

## **COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT (CBC)**

### **Mr Nicholas Edward BARNETT, Sussex Inlet NSW 2540**

On the afternoon of 7 February 2014, Mr Nicholas Barnett assisted in the attempted rescue of two people who were trapped in a burning house in Gerringong, New South Wales.

Mr Barnett and another man were working at a building site near Geering Street, Gerringong when they saw thick smoke emanating from a nearby residence and immediately went to investigate. They saw an elderly man and woman trapped on a balcony of the two story residence. Despite the upper part of the house being well alight, Mr Barnett assisted his colleague to climb up to the balcony to rescue the elderly couple.

The frail man struggled against Mr Barnett's colleague, causing him to fall to the ground. Mr Barnett again helped him to climb up to the balcony and get the frail man over the railing. He then assisted in catching the elderly man when he jumped to the ground. Mr Barnett restrained his colleague from again climbing to the balcony as burning debris began to fall from the house. They then moved the elderly man to safety. Sadly both the man and woman did not survive the incident.

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

### **Miss Jade-Elle Piper BROWN, 74 Eatonvale Road, Tinana Qld 4650**

On the morning of 2 October 2013, Miss Jade-Elle Brown rescued her younger sister trapped in a crushed vehicle cabin near Torbanlea in Queensland.

A mobile motor home, travelling along the Bruce Highway near Torbanlea, collided with a dual-cab utility. On impact the motor home flipped, landed on top of the utility, and crushed the roof down to door level. Miss Brown, who was aged eight years at the time, together with her two sisters and the driver, were inside the cabin of the crushed dual-cab.

Several passers-by rushed to the scene to assist, with one man immediately going to the rear of the overturned motor home and turning off the external gas bottles to prevent an explosion. As Miss Brown and the male driver were pulled from the crushed vehicle, the occupants of the motor home also exited their vehicle.

Miss Brown's twin sister was also pulled out of the wreck by others who had stopped to assist. At this point Miss Brown heard her other younger sister screaming that she was still trapped in the crushed cab and couldn't get out. She immediately crawled back into the ute and undid her sister's seatbelt, releasing her, and allowing others to pull the young girl outside. Miss Brown then managed to crawl out of the vehicle.

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

## **COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT (CBC)**

### **Mr Declan Jesse BURNETT, Victoria**

In the late evening of 12 April 2013, Mr Declan Burnett assisted in the rescue of two people from a burning vehicle near Bendigo in Victoria.

Mr Burnett was driving along Mandurang Road at Spring Gully, near Bendigo, when he came upon a vehicle which had crashed into a tree. A small fire had ignited at the front end of the vehicle and the tree was beginning to catch alight. Mr Burnett stopped his vehicle and went to assist two other motorists who were already on the scene, and who had managed to remove the driver, and were attempting to remove the passenger from the burning vehicle.

With both the front, right hand side of the vehicle and the tree well alight, one of the other men smashed the passenger door window with a carjack. Mr Burnett then assisted in pulling the semi-conscious passenger out through the door window. They then dragged the passenger away to safety before the vehicle was completely engulfed by fire. Fortunately the rescued men survived the incident.

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

### **Mr Daniel David CANNON, Perth WA 6000**

On the morning of 23 January 2015, Mr Daniel Cannon assisted in the rescue of three people who were caught in a rip at Munglinup Beach in Western Australia.

Mr Cannon was holidaying at Munglinup Beach when he became aware that a man and his two sons were caught in a powerful rip and were being pulled out towards large crashing waves. He immediately located a surfboard and paddled about three hundred metres to reach the trio.

He placed the youngest boy onto his board and returned him safely to the beach. He then saw that the father and son had been pulled further out and were about 400 metres from the shore. They had been swept behind the reef where mountainous surf was breaking.

Mr Cannon re-entered the surf and paddled out across the reef through the breaking surf to reach the pair. He reassured them and assisted them to stay afloat. Realising they needed maximum floatation to survive, Mr Cannon left the surfboard with them and swam towards the shore whilst being pummelled by waves.

