

## **AWARDED THE STAR OF COURAGE (SC)**

**Mr Noel Albert HEDEN, "Pindari", 95 Dalwood Road, Alstonville NSW 2477**

On the afternoon of 28 May 1996, Mr Heden assisted in the rescue of passengers trapped in the burning wreckage of a single engine aircraft that had crashed near Tyagarah.

Mr Heden was driving south along the Pacific Highway when he noticed a light aircraft in obvious difficulties. It veered to the left and then nose-dived towards trees on the western side of the highway. After it hit the ground, the aircraft burst into flames. He drove straight to the crash site, alighted from his car and ran to assist. The cockpit area was on fire and Mr Heden saw flames some two metres high. The right side of the cabin area was torn open. Mr Heden, working inside the cabin with other rescuers, attempted to remove a trapped male person without success. The man's trousers were on fire. He then grabbed hold of a female passenger and helped drag her out of the wreckage. Despite increasing flames and heat, Mr Heden returned to the aircraft and assisted in pulling out all of the remaining occupants. The entire cabin of the aircraft was now engulfed in flames. He proceeded to administer first aid to one of the passengers. The police and ambulance services then arrived and Mr Heden continued to assist an ambulance officer treat the injured person.

By his actions, Mr Heden displayed conspicuous courage.

## AWARDED THE STAR OF COURAGE (SC)

**Detective Senior Constable Duncan Gordon KING**, New South Wales Police Service

On the afternoon of 28 May 1996, Detective Senior Constable King assisted in the rescue of passengers trapped in the burning wreckage of a single engine aircraft that had crashed near Tyagarah.

Detective Senior Constable King, who was off duty at the time, was driving in a northerly direction along the Pacific Highway when he noticed a column of smoke in front of his vehicle. As he came closer to the smoke, he could see a crashed aircraft on fire. He alighted from his car and ran to assist. He saw a female lying on the ground near the aircraft. The cockpit was alight and the cabin had a large gaping hole in its right side. He saw a male person in the left front seat area whose trousers were ablaze and a male in the right front seat with a severe head injury. He helped other rescuers drag a female passenger out. Detective Senior Constable King then heard an explosive noise and saw the flames intensify. Despite this, he stepped into the cabin area behind the front right seat and leaning across, tried unsuccessfully to free the man from the front left seat area. Detective Senior Constable King then moved a number of seat belt straps and debris from the man in the front right hand seat. He took hold of the man by the right arm and shoulder and helped pull the man out of the wreckage. The front of the cabin was now on fire. Detective Senior Constable King then stepped back into the cabin area behind the front right seat, reached over and removed a tangle of seat belt straps from the upper body of the man in the left seat. He assisted in pulling the person free. The whole cabin area was now on fire. Detective Senior Constable King checked if the last person removed was breathing. He placed him in the recovery position and instructed another person to monitor the man's condition. Detective Senior Constable King then ran out onto the highway to stop traffic 50 metres either side of the accident site.

By his actions, Detective Senior Constable King displayed conspicuous courage.

## AWARDED THE STAR OF COURAGE (SC)

**Mr Paul Eugene MAROS**, C/- 1 Buckleys Road, Tyagarah NSW 2481

On the afternoon of 28 May 1996, Mr Maros assisted in the rescue of passengers trapped in the burning wreckage of a single engine aircraft that had crashed near Tyagarah.

Mr Maros was travelling south on the Pacific Highway when he heard a large explosion behind him. He looked in the rear vision mirror and saw a fire. He turned his vehicle around and drove near the fire. He stopped the vehicle and saw an aircraft with the cockpit on fire and a person hanging out the side of the aircraft. He ran towards the aircraft to assist. He entered the cabin and tried to extricate a man who was in the front left hand side, but the man was trapped. Mr Maros then held the seat back while other rescuers tried unsuccessfully to remove the man. Mr Maros noticed more trapped and injured passengers in the cabin. He and other rescuers took hold of a female by the legs, pulled her out and dragged her away from the aircraft. Despite increasing flames and heat, he tried again to get the trapped male person out, but without success. He then used his pocket-knife to cut the seat belt which was trapping a female person and helped drag her away from the aircraft. He returned to the aircraft and assisted in removing the remaining passengers. By this stage, the cabin of the aircraft was well alight. Mr Maros then used clothing to smother the fire on one of the passenger's legs.

By his actions, Mr Maros displayed conspicuous courage.

## **AWARDED THE BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Mr Anthony Robert BARNES**, 18 Gordon Crescent, Romsey Vic 3434

In early 1997, Mr Barnes participated in the removal of four aircraft at an air show, after a bomb threat became known.

An unattended bag believed to be an explosive device was found well inside an area barricaded from the public. Emergency personnel were placed on stand-by, a 500 metre area was cordoned off, and a considerable "No Fly" zone was enforced. The suspected bomb was situated three metres from a helicopter gunship which, along with other aircraft, had recently been refuelled. Mr Barnes, a volunteer Tarmac Controller at the air show, and another volunteer, entered the danger zone and attempted at first to remove an F1-11 and an F16, however, the tow motor was not suited to the task. Mr Barnes then assisted in manually removing the F16, located only 15 to 20 metres away from what Mr Barnes believed was an explosive device. He returned to help remove the second F16. Both heavy aircraft had to be pushed up an incline. This took some thirty minutes. Mr Barnes then assisted in removing two other aircraft.

By his actions, Mr Barnes displayed considerable bravery.

## **AWARDED THE BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Mr Michael Walter CONRAD**, 34 Princess Drive, Bli Bli Qld 4560

On the night of 8 May 1996, Mr Conrad confronted and disarmed an offender following a robbery.

