mr Vishaak GANGASANDRA, Clear Island Waters Qld 4226

Mr Richard STAPLES, Currumbin Waters Qld 4223

Mr John Hendrikus VERBEEK, Currumbin Qld 4223

In the early evening of 29 May 2016, members of the public were involved in the rescue a woman from a burning vehicle at Palm Beach in Queensland.

In the early evening a car travelling at high speed left the road near an intersection, leaving the road and crashing into a traffic pole. Debris was strewn over a large area as the vehicle was split in two and then caught alight.

A passer-by stopped her vehicle and ran to the wrecked car. Other drivers then stopped to assist.

With fire coming through the windscreen and footwell, one person reached into the car, pulled the deployed airbags off the injured driver and tried to pull the woman free. With flames getting more intense a rescuer placed herself between the driver and the flames and manipulated the woman's legs from underneath the steering wheel and the dashboard.

Shattered glass covered the driver as the rescuer continued to manoeuvre her and the front seat until they she was able to be pulled from the vehicle.

The injured woman was moved away from the vehicle and her vital signs were checked by one of the rescuers who was a doctor. Moments later the damaged vehicle exploded into flames.

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

GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

Mr Robin John LEE, Burswood WA 6100

Mr Jake Wilson PUGH, Orelia WA 6167

Mr Ian Trevor URQUHART, Orelia WA 6167

In the morning of 20 April 2018, members of the public rescued people from a burning car in Orelia, Western Australia.

At about 10.45am a man was in his home at Orelia when he heard the sound of a car accident nearby. He immediately ran to investigate and discovered a vehicle on its side, against a tree, and on fire.

Observing several occupants trapped inside the burning car, the man quickly began to search for ways into the badly damaged vehicle. At this time two other passers-by stopped to assist.

One person immediately opened a car door and pulled out a 10 year old girl, passing her to another person who took her to safety and then returned to the car.

As the flames were getting larger and the heat was intensifying, a fire extinguisher was brought from another car and used to help douse the flames around the trapped occupants.

An infant was quickly unstrapped and pulled from its car seat and taken away from the scene.

Finally the driver was assisted from the car before emergency services arrived and the car was totally engulfed in flames.

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

GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

Sergeant Agnelle Amelia BAGETTI
Senior Constable Jason Patrick BANKS
Senior Constable Brendan Sean O'BRIEN
Sergeant Matthew John O'BRIEN
Senior Constable Jay Stuart SHEPHERD
Senior Constable Ashley Karl THOMPSON

On the evening of 25 February 2015, Queensland Police Officers were involved in the extraction of a man from a burning vehicle at Mount Gravatt in Queensland.

At about 6pm, Queensland Police were notified of a man attempting self-harm on a freeway in Mount Gravatt. When the officers arrived on the scene, they located a man sitting in his stationary vehicle on the inside lane of the busy freeway. He was highly agitated, in possession of a five litre fuel can, a cigarette lighter and three knives. The car was locked with the engine running and the man's clothing appeared wet with fuel.

One of the officers spoke to the man and listened to his demands. At this time, the driver was refusing to leave the vehicle and began to remove his wet clothing. He had the fuel container open on his lap and fuel was visible as he tilted it backwards. The officer remained in conversation with the man through a small gap in the driver's window, whilst other officers were located at the rear driver's side corner of the vehicle awaiting instruction.

The man then lit a cigarette, doused himself and the inside of the vehicle with fuel, removed more of his clothing, and wound up the window. The man lit the fuel and the flames immediately filled the vehicle. Evacuation actions commenced on both sides of the vehicle with the driver and passenger windows smashed. Fire officers then pushed hoses through the passenger and rear windows in order to extinguish the flames.

One officer lunged into the vehicle, grabbing the man with both hands, whilst another officer hit the cigarette lighter away from the man. Both officers then pinned the man against the inside of the driver's door, and with the assistance of other officers, removed the driver from the burning vehicle.

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

GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

Constable Richard Louis ADDERLEY
Senior Constable Anthony Dale COOK

On the 22 December 2015, Queensland Police Officers were confronted by an armed man at Gracemere in Queensland.

Both Officers were responding to a disturbance in Gracemere when they were informed the offender, who was possibly armed, was attempting to gain entry to a residence. On arriving at the residence, they stopped their police vehicle past the house to create some cover.

The Officers saw the offender standing at the front of the premises holding a rifle which he was pointing upwards. They got out of the police vehicle and approached the man with their weapons drawn and issuing verbal warnings for him to drop the gun.

The offender ran towards the front door of the house and began to bang violently on the door and yell at the occupants. One officer quickly moved up the driveway and used a parked car as cover before walking directly towards the door area.

At that time the armed offender came out from behind a pillar and walked towards the officer with his rifle pointed directly at him. The man was crouching slightly and looking through the scope of the rifle.

