

STAR OF COURAGE

MR ALAN JOHN PLAYFORD, 64 Victoria Street, New Lambton NSW 2305

On the morning of 18 June 1996, Mr Playford, an Ambulance Service Paramedic, was directed, with his partner, to attend a burning house in Eleebana where an elderly woman was trapped inside.

On arrival, Mr Playford was advised by her neighbours that the woman was still inside. Although the building was engulfed by flames and smoke, Mr Playford, without regard for his own safety, was hosed down and, covering his head with a wet curtain, crawled into the hallway. He searched the bedroom and bathroom then located the woman lying on the kitchen floor. As he approached her, the lounge room ceiling collapsed behind him. In spite of this Mr Playford continued crawling towards the unconscious woman until the kitchen ceiling and roof collapsed burying her under tonnes of debris. Mr Playford was knocked over by the resulting blast of hot air, and breathed in hot ash and smoke. Shortly afterwards he was found semi-conscious by fire officers and conveyed to hospital where he was treated for severe smoke inhalation.

By his actions Mr Playford displayed conspicuous courage.

STAR OF COURAGE

MR JOSEPH ROBERT RYDER, 25 Finnie Road, Deagon Qld 4017

On the afternoon of 20 September 1996, Mr Ryder placed his own life in danger when he confronted a machete wielding man who had attacked and seriously injured two men.

On hearing screams from a neighbour's house, Mr Ryder went to investigate and found one man being assaulted while another lay wounded in the garage. Mr Ryder called to the assailant to stop which resulted in the assailant threatening Mr Ryder. When Mr Ryder retreated, the attacker returned to his earlier victim and continued the assault. Without thought for his own safety, Mr Ryder charged the assailant with a wheelie bin thereby temporarily halting the assault. Mr Ryder then ran home to get his mobile phone to telephone the police and the ambulance and then returned to the scene of the attack. The assailant was again hitting one of the victims and Mr Ryder called to him to stop. The assailant then went to his car and when he drove away, Mr Ryder followed him.

By his actions Mr Ryder displayed conspicuous courage.

BRAVERY MEDAL

MR JOHN BALLANTYNE, 1/235 Dow Street, Port Melbourne Vic 3207

On the night of 11 July 1996 at Port Melbourne, Mr Ballantyne removed an unconscious woman from her burning house in an attempt to save her life.

Mr Ballantyne was in the vicinity when he saw smoke billowing from a nearby street. He ran into a hotel thinking that the burning premises might belong to a patron. With others from the hotel, Mr Ballantyne located the source of the smoke and forced open the front door of the house, but were driven back by thick black smoke. After calling out and receiving no reply Mr Ballantyne ran to the rear and was directing a garden hose into the building when he saw a person lying face down and on fire inside the premises. With total disregard for his safety Mr Ballantyne entered the premises by jumping through a smashed glass panel in the back door. He then walked through flames and smoke to where the woman was lying and dragged her to the back door which had to be forced open. Two other men removed the woman from the building. In spite of their efforts the woman died soon afterwards.

By his actions Mr Ballantyne displayed considerable bravery.

MR TONY BURKE, 6 Ingleside Road, Queanbeyan NSW 2620

On the night of 3 October 1996 Mr Burke apprehended an armed offender who had inflicted severe injuries on a shop employee at Queanbeyan.

Mr Burke was on duty as a security guard at a Queanbeyan hotel when he was informed that a robbery was taking place in a shop nearby. He ran to the shop, which was locked, then to the rear of the premises. Mr Burke, who had been informed that the robber was armed with a shotgun, heard sounds at the end of the rear laneway and challenged the robber. The offender, who was beating the shop employee with a length of timber, left his victim and attacked Mr Burke who overpowered him temporarily but lost his grip. The robber re-entered the rear of the shop in the hope of escaping through the front doors. Unable to do so he turned on Mr Burke, who had followed him inside, and resumed his attack. Mr Burke struggled with the man and succeeded in overpowering him. Although he had suffered injuries, Mr Burke managed to restrain the robber until the Police arrived.

By his actions Mr Burke displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL**SERGEANT IAN EDWARD GIBSON, Western Australia Police Service**

On the morning of 27 January 1997 Sergeant Gibson jumped from a helicopter to rescue a six year old boy and his family from the flooded Shaw River on the Port Hedland – Marble Bar Road.

