

GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

Awardees comprise the crew of the fishing vessel “*Josephine Jean*” who rescued the crew of a sinking yacht that was participating in the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race

Mr Martin John BOWDEN

Mr Jason COLE

Mr Thorvaldur (Ollie) HREINSSON

In the early evening of 27 December 1998, the crew of the “*Josephine Jean*” were fishing in waters off Eden when they received a call to assist in the retrieval of a stricken yacht, the “*Milintinta*”, which was participating in the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race. The yacht, with six sailors on board, was reported to be sinking about 40 miles off Nora Head but when the “*Josephine Jean*” arrived at that location the yacht was not there. The “*Josephine Jean*”, on advice from the Eden Coastal Patrol, sent up flares. A passing cargo ship responded and advised them of the yacht’s correct location. It took the “*Josephine Jean*” eight hours to find the yacht, which by then was taking on water. The crew were able to get a towline to the “*Milintinta*” and started towing it in 30 to 40 knot winds and a 5-metre sea. When the towline broke another was attached but it too broke. A member of the crew of “*Milintinta*” advised that the crew was very tired from bailing water and requested that they be taken on board “*Josephine Jean*”. The skipper of the “*Josephine Jean*” asked them to board their life raft and drift until they were alongside. He then used the “*Josephine Jean*” as a buffer against the waves as the crew of the “*Milintinta*” were assisted on board. After approximately 19 hours the “*Josephine Jean*” returned the crew of “*Milintinta*” safely to Eden.

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GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

Awardees comprise the crew of the fishing vessel "*Moira Elizabeth*" who rescued the crew of a dismasted yacht that was participating in the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race.

Mr Thomas Francis BIBBY
Mr Andrew Aian HOGG
Mr Steven Lloyd LEE
Mr Justin Leigh MEIER

At around 4.40pm on 27 December 1998, the skipper and crew of the fishing vessel "*Moira Elizabeth*" received a call to assist a dismasted vessel, "*Team Jaguar*", a participant of the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race with 17 sailors on board. The "*Moira Elizabeth*" had been sheltering between Eden and Gabo Island but immediately set out in strong winds and high seas to the location provided, anticipating that it would reach the stricken yacht in daylight. Upon arrival at the location the yacht could not be found. Subsequently the ABC helicopter hovering over "*Team Jaguar*" provided a new position and the "*Moira Elizabeth*" turned and made its way back some 18 kilometres through huge seas, 60 knot winds and oncoming darkness. Arriving at the new location at around midnight, the stricken yacht again could not be located. Realising that the crew of the yacht would by now be in serious distress, the skipper of the "*Moira Elizabeth*" advised he would continue with the search and, at around 4.00am on 28 December, found them. In the rough seas and with visibility reduced to nil the crew of the "*Moira Elizabeth*" unsuccessfully attempted to float a line to "*Team Jaguar*". They decided to wait until daylight and at 5.45am a line was successfully attached between the two vessels and "*Team Jaguar*" was taken under tow and returned safely to Eden at around midday.

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