

## STAR OF COURAGE

**Mr Earpeng CHEA**, 18 Victor Crescent, Forest Hill Vic 3131

On the night of 8 April 1996, Mr Chea, an employee at Kew Cottages, a residential facility for men with intellectual disabilities, entered and re-entered a burning building to rescue disorientated residents.

Mr Chea had 24 residents in his care in Unit 31 which was divided into Flats C, D and E. Some of the residents had multiple disabilities and many were in a deep slumber. Mr Chea received a phone call from the night coordinator, informing Mr Chea to evacuate the building. Assuming the reason was a fire, although he could not detect any smoke, he alerted a colleague in Unit 30 to evacuate. Mr Chea then ran through Flats C and D banging on walls and doors to alert the residents. As he approached the corridor of Flat E, he saw smoke billowing from part of the ceiling near the residents' bedrooms. At this point, the fire alarm activated and he saw flames coming from the ceiling and felt the heat of the fire. Mr Chea tried to crawl under the smoke to access the bedrooms but was forced to retreat to another corridor as he had difficulty breathing. He kept calling out to alert the residents and then re-entered the smoke filled area and saw the flames had intensified and that no residents had emerged from their bedrooms. Again the smoke forced him to retreat and on his next attempt, smoke, flames and heat prevented re-entry. Mr Chea then entered another corridor into Flat C, went into a bedroom and grabbed hold of two residents, one of whom was visually impaired, took them to the front door and forced both out of the building. He then entered another bedroom and led two more residents through the same exit and returned again to rescue a further two residents. Flat C was now unoccupied. He then ran down the corridor of Flat D but the smoke caused him breathing difficulties, forcing him to run outside where he fell to the ground. Recovering his breath, Mr Chea re-entered the smoke filled building and checked the toilet in Flat D but found no one. Mr Chea, outside again, was lying on the ground after collapsing near the front doors when he saw a bedroom door was closed. He re-entered the building and entered the bedroom, grabbing hold of one resident who was blind and shaking another awake. Mr Chea then escorted the blind man into the corridor where another rescuer guided the resident to safety. The other male Mr Chea had awakened was disorientated and had wandered into a toilet, Mr Chea located the man and lead him into the corridor. At this point, Mr Chea had severe breathing difficulties and was taken outside by another rescuer. Mr Chea once again tried to re-enter the building but the fire was out of control. Mr Chea received medical attention at the scene and was transported to hospital.

By his actions, Mr Chea displayed conspicuous courage.

Phone Nos: Home (03)9893 3040 Mobile 0413 216 919

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Keith Paul BATEMAN**, Late of 10 Wattle Street, Booval Qld 4304

On the afternoon of 10 April 1998, Mr Bateman lost his life attempting to rescue a woman and child who had been electrocuted at Ipswich.

Mr Bateman was on the footpath outside his home, taking photographs of the damage caused by a severe hailstorm. Mr Bateman then saw his neighbour, who was carrying her daughter, collapse to the ground after making contact with a fallen overhead electricity cable. He immediately ran to assist. On reaching the mother and daughter, Mr Bateman spoke to the woman to ascertain if she was injured. He then bent down close to the woman and touched her arm, receiving an electric shock from the contact. He once again attempted to touch the woman to assist her. Mr Bateman then collapsed to the ground. Unfortunately, all attempts to revive Mr Bateman, the mother and daughter failed.

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

Next Of Kin:

Mrs Fiona Bateman (wife)  
Phone No: Home (07)3389 3488

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Josef BREDL**, Wildlife Park, Shute Harbour Road, Airlie Beach Qld 4802

On the morning of 21 February 1997, Mr Bredl rescued his daughter from a crocodile attack at the Cannonvale Wildlife Park.

Miss Karla Bredl was presenting a lecture from inside the crocodile enclosure when a crocodile lunged at her, grabbing hold of her right leg in its mouth, in the first instant, and then seizing her around the torso. As she called to her father for help, the crocodile started to drag her into the water. Mr Bredl ran to the scene, threw a rake over the fence and jumped into the enclosure. He immediately started hitting the crocodile with the rake and attempted to push the rake into its mouth. Despite Mr Bredl's efforts, the crocodile continued to move into the water and maintained its grip on Karla. She was now submerged up to her shoulders. Mr Bredl discarded the rake and jumped onto the crocodile's back and grabbed its mouth in an unsuccessful attempt to make it loosen its grip on his daughter. The crocodile began rolling in the water. Mr Bredl then grabbed at the crocodile's mouth and jabbed his fingers into its eyes. Mr Bredl, while continuing to wrestle with the crocodile, called for assistance. Another rescuer jumped into the enclosure and began pulling Karla Bredl's hand. This combined with Mr Bredl's actions, resulted in the crocodile releasing its grip on the girl. Mr Bredl then jumped from the crocodile's back. After leaving the water, Mr Bredl assisted in keeping the crocodile away from his daughter until she was moved to a safe location.

By his actions, Mr Bredl displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (07)4947 3169 Work (07)4946 1480

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Keith Paul BATEMAN**, Late of 10 Wattle Street, Booval Qld 4304

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

Next Of Kin:

Mrs Fiona Bateman (wife)

Phone No: Home (07)3389 3488

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Nicholas Leighton DEAN**, 11 Sandalwood Close, Rouse Hill NSW 2155

On the evening of 30 December 1997, Mr Dean prevented further attacks being made by a man armed with a Samurai sword on Avalon Beach.