The river was in full flood and two adults, two children, and a dog were standing on their submerged vehicle, with water covering the lower half of their bodies. Sergeant Gibson threw a rope with harness and successfully rescued a ten year old boy. He then threw the rope to the mother who secured herself and her six year old son to it. Both the mother and the son were dragged through the water towards the causeway, at times being swept under by the current. Subsequently, the mother became free of the rope and was swept downstream but eventually reached the shore unassisted. Her six year old son remained attached to the rope for a short time before coming free also and was swept away by the current. Without concern for his own safety, Sergeant Gibson jumped from the helicopter into the flooded river and grabbed the young boy taking him to safety.

By his actions Sergeant Gibson displayed considerable bravery.

AMBULANCE OFFICER ANGUS CECIL McDONELL, Townsville Qld 4810

In the early evening of 9 March 1997 about 310 kilometres east north east of Townsville, Mr McDonell, an Ambulance Paramedic, placed his own life at risk in rescuing two people from a yacht which was sinking in mountainous seas whipped up by Cyclone Justin.

The attempt to rescue the occupants of a sinking yacht was to be attempted in strong winds, heavy rain, huge seas, and with the helicopter operating at the extremity of its fuel reserves. As direct rescue was impossible, it was decided that the crew of the yacht should enter a small rubber dinghy tethered to the yacht, tie themselves to it, and launch it into the water. Once this was accomplished, Mr McDonell would descend into the water, locate the dinghy and escort the crew members one at a time to the helicopter via a winch. Mr McDonell rescued the first crew member relatively quickly, but the second rescue was complicated by a particularly large swell, which dragged Mr McDonell away from the survivor and delayed his securing him to the winch.

By his actions Ambulance Officer McDonell displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

MR ERIC JONATHAN MAXTED, (Deceased), Late of 8 Atherton Close,
Rankin Park NSW 2287

Next-of-Kin (Sister) Ms Sari Millerand, 7 Lynestra Avenue, Fairfield West,
NSW, 2165

On the afternoon of 23 March 1997, Mr Maxted lost his life attempting to rescue a boy who was being carried out to sea in a rip at Nine Mile Beach near Belmont, New South Wales.

Mr Maxted was fishing at the beach when he was asked to help a boy caught in a rip. Mr Maxted ran about 300 metres along the beach and then swam out approximately 50 metres until he reached the boy. He managed to pull the boy clear of the dangerous current but became caught in it himself and was taken further out to sea. The boy managed to swim to the beach and shortly afterwards the unconscious body of Mr Maxted was washed into the shallows. All attempts to revive him failed.

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

MR CLINTON JOHN MICHAEL, 4 Berry Court, Horsham Vic 3400

In the late afternoon of 16 December 1995, Mr Michael suffered extensive burns while attempting to rescue a passenger from a crashed and burning light aircraft at Stawell.

Mr Michael was the pilot of the aircraft, which collided with tree tops while attempting to land at Stawell Airport. As a result the left wing was torn from the aircraft and the plane dropped vertically into a clump of trees and caught fire. On impact with the ground Mr Michael and two passengers escaped from the burning aircraft. When he realised that the third and remaining passenger was not with them, Mr Michael ran back and entered the plane just as the remaining passenger managed to release his seat belt. All the occupants suffered extensive burns including Mr Michael who also sustained very serious burn effects to his lungs and air passages.

By his actions Mr Michael displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

MR OWEN FRANKLIN MINERS, 20 Castor Street, Yass NSW 2582

On the morning of 11 November 1996, Mr Miners saved one child and attempted to save another and their mother from a burning house at Yass.

Mr Miners was in his garden when he saw smoke coming through the roof tiles of a neighbour's house. He called to his brother to notify the fire brigade, jumped the fence, and ran to the back door of the burning house. He entered the rear of the house but was confronted by flames and thick smoke and could go no further. He then ran to the front entrance where he heard a child but could not judge its location. Mr Miners kicked the door in and entered the lounge but had to retreat because of the heat and dense black smoke. Covering his head he re-entered the building and crawled through the lounge to the kitchen where he found a child and crawled outside with him while explosions were occurring around him. For a fourth time Mr Miners entered the building but was confronted by a wall of flames and was forced to retreat. Mr Miners stayed with the child he had rescued until the arrival of the fire brigade shortly after.

By his actions Mr Miners displayed considerable bravery.

