

STAR OF COURAGE

MR JAMES RICHARD RUNHAM, OAM, 13 Vivian Street, Eastern Heights Qld 4305

On 9 November 1993 Mr Runham placed his own safety at risk when he pursued an armed robber through the streets of Ipswich. Mr Runham had witnessed an armed holdup and after telling a shop owner to call the police he followed the offender on foot. The armed man, aware that he was being pursued, turned and approached Mr Runham and pulled a revolver from his bag. He fired at Mr Runham who pulled to one side narrowly avoiding being shot. In spite of this he continued his pursuit until another shot was fired at him and the robber escaped while Mr Runham took cover.

By his actions Mr Runham displayed conspicuous courage.

BRAVERY MEDAL

MR STEVEN ANDRIGHETTO, 2 Stewart Street, Wonthaggi Vic 3995

In the early hours of 8 January 1995 Mr Andrighetto was stabbed in the thigh when he went to the assistance of another man who was being threatened by a knife wielding man during a disturbance outside a Wonthaggi hotel. Mr Andrighetto was standing outside the hotel when he saw two men arguing, the more aggressive of the two calling for a knife from his companion nearby. As the knife was produced Mr Andrighetto stepped between the men in the hope of disarming the aggressor. Mr Andrighetto grabbed the man and as he did so he felt the knife cut into his left thigh. In the struggle that followed Mr Andrighetto received cuts to his forearm before pinning the now disarmed man to the ground to await the arrival of the police.

By his actions Mr Andrighetto displayed considerable bravery.

MR CHRISTOPHER KEVIN BALD, RDS 64 Flinders Chase Service via Kingscote, Kangaroo Island SA 5223

On 11 February 1996 Mr Bald rescued an exhausted and freezing man from the sea below Remarkable Rocks on Kangaroo Island. Mr Bald was asked to attempt the rescue after the man had fallen into the water and was unable to climb out because of the swell. By the time Mr Bald had driven the 30 kilometres from his home the man had been in the water for more than an hour and was exhausted. Wearing a wetsuit with a life jacket tied to his legrope he entered the water to search for the man who had disappeared from sight. The terrified man, on seeing Mr Bald, made the rescue even more difficult by clinging to him and the board. In spite of this Mr Bald succeeded in towing him on the surfboard further out to sea and around rocks to a beach where he could be brought ashore.

By his actions Mr Bald displayed considerable bravery.

MR MICHAEL JAMES BOYD, PO Box 3027, West Ipswich Qld 4305

On 9 November 1993 Mr Boyd assisted in the apprehension of an armed robber in the streets of Ipswich. Mr Boyd was in his car stopped at traffic lights when he saw a man behaving in a suspicious manner being pursued by another man. After driving around the block Mr Boyd left his car and headed the man off before confronting him. The robber eluded him in the grounds of Ipswich Hospital before re-appearing with a gun which he aimed at Mr Boyd and another man who had joined the pursuit. Two shots were fired but in spite of this Mr Boyd's pursuit continued until the arrival of the police.

By his actions Mr Boyd displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

MR JOHN ALEX BRUN, Randwick NSW 2031

On the night of 31 July 1995 Mr Brun rescued an injured man from a burning unit at Randwick thereby putting his own life at risk. Mr Brun was a passenger in a passing car when he saw flames coming from the top floor of a building. While the driver went to call emergency services Mr Brun accompanied by a resident ran through the building alerting the occupants. When they reached the unit which appeared to be the seat of the fire Mr Brun opened the door and crawling in searched for the occupant until he was driven back by the heat and dense smoke. Hearing the sound of a man moaning Mr Brun, his head covered by wet towels, made four more rescue attempts before he finally located the man and with assistance dragged him outside.

By his actions Mr Brun displayed considerable bravery.

