

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Miss Ella Layne ANDREWS, WA

On the evening of 7 January 2019, Miss Ella Andrews rescued her sister from a dog attack at Piara Waters in Western Australia.

Ella, aged 7 years at the time, was with her family at a sports ground in Piara Waters when she went with a group of children to a nearby playground.

She noticed a large dog running off-lead and chasing after a football and, without warning, the dog changed direction and began to run towards her 18 month old sister.

Fearing for her sister's safety, Ella quickly reached her sister and scooped the toddler up in her arms, holding her as high as she could above her head. The dog then bit Ella on the forearm leaving a large gash and the toddler sustained bruising to the face.

After the attack the children were treated by local paramedics and taken to hospital for treatment of their injuries.

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

Mr Lachlan James BULMAN, Vic

On the morning of 1 April 2017, Mr Lachlan Bulman, confronted a man wielding a knife in Strathmore in Victoria.

Mr Bulman was at his home in Strathmore when he became aware of an altercation taking place outside on the street. He quickly went to the front yard of his home and saw a tradesman from a neighbouring building site running down the road being chased by another man holding a large kitchen knife. The knife wielding man's two daughters were screaming at their father to stop and put the knife down.

Mr Bulman approached the scene as the armed man continued to yell and head towards the tradesman. Standing at arm's length from the aggressive offender, Mr Bulman attempted to verbally diffuse the situation. During this time the tradesman was able to move away from the armed man.

Without warning, the angry offender turned towards Mr Bulman and pointed the knife directly at him. Mr Bulman backed away as the offender continued to threaten to stab him. The offender then struck Mr Bulman on the jaw before taking the knife back inside a residence and later getting into a vehicle and leaving the scene.

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

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Mrs Vivienne Susanne COLEMAN, St Lawrence Qld 4707

On the evening of 27 March 2017, Mrs Vivienne Coleman assisted in the rescue of a man from dangerous floodwaters at a property near St Lawrence in Queensland.

Mrs Coleman and her husband were asleep in their home when their neighbour phoned them to say that his house was being inundated by floodwater and that he was stranded.

The area around St Lawrence was being affected by a major flooding event due to the effects of Cyclone Debbie. The flooding was accompanied by high wind gusts, heavy rain and the fast moving water was classed as an inland tsunami. Water levels at the neighbour's property were rising rapidly, and his vehicle had also been swamped, rendering it useless.

Mrs Coleman and her husband quickly obtained a small motor boat and trailered it to a safe place from which to launch it into the water. Whilst her husband launched the small boat, Mrs Coleman manoeuvred their vehicle so that its headlights were illuminating the water, which was rising quickly.

Mrs Coleman stayed with the vehicle whilst her husband managed to reach his stranded neighbour's property where he found the man clinging to a pole with the fast flowing water up to his chest. He rescued the neighbour and his dog and then navigated his way back through flooded bushland before sighting the lights of their vehicle where Mrs Coleman had remained despite the dangerous weather conditions.

The group then made their way slowly back along the flooded highway and returned to the safety of the Coleman's property.

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

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Warrant Officer Class Two James Hugh COTTLE, Qld

In the morning of 1 March 2010, Warrant Officer Class Two (then Corporal) James Cottle went to the assistance of a woman after a motor vehicle accident at Kingsgrove in New South Wales.

At 6.30am Corporal Cottle was driving his vehicle when he witnessed a two car accident at an intersection in Kingsgrove.

He quickly assessed the scene and immediately positioned his vehicle to provide protection to the cars involved. He grabbed a combat first aid kit from his vehicle and approached the worst affected car. He gained access to the interior of the badly damaged vehicle by climbing through the back to reach the young female driver who appeared to be unconscious.

He noticed that the driver had suffered significant injuries to her head so he commenced first aid. At this time smoke started to enter the vehicle from the engine so he opened the rear window of the vehicle and asked a bystander to get a fire extinguisher from his car boot and start to spray the engine bay. As this happened, he continued to provide first aid treatment to the victim.

The fire was subsequently extinguished and he remained with the injured driver whilst heavy equipment was used by emergency services to free her.

For his actions, Warrant Officer Class Two Cottle is commended for brave conduct.

Mr Robert William DEVLIN, Qld

On 6 June 2018, Mr Robert Devlin went to the assistance of a man caught in a burning truck near Mackay in Queensland.

At about 4.30am, Mr Devlin was driving to work along the Nebo Range west of Mackay when he saw a prime mover on its side. He immediately ran to the truck and saw the driver, who was in shock, stuck in the burning cab. The driver attempted to kick out the windscreen to no avail.

With the back of the cab on fire, Mr Devlin quickly found some debris on the road and proceeded to smash a small section of the windscreen. Mr Devlin and the driver were then able to peel back the windscreen enough for Mr Devlin to assist the man out of the cab which, moments later, was completely engulfed in flames.

