

### STAR OF COURAGE

Mr Ralph Dudley MASTERS, QPM  
156 Merewether Street,  
MEREWETHER NSW 2291

On 2 May 1989 Mr Masters was seated in his car when he saw two offenders wearing balaclavas enter the Commonwealth Bank at The Junction. Mr Masters attempted to block their car by driving across it. He attempted to locate their ignition keys but, failing to do so, took an umbrella from the front seat and wrote the number plate on his hand. As he walked toward the open passenger's door one of the offenders left the Bank and confronted him. He struck Mr Masters with a long-barrelled hand gun several times about the head and face before running to get into the driver's seat. Mr Masters then smashed the window in the open passenger's door with the umbrella and grabbed the top of it, forcing it back on its hinges and bending it. When the other offender came out of the Bank carrying bags containing money Mr Masters hit him in the chest with the umbrella and attempted to grab one of the bags. The second offender punched Mr Masters several times before getting into the car and being driven away. As a result of the struggles in which he had taken part Mr Masters received 12 stitches to a wound in his left ear, abrasions and bruising to his right knee, abrasions to the right hand and wrist and to his nose and face.

By his actions Mr Masters displayed conspicuous courage in circumstances of great peril.

Constable Allan Wayne McQUEEN,  
New South Wales Police Force

(Posthumous Award)

On 24 April 1989 Constable McQueen was driving in Haig Avenue, Sydney, with two other policemen when they saw a man acting suspiciously near parked cars. Constable McQueen and a colleague left the car and questioned the man. When Constable McQueen told him that he was to be searched the offender knocked him to the ground and a struggle ensued. He tried to handcuff the offender who produced a high-calibre pistol and fired three shots seriously wounding Constable McQueen in the chest and arm. He rolled away and the offender got up and fired again at the police before running off. With a colleague Constable McQueen chased him across the road and fired three shots. When he began to stagger he was assisted into the Police car and driven to hospital where he died as a result of his injuries on 5 May 1989.

By his actions Constable McQueen displayed conspicuous courage in circumstances of great peril.

STAR OF COURAGE

Mr Trevor Allan VINEY,  
5 Oldfield Avenue,  
CHRISTIES BEACH SA 5165

On 9 March 1989 Mr Viney went with friends to Waitpinga Beach. At about 8.15 p.m. he was sitting on his surfboard 200 metres from the shore when he saw one of his friends, 50 metres to his left, go under the water while his surfboard remained on the surface. He came up two seconds later calling out that he had been attacked by a shark. Mr Viney immediately paddled out and when half way there saw the shark's head. On reaching his friend he saw that the shark still had hold of him and he jumped from his board into the blood-stained water alongside him. He kicked where he believed the shark to be until he struck it and continued to kick until it disappeared. His friend, still alive, was in shock and Mr Viney dragged him on to his surfboard and caught a wave. He swam and dragged him to within twenty metres of the shore where two other friends came to his assistance. They dragged the victim to the beach and there unsuccessful attempts to resuscitate him were made.

By his actions Mr Viney displayed conspicuous courage in circumstances of great peril.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Garry Edward BROOKS,  
C/- Post Office,  
TELFER WA 6762

On 14 March 1988 Mr Brooks was operating a "Jumbo" drilling machine at the Lancefield mine. He was at the face of a decline shaft about three kilometres from the surface when he heard a loud thud and the shaft filled with dust. Realising that there had been a rock fall, and although aware that another could be imminent, Mr Brooks went to search for a colleague who had been operating a logger. He could not see his lamp but, after searching, found him partly conscious and seriously injured under a utility. As the logger was blocking the shaft exit Mr Brooks moved it and ran back to try and lift his colleague, weighing eighteen stone, into the front seat of the utility. Driving out of the decline he picked up another colleague who assisted him in moving the injured man into the ambulance. Mr Brooks then drove the ambulance to the hospital. Later that evening a further twenty tonnes of rock fell in the same area where the earlier fall had occurred.

By his actions Mr Brooks displayed considerable bravery.

