

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Stewart John ATCHISON, Geelong Vic 3218

On the afternoon of 29 July 2008, Mr Atchison assisted in rescuing an elderly woman from an attack at a Noosa Heads beach, Queensland.

Mr Atchison was at the beach with his family when he heard a loud commotion on a nearby boardwalk. He could see a fight taking place, and as he approached the scene, saw a man assaulting an elderly lady who was lying on the ground. Two elderly men had been trying to push the offender away with their hands when Mr Atchison grabbed him around the neck. The offender pushed him away and continued with his unprovoked attack on the defenceless woman, punching her in the face with his clenched fist. As the offender continued his verbal threats to kill the woman, Mr Atchison struggled with him, helped by others at the scene. Together they pinned the offender down and restrained him until police arrived.

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

Mr David John BEVAN-LEWIS, Vic

On the afternoon of 29 April 2007, Mr Bevan-Lewis assisted in the rescue of a man from a burning house at Hope Valley, South Australia.

Mr Bevan-Lewis was driving with his brother-in-law when they noticed a burning air conditioning unit attached to a house. In the front yard they found a young man who had locked himself out of the house, clearly distressed and panicking because his father was trapped inside. Mr Bevan-Lewis helped in trying to break down the front door but it was securely locked. While his brother-in-law was attempting to enter another part of the house, Mr Bevan-Lewis checked other entry points as the fire continued to spread. As he grabbed a steel ladder to smash open a door, he heard a loud explosion from inside and the sound of rushing gas. Running back to the front of the house he made another attempt at entry. Hearing a dog barking inside he leant through a side window and was able to pull the animal to safety. Reaching in again through the thick smoke, Mr Bevan-Lewis grabbed a seriously burnt man from his brother-in-law who had entered the house, and dragged the man to safety. Sadly, the man died some days later as a result of his injuries.

For his actions, Mr Bevan-Lewis is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Alfred BOGE, C/- Pacific Casino, PO Box 1298, Honiara, Solomon Islands

During riots in Honiara, Solomon Islands in April 2006, Mr Boge was actively involved in defending the Pacific Casino Hotel and protecting and rescuing guests.

During civil disorder uprisings in 2006, Mr Boge, a security guard at the Pacific Casino Hotel, alerted his colleagues that rioters were heading for the hotel. In an afternoon uprising, rioters began launching a barrage of rocks and other heavy projectiles at police officers. Mr Boge assisted police move a number of guests away from the hotel which was under sustained attack. Discovering that some civilians were unaccounted for, Mr Boge, a prison advisor and two police officers returned to the hotel. As they searched for guests, a number of rioters armed with machetes began to invade the hotel. However they were repelled by police officers with drawn side arms. In the panic and confusion of the riot, Mr Boge helped locate thirteen people in their rooms as well as staff. He then joined other rescuers in escorting the evacuees from the hotel, finding a boat to transport them from the scene, enabling them later to be transferred to the safety of a police vessel.

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

Mr Steven Feruccio BRESCACIN, Kalamunda WA 6076

Details not released at the request of Mr Brescacin.

Mr Kent Francis BROTHERTON, Bundoora Vic 3083

On the afternoon of 14 May 2007, Mr Brotherton assisted in the rescue of three people from a burning house at Mount Waverley, Victoria.

Mr Brotherton and two colleagues were engaged in plumbing work at a block of units, when they became aware that one of the apartments was on fire. The fire brigade was called, and the men tried to raise the alarm with the occupants. Unable to do so, Mr Brotherton and his two co-workers acted quickly, forcing their way into the unit. The lounge room was ablaze as they entered the apartment. The men raced through the rooms, finding a man and his son asleep in a bedroom. The men woke the pair and ushered them from the building. Learning that another child was still in the apartment, a further search was made and a young child was found using a computer behind the closed door of another room, oblivious to the fire and the earlier evacuation. As fire engulfed the unit, Mr Brotherton and his colleagues removed the child from the scene and waited for the fire brigade to take control of the situation.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Leslie Ross BURNLEY, Helena Valley WA 6056

On the morning of 4 October 2007, Mr Burnley assisted with the rescue of a woman from a burning vehicle at Lesmurdie, Western Australia.