MR RONALD DAVID CAIRNS, 7/6-8 Stanley Street, Burleigh Heads Qld 4220

On 27 January 1993 at North Palm Beach, Queensland, Mr Cairns detained an armed man, threatening to kill his former parents-in-law, to allow time for police to arrive. Mr Cairns saw the man, who had the previous week seriously assaulted his mother-in-law, approaching the property in which she lived. Mr Cairns challenged the man, who was younger and heavier, and would not allow him to pass. After a scuffle the younger man drew a knife and lunged at Mr Cairns with the intention of killing him, as well as the other two people. Mr Cairns maintained his delaying tactics for some minutes, in spite of having the knife thrust at him five more times. Fearing the arrival of police the armed man returned to his car. The man was finally apprehended after a high speed police pursuit.

By his actions Mr Cairns displayed considerable bravery.

MR CHRISTOPHER DOUGLAS DUNOON, 12 Mitchell Street, Belmont Vic 3216

On the afternoon of 10 October 1995 Mr Dunoon placed his own life in danger by participating in the rescue of the driver of a crashed double petrol tanker at Waurin Ponds. The tanker had, as a result of a head-on collision with another vehicle, veered off the road and collided with a tree. The impact with the tree caused the cabin to be crushed trapping him inside. At the same time the outlet valves and pipes of the first tanker were sheared off with approximately 32,000 litres of liquid fuel spilling out in a period of minutes. In some areas the petrol was 15 to 40 cms deep and steam or smoke was seen to be rising from the wreckage. Mr Dunoon and two other drivers stopped to assist and, in spite of the obvious dangers, ran through the fuel spillage to remove the trapped driver, thereby putting his well-being ahead of their own safety. One of the rescuers lifted the crushed panels of the cabin, hoping that this would not create sparks, while Mr Dunoon and the other man pulled the driver out. Because of massive leg injuries the three rescuers had to carry the driver to a safe spot some 60 metres from the wreckage. Unfortunately he died as a result of his injuries shortly after reaching hospital.

By his actions Mr Dunoon displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

SENIOR CONSTABLE KENNETH JAMES DWIGHT, Victoria Police Service

On 18 March 1995 Senior Constable Dwight removed a reluctant passenger from a bus parked across railway lines and in the path of an approaching train at Hoppers Crossing. Because of trackworks buses were being used to ferry passengers and the driver had left the bus beside the station ramp to direct passengers. Constable Dwight realised that a train from Geelong was due at any minute and informed the passengers already aboard and asked them to disembark as quickly as possible. One of the passengers ignored the warning and remained seated. Constable Dwight, who was still standing on the step of the bus, reached further inside and dragged the man outside. Shortly after the train collided with the bus causing it to spin around and demolish the area where the passenger was seated as well as inflicting an injury to Constable Dwight's shoulder.

By his actions Senior Constable Dwight displayed considerable bravery.

MR KARL ANTHONY FLETCHER, 40 Leonard Road, Hanwood NSW 2680

On 10 April 1993 Mr Fletcher went to the assistance of an off-duty police officer at the Pizza Hut in Griffith. Mr Fletcher, the Manager, had cause to speak to a customer in respect of his behaviour and offensive language. When the customer persisted, police were contacted. An off-duty police officer was escorting the offender from the premises when the offender turned on him with a broken glass inflicting serious wounds. Mr Fletcher came to the aid of the officer and was himself attacked resulting in life threatening injuries to the side of his face and carotid artery. In spite of his injuries Mr Fletcher pursued the offender who attempted to inflict further injuries. While assisting another officer to disarm the man Mr Fletcher collapsed from loss of blood.

By his actions Mr Fletcher displayed considerable bravery.

MR WAYNE BRADLEY GOLDEN, 199 Duffield Road, Kallangur Qld 4503

On the night of 18 July 1995 Mr Golden rescued an unconscious boy from a burning house at Kallangur. A fire had started in a neighbouring house and Mr Golden learning that a boy was still inside attempted to gain entry using a garden hose and a torch. During his attempt windows were exploding outwards and glass was being sprayed from the house. Although overcome by the smoke Mr Golden climbed into the house through a window while another man assisted with the hose and torch. He located the unconscious boy in a bunk, carried him to the window and passed him to a man outside.