Master Travis Robert George CAMPBELL, (Deceased)  
(Tribhuvanatha Das)  
Everest Road,  
EUNGELLA via MURWILLUMBAH NSW 2484

On 1 April 1989 six people were standing on the Oxley River Bridge at Eungella when it collapsed and they were thrown into extremely fast and turbulent floodwaters. Master Campbell, aged 14 years, dived through the top rail, came up ten metres downstream and grabbed hold of a floating log. Hearing a friend call for help he swam to him and helped him on to the log. When another friend called for help five metres away upstream, Master Campbell swam to him and pulled him from a whirlpool and with assistance, pulled him on to the log as well. As they travelled through pressure waves two to three metres in height they were repeatedly sucked off the log and under water but they were eventually able to hold on to a tree. There his friend became entangled in the vines and Master Campbell freed him while a tiger snake remained only an arms' length away. When the boys left the tree they alternately climbed on and off debris and swam. Master Campbell further helped his friend by pushing him for four or five metres through a strong current until they reached the river bank and safety.

By his actions Master Campbell displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Kevin Geoffrey CARROLL,  
Emerald Beach,  
WOOLGOOLGA NSW 2456

On 9 April 1989 Mr Carroll was walking over the headland towards Emerald Beach when he saw a woman knee deep in the surf and jumping over the waves. There was a 40 knot southerly wind blowing and the sea was choppy. Realising that the woman would be caught in the rip Mr Carroll went down to assist her. By the time he reached the beach she was being washed out to sea and he heard her call for help. Taking off his clothes and also his glasses he ran into the surf but could no longer see the woman. He ran back, put his glasses on so that he could determine her position and, taking them off again, returned to the water and dived into the rip using its force to get to her. When he reached the woman he grabbed her hand as she became unconscious. She began to float and he swam with her across the rip but they were swept twenty or thirty metres further out by the waves. Mr Carroll was becoming exhausted when later waves pushed them out of the rip and he side-stroked towards the beach and across a channel. With the help of a bystander Mr Carroll dragged the woman from the waves. He then laid her head across his legs and applied mouth to mouth resuscitation until she regained consciousness.

By his actions Mr Carroll displayed considerable bravery.

Master Damian John CHAPMAN,  
133 Pound Road,  
HAMPTON PARK VIC. 3976

On 24 January 1989 Damian Chapman was one of a group of youths who joined a friend making a cubby house in an old well. They lowered the friend into the well on a rope to remove some rubbish. When he called out that he could not breathe, they pulled on the rope to raise him but it went slack. Looking in Damian saw his friend lying down and heard him groaning. Because of his light weight volunteered to be lowered down to help. When he reached his friend he found him lying on his back and vomiting so he turned his head to the side to stop him from choking and then rolled him on to his side. After about five minutes Damian began to feel dizzy and finding it hard to breathe he shouted to be pulled out of the well. On reaching the top he ran to a house for help but fainted twice on the way. Crawling to the door he asked for help, and led a man back to the well. He then returned to the house to phone for the emergency services.

By his actions Master Chapman displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Donald James CLARIDGE,  
9 Wendy Avenue,  
ROKEBY TAS 7019

At 12.30 a.m. on 17 July 1988 a fire broke out in a house at Marston Street, Clarendon Vale. Mr Claridge was at his home when he heard a dull thud and through the trees saw flames coming from a house nearby. He ran down to the fire, jumped a side fence and, going to the front door, saw that the flames were coming from the opposite side of the house. Mr Claridge was then told that a baby remained in the house and was directed to a window facing onto the laneway. Using his forearm he smashed open the back bedroom window and climbed in. The room was full of thick black smoke and he returned to the window a number of times for air. Although Mr Claridge could hear something in the room he could not see and jumped out to borrow a torch. He climbed back in, threw out several items and finally found a dog in the corner of the bedroom which he handed out before getting out himself. Mr Claridge remained at the scene to assist the fire brigade.

By his actions Mr Claridge displayed considerable bravery.

Probationary Constable Jason DONNELLY,  
New South Wales Police Force

On 24 April 1989 Probationary Constable Donnelly was driving in Haig Avenue, Sydney, with two other policemen, when they saw a man acting suspiciously near parked cars. Constable Donnelly and a colleague left the car, questioned the man and a struggle ensued. During the struggle the offender punched Constable Donnelly in the face but although in pain he went to the assistance of his colleague. The offender then produced a large-calibre pistol and fired three shots. Constable Donnelly was wounded in the stomach. Joining in the pursuit he saw the offender running down some stairs. He fired two shots at the offender, ran five metres and fired two more shots while the offender continued to fire at police as he ran further away. Despite his own injuries Constable Donnelly then helped place his wounded colleague in the police car before they were both driven to hospital.

By his actions Probationary Constable Donnelly displayed considerable bravery.

