

9/8/89

CROSS OF VALOUR

Mr Darrell James TREE
Mt Damper
Via WUDINNA SA 5652

On 14 August 1988 Mr Tree, accompanied by his nephew, went to assist a crane-operator in removing wooden telephone poles along the edge of the road running beside his property near Talia. The driver had his 3 year old son on the crane with him. When Mr Tree went to put a chain around a pole he saw sparks jumping from the crane's tyres and that the jib of the crane was in contact with the powerline. The driver jumped clear and went to remove his son, who at that time was in a boxed section and not coming into contact with electricity. Sparks were arcing beneath the crane to the ground and twice Mr Tree stopped the driver from going to the truck. He warned him not to touch the boy as he knew that the crane was alive with electricity and that he would be electrocuted. He went to get a rope and turning round he realised that the driver must have attempted to rescue his son, as he had electricity arcing through his body and was being electrocuted. Mr Tree pushed him clear and fell to the ground unconscious having himself been electrocuted. Regaining consciousness Mr Tree saw the boy standing between the tyre and the mudguard with electricity entering his head near his right ear, passing through his body and also entering near his left elbow. Knowing that the boy was about to be fatally electrocuted he pulled him clear and again lost consciousness having been electrocuted once more. When he regained consciousness on the second occasion he found that neither the driver nor his son was breathing. On his own, as he had sent his nephew for the ambulance, he gave mouth to mouth resuscitation to them both. The boy responded, but in spite of Mr Tree's further attempts to give the father cardio-pulmonary resuscitation, he died before medical assistance arrived. Mr Tree comforted the boy and drove him to meet the ambulance. He then followed the ambulance to the hospital at Elleston and was later flown to Adelaide for treatment. In saving the boy's life Mr Tree had 19 stitches inserted in his left arm, 37 stitches to his back, 5 stitches on his right foot and 5 stitches on his left foot. One toe on his left foot was amputated and he received burns to his back.

By his actions Mr Tree displayed most conspicuous courage.

STAR OF COURAGE

Mr Francis Xavier CARMODY
5/354 Mount Dandenong Road
CROYDON VIC 3136

On 8 December 1987 Mr Carmody was at work in the Australia Post building, Melbourne, when a man armed with an automatic rifle came to the eleventh floor. As the man moved up and down the aisles firing at random Mr Carmody with four colleagues took cover behind a desk. The offender fired through it killing one of them and wounding two including Mr Carmody. Although he had been shot in the head he raised himself above the desk but was shot in the back. He heard one of his colleagues, Mr Gioia, calling for help. Despite his wounds Mr Carmody went to his assistance and joined the struggle to disarm the offender. The offender resisted him but he finally succeeded in wrenching the rifle away. He was now suffering from his wounds and handed the rifle to another colleague telling her to remove it. Mr Carmody turned again to assist, but collapsed as he saw the offender crawling to the window.

By his actions Mr Carmody displayed conspicuous courage.

Mr Perry Philip ECKERT
1/10 Kalang Court
PATTERSON LAKES VIC 3197

On 14 November 1986 a man armed with a revolver held up a cashier at the Frankston Civic Centre. Mr Eckert an employee of the Frankston City Council heard shouting in the foyer and went to investigate. He followed the offender and saw him get into a get away car driven by an accomplice. After taking down the registration number Mr Eckert joined a colleague in a council car and told him to follow the offender. A chase ensued through various Frankston streets with the offender leaving the get away car on two occasions to fire at the car in which Mr Eckert and his colleague were travelling. He then fled on foot along the nature strip but stopped, fired from a distance of 20 metres and hit the car. When he disappeared down a driveway Mr Eckert left the car and ran down an adjoining driveway. Seeing the offender behind the garage reloading his revolver he called on him to give himself up. Shortly after police arrived and arrested him.

By his actions Mr Eckert displayed conspicuous courage.

STAR OF COURAGE

Mr Anthony Dominic GIOIA
1 Barook Court
NORTH RINGWOOD VIC 3134

On 8 December 1987 Mr Gioia was at work in the Australia Post building, Melbourne, when a man armed with an automatic rifle came to the eleventh floor. The staff attempted to run to safety or crouched on the floor behind desks while the man moved along the aisles shooting and wounding a number of them fatally. Mr Gioia, who was crouched near a cabinet door, heard the firing as the offender prowled about talking erratically. After shooting another staff member the offender, who was a large man, passed close to Mr Gioia who lunged at him and tried to pin his arms. The offender had firm hold of the rifle which was in a raised position. A struggle ensued and Mr Gioia called for help. After others came to his aid the offender was disarmed. The offender then worked his way closer to the window while Mr Gioia continued to hold him back and others tried to help. Eventually Mr Gioia lost his grip and the offender fell out of the window and down into the street.

By his actions Mr Gioia displayed conspicuous courage.

Captain Wayne Andrew HARRIS, (RL)
696 High Street
EAST KEW VIC 3102

On 14 July 1988 Mr Harris, the pilot of an Aero Commander aircraft, left Moorabbin Airport with one passenger on board to fly to King Island. Shortly before arriving at Currie Airport at 8.20pm he flew into a heavy squall but as he was able to see the runway lights he reported his intention to land. There was a loud explosion followed by a flash of light as the aircraft struck the tops of trees 30 feet high and fell to the ground. On impact Mr Harris was thrown from the aircraft still attached to his seat. Mr Harris' first memory after making the radio call was that he was sitting in the rain looking at the aircraft which was on fire. Although suffering from a collapsed lung, fractures of the ankles, six broken ribs, a broken wrist and thumb, Mr Harris crawled to the burning aircraft to rescue his companion. As he attempted to do so his clothes caught fire and he rolled on the grass to extinguish it. Although sustaining third degree burns to 25 per cent of his body he grabbed his unconscious companion from the cockpit and dragged him 25 metres to safety thereby saving his life.