Mr Dean was walking with his son along the beach towards the car park when he heard a loud scream. Mr Dean then saw five men jump over a wire fence onto the beach. The last man to jump, landed face first and was lying on the beach. Mr Dean saw another man, who was holding a sword, jump the fence and land in front of the man lying down. The armed man, using both hands, held the sword aloft, and Mr Dean heard both men shouting. The man on the ground began rolling away from his attacker. At this point, the man with the sword swung it down onto the other man, striking the man on the neck. The injured man rolled further away, jumped to his feet and ran towards the surf with the armed man in pursuit. The injured man dived into the surf, holding his neck and screaming. The offender halted at the water's edge, looking at the man he had attacked. Mr Dean and his son were now only a short distance from the armed man. Mr Dean believing that his son could be in danger, acted to protect him and approached the offender. The offender crouched down and pushed the sword into the sand. Mr Dean engaged the offender in conversation in an attempt to persuade the man to leave the beach. The offender was becoming increasingly agitated and was rocking the sword back and forth in the sand. Mr Dean then walked away from the man, stopped and called to the man to leave. The offender then let go of the sword and ran from the beach.

By his actions, Mr Dean displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (02)9629 3366 Work (02)9838 1533 Mobile 0418 247 533

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Anthony Shane DAY**, Andrews Farm, Adelaide SA 5114

On the morning of 7 July 1996, Mr Day rescued two children from a burning building at Davoren Park.

Mr Day, on hearing screams, was alerted to a fire in the house across the road. On running to assist, he saw a woman lying down in the front yard and heard her screaming that her three children were still inside. Mr Day then heard screams coming from within the house. He immediately entered the house through the front door. Thick smoke made breathing difficult, forcing Mr Day to crawl on his hands and knees. Mr Day crawled into the lounge room that was located at the front of the house. Mr Day called out to the children in an attempt to locate them as the smoke had reduced visibility considerably. He found a small girl in the corner of the room. Mr Day picked her up and ran with the child out through the front entrance. Mr Day handed the child to the mother and immediately re-entered the house, crawling again on his hands and knees until he located a small boy under the window in the lounge room. Mr Day picked up the boy and ran outside. Mr Day, believing the third child was still trapped in another part of the house, ran around to the back of the house to attempt a re-entry but, on arrival, saw the third child being brought safely outside.

By his actions, Mr Day displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (08)8284 2259 Mobile 0411 544 830

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Peter Graeme FORD**, 56 Ningaloo Way, Thornlie WA 6108

On the night of 2 May 1998, Mr Ford rescued two people who were trapped in a crashed vehicle off Rockingham Road.

Mr Ford, a security officer, was driving when he saw a bus swerve to the centre of the road, and rocks and debris fall onto the road. He stopped his vehicle, switched on the emergency lights and, on looking to his left, saw a utility lying on its side some thirty metres off the road. Close to the utility were six spot fires. Mr Ford trained the lights on the utility, alighted from his vehicle and ran to assist. As he negotiated rough terrain, Mr Ford could smell petrol. On arrival at the scene, he kicked sand over the fires, putting most of them out. Mr Ford then requested assistance on his portable radio. At this point, he observed fallen power lines, one of which was resting on one of the utility's tyres and three others were close to the ground near the vehicle. He then saw two people hanging upside down in the vehicle. Realising the danger of explosion, he reached the passenger's side by crawling under the power lines and opened the door. Mr Ford then grabbed hold of the disorientated passenger and led him under and away from the power lines. Mr Ford heard cries from further into the bushland and going to assist found an injured man near a power line. Mr Ford instructed another person who had arrived to keep the man away from the power lines. Mr Ford then returned to the crashed vehicle and went under the power lines again and, after having manipulated the driver out of his seatbelt, assisted him under and away from the power lines. Believing there was another injured person to be found, Mr Ford continued to search the area until emergency services arrived.

By his actions, Mr Ford displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (08) 9493 4341 Mobile 0418 906 677

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Glen William EVANS**, 391 Auburn Street, Goulburn NSW 2580

On the afternoon of 29 May 1998, Mr Evans confronted and restrained an offender after a shooting at the Goulburn Base Hospital.

Mr Evans, a general assistant at the hospital, noticed the curtain being drawn around a female patient's bed. He then heard a loud bang and saw something that looked like a screw roll on the floor from behind the curtain. Thinking that the television had crashed to the floor, Mr Evans looked towards the television set but, within seconds, heard another two bangs. Mr Evans saw a haze rise above the curtains and noticed a pair of legs below the curtains. A man then came from behind the curtain and headed for the exit. Mr Evans ran behind the curtain and noticed that the girl on the bed had blood on her face and that lying beside her was a gun. Mr Evans heard people yelling that the offender was getting away. Mr Evans immediately went in pursuit, not knowing if the offender was carrying other weapons. Mr Evans ran after the offender and attempted to grab him by the arm as he entered the lift to escape. Mr Evans then grabbed the offender around the neck and pulled one arm behind the offender's back. Mr Evans dragged the man to the nurse's station and on the second attempt forced the man onto the floor, pulling the offender's arms behind him. Mr Evans continued to restrain the man until help arrived.