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BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Martin Joseph DRINKWATER,  
4 Notley Street,  
NORTH LAMBTON NSW 2299

On 6 June 1987 Mr Drinkwater was at Prior House, a ward of the Hunter Hospital, Church Street, Newcastle, when a nurse became distressed about her son who had recently arrived at the nursing home, possibly carrying weapons and explosives. Mr Drinkwater went there with her to meet him. When the nurse asked her son whether he had weapons and explosives with him he became agitated and moved into a hallway. Mr Drinkwater ran out on to the verandah, and, as the young man backed out of the front door two metres in front of him, he saw a hand grenade in his right hand. Although terrified Mr Drinkwater tackled him and brought him to the ground while holding the offender's hand over the grenade. With assistance he held him down and when two policemen arrived they removed the grenade. In the struggle Mr Drinkwater received superficial grazes to both hands and his right elbow.

By his actions Mr Drinkwater displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Gregory Charles ESMOND,  
22 Pioneer Street,  
BINNINGUP Via BUNBURY WA 6230

On 21 December 1988 a mini bus and a truck collided on the South West Highway ten kilometres north of Bridgetown. As he drove along the highway Mr Esmond saw that the mini bus had overturned and was on fire. When he saw that some people remained inside he jumped on top of the van and helped a girl out through the window. In doing so Mr Esmond saw another girl held fast by the buckle of her seat belt. He kicked a window in and climbed through it into the van where he undid the seat belt and dragged the semi-conscious girl out to safety. As the flames increased Mr Esmond attempted to rescue two other passengers and the driver from the van but was forced back by the rapidly spreading fire.

By his actions Mr Esmond displayed considerable bravery.

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BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Jamie Mark FLAVELL,  
4 Forsyth Court,  
FOUNTAIN GATE SOUTH VIC. 3805

On 24 January 1989 when Mr Flavell returned home he was told that a neighbour was at the bottom of an old well nearby. When asked to assist, he, accompanied by his father, went to the well. There he tied a rope to a tree and went to get a ladder. When the ladder was lowered into the well, Mr Flavell went down to help his neighbour and a boy who was also lying there. He smelt smoke as he descended and stepping off the ladder he lost his footing in the rubbish at the bottom. On lifting the boy he realised that he was unconscious and tried frantically to get him out. As he attempted to place him on the ladder he freed the boy's foot which was caught, but found a rope around him which was under the other body. Mr Flavell tried a second time to lift the boy but was unsuccessful. He was then feeling dizzy and nauseated and having breathing difficulties and his father called to him to come out. When he reached the top he lay on the grass to recover and shortly after the emergency services arrived.

By his actions Mr Flavell displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Graeme Walter JONES,  
19 Churchill Avenue,  
DEVONPORT TAS 7310

On 10 February 1989 Mr Jones, a trainee in the Devonfield Complex, Devonport, went to the workshop where a workmate was wheeling a load of rubbish to a large fire outdoors. He saw him slip on loose gravel, go over the top of the wheelbarrow and fall face first into the fire. Mr Jones ran to him, grabbed him by the arm and pulled him up the bank towards a work bench before going for help. In so doing Mr Jones received superficial burns to his hands and face.

By his actions Mr Jones saved his workmate's life and displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Constable First Class Ross Kenneth JUDD,  
New South Wales Police Force

On 24 April 1989 Constable First Class Judd was driving two other policemen in Haig Avenue, Sydney, when they saw a man acting suspiciously near parked cars. While his two colleagues went to speak to the man Constable Judd parked the car a short distance away. Coming to join them he saw that a struggle was taking place and ran to assist. As he entered the park he heard gun shots and saw his colleagues were on the ground. He jumped over one of them to take cover beside a tree as the offender fired a third time. The offender then ran fifteen to twenty metres before turning to fire again at the police who pursued him. Constable Judd continued to chase him and fired two more shots but on turning to warn one of his colleagues he saw him stagger and ran back to him. He assisted him to the police car, where, with the help of his other colleague, he put him into the police car and then drove both of them to hospital.