By his actions Mr Harris displayed conspicuous courage.

STAR OF COURAGE

Senior Constable Peter Grahame John KIDD (Posthumous award)
Late of Queensland Police Force

At about 5.30am on 29 July 1987 members of the Tactical Response Team raided a house at Virginia to capture a dangerous offender who was known to have been responsible for several armed hold-ups. Senior Constable Kidd was the first policeman to enter the house. He led an assault team through the living area and into the hallway towards the main bedroom. Shots were fired from the bedroom but knowing that an armed man was in there Constable Kidd pushed the door open and went in rather than taking cover. He fired at the offender who was in a corner and himself received three gunshot wounds, one to his right wrist and two to his body. He fell to the floor and later died in hospital.

By his actions Senior Constable Kidd displayed conspicuous courage.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Sergeant Third Class Allen John ASHE
New South Wales Police Force

On 30 March 1986 a number of police were called to apprehend a mentally disturbed man who was driving a utility around Bathurst in a dangerous manner. At the Perthville bridge there was a collision between a police truck and the utility and they became wedged on the approach. Behind them in the police car Sergeant Third Class Ashe saw the offender with a covered object in his hand and then heard a shot and saw the offender continue to fire as he ran down the embankment. His colleague seated in the police car called out that he had been shot. Sergeant Ashe went to his aid knowing that a second policeman had also been shot. He entered the police car while in a direct line of fire to the offender and helped his colleague out through the driver's door. As he did so the offender fired again causing further injuries to the already wounded policemen. Both were struck by shrapnel but Sergeant Ashe pulled his colleague to the roadway and attended to him until police arrived.

By his actions Sergeant Ashe displayed considerable bravery.

Senior Constable Gary Lee BOOTH
New South Wales Police Force

On 11 September 1987 when Senior Constable Booth was on highway patrol duty he was called to attend at Parliament Road, Macquarie Fields where a man was carrying a sawn-off, double-barrelled shotgun. Getting out of the car he and another policeman walked through the yard of a house and saw the offender approaching. Senior Constable Booth passed into an alcove and the offender moved within six metres of him raising the shotgun at his colleague. Senior Constable Booth ran at the offender who turned towards him but was distracted when the lights on the police car were switched on. A violent struggle ensued during which the offender pointed the shotgun at Senior Constable Booth's head. Aided by his colleague he grabbed the shotgun and put it in the police car. He returned to assist and the struggle continued until more police arrived and the offender was subdued.

By his actions Senior Constable Booth displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Craig BRADY
7 Dickson Street
WEST MOONAH TAS 7009

On 19 April 1988 a fire broke out at a car body repair workshop in Hobart. Explosions followed and Mr Brady turned off the gas bottle regulators and ran to bring the hose down to the fire. He saw a fellow employee behind the flames and heard him call for help. The hose had no effect on the fire so Mr Brady ran into the spray booth. He tried to kick the panels in with his feet to reach the man but was forced out by smoke and heat. With two other men he attempted to break through the back wall with a sledge hammer. After about fifteen minutes the wall began to crumble. They called out through the hole into the smoke but there was no answer. They continued to make the hole larger and called until the man came to the opening. As he was pulled through, flames shot out of the hole. Mr Brady then helped to remove cars and equipment from the workshop.

By his actions Mr Brady displayed considerable bravery.

Master Shannon Peter BROOKS
44 Frost Road
SALISBURY SA 5108

On 23 January 1988 four teenage boys were walking beside a flooded, fast-running storm drain at Para Hills. One of the boys slipped and fell into a large, funnel-shaped drain sump, about four metres in diameter. When the boy reappeared Shannon Brooks, aged 13, climbed down a steel ladder attached to the side of the drain and lowered himself into the water which was up to 3 metres deep and swirling into two outlet pipes. He reached out with one hand and tried to grab hold of him as he disappeared under the water. Shannon was then caught in the whirlpool himself and lost his footing. He was sucked under while holding on to the ladder with his right hand. Another companion kneeling on the side of the sump grabbed Shannon's left hand. He was able to regain his footing on the ladder and climb out.

By his actions Shannon Brooks displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Senior Constable John Andrew BYERS
New South Wales Police Force

On 30 March 1986 a number of police were called to apprehend a mentally disturbed man who was driving a utility around Bathurst in a dangerous manner. At the Perthville bridge there was a collision between a police truck and the utility and they became wedged on the approach. The offender got out holding a .303 rifle covered with material in his hands. Senior Constable Byers crawled through the window and grappled with the offender. He then fell to the ground and the offender broke free and fired at him. Seeing him go to the back of his utility Constable Byers fired back and got to his feet as the offender ran down the embankment and turned and fired again. Constable Byers emptied his revolver, threw himself on the ground between the truck and the utility and reloaded. The offender threw his rifle aside and Constable Byers went to assist three other policemen as they arrested him.

By his actions Senior Constable Byers displayed considerable bravery.