On the road with his truck and a backhoe onboard, Mr Burnley was flagged down for assistance at the scene of a serious accident. A large prime mover had clipped the rear of a van forcing it off the road where it collided with a tree. The driver of the van was semi-conscious, trapped in the wreckage. Plumes of thick black smoke were billowing from the van as the interior of the cabin caught fire. Other people at the scene attempted to remove the woman but her head was trapped by the collapsed roof and her legs were pinned in the footwell. As attempts were made to extinguish the fire, Mr Burnley acted quickly to employ his backhoe. With a chain connected from it to the front pillar and then the door pillar of the wreckage, in successive actions he was able to leverage the roof and door back sufficiently to enable the driver to be released. As the woman was being carried away to safety, the van became entirely engulfed in flames.

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

Mr Pascal CABOOTER, Oostende, Belgium

On the afternoon of 3 September 2001, Mr Cabooter assisted in the rescue of two people thrown from a boat into rough seas near Neptune Islands, South Australia.

Mr Cabooter and his wife were members of a great white shark diving expedition operating near the North Neptune Islands off Port Lincoln in South Australia. The expeditioners had landed by boat on one of the islands where they had spotted a group of great white sharks. But as the ocean swell rose quickly, turning the waters treacherous, an aluminium tender boat was dispatched to transfer the party back to the expedition vessel. Picking up three female passengers for the first leg of the transfer, the skipper attempted to break through the huge swells but the craft was overturned throwing everyone into rough seas. Mr Cabooter dived into the freezing waters, swimming to his wife and dragging her some thirty metres back to the safety of the rocks. Seeing another woman in distress, and although exhausted, Mr Cabooter returned to the choppy seas and made a second successful rescue attempt, swimming the woman to safety.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Sean CAVANAGH, Heritage Park Qld 4118

During the afternoon of 4 October 2005, Mr Cavanagh rescued up to 150 Iraqi soldiers from a burning army tent city at An Numaniyah, Iraq.

Mr Cavanagh was working in Iraq as a project medic for a United State Department of Defence Contractor. On the afternoon of the incident, flames engulfed the Iraqi Army Tent City which housed a basic training brigade. In quick succession, tents ignited, creating flames and heat of such intensity that it was almost impossible to get near the inferno. Mr Cavanagh ran amongst the lines of tents, pushing his way through the choking black smoke and flames, grabbing or carrying out occupants, many of whom had been sleeping. As he did so Mr Cavanagh continued to scream out, alerting Iraqi soldiers in nearby tents to evacuate the scene. Although affected by burns and debilitated by smoke inhalation, Mr Cavanagh remained on duty, administering first aid to victims.

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

Mrs Mary Margaret COSH, Acacia Ridge Qld 4110

Details not released at the request of Mrs Cosh.

Ms Maureen Mary CRAWFORD, 1 Coral Crescent, Dubbo NSW 2830

On the afternoon of 22 September 2004, Ms Crawford rescued a pilot from an aircraft after it crash landed near Coonamble, New South Wales.

Ms Crawford witnessed the crash of a crop duster aircraft, and raising the alarm with neighbours, drove her vehicle to the crash site several hundred metres away. The aircraft was totally destroyed. Quickly assessing the seriousness of the crash, and despite the risk of fire and ruptured insecticide tanks, Ms Crawford reached into the damaged cockpit to try to free the semi-conscious pilot. The man was still restrained by the seat harness and had sustained compound fractures to both arms. The awkward situation was worsened by the surrounding wreckage, however Ms Crawford remained at the scene until she was able to remove the restraints and free the man from the cockpit. As she helped drag his almost dead weight from the aircraft, the pilot fell to the ground. Ms Crawford assisted him to her vehicle where she comforted him until neighbours and ambulance officers arrived at the scene.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Kenneth Sydney DACOMB, Cavendish Vic 3314

On the morning of 10 April 2006, Mr Dacomb confronted and chased a man armed with a knife following an incident at a pharmacy at Hamilton, Victoria.

As Mr Dacomb entered a pharmacy, an assistant was fleeing the scene warning him that an armed man had trapped one of the staff inside and was stealing drugs. Mr Dacomb ran to his car and called police before grabbing a length of timber for protection. He then pursued the man on foot, chasing him through an adjacent park. The man paused and threatened Mr Dacomb with a large knife. Dropping some of the stolen drugs, the man ran off again with Mr Dacomb in pursuit. Mr Dacomb again cornered the armed man and was threatened as the man brandished the knife. Mr Dacomb continued the chase, using his mobile phone to alert police to their location. As a result of Mr Dacomb's determination and quick thinking, police were able to locate and apprehend the offender.