By his actions Constable First Class Judd displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Richard Anthony KEEN,  
129 Pound Road,  
HAMPTON PARK VIC. 3976

On 24 January 1989 Richard Keen was one of a group of youths who joined a friend making a cubby house in an old well. They had lowered the friend in to the well on a rope to remove some rubbish. When he called out that he could not breathe they pulled on the rope to raise him but it went slack. Looking over the side they saw that he was lying down and could hear him groaning and vomiting. After one of the youths had been down to assist and had returned dizzy and suffering breathing difficulties Richard Keen descended the rope to help his friend. He called for them both to be taken out of the well but was so weak that as he neared the top he began to lose his grip. A man leaned over, grabbed him by the arms and pulled him out on to the ground where he knelt to recover.

By his actions Mr Keen displayed considerable bravery.



BRAVERY MEDAL

Constable First Class Robert Malcolm MILES,  
New South Wales Police Force

On 30 March 1988 a fire broke out in a residential building in Macleay Street, Potts Point. Constable First Class Miles was patrolling Macleay Street on his motorcycle when he smelt smoke and then saw the roof of the residential well alight with smoke and flames billowing out of the roof. He contacted the emergency services and went to the sixth floor of the building to evacuate any residents remaining there. Constable Miles suffers from an asthmatic condition and the density of the smoke caused him severe breathing problems and sickness. However he continued his search and was told that an elderly woman lived at the end of the corridor. Constable Miles made his way there through flying glass and when the ceiling exploded he was struck by a wooden beam which fractured his right shoulder. On finding the woman he protected her head with his helmet and carried her through falling debris to the ground floor stopping only to administer Ventolin to himself to relieve his breathing difficulties.

By his actions Constable First Class Miles displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Brett Allan MITCHELL,  
22 Kingsbury Street,  
NORMAN PARK QLD 4170

On 26 April 1989 a RAAF Chinook helicopter was involved with the rescue of a family of four from a yacht disabled 100 nautical miles east of Coolangatta. Mr Mitchell joined the aircraft crew as winchman. When the helicopter arrived at the scene there were winds of 20 to 25 knots, swells of 15 to 20 feet and a broken cloud base of eight hundred feet. In order to rescue the passengers Mr Mitchell was hoisted to the yacht from a fifty-foot hover four times. On one occasion he was hoisted down to assist a mother carrying her baby on to the upturned life raft and then having secured them in the rescue sling he returned with them to the helicopter. He was lowered again to the water to rescue a third passenger who had become entangled with the sea-anchor line. It took Mr Mitchell five minutes to free him before they could return to the helicopter. His final descent to rescue the fourth person was without incident. All the time he had been in the water Mr Mitchell had experienced breathing difficulties caused by the Chinook's downwash, with waves continually breaking in his face and his body under strain from the constant jerking of the rescue sling.

By his actions Mr Mitchell displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Constable Gregory Peter REHN,  
New South Wales Police Force

On 30 March 1988 a fire broke out in a residential building in Macleay Street, Potts Point. In response to a police radio call Constable Rehn attended and found the roof well alight with pieces of roofing falling down into the street. While assisting with crowd control he was told that an elderly woman, who was almost blind and deaf, remained on the fourth floor. Constable Rehn made his way through the smoke-filled building and on reaching the third floor found the elderly woman stumbling around in the debris. He took hold of her and began to lead her down the stairs. As he did so debris and roofing fell from the ceiling and thick smoke and water filled the hallway. Despite breathing and vision difficulties caused by the smoke Constable Rehn led the woman to safety.

By his actions Constable Rehn displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Graham Ralph SLIGHT,  
4 Joel Way,  
HAMPTON PARK VIC. 3976

Mr Slight was in the driveway of his home at Hampton Park when he was told that a boy was lying at the bottom of an old well nearby. He went to the well and looking down saw the boy, apparently unconscious, lying at the bottom. Another boy, with his foot in a loop of rope, was standing beside him calling for help. Grabbing the rope Mr Slight pulled him up and as the boy neared the top he looked so ill that he took hold of him and pulled him out. After wedging the rope around some branches he lowered himself into the pit where he smelt a putrid burning smell. Mr Slight took hold of the unconscious boy and tied a rope under his arms and knotted it behind his back. As he called for the boy to be pulled up he saw that his foot was wedged under some timber and he tried to free it while calling for a blanket and an ambulance. Then, gasping for air, he lapsed into unconsciousness. After being removed from the well by the emergency services he recovered in hospital but was required to undergo further treatment.