Mr Conrad was woken by what sounded like a motor vehicle accident. He looked outside and saw an abandoned crashed vehicle. Mr Conrad, now standing in his driveway observed two men. One man stayed on the opposite side of the road to Mr Conrad while the other went to Mr Conrad's neighbour's house. The offender knocked on the door, called out but received no reply. His accomplice called to him, to go to the next house down. The man complied with this instruction and started to move in Mr Conrad's direction. Mr Conrad, concealed himself behind a tree, and could see the offender was carrying a gun. Mr Conrad then stepped into the offender's path. The man asked Mr Conrad for a light. Mr Conrad, hesitated, and then asked the offender what he had in his hand, referring to the gun. The offender then swung the gun towards Mr Conrad. Mr Conrad immediately pushed the offender and grabbed the weapon. The offender fled up the road, alerting his accomplice by calling out, so the latter ran as well. Mr Conrad checked the gun and to his surprise discovered it was not loaded. He then stopped a passing police car and explained the situation. Mr Conrad indicated the direction the offenders had gone. The police went on to apprehend them.

By his actions, Mr Conrad displayed considerable bravery.

## **AWARDED THE BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Mr Scott Andrew HAMEL**, 116-118 Bridge Street, Coraki NSW 2471

On the afternoon of 28 May 1996, Mr Hamel assisted in the rescue of injured passengers trapped in the burning wreckage of a single engine aircraft that had crashed near Tyagarah.

Mr Hamel was travelling along the Pacific Highway. He looked upwards and saw a single engine aircraft crash through trees near the roadside. The aircraft burst into flames on impact. Mr Hamel stopped his car, alighted and ran across the road to assist. The aircraft was in flames around the engine and cockpit area. He immediately helped in extricating one passenger. The flames were now extending further into the cockpit and Mr Hamel felt intense heat and smelled petrol. Despite this, he continued to assist other rescuers in reaching into the cabin and removing more injured passengers. Mr Hamel went to look for a fire extinguisher and seeing a bus parked on the side of the road, ran to it and returned with an extinguisher. He used it to douse the burning cockpit. Discarding the empty container, someone then handed him a smaller fire extinguisher but despite his efforts the flames continued to grow. Mr Hamel then assisted in stopping traffic and keeping the area clear of onlookers.

By his actions, Mr Hamel displayed considerable bravery.

**Mr Mervyn John NOWLAND**, 38/19 Cooper Street, Byron Bay NSW 2481

On the afternoon of 28 May 1996, Mr Nowland assisted in the rescue of injured passengers trapped in the burning wreckage of a single engine aircraft that had crashed near Tyagarah.

Mr Nowland was driving along the Pacific Highway when he heard aircraft engine noises. He looked up and saw a light aircraft nose diving towards trees. The aircraft veered to the left, then the engine stopped and the aircraft hit the trees. Mr Nowland heard an explosive sound and saw flames shoot to the top of the trees. He veered to the right hand side of the road and came to a stop to avoid collision with the wreckage. Mr Nowland then alighted from his vehicle and ran to assist. He saw the front section of the aircraft was in flames. Mr Nowland assisted other rescuers, already on the scene, in removing a passenger from the wreckage and in dragging the person away from the aircraft. Mr Nowland continued to give assistance in removing other passengers, despite the fact, the fire was intensifying around him.

By his actions, Mr Nowland displayed considerable bravery.

## **AWARDED THE BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Mr Bede John O'BRIEN**, 64 Henry Street, Werris Creek NSW 2341

On the afternoon of 28 May 1996, Mr O'Brien assisted in the rescue of injured passengers trapped in the burning wreckage of a single engine aircraft that had crashed near Tyagarah.

Mr O'Brien was travelling north with his wife along the Pacific Highway when he saw a small single engine aircraft plummet to the ground left of the highway. The aircraft burst into flames on impact. Mr O'Brien stopped his car, and he and his wife alighted and went to assist. Mr O'Brien told his wife to move away from the wreckage. He saw a male victim in the front of the aircraft and noticed the man's seat was pushed forward. He then saw two other injured passengers inside the cabin. Mr O'Brien assisted in removing two of the victims from the wreckage. He noticed that the female passenger moaned as she was lifted out of the aircraft. Mr O'Brien then helped carry her away from the fire. He heard someone call out to the rescuers to move the woman even further away from the burning wreckage. Mr O'Brien and other rescuers complied with this instruction. An ambulance officer then arrived on the scene and administered first aid to the injured female.

By his actions, Mr O'Brien displayed considerable bravery.

## **AWARDED THE BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Ms Michelle Frances PATTESON**, 19 Amana Circuit, Orange NSW 2800

On the night of 9 May 1998, Ms Patteson assisted in the rescue of an injured female from a crashed and burning motor vehicle near Orange.

Ms Patteson was a passenger in a vehicle travelling to Orange when she saw a tree blocking the road. Ms Patteson then noticed a fire in a paddock and quickly realised it was a car on fire. She jumped out of the car she was in while it was still moving, and ran to the burning vehicle. Ms Patteson called out to see if anyone was inside and heard moaning which was followed by a female's request for help. Ms Patteson saw part of a plastic bumper bar on the ground. She picked it up, and despite being restricted by a neck injury, tried unsuccessfully to break open the passenger side window. After hitting the back window three times it caved in. She then kicked the glass away, crawled into the back of the car and released the seatbelt from the victim. Ms Patteson looked up to monitor the fire's progress, saw the flames were coming closer and felt the temperature rising. She tried to pull the victim into the back of the car but could not lift her. Once again, she tried unsuccessfully to lift the female to enable another rescuer to pull her out. Ms Patteson jumped out of the car and assisted in pulling the female upwards and then out of the car. Ms Patteson helped carry the injured passenger away from the car, stopping once to gain a firmer hold and then placing the victim on the ground. A car arrived and Ms Patteson helped place the injured female on the back seat of the vehicle so that she could be moved further away from the fire. The crashed car was now totally engulfed in flames. Ms Patteson comforted the victim until medical help arrived.

By her actions, Ms Patteson displayed considerable bravery.



