

25/3/1996

CROSS OF VALOUR

Mr Victor Alan BOSCOE, 42 Kentwood Drive, Bray Park Qld 4500

On the morning of 13 September 1993 in the northern suburbs of Brisbane Mr Boscoe witnessed an armed hold-up and repeatedly placed his life in danger by pursuing two armed men fleeing from the scene with the proceeds of the robbery.

Although he had heard a shot fired, Mr Boscoe followed the offenders to the car park and identified their 'getaway' vehicle. He pursued the vehicle in his own car through difficult traffic conditions and maintained visual contact. The offenders changed cars, observing Mr Boscoe in the process. Mr Boscoe continued his pursuit at high speed.

Unable to elude their pursuer, the offenders stopped their car and threatened Mr Boscoe with a shotgun and a handgun. Mr Boscoe immediately rammed their car. Several shots were fired at him.

Despite his wounds from the shotgun and glass and metal fragments Mr Boscoe was able to manoeuvre his vehicle free and to continue his pursuit of the offenders, through another change of vehicle, until forced to stop because of the damage caused to his car by the act of ramming.

Mr Boscoe suffered injuries to his shoulder, arm and hand.

As a result of his courageous efforts and presence of mind Mr Boscoe was able to provide Police with a useful description of the armed robbers, which assisted in the subsequent conviction of the principal offender.

By his actions Mr Boscoe displayed most conspicuous courage.

STAR OF COURAGE

Senior Constable Ian Maurice BOUGHTON, New South Wales Police Service

On 20 April 1995 Senior Constable Boughton put himself at danger to rescue a diver trapped inside an underwater inlet cooling pipe at the BHP Pumphouse at Port Waratah. The diver was making a routine inspection on the inlet pipe prior to fitting a filter when he was drawn in feet first. The above-water crew, seeing irregularities on the air hose equipment pulled on the security line which broke free from the diver, dislodging his face mask and allowed him to be sucked further into the pipe at great speed. Constable Boughton responded to a call for assistance and although he had no previous underwater diving experience entered the water in a rescue attempt, after first ensuring that the pumps had been switched off. He descended 5 metres below the surface of the water before he located the pipe, which was 1 metre in diameter but had been reduced considerably by the build up of crustation growth and algae. Carrying a torch Constable Boughton entered the pipe and travelled 3 metres vertically to a bend where visibility was reduced to only centimetres. After moving around the bend and a few metres along the horizontal arm of the pipe he located the diver's hand. He tugged at the unconscious diver a number of times before he was able to pull him free and drag him back through the pipe to the open water where he was lifted from the water.

By his actions Senior Constable Boughton displayed conspicuous courage.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Alastar Oliver ADAMS, 5/8 Beetaloo Street, Hawker ACT 2614

On 2 November 1994, Mr Adams endangered his life by crossing a known mined area to rescue a distraught man. Mr Adams, an officer of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, was a member of a special task force assembled in Cambodia to negotiate for the return of the bodies of hostage victims who had been murdered by the Khmer Rouge. Members of the team were taken to a camp about 1.5 kilometres from the burial site and told to stay there for their own safety as the area surrounding the camp had been extensively mined and was still extremely dangerous. When the exhumation party left the camp a member of the task force, the father of one of the French victims, became highly distraught and followed them. On learning of this the exhumation team refused to continue until the father returned to the camp. At great personal risk Mr Adams and a Scotland Yard Detective went in search of the agitated father through an area littered by the remains of explosions and only partly cleared of mines. On locating the father Mr Adams, who speaks French, successfully persuaded him to return to the camp. Under these extremely dangerous conditions Mr Adams put the safety of the father and the success of the mission above his personal safety.

By his actions Mr Adams displayed considerable bravery.

Mr John William ANDERSON, C/- Queensland Rail, Roma Qld 4455

On the morning of 14 September 1993 Mr Anderson risked his life in an attempt to rescue a workmate from the path of an approaching train at Roma. Mr Anderson and another railway fettler were working on the tracks using a chain saw driven wood borer which prevented them from hearing the klaxon of an approaching railmotor. The driver of the railmotor who had passed another group of fettlers was unaware of the presence of Mr Anderson and his companion. On sighting them he applied the brakes but was unable to stop in time. Mr Anderson who saw the railmotor when it was 100 metre away dropped his tools and ran to his fellow worker in an attempt to remove him from its path. The railmotor struck both men severely injuring Mr Anderson and killing his companion.