LANCE CORPORAL ANDREW JAMES NORTON, 5th Training Group,
Leeuwin Barracks, Riverside Road, East Fremantle WA 6158

On the night of 4 March 1997 at Lathlain Railway Station, Lance Corporal Norton, who at the time was a Private in the Australian Army Reserve, went to the assistance of a railway guard who was being attacked by a group of intoxicated people.

Corporal Norton was a passenger on the Perth/Armadale train when he became aware of an argument on the train. Special Constables of the Western Australian Government Railways Commission were notified and boarded the train at the Lathlain Railway Station. After identifying the trouble makers, the Special Constables asked them to leave. The offenders immediately became aggressive and started attacking one of the Special Constables. Corporal Norton intervened and was struck on the head with a bottle. He continued to try and assist the Special Constable in spite of being struck again with bricks and attacked with a cricket bat.

For his actions Lance Corporal Norton displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

MS CHRISTINA LILLIAN PEMBER, 34 Mortimer Street, Kalbarri WA 6536

On 25 April 1996 some 85 nautical miles from Kalbarri, Ms Pember leapt from a rescue vessel in hazardous conditions to render medical assistance to a seriously injured crewman aboard the boat, "Night Stalker".

By the time the rescue vessel reached "Night Stalker", the seas had turned rough making conditions to dangerous to transfer the injured crewman. Ms Pember volunteered to transfer between the vessels. Held by the crew while standing on the side of the rescue vessel, she leaned out as the bow of the "Night Stalker" edged closer. The rise and fall between the vessels was some 4 metres difference. As the rescue vessel dropped in a trough she jumped out grabbing on to the bow rail of the "Night Stalker" as it raced past in an upward motion. Ms Pember stabilised the crewman and stayed by his side during the return trip.

By her actions Ms Pember displayed considerable bravery.

MR STEVEN JOHN ST JAMES, Brisbane Qld 4000

On 8 January 1997, Mr St James rescued a man from an overturned semi-trailer which had erupted in flames following an accident.

Mr St James was driving his semi-trailer when he came upon the scene of an accident involving another semi-trailer. Seeing that vehicle on fire, Mr St James drove his truck on to the wrong side of the road to stop oncoming traffic. He activated his hazard lights, grabbed his extinguisher, and ran to the other vehicle. After trying unsuccessfully to extinguish the fire, he then ran to the cabin where he knew the driver was trapped. As he was unable to break the side window of the semi trailer, Mr St James went to the front of the vehicle where the windscreen had fallen out and freed the trapped driver through that space. The semi-trailer was then completely engulfed in flames and destroyed.

By his actions Mr St James displayed considerable bravery.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

MR COLIN HECTOR BROOKS, c/- "Adelaide", Trinity Inlet, Cairns Qld 4870

On the night of 3 November 1996 Mr Brooks placed his own safety at risk in the aftermath of the crash of a Piper Aztec plane, in which he was a passenger, about 22 nautical miles off the coast of Cairns.

When the crash occurred, Mr Brooks was instrumental in ensuring the evacuation of the other four passengers from the plane, particularly the pilot who had sustained head injuries during impact. He then took charge of the group pending the arrival of rescue craft. Mr Brooks encouraged the survivors to swim towards the shore and stayed behind to spread out discarded clothing and other flotsam as an aid to aerial sighting. He offered support to a passenger who was not a strong swimmer and to the pilot who had become disoriented as a result of his injuries. When a rescue helicopter arrived, the other four passengers were taken on board and a dinghy rescued Mr Brooks.

For his actions Mr Brooks is commended for brave conduct.

MR BRIAN ANTHONY BROOME, 56 Haddock Street, Tennant Creek NT 0860

On the night of 12 April 1996, Mr Broome ran approximately 10 kilometres for help after assisting his friend who had been attacked by a crocodile on the Daly River.

Mr Broome and another man had set up camp on the river bank planning to stay for a few days. After the evening meal Mr Broome was in the shallows of the river when his friend, who was sitting on a log near the water's edge, was grabbed by a crocodile, dragged into the water, and rolled over. Mr Broome ran to his friend's aid frightening the crocodile away. He dragged the injured man up the bank to safety and, after attending to the profuse bleeding on the victim's leg, decided to run to campers further along the river to seek assistance. When Mr Broome reached the camp site he found it vacated. In falling darkness Mr Broome ran bare footed through thick bush and swamps to raise the alarm at a homestead. After calling emergency services, Mr Broome and the neighbouring campers, who were at the homestead, evacuated the injured man to the homestead in preparation for the arrival of Ambulance Officers.