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

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Mr Mitchell Ronald FING, Raymond Terrace NSW 2324

On 3 February 2013, Mr Mitchell Fing went to the assistance of a young man who had been assaulted in Narellan in New South Wales.

At about 10.30pm Mr Fing was driving in Narellan when a young pizza delivery man jumped out in front of his car. The young man explained that he had been attacked by two men who had assaulted him with a metal object. He had sustained serious injuries to his head and was bleeding profusely.

Mr Fing quickly took his girlfriend, who was following in another vehicle, out of the area and returned straight away to the injured man. He got out of his car, called emergency services, gave the young man a shirt to help with his injuries, and had him lie on the ground whilst they waited for assistance to arrive.

Another passer-by stopped her vehicle to render assistance but Mr Fing urged her to return to her car. At that point a man armed with a baseball bat appeared, running in the direction of Mr Fing and the victim. Mr Fing immediately helped the injured man into his car and then sped away from the armed attacker. A short time later he flagged down police who were heading to the scene.

The young victim was treated at the scene by ambulance officers and transported to hospital.

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

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Mr Craig John HOGARTH, Caloundra Qld 4551

In the early hours of the morning of the 20th of August 2017, Mr Craig Hogarth rescued two people from a burning building at Kings Beach in Queensland.

Acting Station Officer Hogarth, and his Queensland Fire and Emergency Services colleagues, responded to a direct brigade alarm at a seven storey apartment building in Kings Beach. On reaching the building they observed that the ground floor was well alight.

After instructing his colleagues on a plan of action, Acting Station Officer Hogarth made his way to an entrance to access the building's fire indicator panel. To reach the panel he had to cross a three metre concrete walkway with flames leaping across it. He was forced to crawl close to the wall in order to avoid the flames.

On reaching the fire door of the common area of the unit complex he saw that it had been propped open and thick smoke had filled the area. Lying on the floor approximately five-seven metres inside were two unconscious people.

He quickly entered the area and dragged the closest person outside and away from the door towards the concrete barrier. He then requested assistance and for oxygen equipment be bought to his location.

He re-entered the common area and dragged the second person outside and away from the smoke. He entered the premises for a third time to check for any other occupants, before returning outside and assisting with first aid procedures on the two victims until the arrival of Queensland Ambulance officers.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Marc Andrew JOHNSON, Traralgon Vic 3844

In the early evening of 21 September 2017, Mr Marc Johnson assisted in the rescue of a man from rough water at the port of Hvar in Croatia.

Mr Johnson was aboard a taxi boat transporting a group of people between a cruise ship and the port of Hvar when a small boat nearby capsized, throwing all four occupants into the rough water.

Another person from the taxi boat dove into the choppy water and swam to the upturned boat. He assisted a male and a female who were clinging to the upturned vessel back to the taxi boat. The distressed male was in a weakened condition after falling below the surface of the water on several occasions.

The people on the taxi boat managed to pull the woman aboard but, due to the design of the boat, the choppy conditions, and the dead weight of the male, they were only able to hold his head above the water.

Despite the hazardous conditions, Mr Johnson quickly jumped from the taxi boat. Assisted by the other rescuer already in the water, they worked to push the exhausted man from below and with the help of others in the boat managed to get the man out of the water.

On returning to the harbour, the taxi boat was met by medical assistance.

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

The late Mr David KERR formerly of NSW

On 23 January 1933, Mr David Kerr assisted a fellow miner after an explosion in a coal mine at Birchgrove in New South Wales.

Mr Kerr was working alongside another miner in the coal mine at Birchgrove and, as they were boring a hole through rock with a hand drill, a spark ignited a pocket of gas causing a major explosion.

Both men were enveloped in a sheet of blue flame and knocked to the ground by the blast. Despite their serious injuries the men attempted to beat out the flames. At this point Mr Kerr's colleague began to lapse in and out of consciousness.

Mr Kerr managed to drag himself out of the mine and made his way to a telephone and alert others to the situation. He then crawled back into the mine and went to assist the semi-conscious miner.

A cage was subsequently lowered into the mine and Mr Kerr and the other man were able to get into it and were then hauled back to the surface.

Sadly both men did not survive their injuries.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr David Colin McCARTNEY, Ungarie NSW 2669

On the afternoon of 17 June 2018, Mr David McCartney rescued two children caught in a house fire at Ungarie in New South Wales.

Mr McCartney was at his home in Ungarie when he saw smoke coming from a rear room of a nearby house and went to investigate. On arriving at the house he found the adult occupants outside and they informed him that two children and an immobile man were still inside.

Despite the intensity of the fire increasing Mr McCartney immediately ran to the rear of the residence and smashed a window allowing entry to a bedroom. He climbed inside and located a terrified young girl huddled in a bed. He grabbed her and quickly evacuated her through the broken window.

