

STAR OF COURAGE

MR ROBERT JOHN ELLIOTT, 58-62 Terrara Road, Vermont Vic 3133

On Sunday 28 April 1996, 35 persons were murdered and 21 injured in a shooting incident at and near the historic penal settlement of Port Arthur in Tasmania.

Mr Elliott was seated in the Broad Arrow cafe when he heard shooting and saw a heavily armed man appear from the servery area and fire a gun several times at customers in the room. People began screaming and looking for cover. Mr Elliott, disregarding his own safety, rose from his table and ran towards the gunman, in the hope of disarming him or distracting him to allow others to escape. Mr Elliott tried to grab the gunman. The gunman saw him approaching and shot him. Mr Elliott fell to the floor seriously injured. He was later treated for a fractured skull, a fractured upper arm and wounds to the face.

By his actions Mr Elliott displayed conspicuous courage.

BRAVERY MEDAL

MRS LYNNE SUZANNE BEAVIS, 1 McGregor Court, Mt Evelyn Vic 3796

On Sunday 28 April 1996, 35 persons were murdered and 21 injured in a shooting incident at and near the historic penal settlement of Port Arthur in Tasmania.

Mrs Beavis and her sister were near the Penitentiary when they heard gunfire and saw customers and staff run from the Broad Arrow cafe towards them. When Mrs Beavis was advised that a man was shooting at random she took cover behind a wall and warned other tourists to do the same. The gunman continued to fire, and bullets were ricocheting off the walls and buildings around her. Mrs Beavis was later told that the gunman had left in a car and although she could still hear gunfire she left the safety of the wall and ran to assist the wounded and dying in the cafe, the car park and the tourist buses. Mrs Beavis, a nurse, administered first aid and assisted the traumatised tourists and relatives of the dead even though she could still hear a gun discharging and did not know if the gunman would return. When doctors and ambulance officers arrived she continued to assist them with the injured.

By her actions Mrs Beavis displayed considerable bravery.

MR MARK ANDREW BODE, 2 Mercedes Street, Seaview Heights, Gladstone Qld 4680

On the morning of 4 August 1996 Mr Bode entered a burning house at Parkwood, Queensland, to alert the sleeping residents to their danger.

Mr Bode, a resident of the house, had run from the premises unaware that his four fellow residents were still asleep in the burning house. He immediately re-entered the premises and aroused the endangered sleepers, enabling them to escape the now rapidly intensifying fire. During the evacuation Mr Bode suffered third degree burns to his upper back, neck and arms.

By his actions Mr Bode displayed considerable bravery.

MR PETER DAVID CROSSWELL, 18 Leyden Avenue, Seven Mile Beach Tas 7170

On Sunday 28 April 1996, 35 people were murdered and 21 injured in a shooting incident at and near the historic penal settlement of Port Arthur in Tasmania.

Mr Crosswell was in the Broad Arrow cafe with two female companions when a gunman entered and started shooting. Mr Crosswell pulled his two companions to the floor and tried to protect them with his body. While doing so, he was wounded. When the gunman left the cafe, and in spite of hearing shots being discharged outside, Mr Crosswell left the building to try to ascertain the situation. On finding that the gunman appeared to have left the scene, Mr Crosswell accompanied the two women who had been with him to some bushes behind the cafe to await help. He then returned to the cafe to attempt to render assistance to the injured, despite his own injury.

By his actions Mr Crosswell displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

MR RONALD NOEL JARY, (deceased), late of: Red Cliffs Vic 3496
Next-of-Kin: Mrs Vera Myrtle Jary (wife), PO Box 10, Red Cliffs Vic 3496

On Sunday 28 April 1996, 35 people were murdered and 21 injured in a shooting incident at and near the historic penal settlement of Port Arthur in Tasmania.

Mr Jary was in the souvenir shop in the Broad Arrow cafe with his wife and some friends when the shooting started. Staff members behind the counter crouched down to avoid being hit and shouted a warning to the customers to seek cover. Mr Jary pushed his wife and another woman to the floor to protect them. In doing so he was shot and killed.

By his actions Mr Jary displayed considerable bravery, thereby losing his life.