By his actions Mr Golden displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

MR ANTHONY SIDNEY HEARD, 120 Eglinton Street, Kew Vic 3101

On the afternoon of 10 October 1995 Mr Heard placed his own life in danger by participating in the rescue of the driver of a crashed double petrol tanker at Waurin Ponds. The tanker had, as a result of a head-on collision with another vehicle, veered off the road and collided with a tree. The impact with the tree caused the cabin to be crushed trapping him inside. At the same time the outlet valves and pipes of the first tanker were sheared off with approximately 32,000 litres of liquid fuel spilling out in a period of minutes. In some areas the petrol was 15 to 40 cms deep and steam or smoke was seen to be rising from the wreckage. Mr Heard and two other drivers stopped to assist and, in spite of the obvious dangers, ran through the fuel spillage to remove the trapped driver, thereby putting his well-being ahead of their own safety. Mr Heard lifted the crushed panels of the cabin, hoping that this would not create sparks, while the other two rescuers pulled the driver out. Because of massive leg injuries the three rescuers had to carry the driver to a safe spot some 60 metres from the wreckage. Unfortunately he died as a result of his injuries shortly after reaching hospital.

By his actions Mr Heard displayed considerable bravery.

MR PHILLIP LESLIE HOY, 8 Toolooma Street, Woodridge Qld 4114

On 27 September 1994 Mr Hoy participated in the rescue of the unconscious driver from a burning truck at Archerfield. Mr Hoy investigated smoke coming from the cabin of a parked truck and realised that there was a man unconscious in the locked sleeper cabin. After unlocking the cabin door he tried to pull the man out by his legs but was overcome by the toxic fumes and the powder from the fire extinguishers operated by two other men. After regaining his breath and with the assistance of another bystander Mr Hoy succeeded in removing the driver and dousing him with water.

By his actions Mr Hoy displayed considerable bravery.

MS GWENDA JEAN HUNT, 15 Gertrude Street, Windsor Vic 3181

On 19 May 1995 Ms Hunt, through her brave action, saved the life of an eight-year-old boy under attack by a bull terrier in South Yarra. Ms Hunt had a group of young children in her care when the dog attacked. With her bare hands, Ms Hunt tried to pull the dog off the child who was being bitten on the back of his neck and his head. The dog then turned on Ms Hunt, who was protecting the boy with her body, severely mauling her hand and leg. Before the dog could be brought under control it again attacked the boy, this time biting him on the stomach. Both the boy and Ms Hunt required surgery and extended treatment at hospital.

By her actions Ms Hunt displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

MR ANDREW JOHN JARRETT, 404 Riversdale Road, East Hawthorn Vic 3123

On the afternoon of 10 October 1995 Mr Jarrett placed his own life in danger by participating in the rescue of the driver of a crashed double petrol tanker at Waurin Ponds. The tanker had, as a result of a head-on collision with another vehicle, veered off the road and collided with a tree. The impact with the tree caused the cabin to be crushed trapping him inside. At the same time the outlet valves and pipes of the first tanker were sheared off with approximately 32,000 litres of liquid fuel spilling out in a period of minutes. In some areas the petrol was 15 to 40 cms deep and steam or smoke was seen to be rising from the wreckage. Mr Jarrett and two other drivers stopped to assist and, in spite of the obvious dangers, ran through the fuel spillage to remove the trapped driver, thereby putting his well-being ahead of their own safety. One of the rescuers lifted the crushed panels of the cabin, hoping that this would not create sparks, while Mr Jarrett and the other man pulled the driver out. Because of massive leg injuries the three rescuers had to carry the driver to a safe spot some 60 metres from the wreckage. Unfortunately he died as a result of his injuries shortly after reaching hospital.

By his actions Mr Jarrett displayed considerable bravery.

MR MICHAEL KESSISSOGLU, 6/132 Mounts Bay Road, Perth WA 6000

On the night of 8 February 1995 Mr Kessissoglou rescued a man under attack by a group of intoxicated people at Weld Square, Perth. Mr Kessissoglou was travelling in a car when he witnessed ahead an accident involving a car and two very intoxicated men who were attempting to cross the street. Immediately after the car had hit the two men a group of 40-50 intoxicated people came from Weld Square, pulled the driver from his car, knocked him to the ground, and continued to assault him with kicks, bottles and other items. A crowd was attracted by the angry mob but Mr Kessissoglou alone came to the driver's aid. He forced his way through the crowd and carried the driver back out through the mob to the safety of a nearby hotel which was then secured against attack.