By his actions Mr Anderson displayed considerable bravery.

Ms Jane Edith BROWN, Sydney NSW 2000

On 3 March 1995 at Hornsby Ms Brown placed her personal safety at risk by going to the assistance of a woman who was being attacked by an armed man. Ms Brown heard raised voices and turned to see a woman trying to escape from a man who kept holding her back. The woman broke away but was immediately tackled by the man. Risking her own safety, Ms Brown ran to help and saw that the attacker was armed with a broken beer glass and was slashing the woman's face and body. Ms Brown grabbed the man's jacket and pulled him up allowing the severely injured woman to make her escape in a nearby taxi while the offender was restrained by bystanders.

By her actions Ms Brown displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Brian Allan WOOLLETT, 56 Jimbour Street, Jandowae Qld 4410

On 16 January 1995 Mr Woollett participated in the rescue of a man from a burning car near Dalby. Mr Woollett arrived at the scene of the accident shortly after a vehicle had left the road, hit a tree and burst into flames. After calling for assistance Mr Woollett ran to the car which was now burning fiercely with flames entering the cabin. An unconscious man was slumped in the passenger's seat and the driver was leaning across him to avoid the flames. Mr Woollett broke the glass in the passenger's window, reached in, pulled the driver to the window where, assisted by another motorist, he pulled him out. Together they carried the injured driver to safety. The two men returned to the vehicle and released the passenger's seat belt but were driven back by the flames and heat before they could remove him and he perished in the fire.

By his actions Mr Woollett displayed considerable bravery.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Keith John EVANS, Bowral NSW 2576

On 23 December 1990 Mr Evans participated in the rescue of two women from a crashed and burning aircraft at Mittagong. Mr Evans was the pilot of the plane which crashed shortly after take-off and immediately caught fire. Mr Evans and a male passenger removed two injured passengers to a place of safety some distance from the aircraft. Although injured himself he then ran approximately one kilometre for help. The aircraft was completely destroyed by fire.

For his actions Mr Evans is commended for brave conduct.

Miss Tracey Christine GARDNER, 79/15 John Cleland Crescent, Florey ACT 2615

On the morning of 9 March 1994 Miss Gardner, a teacher employed by the Australian Capital Territory Education Department, placed her own safety in jeopardy to save another teacher from possible injury. Miss Gardner was in the staff room when she was asked to leave by a fellow teacher who said he wished to speak to his supervisor privately. She left the room but remained in the vicinity. On hearing a disturbance she returned to find the teacher attacking his supervisor with a knife and threatening to kill him. At great personal risk Miss Gardner interposed her body between the two men and struggled with the assailant, causing him to lose his grip on the supervisor who then made his escape.

For her actions Miss Gardner is commended for brave conduct.

Mr Damian Richard GEYLE, 53 Patrick Street, Avalon Beach NSW 2107

On 7 March 1995 Mr Geyle participated in the rescue of a 14 year old boy from the sea off Avalon Beach. Mr Geyle was on lifeguard duty when he was informed that a boy on a boogie board had been swept one and a half kilometres out to sea and was unable to return to the beach. In conditions of heavy seas, strong winds and rain affected visibility Mr Geyle and another lifeguard put off from the beach in an inshore rescue boat. Despite being driven back to the beach by the size and force of the waves, and by seaweed entangled in the propeller, Mr Geyle and his fellow crew member persisted in their efforts and eventually cleared the breaker line by selecting a route dangerously close to rocks. After a hazardous and difficult off shore search they located the boy and took him on board, where they were able to sustain him until the arrival of a rescue helicopter which took him to safety. Mr Geyle and his companion then undertook an equally perilous return to the beach.

For his actions Mr Geyle is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Sergeant Colin Charles JOHNSON, Western Australia Police Service

On 19 August 1994 east of Norseman Sergeant Johnson disarmed a man who had earlier in the day murdered his estranged wife in Perth and was threatening to kill himself. Acting on information that the man had been sighted near Kalgoorlie in a vehicle Sergeant Johnson and another police officer waited for the vehicle and when it did not stop pursued it along the Eyre Highway. The man stopped his vehicle about 150 kilometres east of Norseman alighted from it armed with a rifle and stated his intention of shooting himself. Sergeant Johnson approached the man and talked with him for four hours until he convinced the man to hand over the rifle. The offender was then taken into custody.