MR TONY KISTAN, (deceased) late of: 7 Haig Avenue, Summer Hill NSW 2130
Next-of-Kin: Mrs Sarah Kistan (wife), 7 Haig Avenue, Summer Hill NSW 2130

On Sunday 28 April 1996, 35 people were murdered and 21 injured in a shooting incident at and near the historic penal settlement of Port Arthur in Tasmania.

Mr Kistan was sitting at a table in the Broad Arrow cafe with his wife and a friend when the shooting began. Mr Kistan pulled his wife to her feet and pushed her out the door to safety. In doing so, he was shot. Mrs Kistan immediately re-entered the cafe and lay on the floor next to her husband, not realising that he was dead.

By his actions Mr Kistan displayed considerable bravery, thereby losing his life.

MISS MAVIS MAY LE BROcq, (deceased), late of Sandy Creek Road, New Burnt Bridge via Kempsey NSW 2440

Next-of-Kin: (Brother) Mr Mark A Kennedy, Sandy Creek Road, Burnt Bridge via Kempsey NSW 2440

Early in the morning of 16 July 1996 Miss Le Brocq gave her life to save two of her nephews in a burning house at Kempsey, New South Wales.

Miss Le Brocq was a guest of her brother and his family, sharing a bedroom with her two nephews aged seven and four years, when the house caught fire. In dense smoke and searing heat Miss Le Brocq took the two boys through the flames to an outside door and, pushing them to safety, re-entered the blazing rooms to search for other members of the household. Despite the extreme danger of the situation Miss Le Brocq maintained her humane endeavours until her life was taken by the fire.

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

BRAVERY MEDAL

MR LESLIE DENNIS LEVER, (deceased), late of: 30 Tecoma Street, Red Cliffs Vic 3496

Next-of-Kin: Mrs Coralee Helen Lever (wife), 30 Tecoma Street, Red Cliffs Vic 3496

On Sunday 28 April 1996, 35 people were murdered and 21 injured in a shooting incident at and near the historic penal settlement of Port Arthur in Tasmania.

Mr Lever was in the souvenir shop in the Broad Arrow cafe with his wife and some friends when the shooting started. Staff members behind the counter crouched down to avoid being hit and shouted a warning to the customers to seek cover. Mr Lever pushed his wife and another woman to the floor to protect them. In doing so he was shot and killed.

By his actions Mr Lever displayed considerable bravery, thereby losing his life.

MS CAROLYN ANNE LOUGHTON, 17 Kia Ora Parade, Ferntree Gully Vic 3156

On Sunday 28 April 1996, 35 people were murdered and 21 injured in a shooting incident at and near the historic penal settlement of Port Arthur in Tasmania.

Ms Loughton was seated at a table in the Broad Arrow cafe with her daughter and a friend when the gunman opened fire. Ms Loughton could hear glass shattering and bullets ricocheting around the room as she reached for her daughter and threw her to the floor, protecting her with her own body. When the gunman left the cafe Ms Loughton attempted to get up, but found that she had been badly wounded and was bleeding profusely. Both her daughter and her friend were killed in the gunfire. Ms Loughton was taken by helicopter to hospital in Hobart where she underwent surgery.

By her actions Ms Loughton displayed considerable bravery.

WARRANT OFFICER GLENN PHILLIP McINNES, Cottage-4 ALTC, Norris Barracks, Portsea Vic 3944

Early in the evening of 2 May 1994, at about 300 nautical miles east of Brisbane, Warrant Officer McInnes placed his own life at risk to rescue the remaining crew member of a stricken yacht, adrift on a life raft in dangerous seas.

Warrant Officer McInnes was a member of an Army helicopter crew which had been called to the aid of the distressed survivors. Warrant Officer McInnes descended in darkness into the ocean to attempt to rescue the yachtsman. He was untrained in such duties, and fully aware that if his rescue attempt was not immediately successful the helicopter's fuel reserves would necessitate him being abandoned on the life raft. He swam to the life raft and, in difficult conditions, harnessed the surviving yachtsman who was then hoisted to safety.

