

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Angus Robert ANDERSON, Roma Qld 4455

On the afternoon of 3 February 2012, Mr Angus Anderson attempted to rescue a woman from flood waters in Roma, Queensland.

Mr Anderson saw a man attempting to rescue a woman and a young boy who were being swept downstream. The man was unable to hold onto both the woman and boy and he lost his grip on the woman and she continued to be swept downstream. Mr Anderson swam into the middle of the main current and positioned himself against a power pole. As the woman floated towards him, he attempted to reach her, but she disappeared below the surface. In difficult conditions, Mr Anderson assisted emergency services personnel to search for the victim who was found deceased two days later.

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

Mr Michael John ANDERSON, 70 Berthong Street, Cootamundra NSW 2590

On 8 December 2012, Mr Michael Anderson attempted to rescue an elderly man from a house fire in Cootamundra, New South Wales.

Alerted to smoke coming from a neighbouring house, Mr Anderson ran to the scene and found flames coming from the kitchen window which had been blown out. Hearing the elderly resident calling for help from inside, Mr Anderson moved to the front of the house to find a way in. He smashed a window but was prevented from entering by the curtains and was forced to retreat. Another man arrived and while he tried to gain access elsewhere, Mr Anderson pulled a screen off the security door, kicked in a glass panel of the front door, and entered the house. He shouted to the elderly man to stay down. Approximately three metres into the house, Mr Anderson was forced back by thick black smoke and intense heat. Emergency services personnel then arrived but they were unable to save the occupant.

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

Mrs Mary Maureen BARDEN, Kew Vic 3101

On the afternoon of 22 February 2013, Mrs Mary Barden helped rescue an elderly woman from a house fire in Kew, Victoria.

Seeing smoke coming from her neighbour's house, Mrs Barden immediately went to check on the 92 year old occupant, a semi-invalid, who was likely to be inside. Arriving at the house, Mrs Barden met two young women who had also seen the smoke. The three women entered and searched the smoke-filled house and found the occupant asleep inside, unaware of the fire. They woke the resident and carried her out of the house to safety.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Damien Luke BERRY, Saint Marys NSW 2760

On the evening of 15 October 2012, Mr Damien Berry assisted at the scene of a burning petrol station in Penrith, New South Wales.

During an unsuccessful robbery, a man had set fire to a petrol bowser and some promotional material before fleeing the scene. Mr Berry and his brother drove into the petrol station despite warnings from other bystanders of a potential explosion. Mr Berry used a fire extinguisher to douse the flames while his brother assisted the station cashier, who was shocked and panic-stricken after the incident.

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

Mr Jacob Ryan BERRY, Cambridge Park NSW 2747

On the evening of 15 October 2012, Mr Jacob Berry assisted at the scene of a burning petrol station in Penrith, New South Wales.

During an unsuccessful robbery, a man had set fire to a petrol bowser and some promotional material before fleeing the scene. Mr Berry and his brother drove into the petrol station despite warnings from other bystanders of a potential explosion. Mr Berry assisted the station cashier, who was shocked and panic-stricken after the incident, while his brother used a fire extinguisher to douse the flames.

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

Senior Constable Damon Edward BISHOP, Queensland Police

During the night of 23 March 2013, Senior Constable Bishop helped rescue a man from a house fire in Cloncurry, Queensland.

Responding to an emergency call, Senior Constable Bishop and two colleagues arrived to find heavy smoke coming from the residence. After learning that a male occupant of the house was unaccounted for and likely to be inside, Senior Constable Bishop and his colleagues crawled through the house until they located the resident, and then forcibly removed him from the house.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Stephen Warwick BRANDLEY, North Avoca NSW 2260

On the afternoon of 11 June 2013, Mr Steven Brandley intervened against three armed men during a house robbery in North Avoca, New South Wales.