Despite being exhausted, he assisted others on the beach to maintain watch on the pair, who remained floating in the water. Later, during a lull in the waves, the man and his son were able to make it back to the safety of the shore.

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

## **COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT (CBC)**

### **Miss Sarah Elizabeth DAY, Northern Territory**

In the late afternoon of 24 December 2014, Miss Sarah Day rescued an unconscious man from the sea at Petrel Cove in South Australia.

Miss Day was swimming with family members at Petrel Cove when she observed two men, who were fully clothed, swimming in an area that she knew could be dangerous. Miss Day immediately waded over to one of the men, told him they were not safe, and indicated a safer area for them to swim.

A short time later, Miss Day heard shouts from several men who were standing on top of the rocks. Miss Day and another person ran towards the rocky outcrop and realised someone was caught in a powerful rip. Despite being unable to see anyone in the water, Miss Day entered a rock pool to search for the missing person. Unable to initially locate anyone she was directed to a body which was under the surface behind her.

Miss Day looked underwater and saw a man face down. She dove into the water, grabbed him under both arms, and tried to get his head above the surface. She swam the man to the nearby rocks where others were able to move him onto a flat surface and administer CPR. Unfortunately the man was unable to be revived.

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

### **Senior Constable Michael DIETRICH, New South Wales Police**

On the afternoon of 2 March 2013, Senior Constable Michael Dietrich of NSW Police rescued two people and their dogs from a flooded waterway at Bobs Creek in New South Wales.

Following several days of heavy rain in the Mid North Coast of New South Wales, a vehicle containing two people and their dogs was washed from the bridge at Bobs Creek Road into the flooded Cutty Creek. Senior Constable Dietrich was at home with his son when he was alerted by a neighbour that a vehicle was submerged in the creek. They immediately raced to the scene and saw a 4WD vehicle about thirty metres downstream in the swollen creek wedged against several trees.

Senior Constable Dietrich immediately attached a rope around his chest and tied the other end onto his neighbour's vehicle. He jumped from the bridge into the raging water and made his way to the submerged vehicle.

As his neighbour and son held onto the rope, Senior Constable Dietrich managed to pull himself onto the bonnet of the stuck 4WD. He grabbed hold of an elderly woman and, as his neighbour and son pulled on the rope, he carried her back to the safety of shallow water. He then returned to the vehicle three more times and rescued the family's dogs at the man's insistence, and then he returned and assisted the man to safety.

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

**For contact information on the above recipient please contact the relevant state police jurisdiction's media section.**

## **COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT (CBC)**

### **Miss Rachel Elise EHLBECK, Kiama NSW 2533**

On the morning of 12 June 2014, Miss Rachel Ehlbeck stopped a moving vehicle when the female driver became unwell at Bundanoon in New South Wales.

Miss Ehlbeck was travelling along Bundanoon Road when she saw another vehicle, which was travelling in the same direction as herself, swerving over the road. She observed the erratic vehicle cross into the path of an oncoming vehicle before it swerved back onto the road shoulder where it almost hit a tree.

On a narrow stretch of road, Ms Ehlbeck immediately accelerated and overtook the offending vehicle. She then slowly reduced speed over the next few minutes and managed to bring the offending vehicle to a stop. Ms Ehlbeck then went to the driver and saw that the elderly woman was semi-conscious. On a search of the woman's wallet, she discovered that the driver was a diabetic and was suffering from an insulin attack.

Assisted by others who had stopped to help, they called 000 and comforted the woman until the police and ambulance personnel arrived.

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

### **Mr Neil Phillip FARNSWORTH, Red Hill South Vic 3937**

During the afternoon of 13 February 2012, Mr Neil Farnsworth assisted a woman who was trapped in a burning vehicle at Dromana in Victoria.

Mr Farnsworth was travelling along the Nepean Highway at Dromana when he came upon a vehicle accident. He stopped his vehicle and immediately went to investigate.