By his action Warrant Officer McInnes displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

MR PETER BRENTON NASH, (deceased), late of: 18 Fourth Avenue, Hoppers Crossing Vic 3029

Next-of-Kin: Mrs Carolyn Nash (wife), 18 Fourth Avenue, Hoppers Crossing Vic 3029

On Sunday 28 April 1996, 35 people were murdered and 21 injured in a shooting incident at and near the historic penal settlement of Port Arthur in Tasmania.

Mr Nash and his wife were in the souvenir section of the Broad Arrow cafe when shots were heard. Mr Nash quickly realised the danger and told his wife to crouch on the floor. Leaving himself exposed, he shielded her with his own body, saving her life. When the gunman entered the room firing at random, Mr Nash was killed.

By his actions, Mr Nash displayed 'considerable bravery, thereby losing his life.

MR MARK CHRISTOPHER OLLIER, 3 Rona Street, Ferntree Gully Vic 3156

Early in the morning of 10 March 1995 at the Alexandra Gardens, Melbourne, Mr Ollier placed his own safety at risk to subdue an armed man attacking a side show attendant at the Moomba Festival.'

Mr Ollier was at the Festival, when he saw a side show attendant from whom toy prizes had been stolen being attacked by a man with a knife. Despite being aware that the assailant had already inflicted a number of knife wounds on the attendant, Mr Ollier went to his rescue. In doing so he drew the attention of the attacker from the victim and exposed himself to the danger of serious injury. During the struggle Mr Ollier was stabbed, but succeeded in disarming the offender and restraining him until he could be taken into custody.

By his actions Mr Ollier displayed considerable bravery.

MR GLENN ROY PEARS, (deceased), late of: 90 Norma Street, Howrah Tas 7018

Next-of-Kin: Mr Phillip John Pears, 10 Cedar Place, The Gap Qld 4061

On Sunday 28 April 1996, 35 people were murdered and 21 injured in a shooting incident at and near the historic penal settlement of Port Arthur in Tasmania.

Mr Pears was driving towards Port Arthur when he was stopped by a man pointing a rifle at him from the side of the road. The gunman indicated he intended to take Mr Pears's female companion hostage, but Mr Pears convinced the gunman to take him instead. Mr Pears was placed in the boot of his car. The gunman then shot the female companion where she sat. He then drove, with Mr Pears in the boot, to the Seascape guest house where Mr Pears was killed.

By his actions Mr Pears displayed considerable bravery, thereby losing his life.

BRAVERY MEDAL

MR KEVIN VINCENT SHARP, (deceased), late of: 4 Link Avenue, Kilmore Vic 3764
Next-of-Kin: Mrs Marlene Joan Sharp (wife), 4 Link Avenue, Kilmore Vic 3764

On Sunday 28 April 1996, 35 people were murdered and 21 injured in a shooting incident at and near the historic penal settlement of Port Arthur in Tasmania.

Mr Sharp was standing at a table in the Broad Arrow cafe with his wife and friends when the shooting started. Mr Sharp immediately pushed his wife and another woman to the floor to protect them, but was shot in doing so.

By his actions Mr Sharp displayed considerable bravery, thereby losing his life.

WARRANT OFFICER MURRAY IAN SPRIGGS, 37 SQN, Loadmaster Section, RAAF Base, Richmond NSW 2754

Late in the afternoon of 2 May 1994, at about 300 nautical miles east of Brisbane, Warrant Officer Spriggs placed his own safety at risk to rescue the crew members of a stricken yacht, adrift on life rafts in dangerous seas.

Warrant Officer Spriggs was a member of an Army helicopter crew which had gone to the aid of the distressed survivors. Although untrained in such duties, Warrant Officer Spriggs descended into the ocean and swam to the life rafts where over an extended period he harnessed the survivors and had them hoisted to safety. During the rescue Warrant Officer Spriggs had to enter the sea on two occasions to right life rafts capsized by waves, and twice had to dive under the rafts to clear fouled hoisting cables. Despite the extremely hazardous and physically demanding conditions Warrant Officer Spriggs continued until forced by exhaustion to desist.

By his action Warrant Officer Spriggs displayed considerable bravery.