Mr Brandley was driving past the residence when a neighbour stopped him and alerted him to the robbery in progress. Mr Brandley and the neighbour then entered the house through the broken front door. Noises led them to a bedroom where they found three men attempting to move a safe. The offender wielded a crowbar and block splitter at Mr Brandley and his neighbour before fleeing the house.

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

Mr James Angus BURGE, "Windella", Cootamundra NSW 2590

On 8 December 2012, Mr James Burge attempted to rescue an elderly man from a house fire in Cootamundra, New South Wales.

While driving his vehicle, Mr Burge saw flames coming from a house. After being informed by another person, who was also attempting to gain entry, that there was an elderly person inside, Mr Burge kicked in a window to gain entry, badly hurting his leg. When he entered the room it was full of smoke and there was no visibility. After shouting to the elderly man, but getting no response, Mr Burge left the building. Emergency services personnel then arrived but they were unable to save the occupant.

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

Mr Rodney John BURNBY, Spearwood WA 6163

On the afternoon of 13 March 2011, Mr Rodney Burnby (then Senior Sergeant) assisted in multiple rescues of people trapped by floodwaters in Warmun, Western Australia.

Following days of heavy rain in the central East Kimberley region, rising floodwater swamped the community of Warmun. The fast flowing water contained large amounts of debris and completely destroyed or made uninhabitable all sixty-five houses of the community. Senior Sergeant Burnby entered chest deep floodwater to evacuate various residences throughout the emergency. At the aged care centre, Senior Sergeant Burnby and a colleague, assisted by other community members, evacuated several elderly residents to safety. They also rescued several people from Disability House and placed them into a dinghy. Senior Sergeant Burnby assisted to move the dinghy through the floodwater to safety. In the following period, Senior Sergeant Burnby coordinated the evacuation of residents and attended to other policing matters.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Hassan CHAHROUK, 46 Excelsior Street, Merrylands NSW 2160

On the afternoon of 2 April 2013, Mr Hassan Chahrouk assisted in the rescue of a woman from a burning house in Merrylands, New South Wales.

Mr Chahrouk was driving a passenger in his taxi when he saw smoke and flames billowing from a nearby house. When he pulled over, he met a community worker who was attending the house to care for the elderly woman resident who remained inside. The community worker had smelt smoke and discovered fire in a front bedroom. After she had tried unsuccessfully to extinguish the flames, she alerted emergency authorities and the resident's family and then tried to drag the woman, who had limited mobility, to safety. Mr Chahrouk entered the house – now visibly alight and filling with thick smoke - and together with the community worker, found the woman and lifted and carried her to safety.

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

Mr Christopher James CHURCHILL, Warmun Community WA 6743

On the afternoon of 13 March 2011, Mr Christopher Churchill assisted in multiple rescues of people trapped by floodwaters in Warmun, Western Australia.

Following days of heavy rain in the region, rising floodwater swamped the community of Warmun. The fast flowing water contained large amounts of debris and completely destroyed or made uninhabitable all sixty-five houses of the community. Mr Churchill entered chest deep floodwater to evacuate various residences throughout the emergency. At the aged care centre, Mr Churchill assisted the local police and other community members to remove several elderly residents to safety and moved two vehicles to higher ground. After two disabled persons and their carers were rescued from Disability House, Mr Churchill assisted to pull and push the rescue dinghy through the floodwater to safety. Later a woman who was holding onto her dog was spotted surrounded by water as she clung onto a metal pole. Mr Churchill and a police officer entered the water but they were initially forced to retreat because the torrent was too strong. Mr Churchill located an inflatable pool and they used it to reach her before dragging the woman and her dog into it. He and the police officer held the woman by the hands and, despite her being horizontal above the water due to the current strength, got her and the dog into the vehicle and to safety.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mrs Kathleen COCHRANE, 1/96 Albany Street, Coffs Harbour NSW 2450

On the evening of 4 October 2008, Mrs Kathleen Cochrane intervened to assist an elderly neighbour who was being assaulted in her own residence in Coffs Harbour.