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

Mr Ricky James DARE, Fortitude Valley Qld 4006

In the early hours of 4 January 2005, Mr Dare assisted in the rescue of a man from a burning car at North Hobart, Tasmania.

Mr Dare was a passenger in a friend's car travelling north on the Brooker Highway when a fire was spotted ahead on the opposite side of the road. Nearing the scene, Mr Dare and his friend were waved down at a single vehicle accident. The car was well alight as Mr Dare phoned for emergency services. While he was attempting to find a way into the burning vehicle to check for the driver, his friend had located a man who was partially on fire at the rear of the vehicle. Mr Dare helped move the man away from the vehicle which was engulfed in fire. He began ripping away the driver's burning and smouldering clothes, using his hands and clothing to quell the flames. Mr Dare then approached other passersby instructing them to find water to comfort and stabilise the man who had regained partial consciousness. Ambulance officers arrived to convey the man to hospital, but sadly he died several hours later as a result of his injuries.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Cossie John DOYLE, Qld

During the night of 13 February 2008, Mr Doyle assisted in a rescue attempt in floodwaters near Gogango, Queensland.

Torrential rains had cut roads and flooded waterways throughout central Queensland including the Gogango Creek west of Rockhampton. Mr Doyle attended the scene of an accident, hearing that a man and a woman and their two children were trapped in a flooded lagoon after their vehicle was washed off the roadway. During a series of rescue attempts, the man and his children were pulled from the water, however the children's mother was unable to move. She was barely conscious and clinging to a partially submerged tree. As rain continued, Mr Doyle jumped into the water and negotiated his way through floating and submerged debris. He reached the woman who was now having great difficulty to stay afloat. Working with other rescuers, Mr Doyle helped drag the woman back to the bank of the lagoon where she collapsed. CPR was commenced, but sadly, the woman was unable to be revived.

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

Mr Neale Michael DUNPHY BM, 'Roselea', Gogango Qld 4702

During the night of 13 February 2008, Mr Dunphy assisted in a rescue attempt in floodwaters near Gogango, Queensland.

Torrential rains had cut road and flooded waterways throughout central Queensland including the Gogango Creek west of Rockhampton. Mr Dunphy, a member of the Rural Fire Brigade, was alerted that a man and a woman and their two children were trapped in a flooded lagoon after their vehicle was washed off the roadway. Lighting was barely adequate at the scene as Mr Dunphy entered the water. Working his way from one partly submerged tree to another in the swollen lagoon, Mr Dunphy made his way to the woman who was clinging to a tree. She was struggling to hold aloft her six month old son and reluctantly handed him to rescuers. However, the woman was now exhausted and barely conscious, unable to remain above the surface. Forming up a chain with a group of other rescuers, Mr Dunphy helped drag the woman through the lagoon and back up to the roadway where she finally collapsed. CPR was commenced but sadly, the woman was unable to be revived.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Paul David EUSTANCE, The Gardens NT 0820

On the morning of 2 October 2005, Mr Eustance assisted a man who had been assaulted at Darwin, Northern Territory.

In the early hours of the morning, Mr Eustance was leaving a nightclub and noticed a man being physically assaulted and verbally abused. The victim was on the ground being punched as Mr Eustance walked across the road to intervene. He confronted the offender to distract him from the victim. The offender ceased his attack and turned his attention to Mr Eustance, questioning him about an unknown person. As Mr Eustance called to security, the offender used the pause to punch him with a clenched fist, breaking Mr Eustance's nose as he fell backwards. Mr Eustance was treated at hospital for his injuries and some weeks later was readmitted for restorative surgery.

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

Mr Mathew John FROUDE, Nossaville Qld 4566

On the afternoon of 29 July 2008, Mr Froude assisted in rescuing an elderly woman from a vicious attack at a Noosa Heads beach, Queensland.