For his actions Mr Broome is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

MR IAN GREGORY CALLAGHAN, 12 Grange Court, Belgian Gardens Qld 4810

In the early evening of 9 March 1997 about 310 kilometres east north east of Townsville, Mr Callaghan placed his own life at risk in rescuing two people from a yacht sinking in mountainous seas whipped up by Cyclone Justin.

Mr Callaghan operated the helicopter winch, which let the rescuer down into the sea and rewound it when retrieving the two members of the yacht's crew. Due to adverse weather conditions of strong winds, heavy rain, and huge seas, Mr Callaghan was thrown across the cabin, which resulted in injuries to his shoulder, back, and head. In spite of the situation, he was able to operate the winch and all persons were safely returned to the helicopter.

For his actions Mr Callaghan is commended for brave conduct.

MR PIRIE THOMAS CONBOY, Cudgee Road, Grove Tas 7109

On the afternoon of 11 January 1996, Mr Conboy participated in the attempted rescue of two women from a partially submerged car at the Elizabeth Street Pier in Hobart.

Mr Conboy was driving in the area when he saw a car drive off the edge of the pier into the water and gradually start to sink at the front end. He immediately stopped his car and ran to the pier, dived in, and swam to the passenger's front door only to find it locked. Mr Conboy swam around to the driver's side of the car as two other men were removing a young girl from the rear of the vehicle. He partially entered the rear of the car and tried to pull one woman free but she was restrained by something, presumably her seat belt. Mr Conboy continued his efforts although the increasing water pressure, caused by the sinking car, was closing the door against his arm. He made three attempts to free his arm before he succeeded. At that stage the car was approximately one metre under water. As a result of his efforts Mr Conboy suffered painful injuries to his right elbow and hand.

For his actions Mr Conboy is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

SENIOR CONSTABLE JAMES DOUGLAS CRONK, New South Wales
Police Service

On 7 February 1997 Senior Constable Cronk rescued an intoxicated man from the Lachlan River at Condoblin.

Constable Cronk was called to the scene after nearby campers had observed the man in extreme difficulties. He was seen to be dragged under the water on a number of occasions as a result of difficult currents caused by a nearby weir. Constable Cronk dived into the river and swam to the endangered man who struggled against him putting them both at risk of being submerged. Constable Cronk managed to subdue the intoxicated man sufficiently to enable him and another man to pull the intoxicated man to the bank where his head was kept above water until ambulance officers and state emergency services personnel lifted him out of the river.

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

MS MEAGAN LOUISE FERGUSON, 64 Silvermines Road, St Arnaud Vic
3478

On the morning of 14 December 1996 Ms Ferguson rescued a child from the path of an oncoming vehicle at St Arnaud.

Ms Ferguson, a hairdresser, was attending to a woman when she saw the client's two year old son leave the salon and run between parked cars towards the busy road. Ms Ferguson, regardless of her own safety, pursued the child and grabbed him just as he was struck by a car which had been unable to stop in time. In doing so, Mrs Ferguson saved the child from serious injury or death but she was also hit by the vehicle. Both Ms Ferguson and the child suffered shock, bruising, and abrasions, as a result of the accident.

For her actions Ms Ferguson is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

MR NOAH JOSEPH DANIEL GOUNDRIE, Bakers Creek Road, Lucaston
Tas 7109

On the afternoon of 11 January 1996, Mr Goundrie participated in the rescue of a child and the attempted rescue of two women from a partially submerged car at the Elizabeth Street Pier in Hobart.

Mr Goundrie was on the pier when he heard a car hit the water. He ran to the edge and saw the car upright but sinking at the front end. Mr Goundrie and a friend dived in and with great difficulty forced the rear door open and removed a small girl. Mr Goundrie attempted to assist an elderly woman in the front seat who reached out to them but his arm became jammed in the door and he had to let go. At that stage the car sank from sight. Mr Goundrie, assisted by his friend, swam with the child to the pier and passed her up to bystanders.

For his actions Mr Goundrie is commended for brave conduct.