By his actions, Mr Evans displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (02)4821 7927 Work (02)4827 3111

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Sergeant Glen Donald INGRAM**, Military Police Station, Puckapunyal Vic 3662

On the morning of 21 February 1997, Sergeant Ingram rescued a girl from a crocodile attack at the Cannonvale Wildlife Park.

Sergeant Ingram, a tourist at the Wildlife Park, was watching a girl present a crocodile lecture as she stood inside the crocodile enclosure when a crocodile lunged at her. The crocodile grabbed hold of the girl's right leg, then let go and seized her around the torso. Sergeant Ingram heard the girl scream for help and heard other crocodiles in the enclosures make a hissing sound. The crocodile began dragging the girl backwards into the water when Sergeant Ingram saw a man jump into the enclosure and try unsuccessfully to make the crocodile release its grip. The girl was now submerged up to her shoulders and the crocodile began rolling in the water. Sergeant Ingram jumped into the enclosure, ran to the girl and grabbed her hand attempting to pull the girl away from the crocodile. Sergeant Ingram's continued efforts, combined with the other rescuer hitting the crocodile, resulted in the crocodile releasing its grip on the girl.

By his actions, Sergeant Ingram displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (03)5793 1297 Work (03)5735 7709

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Craig Allan FREE**, 31 Taylor Street, Fitzroy North Vic 3068

On the night of 8 April 1996, Mr Free rescued residents from a burning building at Kew Cottages, a residential facility for men with intellectual disabilities.

Mr Free, a night service coordinator, heard the fire alarm sound. He went to check the alarm system which was located at the front of the administration building and saw that a fire was indicated in the building known as Unit 30/31, containing the residential sections, Flats A, B, C, D and E. He ran towards this area and observed smoke coming from the middle section at the back of the Unit. As Mr Free continued to run, he observed other staff members also running towards the Unit. He reached the building and opened the eastern side door to Flat D. Visibility inside the building was poor. Mr Free then saw another staff member and called out that they must evacuate. As he entered the building, visibility decreased and the smoke forced Mr Free to crouch on the floor trying to catch his breath. He then entered a bedroom to begin rescuing the residents. The rescue was made more difficult as some of the residents had multiple disabilities, others were in a deep slumber and most were disorientated by the fire. Mr Free grabbed a resident, held onto him and led him out of the building. He then re-entered the burning building a number of times and evacuated other residents from their bedrooms. As the fire intensified and the smoke became more acrid, Mr Free ordered everyone to leave the building. Once outside, Mr Free directed staff members to escort the evacuated residents to a safe area.

By his actions, Mr Free displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (03)9489 4473 Work (03)9854 1370

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Bernard Francis LAWTON**, 16 Farview Crescent, Ridgehaven SA 5097

On the afternoon of 8 November 1997, Mr Lawton assisted in the rescue of a girl and assisted in the attempted rescue of man from a burning vehicle that had crashed during the Adelaide Classic Car Rally.

Mr Lawton was watching the car rally when he saw a rally car crash into trees and burst into flames. Mr Lawton ran to assist and, as he did so, saw the flames intensify. Looking through the passenger's side window, Mr Lawton heard someone call for help. He pulled the window out and placed his head and shoulders through the opening. Mr Lawton then saw two people strapped in their harnesses, hanging upside down, with flames coming from inside the vehicle. Mr Lawton tried to release the harness of the girl who was nearest to him and, at the same time, tried to pull her head out of the flames. Mr Lawton noticed a large manual, picked it up and placed it against the area the flames were coming from. This provided some protection for the trapped people. Mr Lawton withdrew his head from the vehicle to catch his breath. He then pushed his head and shoulders back through the opening and pushed at buttons on the girl's harness, at the same time keeping her head out of the flames. The girl was released from her harness and, with another rescuer, Mr Lawton pulled the girl out of the vehicle and placed her on the ground. Mr Lawton then went back to the vehicle and attempted to open the driver's door. When fire extinguishers were used on the flames Mr Lawton assisted in another rescue attempt, but the car burst into flames throwing him backwards. Despite Mr Lawton's efforts, the man inside the vehicle died.

By his actions, Mr Lawton displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (08)8263 0059 Mobile 0417 839 017

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Raymond Gregory JOHNS**, Lot 7, 14 Wairoo Street, Burleigh Heads Qld 4220

On the afternoon of 24 January 1990, Mr Johns apprehended an armed robber at Illawarra.

Mr Johns, a former police officer, went to investigate a hold-up in progress in the Credit Union located next door to his business premises. As he approached the entrance of the Credit Union, he saw a male and female leave the building. The female walked past Mr Johns, pushed him and then ran. Mr Johns saw the man also start to run and observed that he was carrying a sports bag under one arm. Mr Johns called to the man to stop and then pursued the offender. Mr Johns caught up to the offender and tackled him to the ground from behind. A struggle ensued. The offender regained his feet and then Mr Johns saw the sports bag drop to the ground and the offender pull from the bag a sawn-off rifle. Mr Johns noticed the rifle had a magazine attached. The offender then pushed the barrel of the gun into Mr Johns' stomach and threatened to kill him. Mr Johns saw the offender's finger squeeze the trigger and heard a click. The loaded gun had jammed. Two men then grabbed the offender from behind and Mr Johns struck the offender in the face. The offender dropped the rifle and Mr Johns assisted in tackling him to the ground. Mr Johns rolled the man face down and sat on him. Mr Johns then restrained the man until the police arrived.