By his actions Mr Slight displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Christopher SOAR,  
8 Angela Street,  
REYNELLA SA 5161

On 17 August 1988 Mr Soar was carrying out alterations to a house in Dunluce Avenue, Brighton, when he was told that the house opposite was on fire and that there were people trapped inside. Accompanied by his brother and another work-mate he ran to the house which was well alight. The fire was in the roof when he kicked in the back door and attempted to enter. Twice driven back by the thick smoke he was then hosed down, wrapped his wet shirt around his face and entered, calling out as he went. Hearing someone moaning he worked his way along the walls and found a frightened elderly woman in the corner of the third room he entered. Mr Soar picked her up and, although still unable to see through the smoke, he retraced his steps to the back door. He carried the woman to the lawn and was then told that another person was still inside at the front of the house. Mr Soar attempted to enter the front door but was driven back by the thick smoke. Hearing moaning he tried again to enter but as he did so the Fire Brigade crew arrived with breathing apparatus and he was able to direct them to the room where a second woman remained.

By his actions Mr Soar displayed considerable bravery.

Miss Cheryl Lynda YABSLEY,  
1 Loombah Street,  
BILGOLA PLATEAU NSW 2106

(Posthumous Award)

At 12.30 a.m. on 29 March 1989 a fire broke out on the ground floor of a two-storey house in Loombah Street, Newport. The house was well alight and the windows were exploding when the occupants of the upstairs section heard Miss Yabsley screaming to them to get out. It is assumed that Miss Yabsley was asleep in the downstairs area and was woken by the fire. After waking the others she ran into their bedroom to ensure that they had left when she was overcome by smoke in the upstairs kitchen before she could reach the rear door to make her escape.

By her actions Miss Yabsley displayed considerable bravery, thereby losing her life.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Scott John COGAN,  
C/- Del Rio Resort,  
WISEMANS FERRY NSW 2255

On 5 February 1989 Mr Cogan, an employee of the Del Rio Resort, Wisemans Ferry, saw an overturned canoe on the resort lake and movement in the water nearby. He removed his heavy outer clothing, jumped over the fence, ran down and dived into the water. He grabbed a four-year-old girl who was bobbing up and down in the water. While holding the child up he observed her father about one metre under the water. He tried to pull him up but this caused both Mr Cogan and the child to be immersed so he let him go in order to save the child. After swimming her to an island in the middle of the lake he attracted the attention of people on the shore and joined in an attempt to recover the man.

For his actions Mr Cogan is commended for brave conduct.

Detective Constable First Class David Caldwell DARCY,  
Police Station,  
WYONG NSW 2259

At about 12.30 p.m. on 30 December 1987 Detective First Class Darcy was the observer in a police car being driven in a westerly direction along Wyong Road, Tumby Umbi. Upon entering a sharp right hand turn the driver saw an infant crawling on to the carriageway on the opposite side of the road a short distance ahead and stopped. As the car slowed Constable Darcy alighted, ran around the back and attempted to cross the road. After allowing a speeding car to pass he ran towards the baby, who was now about one metre onto the eastbound carriageway, bent down and picked it up as he ran to the other side. Closely followed by his colleague he reached the footpath as a large semitrailer travelling at speed veered between them and their car.

For his actions Constable Darcy is commended for brave conduct.

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COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mrs Judyth GLADMAN,  
RSD 150A,  
SIDMOUTH TAS 7270

On 26 January 1989 Ms Gladman was sunbaking at Port Sorell Beach when she heard calls for assistance from children at the other end of the beach. She ran the length of the beach until she was level with them and swam towards them. Two children were having difficulties: a boy who wrapped his body around hers and placed his arms around her neck and a girl who kept pushing her on the top of her head. Because of their panic they pushed Ms Gladman under the water several times. A woman managed to get the girl into the shallows and Ms Gladman could then get the boy ashore. In doing so she cut her leg on the sharp rocks they had to clamber over.

For her actions Ms Gladman is commended for brave conduct.

Mr David Mark HARRISON,  
13 Railway Street,  
YANDINA QLD 4561

At about 11.00 a.m. on 13 January 1989 Mr Harrison was driving his utility on the Yandina-Coolum Road when another utility approached him from the rear at high speed. A prime mover and trailer were also approaching and travelling in the opposite direction. The driver of the utility crossed the unbroken line to overtake Mr Harrison, saw the prime mover and applied his brakes, which locked, causing his vehicle to slide into the prime mover and immediately burst into flames. Mr Harrison, whose utility had been hit by the trailer load, stopped and ran to the assistance of the driver who was lying face down about 3 metres from his vehicle with his clothing alight. Unaware that the man was already dead, Mr Harrison dragged the man a further metre away before the burning vehicle exploded. The heat of the fire forced Mr Harrison away from the immediate location and he was treated for shock.