MR JOHN PATRICK WRIGHT, 5 Gowrie Street, Cronulla NSW 2230

On the morning of 1 July 1995 Mr Wright placed his own safety at risk to rescue a seriously injured woman from a burning car at Buderim, Queensland.

Arriving immediately after a head-on collision Mr Wright observed flames beneath one of the damaged vehicles and an unconscious woman trapped in the driving seat. Unable to free the woman through the damaged front door of the car, and driven back by the heat from the rapidly intensifying fire, Mr Wright went around the burning vehicle and entered the confined rear seat space, from where he was able to drag the woman over the seats to safety. Shortly after the car was evacuated the entire vehicle was engulfed in flames.

By his actions Mr Wright displayed considerable bravery.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

MS JEAN ELIZABETH ANDREWS, C/- 60 Castle Street, Goolwa SA 5214

On Sunday 28 April 1996, 35 persons were murdered and 21 injured in a shooting incident at and near the historic penal settlement of Port Arthur in Tasmania.

Ms Andrews and her sister were near the Penitentiary when they heard gunfire and saw customers and staff run from the Broad Arrow cafe towards them. When Ms Andrews was advised that a man was shooting at random she took cover behind a wall as bullets were ricocheting off the walls and building around her. She was later told that the gunman had left in a car and although they could still hear gunfire she and her sister, a nurse, ran to assist the wounded in the car park, the cafe and the tourist buses. Ms Andrews accompanied her sister even though she could still hear a gun discharging and gave whatever assistance she could to the injured and traumatised.

For her actions Ms Andrews is commended for brave conduct.

MR JAMES BALASKO, 317 Valley Brook Avenue, Lyndhurst NJ 07071 USA

On Sunday 28 April 1996, 35 people were murdered and 21 injured in a shooting incident at and near the historic penal settlement of Port Arthur in Tasmania.

Mr Balasko was standing near parked tourist buses when he heard gunfire from the adjacent Broad Arrow cafe. He saw a woman run outside warning that a man was shooting people. When the gunman emerged from the cafe, Mr Balasko went behind a bus to protect his female companion who had sought shelter there. He saw the woman, who had shouted the warning, shot in the leg. Realising that he had his video camera with him and in spite of being fired at, he recorded the movements of the gunman.

For his actions Mr Balasko is commended for brave conduct.

MR PHILLIP JOHN DEMPSEY, 7 Hawkvalley Crescent, Maida Vale WA 6057

On the morning of 3 August 1996 near the Barrack Street jetty, Perth, Mr Dempsey placed himself at risk to rescue a man from drowning in the Swan River.

Although he was not a strong swimmer, Mr Dempsey responded to calls for help and, in bitterly cold and squally conditions, swam to the aid of a large disturbed man and pulled him to the shallows. The difficulties of the rescue required of Mr Dempsey a level of effort that placed his own survival in jeopardy.

For his actions Mr Dempsey is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

MR ANTHONY ROBERT DENNISON

On the night of 4 February 1996 Mr Dennison displayed commendably brave conduct in the apprehension at Sandy Bay of a person who had taken part in an armed robbery.

Having observed the robbery taking place, Mr Dennison followed the get-away car in his taxi until the robbers abandoned their car and dispersed. Mr Dennison followed one of the men until he entered a service station where, with the assistance of the attendant and a passenger from his taxi, Mr Dennison placed the offender under citizen's arrest.

For his actions Mr Dennison is commended for brave conduct.

MR ERIC BRIAN EDMONDS, 105 Western Street, Rockhampton Qld 4700

Early in the morning of 12 August 1996, Mr Edmonds risked serious injury in order to assist an endangered fellow firefighter at the City Heart Backpackers' Hostel, Rockhampton.

Mr Edmonds and his colleague were searching for unaccounted occupants when the building became entirely enveloped in flames. The two men, who were 30 metres from the exit, decided that they should abandon their search. Mr Edmonds's colleague became disoriented by the smoke and heat and lost his sense of direction. Despite the risk to himself, Mr Edmonds went back into the heat and smoke to locate his colleague and, having done so, guided him to safety. Both men were later treated for burns.

For his actions Mr Edmonds is commended for brave conduct.