As Mr Froude walked along a beach track with his wife, he saw a man ahead of him attacking a person lying on the ground. Running to help the victim, Mr Froude was horrified to see that it was an elderly woman being viciously punched around the head. Mr Froude grabbed the offender and was quickly joined in his efforts by another person. However, the offender managed to wrestle himself free of their grip, attempting again to attack the defenceless woman who was barely conscious. Mr Froude again tried to restrain the offender, yelling at him to stop. In the struggle, the offender was pulled to the ground where he repeatedly yelled that he must kill the woman. Mr Froude and several others pinned him down and kept him away from the woman until police officers arrived at the scene.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Senior Constable Ian Frederick GOETHS, Queensland Police

On the morning of 26 December 2003, Senior Constable Goeths apprehended a man who had stabbed four people in a series of incidents at West End, Brisbane.

Senior Constable Goeths and a colleague were on morning shift when they were called to the scene of a series of knife attacks. In an unprovoked action an armed offender had stabbed an elderly pensioner and then knifed a woman and a teenager who had gone to help their neighbour. The offender was sighted soon after, stabbing a defenceless workman in the back. Senior Constable Goeths grabbed the offender, administering capsicum spray. A repeat spray also had no effect, and the attacker continued to stab the victim, ignoring police commands to stop. Senior Constable Goeths then grabbed the offender and pulled him away. He and his colleague took up strategic positions to prevent further attacks on the victim, but the offender lunged at Senior Constable Goeths. The man maintained his menacing behaviour and was fatally wounded as he again advanced on police.

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

Mr Steven Lance GUNSER, 42 Barbarigo Bend, Aveley WA 6069

During riots in Honiara, Solomon Islands in April 2006, Mr Gunser was actively involved in defending the Pacific Casino Hotel and protecting and rescuing guests.

During civil disorder uprisings in 2006, rioters attacked the Pacific Casino Hotel. Mr Gunser, a prison advisor and resident of the hotel, joined a colleague in briefing security staff on a plan to defend life and property. Rioters attempted to break through the defences but were repelled and the hotel entry was secured as Mr Gunser helped ensure all guests were barricaded on the upper levels. Barrages of rocks continued to rain down on the building as a police contingent arrived to clear the area. Mr Gunser briefed the police commander and helped muster guests into a safe area. He later evacuated his wife and a number of guests from the hotel as it came under sustained attack. The evacuees were forced to escape on foot, pelted with stones as they made their way along the water's edge. Mr Gunser hailed a small boat and helped board the evacuees, and through his efforts the group was later intercepted by police, transferring to one of their craft and taken to safety.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Paul Christopher HARRINGTON, Morphett Vale SA 5162

During the night of 5 December 2008, Mr Harrington rescued a man from a burning house at Morphett Vale, South Australia.

Mr Harrington was alerted by a neighbour that a nearby house was on fire. He saw that fire had taken hold inside the building, and tried to force his way through the front door but it was securely locked. Racing to the rear of the property he found the back door open and saw that the ceiling space was filling quickly with thick smoke. Mr Harrington crouched down and moved further into the house, calling out to the elderly owner. Mr Harrington continued to methodically comb the rooms until he found the victim crouching down in the hallway. He squatted down next to the man and guided him back through the house to safety. Grabbing a garden hose, Mr Harrington attempted to quell the flames rising inside the front of the house but was quickly forced back as they vented through the shattered bay window. Mr Harrington returned to the man and reassured him until emergency services arrived.

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

Mr Paul James HEENAN, 16 Diana Street, Underwood Qld 4119

On the morning of 15 February 2007, Mr Heenan rescued a man from a burning truck on the Gateway Arterial Road at the Logan Motorway Overpass, Brisbane, Queensland.

Mr Heenan was travelling along the Gateway Arterial Road and pulled over at the scene of a truck crash. The vehicle's cabin had jumped a concrete barrier and was balancing over the edge adjacent to an embankment while the back of the prime mover remained on the road at a 90 degree angle to the cabin. The body of the truck was on fire, the fuel tanks were ruptured and fuel was spreading over the surrounding area. Mr Heenan saw that fire was begin to take hold of the cabin as he ran to assist the driver. Accessing the compartment through the passenger side door he found the man, unconscious in the foot well. Mr Heenan grabbed him from the burning cabin and pulled him to safety. Moments later the truck was entirely engulfed in flames. Mr Heenan comforted and reassured the victim until medical assistance arrived at the scene.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Robert HIRSCH, 412 Freeman Road, Richlands Qld 4077

In the early hours of 16 October 2004, Mr Hirsch rescued friends from a vehicle accident on the Centenary Highway, Sandy Creek, Queensland.