MR PETER JOHN HOPE, 15 Strauss Place, Mt Ommaney Qld 4074

In the early evening of 9 March 1997 about 310 kilometres east north east of Townsville, Mr Hope placed his own life at risk in rescuing two people from a yacht which was sinking in mountainous seas that had been whipped up by Cyclone Justin.

Mr Hope piloted the helicopter, which was dispatched to attempt the rescue of the crew of the stricken yacht. Despite heavy rain, strong winds, huge seas, and the knowledge that the helicopter would be operating at the extremity of its fuel reserves, Mr Hope located the yacht and maintained the helicopter's position near it while one of his crew entered the sea on two occasions to effect the rescue. Once all were on board, the helicopter returned to Townsville.

For his actions Mr Hope is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

MR BRIAN KEITH HOWSON, 18 Walarat Road, Northam WA 6410

On 15 August 1996 in flight over Port Hedland Airport, Mr Howson was suspended by his legs from an aircraft and managed to pull a faulty undercarriage into place.

Mr Howson was one of four passengers and a pilot who took off in a Cessna 210 from Port Hedland enroute to Camp Tracey Mine. Shortly after take off they were notified that the main undercarriage was dragging and not stowed away. As a result, the pilot remained in the Port Hedland area burning up fuel and made several unsuccessful attempts to rectify the problem. Finally, while being held by other passengers, Mr Howson hung out of the aircraft and using the pilot's belt pulled the right side of the undercarriage into position and then repeated the same procedure on the left side.

For his actions Mr Howson is commended for brave conduct.

LIEUTENANT MARK JOHN LEE, Officers Mess, 8/12 MDM Regiment, Coral Lines, Liverpool Military Area, Liverpool NSW 2172

On the afternoon of 30 April 1997, Mr Lee apprehended an armed offender in the inner city area of Sydney.

Mr Lee, an off-duty Australian Army officer, was with friends in a George Street beer garden when he saw an armed robbery taking place at a nearby bank. As the robbers left the bank, Mr Lee and some of his companions ran towards the robbers in an attempt to restrain them before they reached their vehicle. All of the robbers escaped, with the exception of the one carrying the stolen money who was pursued by Mr Lee. The armed man ran to a stationary car and was threatening the elderly driver with a screwdriver when Mr Lee reached him. Even though the armed man attempted to stab Mr Lee, he was able to overpower him and restrain him until the Police arrived.

For his actions Mr Lee is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

AMBULANCE OFFICER ROBERT HENRY LISLE, 3/26 Albert Street, Bexley NSW 2207

On the afternoon of 31 August 1996, Mr Lisle, an Ambulance Paramedic, was winched from a helicopter in extremely hazardous conditions to rescue a surfboard rider in Bate Bay off Cronulla Beach.

Mr Lisle was a crew member of the Westpac Rescue Helicopter team directed to assist in the rescue of the youth. Weather conditions were extremely unfavourable with 5 metre waves whipped up by variable winds of up to 103 km per hour, rain squalls and low cloud cover. Rescue boats attempted to assist but were forced back. After the board rider had been located, Mr Lisle was winched down into the water. Although he was jerked violently out of the water on a number of occasions by the winch cable, Mr Lisle swam to the youth. He fitted the patient harness to the boardrider and the surfboard was sandwiched between the two men. They were then lifted above the waves and carried on the end of the vibrating, jerking, and spinning cable to shore and lowered on to the beach. During the journey Mr Lisle comforted and reassured his patient who was suffering hypothermia, and who was vomiting and emotionally distressed.

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

MR GRAEME ANDREW MEMBREY, 10 Rainbow View, Ocean Reef WA 6027

On 11 March 1995 Mr Membrey, then Field Security Officer for Afghanistan as part of the United Nations Development Programme, protected and guided a United Nations Officer through rocket fire at Kabul.

Mr Membrey had volunteered to accompany the Officer to Kabul to meet with Afghan Government officials. On the day of the meeting many rockets had exploded in the city, and the United Nations compound had taken a direct rocket hit. On hearing this Mr Membrey and his colleague drove to the compound to offer assistance. They left the car at the entrance, which was locked, and, after some difficulty, gained entry and ran towards the buildings through intensifying rocket attack. Mr Membrey took charge of the situation and directed the Officer to a wall and then from one safe place to another. At one stage Mr Membrey threw himself on his colleague and received shrapnel wounds to his back as a result of the action. After they reached the building and a bunker 20 rockets exploded in the compound. They were evacuated by United Nations aircraft the following morning.