## **AWARDED THE BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Chief Inspector John Thomas ROBINSON**, Victoria Police Force

In early 1997, Chief Inspector Robinson participated in the removal of four aircraft at an air show, after a bomb threat became known.

An unattended bag believed to be an explosive device was found well inside an area barricaded from the public. Emergency personnel were placed on stand-by, a 500 metre area was cordoned off, and a considerable "No Fly" zone was enforced. The suspected bomb was situated three metres from a helicopter gunship which, along with the other aircraft, had recently been refuelled. Chief Inspector Robinson, a volunteer Controller of Area Control at the air show, and another volunteer, entered the danger zone and attempted at first to remove an F1-11 and then an F16, however, the tow motor was unsuited to the task. Chief Inspector Robinson then assisted in manually removing the F16, located 15 to 20 metres from what he believed was an explosive device. He returned to help remove the second F16. Both heavy aircraft had to be pushed up an incline. This took approximately thirty minutes. Chief Inspector Robinson then assisted in removing two other aircraft.

By his actions, Chief Inspector Robinson displayed considerable bravery.

## **AWARDED THE BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Mr Luke James SKINNER**, 35 Fuller Street, Heatley Qld 4814

On the night of 10 January 1998, Mr Skinner, who was fifteen years of age at the time of the incident, attempted to rescue people trapped by a flood at Black River.

Mr Skinner and other rescuers went to check on the safety of the occupants of a number of residences in the flood area. He assisted in removing people to higher ground. At a house, built on stilts, the water was lapping at the floorboards and a gully between the house and road had become a fast flowing water course. Mr Skinner fetched a rope. While he and another rescuer held one end of the rope, a third rescuer went across and tied one end of it to a railing on the house. As the length of the rope proved too short, Mr Skinner with another rescuer, moved further into the rising flood water, and using the rope as a life line held it tight while one adult and six children were brought to safety. Mr Skinner then continued checking on the safety of residents. Later in the night, as he monitored the progress of the rising flood waters, he noticed a house had become submerged on the other side of a newly formed creek. Observing a light in the direction of the house, he and other rescuers obtained life jackets and a rope. He then heard voices calling from across the creek. Mr Skinner entered the water, carrying a torch, and attempted to swim across to the stranded people. He could feel himself being swept towards the ocean but managed to swim against the current and through debris to the other side. As Mr Skinner left the water, he was confronted with a two metre wall of sand and upturned tree roots. Although disorientated, he continued walking until he reached level ground. Mr Skinner then after a time, located a number of people, one of whom, had an injured leg. The water eventually subsided enough to allow them to move to higher ground.

By his actions, Mr Skinner displayed considerable bravery.

## **AWARDED THE BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Mrs Janette Anne STARR, "Bahr Valley", Stanwell Qld 4702**

On the morning of 29 June 1997, Mrs Starr rescued a man from a burning vehicle at Stuart Creek Bridge, west of Rockhampton.

Mrs Starr was at the back of her house when she heard a loud crash that sounded like a motor vehicle accident. On investigation, she saw smoke in a nearby paddock. She went inside the house and told her son to ring emergency services. Mrs Starr, then headed towards the crash site and saw a burning vehicle. The engine was well alight and the grassed area beneath the car was also burning. She saw an injured man trapped inside the cabin trying unsuccessfully to open the jammed car door. To enable a rescue through the back door of the car, the injured man on seeing Mrs Starr, lowered the bucket seat he was sitting in. At this stage, the fire was coming through the dashboard and the grass surrounding the car was now well alight. Mrs Starr reached through the back door and dragged the man out. Despite her small stature and the fact, the man was tall, Mrs Starr dragged the man, who was unable to walk, ten metres to a four-strand barbed wire fence. She then pulled the man through the fence to safety. Shortly after this, there was an explosion and the fire intensified. The car and some five metres of the surrounding area were burnt out. Mrs Starr remained with the injured man until help arrived.

By her actions, Mrs Starr displayed considerable bravery.

## **AWARDED THE BRAVERY MEDAL (BM)**

**Mr David TERWISSCHA**, 2 Knox Street, Pendle Hill, NSW 2145

On the morning of 13 December 1997, Mr Terwisscha, who was fifteen at the time of the incident, apprehended two car thieves, one of whom was armed with a screwdriver.

Mr Terwisscha, with his mother and younger brother drove into a carpark. He noticed a male and a female teenager attempting to break into a car. The male inserted a pair of scissors into the car door lock. Mr Terwisscha alighted from the car and walked towards the offenders who were now inside the vehicle. When Mr Terwisscha reached the driver's side, he saw the male jiggle the scissors in the ignition and the female rifle through the glove box, discarding unwanted contents out the window. Mr Terwisscha asked the male what he was doing. The female and the male then left the car and walked away. Mr Terwisscha followed some five metres behind them. The offenders then joined two companions in another vehicle. Mr Terwisscha ran up to the vehicle and again asked what they were doing. Three of the occupants fled the car into the street. Mr Terwisscha approached the fourth person, the driver, who was now out of the car. He observed the driver had a screwdriver in his right hand. Mr Terwisscha grabbed the offender by the shirt. The offender then attempted to stab Mr Terwisscha in the stomach. Mr Terwisscha maintained his grip of the offender, despite repeated threats of being stabbed. As well as maintaining his grip, Mr Terwisscha managed to keep a safe distance from the screwdriver. The offender tried to pull free, and at the same time, repeatedly attempted to stab Mr Terwisscha in the arm. Mr Terwisscha grabbed the offender's right arm on the second try and swung him around so his back was almost toward Mr Terwisscha. He then pulled the screwdriver away from the offender and kept a firm grip on him. Mr Terwisscha walked the offender towards where his mother was waiting and ensured the screwdriver was placed well out of the offender's reach. Mr Terwisscha sat the offender near a wall and asked another person to restrain him. Mr Terwisscha then pursued the other offenders. Seeing them ahead, he raced after them and caught another male offender and escorted him back to the carpark. Mr Terwisscha then waited for the police to arrive.