Detective Constable First Class Grant Maurice CONNELLY
New South Wales Police Force

On 15 August 1987 police were called to quell a riot in a park. Detective Constable First Class Connelly and three other policemen arrived at about 9.30pm and were continually pelted with missiles and struck with sticks and posts. Although protected by a riot shield Detective Constable Connelly was injured by bottles in the right thigh and cut on the face. Aware that the number of rioters had increased and that they could not control the crowd the police regrouped and prepared to retreat. Detective Constable Connelly saw one of his colleagues struck with an iron bar which broke his leg. As the injured man dragged himself along the ground to the wall, Detective Constable Connelly in spite of his own injuries attempted to protect him with his shield. Other policemen arrived to give protection but were forced to leave to prevent further outbreaks elsewhere. In their absence three of the rioters attempted to strike the injured policeman with iron bars. At the same time they hit Detective Constable Connelly's shield with the bars and struck him on the legs. He remained standing by his colleague until, during a lull in the attack, he could be removed to an ambulance. Detective Constable Connelly spent five days in hospital receiving treatment for his wounds.

By his actions Detective Constable First Class Connelly displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Eric Gordon COOPER
17 Campbell Street
KINGSTON TAS 7050

On 19 April 1988 a fire broke out in a car body repair workshop in Hobart. Mr Cooper was working in the panel beating section when he heard explosions in the paint shop and saw a large amount of black smoke. Running in with a fire extinguisher, he heard a fellow employee calling for help. He made three attempts to reach the paint shop with fire extinguishers and at one stage came to within twenty feet of the man. As a car was burning behind him he tried to clear a path for the trapped man's brother to rescue him but neither of them could get any closer and the extinguisher ran out. With drums exploding around them both men were forced out by the heat and smoke. Mr Cooper ran to the firemen and led them to the paint shop. He tried once more to attempt a rescue only to be driven out again by the intensity of the fire.

By his actions Mr Cooper displayed considerable bravery.

Constable First Class Jeffrey Ronald FARMER
New South Wales Police Force

On 13 May 1988 Constable First Class Farmer arrived at the Tea Gardens Police Station and saw two women and a man standing at the front fence. He was walking towards them when one of the women called out that the driver of a truck which had just pulled up was armed. Constable Farmer saw that he was aiming a double-barrelled shotgun at the women and as they ran he heard a loud bang. He walked towards the offender who reloaded his shotgun and aimed it at the man. When Constable Farmer called on him to drop the shotgun the offender pointed it at him and ordered him out of the way. Constable Farmer did not falter and moved to within 3 metres of the offender keeping his revolver pointed at him. Aware that there were a number of bystanders he did not fire but continued to negotiate until another policeman ran from the police yard with a revolver in his hand and threatened to shoot. The offender then placed his shotgun on the roadway and Constable Farmer assisted in arresting him.

By his actions Constable First Class Farmer displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Miss Leonie Gaye GRICE
87 Payne Street
BURNIE TAS 7320

On 3 July 1988 a fire broke out in a house at Mount Street, Burnie. After feeding her horse in a shed 30 metres away Miss Grice saw that the lounge room curtains of the house were ablaze. She went to a neighbour nearby to ask her to telephone the fire brigade and then ran back to the burning house. Climbing over a barbed wire fence on the way she saw a small girl going into the house through the open back door. The child then shut the door behind her. Miss Grice ran to the door, opened it and went in but could not see because of thick black smoke. Calling out she went into the smoke-filled kitchen but could not find the little girl and suffocating she went outside to breathe fresh air. She went back into the kitchen calling out again and after ten seconds felt the little girl. Miss Grice grabbed her, carried her safely outside and then closed the door on the smoke.

By her actions Miss Grice displayed considerable bravery.

Senior Constable Ronald Thomas MASON
New South Wales Police Force

At 9.00pm on 14 October 1986 Senior Constable Mason was patrolling the Fairfield area and joined in the pursuit into Sydney of a stolen armoured personnel carrier. The carrier weighed 11 tonnes and the driver had indicated previously that he intended taking his own life. When he drove onto the Sydney Harbour Bridge on the wrong side of the road he suddenly stopped. Senior Constable Mason ran after the carrier, now travelling 10-15 kilometres per hour, jumped onto the back and with great effort gained access to the front turret. He lifted the hatch cover and the driver emerged pointing a pistol at him. A struggle followed during which the offender forced the pistol at Senior Constable Mason's head and when other police came to assist the offender threatened to shoot them also. Senior Constable Mason, weakening in the struggle, drew his revolver. He did not shoot until the police were out of the way and when he did fire he narrowly missed the offender. Police surrounded the carrier, prevented the offender from re-entering but with his pistol in his free hand he was able to take his own life.

By his actions Senior Constable Mason displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Paul Eric MOHRING
10 Marshall Street
MOUNT EVELYN VIC 3796

On 1 November 1988 a fire broke out in a house at Warburton. Mr Mohring was driving with his family and saw the smoke and flames. He stopped his car and went to the house which was well alight. As flames were coming from the open front door he went to the back of the house. Another man kicked the back door open and thick black smoke poured out. Visibility was down to about 18 inches from the floor but Mr Mohring could see a man lying in the hallway. He went in, grabbed the man by the arm and dragged him out to the back door where several other men helped in carrying him to the lawn.

By his actions Mr Mohring displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Van Cu NGUYEN
4/116 Rossmore Avenue
PUNCHBOWL NSW 2196

On 23 April 1988 a fire broke out in the laundry of a house at Bankstown. Mr Nguyen was in the laundry and ran out as the flames spread to the toilet opposite. Flames were coming from it and the heat was intense. When told that a small boy was inside he pushed the door open but could not see him. Putting his head around the door Mr Nguyen saw the boy and closing his eyes he grabbed him by the arm and pulled him out. He ran through the fire with him and passed the boy to his parents in the backyard. Realising then that his clothes were on fire he rolled on the grass to put out the flames. Shortly after Mr Nguyen was taken by ambulance to hospital. He received burns to seventy five per cent of his body and was in hospital for seven months.