MR KEITH CAMERON EDWARD, 1 Sequoia Place, Port Macquarie NSW 2444

On Sunday 28 April 1996, 35 people were murdered and 21 injured in a shooting incident at and near the historic penal settlement of Port Arthur in Tasmania.

Mr Edward approached the Port Arthur site and stopped at the tollgate. He was informed that a man was shooting indiscriminantly on the site and advised not to go in. He saw a woman and a child who were running up the road towards him fall to the ground after being shot. Mr Edward reversed up the road, picked up a couple who were running away, and drove to a nearby service station to warn others. In spite of the fact that the gunman appeared to be heading towards them, Mr Edward asked his wife to warn the occupants of the shop and service station while he stopped cars heading towards the danger area. When the gunman came in sight Mr Edward ran to cover, stopping to assist a girl with a broken leg who was trying to get away.

For his actions Mr Edward is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

MR JOHN GRAEME FIDLER, 10 Robert Court, East Rosanna Vic 3084

On Sunday 28 April 1996, 35 people were murdered and 21 injured in a shooting incident at and near the historic penal settlement of Port Arthur in Tasmania.

Mr Fidler was seated in the Broad Arrow cafe when he heard shots and saw a gunman shoot other customers. The gunman approached Mr Fidler's table, firing at random, killing one man and injuring others. Although Mr Fidler had been wounded in the forehead, he managed to push his wife under the table and lay at the end of it to protect her. The gunman then moved to another area of the cafe, giving Mr Fidler an opportunity to take his wife outside and to hide in a patch of thick undergrowth.

For his actions Mr Fidler is commended for brave conduct.

MR GORDON HOWARD FRANCIS, 33 Elgin Avenue, Warradale SA 5046

On Sunday 28 April 1996, 35 people were murdered and 21 injured in a shooting incident at and near the historic penal settlement of Port Arthur in Tasmania.

Mr Francis was seated in a tourist bus with his wife when he heard gunfire and saw a woman run from the Broad Arrow cafe shouting a warning. Mr Francis pushed his wife down between the seats and lay down in the aisle still holding her. He looked up and saw a man approaching the bus firing at random. Mr Francis crawled to the front of the bus and tried to close the doors, and in that attempt to protect the occupants he sustained a shoulder wound.

For his actions Mr Francis is commended for brave conduct.

SENIOR CONSTABLE DENIS JAMES GABBEDY, Victoria Police Service.

On Sunday 28 April 1996, 35 people were murdered and 21 injured in a shooting incident at and near the historic penal settlement of Port Arthur in Tasmania.

Constable Gabbedy was near the Tea Rooms when he heard shots and bullets ricochet off the wall behind him. He sought cover behind the wall and looking out he saw a yellow Volvo drive away. He heard more shots, but by then they were further away. Not knowing whether the gunman would return, he went to the Broad Arrow cafe to render assistance. He comforted a badly injured man and, while waiting for other Police officers to arrive, he drew a map of the cafe indicating the positions of the dead and injured to assist the Police.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

MISS TEENA MICHELLE JAMES, 37 Alday Street, St James WA 6102

Early in the afternoon of 7 September 1995 Miss James placed her own safety at risk to save the life of a small girl at Cannington, Western Australia.

Miss James was attending a customer in her shop when she became aware that the customer's car, containing her infant daughter, was on fire. Without hesitation Miss James ran to the burning smoke filled vehicle where, despite the immediate dangers from the flames and toxic fumes and the imminent hazard of explosion, she searched for the customer's child and carried her to safety. During the rescue Miss James smothered flames on the burning girl with her bare hands.

For her actions Miss James is commended for brave conduct.

MISS REBECCA NICOLE JOHNSON, 21 Acacia Drive, Mildura Vic 3500

Early in the morning of 22 October 1993 13 year old Rebecca Johnson placed her own safety at risk to remove her four younger sisters from danger in a fire at their family home in Irymple, Victoria.

Rebecca was awoken shortly before 3.00 am by the smell of smoke, and quickly assessed from the volume of smoke that a serious fire had developed in the house. She attempted to wake her father but was unable to do so. Maintaining her presence of mind in a threatening situation, Rebecca rallied her sisters, and led them through the smoke-filled house to safety. She then returned to her father's bedroom and succeeded in waking him.