By his actions, Mr Terwisscha displayed considerable bravery.

## AWARDED THE COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Paul McBride BAKER**, 19 Amana Circuit, Orange NSW 2800

On the night of 9 May 1998, Mr Baker rescued an injured female from a burning motor vehicle near Orange.

Mr Baker, with two companions, was travelling to Orange when he saw a tree blocking the road ahead. As he navigated his vehicle around the tree, Mr Baker noticed a fire in the paddock. He drove back to the fire and saw it was a burning car lying on its side with flames coming from the front section. Mr Baker stopped his vehicle, alighted and ran to assist. He pulled at the front door handle of the car but it broke off. At this point, Mr Baker could hear a female voice from inside and observed the intensity of the fire was increasing. He smashed the front window and assisted another rescuer to pull the female out. Mr Baker helped carry the passenger ten metres away from the fire. After placing the female on the ground, he heard explosive noises behind him and saw the flames intensify. He then assisted in carrying the injured person another twenty metres. Mr Baker went back to the burning car and retrieved a blanket to cover the victim. He continued to reassure the injured person until help arrived.

For his action, Mr Baker is commended for brave conduct.

## **AWARDED THE COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT**

**Senior Constable Richard Norman BARTON**, Victoria Police Force

On the 23 September 1996, Senior Constable Barton assisted in the rescue of an injured paraglider at Cairns Bay.

Senior Constable Barton received a call to attend Cairns Bay as a paraglider had crashed somewhere in the area. The area to be searched consisted of difficult terrain including cliff drops of some sixty metres. After a possible sighting of the crash site, Constable Barton with an ambulance officer looked for a way down the cliff face but there was no direct route. During the descent, Constable Barton's portable radio stopped transmitting. He waded and at times swam between rock faces. As there was a large swell and an incoming tide, Constable Barton then discarded his personal possessions, to prevent being weighed down in the water. Constable Barton observed a rescue helicopter nearing the crash site. He continued the descent, and with another rescuer, adjusted his path by climbing upwards to avoid waves crashing over them. Constable Barton reached the victim soon after two other rescuers had been winched to the man's side from the helicopter. Constable Barton assisted in moving the victim to higher ground to avoid high tide water. He then observed this new location was too close to the cliffs for the helicopter's winch to work. Constable Barton again assisted in moving the paraglider to a more accessible area where he could be winched to safety by the helicopter.

For his actions, Constable Barton is commended for brave conduct.

## **AWARDED THE COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT**

**First Class Aboriginal Police Liaison Officer Alexander Joseph BELLOTTI**, Western Australia Police Service

On the 14 September 1997, First Class Aboriginal Police Liaison Officer Bellotti assisted in the rescue of a semi conscious woman from the sea at Broome.

On attending the scene, Officer Bellotti was directed to some rocks exposed by low tide where a distressed female was believed to be. He went to the ocean side of the exposed rocks and saw a woman being supported and held afloat by a rescuer who was in the water with her. A third person, on the rocks, was holding onto the rescuer in the water so as to prevent him from being swept out to sea. Officer Bellotti jumped fully clothed into the water to assist. The jagged nature of the rocks prevented the woman from being pulled out of the sea to safety. Officer Bellotti relieved the rescuer in the water who was injured from being swept against the rocks by the tide. Officer Bellotti remained with the woman in the water for some thirty minutes, keeping her head above the water. Officer Bellotti managed to radio for help when one of the other rescuers held out the police radio for him to use. As a result of his efforts, Officer Bellotti suffered cuts to his hands and forearms.

For his actions, First Class Aboriginal Police Liaison Officer Bellotti is commended for brave conduct.

## **AWARDED THE COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT**

**Mrs Sandra Dixon BUCKLEY**, 41 Otto Road, Glenore Grove Qld 4342

In the early hours of 2 February 1998, Mrs Buckley attempted to stop the escape of prisoners from Borallon Correctional Centre.

Mrs Buckley, a Custodial Correctional Officer, was on duty patrolling the gate house and perimeter area in a vehicle. She received a radio message that three prisoners were escaping from zone five. Mrs Buckley headed towards the area and saw someone crouching down at the end of the zone. Then a firearm discharged and a bullet hit the windscreen of her vehicle. Mrs Buckley reached for the shotgun that was behind her in the patrol vehicle but could not release it from its stand. As she took cover under the dashboard, a second bullet hit the windscreen and she was sprayed with glass. At this point, she radioed for help. Mrs Buckley took out her revolver and fired six shots in the direction of the gunfire. Again she took cover, reloaded the revolver and fired a further six shots. She noticed a second person crouching at the end of the zone but still could not see who was firing upon her. She finally managed to release the shotgun and loaded it. Mrs Buckley fired several shots and then the gun jammed. As she lay on the seat, she tried to release the jammed shotgun. When she looked up she saw people running away. Mrs Buckley radioed to advise of the situation and that her vehicle was hit and losing oil. Then she noticed blood on the left side of her shirt where she had been hit by metal fragments. She radioed again requesting back up assistance. Mrs Buckley continued to observe but could no longer see anyone. She then returned to the Correctional Centre and received medical attention. After this, Mrs Buckley returned to patrol the area.

For her actions, Mrs Buckley is commended for brave conduct.



## **AWARDED THE COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT**

**Mr Alan Charles COOPER**, 3/134-150 Bulwara Road, Pymont NSW 2009

On the afternoon of 3 February 1998, Mr Cooper assisted in attempting to capture an armed robber in Sydney.