For his actions Mr Harrison is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Andrew KARATSIOLI,  
34 Ashfordby Street,  
CHIPPING NORTON NSW 2170

On 24 June 1988, Mr Karatsioli observed smoke coming from a block of flats in Grose Street, Parramatta and a woman crying because her two children were inside. In spite of still receiving treatment following a knee operation, Mr Karatsioli ran into the ground floor flat but could not locate the children. After coming out for further directions he re-entered the flat and located one of the children lying on the floor by searching with his hands and carried him outside. Mr Karatsioli's attempts to enter the building a third time were prevented by the thick smoke. The other child was rescued by a fireman.

For his actions Mr Karatsioli is commended for brave conduct.

Miss Sarah Emma LIDDINGTON,  
35 Baragoon Street,  
HOWRAH TAS 7018

On 26 January 1989 Sarah Liddington, 13 years old, was walking in waist deep water near some rocks at Port Sorell Beach with three other children. She heard a 12-year-old companion call for help and turned to see her and her 7-year-old brother about 10 to 15 metres away struggling to keep their heads above water. She went to them half-swimming and half-walking and pulled the 12-year-old on to a shallow bank. The boy was pulling her under the water and in trying to swim against the current from the river she soon tired. She called for help but was pushed under again. As Sarah came up for a breath of air the boy went under the water. A woman came to their assistance and Sarah lost consciousness.

For her actions Sarah Liddington is commended for brave conduct.

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COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Master Matthew Christopher MITCHELL,  
7 Playford Street,  
MILLICENT SA 5290

On 8 November 1988, Matthew Mitchell, aged 13 years, was awoken in the early hours of the morning by the sound of breaking glass. After looking at his two-year-old brother, who was sharing his bed, he tried to resume sleeping but was unable to do so because of increasing breathing difficulties. Opening his eyes he saw that the room was filled with smoke. Although unable to see properly, Matthew felt his way to the window, opened it, and put his brother outside. He returned for a blanket for his brother then climbed out the window himself.

For his actions Matthew Mitchell is commended for brave conduct.

Mrs Lea MUNRO,  
428 Victoria Avenue,  
CHATSWOOD NSW 2067

On 10 January 1989 Mrs Munro was on Mollybook Beach when she saw an elderly gentleman going to the assistance of a lady who was about 75 metres from the shore in a large swell. She then noticed that they both appeared to be having difficulties. After asking bystanders to get help she swam out to the couple and found the man was exhausted and the woman semi-conscious. For some minutes Mrs Munro tried to roll the woman onto her back without success. At this stage Mrs Munro was becoming tired and at the man's suggestion let go of the semi-conscious woman who continued floating out to sea. All three were rescued by lifesavers but in spite of treatment the other woman died shortly after.

For her actions Mrs Munro is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr John Alan MURRAY,  
Lot C Agar's Lane,  
BERRY NSW 2535

On 27 November 1988 Mr Murray was driving on the Hume Highway near Marulan when he was overtaken by two police highway patrol vehicles. At this stage a severe rain and hail storm struck. Mr Murray then saw one of the police vehicles stopped against a tree bursting into flames. He stopped and ran toward the burning vehicle where another man was attempting to enter and assist the driver. Mr Murray returned for his jack handle and smashed the passenger side front window. The police officer inside was semi-conscious and unable to assist himself. Mr Murray with the assistance of the first man and another person dragged the injured officer from the vehicle which was now burning fiercely.

For his actions Mr Murray is commended for brave conduct.

Sergeant Paul Francis Douglas NOLAN,  
10 Bowerbird Avenue,  
INGLEBURN NSW 2565

On 27 November 1988 Corporal Nolan was travelling on the Hume Highway near Marulan during a severe rain and hail storm when he was passed by two police highway patrol vehicles. Shortly after he saw a ball of flame erupt into the air, and then saw that one of the police vehicles was off the road, against a tree and well alight. After stopping he saw that a man was trying to gain entry to assist the injured driver and another was approaching with a jack handle. The front passenger side window was then smashed. The police officer inside was semi-conscious and unable to assist himself. Corporal Nolan with the assistance of the other two men dragged the injured driver from the vehicle which was now burning fiercely.

For his actions Corporal Nolan is commended for brave conduct.