By his actions Mr Johns displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (07)5535 2316 Work (07)5576 6800 Mobile 0414 238 125

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Michael Edward NEUNUEBEL,**

RMB 1450, Mt Shadforth Road, Denmark WA 6333

On the afternoon of 28 December 1997, Mr Neunuebel rescued a youth from treacherous waters at Elephant Rock Beach.

Mr Neunuebel was at the beach with his son when he was informed that someone had been swept off the rocks. Mr Neunuebel ran to the scene, crossing over rocks for some 200 metres. Another person then pointed out two heads bobbing in the sea. Mr Neunuebel observed the swell was close to two metres and high white water was breaking onto the rocks. Realising the danger, Mr Neunuebel, a surf instructor, asked his son to fetch a boogie board. Mr Neunuebel continued to watch the two people to keep track of them. When his son returned with the boogie board, Mr Neunuebel then jumped over rocks, looking for a safe place to enter the water. On entering the water, he swam between two rocks and was swept out to sea by a rip. As he was swept out to sea, Mr Neunuebel could now see only one person's head and only when the person was pushed up by a wave. Looking back at the rocks, Mr Neunuebel could see a person pointing out the direction he should go. On reaching the youth, Mr Neunuebel rolled off the boogie board and gave it to the youth. Mr Neunuebel, treading water, held on to the boogie board. The youth explained that he had seen his brother disappear under the waves. Mr Neunuebel then lay on top of the youth to keep him warm. The youth had been in the water for some thirty minutes and was cold and fatigued. Mr Neunuebel explained they would have to swim out to sea to avoid the rocks and to approach the closest safe beach. The youth became too weak to assist in propelling the boogie board. Mr Neunuebel talked and sang with the boy to keep him conscious as they slowly made progress to the beach. Mr Neunuebel saw a spotter plane overhead and explained to the youth that a boat must be on its way. A rescue boat pulled alongside them and they were both pulled aboard, some forty-five minutes after Mr Neunuebel had entered the water.

By his actions, Mr Neunuebel displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home & Work (08)9840 9041

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Gavin Edward MACHIELSEN**, PO Box 38566, Winnellie NT 0821

On the night of 23 April 1998, Mr Machielsen rescued a man from a burning vehicle after an accident on the Stuart Highway.

Mr Machielsen was driving when he saw a man walk into the middle of the road and hail him. Mr Machielsen stopped his vehicle and as the man approached, Mr Machielsen noticed that he was holding his shoulder and was bleeding. On being informed that there had been a car accident and that a man was trapped inside the crashed vehicle, Mr Machielsen drove to the crash scene with the injured man. Mr Machielsen parked near the crashed vehicle and directed the headlights of his vehicle onto the scene. Mr Machielsen saw the vehicle was on its roof, flames were coming from the engine and petrol was leaking out. He was then told the petrol tank was full. Mr Machielsen immediately ran to assist. He tried unsuccessfully to open the passenger's side door and then went to the rear door on the driver's side and pulled it open. Mr Machielsen saw a man lying on the roof of the vehicle between the two front seats with a seat belt wrapped around his neck. Mr Machielsen tried unsuccessfully to pull the man free. Believing the car could explode at any moment, Mr Machielsen climbed half way into the vehicle, removed the seat belt from the injured man and pulled him out of the car. Mr Machielsen then assisted in dragging the injured man away from the vehicle to a safe location. The crashed vehicle was now completely engulfed in flames. Mr Machielsen then moved his own vehicle away from the fire and waited for emergency services to arrive.

By his actions, Mr Machielsen displayed considerable bravery.

Phone No: Home (08)8931 2235

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Kim REILLY**, 3 Millgrove Avenue, Cooloongup WA 6168

On the morning of the 25 August 1998, Mr Reilly assisted in apprehending an armed escapee from Rockingham Police Station.

Mr Reilly was a passenger in a vehicle driven by his son when he saw a man being pursued by a uniformed police officer. Mr Reilly heard the police officer shout for assistance to apprehend the escapee. Mr Reilly asked his son to stop the vehicle, then alighted from the car and went to assist. As Mr Reilly came closer to the escapee he could still hear the police officer calling for assistance from behind him. The escapee then pulled a gun from his shorts and aimed it at Mr Reilly while telling him to move away. Mr Reilly, not knowing that the gun was a replica and believing he would be shot, stepped back. The escapee moved towards the Reillys' car, threatening another man near by. The escapee again pointed the gun at Mr Reilly but then looked away in the direction of the police officer. At this point, Mr Reilly grabbed hold of the escapee and pinned the man's arms to his side, allowing the other person to pull the gun from the offender.

By his actions Mr Reilly displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Peter John PHILLIPS**, Lower Fort Street, Millers Point NSW 2000

On the night of 9 November 1998, Mr Phillips rescued a man who had been electrocuted at the Argyle Sub-station.