As Mr Cooper pulled his car away from the kerb, after letting his wife out at the shopping centre, he looked in the rear vision mirror and saw a man running towards his wife. Fearing for his wife's safety, Mr Cooper stopped the car and alighted. He then saw the man quickly grab at her hands for her purse. He asked his wife if she had been robbed but she did not reply. Mr Cooper chased after the man and persisted in pursuing the offender, despite having to stop to discard his footwear as it was slowing him down. As Mr Cooper came close to the offender, the man stopped and raised his fists. Mr Cooper caught up and tackled the offender to the ground. Mr Cooper then felt a blow to the chest. As they continued to wrestle on the ground, Mr Cooper noticed a knife lying to the side. The offender picked up the knife as they continued to wrestle. The offender broke away and was then tackled by others. At this point, Mr Cooper noticed blood on his shirt and realised he had been stabbed. His lung had been punctured and he required hospitalisation and surgery.

For his actions, Mr Cooper is commended for brave conduct.

**Mr Ronald Lloyd FOY**, 17 Piggott Way, Broome WA 6725

On the 14 September 1997, Mr Foy assisted in the rescue of a semi-conscious woman from the sea at Broome.

As Mr Foy walked down onto the beach, he saw a man waving at him from some rocks. He came closer to the man and was told there was a female in trouble in the water. Mr Foy then saw the female face down in the water. He raced back to a friend and told her to call for help. He ran back to the rocks and jumped into the water. Mr Foy took hold of the woman's head and then gripped her around the torso. He pulled her back towards the rocks and managed to get a foot hold on a small ledge with water reaching up to his chest. Despite being dashed against the rocks, Mr Foy kept hold of the woman. A person standing above Mr Foy grabbed his shirt to prevent him from being swept away. Mr Foy was in this position for some time until further help arrived.

For his actions, Mr Foy is commended for brave conduct.

## **AWARDED THE COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT**

**Mr Conrad William GIBLET**, 4/1 Anderson Street, Manunda Qld 4870

On 6 February 1998, Mr Giblet, who was aged 14 at the time of the incident, assisted in the rescue of a girl from a crocodile attack at Chinaman Creek.

Mr Giblet noticed a girl sitting on a cement block with her legs dangling in the water. He then saw a crocodile take her by the legs and pull her under the water. Mr Giblet climbed out on the bough of a tree that was overhanging the creek. When the girl surfaced, he grabbed her hand and hit the crocodile with a stick until it released the girl. Mr Giblet dragged her back towards the bank and other rescuers moved her to safety.

For his actions, Mr Giblet is commended for brave conduct.

**Mr Michael George HODGES**, 224 Tipperary Road, Lorne NSW 2439

On the morning of 26 September 1997, Mr Hodges assisted in the rescue of two teenagers at Lighthouse Beach.

Mr Hodges saw the sea was rough and that there was a rip. He then noticed a teenage girl and boy enter the water and swim away from the beach. They soon appeared to be in difficulties. Mr Hodges, with his cousin, entered the water to assist the teenagers. He then noticed a boogie board further down the beach and asked his cousin to fetch it. Mr Hodges swam towards the teenagers and observed the girl, who was further out than the boy, appeared to be very distressed. He decided to go to the aid of the girl first and swam past the boy, reassuring him that further help was on the way. He reached the girl, who was now even more distressed, and this, combined with the rough seas made the rescue more difficult. His cousin arrived and rescued the boy, and it then took up to twenty minutes before they managed to cross the rip and make their way back to the shore with the teenagers.

For his actions, Mr Hodges is commended for brave conduct.

## **AWARDED THE COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT**

**Mr Murray Leonard KENNEDY**, 62 Roseland Grove, Doncaster Vic 3108

On the 23 September 1996, Mr Kennedy assisted in the rescue of an injured paraglider at Cairns Bay.

Mr Kennedy received a call to attend Cairns Bay as a paraglider had crashed somewhere in the area. The area to be searched consisted of difficult terrain including cliff drops of some sixty metres. After a possible sighting of the victim, Mr Kennedy and a police officer, looked for a way down the cliff face as there was no direct route. During the descent, Mr Kennedy waded and at times swam between rock faces. As there was a large swell and an incoming tide, Mr Kennedy discarded his personal belongings to prevent him being weighed down in the water. Mr Kennedy observed a rescue helicopter nearing the crash site. He continued the descent, and with the other rescuer, adjusted his path by climbing upwards to avoid the waves crashing over them. Mr Kennedy reached the victim soon after two rescuers had been winched from the helicopter to the man's side. He then assisted in moving the victim to higher ground to avoid high tide water. Mr Kennedy again assisted in moving the victim to a more accessible area where the victim could be winched to safety by the helicopter.

For his actions, Mr Kennedy is commended for brave conduct.

**Mr Kenneth Donald LACEY**, 27 Second Street, Henty NSW 2658

On the afternoon of 2 January 1998, Mr Lacey attempted to rescue a man trapped in a mobile crane submerged in a dam at Yerong Creek.

Mr Lacey was on the opposite side of the dam when he saw a mobile crane, operated by his employer, enter the water. He then saw the cabin was filling with water and ran as fast as could to the other side of the dam. As he dived into the dam, he could see the vehicle was almost completely submerged with only the top of the cabin visible above the water line. He swam to the machine and dived under the water. Although he had his eyes open, he could not see the machine, and he was forced to work by touch. He located the door of the machine but was unsuccessful in trying to open the door as it was embedded in mud. The mud covered the machine to well over one metre. He then tried unsuccessfully to smash the window. Despite the possibility of becoming trapped in the mud, he repeated these attempts a number of times. He then climbed on top of the submerged machine and tried unsuccessfully to smash the roof. At this point, Mr Lacey left the water and tried to radio for help. He re-entered the water and tried again, a number of times, to free his employer. Despite Mr Lacey's efforts, the man remained trapped, and could not be saved.

For his actions, Mr Lacey is commended for brave conduct.

## **AWARDED THE COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT**

**Mr Gary William McCLINTOCK**, 11 Egret Crescent, Condon Qld 4815

On the night of 10 January 1998, Mr McClintock assisted in the rescue of people trapped by floods at Black River.