He saw a female driver, who was trapped in her vehicle, being choked by thick smoke caused by a fire in the engine bay. Mr Farnsworth gave the woman, who had suffered serious injuries, a piece of clothing and told her to breathe through it.

Mr Farnsworth then retrieved several fire extinguishers from other bystanders and eventually was able to extinguish the flames in the engine bay, which kept reigniting. As hot water began to drip onto the woman's legs he used water from a drink bottle and poured it onto her to alleviate the effects of the hot water. He remained with the woman until emergency services arrived and removed her from the vehicle.

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

## **COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT (CBC)**

### **Mr Jordan John HEADRICK, Kenmore Qld 4069**

At noon on 17 January 2015, Mr Jordan Headrick chased and apprehended an armed offender at Kenmore in Queensland.

Mr Headrick was waiting for a doctor's appointment in the courtyard at a Kenmore medical centre when he heard calls for help. He saw a masked man, carrying a small knife, running away after an attempted robbery of a nearby pharmacy.

He immediately gave chase. Two other men who had witnessed the incident also chased after the offender. Mr Headrick and the two other men followed the offender onto the grounds of a nearby school. Mr Headrick caught the offender, tackling him to the ground, whilst injuring his knee in the process. As the man hit the ground he lost his grip on the knife.

The other two men then caught up to Mr Headrick and the offender and assisted in restraining the man until police arrived.

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

### **Mr Steven David HIRD, Bowen Qld 4805**

On the evening of 14 November 2013, Mr Steven Hird assisted at the scene of a burning vehicle at Aratula in Queensland.

A prime mover travelling along the Cunningham Highway at Mount Edwards collided with a sedan, pushing it 95 metres along the road. The truck driver was able to climb out of his damaged vehicle before it caught fire. The female driver of the sedan was unconscious in the front seat of the vehicle, and her nine month old daughter was in the rear.

Two other truck drivers had stopped to assist and encountered flames coming from the engine bay of the sedan and also from the truck. The truck's fuel tank had ruptured spilling a considerable amount of diesel fuel over the roadway.

Mr Hird came upon the scene, pulled his truck over, grabbed his fire extinguishers, and ran to provide assistance. He noticed one of the truck drivers had an infant in his arms that had just been removed from the vehicle. He was informed that the driver was still in the car. Mr Hird went to the passenger side of the car and joined another man with a fire extinguisher who was attempting to put out the flames.

Mr Hird tried to open the passenger door to get to the driver but it was jammed shut and he was unable to open it. The door was very hot and it was difficult to get close to the vehicle. He used his fire extinguishers to help quell the flames but was unsuccessful. The infant was taken to safety to await the arrival of emergency services personnel. Sadly, the female driver did not survive the accident.

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

## **COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT (CBC)**

**Mrs Desleigh Lorraine JONES**, PO Box 5603, West End Qld 4101

In the late morning of 20 May 2015, Ms Desleigh Jones assisted in the rescue of a man who was drowning in the Brisbane River in Queensland.

Ms Jones was at South Bank when she noticed two people swimming towards a man in the middle of the river struggling to stay afloat.

She called to the pair to ask if they were lifesavers and then the woman in the water asked her to help. At this stage Ms Jones, who had recently completed a life saver refresher course, entered the cold water and swam out to assist.

The other woman was the first to reach the barely conscious man. She grabbed him and they went below the surface of the water. She then pulled him up and then Ms Jones and another man reached the pair. They managed to flag down a passing City Cat ferry and made their way to it. With great difficulty they managed to push the man onto a ladder that had been dropped over the side of the vessel. With the assistance of the ferry crew they managed to get the man aboard. The ferry then reached the dock at South Bank where emergency service personnel were waiting. Fortunately the man survived.

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

**Senior Constable Patrick Edward LARKINS**, South Australia Police

On the evening of 29 December 2011, Senior Constable Patrick Larkins went to the assistance of another police officer who was being assaulted.