Mrs Cochrane, then 81 years old, heard cries for help and went to investigate. She found her neighbour, an 82 year old woman, being pinned to the floor while the assailant used one hand to hold her by the throat and the other to punch her in the head and face. The assailant had moved the victim's emergency call alarm out of reach. Mrs Cochrane used the call alarm to alert authorities. The assailant stepped away briefly from the injured victim but then moved back, threatening to kill her. Mrs Cochrane stepped between them and distracted the assailant, who then left. Mrs Cochrane locked the door and waited with the victim until the arrival of the police and paramedics.

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

Constable Anne Christine COLLIS, Queensland Police

On the night of 23 March 2013, Constable Anne Collis helped rescue a man from a house fire in Cloncurry, Queensland.

Responding to an emergency call, Constable Collis and two colleagues arrived to find heavy smoke coming from the residence. While establishing cordons around the house, Constable Collis was advised a male occupant of the house was unaccounted for and likely to be inside. She and her colleagues crawled through the house until they located the resident and then forcibly removed him from the house.

For her actions, Constable Collis is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Senior Constable Donald James COUPER, Western Australia Police

On the afternoon of 13 March 2011, Senior Constable Donald Couper assisted in multiple rescues of people trapped by floodwaters in Warmun, Western Australia.

Following days of heavy rain in the region, rising floodwater swamped the community of Warmun. The fast flowing water contained large amounts of debris and completely destroyed or made uninhabitable all sixty-five houses of the community. Senior Constable Couper entered chest deep floodwater to evacuate various residences throughout the emergency. At the aged care centre, Senior Constable Couper and a colleague, assisted by other community members evacuated several elderly residents to safety before he moved two vehicles to higher ground. At Disability House, Senior Constable Couper, assisted by others, rescued several people and placed them into a dinghy. Senior Constable Couper assisted to move the dinghy through the floodwater to safety. Later a woman who was holding onto her dog was spotted surrounded by water as she clung onto a metal pole. Senior Constable Couper and another man entered the water but they were initially forced to retreat because the torrent was too strong. Senior Constable Couper and the man tried again and, assisted by another man, managed to hold the woman by the hands and despite her being horizontal above the water due to the current strength got her and the dog into the vehicle.

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

Ms Stephanie Jayne DEFINA, Camberwell Vic 3124

On 22 February 2013, Ms Stephanie Defina helped rescue an elderly woman from a house fire in Kew, Victoria.

Seeing smoke coming from their neighbour's house, Ms Defina and her flatmate immediately went to check on the elderly occupant, 92 years old and a semi-invalid. Arriving at the house, they met another woman who had also seen the smoke. The three women entered and searched the smoke-filled house and found the occupant asleep inside, unaware of the fire. They woke the woman and carried her out of the house to safety.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Joshua EASON-JONES, 15 Commercial Road, Footscray Vic 3011

On 21 May 2012, Mr Joshua Eason-Jones helped rescue an elderly woman from a house fire in Footscray, Victoria.

Seeing smoke coming from their neighbour's house, Mr Eason-Jones and his brother immediately went to check on their elderly neighbours. Arriving on the scene, they met another neighbour who had also come to assist. One resident of the house, who was standing outside with burns to his head and hands, confirmed that his 105 year old mother was inside. The three men entered the smoke-filled house and found the frail resident very close to the flames. They carried her carefully out of the house to safety.

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

Mr Matthew EASON-JONES, 15 Commercial Road, Footscray Vic 3011

On 21 May 2012, Mr Matthew Eason-Jones helped rescue an elderly woman from a house fire in Footscray, Victoria.