Mr McClintock was watching television with a friend when a neighbour requested help as her house was threatened by rising flood waters. Mr McClintock escorted her and her two children to higher ground. He then helped move another couple to higher ground. Mr McClintock continued to check other houses and gave assistance where needed. He noticed water in the nearby gully was rising and flowing quickly. One house he saw in this area had water up to the window sills and Mr McClintock helped move the family to safety. He also observed one section of the beach was completely covered in water. Later that night, he was informed that people were trapped by flood water on the other side of the gully and their house was submerged. Mr McClintock and other rescuers collected life jackets and some rope and went to assist. He saw that the watercourse was seventy metres across, flowing quickly and strewn with debris. Mr McClintock was then told someone had already attempted a rescue, but it was believed the person had been swept away by the current. Despite this, he entered the water and swam across the channel. He found several stranded people on the other side. Waiting until the water level had dropped, Mr McClintock helped a man with an injured leg to cross the water to higher ground.

For his actions, Mr McClintock is commended for brave conduct.

**Mr James Linton MacLANNAN**, 14 Klyn Street, Gove NT 0881

On 18 February 1998, Mr MacLannan rescued a man being electrocuted through contact with an electrical switchboard in Darwin.

Mr MacLannan, a refrigeration mechanic, was carrying out repairs on an air conditioning system. He went to the main electrical switch room where a male electrician was already at work on another job. As Mr MacLannan was leaving the very small room, he noticed the man appeared to be touching the switchboard. He then realised the man was being electrocuted. Mr MacLannan's first reaction was to pull the man away but realised the danger of electrocution to himself. Mr MacLannan looked for the main isolating switch but could not locate it. He then looked for an insulated object but could not find anything. Mr MacLannan then attempted unsuccessfully to kick the injured man away from the switchboard. Eventually he located the isolating switch and squeezed past the man to turn the power off. The man fell to the ground and shortly regained movement.

For his actions, Mr MacLannan is commended for brave conduct.

## **AWARDED THE COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT**

**Mr Cameron Arthur MARSHALL,**

Cornerstone Property, Cucumber Lane, Canowindra NSW 2804

On the night of 28 March 1998, Mr Marshall attempted to stop a stampeding stagecoach at the Canowindra Balloon Festival.

Mr Marshall saw two runaway Clydesdale horses harnessed to a carriage, moving quickly in the opposite direction to him. As the horses changed direction a woman was knocked over. The horses started to gallop as they came closer to Mr Marshall. He stepped aside to let them past and then chased after them. Catching up to them, he climbed up a ladder at the back of the carriage, and then up onto the luggage bay and down into the driver's seat. Mr Marshall could see people in the path of the horses and shouted warnings. He looked for reins to pull the horses up, but saw none. As he was about to jump down between the horses and try to hold their heads together to slow them to a stop, the horse on the right hand side fell to the ground causing the carriage to collide with both horses. This forced a halt. Mr Marshall made a bridle with his belt and placed it around the upright horse's neck, and after calming it down, led it away from the crowd.

By his actions, Mr Marshall is commended for brave conduct.

**Mr John NEMANIC,** PO Box K777, Haymarket NSW 2000

On the afternoon of 3 February 1998, Mr Nemanic assisted in the attempted capture of an armed robber in Sydney.

Mr Nemanic was walking with his wife when he heard a female screaming. He looked across the road and saw a male chasing another male. The pair turned left into another road and Mr Nemanic followed them. He saw the man who had been in pursuit, tackle the other man to the ground. A third man appeared and joined in the struggle. Mr Nemanic grabbed hold of the man who had been tackled to the ground by the shoulders. Mr Nemanic then felt pain in the lower part of his trunk, and looking over his right shoulder, saw one of the other men was covered in blood. Mr Nemanic used his knees to keep the offender on the ground. He then noticed the offender had a knife clenched in his right hand. Mr Nemanic stepped back to avoid being stabbed and the offender jumped to his feet, and ran towards one of the other men. Mr Nemanic called out a warning and the offender ran off. At this point, Mr Nemanic realised he had been stabbed.

For his actions, Mr Nemanic is commended for brave conduct.

## **AWARDED THE COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT**

**Mr Jeffery Alexander PAMENTER**, 1 Eardley Street, Toowoomba Qld 4350

On the morning of 15 October 1997, Mr Pamenter rescued an elderly woman from a burning house in Toowoomba.

Mr Pamenter was at home when his wife told him she could smell something burning. He went to the back door, looked out and saw smoke coming from a neighbouring house. Mr Pamenter called to his wife to ring the fire brigade and he then went to the house to assist. He saw the front door was open and being aware the elderly female occupant was visually and hearing impaired, he called out loudly and continuously. There was no response and the smoke prevented visibility. Mr Pamenter entered the house, and made his way to the back part of the house. He waved his arms to clear the smoke. He then heard someone call for help. Still waving the smoke away, he came into contact with the elderly lady who grabbed hold of him. He next heard exploding glass and saw a glow in the laundry. He tried to walk the woman back to the front of the house but she was too disorientated. As he guided her along he saw daylight through the front door. After Mr Pamenter pulled the woman from the house and she was safely down the front steps, he went to the back of the house and tried unsuccessfully to extinguish the flames with a garden hose. Shortly after, the fire brigade arrived.

For his actions, Mr Pamenter is commended for brave conduct.

**Mr Jiang QIANG**, 7/4 Cambridge Street, Merrylands NSW 2160

On the afternoon of 3 February 1998, Mr Qiang assisted in the attempted capture of an armed robber in Sydney.

Mr Qiang was carrying his seventeen months old son. He felt himself being hit on the left side of his back and then his neck was grabbed. Mr Qiang swung around and suffered a blow to the left side of his chest. He then realised his gold neck chain had been stolen. Mr Qiang's wife was screaming and the offender ran off. Mr Qiang chased the man. When he caught up with the offender, Mr Qiang saw two men tackling the offender on the ground and one of these men was covered in blood. He then saw the offender get to his feet and Mr Qiang noticed he had a knife in his right hand. The offender ran and Mr Qiang continued to chase him. He saw the offender jump into a car that sped off. Mr Qiang then realised he had been stabbed in the chest.