Mr Hirsch was travelling in a car with several friends when their vehicle suddenly left the road and rolled several times before coming to a halt, overturned on its roof. Mr Hirsch called to everyone in the cabin to check their condition before smashing his window and crawling free of the car. He noticed small fires in the engine bay and quickly extinguished them with handfuls of dirt, and went to assist one of the passengers tangled awkwardly by her seatbelt. The girl was then able to scramble to safety through a window. Mr Hirsch removed a tree covering the side of the vehicle which was blocking the driver's exit. Mr Hirsch pulled him from the car and then assisted in dragging another friend away from the wreckage. Without thought for his own safety, Mr Hirsch lay on the petrol-soaked ground next to a young man trapped behind the driver's seat. He remained with his friend reassuring him and keeping him alert until medical and emergency services arrived at the scene.

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

Mr Glen Philip INGRAM, Vic

During the evening of 2 December 2007, Mr Ingram rescued a man caught in a rip at the Koonya back beach, Sorrento, Victoria.

In the early evening, an hour before sunset, Mr Ingram and a group of friends walked down to a local beach and were paddling in shallow water. Two of the young men swam further out, catching successive breakers. As Mr Ingram watched, one of the men was being drawn seawards, panicking and waving frantically to his friends. Spontaneously, Mr Ingram ran into the sea swimming out to his friend. He tried to keep the young man afloat on his back but the man was highly agitated, struggling to remain upright, reluctant to stay still and conserve his energy. For upwards to ten minutes Mr Ingram fought against the force of the rip, reassuring his friend who was screaming out in distress. Another young man swam out to assist but eventually he was overcome and was forced to swim to shore. Although his friend had lapsed into unconsciousness, sinking below the surface, Mr Ingram continued to swim him towards the beach where friends dragged him from the water. The man was resuscitated on the beach, but sadly, he died two days later in hospital.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Bradley John KIDD, Delaneys Creek Qld 4514

During riots in Honiara, Solomon Islands in April 2006, Mr Kidd was actively involved in defending the Pacific Casino Hotel and protecting and rescuing guests.

During civil disorder uprisings in 2006, rioters attacked the Pacific Casino Hotel. Mr Kidd, a prison advisor quartered at the hotel quickly mustered security guards and instructed them on the defence of the hotel as barrages of rocks rained down. Rioters made repeated attempts to break through, and at one point Mr Kidd's arm was fractured. As the defenders' position became untenable, Mr Kidd checked the safety of his wife and hotel guests. As the riot escalated, Mr Kidd briefed a police commander as they attempted to deter rioters by using tear gas. The following morning as rioting intensified Mr Kidd assisted police to evacuate the hotel, and then returned to look for remaining guests. He walked the evacuees along the coastline until a boat could be found and ensured they were all aboard and transported to safety.

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

Mr John Gerard KILDUFF, PO Box 124, Yarrambat Vic 3091

On the afternoon of 14 May 2007, Mr Kilduff assisted in the rescue of three people from a burning house at Mount Waverley, Victoria.

Mr Kilduff and two colleagues were engaged in plumbing work at a block of units, when they became aware that one of the apartments was on fire. The fire brigade had been called as the men tried desperately to raise the alarm with the occupants. Failing to do so, Mr Kilduff and his co-workers forced their way into the unit and entered a blazing lounge room. The men raced through the rooms, finding a man and his son asleep in a bedroom. They woke the two and got them safely out of the building. Hearing that a second child was still in the burning unit, Mr Kilduff and his colleagues conducted a further search, finding a young child using a computer behind the closed door of a room, entirely unaware of the fire and the earlier evacuation. As fire engulfed the apartment, Mr Kilduff and his colleagues removed the child from the scene and waited for the fire brigade to take control of the situation.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Sergeant Damion Clifford KING, 11 Sago Court, Durack, NT 0830

On the morning of 19 February 2008, Sergeant King attempted the rescue of two army drivers from a vehicle submerged in floodwaters at Corroboree Park, Northern Territory.

Sergeant King watched as an army ambulance veered off the side of a highway and plunge into a flooded creek where it became almost completely submerged. Dragged by a strong current it had become wedged between trees. Seeing that the driver and his instructor had not surfaced, Sergeant King jumped into the water, gripped by an undertow surge swirling with hidden storm debris. He then dived down to free the two soldiers but his vision was seriously impaired by the murky creek. As he resurfaced for air, he saw that the driver had also surfaced. Sergeant King instructed the soldier to cling to the top of the vehicle, and dived down again to search for the driving instructor. As he did so the windscreen of the vehicle caved under the pressure, enabling the soldier to also surface unharmed. Checking the condition of both men, Sergeant King instructed other soldiers using ropes to pull the three to safety.