For her actions Miss Johnson is commended for brave conduct.

MR RICHARD JAMES KENNEDY, New Burnt Bridge, South Kempsey NSW 2440

Early in the morning of 16 July 1996 Mr Kennedy placed his own safety in jeopardy to go to the aid of his sister trapped in a blazing house at Kempsey, New South Wales.

Mr Kennedy and his family were hosting his sister on an overnight visit when their home caught alight. After assisting his wife and youngest son from the house, Mr Kennedy re-entered the blazing building to search for his sister who had remained to help two of her nephews to safety. Despite the danger and suffering burns to his arm and shoulder, Mr Kennedy continued seeking his sister until, overcome by heat and smoke, he was assisted from the fire by a neighbour.

For his actions Mr Kennedy is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

ACTING SERGEANT PAUL MAXWELL KIMBER, Western Australia Police Service

On the night of 26 January 1996 Acting Sergeant Kimber participated in the rescue of a young child trapped in the forward cabin of a capsized cabin cruiser on the Swan River off Royal Perth Yacht Club.

In conditions aggravated by darkness and heavy river traffic, Acting Sergeant Kimber made repeated free dives to locate and open the inverted fore hatch of the capsized vessel. He gave reassurance to the trapped child until the arrival of a fellow Police Officer who, using improvised breathing apparatus, was able to free the child. Acting Sergeant Kimber continued to participate in the operation until the child was brought to safety.

For his actions Acting Sergeant Kimber is commended for brave conduct.

MR JOHNSON GREY KITTO, 22 Park Road, Nedlands WA 6009

On the afternoon of 9 October 1996 at the May Holman Centre, Perth, Mr Kitto overcame concern for his own safety to restrain and apprehend an escaping thief.

Mr Kitto was a bystander when a woman called for help in the pursuit of a youth who had stolen her mobile telephone. Mr Kitto immediately gave chase, eventually cornering the youth who indicated that he was armed with a knife and threatened to inflict serious bodily harm. Although concerned for his own safety Mr Kitto pinned the youth's arms to his sides and carried him to a confined area where he detained him until help arrived.

For his actions Mr Kitto is commended for brave conduct.

ACTING SERGEANT MARK ALLAN MACKIN, Western Australia Police Service

On the night of 26 January 1996 Acting Sergeant Mackin participated in the rescue of a young child trapped in the forward cabin of a capsized cabin cruiser on the Swan River off Royal Perth Yacht Club.

In conditions aggravated by darkness and heavy river traffic, Acting Sergeant Mackin made repeated free dives until improvised breathing apparatus became available for his use. Using this equipment, and with the assistance of a fellow Police Officer, Acting Sergeant Mackin was able to bring the child to safety.

For his actions Acting Sergeant Mackin is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

DR WILLIAM BRIAN MAGUIRE, -20 Falcon Street, Manly Qld 4179

On Sunday 28 April 1996, 35 people were murdered and 21 injured in a shooting incident at and near the historic penal settlement of Port Arthur in Tasmania.

Dr Maguire was near the Commandant's House when he heard gunfire and saw people running from the Broad Arrow cafe. Dr Maguire took shelter behind a wall then ran into a building. After advising staff that he was a medical practitioner, and at a time when the gunman was still in the vicinity, he made his way to the carpark and cafe where he worked throughout the day attending to the injured and traumatised.

For his actions Dr Maguire is commended for brave conduct.

MRS JENNIFER MARGARET MOORS, 304 Cross Road, Clarence Park SA 5034

On Sunday 28 April 1996, 35 people were murdered and 21 injured in a shooting incident at and near the historic penal settlement of Port Arthur in Tasmania.

Mrs Moors was in the souvenir area of the Broad Arrow cafe when the shooting began. She walked towards an internal door pushing two elderly women in front of her, and pulled a screen across to protect them. The gunfire continued claiming several victims, three falling against the screen and trapping the women. During this period Mrs Moors, in spite of her own distress, comforted the other women and tried to keep them quiet. After the gunman left the cafe Mrs Moors, a nurse, assisted with some of the victims.