For his actions, Mr Qiang is commended for brave conduct.

## **AWARDED THE COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT**

**Mr John RAHME**, Granville NSW 2142

On the morning of 22 November 1996, Mr Rahme rescued a child from a burning house at Granville.

Mr Rahme was at home with his brother when he heard an elderly neighbour scream for help. He ran next door with his brother and saw his neighbour in the front yard. He then saw smoke coming from the left side of the house. The neighbour told Mr Rahme that there was a small child inside. As the front of the house was ablaze, he ran to the back of the house and entered through the back door. Once inside, it was difficult to see because of the smoke. Due to the intense heat, one of the rear windows exploded. He went up the hallway, calling out at the same time. Mr Rahme then entered a room and felt the heat intensify further. He heard a child crying. He looked to his right and saw a small boy crouched in the corner. He picked up the child and retraced his steps to exit the house. Mr Rahme returned the child to the neighbour and waited for emergency services to arrive.

For his actions, Mr Rahme is commended for brave conduct.

**Mrs Gayle RICHARDS**, 1 White Avenue, Fullarton SA 5063

On the morning of 19 November 1997, Mrs Richards assisted an attempt to apprehend two robbers, one of whom was armed.

Mrs Richards parked her vehicle in the street outside her home. She then heard what sounded like a firearm being discharged. Mrs Richards turned and saw a man standing with a pistol in his hand on the footpath. The man started to run and Mrs Richards saw a female pushing a trolley about one metre behind the man. She then saw an elderly female neighbour chasing the pair, waving her arms and yelling. Mrs Richards drove into her driveway and continued to watch. As the trio ran further down the street, the man fired at the elderly neighbour but missed. Mrs Richards then drove down the street to assist. She parked in a driveway to halt the offenders' progress. The man and the woman went into a driveway, two houses away from where Mrs Richards' car was parked. The elderly neighbour caught up with the female offender, and other neighbours then came to assist.

For her actions, Mrs Richards is commended for brave conduct.

## **AWARDED THE COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT**

**Mr Gregory Colin SEMMLER**, 2/18 Stanhope Street, West Beach SA 5024

On the night of 18 March 1998, Mr Semmler attempted to contain a fire in an underground LPG pit at a petrol station at Westbourne Park.

Mr Semmler, a tanker driver, was filling an LPG tank. As he lifted an inspection plate to check a gauge, residual gas under the plate ignited. A strong blast of flame shot out at Mr Semmler with the result that his hair caught alight and his face and hands were burned. Mr Semmler extinguished the fire in his hair and then replaced the inspection plate to starve the fire of oxygen. After doing this, he could still see blue flames. He banged on the doors of the petrol station to alert any staff but there was no response. Mr Semmler then drove his tanker, containing 20,000 litres of LPG, to a safe location.

For his actions, Mr Semmler is commended for brave conduct.

**Mr Peter Bernard SHAMBROOK**, 49 Princes Road, Hyde Park Qld 4812

On the night of 10 January 1998, Mr Shambrook assisted in the rescue of people from the Townsville floods at Black River.

Mr Shambrook, his wife and six children were evacuated from their residence after flood waters had reached eight metres. He carried some of the children to safety on his back using a rope that had been tied to the stair rails on the verandah and was attached to rescuers on the other side. Later that night, Mr Shambrook checked on the safety of other neighbours. He saw that some houses on the other side of the flood waters had been completely washed away. When Mr Shambrook was informed there were people trapped on the other side, he obtained a rope and returned to assist. He saw the area of water was seventy metres wide, flowing quickly and strewn with debris from damaged houses and vegetation. Mr Shambrook, with a companion, entered the water and attempted to swim across. The force of the tide washed him towards the mouth of the river and eventually back to the side of the bank where he had entered the water.

For his actions, Mr Shambrook is commended for brave conduct.



## **AWARDED THE COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT**

**Mr David Arthur SHORT,**

C/- Bama Healing Nightshelter, Hartley Street, Cairns Qld 4870

On the 6 February 1996, Mr Short assisted in the rescue of a girl from a crocodile attack at Chinaman Creek.

Mr Short heard someone shout that a girl had been taken by a crocodile. He ran to the water's edge and saw a girl splashing in the water. Mr Short then saw that a male had climbed out on a branch of an overhanging tree. The male then grabbed the girl by the hair and was dragging her towards the bank. Mr Short entered the water up to his waist and made as much noise as possible to scare the crocodile away. He grabbed hold of the girl and quickly moved her up onto the bank to safety.

For his actions, Mr Short is commended for brave conduct.

**Mr Robin Wayne SIMPSON, 3/120 Howard Road, Goodwood Tas 7010**

On the night of the 5 October 1997, Mr Simpson rescued a man from a burning house at Glenorchy.

Mr Simpson was at home when a friend who had been outside told him he could see a fire near Mr Simpson's brother's house. Mr Simpson went outside to investigate and then ran towards the fire to assist. He saw a crowd of people standing outside his brother's house watching the fire. When he heard someone was still inside the house, Mr Simpson approached the front bedroom window and saw it was open and black smoke was billowing out. He asked two males for a leg-up and dived headfirst through the window. The smoke prevented Mr Simpson from seeing anyone. He crawled across the floor and called out to try and locate the person inside. Mr Simpson then saw his brother lying on the floor near the bed. His brother was not moving. Mr Simpson grabbed his brother and dragged him across the floor. He felt for the window, located it and pushed his brother through the window. The ambulance then arrived and provided medical assistance to Mr Simpson's brother.

For his actions, Mr Simpson is commended for brave conduct.

## **AWARDED THE COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT**

**First Class Constable Gary STEWART**, South Australia Police Service

On the afternoon of 16 February 1997, First Class Constable Stewart rescued a girl washed from rocks into the sea at Petrel Cove.