For his actions, Sergeant King is commended for brave conduct.

Mr David Anthony KING, Lesmurdie WA 6076

On the morning of 4 October 2007, Mr King assisted with the rescue of a woman from a burning vehicle at Lesmurdie, Western Australia.

Mr King was driving to work when he saw that a van had run off the road and the front of the vehicle had collided with a tree. As Mr King ran to offer assistance another man was trying to prise open the driver's door. The cabin was on fire and thick black smoke was billowing through the windows. As others arrived and used fire extinguishers to contain the fire, Mr King retrieved a crowbar from his vehicle and used it to lever open the driver's door. However the victim's head and legs were confined by the wreckage. Mr King quickly attached chains to a backhoe and the van allowing the operator to peel back parts of the roof. He tried to free the driver, cutting away her seatbelt but her legs were still pinned in the footwell. The backhoe was used again to prise away the front of the van and the driver was pulled from the wreckage and carried to safety. Moments later the vehicle was entirely engulfed in flames.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Steven KLADARIC, 23 Sturt Court, Taylors Lakes Vic 3038

During the evening of 2 December 2007, Mr Kladaric went to the rescue of a man caught in a rip at the Koonya back beach, Sorrento, Victoria.

In the early evening, a group of young friends walked down to a local beach and were paddling in shallow water. Two of the men were swimming out to body surf the breakers. One of them was suddenly caught in a rip, and despite his efforts to swim against the current, was dragged seawards, panicking and waving frantically to his friends. One of his friends swam out to him, working to keep him afloat. Mr Kladaric had arrived at the beach and hearing about the incident, also swam out to the victim. Mr Kladaric and the other young rescuer tried to calm the struggling man, coaxing him to float on his back while the two men supported him. However in his growing panic the victim kept struggling to try to remain vertical, reluctant to conserve his energy. Mr Kladaric persisted with his rescue attempt for up to ten minutes, but through sheer exhaustion was forced to make his way back to the beach. The victim was swum back to shore and was resuscitated at the beach, but sadly, died two days later in hospital.

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

Mr Eugene Terrence KUDRAY, Lesmurdie WA 6076

On the morning of 4 October 2007, Mr Kudray assisted with the rescue of a woman from a burning vehicle at Lesmurdie, Western Australia.

As Mr Kudray approached a road intersection, he saw that a van had come off the road and collided with a tree. A number of people were already at the scene as he did a u-turn and made his way back to the accident site. Seeing flames coming from the vehicle, Mr Kudray grabbed a fire extinguisher and raced to the van. The female driver was semi-conscious and trapped in the wreckage. As he tried to contain the fire, he also sprayed down the driver's arms and legs which were partially on fire. While Mr Kudray continued his efforts to extinguish the fire and comfort the driver, other rescuers used a backhoe and chains to prise open parts of the van so that the driver could be freed from the crumpled bodywork. Several rescuers were able to pull the woman from the van and carry her to safety. Moments later the vehicle was entirely engulfed in flames.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Benjamin McGUIRE, Doonan Qld 4562

On the afternoon of 29 July 2008, Mr McGuire assisted in rescuing an elderly woman from a vicious attack at a Noosa Heads beach, Queensland.

Mr McGuire had been walking with his wife and their two young sons when he noticed an agitated man acting oddly and talking to himself. Without provocation, the man reacted as he passed an elderly couple, yelling at the woman and striking her with a clenched fist. He then kicked her in the head repeatedly. Mr McGuire ran to the woman's rescue and was joined by others who had witnessed the attack. Mr McGuire and another man wrestled with the offender forcing him away from the woman while he continued threatening to kill her. As Mr McGuire turned his attention to help the bloodied and seriously injured woman, the offender broke free and began punching her again. Mr McGuire together with several other men were able to drag the offender away from the woman and restrain him until police officers arrived at the scene.

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

Mr Benjamin Thomas MARION, Middlesmount Qld 4746

During the night of 13 February 2008, Mr Marion assisted in a rescue attempt in floodwaters near Gogango, Queensland.