Senior Constable Larkins was on annual leave and was visiting a town in remote South Australia when he went to the assistance of the acting officer-in-charge of the local police station who had been assaulted.

As the two police officers were discussing how to manage the situation, a group of ten men became agitated and, armed with rocks, approached and threw them at the local police officer. The man who had previously assaulted the officer was now in possession of an iron bar and was threatening him.

Senior Constable Larkins, who was in civilian clothes, moved to the group and attempted to negotiate with them. He approached the main offender and forced him to release the iron bar whilst his injured colleague ordered the group to drop their remaining rocks.

A resident of the area drove upon the scene and immediately went to assist the two police officers. He also began to negotiate with the group, physically stopping several individuals as they attempted to attack the local police officer. When another offender ran towards the officer, the man attempted to intercept him and pushed him away. The offender then continued towards the local police officer and Senior Constable Larkins tackled him to the ground. He and the other man continued to negotiate with the group until they eventually dispersed.

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

**For contact information on the above recipient please contact the relevant state police jurisdiction's media section.**

## **COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT (CBC)**

**Mr Peter James LEE**, 147 Young Street, Parkside SA 5063

In the late afternoon of 24 December 2014, Mr Peter Lee assisted in the rescue of an unconscious man from the sea at Petrel Cove in South Australia.

Mr Lee was swimming with his wife at Petrel Cove when he heard shouts from several men who were standing at the top of the rocks. He and another person ran to the rocky outcrop and realised that someone was caught in a powerful rip.

Mr Lee entered the water, swam to the end of the rocky outcrop, and pulled himself up onto a rock. He then saw the man, who was not moving, being pulled out to sea. At this point Mr Lee was swept off the rocks into the sea and found himself being pulled out by the rip. His wife managed to make her way to him and assisted him out of the water using a boogie board. Mr Lee was then able to reach the rocks and climbed out.

Another person managed to drag the unresponsive man onto the rocks. Mr Lee then got onlookers to move the man away from the crashing waves and onto a flat surface where he was provided with CPR. Unfortunately the man was unable to be revived.

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

**Mr John Matthew McCARTHY**, 559 Oregan Creek Road, Toogoom Qld 4655

On the morning of 2 October 2013, Mr John McCarthy assisted at the scene of a vehicle accident near Torbanlea in Queensland.

A mobile motor home, which was travelling along the Bruce Highway near Torbanlea, collided with a dual-cab utility. On impact the nine tonne motor home flipped, landed on top of the ute, and crushed the roof down to door level. Four people were inside the cabin of the dual-cab.

Mr McCarthy was working on a road repair team nearby and, on hearing the noise of the impact, rushed to the scene to assist. He immediately noticed the external gas bottles at the rear of the mobile home and, fearing the possibility of an explosion, he climbed up onto the camper and managed to turn off both gas bottles.

Several passers-by managed to extract the people in the crushed dual-cab and the occupants of the motor home were also able to exit their vehicle.

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

## **COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT (CBC)**

### **Mr Neil Andrew MAHER, Gungahlin ACT 2912**

On the afternoon of 12 October 2012, Mr Neil Maher rescued two girls from drowning at Gungahlin in the Australian Capital Territory.

Four friends attempted to walk across a stone wall spillway at Yerrabi Pond, which had water flowing over it, when three of the group fell into the very cold water. Whilst one person was able to make it to shore, two people were swept about seventy metres into the middle of the pond. One of the girls, who was unable to swim, fell below the surface of the water before the other girl grabbed hold of her.

Mr Maher was walking with his daughter nearby when he observed a girl struggling to stay afloat in the middle of the pond. He immediately ran to the edge of the pond, dived into the water, and swam out to the girl.

He managed to get hold of the girl and drag her back to the bank. At this stage he realised she was holding on to another girl who was unconscious. He immediately administered CPR to the girl who began to show signs of recovery. Both girls were rushed to hospital suffering from suspected hypothermia and later both made a full recovery.