By his actions Mr Nguyen displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Kelvin John SHELTON
131 Yarra Street
GEELONG VIC 3220

On 15 March 1988 a man armed with a loaded sawn-off .22 rifle entered the Globe Hotel at Ballarat. He struck a woman cleaner with the rifle and injured her. Mr Shelton, the manager, was sleeping in the hotel residence and hearing her screams hurried to help. When he arrived the offender spun around, still holding the woman and Mr Shelton saw that he had a rifle in his hand. He threatened to shoot Mr Shelton, who grabbed the gun forcing it upwards and as he did so the offender let go of the woman. Mr Shelton forced the gun from him but kept hold of it and called to his wife to get the police. He wrestled with the offender until she returned and then threw the rifle to her. The struggle continued and with further assistance from his wife he overpowered him and held him until police arrived.

By his actions Mr Shelton displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Stuart Anton STEVENS
C/- City of Frankston Offices
Civic Centre
Davey Street
FRANKSTON VIC 3199

On 14 November 1986 a man armed with a revolver held up a cashier at the Frankston Civic Centre. Mr Stevens, a council employee, was in a council car outside the Centre when the offender ran out and jumped into a get away car. A colleague joined Mr Stevens and told him to follow the offender. A chase ensued through various Frankston streets with the offender leaving the get away car on two occasions to fire at the car which Mr Stevens was driving. He then fled on foot along a nature strip but stopped, fired from a distance of 20 metres and hit the car. When he disappeared down a driveway Mr Stevens drove across it and, after warning neighbours to go inside, maintained contact on the two-way radio until police arrived.

By his actions Mr Stevens displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Sergeant First Class Ronald Vincent STRONG
Queensland Police Force

On 26 July 1985 Sergeant First Class Strong attended the hijacking of a helicopter at Brisbane Airport where he encountered a very agitated man accompanied by his two children and armed with a sawn-off shotgun. Claiming to have a bomb in his sportsbag the man threatened to explode a fuel tanker containing 6000 litres of fuel. Sergeant Strong stood thirty metres from him on the tarmac in the open and commenced negotiations which lasted more than 4 hours. The offender, who was still in a very agitated state, fired a shot in the air and for most of this time held a shotgun in one hand and pumped petrol with the other. Just before dark one of the children called out and Sergeant Strong convinced the offender that they would be taken care of. He put the gun down, and came forward with the children, still carrying the bag. On Sergeant Strong's instructions he put it down but returned to the tanker with the gun and the children. Sergeant Strong then went to within 10 to 15 metres of the offender, looked inside the bag and saw that there was no bomb. When reassured once more that the children would be looked after he put the gun down and came forward to be met by Sergeant Strong and another policeman.

By his actions Sergeant First Class Strong displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Peter Albert TREVENNA
c/- State Mail Centre
Transport Depot
ALEXANDRIA NSW 2015

On 1 December 1987 Mr Trevenna was driving a semitrailer on the Pacific Highway at O'Sullivan's Gap. After crossing the gap the driver of the semitrailer in front informed him by CB radio that he was having trouble with the brakes and air system. Mr Trevenna drove around him, placed himself a short distance in front and in this way they descended the southern side of O'Sullivan's Gap. After travelling round two kilometres of hair-pin bends the other driver radioed that he could no longer hold on to his trailer. Mr Trevenna slowed allowing the other truck to run into the back of his. Mr Trevenna's truck was hit twice and when he looked in the rear vision mirror he saw that the other driver had jumped from his cabin. He stayed with the driverless truck, pulled his emergency brakes on and stopped both vehicles on a small straight section of the highway.

By his actions Mr Trevenna displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Constable First Class Lester Shane TURNER
Queensland Police Force

At about 2.00am on 28 December 1987 a police car involved in a high speed chase of a stolen car collided with an electricity power pole in Braun Street, Deagon. The pole severed on impact and, in falling, brought down the powerlines. When Constable First Class Turner arrived he saw the lines lying across the roadway. The lines appeared to be live with sparks coming from the loose wires and petrol was spilled around the police car. He and another policeman went to the assistance of their colleagues and they were able to release one of them immediately. When they could not open the doors to assist the other, who appeared to be unconscious, they entered the wreckage. Constable Turner then left to call for emergency services. Returning to share in resuscitation attempts he later left to help the tow truck operator remove the driver's door. Constable Turner then assisted with the removal of the injured policeman from the wreckage.

By his actions Constable First Class Turner displayed considerable bravery.

Sergeant First Class Stowell James WATT
Queensland Police Force

At about 5.30am on 29 July 1987 members of the Tactical Response Team raided a house at Virginia to capture a dangerous offender who was known to have been responsible for several armed hold-ups. Sergeant First Class Watt was the leader of an assault team and his duty was to lead its members through the house to the back bedrooms. When he came to the main bedroom he saw another policeman hit by gunfire. The offender was firing shots through a doorway and a policeman fell backwards into the hall. Rather than taking cover, Sergeant Watt jumped across the doorway and shone the torch on his gun onto him. The offender fired at him and hit the wall nearby. Sergeant Watt returned his fire and hit him several times. He and another policeman then ran into the room continuing to fire at the offender until he slumped into a corner and dropped his gun.