Torrential rains had cut roads and flooded waterways throughout central Queensland including the Gogango Creek west of Rockhampton. Mr Marion attended the scene of an accident, hearing that a man and a woman and their two children were trapped in a flooded lagoon after their vehicle was washed off the roadway. As rain continued to fall Mr Marion jumped into the water and swam out to the woman. She was disoriented and had been holding aloft her six month old child who was able to be rescued. However she was exhausted and barely able to keep her head above water. Mr Marion grabbed the woman and helped drag her to the edge of the water. He then returned to the woman's partner, helping him and his two year old son to safety. Moments later the woman collapsed as a result of her ordeal. Mr Marion began performing CPR and although a pulse could not be detected he continued his efforts until police officers arrived to assist. Sadly, the woman was unable to be revived.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Senior Constable Andrew James MAYFIELD, New South Wales Police

On the morning of 25 November 2007, Senior Constable Mayfield rescued a woman attempting to jump from a hotel balcony, Sydney, New South Wales.

Senior Constable Mayfield and a colleague attended a Sydney CBD hotel following a report that a woman was balancing from a balcony of a ninth floor apartment. Senior Constable Mayfield and other police and emergency service colleagues arrived at the scene to coax the woman away from the ledge but she refused. A civilian and a police officer grabbed the woman by the wrist but as she dangled over the balcony her weight, compounded by her struggles to get free, made it impossible to pull the woman back over the ledge. Senior Constable Mayfield leant over the balcony railing and attempted to handcuff the woman to prevent her from falling. He then tried to reach her other hand but the woman resisted his help. Without a safety harness, Senior Constable Mayfield climbed over the railing and grabbed the woman by the arm. With assistance, the woman was able to be lifted up onto the balcony out of harm's way.

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

Mr Levi PERRY, 8 Winton Crescent, High Wycombe WA 6057

On the morning of 1 July 2007, Mr Perry rescued a woman from an assault in East Melbourne, Victoria.

As a young German tourist walked through East Melbourne in the morning, she was approached by a man unknown to her, offering her a ride in his van. The woman refused and continued to walk away, however the man continued his attempts to engage her, parking his vehicle someway off where he waited for her to walk past. Sensing trouble, the woman turned away to leave but was quickly grabbed around the waist and her mouth covered by the offender's hand. In the struggle she fell to the ground but was able to scream briefly. Mr Perry who was nearby confronted the offender who pretended that the woman was his girlfriend. Assessing that the offender would not release her, Mr Perry reacted quickly and hit him on the face. As a result of his intervention the woman was able to free herself from the offender who hurriedly escaped the scene. Mr Perry reassured the woman, and conscious of her safety escorted her home.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Ross Edward PETTIT, PO Box 346, Bribie Island, Qld 4507

In the early afternoon of 14 December 2007, Mr Pettit rescued a woman from a submerged vehicle on Bribie Island, Queensland.

During a single vehicle accident, a driver inadvertently applied her car's accelerator instead of the brake. The car was propelled through a fence and plunged into a lagoon. Mr Pettit went to investigate, and seeing the car semi-submerged, drifting away from the shore, jumped into the lagoon. The female driver was panicking and highly agitated as Mr Pettit leaned through the open driver's window to undo her seatbelt. He tried opening the driver's door but it was jammed by the water pressure. The car then began to rapidly to submerge so, treading water, Mr Pettit struggled in the awkward conditions, trying to release the woman through the open window. He dived down into the murky water in an attempt to prise open the door. As he resurfaced for air, the woman had become released and appeared beside him. Unable to swim, the woman struggled, gripping her hands around Mr Pettit's neck, desperate to stay afloat. Maintaining his composure, Mr Pettit calmly reassured her, and was able to swim her safely back to shore.

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

Mr James Martin REGAN, deceased, Late of Newman WA 6753

During the morning of 2 April 2004, Mr Regan attempted the rescue of an injured woman from Hancock Gorge in the remote Karijini National Park, Western Australia.