For his actions Mr Membrey is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

MR SIMON PETER OSWALD, 14 Regent Street, Sandy Bay Tas 7005

On the afternoon of 11 January 1996, Mr Oswald participated in the rescue of a child and the attempted rescue of two women from a partially submerged car at the Elizabeth Street Pier in Hobart.

Mr Oswald was on the pier when he heard a car hit the water. He ran to the edge and saw the car upright but sinking at the front end. Mr Oswald and a friend dived in and with great difficulty forced the rear door open and removed a small girl. An elderly woman in the front seat reached towards them but at that stage the car sank out of sight. Mr Oswald, assisted by his friend, swam with the child to the pier and passed her up to bystanders.

For his actions Mr Oswald is commended for brave conduct.

MR JAMIE PAUL ROBINSON, 56 Francise Avenue, Brighton-Le-Sands NSW 2216

Late in the afternoon of 3 October 1995 Mr Robinson placed his own safety at risk to rescue a child from a burning building at Holt in the Australian Capital Territory.

Mr Robinson had gone to the aid of a distressed and injured neighbour and became aware that her two children were trapped inside their burning house. Despite a wall of considerable heat emanating from the fire and blinding smoke, Mr Robinson managed to enter a rear room and locate a small child who he brought to safety. Although the fire was rapidly intensifying, Mr Robinson then attempted to rescue the other child but was forced back by the severity of the conditions.

For his actions Mr Robinson is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

MR MERVYN JOHN SCHADENDORFF, 19 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 Schadendorff was seated at a table in the Broad Arrow café with his wife and a group of friends when he heard gunfire and turned to see a cloud of smoke coming from another part of the Café. He heard people shouting to get down and saw one of his companions shot in the head. Mr Schadendorff dragged his wife under the table and kept her and another woman quiet and still as the gunman walked around the Café firing at random. After the gunman left the Café Mr Schadendorff and his wife left the building and found shelter behind a water tank. They were joined by another man who had been shot in the side of his face. Mr Schadendorff assisted the injured man and made him comfortable until it was safe to seek medical assistance.

For his actions Mr Schadendorff is commended for brave conduct.

MR KENNETH SHEWAN, 67 Cruickshank Street, Port Melbourne Vic 3207

On the night of 11 July 1996 at Port Melbourne, Mr Shewan assisted in the removal of an unconscious woman from her burning house in an attempt to save her life.

On learning that a house was on fire, Mr Shewan took the fire extinguisher from his car and went to investigate. He located the building and through the broken glass panes of the back doors saw a person lying face down and on fire within the building. As the burning woman was dragged towards the rear entrance, Mr Shewan entered the smoke filled building and assisted in removing her from the house. Using his fire extinguisher, he doused the flames on her body. In spite of their efforts, the woman died soon after.

For his actions Mr Shewan is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

MR CLARKE ANTHONY SHIELDS, 7/267 Beaconsfield Parade, Middle Park Vic 3206

On the night of 11 July 1996 at Port Melbourne, Mr Shields assisted in the removal of an unconscious woman from her burning house in an attempt to save her life.

On learning that a house was on fire, Mr Shields went to investigate and to give assistance. After locating the source of the fire, Mr Shields gained access to the rear of the burning building through a neighbour's premises and, through the broken glass panes of the back doors, saw a person lying, face down and on fire within the building. As the woman was being dragged towards the exit, Mr Shields entered the smoke filled house and assisted in removing her from the house. In spite of their efforts the woman died soon after.

For his actions Mr Shields is commended for brave conduct.

MR MICHAEL GERARD WANDERS, 11 Wingham Street, North Dandenong Vic 3175

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 Wanders was a front seat passenger in a vehicle driven by a female companion near the Seascope Guest House. As they approached the guest house a man, standing by the side of the road, raised the rifle he was holding and fired at the car severely injuring the driver's forearm. Another shot disabled the car which rolled to a stop still within range of the gunman. Mr Wanders started to run from the car after telling his companion to run. He had travelled about 10 metres when he realised he was alone. In spite of the danger, he returned to his companion who was in shock and had not moved. He grabbed some clothing from the car to use as a tourniquet on her arm and encouraged her to make her escape. They were picked up shortly afterwards and driven to the Fox and Hounds hotel and safety.

For his actions Mr Wanders is commended for brave conduct.