By his actions Mr Kessissoglou displayed considerable bravery.

MR JAMES THOMAS LAMBKIN, 10 Pagan Street, Jerrys Plains NSW 2330

On 7 December 1994 Mr Lambkin attempted to rescue three unconscious men from a well at Warkworth via Singleton. Mr Lambkin, a coal miner, became alarmed when he looked down the well and saw a petrol driven pump on a stand approximately 9 metres from the surface. He lowered himself about half way down and in spite of detecting the smell of foul air continued to the bottom where he saw an unconscious man. Returning to the surface for help he was informed that three men had descended the well. Believing that there may be a survivor Mr Lambkin went down the well for a second time and located the two other bodies, however, before he could assist he was overcome by the bad air and had to be hauled to the surface. Mr Lambkin made a third attempt but was again overcome. A short time later Police, Ambulance and Mines Rescue Personnel arrived.

By his actions Mr Lambkin displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

MR MICHAEL CASEY MCPAKE, Late of 26 Battery Street, Clovelly NSW 2031

On 13 April 1995 Mr McPake lost his life while trying to save a friend who was being held at knife point at La Perouse. Mr McPake and two companions beached their boat after a morning spent fishing. Mr McPake left the others for a short period and while he was absent the other two were approached by a deranged man who grabbed one of them and held a knife to his throat with the intention of killing him. Coming out of the bushes Mr McPake saw the plight of his friend and immediately went to assist. This distraction allowed the restrained man to free himself, however, while doing so he received a severe wound to his hand which later required micro surgery. While his two friends made good their escape Mr McPake continued to distract and fend off the armed man. During this manoeuvre Mr McPake received a knife wound to his stomach which resulted in his death shortly after.

By his actions Mr McPake displayed considerable bravery.

MR TIMOTHY JAMES OLDEN, Gnowangerup Road, Tambellup WA 6320

On 4 January 1995 Mr Olden placed his own life at risk to rescue the driver of a burning, crashed truck loaded with gas bottles. The driver had lost control of the truck on a bend and it had rolled over at least once on the Great Southern Highway at Broomehill. When Mr Olden arrived at the scene a small fire had commenced behind the cabin and a strong smell of gas was present from the load of 225 bottles, some of which had developed leaks in the accident. Inside the cabin a smaller gas bottle was placed between the seat and the dashboard adding to the danger. Mr Olden ran to the cabin, removed the driver and took him clear of the area. Within seconds of the driver's removal, the truck exploded into flames, accelerated by the large amount of leaking gas in the area.

By his actions Mr Olden displayed considerable bravery.

MR RUSSELL JAMES TOWNLEY, 12 Federation Drive, Bray Park Qld 4500

On 27 September 1994 Mr Townley participated in the rescue of the unconscious driver from a burning truck at Archerfield. Mr Townley investigated smoke coming from the cabin of a parked truck and realised that there was a man unconscious in the locked sleeper cabin. After opening the passenger side door he tried to pull the man out but was overcome by the toxic fumes and the powder from the fire extinguishers operated by two other men. After regaining his breath and with the assistance of another bystander Mr Townley succeeded in removing the driver and dousing him with water.

By his actions Mr Townley displayed considerable bravery.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

SERGEANT WILLIAM GARTH APPLEBEE, Queensland Police Service

On the evening of 21 December 1994, Sergeant Applebee, without regard to his personal safety, went to the aid of a critically- injured man who had been electrocuted by overhead power lines whilst on the top of the Burnett River Railway Bridge. On arrival at the scene, Sergeant Applebee located the injured man lying unconscious on the top cross beam of the bridge. Sergeant Applebee immediately climbed the bridge structure but when he was approximately four metres from the bridge decking the injured man regained consciousness and rolled off. He fell some two metres before being caught by Sergeant Applebee who then wedged the man between the main upright and a support beam. Sergeant Applebee remained holding the injured man for about an hour to enable power in the overhead power lines to be turned off and residual power in the lines drained before a rescue attempt could be effected by the Queensland Fire Service. Sergeant Applebee further assisted the rescue effort by securing ropes to the man so that he could be lowered to safety from the bridge.