For his actions Sergeant Johnson is commended for brave conduct.

Mr Clifford Garnett JUDD, Woodberry NSW 2322

On 25 September 1994 Mr Judd rescued an unconscious man from a burning house at Beresfield. Mr Judd was walking past the house when he saw smoke billowing from the roof and front doorway. Unable to gain entry by the front door Mr Judd ran to the rear of the house and covering his mouth with a towel climbed through a rear window. He crawled along the floor searching the rooms until he located an unconscious man and dragged him to the front door. After kicking the security door open Mr Judd pulled the man outside and returned to search for any other occupants.

For his actions Mr Judd is commended for brave conduct.

Mr Peter LAING, 3 Buena Vista Avenue, Mona Vale NSW 2103

On 7 March 1995 Mr Laing participated in the rescue of a 14 year old boy from the sea off Avalon Beach. Mr Laing was on lifeguard duty when he was informed that a boy on a boogie board had been swept one and a half kilometres out to sea and was unable to return to the beach. In conditions of heavy seas, strong winds and rain affected visibility Mr Laing and another lifeguard put off from the beach in an inshore rescue boat. Despite being driven back to the beach by the size and force of the waves, and by seaweed entangled in the propeller, Mr Laing and his fellow crew member persisted in their efforts and eventually cleared the breaker line by selecting a route dangerously close to rocks. After a hazardous and difficult off shore search they located the boy and took him on board, where they were able to sustain him until the arrival of a rescue helicopter which took him to safety. Mr Laing and his companion then undertook an equally perilous return to the beach.

For his actions Mr Laing is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Ambulance Officer William Matthew MORRIS, 6 Jade Street, Caboolture Qld 4510

On 8 November 1994 Ambulance Officer Morris disarmed a bank robber who was escaping from the scene of his crime in Deception Bay Road, Brisbane. Mr Morris and another officer were transporting a patient when a speeding car collided with the ambulance. On going to assist the driver of the car the two Ambulance Service Officers found him out of the car and armed with a shotgun. Mr Morris who was now directly behind the man grabbed him around the body, restricting his movements, and seized the weapon by the barrel. In the ensuing struggle the man triggered his own weapon and severely wounded himself in the foot, at the same time inflicting ricochet wounds to Mr Morris. After disarming the robber both officers treated him until the arrival of another ambulance.

For his actions Ambulance Officer Morris is commended for brave conduct.

Mr Thai Vu NGUYEN, 27 Murray Street, Ferryden Park SA 5010

On 1 January 1995 Mr Nguyen rescued a two year old boy from the Torrens River in Adelaide. Mr Nguyen was cycling beside the river when his attention was attracted by a man calling for help and pursuing a runaway stroller. Seeing the stroller, with the child strapped in it, plunge into the river Mr Nguyen immediately entered the water in a rescue attempt. After four minutes diving Mr Nguyen, now close to exhaustion, located the child and brought him to the surface. With the assistance of others Mr Nguyen lifted the child to safety on the river bank.

For his actions Mr Nguyen is commended for brave conduct.

Mr Keith PHILLISKIRK, Bowral NSW 2576

On 23 December 1990 Mr Philliskirk participated in the rescue of two women from a crashed and burning aircraft at Mittagong. Mr Philliskirk was a passenger in the plane which crashed shortly after take-off and immediately caught fire. Mr Philliskirk, although injured himself, assisted the pilot in removing two injured women passengers to a place of safety some distance from the aircraft. Despite his injuries he remained with the women while the pilot ran for help. The aircraft was completely destroyed by fire.

For his actions Mr Philliskirk is commended for brave conduct.

Mr Andrew Joseph PRENDERGAST, 310 Reservoir Road, Dean via Ballarat Vic 3352

On 5 October 1994 Mr Prendergast participated in the rescue of a man from a burning car near Dalby. Mr Prendergast arrived at the scene of the accident shortly after a vehicle had left the road, hit a tree and burst into flames. Mr Prendergast stopped his truck and ran to the burning vehicle where he assisted another motorist who was pulling the driver out through the passenger side window. Together they carried the injured man to safety. Mr Prendergast and the other motorist returned to the vehicle and released the seat belt from an unconscious passenger but were driven back by the flames and heat before they could remove him, and he perished in the fire.

For his actions Mr Prendergast is commended for brave conduct.