For her actions Mrs Moors is commended for brave conduct.

MR JACK WALTON NIXON, Lot 132, Marmion Street, Derby WA 6728

Early in the afternoon of 25 October 1995 Mr Nixon entered a burning helicopter to rescue the pilot.

Mr Nixon was travelling by helicopter on stock control duties in rugged country about 180km north east of Derby when the aircraft, forced down by engine failure, rolled on its side during landing and caught fire. Mr Nixon left the burning aircraft quickly, but became aware that the pilot was still trapped inside. Without regard for the risk to himself, Mr Nixon immediately re-entered the burning helicopter and removed the pilot to safety. Despite his own injuries Mr Nixon cared for the seriously burned pilot for 23 hours until help arrived.

For his actions Mr Nixon is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

SENIOR CONSTABLE JUSTIN MARK NOBLE, New South Wales Police Service

On Sunday 28 April 1996, 35 people were murdered and 21 injured in a shooting incident at and near the historic penal settlement of Port Arthur in Tasmania.

Constable Noble and his wife were seated at a picnic table when he heard the sound of gunfire coming from the Broad Arrow cafe. At personal risk he ran towards the cafe and saw the gunman come outside and fire across the car park. Constable Noble ran back to his wife warning people on the way. Together they made their way towards the Port Arthur Motel advising pedestrians and drivers to leave the area, and instructing one driver to call the Police. Shortly afterwards Constable Noble entered a cottage and phoned the Police identifying himself as a New South Wales Police Officer. He was requested to re-enter the site to assist until further help arrived. Constable Noble returned to the cafe instructing people to remain under cover until the area was cleared by Police. He briefed attending Police officers on their arrival and assisted in comforting the distressed, evacuating the wounded and recording witness details.

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

MR DENNIS JOHN NUDD, 34 Mathew Avenue, Belmont North NSW 2280

On Sunday 28 April 1996, 35 people were murdered and 21 injured in a shooting incident at and near the historic penal settlement of Port Arthur in Tasmania.

Mr Nudd was seated at a table outside the Broad Arrow cafe when he heard shots coming from inside and saw a window shatter. He told the members of his group to take shelter behind a nearby brick wall. In spite of the danger of being shot Mr Nudd ran to his car to call for help on his mobile phone. Unable to phone from that location Mr Nudd took cover behind a tree. The gunman saw him, and fired two shots in his direction.

For his actions Mr Nudd is commended for brave conduct.

MR JOHAN GEORGES OVERBEEKE

On Sunday 28 April 1996, 35 people were murdered and 21 injured in a shooting incident at and near the historic penal settlement of Port Arthur in Tasmania.

Mr Overbeeke was in the car park with his two sons when he heard shots coming from the Broad Arrow cafe. He and his sons immediately started to move people away from the cafe area to the ruins of the church and to patches of undergrowth where shelter was available. Having completed this Mr Overbeeke, at personal risk, left the shelter to warn a group of people having a barbeque. Mr Overbeeke then saw a car leave the cafe area followed shortly by the sound of gunfire from the tollgate. Assuming that the gunman was out of the immediate area, Mr Overbeeke went to the cafe where he provided first aid to the injured and assisted Police on their arrival.

For his actions Mr Overbeeke is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

MR NEVILLE JOHN QUIN, East Coast Birdlife and Animal Park, Tasman Highway,
Bicheno Tas 7215

On Sunday 28 April 1996, 35 people were murdered and 21 injured in a shooting incident at and near the historic penal settlement of Port Arthur in Tasmania.

Mr Quin was talking to the driver of a tourist bus when a man left the Broad Arrow cafe and started firing at random. People around Mr Quin were being shot as he took cover behind the buses. He saw the gunman enter a bus, shooting passengers in their seats. Realising that his wife was not with him he searched for her and found that she had been shot and was unconscious. As he was trying to assist his wife the gunman shot at Mr Quin who again took cover, in a nearby bus. The gunman followed him into the bus, moving down the aisle towards Mr Quin who was preparing to trip him. Before Mr Quin could do so, he was shot in the neck. Bleeding profusely and very weak Mr Quin returned to his wife who died shortly afterwards.