Mr Phillips was at home when he heard noises from the stairwell of the block of units where he lived. He went to investigate and found an intoxicated man who was only partially clothed. Mr Phillips tried unsuccessfully to find out who the man was and then Mr Phillips returned to his own unit to find clothes for the man to wear. On his return, Mr Phillips found that the man had gone. He immediately began searching for him. Mr Phillips then heard an explosion and saw flashing lights in the sky. Realising that the sparks were coming from a near-by power sub-station, Mr Phillips ran to assist, believing that the man he had previously seen was being electrocuted. As he ran, Mr Phillips called to a neighbour to ring emergency services. On reaching the scene, Mr Phillips heard the man call for help but could not see him. Mr Phillips climbed the fence and, as he did so, saw that the man was lying on the ground and that his body was on fire. Mr Phillips pulled himself over the fence and jumped into the sub-station, successfully avoiding the electrical equipment. Mr Phillips removed his jacket and used it to smother the flames on the man. He placed the man in the recovery position and waited for emergency services to arrive. Mr Phillips then assisted ambulance officers to place the man onto a stretcher and to carry him out of the sub-station.

By his actions, Mr Phillips displayed considerable bravery.

Phone No: Home (02)9241 4990

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Brian Keith SPARKS**, Brisbane Qld 4000

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

Mr Sparks was a passenger in a car when he observed thick black smoke some 500 metres away. Continuing over a rise, he saw cars parked on either side of the highway and people running across the road. Once the car had stopped, Mr Sparks saw an aircraft on the ground with two metre flames engulfing the front of it. On hearing that people were still trapped in the aircraft, Mr Sparks immediately went to assist. He saw a woman being carried away from the aircraft and a man hanging half outside of the plane with a jumper over his head. Mr Sparks assisted in an attempt to remove the man. Mr Sparks then heard someone call out to move away as the aircraft could explode. Mr Sparks stepped back momentarily but then returned to the aircraft and helped remove a burning seat that was trapping the man. Mr Sparks continued to assist until the man was pulled free. Mr Sparks then attempted to assist other trapped passengers.

By his actions, Mr Sparks displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Michael John SMITH**, 6 McGennan Street, Warrnambool Vic 3280

On the afternoon of 14 September 1996, Mr Smith rescued a man from dangerous surf at Warrnambool.

It was getting dark when Mr Smith, accompanied by his father, saw a man in difficulties some 150 metres out to sea. Mr Smith observed a rescue boat some 500 metres off shore but realised that the boat was too far away to see the man in the water. Mr Smith put on his wet suit, grabbed hold of his surfboard and entered the water. Mr Smith battled against dangerous waves and thick kelp to reach the man. Mr Smith pushed the exhausted man onto his surfboard, removed the safety rope from his own ankle and attached it to the victim. Mr Smith swam behind the surfboard, pushing the surfboard back towards the shore. After some 20 minutes since Mr Smith had entered the water, and now some 20 to 50 metres from the shore, a large wave knocked the surfboard away. However, Mr Smith's father then entered the water and assisted his son to carry the man to shore.

By his actions, Mr Smith displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (03)9530 3130 Work (03)9534 8221

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Joshua Glen COLE**, 22 Cobradah Way, Kingsley WA 6026

On the afternoon of 1 March 1998, Mr Cole apprehended an armed offender at Edgewater Shopping Centre.

Mr Cole was a passenger in a vehicle that was parked beside the shopping centre when he observed a man carrying a white plastic bag with a knife protruding from it. The man then walked around the corner. Mr Cole asked the driver of the vehicle to drive after the man. As the vehicle turned the corner, Mr Cole saw the man was running and noticed that the bag that he was carrying now appeared to be heavier. Mr Cole asked the driver to stop, he then alighted from the vehicle and went in pursuit of the offender. The offender slowed down and waved the knife at Mr Cole. As the offender looked down, Mr Cole grabbed hold of his right wrist, spun him around and grasped him with both hands. Mr Cole lifted the offender off the ground and then dropped him, causing the knife to fall to the ground. Mr Cole grabbed hold of the offender and escorted him back to the shopping centre's car park to wait for the police to arrive.

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

Phone No: Home (08)9409 5429

**Mr David John DANDY**, 46 Windsor Avenue, Wyndhamvale Vic 3029

On the night of 9 July 1998, Mr Dandy assisted in the rescue of a man trapped in a burning vehicle near the Westgate Freeway.

Mr Dandy, an ambulance officer, was directed to attend an accident scene. On arrival at the scene, Mr Dandy went to the crashed vehicle and saw that the engine was smouldering. He immediately commenced to enter the vehicle through the windscreen that had been dislodged by the accident. As he was climbing into the vehicle, the engine caught alight but Mr Dandy continued to enter the vehicle, while another rescuer extinguished the flames. Mr Dandy remained with the trapped man for up to 15 minutes despite believing the vehicle could burst into flames at any time. Mr Dandy only left the vehicle after emergency services had cut the trapped man free and had removed him to safety.

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

Phone Nos: Home (03)9742 5921 Work (03)9315 2903

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Raymond BLYTH**, 7 Geoffrey Road, Chittaway Point NSW 2261

On the night of 8 May 1997, Mr Blyth rescued a man from electrocution from overhead wiring near Gosford.

Mr Blyth, an electrical linesman, was working with another man on overhead wiring. Mr Blyth was standing on the platform of an overhead wiring track machine when his colleague took hold of the electrical wire. Mr Blyth realised immediately that the man was being electrocuted. Mr Blyth grabbed the man by the jacket and tried unsuccessfully to pull him free of the wire. Mr Blyth then grabbed the man's jacket a second time and managed to pull him free.