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

### **Dr David MILLS, 47 Trent Street, Mt Gravatt Qld 4122**

In the late morning of 20 May 2015, Dr David Mills assisted in the rescue of a man who was drowning in the Brisbane River in Queensland.

Dr Mills and a colleague were jogging along the Brisbane River near South Bank when they came across a group of people who were yelling that a man was drowning. They saw the man in the middle of the river, struggling to stay afloat.

His colleague was concerned about sharks being present in the river but Dr Mills reassured her that it was unlikely and they both entered the cold water and swam out to assist the man. At this stage another woman also entered the water and swam out to assist.

Dr Mills caught up to the two women who were supporting the barely conscious man. At this point they flagged down a passing City Cat ferry and made their way to it. With great difficulty they managed to push the man onto a ladder that had been dropped over the side of the vessel, and then they were assisted by the crew to get the man aboard. The ferry then reached the dock at South Bank where emergency service personnel were waiting. Fortunately the man survived.

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

## **COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT (CBC)**

### **Mr Frank NESCI, Gladstone Park Vic 3043**

On the afternoon of 17 December 2013, Mr Frank Nesci removed a petrol bomb that had been thrown into a retail store in Melbourne.

Mr Nesci was working as the security guard at a jewellery store on Bourke Street in Melbourne when a man threw a lit petrol bomb about four metres inside the store. Mr Nesci saw the petrol bomb narrowly miss a customer and two store employees. It bounced off a counter before hitting a chair and subsequently landing at the feet of the customer. There followed a series of small explosions resulting in flames and thick smoke.

Mr Nesci immediately moved to the petrol bomb and attempted to pick it up, but was forced to release it when his hand was burnt. Thinking quickly, Mr Nesci then managed to kick the petrol bomb out of the store and into the street, grabbed a fire extinguisher, and doused the flames to render it safe.

By his actions, Mr Nesci is commended for brave conduct.

### **Ms Genene Marie O'NEILL, Cornubia Qld 4130**

In the late morning of 20 May 2015, Ms Genene O'Neill assisted in the rescue of a man who was drowning in the Brisbane River in Queensland.

Ms O'Neill and her colleague were jogging along the Brisbane River near South Bank when they came across a group of people who were yelling that a man was drowning. They saw the man in the middle of the river, struggling to stay afloat.

Ms O'Neill was concerned about sharks being present in the river but her colleague reassured her that it was unlikely and they both entered the cold water and swam out to assist the man. At this stage another woman also entered the water and swam out to assist.

Ms O'Neill was the first to reach the barely conscious man. She grabbed him and they went below the surface of the water. She then pulled him up and at this stage the second woman reached them, followed by Ms O'Neill's colleague. They managed to flag down a passing City Cat ferry and made their way to it. With great difficulty they managed to push the man onto a ladder that had been dropped over the side of the vessel, and then they were assisted by the crew to get the man aboard. The ferry then reached the dock at South Bank where emergency service personnel were waiting. Fortunately the man survived.

For her actions, Ms O'Neill is commended for brave conduct.

## **COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT (CBC)**

**Miss Chevon Stephanie PARKER**, 73 Jacaranda Street, West Albury NSW 2640

In the early hours of 24 April 2008, Miss Chevon Parker provided assistance following a truck accident at Karara in Queensland.

Miss Parker, then aged five years, was asleep in the cabin of a Kenworth Prime Mover being driven by her father as it travelled along the Cunningham Highway near Karara. The vehicle and its trailer travelled onto the wrong side of the road and impacted at least two trees. After the vehicle came to a stop it caught alight.

Miss Parker woke up and began to assist her father who was trapped behind the wheel. She provided him with a torch, and a drink of water, and tended to his injured hands. Her father told her to leave the truck and she replied that she wanted to stay and help him out of the truck. Her father then again calmly told her to leave the truck and pushed her up and out of the cabin.

She jumped down onto the scorched grass and waited nearby until a passing motorist found her and took her to safety. Unfortunately Mr Parker did not survive the accident after fire engulfed the truck.