By his actions Sergeant First Class Watt displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Mark Anthony WELLS
59 Bounty Street
WARRANE TAS 7018

On 19 April 1988 a fire broke out in a car body repair workshop in Hobart. When Mr Wells heard his brother calling for help, he found that he was behind a wall of fire and the paint shop was engulfed in flames. The fire was too fierce for Mr Wells to reach him and when an employee, with an extinguisher, tried to force a path through the fire for him, the petrol tank in a car behind them caught fire. Mr Wells then ran into the spray booth in an attempt to break through the wall but he was almost overcome by the intense heat. Taking a sledge hammer, he ran to the back wall and, assisted by two others, broke through it. Mr Wells called his brother to the opening but it was too small. By the time they had made it bigger, he had been forced away by the flames. Mr Wells leaned through, pushed some paint tins aside and when his brother was able to come back, he reached in again and, with assistance, pulled him out.

By his actions Mr Wells displayed considerable bravery.

Constable Shane Robert WILLIAMS
Queensland Police Force

At about 2.00am on 28 December 1987 a police car involved in a high speed chase of a stolen car collided with an electricity power pole in Braun Street, Deagon. The pole severed on impact and, in falling, brought down the powerlines. When Constable Williams arrived at the scene he saw the lines lying across the roadway and one was on the wrecked vehicle. The lines appeared to be live as sparks were coming from the loose wires and petrol was spilled around the police car. He and another policeman immediately went to the assistance of their colleagues and they were able to release one of them. When they could not open the doors to assist the other who appeared to be unconscious, they entered the wreckage. Constable Williams commenced resuscitation and later applied cardio-pulmonary massage but without success. He called to a tow truck operator to remove the driver's side door and shortly after the injured policeman was removed. Constable Williams continued his attempts at resuscitation until the ambulance arrived.

By his actions Constable Williams displayed considerable bravery.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Michael David BOWDEN
10 Indiana Avenue,
CORIO VIC 3214

On Saturday 19 November 1988 Mr Bowden was at the Edgewater Hotel, East Devonport, and at about 11.00 p.m. noticed a house fire opposite. He went to assist and hearing someone inside, commenced hosing the flames and dampened the clothing of a policeman who unsuccessfully attempted a rescue. When flames showed the person's whereabouts, Mr Bowden covered himself with a wet jumper, crawled inside and dragged the person to safety.

By his actions Mr Bowden is commended for brave conduct.

First Class Constable Lyell Huon BRETT
Tasmania Police Force

On Saturday 19 November 1988 at about 11.15 p.m. Constable Brett attended a house fire opposite the Edgewater Hotel, East Devonport. Told that a man was inside, Constable Brett ran to the house, heard moaning and called to whoever was there to make his way out. Wearing dampened clothing Constable Brett, entered the house five or six feet but was driven back by smoke and heat. He hosed down another rescuer and helped drag the man to safety.

By his actions Constable Brett is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Miss Clare Catherine CHALKLEY
5 Burwood Avenue
RINGWOOD VIC 3134

On 8 December 1987 Miss Chalkley was at work in the Australia Post building, Melbourne, when a man armed with an automatic rifle came to the eleventh floor. As the offender moved along the aisles firing at random Miss Chalkley hid behind a cabinet. He fired a few shots in her direction and injured the man beside her. The offender passed her and was standing in the passageway when a colleague jumped at him and knocked him to the floor. Miss Chalkley came forward and helped to overcome him by pushing him down and sitting on him. The struggle continued and as the offender lunged towards the window Miss Chalkley assisted her colleagues as they unsuccessfully tried to hold him back.

By her actions Miss Chalkley is commended for brave conduct.

Constable Kathy Jean COLLINGRIDGE
New South Wales Police Force

On Friday 12 February 1988 Constable Collingridge and another officer attended a house fire in Cabramatta Road, Cabramatta. Hearing a man inside, she assisted her colleague to break a window and enter. With a bystander she broke another window, leaned in, dragged the man out by the shoulders and gave him first aid. Although the house was well alight when told there was a child inside she went in through the front door to look for it, but could not find anyone.

By her actions Constable Collingridge is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Anthony Ronald DOLPHIN
Fourth Street
ELLISTON SA 5670

On 14 August 1988 at Talia Mr Dolphin was watching when the boom of a crane came into contact with an overhead powerline. The driver's three year old son was standing on the crane as sparks were arcing underneath. Mr Dolphin saw the driver attempt to grab the boy but was electrocuted. His uncle went to rescue the driver and succeeded in pushing him clear. When Mr Dolphin's uncle refused to let him touch him he took a piece of pipe and attempted to move the boy from the mudguard with it. He received a shock to his left middle finger, left foot and was knocked backwards. After going to ring for an ambulance, he returned to assist in looking after the small boy and later accompanied his uncle to hospital.

By his actions Mr Dolphin is commended for brave conduct.

Mr Gerard Joseph DUGGAN
15 Ryland Court,
LINDISFARNE TAS 7015

On Sunday 24 April 1988 Mr Duggan was at Meadowbank Lake and saw two men in difficulties in the water. He went to assist, took hold of one man but he was limp, slipped underwater and disappeared. Mr Duggan supported the other man and struggled with him towards a rope. The man lapsed into unconsciousness and although exhausted, Mr Duggan stopped swimming several times to apply mouth to mouth resuscitation. Later a boat arrived and he was assisted in the rescue.

By his actions Mr Duggan is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Constable First Class Phillip Rodney FROST
Queensland Police Force

At about 2.00am on 28 December 1987 a police car involved in a high speed chase of a stolen car collided with an electricity power pole in Braun Street, Deagon. The pole severed on impact and, in falling, brought down the powerlines. When Constable First Class Frost arrived he saw powerlines lying across the roadway with sparks coming from the broken ends of the wires. There was petrol spilling from the car onto the ground. After unsuccessfully trying to remove a door he pulled the rear window frame out. Climbing in he lent over the front seat and assisted in resuscitating the unconscious policeman trapped there.