For his actions Sergeant Applebee is commended for brave conduct.

MR TIMOTHY ADRIAN BEADMAN, 8/20 St Johns Row, Glenelg SA 5045

On 29 December 1995 Mr Beadman rescued a young woman under attack by two dogs. Mr Beadman's attention was drawn to the sound of barking and screaming coming from the rear of a neighbouring property. He saw a person lying on the ground being attacked by two large dogs. Leaving his flat Mr Beadman ran to the yard and saw a young woman crouched on the ground with the dogs taking turns biting her face and arms. Mr Beadman kicked one of the dogs and it withdrew but the other dog moved in and continued the attack. After an unsuccessful attempt to protect the terrified woman with a wheelie bin Mr Beadman grasped a pine log and as he hit the dogs they diverted their attention to him enabling another man to escort the woman from the yard. As a result of this incident Mr Beadman suffered cuts and abrasions.

For his actions Mr Beadman is commended for brave conduct.

MR GEOFFREY ROYDON BLACKWELL, 3/96 Brighton Street, Harbord NSW 2096

On the night of 11 July 1995 Mr Blackwell rescued an unconscious man from a burning building at Forster. Mr Blackwell's attention was attracted by an explosion and the sound of breaking glass. Realising that someone was trapped inside he ran to the bathroom but could not see anyone because of the smoke. He then felt around the floor and found the unconscious man. In spite of the choking smoke Mr Blackwell dragged the man outside before returning to search for any other occupants. With the aid of a torch Mr Blackwell entered the building for a third time but found it empty.

For his actions Mr Blackwell is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

MR MICHAEL ANDREW BRADEN, 1 West Street, Echunga SA 5153

On the night of 31 July 1995 Mr Braden participated in the rescue of an injured man from a burning unit at Randwick. Mr Braden was alerted when a stranger knocked on his door shouting that an upper unit was on fire. Together they ran through the building warning the residents. When they reached the unit which appeared to be the seat of the fire and opened the door they were driven back by the heat and dense smoke. Mr Braden made several trips with buckets of water which made no impression on the flames. Hearing the sounds of a man moaning Mr Braden helped the other man to search the unit until he could no longer breathe because of the smoke. The occupant of the unit was located shortly after and dragged outside.

For his actions Mr Braden is commended for brave conduct

MR BARRY EDWARD CRUWYS, 4 Combine Street, Coffs Harbour NSW 2450

On the night of 18 March 1995 Mr Cruwys alerted the occupants of a mobile home in Coffs Harbour when he became aware that a serious gas leak was occurring. Putting his own safety at risk he ran to the mobile home and woke a sleeping child. The force of the gas leak now was fluttering her bed sheet. At that time Mr Cruwys could not see anyone else inside. As Mr Cruwys was trying to persuade the girl to leave the van there was an explosion which propelled him backwards and out of the door. Although he received burns to his face, neck, legs and arms Mr Cruwys waited to see that there was assistance for the girl and that the gas main was turned off before hosing himself down to ease the pain.

For his actions Mr Cruwys is commended for brave conduct.

MR DARRYL ROY DAVIES, M/S 918, Toowoomba Mail Centre Qld 4352

On 26 June 1995 Mr Davies participated in the rescue of a woman from a crashed and burning vehicle near Cooyar. Mr Davies was stopped at the scene of an accident and saw a woman trapped in one of the burning and damaged cars and heard her screaming. After one unsuccessful attempt Mr Davies and another man pulled the driver's door open by bending the top of the door frame. The flames were intensifying as they tried to lift her out only to find her caught in her seat belt. Placing her back in the car they manoeuvred her body and the belt until they freed her. The fuel tank of her car exploded shortly after they had carried her to safety.