By her actions, Miss Parker is commended for brave conduct.

**Mr Stephen PINCZI**, 12 Charlotte Street, Burradoo NSW 2576

On the afternoon of 9 November 2012, Mr Stephen Pinczi rescued two women from a submerged vehicle in the Richmond River at Wardell in New South Wales.

Mr Pinczi was driving with his family along the Pacific Highway at Wardell when he witnessed a people mover vehicle travelling in front of him veer off the freeway. It proceeded to drive at speed through bushland before crashing into the Richmond River.

He immediately pulled his vehicle to the side of the road, instructed his wife to call 000, and ran about eighty metres and jumped into the river where the vehicle had entered the water. By the time he reached the vehicle it was completely submerged. He dove down to the vehicle several times and managed to release the injured female driver who he brought to the surface and to the safety of the river bank.

Mr Pinczi then returned to the vehicle and brought the second woman, who was disabled, to the surface where he was assisted by other people to bring the woman to the safety of the river bank. Fortunately both women made a full recovery.

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

## **COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT (CBC)**

### **Mr Ma'afu-Leka Okusitino RATAHI,**

36/145-147 Chapel Road, Bankstown NSW 2200

On 8 March 2014, Mr Ma'afu-Leka Ratahi apprehended an armed offender during an attempted robbery in Revesby in New South Wales.

In the early evening a man entered a fast food restaurant at Revesby, jumped the counter, and walked through the kitchen to the manager's office. After they observed the offender threatening staff with the intention to rob the store, Mr Ratahi and his friend went to assist.

They entered the kitchen area and approached the offender. As they challenged the man, he removed a concealed large screwdriver from a bag he was carrying and threatened Mr Ratahi with it. The offender then lashed out with the screwdriver, striking him across the wrist and hand.

The other man grabbed the offender and he and Mr Ratahi struggled with him. Mr Ratahi managed to remove the screwdriver and assisted in restraining the offender until police arrived.

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

### **Mr Edward Daniel REECE, C/- Australian High Commission, PO Box 214, Suva, Fiji**

On the morning of 28 April 2015, Mr Edward Reece rescued a colleague after an electrical switchboard explosion at the Australian High Commission in Suva, Fiji.

Mr Reece was working at the High Commission when the main electrical switchboard exploded. A short while later further explosions and electrical sparking occurred at the switchboard site. At this point the fire alarm sounded and staff began to evacuate the building. The High Commission's receptionist was sitting in close proximity to the electrical panel and was unable to evacuate.

Mr Reece heard the receptionist's cries and immediately ran down the hall to her office, despite the hallway filling with acrid smoke. He moved past the arcing switchboard and made his way into the office.

He grabbed the receptionist's arm and pulled her out of the office. He then escorted her past the arcing switchboard and out to safety before the building was engulfed in smoke.

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

## **COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT (CBC)**

**Mr Stephen Rex RICHARDS**, 84 Eatonvale Road, Tinana Qld 4650

On the morning of 2 October 2013, Mr Stephen Richards assisted at the scene of a vehicle accident near Torbanlea in Queensland.

A mobile motor home, which was travelling along the Bruce Highway near Torbanlea, collided with a dual-cab utility being driven by Mr Richards. On impact the nine tonne motor home flipped, landed on top of the ute, and crushed the roof down to door level. Mr Richards and his three young granddaughters were inside the cabin of the dual-cab.

Several passers-by rushed to the scene to assist, with one man immediately going to the rear of the overturned motor home and turning off the external gas bottles to prevent an explosion. As Mr Richards crawled out from the vehicle, after managing to slide under the crushed steering wheel, two of the three passengers were pulled from the vehicle.

After the final young occupant was removed from the wreckage Mr Richards set about ensuring their safety as the cabin of the vehicle was filled with smoke. He provided comfort and support to the three distressed girls and ensured that they remained together when emergency service crews arrived to take them for hospital treatment.