He was then informed that a young boy may be in an adjoining bedroom. Without hesitation he re-entered the house and was able to locate the boy and an elderly man in a wheelchair. The family dog was also in the bedroom and became aggressive towards Mr McCartney. With the elderly wheelchair bound man refusing to leave, Mr McCartney picked up the young boy and took him to safety outside.

The Rural Fire Service then arrived at the scene and quickly extinguished the fire.

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

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Mr Daniel Wayne McDONALD, Marcoola Qld 4564

In the evening of 17 July 2016, Mr Daniel McDonald assisted in the rescue of a woman from a burning house at Coolum in Queensland.

Mr McDonald was at home when his neighbour arrived and told him about a fire in the house across the street.

Both men ran to the smoke covered property, jumped the fence and began checking the front door and windows which were hot to the touch. The men then went around to the back of the house and checked a rear window and door. They opened the back door and Mr McDonald's neighbour entered the smoke-filled house.

When his neighbour was about one metre inside the house he saw an unconscious female. He dragged the woman outside and Mr McDonald assisted him to take her away from the burning house, placing her in the recovery position. At that stage the woman was breathing and her body was covered in soot.

Mr McDonald and his neighbour, believing that there may be more occupants in the house, entered the burning dwelling and made their way down the hallway before being forced back due to the intensity of the flames and heat.

They then moved the woman to the front of the property where her condition deteriorated. Mr McDonald, along with other neighbours, began to douse the house with water.

Sadly the woman did not survive the incident.

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

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Mr Darryn Charles MARSHALL, Nerang Qld 4211

On the morning of 2 July 2018, Mr Darryn Marshall rescued a young woman from the balcony of a multi-story apartment complex in Southport in Queensland.

At about 9.45am, Mr Marshall and a colleague were working on the balcony of an apartment on the 38th floor of a building in Southport. Mr Marshall's colleague had wedged open the door of the apartment and was waiting for a lift to arrive so that he could return to ground level and collect additional building materials. Mr Marshall continued to work on the balcony of the apartment.

At the same time on the ground floor, a young woman with Down Syndrome and her two carers were waiting for a lift to arrive. Without her carers' knowledge, the young woman entered a lift which took her to the 38th floor and it opened to Mr Marshall's waiting colleague. He saw the young woman exit the lift and walk towards one of the apartments.

As Mr Marshall took a break on the balcony of the building, he glanced sideways and saw the young woman jump up onto the balustrade of the balcony. She then hung off the railing with both arms, one leg and her upper torso hanging over the side.

Mr Marshall immediately rushed towards the young woman, lunged over the side of the railing and managed to grab her by the arm immediately prior to her losing her grip on the railing. He was then able to pull her back over the railing onto the balcony to safety.

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

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Mr William Michael NASH, Conder ACT 2906

On the afternoon of 12 March 2017, Mr William Nash went to the rescue of several people caught in a dangerous rip at Denhams Beach in New South Wales.

At about 4.30pm Mr Nash, then aged 16 years, and his family arrived at Denhams Beach and quickly noticed that a family of four were struggling in a rip. The beach was not patrolled, the tide was outgoing, and the adult and three children were being dragged out to sea by a strong rip.

Mr Nash quickly handed a surfboard to a beach goer who was able to assist two of the children who were closer to shore. He then grabbed his own surf board and paddled out about 100metres to the adult and the third child.

On reaching them, the child was panicking and trying to keep the adult's head above water. Mr Nash grabbed the young child and placed her on his board. He then managed to reach the semi-conscious man and place the man's upper body onto the surfboard. Mr Nash kept hold of him to prevent him from sliding back into the water.

Mr Nash then swam backwards until the waves began pushing the group towards the shore. When they were about 20 metres from the beach another beach goer entered the water to assist in bringing the semi-conscious man to the beach where he was provided initial first aid and cared for until paramedics arrived.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Jared ROBINSON, Hatherleigh SA 5280

On the morning of 26 October 2016, Mr Jared Robinson went to the assistance of an injured driver in a burning vehicle at Aldinga in South Australia.

At about 6am Mr Robinson was driving to work near Aldinga when he came across a head-on motor vehicle accident involving two cars.

Whilst another passer-by went to check on the second vehicle, Mr Robinson approached the first vehicle, an SUV, which was burning near the engine bay area. He quickly retrieved a fire extinguisher and put the flames out, though he was not sure if they would reignite.

The driver had sustained multiple injuries and was bleeding significantly. Mr Robinson immediately crawled inside the confined and heavily damaged interior, removed his own jumper and used it to reduce the driver's blood flow. He stayed with the injured man until emergency services arrived. They conveyed the critically injured man to hospital. Unfortunately the driver of the other vehicle was deceased.