For his actions Mr Davies is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

MR WAYNE JOHN DORAN, 980 Nudgee Road, Banyo Qld 4014

Early in the morning of 5 November 1992 Mr Doran rescued a woman under attack at Fortitude Valley. Mr Doran was driving his car when he saw a man attempting to push a woman down a side street. She escaped him but was caught again in a headlock. She then managed to free herself again. Mr Doran kept the man under observation and when he saw him approach another woman he stopped his car and intervened. Mr Doran walked towards the man and caused a distraction which allowed the woman to break free and enter Mr Doran's car. While a taxi driver sought Police assistance, Mr Doran followed the offender on foot challenging him as a delaying tactic pending Police arrival.

For his actions Mr Doran is commended for brave conduct.

MR GORDON MARTIN EDWARDS, 96 Kent Street, Busselton, WA 6280

On the evening of 25 April 1994, Mr Edwards placed his own life at risk in his attempts to rescue a youth from the ocean off Moses Rock. Mr Edwards was the leader of a team of volunteers from the Busselton State Emergency Service who responded to a Police request for assistance in the rescue of a young male surfer. He had lost his surf board and had been unable to return to shore due to strong off-shore winds and heavy seas. The prevailing wind conditions and sea state precluded a rescue attempt by boat. Realising this and the fact that the youth had already been stranded in the water for a few hours, Mr Edwards decided to enter the ocean and swim out with a safety line to the stranded surfer whose situation was becoming increasingly perilous with the encroaching darkness. Immediately upon entering the ocean Mr Edwards got into difficulty when his safety line became entangled in the rocks. He had to release himself from the line and as a consequence he too was washed out onto the rocks. Physically exhausted and suffering from cuts and abrasions from his attempt Mr Edwards then had to be rescued by other members of the SES team.

For his actions Mr Edwards is commended for brave conduct.

SENIOR CONSTABLE JACQUES EMILE GOBBELS, Western Australia Police Service

On 26 February 1996 Senior Constable Gobbels rescued a man and a woman from the flooded Goodaman Creek near Nanutarra. The couple had attempted to cross a section of roadway covered by floodwaters but the force of the water washed their vehicle off the road and into the creek where it finally came to rest against a tree approximately 60 metres downstream. Constable Gobbels, who was camped nearby, assessed their situation and enlisted the aid of the driver of a car carrier truck in attempting a rescue. When the truck was driven into the water, Constable Gobbels launched a small life raft, which was secured to the truck by a rope, and after two attempts reached the stranded vehicle. The woman was taken on board the raft and in spite of twice falling off and being rescued by Constable Gobbels, who had to leave the raft and dive for her, reached the safety of the truck. The raft was again launched and the man transferred from his vehicle to the truck. The entire rescue took approximately 45 minutes and was completed just before dark.

For his actions Senior Constable Gobbels is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

MR TREVOR JOHN HADLEY, 8 Diadem Street, Eaton WA 6232

On 20 January 1995 Mr Hadley rescued a man from his burning vehicle on Caves Road, Augusta. Mr Hadley stopped at the scene of an accident where a car had left the road, hit a tree, rolled onto the driver's side and caught on fire. He ran to the smashed car and lifting it back onto its wheels saw that the elderly driver was conscious but suffering from shock. At this stage with flames coming from the engine compartment Mr Hadley checked the female passenger but was unable to find a pulse. He returned to the driver and lifted him out of the car and carried him to safety. The fire was starting to engulf the car as Mr Hadley removed the unconscious passenger.

For his actions Mr Hadley is commended for brave conduct.

MR CRAIG PHILLIP HINDS, Cambria Street, Stockinbingal NSW 2725

On the night of 13 May 1995 Mr Hinds participated in the rescue of a man trapped in his car in a flooded creek at Stockinbingal. Mr Hinds heard shouting coming from the direction of the creek and on investigating saw that a car had been washed off a causeway and had come to rest against a flood fence. The driver had tried to get out through the window but was pinned by a fence cable with his head and torso inside the car, and his legs outside. The water was rising rapidly, the current was very strong as Mr Hinds and another man attempted the rescue.

Mr Hinds edged his way along the fence until he reached the car and saw that the cable had to be broken so the driver could be released before the water level reached his head. His companion held the exhausted driver's head clear of the water while Mr Hinds with great difficulty broke the cable. As the cable snapped the driver was washed out of the car and downstream where he was caught and carried to safety by both of his rescuers.

For his actions Mr Hinds is commended for brave conduct.