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

Phone Nos: Home (02)4388 3310 Work (02)4349 9249

**Mr Antun Stjepan CIZMADIJA**, 5 Scarborough Drive, Patterson Lakes Vic 3197

On the afternoon of 12 January 1998, Mr Cizmadija entered the surf at Punchbowl Beach to attempt to save a man caught in a rip.

Mr Cizmadija was swimming with a friend when a rip developed. As Mr Cizmadija was leaving the water, he heard his friend call for help. He looked at his friend in the water and saw his head disappear under the water a number of times. Mr Cizmadija then observed two rescuers try unsuccessfully to bring the man to shore. Mr Cizmadija swam out to his friend, grabbed hold of him but lost his grip due to the choppy water. Mr Cizmadija saw his friend disappear under the water. Mr Cizmadija then dived under the water, grabbed hold of the man and began towing him to shore. As Mr Cizmadija came close to the shore, he was joined by other rescuers. A large wave swept over them and, once more, the injured man disappeared under the water. Mr Cizmadija with other rescuers located the man and brought him onto the shore. Mr Cizmadija assisted in resuscitation attempts but unfortunately the man died.

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

Phone Nos: Home (03)9772 8003 Mobile 0412 690 746

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr David DORAN**, 52 King Street, Cooran Qld 4569

On the afternoon of 24 February 1998, Mr Doran attempted to rescue a man who was being electrocuted by contact with overhead power lines near Cooran Railway Station.

Mr Doran was walking with a friend towards the railway line. Mr Doran heard another companion who was behind them call out but, on turning around, could not see him. Arriving at the railway line, Mr Doran walked beside a stationary goods train. He then heard footsteps behind him followed by a loud explosion. Mr Doran ran to the rear of the train and saw a man lying on his back on top of the train with his head and arms hanging over the train's edge. Mr Doran realised it was his friend who had been trying to catch up to them. Mr Doran immediately went to assist the injured man. Mr Doran commenced climbing up a ladder on the side of the train. As he reached out to grab the injured man, Mr Doran was himself electrocuted. Mr Doran suffered severe burns as a result of his rescue attempt and required long term medical treatment.

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

Phone No: Home (07)5485 1557

**Mrs Carlene Anne FUCHS-TANCRED**,  
11 Coonanga Road, North Avalon NSW 2107

On the evening of 30 December 1997, Mrs Fuchs-Tancred assisted in the rescue of a man attacked by an offender with a Samurai sword on Avalon Beach.

Mrs Fuchs-Tancred heard screams. Looking towards the car park she saw people running in different directions. Mrs Fuchs-Tancred then saw a man running towards the beach being pursued by another man with a sword. The man being chased, jumped a fence and fell on his knees. The armed man then jumped the fence and struck at the other man with the sword, hitting him on the side of the neck at the second attempt. The injured man, with his hand over his bleeding neck, ran into the water with the offender still in pursuit. Mrs Fuchs-Tancred picked up her sarong, held it aloft and entered the water to assist the injured man. On reaching the injured man, she wrapped the sarong around his neck. Mrs Fuchs-Tancred, keeping an eye on the armed offender who was on the beach, helped another rescuer to place the injured man onto a surfboard and to bring him out of the water. Mrs Fuchs-Tancred then assisted in taking the injured man to the surf club.

For her actions, Mrs Fuchs-Tancred is commended for brave conduct.

Phone No: Home (02)9973 2570

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Daryl Frank DEADMAN**, 35 Karri Street, Manjimup WA 6258

On the afternoon of 23 December 1997, Mr Deadman assisted in the rescue of two trapped firefighters in the Gordon State Forest at Manjimup, Western Australia.

Mr Deadman, an Overseer with the Department of Conservation and Land Management, was establishing a fire line to contain a bush fire when he received a radio call for help from two colleagues trapped by the fire. Mr Deadman and another colleague drove for approximately a kilometre into the fire trying to locate the trapped men. As Mr Deadman drove he contended with intense heat, flames, thick smoke, and burning and falling trees. Visibility was poor. Mr Deadman then saw the two men huddled together for protection on the ground. Mr Deadman assisted the two men, who were both suffering from burns, into the vehicle and drove them to a safe location. The fuel tank in their vehicle then caught alight and had to be extinguished. Mr Deadman provided first aid and reassurance to the men until medical help arrived.

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

Phone Nos: Home (08)9771 2934 Work (08)9771 7988

**Mr Eoghan Fintan DONLON**, Doon, Strokestown, County Roscommon, Ireland

On the night of 12 June 1998, Mr Donlon rescued people from a house fire at Teringie.

Mr Donlon was occupying a house with four other adults and one baby when he heard screams from outside. He immediately went to investigate and was informed that a man was upstairs in the studio above the garage attempting to burn it down. Mr Donlon went to the studio. He saw a glass door was smashed and then observed a man splashing petrol around. Mr Donlon tried to restrain the offender, but the man produced a cigarette lighter claiming that he had doused himself in petrol and would set himself alight. The offender left the studio with Mr Donlon in pursuit. Mr Donlon followed the man into the house. He then grabbed the offender as he threatened another occupant and tried to reason with the man. The offender broke away, entered a bedroom and shut the door. Mr Donlon heard a roaring sound and saw flames coming through the seals of the door. Mr Donlon immediately evacuated the residents from the house.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Brian GRIFFITHS**, 16 Oak Avenue, Somerset Tas 7322

On the night of 28 October 1998, Mr Griffiths entered a burning house at Burnie and assisted in extinguishing the flames.