Mr Regan, an SES volunteer, was assisting co-rescuers help a woman who had slipped and injured herself, unable to climb out of the gorge. In the bare light of early morning and working in light rain, Mr Regan attached winch ropes between himself and the stretcher which he had brought to the site, and was reassuring the injured woman. As he worked in the water, without warning a torrent of flood waters rushed into the opening, the surge tumbling the stretcher around the gorge. Mr Regan removed the winch ropes, and attempted to assist the helpless woman strapped into the stretcher from being carried downstream. As he did so, he was struck by a considerable amount of debris and knocked semi-conscious and unable to regain his foothold. He was swept away and could no longer be seen by his colleagues. In the late afternoon with the arrival of a fresh rescue party, Mr Regan was able to be located. Sadly, he had drowned as a result of the incident.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Clancy Jade ROBERTS, NSW

In the early hours of 4 January 2005, Mr Roberts assisted in the rescue of a man from a burning car at North Hobart, Tasmania.

Mr Roberts and a friend were travelling north on the Brooker Highway when a fire was spotted ahead on the opposite side of the road. Nearing the scene, they were waved down at a single vehicle accident. While his friend was attempting to find a way into the burning vehicle to check for the driver, Mr Roberts tried to get close to the car but he was forced away by the flames and heat. As he moved around the vehicle Mr Roberts discovered a man face down on fire. Grabbing the man by the feet, Mr Roberts dragged him away from the burning vehicle. He immediately began to smother the victim's burning and smouldering clothing, using his hands and clothing. Mr Roberts remained with the man, comforting him and applying water until ambulance officers arrived at the scene. The man was conveyed to hospital but, sadly, died several hours later as a result of his significant injuries.

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

Mr Michael William RUSSELL, Qld

Details not released at the request of Mr Russell.

Mr Piero SIDOTI, 8/9 Waxman Parade, West Brunswick Vic 3055

During the morning of 25 May 2008, Mr Sidoti rescued a woman trapped in an upturned vessel at the St Kilda Marina, Victoria.

Mr Sidoti was on a bike ride passing the St Kilda Marina when he heard screaming nearby, and noticed an overturned boat just a couple of metres from the jetty. A man was in the water banging on the side of the vessel calling out to a woman trapped inside. Mr Sidoti immediately jumped into the cold water, diving under the boat. Feeling his way alongside the back of the vessel, he tried quickly to find an entry, hearing the woman screaming from within the hull. Mr Sidoti's access was blocked, and as fuel continued to leak into the surrounding water, he swam to the front of the craft and ripped off a hatch cover. However he could only make out floating debris. Mr Sidoti connected rope between the boat and a forklift, however as a lift was attempted, the rope could not withstand the strain. A second rescue was made using chains, and as the boat's bow rose, a police officer was able to find the woman and drag her to safety.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Shawn Scott THORNTON, 109 Main Street, Woolli NSW 2462

On the afternoon of 20 December 2006, Mr Thornton rescued a man from rough waters after he had been thrown from his boat at Woolli, New South Wales.

Mr Thornton was fishing from the break wall at the Woolli River Bar when he noticed a boat circling in the river without a driver. Moments later he sighted a man in distress in rough waters, drifting out to sea. Mr Thornton quickly alerted others and jumped into the water from the rocks, intending to swim out to rescue the man. Losing sight of him in the huge swell, Mr Thornton turned his attention to the run away fishing boat. He swam towards the driverless vessel and was able to grab hold of the transom. As the boat continued to circle in choppy waters, Mr Thornton managed to pull himself along the side of the craft and, after several attempts, was able to climb aboard. Mr Thornton sighted the man being dragged seaward. He quickly brought the boat alongside, pulling him onboard and driving him safely back to shore.

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

Senior Constable Richard Paul WELLS, Western Australia Police

During the afternoon of 18 April 2008, Senior Constable Wells attempted the rescue of a man from rough surf at Shoalwater, Western Australia.

Senior Constable Wells was called to the scene of an incident where a man had disappeared in the surf. A small boat was commandeered to begin a search, and in relatively shallow water, Senior Constable Wells could see a shadow below the surface. He quickly dived into the choppy seas in full uniform, and found a body some 4 metres down, lodged in the muddy seabed. Unable to pull the man free, Senior Constable Wells began breathing air into the victim's lungs using expired air resuscitation techniques. Senior Constable Wells tried repeatedly to retrieve the man but was forced to resurface repeatedly for air. On his final dive attempt, Senior Constable Wells felt himself drowning, his lungs filling with seawater. Suffering hypothermia, he struggled to the surface and found that the man had also surfaced. Despite his exhaustion, Senior Constable Wells continued with resuscitation while dragging the man to safety. Sadly, the man was later pronounced dead.

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