SENIOR CONSTABLE GREGORY WARWICK HIRST, Queensland Police Service

At approximately 5.15 pm on 26 May 1995 Senior Constable Hirst participated in the attempted rescue of a man from an overturned half cabin boat at Munna Point, Noosaville. Constable Hirst was on duty when he was notified of the boating accident. He drove to the river and requested the owner of a boat to take him to the overturned hull which was being slowly towed to shore. On arrival he entered the water and spoke to two men who were holding on to the rear of the hull. They told him that there was a man trapped underneath. Constable Hirst dived under and searched but became entangled in debris and was forced to remain in an air pocket until he could disentangle himself. He then returned to the rear of the hull and joined the two other rescuers who were continuing their efforts in taking turns to dive and search. Shortly after one of the other men located the missing man and all three of them pulled him to the surface and placed him on the hull. Resuscitation was commenced immediately, however, the man died shortly after.

For his actions Senior Constable Hirst is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

MR BRENDAN LUCAS MILCS, Green Point Road, Marrawah Tas 7330

On 2 May 1995 Mr Milcs rescued a surfer in difficulties at West Point, Marrawah. Although an experienced surfer, Mr Milcs was at the time suffering from a back injury. In spite of this he went to the assistance of a board rider caught in a rip and five metre waves. Donning a wetsuit Mr Milcs paddled his surfboard out to the cold and exhausted surfer and attached a leg strap to him. Mr Milcs placed the surfer on his board and they paddled them back to shore in extremely difficult conditions against the current.

For his actions Mr Milcs is commended for brave conduct.

MR KELVIN EDWARD JOHN PACKHAM, 53 Carl-Heck Boulevard, Windaroo Qld 4207

On 16 November 1993 Mr Packham rescued a two-year-old girl from a burning house at Kingston. Mr Packham heard the sound of a window breaking and a woman's screams coming from a neighbouring house. As he ran across the road to assist he could see smoke pouring from the house and the woman shouting that her daughter was still inside the burning building. He ran up the back steps and through the kitchen but was driven back by smoke. Mr Packham made another try with his shirt over his face and a third attempt after putting on some shoes, but without success. After determining the exact location of the child Mr Packham climbed a trampoline which other men held against the wall. Climbing in the window he found the terrified child huddled under the blankets on her bed and passed her to others outside.

For his actions Mr Packham is commended for brave conduct.

MR DAVID TERENCE PARTON, 36 Tijuana Road, Armadale WA 6112

On the night of 8 August 1995 Mr Parton rescued two small children from a burning house at Armadale. Mr Parton was driving by when his attention was attracted by a young girl screaming for help. He stopped and after being informed by the girl that children were inside a burning house he ran to assist. Unable to gain entry by the front door he smashed a bedroom window and climbed inside the smoke filled room. In spite of experiencing breathing difficulties Mr Parton located one child and passed her through the window. As the seat of the fire was in the centre of the house Mr Parton climbed outside, ran to the other side of the building and entered another bedroom through the window. After locating the second child he climbed out with the child in his arms.

For his actions Mr Parton is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

MR DARYL WAYNE PATZWALD, M/S 918 Douglas/Nutgrove Road, Nutgrove via Cooyar Qld 4402

On 26 June 1995 Mr Patzwald participated in the rescue of a woman from a crashed and burning vehicle near Cooyar. Mr Patzwald was stopped at the scene of an accident and saw a woman trapped in one of the burning and damaged cars and heard her screaming. After one unsuccessful attempt Mr Patzwald and another man pulled the driver's door open by bending the top of the door frame. The flames were intensifying as they tried to lift her out only to find her caught in her seat belt. Placing her back in the car they manoeuvred her body and the belt until they freed her. The fuel tank of her car exploded shortly after they had carried her to safety.

For his actions Mr Patzwald is commended for brave conduct.