Seeing smoke coming from their neighbour's house, Mr Eason-Jones and his brother immediately went to check on their elderly neighbours. Arriving on the scene, they met another neighbour who had also come to assist. One resident of the house, who was standing outside with burns to his head and hands, confirmed that his 105 year old mother was inside. The three men entered the smoke-filled house and found the frail resident very close to the flames. They then carried her carefully out of the house to safety.

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

Mr Christopher John FOWLER, Echuca Vic 3564

During the evening of 13 July 2007, Mr (then Senior Constable) Christopher Fowler disarmed a woman who was stabbing an elderly man in Bellbird, New South Wales.

Responding to a reported disturbance, Senior Constable Fowler and his colleague learnt that a woman was stabbing an elderly man inside the house. Senior Constable Fowler and his colleague immediately entered the residence and observed the woman holding a carving knife and struggling with a man who had significant stab wounds to his abdomen and lacerations to his thighs and hands. While his colleague went outside to call for assistance, Senior Constable Fowler hid behind a wall, prepared to defend the victim. As the assailant raised the knife above her head in a stabbing motion, Senior Constable Fowler lunged at her and knocked the knife away. The assailant then struggled with Senior Constable Fowler, until, with the assistance of his colleague, he was able to arrest her.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Jake Robert GUNSTON, Blackwater Qld 4717

On 13 April 2012, Mr Jake Gunston helped to rescue members of a group of families from drowning at Sandy Point Creek in Yeppoon, Queensland.

Mr Gunston and three other men were driving along the beach when they were alerted to four children and two women in difficulty in the water. Mr Gunston swam out to one of the women, while others assisted the children and the second woman. Against a rip, Mr Gunston returned the woman safely to shore. He then re-entered the water to help others attempting to rescue the second woman, who had initially gone into the water to help with the rescue but was beneath the surface and unresponsive. With the assistance of a rope, the woman was eventually pulled to shore.

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

Mr Homayon HATAMI, 16 Weller Street, Geelong West Vic 3218

On the night of 8 May 2013, Mr Homayon Hatami rescued a woman who had jumped from a pier near Eastern Beach in Geelong, Victoria.

On seeing the woman dive fully-clothed into the cold, isolated and poorly lit waters, Mr Hatami, immediately undressed and dived in. After swimming approximately 40 metres, he reached the woman and took hold of her. Although the woman continually struggled and resisted Mr Hatami's attempts to save her, he swam her back to the safety of the pier. Mr Hatami restrained the woman at a ladder at the base of the pier until a police officer arrived and assisted. The woman was lifted out of the water with the assistance of other police officers.

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

Mr Garry Scott HAYES, 18 George Street, Beenleigh Qld 4207

In the early hours on 9 September 1984, Mr Garry Hayes attempted to rescue a man from drowning alongside Broome Wharf, Western Australia.

Mr Hayes and two other members of the ship's company were returning to the vessel when one of the men fell overboard. Already below deck, Mr Hayes heard a loud thud, followed by a shout of "man overboard", and immediately went to investigate. In poor light and strong tidal currents, and with the possibility of sharks and crocodiles in the water, Mr Hayes dived in to search for the man. He searched for approximately 15 minutes, in the process sustaining cuts to his hand. Unable to locate the man, Mr Hayes returned to the vessel. Authorities continued to search extensively for the man, but he was unable to be found.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Anthony Thomas HAYNES, 58 The Street, North Lopham, DISS IPZZZLU

On 6 August 2000, Mr Anthony Haynes saved the life of a woman who had fallen into the water at Fort Hill Wharf in Darwin, Northern Territory.

Mr Haynes and the woman were part of a group of four people crossing a gangway to visit the catamaran HMAS *Jervis Bay*. The gangway, which had not been properly secured, overbalanced, throwing all four people into the air, then against the side of the ship and eight metres into the sea below. The woman sustained life-threatening injuries from the impact; she was knocked unconscious and was found face down in the water. Mr Haynes, himself critically injured, took hold of the woman while another man, who was also seriously injured, turned the woman over and then kept them both afloat until help arrived and they were able to be rescued.