Mr Griffiths heard explosive noises coming from his neighbour's house. Mr Griffiths went outside and saw flames through his neighbour's front windows. He then observed a man smash one of the windows and climb in. Mr Griffiths, despite being seriously ill, immediately went to assist. On arrival at the scene, he found that the owner of the house had been dragged out and was lying on the ground. Mr Griffiths entered the burning house, found a bucket and filled it with water. He went into the lounge room and saw the heater lying face down on the floor with flames around it. Mr Griffiths unplugged the heater and began dousing the flames. He continued his attempts to extinguish the flames until help arrived.

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

Phone No: Home (03)6435 1964

**Mr Timothy Cleave HARRISON**, "Glen Oak", Dawsons Hill, Singleton NSW 2330

On the night of 20 July 1998, Mr Harrison entered flooded waters to assist a man and his young daughter to safety at Blackman's Crossing.

Mr Harrison was travelling in a loaded cattle truck and, as he was successfully negotiating his way across the flooded Blackman's Crossing, he heard a cry for help. He looked downstream and, through the turbulent water and heavy rain, saw a vehicle in the water and thought that he saw someone sitting on the vehicle's roof. Mr Harrison, once safely on the bank, identified a small girl on the roof of the car being held by a man who was standing. Mr Harrison observed that the water was well over the bonnet of the car and that the water was moving quickly. Mr Harrison, realising he had to act quickly, grabbed a rope and two fan belts and then reversed his truck into the middle of the stream. He alighted from the truck and, leaving the lights on, made his way to the end of the truck while hanging onto the truck's side rail for support. He attached the fan belts and rope to the corner end rail of the truck and, hanging on to the unattached end of the rope waded to the car. The man at the car handed the child to Mr Harrison. Mr Harrison returned to the truck and carried the child out of the water. Mr Harrison then re-entered the water and assisted the man to safety.

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

Phone Nos: Home & Work (02)6577 2532

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Stanley Thomas GOFFETT**, 12 Ashley Street, Marks Point NSW 2280

On the afternoon of the 23 September 1998, Mr Goffett attempted to rescue a drowning man near Port Stephens.

Mr Goffett was sitting with a friend on a yacht when freak waves hit the vessel. The impact of the waves threw Mr Goffett's friend into the ocean and Mr Goffett was thrown from his seat. When Mr Goffett got to his feet, he observed that his friend was now some 60 metres astern. Mr Goffett reversed the vessel and then ran to the rear deck to attempt a rescue. The wind and swell, however, caused the vessel to drift away from the man in the water. Mr Goffett attempted this action a number of times but each time the boat drifted away. Mr Goffett then radioed for assistance. He also threw flotation devices into the water but the man made no attempt to grab these, indicating that he was injured. Mr Goffett reversed the vessel again, tied a rope around his trunk and dived into the water but, once again, the vessel was dragged away from the injured man. Despite Mr Goffett's continued efforts, his friend was deceased when removed from the ocean by emergency services.

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

Phone Nos: Home (02)4945 3470 Mobile 015 000 731

**Mrs Karen Maree GREGSON**, Hobart Tas 7000

On the night of 21 October 1995 Mrs Gregson, who was a member of Tasmania Police at the time of the incident, assisted at a siege at Willow Lane, Prospect Vale.

Mrs Gregson saw an armed man hide behind a brick fence of a residence. Mrs Gregson moved her police vehicle to block the entrance to the street and proceeded to evacuate near-by residences. Returning to the police vehicle which was now occupied by a male witness, Mrs Gregson then heard shots being fired and saw a fellow police officer fall to the ground. She immediately radioed for an ambulance and then opened the boot of the police car to retrieve the first aid kit. As the shots continued, Mrs Gregson handed her gun to a colleague who was unarmed but had a better view of the offender. Mrs Gregson then saw blood running down the side of her colleague's head. Realising that he had been hit, she applied a pressure bandage to the wound. The offender then shot the glass out of the driver's window. The shots continued with Mrs Gregson receiving wounds to the knees. Mrs Gregson had been under fire for some 25 minutes within 15 metres of the offender until she was able to retreat with the male witness and her colleague to a safe location.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Alan HOCKING**, 14 Chevalley Loop, Gordon ACT 2906

On the afternoon of 9 August 1998, Mr Hocking rescued a young girl who had fallen into Lake Burley Griffin.

Mr Hocking, a ferry captain, was looking through a window, port side stern of the vessel, when he saw a small girl look through the window and then disappear from view. Mr Hocking immediately ran to the port gangway and onto the jetty. He looked down into the murky water near where the girl had been standing but could see nothing. Mr Hocking then observed air bubbles on the surface of the water and immediately jumped into the water, in the extremely narrow space between the jetty and the vessel. After looking around, he observed air bubbles coming from under the jetty. Mr Hocking grabbed hold of the jetty and used it to push himself under it. The breathing space under the jetty was no more than 5 centimetres and Mr Hocking moved his feet around until he located the girl and dragged her upwards with his feet. Mr Hocking then handed the girl to a man on the jetty. Mr Hocking left the water, carried the girl onto his vessel and wrapped her in warm clothing before seeking medical assistance.