By his actions Constable First Class Frost is commended for brave conduct.

Dr Luis GALLUR
Lot 2 Lyons Road
LAKESLAND NSW 2572

On Monday 28 December 1987 Dr Gallur attended the search and rescue of a fisherman at Bluefish Point, Manly. At 3.30 a.m. a rescue helicopter winched him onto rocks and he waded in waist deep water to the fisherman who had spinal injuries. Hampered by strong winds Dr Gallur and others crawled along a narrow ledge moving him on a stretcher 30 centimetres at a time for 50 metres to a waiting helicopter.

By his actions Dr Gallur is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Matthew GRANT
"Sleivenamon"
Grenfell Road,
COWRA NSW 2794

On Sunday 17 January 1988 Mr Grant was unloading cattle at the Cowra Cattle Yards when he heard cries for help from an adjoining yard. He saw a man trying to escape from an enraged bull and started cracking a stockwhip to divert its attention. The bull faced him and charged. He ran 250 metres towards a holding yard where he and another man penned the bull. Mr Grant returned to help the man and found another man fatally injured.

By his actions Mr Grant is commended for brave conduct.

Detective Constable First Class Stephen John GRANT
Queensland Police Force

At about 5.30 am on 29 July 1987 members of the Tactical Response Team raided a house at Virginia to capture a dangerous offender who was known to have been responsible for several armed hold-ups. Detective Constable First Class Grant was the third member of an assault team to enter the house. He followed two other policemen into the bedroom and as he did so a number of shots were being fired in the darkness. He turned on the torch attached to his weapon thereby drawing attention to himself. While aiming at the offender he was shot in the lower abdomen and fell to the floor.

By his actions Detective Constable First Class Grant is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Jeffrey John Lewis GRIMA
21 Charles Street,
DUNDAS NSW 2117

On Wednesday 20 July 1988 Mr Grima went to a house fire near his home. He searched outside unsuccessfully for a missing child and hosed down a man to assist him search inside. At the back of the house faint cries from a child were heard and Mr Grima forced the back door and grabbed a boy from under a table and took him to safety.

By his actions Mr Grima is commended for brave conduct.

Mr Barry William HORNE
31 Golden Crescent,
HIGH WYCOMBE WA 6057

On Thursday 31 December 1987 Mr Horne and a friend were asleep in a caravan at Prospector Caravan Park, Kalgoorlie. At about 3.45 a.m. Mr Horne woke suddenly and saw flames and smoke in the front of the caravan where his friend was sleeping. He felt his way through the smoke, found his friend lying face down, and tried unsuccessfully to wake him. Mr Horne took hold of him under both arms and dragged him out the door to safety.

By his actions Mr Horne is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Richard John JAEGER
26 Hill Street,
SMITHTON TAS 7330

On Sunday 12 June 1988 Mr Jaeger and two others attempted wading at night from Walker Island, Mosquito Sounds, to their moored cabin cruisers after their dinghy had floated away. One companion lost his footing and Mr Jaeger tried to help him to shore, but they were carried out of their depth. Freeing himself of heavy items, Mr Jaeger gripped him, stroked to a rocky beach, half lifted him out of the water and applied pulmonary resuscitation for one hour, but could not revive him.

By his actions Mr Jaeger is commended for brave conduct.

Mr Graham Michael JOHNSON
11 Robert Street
WICKHAM NSW 2293

On Sunday 21 February 1988 Mr Johnson was at Bar Beach, Newcastle. Heavy seas had winded him and while on the beach recovering he noticed a surfer 50 metres out floating face down. He swam out, found him unconscious, foaming at the mouth and blue in the face. Mr Johnson applied resuscitation at intervals while struggling to bring the man to shore. Exhausted, Mr Johnson dragged the man up an embankment and applied mouth to mouth resuscitation until he revived.

By his actions Mr Johnson is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Detective Sergeant Franciscus Gaston KUITERS
New South Wales Police Force

On Sunday 30 August 1987 Detective Sergeant Kuiters attended a siege at Wellington. A gunman had wounded two people, taken his wife hostage and gone to the old hospital grounds. Detective Kuiters attempted calming him, twice moving from cover till within 20 feet of him. During 3 hours of negotiations the gunman became agitated several times, assaulting and threatening his wife but Detective Kuiters succeeded in convincing him to release her and put down the firearm.

By his actions Detective Sergeant Kuiters is commended for brave conduct.

Master Simon David LINK
14 Lamington Street
INGLE FARM SA 5098

On 23 January 1988 four teenage boys were walking beside a flooded, fast-running storm drain at Para Hills. One of the boys slipped and fell into a large, funnel-shaped drain sump, about four metres in diameter. The water in the drain was up to three metres deep and swirling like a whirlpool into two outlet pipes. Simon Link, aged 14, saw another boy climb into the sump to help. However, after trying unsuccessfully to grab him he, too, was sucked down. Kneeling on the sump Simon grabbed his left hand and his companion regained his footing and climbed out.

By his actions Simon Link is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Senior Constable Alastair Martin LUKES
New South Wales Police Force

On Monday 28 December 1987 Senior Constable Lukes attended the search and rescue of a fisherman at Bluefish Point, Manly. At 1.15 a.m. in heavy rain Constable Lukes and two officers descended a cliff, found the fisherman, assessed his injuries, sent for assistance and shielded him from being washed out to sea. At 3.00 a.m. help arrived, and hampered by strong winds Constable Lukes and others crawled along a narrow ledge moving him on a stretcher 30 centimetres at a time for 50 metres to a waiting helicopter.