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

Mr Roberto SEROLA, Burleigh Heads Qld 4220

On the morning of 17 February 2018, Mr Roberto Serola rescued an injured surfer at Burleigh Beach in Queensland.

Mr Serola was surfing at Burleigh Beach when he noticed a surfer get knocked off her board by the large swell. The young woman was submerged for a short time before resurfacing and floating close to some rocks.

He quickly paddled over to her. As he got closer he could hear her screaming for help, and he noticed that she had a significant leg injury. He got off his surfboard but kept it strapped to his leg and then, holding onto the young woman, swam her towards a safer area.

The large waves continued to pound the pair, directly hitting the young woman's injured leg and causing her further pain. Mr Serola positioned his body to prevent the waves directly hitting the injured leg, and continued to reassure her that she would be alright.

After approximately 20 minutes they reached shallower water and Mr Serola carried the injured young woman ashore where surf lifesavers attended to her until emergency services arrived.

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

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Mrs Kerry Lee SEYMOUR, Qld

On 16 February 2018, Mrs Kerry Seymour rescued a woman from dangerous surf at Alexandra Headlands Beach in Queensland.

At about 3pm on the day, Mrs Seymour and a friend were paddling in shallow water at a beach on the Sunshine Coast when, without warning, both women were swept into deep, rough water.

Mrs Seymour was swept further out than her friend but was able, with much effort, to make her way back to the safety of the beach. The other woman was in difficulty in the rough swell and became unconscious.

From the beach, Mrs Seymour saw her friend floating face down in the water and, despite her exhaustion and the dangerous water conditions, she quickly re-entered the surf and swam out to the woman. On reaching her, she then managed to swim her back to the safety of the beach where she immediately began first aid procedures on the unconscious woman.

Soon after, surf lifesavers came to her assistance and the woman was taken to hospital by ambulance officers.

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

Senior Constable Jay Stuart SHEPHERD, Queensland Police Service

On the evening of 25 February 2015, Queensland Police Officer Senior Constable Jay Shepherd extracted a man from a burning vehicle at Mount Gravatt in Queensland.

At about 6pm, Senior Constable Shepherd and other Queensland Police officers were notified of a man attempting self-harm on a busy freeway in Mount Gravatt. Arriving at the scene, they located a man sitting in his stationary vehicle. 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.

Another police officer spoke to the man and listened to his demands. A request for further backup was made. The driver was refusing to leave the vehicle and began to remove his clothing. He had the fuel container open on his lap and fuel was visible as he tilted it backwards. A police officer remained in conversation with the man through a small gap in the driver's window, whilst Senior Constable Shepherd and other officers were at the rear driver's side corner of the vehicle awaiting instruction.

The highly agitated 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 windows smashed, and Fire officers pushing hoses in to extinguish the flames.

Senior Constable Shepherd lunged into the fire filled vehicle, grabbing the man with both hands, whilst another officer hit the cigarette lighter away from the man. He and the other officer then pinned the man against the inside of the driver's door before removing him from the burning vehicle with the assistance of other officers.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Christopher John WILLIAMS, Mount Compass SA 5210

Mr Mitchell Clarke WILLIAMS, Mount Compass SA 5210

In the early afternoon of 22 October 2017, Mr Christopher Williams and Mr Mitchell Williams rescued a family member from a shark attack at Lady Bay in South Australia.

Mr Christopher Williams was skippering his four metre dinghy on Lady Bay at Normanville, together with his son, Mitchell and one other person. The dinghy was approximately 100 metres from the shore. Mr Williams' 15 year old daughter was in a kayak approximately 30 metres away, while his wife and another person were in a second kayak approximately 70 metres away.

Without warning, a 4.5 metre white pointer shark lurched up from under the water launching the girl and the kayak into the air. The girl then entered the water close to the shark and then she and the shark disappeared below the surface of the water.

The shark then lunged on top of the kayak and thrashed its huge body and tail before sliding back into the water. The girl then appeared above the water's surface and she clambered onto the centre of the damaged kayak. With her body half in and half out of the water, she gripped the kayak as the shark attacked for a third time, with its jaws penetrating the kayak very close to her body.

Mr Williams instantly manoeuvred the small aluminium dinghy directly towards the shark and his struggling daughter. As they approached, he directed Mitchell to kneel down and prepare to grab his sister.

When close enough, Mitchell stretched out of the boat, over the shark, to reach his sister's arms. He dragged her body from the kayak, into the dinghy and to safety.

With the shark circling the damaged kayak, which was now entangled by fishing lines with the dinghy, Mr Williams manoeuvred his boat to distract the shark which allowed the two people on the other kayak to reach the shore safely.

For their actions, Mr Christopher Williams and Mr Mitchell Williams are commended for brave conduct.