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

Mr Ryan Mark HIGGINBOTTOM, 54 River Crescent, Broadbeach Waters Qld 4217

On the afternoon on 16 March 2011, Mr Ryan Higginbottom assisted in the rescue of a man and attempted rescue of a woman from drowning at Surfers Paradise, Queensland.

Arriving at the beach, Mr Higginbottom and his friend were alerted to two people in trouble behind the surf break. Mr Higginbottom and his friend entered the water and swam approximately 200 metres in rough and hazardous conditions to reach the pair. Mr Higginbottom assisted the man, who was struggling to stay afloat, giving him his bodyboard and then floating him back towards shore. Meanwhile, his friend had started swimming the woman back to shore. Mr Higginbottom assisted his friend swim towards the shore with the woman, who was unconscious and then returned to continue to assist the man to shore.

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

Mr David Micheal HOLMES, 15 Old Orchard Drive, Palmwoods Qld 4555

On the morning of 29 August 2011, Mr David Holmes helped rescue a man from a burning vehicle following a crash near Sippy Downs, Queensland.

Mr Holmes had been driving behind the vehicle, a tanker truck towing two trailers, when it drifted off the Bruce Highway, rolled several times and crashed in a culvert, exploding on impact and scattering debris widely. The person who had been following directly behind the truck was able to extricate the injured driver and Mr Holmes helped him to drag the driver about 20 metres to safety at the edge of the road. The driver had suffered severe head injuries and Mr Holmes and the other man stayed to provide care and assistance until the arrival of an ambulance.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Garry Colin KEIR, Heathcote NSW 2233

On the evening of 6 April 2010, Mr (then Sergeant) Garry Keir disarmed a woman during an attempted robbery in Engadine, New South Wales.

Sergeant Keir, who was off-duty, was at a pizza store waiting for his order when a person wearing a hoodie and a balaclava entered, brandished a knife at staff and demanded money. Sergeant Keir rushed at the offender and forced her chest down onto the counter, demanding she drop the knife. A short struggle ensued, the offender dropped the knife, and Sergeant Keir forced her to the floor and restrained her until police arrived.

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

Mr Tim James MARTIN, 33 Harran Street, Southport Qld 4215

On the afternoon on 16 March 2011, Mr Tim Martin assisted in the rescue of a man and attempted rescue of a woman from drowning at Surfers Paradise, Queensland.

Arriving at the beach, Mr Martin and his friend were alerted to two people in trouble behind the surf break. Mr Martin and his friend entered the water and swam approximately 200 metres in rough and hazardous conditions to reach the pair. Mr Martin retrieved the woman, who was unconscious, and held her head above the water, while his friend assisted the man. Mr Martin began swimming the woman back to shore and was later assisted by his friend in pulling her safety.

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

Miss Madeleine Denise MATKOWSKY, 38 Ross Street, Surrey Hills Vic 3127

On 22 February 2013, Miss Madeleine Matkowsky helped rescue an elderly woman from a house fire in Kew, Victoria.

Seeing smoke coming from their neighbour's house, Miss Matkowsky and her friend immediately went to check on the 92 year old, semi-invalid occupant. Arriving at the house, they met another woman who had also seen the smoke. The three women then entered and searched the smoke-filled house and found the occupant asleep inside, unaware of the fire. They woke the woman and carried her out of the house to safety.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Christopher Linh NGUYEN, Footscray Vic 3011

On 21 May 2012, Mr Nguyen rescued an elderly woman from a house fire in Footscray, Victoria.

Seeing smoke coming from the house next door, Mr Nguyen immediately went to check on his elderly neighbours. Arriving on the scene, he met two other neighbours who had also seen the smoke. One resident of the house, who was standing outside with burns to his head and hands, confirmed that his 105 year old mother was inside. Mr Nguyen kicked in a window and the three men entered the smoke-filled house, finding the frail resident very close to the flames. They then carried her out of the house to safety.