By his actions Senior Constable Lukes is commended for brave conduct.

Mr Donald Bradley McELROY
910 Waverley Road
GLEN WAVERLEY VIC 3150

On 8 December 1987 Mr McElroy was at work in the Australia Post building, Melbourne, when a man armed with an automatic rifle came to the eleventh floor. The offender moved along the aisles firing the rifle while the staff attempted to run to safety or sheltered behind cupboards and desks. The offender, on nearing Mr McElroy, shot him in the right shoulder. He collapsed into the window frame, but later as colleagues attempted to subdue the offender Mr McElroy got to his feet and assisted by sitting on him. The offender then attempted to lunge through the broken window and he tried to help restrain him.

By his actions Mr McElroy is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Probationary Constable Martin McLEAN
New South Wales Police Force

On Friday 12 February 1988 Constable McLean and another officer attended a house fire in Cabramatta Road, Cabramatta. Hearing a man inside, Constable McLean, helped by his colleague broke a window and entered but could not see for thick smoke. His colleague rescued the man and Constable McLean and a bystander searched the house unsuccessfully for a child reportedly inside. Constable McLean hosed the flames and with two others forced a side door to check remaining rooms, not leaving until overcome by smoke.

By his actions Probationary Constable McLean is commended for brave conduct.

Senior Constable Raymond John MENDES
New South Wales Police Force

On 30 March 1986 a number of police were called to apprehend a mentally disturbed man who was driving a utility around Bathurst in a dangerous manner. At the Perthville bridge there was a collision between a police truck and the utility and they became wedged on the approach. Senior Constable Mendes, following in a police car, got out and attempted to stop the man but was fired on. Firing back he wounded the offender who, when called on to surrender by other police, did so. Constable Mendes assisted in the arrest.

By his actions Senior Constable Mendes is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Constable First Class Denver Craig MONLEY
Queensland Police Force

On 26 July 1985 Constable First Class Monley attended the hijacking of a helicopter at Brisbane Airport where a man, accompanied by his two children, was armed with a sawn-off shotgun. He claimed he had a bomb in his sportsbag and threatened to explode a fuel tanker containing 6000 litres of fuel. Constable Monley participated in negotiations lasting for more than four hours. During that time the offender fired a shot in the air and continued to hold the shotgun in one hand and pump fuel with the other. When the offender finally put the gun down, Constable Monley moved towards him, picked it up and found it to be fully loaded.

By his actions Constable First Class Monley is commended for brave conduct.

Probationary Constable Allison Margaret PATTERSON
New South Wales Police Force

On Friday 12 February 1988 Constable Patterson attended a house fire in Cabramatta Road, Cabramatta. She ascertained the extent of the fire from other officers, went to the back of the house and attempted to contain the fire with a hose. With two others she entered a side door and helped search for occupants, not leaving until the house was well alight.

By her actions Probationary Constable Patterson is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Ronald James PERRY
132 Millchester Road,
CHARTERS TOWERS QLD 4820

On Wednesday 10 February 1988 at 5.30 a.m. Mr Perry was unloading cattle at Goondiwindi Dipping Yards. He alerted his friend on top of a truck to overhead powerlines and several minutes later heard crackling, looked up, saw sparks from the powerlines and his friend fall off. Mr Perry ran to him, found he was not breathing and with cattle trampling them, rolled him on his back, cleared his mouth and applied pulmonary resuscitation until he revived.

By his actions Mr Perry is commended for brave conduct.

Mrs Cathryn Jean PORCH
22 Myrtle Road,
YOUNGTOWN TAS 7249

On Saturday 13 February 1988 at about 10.30 p.m. Mrs Porch and her husband heard noises outside. Mrs Porch followed her husband outside and saw him struggling on the ground with several men who had been molesting a young woman. She ran to him calling on them to stop but was assaulted as she tried to push and drag the men away from her husband.

By her actions Mrs Porch is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Richard Howard PORCH
22 Myrtle Road,
YOUNGTOWN TAS 7249

On Saturday 13 February 1988 at about 10.30 p.m. Mr Porch and his wife heard noises outside. Upon investigation he saw several men around a woman lying on the ground and enquired what they were doing. One of the offenders climbed a fence followed by others and they twice punched Mr Porch to the ground and kicked him. Regaining his feet he defended himself and his wife, who came to his assistance, until the men ran away.

By his actions Mr Porch is commended for brave conduct.

Detective Senior Sergeant Donald Charles POWELL
Queensland Police Force

On 26 July 1985 Detective Senior Sergeant Powell attended the hijacking of a helicopter at Brisbane Airport where a man, accompanied by his two children, was armed with a sawn-off shotgun. He claimed to have a bomb in his sportsbag and threatened to explode a fuel tanker containing 6000 litres of fuel. Detective Sergeant Powell joined two other policeman in negotiations taking place on the tarmac. For over four hours the offender held the shotgun in one hand and pumped fuel with the other. He eventually surrendered and Detective Sergeant Powell assisted in the arrest.

By his actions Detective Senior Sergeant Powell is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Alan John ROBERTS
30 Sorrel Street,
GEORGE TOWN TAS 7253

On Sunday 24 April 1988 Mr Roberts was on the Meadowbank Lake Bridge when a man jumped over the railing. Mr Roberts entered the water and tried to keep the man afloat and at the same time swim towards a rope that had been thrown out to them. The rope was not long enough to reach and although suffering from the cold, he remained in the water supporting the man until help arrived.