For his actions Mr Quin is commended for brave conduct.

MR JOHN DOUGLAS ROOKE, RMB 847, Mason Point Road, Taranna Tas 7180

On Sunday 28 April 1996, 35 people were murdered and 21 injured in a shooting incident at and near the historic penal settlement of Port Arthur in Tasmania.

Mr Rooke was driving to Port Arthur when he saw a car pull into the driveway of the Seascape guest house. An armed man got out of the car and fired two shots at Mr Rooke followed by further shots which shattered the windscreen of a car following him. Mr Rooke alighted from his car and signalled to the drivers of two other vehicles to follow him. It was apparent that the second car had also been shot at. Mr Rooke led them to the Fox and Hounds hotel where he called emergency services and attended to the injured in the two vehicles.

For his actions Mr Rooke is commended for brave conduct.

MRS PAMELA FAYE SLOANE, 6 Turunen Avenue, Silverdale NSW 2752

On Sunday 28 April 1996, 35 people were murdered and 21 injured in a shooting incident at and near the historic penal settlement of Port Arthur in Tasmania.

Mrs Sloane had just left the Broad Arrow cafe when she heard gunshots from inside. She ran away from the cafe with others to shelter behind parked cars and tried to see who was shooting. As the gunman approached the parked cars, Mrs Sloane and an elderly man whom she was assisting were shot at and the man was wounded. When a car left the scene, and although she was not sure if it were driven by the gunman, Mrs Sloane left her place of concealment. Gunshots could still be heard, but nevertheless she went to the assistance of a wounded woman who had been shot by the gunman.

For her actions Mrs Sloane is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

DR JOHN CLEMENT WINDSOR, 50 David Street, Toombul Qld 4012

On Sunday 28 April 1996, 35 people were murdered and 21 injured in a shooting incident at and near the historic penal settlement of Port Arthur in Tasmania.

Dr Windsor was near the Commandant's House when he heard gunfire and saw people running from the Broad Arrow cafe. Dr Windsor first took shelter behind a wall then ran into a building. After advising staff that he was a medical practitioner, and at a time when the gunman was still in the vicinity, he made his way to the carpark and cafe where he worked throughout the day attending to the injured and traumatised.

For his actions Dr Windsor is commended for brave conduct.

MRS JOANNE FRANCIS WINTER

On Sunday 28 April 1996, 35 people were murdered and 21 injured in a shooting incident at and near the historic penal settlement of Port Arthur in Tasmania.

Mrs Winter was preparing to leave the Broad Arrow cafe with her family when she heard gunfire coming from the other side of the room and saw people slumped forward at their tables. She dropped to the floor and pulled her crying baby in beside her and shortly after saw the feet of the gunman walking around the cafe. Mrs Winter had started singing softly to her son to try to stop him crying when she heard her husband cry out and a series of shots being fired. As soon as the gunman left the cafe, Mrs Winter emerged to find that her husband and her father were dead. In spite of her distress Mrs Winter assisted people who were injured until help arrived.

For her actions Mrs Winter is commended for brave conduct.

GROUP CITATION

On Sunday 28 April 1996, 35 persons were murdered and 21 injured in a shooting incident at and near the historic penal settlement of Port Arthur in south-eastern Tasmania.

A heavily armed man entered the Broad Arrow cafe, drew a semi-automatic rifle from a bag and shot dead and wounded numerous people. He then moved to the carpark where he shot others. Then he drove up Jetty Road and killed a mother and her two small daughters.

At the toll booth on Jetty Road he killed the occupants of a sedan, stole their vehicle, and drove to the nearby Port Arthur general store where he intercepted a car carrying a young man and woman. He abducted the man and shot the woman. The abducted man was taken to the Seascope guest house where he and another couple were later found killed.

While the offender was discharging his firearms at the Port Arthur site and in the vicinity, persons working at the site acted courageously without thought for their own safety, shepherding visitors away from danger, and attending to the dying and wounded.

At a time when the precise location of the gunman was unknown, many people displayed brave conduct. Their unselfish actions are recognised by the award of this Group Citation.