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

Mr Leigh PARKES, The Sutherland Shire, New South Wales

On the morning of 23 December 2001, Mr Leigh Parkes rescued a woman and her two children caught in a rip at Betty's Beach, Western Australia.

Mr Parkes, alerted by screams, immediately ran to the beach, where he saw a woman and two children caught in a rip near rocks. The woman was fully clothed after entering the water to assist the children, and all three were struggling to stay afloat. Mr Parkes removed his clothing and swam out to the children, who were by now approximately 50 metres from shore. He floated the children on a boogie board before locating and retrieving the woman from below the surface. Against a strong current and breaking waves, and assisted by a rope thrown to him, Mr Parkes dragged the woman and children back to the safety of the shore.

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

Senior Sergeant Michael James PEARSON APM, Queensland Police

On the morning of 14 September 2008, Senior Sergeant Michael Pearson disarmed a man who was threatening another man with a knife on a train near Kuraby, Queensland.

Senior Sergeant Pearson was off duty and travelling on the train when he saw a man arguing with another passenger. Seeing the man lift his shirt to reveal a knife tucked into his jeans, Senior Sergeant Pearson warned another person who was sitting nearby to move away. As the argument continued, Senior Sergeant Pearson moved toward the offender, who was now brandishing the knife and threatening the victim. He seized the offender's hand and attempted to restrain him. A railway security guard who had been alerted to the incident arrived on the scene and Senior Sergeant Pearson was then able to wrest the knife away and hand it to the guard. He then stayed with the offender and tried to calm him until other officers arrived.

For his actions, Senior Sergeant Pearson is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Peter Christopher PERKINS, 45 Lake Shore Drive, North Avoca NSW 2260

On the afternoon of 11 June 2013, Mr Peter Perkins intervened against three armed men during a house robbery in North Avoca, New South Wales.

Mr Perkins, warned that several men were breaking into a neighbour's house, immediately went to investigate. Arriving at the scene, he confronted the driver of a van parked outside the residence before the driver fled, shouting a warning to his accomplices inside the house. Mr Perkins and a neighbour then entered the house through the broken front door. Noises led them to a bedroom where they found three men attempting to move a safe. The offenders wielded a crowbar and block splitter at Mr Perkins and his neighbour before fleeing the house.

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

Sergeant Neil Andrew PREST, New South Wales Police

On the evening of 1 March 2003, Sergeant (then Constable) Neil Prest helped disarm a woman who was threatening herself and others with a knife in Woy Woy, New South Wales.

Constable Prest and other police officers were called to the woman's home where she was holding two ambulance officers captive. While the woman spoke to one of his colleagues, Constable Prest, who had hidden himself from view, surprised her by quickly entering the room and spraying her with capsicum spray. While she was distracted, one of the ambulance officers struck her with a coffee table, causing her to drop the knife and fall to the ground.

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

Mr Wayne Richard PRITCHARD, 25 George Cook Drive South, Daisy Hill Vic 3465

On the afternoon of 5 November 2012, Mr Wayne Pritchard rescued a fisherman who had been thrown from his boat after it capsized on Teddington Reservoir, Victoria.

Mr Pritchard observed the man struggling in the cold, choppy water and swam approximately 150 metres to provide assistance. Recognising that the man was distressed and quickly tiring, Mr Pritchard floated him back to the shore and provided first aid until paramedics arrived.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Senior Constable Michael RASBORSEK, Queensland Police

On the afternoon of 21 December 2009, Senior Constable Michael Rasborsek assisted with the rescue of a woman who had jumped off a bridge into the Brisbane River and was being swept downstream.

Responding to a radio call, Senior Constable Rasborsek and a colleague arrived at the scene to find an ambulance officer attempting to assist the woman who was floating face down in the water. After trying unsuccessfully to secure the assistance of a City Catamaran crew to help with the rescue, Senior Constable Rasborsek dived into the water and helped swim the victim to the shore.