By his actions Mr Roberts is commended for brave conduct.

Mr Rory John ROBERTSON
26 Bell Crecent,
FAIRFIELD NSW 2165

On Friday 12 February 1988 Mr Robertson was driving on Cabramatta Road, Cabramatta and noticed a house fire. He went to assist, heard someone inside, radioed for help and with a policeman forced a door. They entered despite heavy smoke and others rescued the person while they searched adjacent rooms. At a side entrance they forced a door and searched more rooms not leaving until the house was well alight.

By his actions Mr Robertson is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Colin Thomas ROSS
45 Alanas Avenue,
DUNDAS NSW 2117

On Wednesday 20 July 1988 Mr Ross was at home when his wife told him the house opposite was on fire. He heard an explosion, went to assist and entered through a window to search for a child. He returned twice to the window for air, was hosed down and continued searching until a man called out that the child was safe. Although suffering from burns he continued trying to contain the fire with a hose.

By his actions Mr Ross is commended for brave conduct.

Constable Victor Bernard RULEWSKI
New South Wales Police Force

On Monday 28 December 1987 Constable Rulewski attended the search and rescue of a fisherman at Bluefish Point, Manly. At 1.15 a.m. in heavy rain Constable Rulewski and two officers descended a cliff, found the fisherman, sent for assistance and shielded him from being washed out to sea. At 3.00 a.m. help arrived, and hampered by strong winds Constable Rulewski and others crawled along a narrow ledge moving him on a stretcher 30 centimetres at a time for 50 metres to a waiting helicopter.

By his actions Constable Rulewski is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mrs Debra Leeanne SHELTON
131 Yarra Street
GEELONG VIC 3220

On 15 March 1988 a man armed with a loaded sawn-off .22 rifle entered the Globe Hotel, Ballarat. He struck a woman cleaner with the rifle and injured her. Mrs Shelton was woken by the screams. Following her husband into the bar she saw the masked offender with his arm around the woman's neck and a rifle in his hand. While her husband tackled him Mrs Shelton went to call the police and returned to go to her husband's assistance. She grabbed the man by the shoulders and they all fell to the floor. This enabled her husband to overpower the man and hold him until the police arrived.

By her actions Mrs Shelton is commended for brave conduct.

Senior Constable Maxwell John SLADDEN
New South Wales Police Force

On Monday 28 December 1987 Constable Sladden attended the search and rescue of a fisherman at Bluefish Point, Manly. In heavy rain Constable Sladden and another officer descended a cliff with rescue equipment. Hampered by strong winds Constable Sladden and others crawled along a narrow ledge moving the fisherman on a stretcher 30 centimetres at a time for 50 metres to a protected area and waiting helicopter.

By his actions Senior Constable Sladden is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Christopher George STOECKEL
6 Kay Avenue,
BERRI SA 5343

On Sunday 21 August 1988 Mr Stoeckel and two men were aboard a dinghy near Higgins Cutting on the Murray River. It hit a snag and capsized. They held onto the hull and Mr Stoeckel tried paddling it ashore. Battling freezing conditions and strong currents he stripped and towed the boat with a rope for 45 minutes; at one stage holding the towline in his mouth to assist an exhausted companion. Eventually he put the men ashore, ran barefoot one kilometre to their car and returned for the men.

By his actions Mr Stoeckel is commended for brave conduct.

Senior Constable David Edwin SWILKS
New South Wales Police Force

On Thursday 6 October 1988 Senior Constable Swilks attended Morisset Swimming Pool, Morisset where an emotionally disturbed man was armed with a rifle. Constable Swilks approached and tried to calm him. He threatened Constable Swilks and moved through residential areas firing indiscriminately. Constable Swilks followed him and the man fired on a police truck. Constable Swilks rushed him but he turned suddenly opening fire and injuring him. Another officer wounded the man and Constable Swilks disarmed and handcuffed him.

By his actions Senior Constable Swilks is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Sergeant Bruce Richard THOMAS
New South Wales Police Force

On Monday 28 December 1987 Sergeant Thomas attended the search and rescue of a fisherman at Bluefish Point, Manly. In heavy rain he and two officers descended a cliff and found the fisherman. Unable to make radio contact Sergeant Thomas went for help. At 3.00 a.m. he and others arrived with rescue equipment. Hampered by strong winds Sergeant Thomas and others crawled along a narrow ledge moving him on a stretcher 30 centimetres at a time for 50 metres to a waiting helicopter.

By his actions Sergeant Thomas is commended for brave conduct.

Senior Constable Leslie William WALES
New South Wales Police Force

On Wednesday 6 July 1988 at about 6.30 a.m. Senior Constable Wales was directing traffic at Warwick Farm after flooding. He saw a car stranded on Homepride Creek Bridge, and radioed for assistance before stopping a tow truck and wading with the cable to the car. The driver was too fearful to move so Constable Wales wedged open the door with his body and dragged him free as the car sank. Firmly gripping the struggling man they were winched to safety.

By his actions Senior Constable Wales is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Benjamin James WITTE
35 Riverside Drive
LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

On 19 April 1988 a fire broke out in a car body repair workshop in Hobart. Mr Witte was walking along the Brooker Highway when he saw the smoke and went to give assistance. A man was trapped in the paint workshop which was engulfed in flames and two other men were trying to reach him by breaking a hole in a concrete block wall. Mr Witte joined them in smashing at the wall with a sledgehammer and a crowbar. After about 15 minutes the hole was big enough to pull the trapped man out. As they did so flames shot out of the hole.

By his actions Mr Witte is commended for brave conduct.