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COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Flight Sergeant John Leslie PEARSE,  
6 Casuarina Street,  
RIVETT ACT 2611

On 7 July 1987 Sergeant Pearse was called out to prepare a helicopter for the urgent rescue of a sick infant from a ship approximately 60 nautical miles out to sea from Perth. When it became apparent that it may be a difficult rescue Sergeant Pearse volunteered his assistance. On arrival at the ship, because of communications difficulties, obstructions on the ship and the sea state, the child and his mother could not be safely hoisted unaided. Sergeant Pearse indicated that he was willing to be hoisted down to the ship to explain procedures to the mother and then held the child himself while being hoisted back to the helicopter. This was successful with Sergeant Pearse's actions ensuring that minimum time was spent in a hazardous hover and that safety was maximized.

For his actions Sergeant Pearse is commended for brave conduct.

Mr Michael John PREVEDELLO,  
160 Sloane Street,  
GOULBURN NSW 2580

On 27 November 1988 Mr Prevedello was parked beside the Hume Highway near Marulan because of a severe rain and hail storm when he was passed by two police highway patrol vehicles. One of these vehicles spun off the road backwards over an embankment into a tree and burst into flames. He ran to the vehicle to assist the driver but was unable to gain entry. The flames at the rear of the driver's seat were increasing in intensity and he was driven back by the heat. Another man arrived with a jack handle and smashed the passenger side front window. Mr Prevedello with the assistance of the second man and another person then dragged the injured officer from the vehicle which was now burning fiercely.

For his actions Mr Prevedello is commended for brave conduct.

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COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Alexander John SAXINGER,  
24 Saleyards Road,  
CROOKWELL NSW 2583

On 10 January 1989 Mr Saxinger was standing on Mollymook Beach when he saw that his cousin was having difficulties about 60 metres from the shore in a large swell. After asking bystanders to get help he swam out to her. By this time she was about 80 - 90 metres out. Holding her shirt he tried to swim back to the beach against the current but made little progress. A woman came to help but soon tired and swam back to the beach. Immediately after Mr Saxinger and his cousin were separated by a wave and he lost sight of her. They were both rescued by lifesavers but in spite of treatment his cousin died shortly after.

For his actions Mr Saxinger is commended for brave conduct.

Constable Paul Rodney SCRACE,  
Police Station,  
WYONG NSW 2259

At about 12.30 p.m. on 30 December 1987 Constable Scrace was the driver of a police car travelling in a westerly direction along Wyong Road, Tumby Umbi. Upon entering a sharp right hand turn he saw an infant crawling on to the carriageway on the opposite side of the road a short distance ahead and stopped. The police observer in the car was the first to alight and crossed the road, after waiting to allow a speeding car to pass, just ahead of Constable Scrace who was preparing to pick up the baby should his colleague's attempt fail. The attempt was successful and both officers reached the footpath being narrowly missed by a semitrailer passing at high speed in an easterly direction.

For his actions Constable Scrace is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Corporal Shad James SEARS,  
3/24 Ellenborough Street,  
IPSWICH QLD 4305

On 26 March 1989 at Sunshine Beach Corporal Sears observed an elderly man in extreme difficulties in the very rough surf, outside the flagged area, who was being rapidly swept seawards. He immediately ran to the water, swam out to the near-drowning man and supported him with much difficulty until they finally managed to reach a sandbar. At this stage Corporal Sears was joined by two other men, one of whom had an air mattress. Together the three of them were able to float the elderly man ashore where he received medical attention.

For his actions Corporal Sears is commended for brave conduct.

Mr Duncan Alexander SINCLAIR,  
10 Baintree Avenue,  
DYNMYRNE TAS 7005

On 30 December 1988 Mr Sinclair and a companion launched their 13-foot dinghy from Lisdillon River to lift their craypots. When they reached the second pot approximately 50 metres off Boags Point the water was rough and while attempting to lift the heavy pot the dinghy was swamped by a three-to-four metre wave and overturned. Neither man was wearing a life jacket and at this point his companion told Mr Sinclair that he could not swim. Mr Sinclair swam about 20 metres to him and pulled him towards the rocks. The man was conscious but panicking and gasping for air. In spite of being pulled under Mr Sinclair managed to tow him almost to the shore when they were washed into a gutter and the surge of the waves pulled the man from his grasp. After resting briefly Mr Sinclair tried to locate his companion but was unsuccessful.

For his actions Mr Sinclair is commended for brave conduct.