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

Ms Sandra RIEMER, 47 Skyring Street, Bundaberg Qld 4670

On 10 September 2012, Ms Sandra Riemer, a teacher at a school, confronted an armed student and prevented him from carrying out a threat to harm other students.

Ms Riemer had witnessed an incident between the student and another boy and had guided the aggressor into a nearby empty science laboratory. Prompted by a further scuffle outside, the student picked up some sharp dissecting scissors and threatened to stab other students as he attempted to leave the room. Ms Riemer stood in front of the door to prevent him from leaving. She remained calm even when the student threatened her with the scissors, and managed to persuade him to put them down so that he could be moved to another area of the school.

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

Ms Jade Jihan SAFEIN, New South Wales

On the afternoon of 2 April 2013, Ms Jade Safein assisted in the rescue of a woman from a burning house in Merrylands, New South Wales.

Ms Safein, a community worker, was attending the house to care for the elderly woman resident. She had smelt smoke and discovered fire in a front bedroom. After she had tried unsuccessfully to extinguish the flames, she alerted emergency authorities and the resident's family and then tried to drag the woman, who had limited mobility, to safety. Unable to drag the woman outside, Ms Safein left the house to seek help. With the assistance of a passing taxi driver who stopped at the scene, she re-entered the house, now visibly alight and filling with thick smoke, and together with the taxi driver, she found the resident and carried her to safety.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Alex John SAINSBURY, Yeppoon Qld 4703

On 13 April 2012, Mr Alex Sainsbury helped to rescue members of a group of families from drowning at Sandy Point Creek in Yeppoon, Queensland.

Mr Sainsbury and three other men were driving along the beach when they were alerted to four children and two women in difficulty in the water. Mr Sainsbury swam out to one of the children being held afloat by another rescuer, took hold of the child and swam him safely to shore. He then re-entered the water to help one of his friends in the rescue of a child who was clinging to one of the women in difficulty. The woman had initially gone into the water to help with the rescue but was beneath the surface and unresponsive. Mr Sainsbury took hold of the child from his friend and swam her safely to shore.

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

Mr Robert Shane SCOTT, Moore Park Beach Qld 4670

Throughout the afternoon of 28 January 2013, Mr Robert Scott drove an inflatable rigid boat (IRB) to support rescue and recovery services following severe floods in Bundaberg, Queensland.

Mr Scott, a volunteer surf life saver, was assigned to operate the IRB in support of the emergency services' response to the inundation of the city, which had seen more than 7,500 residents forced to evacuate from nearly 2,000 homes. Mr Scott worked with emergency services personnel who were searching for people missing or trapped in the areas most seriously affected by the floodwaters. He navigated the IRB through fast flowing, debris laden water, entering the water several times to move the boat over submerged obstacles and holding it while houses were investigated. In one case, he navigated the boat to a damaged house containing a deceased person. Mr Scott kept the boat steady, despite challenges posed by the compromised structure and underwater hazards, while emergency services officers located the body and prepared it for removal.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Senior Constable Amit SINGH, Queensland Police

On the afternoon of 22 April 2013, Senior Constable (then Constable) Amit Singh rescued a woman from a river at Doomadgee, Queensland.

Constable Singh and a colleague were patrolling Domadgee community looking for a woman required for police business. When they found her, the woman ran away and jumped into the Nicholson River, swimming out about 10 metres and climbing a half-submerged tree. As Constable Singh negotiated with her, a crocodile appeared in the water about 20 metres from the woman. The woman threatened to jump onto some sharp sticks protruding from the water if the officers entered the river. Eventually, she requested that Constable Singh help her back to the river bank. With his colleague keeping watch for the crocodile, Constable Singh entered the water and swam to the tree. As he climbed onto the tree, the woman tried to push him back into the water, and threatened to kill herself. After negotiating for 30 minutes longer, Constable Singh convinced the woman to accompany him back to the river bank.