The officer fired a string of shots at the offender who then dropped the rifle. The officer then provided cover for his colleague who had holstered his firearm and approached the injured offender. Both officers then restrained the offender until other emergency services arrived.

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

GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

Mrs Claire Louise BROWNING, Tas
Mr James FERGUSON, Waterford Qld 4133
Mr Samuel Liam FOURAS, Luscombe Qld 4207
Mr Christopher Edward HOLLOWAY, Logan City Qld 4114

In the early hours of 31 March 2017, members of the Queensland State Emergency Service and one member of the public were involved in the rescue of a family stranded in floodwaters following Cyclone Debbie in Queensland.

State Emergency Services (SES) in Luscombe were requested to go to the assistance of three people stranded on the roof of their home following the destructive effects of Cyclone Debbie. Three SES volunteers prepared a boat and set off in the dark, in water that was strong flowing and rising rapidly.

Despite floating debris, the trio continued upstream, often being required to duck to avoid damaged powerlines. They came upon a small group of people, one of whom offered assistance and he was subsequently briefed as the group of four continued upstream.

When the boat was approximately 150 metres from the stranded family on the rooftop, a group of locals assisted in manoeuvring the boat through the shallow water to a deeper part of the river. At this point another person replaced one of the people in the boat, and it continued upstream over submerged fence lines and trees. The family on the roof of the house were sighted and after a quick reconnaissance of the scene, the boat was manoeuvred alongside the house, near a balcony.

With the floodwater continuing to rage, the boat was secured and one of the SES members jumped over a railing and onto a balcony. He spoke with an older man who informed him that the other family members were on the roof. Flood water was rising higher as the SES volunteer climbed out over the balcony and then crawled on his hands and knees along an awning until he located a woman and two children.

The three were individually brought along the awning and another SES volunteer assisted them onto the balcony. The children were then fitted with life jackets and helped aboard the boat. The older man refused to leave without his dogs so it was agreed that the dogs would also be evacuated.

The boat then set off into the swift flowing water and encountered large trees and debris as it fought the currents. On reaching a safe site, other members of the public helped to secure the boat to a power pole and the family was then able to disembark.

Soon after the house was dislodged from its foundations by the water and was pushed down the river, coming into contact with other houses, trees and power poles.

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

GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

Mr Brent Jeffrey ELPHINSTON, Engadine NSW 2233

Mrs Nerida Lee LARTER, NSW

Mrs Kerrie Ann McCULLOCH, Barden Ridge, NSW 2234

Mr Simon James OWEN, Raby NSW 2566

Mr Brett Colin WILLIAMS, Robertson NSW 2577

On the afternoon of 17 January 2018, a group of people rescued children from the ocean at Dolphin Point in New South Wales.

Five children had entered the water at Dolphin Point along with an adult. The children were using foam noodle flotation devices and a bogey board. At one point the group was swept with the out-going tide towards the lake opening and in the direction of the sea. At the time of the incident the tide was unusually high as were the waves.

One person seeing what was happening quickly entered the water and managed to grab the nearest child as she was being swept towards nearby oyster beds. The woman lifted the girl out of the surge and passed her to another person who had also entered the water to assist.

Another person saw the commotion and dived off the lake entrance and grabbed another of the children. He then brought the child over to the dangerous rocks. Another person had also entered the water and together the two men in shoulder deep water were able to lift the child out and to safety.

Further around the point another man entered the water and grabbed one of the children and returned the child to the safety of the rocks. He then swam another 80 metres to reach another child who was being swept out by the strong current. Together, they battled the waves before reaching the long channel where they were both pulled from the water.

At the same time another man entered the water with a safety ring and swam out to the remaining child who he was then able to drag back to the shore.

Throughout the incident a woman on shore provided verbal directions to rescuers in the water as to where the children were located as the waves continually crashed around them, making visibly locating the children difficult.

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

GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

The Late Lieutenant Colonel Frederick Royden CHALMERS CMG DSO
The Late Mr William Henry DOYLE
The Late Mr Frederick Francis HARMER
The Late Dr Bernard Haselden QUIN
The Late Mr Wilfred SHUGG

Between 1940 and 1943, five men elected to remain on the island of Nauru to protect the Indigenous population and uphold law and order despite the threat of invasion by Japanese forces.

In 1940 the island's phosphate plant was attacked by German forces. 12 months later a decision was made to evacuate the Island due to the outbreak of the Pacific War.

Family members were evacuated from the island however, five men, including the Government Administrator, concerned for the safety and welfare of the island's Indigenous population, elected to remain on the island to uphold law and order and also provide protection for the Indigenous population.

In August 1942, Japanese Forces invaded the island and the five men were taken prisoner. They were interned in a house near the local hospital.

Just before dawn on the 25 March 1943 all the men were executed by Japanese soldiers and their bodies were taken to an unidentified burial location. All their belongings were burned and traces of the incident removed.

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