MR RAMON MARK PHILIPPI, 113-119 Bamboo Drive, Woodhill Qld 4285

At approximately 5.15 pm on 26 May 1995 Mr Philippi participated in the rescue of one man and the attempted rescue of another from the river at Munna Point, Noosaville. Mr Philippi was fishing from a pontoon when he saw a half cabin boat sinking at the stern in mid stream. Within a few seconds the boat capsized. Mr Philippi and another man ran to the beach where a boat was coming in to shore. They requested the owner's help in taking them to attempt a rescue. On reaching the overturned boat the two men dived in and assisted a man who was trying to climb onto the hull. When Mr Philippi and his companion were told of a second man trapped in the cabin they took turns to dive under and search for him amongst the ropes and fishing gear, without success. A rope was then attached to the hull and as it was towed slowly to shore a third rescuer joined Mr Philippi and his companion. At last Mr Philippi found the man and held him by the hand until the other two rescuers pulled him to the surface and placed him on the hull. Resuscitation was commenced immediately, however, the man died shortly after.

For his actions Mr Philippi is commended for brave conduct.

MR JAMES PHILLIP PRESTON, 1 Hoskins Street, Stockinbingal NSW 2725

On the night of 13 May 1995 Mr Preston participated in the rescue of a man trapped in his car in a flooded creek at Stockinbingal. Mr Preston heard shouting coming from the direction of the creek and on investigating saw that a car had been washed off a causeway and had come to rest against a flood fence. The driver had tried to get out through the window but was pinned by a fence cable with his head and torso inside the car, and his legs outside. The water was rising rapidly, the current was very strong as Mr Preston and another man attempted the rescue. Mr Preston edged his way along the fence until he reached the car where he kept the exhausted driver's head above the waterline while the other man with great difficulty broke the fence cable which was trapping the driver. As the cable snapped the driver was washed out of the car and down stream where he was caught by Mr Preston and carried to safety by both of his rescuers.

For his actions Mr Preston is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

MR JEFFREY WAYNE SORRENSON, 13 Venus Court, Woodhill Qld 4285

At approximately 5.15 pm on 26 May 1995 Mr Sorrenson participated in the rescue of one man and the attempted rescue of another from the river at Munna Point, Noosaville. Mr Sorrenson was fishing from a pontoon when he saw a half cabin boat sinking at the stern in mid stream. Within a few seconds the boat capsized. Mr Sorrenson and another man ran to the beach where a boat was coming in to shore. They requested the owner's help in taking them to attempt a rescue. On reaching the overturned boat the two men dived in and assisted a man who was trying to climb onto the hull. When Mr Sorrenson and his companion were told of a second man trapped in the cabin they took turns to dive under and search for him amongst the ropes and fishing gear, without success. A rope was then attached to the hull and as it was towed slowly to shore a third rescuer joined Mr Sorrenson and his companion in searching. At last one of the rescuers found the man and held him by the hand until the other two rescuers pulled him to the surface and placed him on the hull. Resuscitation was commenced immediately, however, the man died shortly after.

For his actions Mr Sorrenson is commended for brave conduct.

MR BRADLEY ROBERT SUTHERLAND, 5 Melaleuca Drive, Macquarie Fields NSW 2564

On the morning of 8 June 1995 Mr Sutherland alerted residents of a burning house at Macquarie Fields. Seeing a flicker of flames coming from one of the windows Mr Sutherland banged on the door. Upon hearing the faint cries of a child he returned to his own house to call an ambulance. Returning to the burning house Mr Sutherland kicked in the laundry door to search for the occupants but was driven back by the smoke and heat. He entered the house again, this time with a garden hose and succeeded in extinguishing the flames before the arrival of the fire brigade.

For his actions Mr Sutherland is commended for brave conduct.

MR LEIGH JAMES WRIGHT, 82A Minnie Street, Southport Qld 4215

On the night of 18 July 1995 Mr Wright participated in the rescue of an unconscious boy from a burning house at Kallangur. A fire had started in a neighbour's house and Mr Wright, learning that a boy was trapped, inside ran to help. He climbed on to a pergola and attempted to gain entry to a back bedroom window but was unable to do so because of the extreme heat. During his attempt windows were exploding outwards and glass was being sprayed from the house. A garden hose and a torch were passed to Mr Wright and while he directed the flow of water another neighbour climbed inside, located the boy and passed him out to Mr Wright.

For his actions Mr Wright is commended for brave conduct.