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

Mrs Kylie Sheree SMITH, Bouldercombe Qld 4702

On 13 April 2012, Ms Kylie Smith helped to rescue members of a group of families from drowning at Sandy Point Creek in Yeppoon, Queensland.

Ms Smith, who was part of the group, was alerted by screams to four children and two women in difficulty in the water. She swam out to one of the children, who was being held afloat by an adult, took hold of the child and swam him safely to shore. She then re-entered the water to help others attempting to rescue one of the women in difficulty. The woman had initially gone into the water to help with the rescue but was beneath the surface and unresponsive. Ms Smith held on to the woman and with the assistance of a rope, she and the woman were eventually pulled to shore.

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

Mr James Mark STIRLING, Umina NSW 2257

On the evening of 1 March 2003, Mr James Stirling helped disarm and restrain a woman who was threatening herself and others with a knife in Woy Woy, New South Wales.

Mr Stirling, an ambulance officer, and a colleague attended the offender's home after she had threatened self-harm. When they arrived, the woman ordered them inside and, threatening them with a large knife, forced them to lock the door. Mr Stirling discreetly activated his radio duress alarm. He then followed the woman's instructions to phone a nearby police station requesting a particular police officer to attend, all the while attempting to calm the woman and his colleague. A policeman, who arrived at the scene, managed to surprise the woman by quickly entering the room and spraying her with capsicum spray. Mr Stirling struck her with a coffee table, causing her to drop the knife and fall to the ground, then assisted in restraining her until she was arrested.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Nathan Peter WALL, Gresford NSW 2311

In the very early hours of 5 January 2008, Mr Nathan Wall rescued a man from drowning in the Upper Allyn River at Lady's Well, New South Wales.

After witnessing the man being washed over a waterfall and hitting his head on rocks, Mr Wall dived into the water at the bottom of the falls. In darkness, he pulled the semi-conscious man from the water's vortex and swam him to safety on the other side of the river. While restraining the distressed swimmer from re-entering the water, Mr Wall provided first aid and stayed with him for approximately two hours until emergency services personnel arrived to help them safely cross the river.

For his actions, Wall is commended for brave conduct.

Mr Reynold Dwayne WILLIAMS, 1/9 Turner Street, Orana WA 6330

On the afternoon of 21 March 2008, Mr Reynold Williams helped save a man from drowning after he was washed off the rocks into the sea at Salmon Holes in Albany, Western Australia.

Initially, a friend of the man threw him a lifebuoy, but the man could not swim and was unable to reach the device. Mr Williams and his friend saw the man struggling to stay afloat and immediately jumped into the water with a fishing buoy. They tied the fishing buoy to the man, allowing him to float and regain his breath. Mr Williams and his friend then attempted to swim the man back to shore. However, in the large swells and rough conditions, they began to struggle themselves. They reassured the man that if he held on to the buoy he would be rescued, before they let him go and swam back to shore. The man was subsequently rescued by a responding Search and Rescue vessel.

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

Miss Lareena May WOODS, Albany WA 6330

On the afternoon of 21 March 2008, Miss Lareena Woods helped save a man from drowning after he was washed off the rocks into the sea at Salmon Holes in Albany, Western Australia.

Initially, a friend of the man threw him a lifebuoy, but the man could not swim and was unable to reach the device. Ms Woods and her friend saw the man struggling to stay afloat and immediately jumped into the water with a fishing buoy. They tied the fishing buoy to the man, allowing him to float and regain his breath. Ms Woods and her friend then attempted to swim the man back to shore. However, in the large swells and rough conditions, they began to struggle themselves. They reassured the man that if he held on to the buoy he would be rescued, before they let him go and swam back to shore. The man was subsequently rescued by a responding Search and Rescue vessel.

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