First Class Constable Stewart and another police officer were called to attend Petrel Cove where a girl and boy were trapped on rocks. On arrival at the scene, First Class Constable Stewart saw the children clinging to rocks in the sea about 30 metres away. Waves were breaking over the children and they were in obvious difficulties. First Class Constable Stewart noted the tide was coming in and the swell was rising. He called out to the children that the SES were on their way. The girl was distressed and called out she could not hold on for much longer. First Class Constable Stewart removed his equipment belt in anticipation of the children being swept from the rocks. Then the girl was swept into the sea and First Class Constable Stewart dived into the water fully clothed. He reached the girl who clung to him. First Class Constable Stewart talked to the girl to reassure her and hanging onto her attempted to swim away from the rocks. Several times they were swept back towards the rocks. First Class Constable Stewart kept swimming, towing the girl to safety through the metre high surf. As a result of his efforts, First Class Constable Stewart suffered cuts and abrasions to his legs and arms from contact with the rocks.

For his actions, First Class Constable Stewart is commended for brave conduct.

**Mr Jamie Lee WARE**, 62 Horwood Road, Salisbury North SA 5108

On the afternoon of 22 January 1998, Jamie Ware, who was 11 years of age at the time of the incident, attempted to rescue his unconscious father from the sea at Semaphore Beach.

With his father, brother and sister, Jamie walked down the jetty. His father then jumped off near the end of the jetty and began swimming. Jamie who was not a strong swimmer followed his father into the water and noticed he could not feel the bottom. He swam away from the jetty and his father was behind him. Jamie turned around and saw his father floating face down. He swam to his father, rolled him over, and saw his father was unconscious and that air bubbles were coming out of his mouth. Jamie yelled to his brother to help. Jamie then towed his father closer to the shore, trying to keep his father's head above the water. He had to tow his father up to 400 metres to shore and was swept to a point on the beach 200 metres north of the jetty. There was a strong wind from the south west and the sea was rough. His brother waded in and helped pull their father onto the beach. Jamie then ran to the get help. He heard an ambulance and ran back to his father and saw an ambulance officer try unsuccessfully to revive his father.

For his actions, Jamie Ware is commended for brave conduct.

## **AWARDED THE COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT**

**Mr Patrick Michael WORNE,**

22 The Summit Road, Port Macquarie NSW 2444

On the morning of 26 September 1997, Mr Worne assisted in the rescue of two teenagers at Lighthouse Beach.

When Mr Worne arrived at the beach, he saw the sea was too rough for swimming and that there was a rip. Mr Worne noticed a girl and a boy enter the water. They appeared not to be strong swimmers. He then saw the pair pounded by waves and dragged further out by the rip. Mr Worne with his cousin entered the water to assist the boy and girl. When his cousin noticed a boogie board further down the beach, Mr Worne left the water and ran to fetch it. He re-entered the water with the board and saw his cousin attempting to bring the girl to shore. Mr Worne swam to the boy and attempted to bring the boy across the rip. They were pounded by waves and it took up to twenty minutes to bring the teenagers back to the shore.

For his actions, Mr Worne is commended for brave conduct.

**Mr Kenneth Ronald WRIGHT, 4/16 Hayes Drive, Warragul Vic 3820**

On the night of 26 September 1997, Mr Wright assisted in the rescue of two children from a burning house at Warragul.

Mr Wright was asleep when his wife woke him and told him the house opposite was on fire. He looked out the window and saw flames. He rang emergency services and ran across the road to assist. The owners of the house informed him that two of their children were inside. Mr Wright kicked the locked front door open and ran inside. The smoke and heat forced him back. He took a deep breath and re-entered the house, accompanied by the trapped children's father. The children's mother shouted directions to locate the baby who was in a bassinette. Mr Wright reached the bassinette, grabbed it and ran outside. He then ran to the back of the house with the children's father. Mr Wright found a hammer and smashed the other child's bedroom window. He assisted the father through the window. The father after finding the child passed her to Mr Wright. As Mr Wright returned to the front of the house the roof caved in. He then escorted the mother and two children to the hospital.

For his actions, Mr Wright is commended for brave conduct.

## **AWARDED THE COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT**

**Paramedic Anthony James YOUNG,**  
C/- 1-3 Forest Place, 356 Blunder Road, Durack Qld 4077

On the evening of 21 December 1993, Paramedic Young rescued a girl from a crashed vehicle at Toowoomba.

Paramedic Young, attended a motor vehicle accident where a vehicle had overturned. The teenage driver was trapped inside the wreckage with her legs pinned by the steering wheel. Paramedic Young examined the girl and found no serious injury. However, he could smell petrol fumes and saw petrol leaking inside the vehicle and flowing over the victim. After observing the unsuccessful attempts of other rescuers to cut the girl from the wreckage, Paramedic Young climbed through the back window and proceeded to dismantle the driver's seat. He worked for twenty minutes standing in a pool of petrol until he released the driver's seat and freed the girl.

For his actions, Paramedic Young is commended for brave conduct.

**Mr George ZAMANOS, 54 Premier Street, Marrickville NSW 2204**

On the night of 6 March 1997, Mr Zamanos assisted in the apprehension of an armed offender at Marrickville.

Mr Zamanos was a passenger in a car driven by his wife when he noticed a man chasing and calling out to another man. Mrs Zamanos drove past the two men and stopped the car. Mr Zamanos alighted from the car and approached the offender just as the pursuer caught up. The offender pointed a knife at Mr Zamanos and the other man, and threatened to stab them if they came closer. Then with both hands, Mr Zamanos grabbed the offender by the collar. He forced the offender backwards over a small fence and held him there with the assistance of the other man. Mr Zamanos removed the knife from the offender's hand and held it out of reach while still assisting in restraining the offender. Shortly after this, police officers arrived and arrested the offender.

For his actions, Mr Zamanos is commended for brave conduct.