For his actions, Mr Richards is commended for brave conduct

**Mr Glenn Michael SCHWARZ**, Rostrevor SA 5073

In the early hours of the morning of 21 June 2015, Mr Glenn Schwarz alerted people to the presence of a house fire in Rostrevor, South Australia.

Mr Schwarz was asleep at his home in Rostrevor when he was awakened by the sound of a fire alarm. He immediately went to investigate and saw smoke billowing out from under the eaves of a neighbour's house. Mr Schwarz asked his wife to call 000 while he ran to the house and banged on the front door to alert the occupants to the fire.

Inside the house, a mother and her two young children who were asleep awoke to the combined sounds of the fire alarm and Mr Schwarz's banging on the front door. The woman quickly gathered her children and made her way to the front door where she met Mr Schwarz. He confirmed with her that no one else remained inside the house.

Mr Schwarz then grabbed hold of a fire extinguisher and rushed inside the house to a bedroom where he saw the fire was well alight. As he attempted to extinguish the fire it erupted and caused burns to his face, and he was forced to retreat outside. Mr Schwarz was later treated in hospital for smoke inhalation and burns. The house was destroyed by the fire.

By his actions, Mr Schwarz is commended for brave conduct.

## **COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT (CBC)**

### **Mr Anthony Paul SERES, Queensland**

On the morning of 4 May 2014, Mr Anthony Seres entered a burning house to search for occupants at Tallai in Queensland.

Mr Seres was at home when he heard screams coming from a neighbour's house, and immediately went to investigate. He raced to the house and saw it was engulfed in thick smoke and fire. He spoke to two female residents who were in the front yard and they were unsure if a male resident and dog were still inside.

As smoke poured from the tri-level house, Mr Seres got down on his knees and went through the front door to the landing and began to search inside. When he became aware that the male resident and his dog were safe, Mr Seres retreated outside. He then used a garden hose in an effort to stop the fire from reaching gas cylinders on the side of the house. He was subsequently forced back by the blaze which destroyed the house.

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

### **Mr Tyrone Shaquille TAUAMO, 42 McCulloch Road, Blacktown NSW 2148**

On 8 March 2014, Mr Tyrone Taukamo apprehended an armed offender during an attempted robbery in Revesby in New South Wales.

In the early evening a man entered a fast food restaurant at Revesby, jumped the counter, and walked through the kitchen to the manager's office. After they observed the offender threatening staff with the intention to rob the store, Mr Taukamo and his friend went to assist.

They entered the kitchen area and approached the offender. As they challenged the man, he removed a concealed large screwdriver from a bag he was carrying and threatened Mr Taukamo's friend with it. The offender then lashed out, striking the man across the wrist and hand.

Mr Taukamo grabbed the offender and he and the other man struggled with him. The other man managed to remove the screwdriver from the offender and assisted in restraining him until police arrived.

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

## **COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT (CBC)**

**Mr David Joseph WOOD**, 12/6 Avenue Road, Mosman NSW 2088

On the morning of 9 February 2013, Mr David Wood assisted a man who got into difficulty while diving at Palm Beach in New South Wales.

An experienced diver, Mr Wood and another man were completing an advanced dive course at the historic wreck of the S.S. Tuncurry located at a depth of sixty-one metres. As they undertook dive skills training their dive instructor suffered a seizure and dislodged the breathing regulator from his mouth. The other diver tried unsuccessfully to replace the regulator.

When the dive instructor's seizure abated Mr Wood also attempted to force the man's mouth open to insert the regulator but was unsuccessful. Realising the urgent need to get the instructor to the surface the instructor's buoyancy control device was inflated and he began to float upwards.

Ignoring his own decompression obligations, Mr Wood ascended rapidly to the surface with his stricken colleague. When the instructor was pulled aboard the dive vessel, Mr Wood assisted with resuscitation attempts. Later, when the instructor was transferred onto a police vessel, Mr Wood continued to assist with CPR.

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