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

Phone Nos: Home (02)6294 4967 Work (02)6284 7160 Mobile 0412 073 027

**Mr Melvin HUGHES**, 2/52 Gregory Street, Parap NT 0820

On the night of 23 April 1998, Mr Hughes assisted in rescuing a man from a burning vehicle after an accident on the Stuart Highway.

Mr Hughes was a passenger in a vehicle when the vehicle veered off the road finally coming to rest on its roof. Mr Hughes could see smoke coming from the engine and smelt something burning. He released his seat belt, climbed into the back of the vehicle, kicked the rear window until it broke and climbed out. Mr Hughes suffering injuries then climbed back into the vehicle and attempted unsuccessfully to pull the driver between the front seats and out the back window. The flames were beginning to increase when Mr Hughes observed headlights on the road. He ran onto the road and waved at the driver to stop. Mr Hughes then returned to the crashed vehicle and assisted in pulling the driver out and dragging him to safety.

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

Phone No: Mobile 0414 738 254

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr John Antony HEATH**, 93 Shillington Way, Thornlie WA 6108

On the morning of 21 July 1998, Mr Heath apprehended an armed robber at the O'Connor Shopping Centre.

Mr Heath was at work when he was informed that the business next door was being robbed. Mr Heath immediately ran outside and saw a man running away. Mr Heath observed the man was carrying a knife in his right hand and money in his left hand. Mr Heath yelled at the man to stop. The offender looking at Mr Heath, slipped over but maintained his hold of the knife. Mr Heath picked up an advertising sign and threw it at the offender lying on the ground. The offender jumped to his feet and fled, with Mr Heath in pursuit. The offender threw the money on the ground in an attempt to end the pursuit. Mr Heath cut in front of the offender forcing the man to change direction. The offender then stopped and pointed the knife at Mr Heath. Mr Heath tried unsuccessfully to persuade the offender to surrender. Mr Heath then assumed a fighting stance and stepped closer to the man. The offender stepped backwards and fell on the ground. Mr Heath kicked the knife away and held onto the offender until help arrived.

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

Phone Nos: Home (08)9459 0468 Work (08)9314 6882 Mobile 0413 424 705

**Mr David Charles HIGGINS**, 20 Beath Crescent, Kahibah NSW 2290

On the night of 1 November 1997, Mr Higgins rescued a man from a burning vehicle at Newcastle Speedway.

Mr Higgins, an on duty ambulance paramedic, witnessed a racing vehicle collide with the safety wall and saw its engine burst into flames on impact. He ran to tell the driver to evacuate the vehicle. On reaching the vehicle, Mr Higgins realised the man was immobile from a leg injury. Mr Higgins saw the fire was intensifying with petrol leaking onto the ground, causing the ground to ignite. Mr Higgins grabbed the driver by the shoulder of his driving suit and dragged him out of the vehicle. This action forced Mr Higgins and the driver to fall backwards onto the track. After other rescuers had moved the driver to a safe location, Mr Higgins stabilised the man's injuries and arranged for the attendance of a rescue helicopter.

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

Phone Nos: Home (02)4943 8301 Work (02)4921 7555

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Alister Dean McHARRY**, 25 Sullivan Drive, Somerville Vic 3912

On the afternoon of 12 January 1998, Mr McHarry assisted in an attempt to save a man caught in a rip at Punchbowl Beach.

Mr McHarry was swimming towards the shore after becoming aware of a rip when he heard his friend call for help. Mr McHarry looked behind him and saw his friend trying unsuccessfully to reach the shore. Mr McHarry immediately swam towards his friend. Mr McHarry grabbed hold of the man and began towing him towards the shore. Hampered by the rip and choppy water, Mr McHarry became too exhausted to continue and then other rescuers took over. Mr McHarry on gaining the safety of the shore, observed the the other rescuers were having trouble keeping the man's head above water. Mr McHarry re-entered the water, assisted in locating his friend on two occasions as he disappeared under the water, and finally helped bring him onto the beach. Mr McHarry then assisted in resuscitation attempts but unfortunately the man died.

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

Phone No: Home (03)5977 6786

**Mr Darren Stephan PARTRIDGE**, 20 Banksia Street, Renmark SA 5341

On the morning of 15 March 1998, Mr Partridge rescued two people trapped under the hull of a lifeboat at Emu Bay.

Mr Partridge and seven other crewmen of the vessel, "City of Burnie", were engaged in a lifeboat drill when the lifeboat they were sitting in fell approximately 15 metres into the freezing water. Mr Partridge, on impact with the water, came up under the lifeboat and was held in an air pocket by his life jacket. Mr Partridge kicked and pushed himself clear of the lifeboat. Realising someone was still trapped under the hull and despite having sustained a dislocated shoulder and arm, Mr Partridge went to assist. On reaching the lifeboat, he tapped on the hull but received no response. Mr Partridge climbed onto the hull and then observed a hand appear from under the boat. Mr Partridge grabbed hold of the hand and pulled the man to the surface. The rescued man informed Mr Partridge that there was another crewman trapped under the hull. Mr Partridge dived into the water and swam under the hull, located the missing crewman and brought him to the surface.

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

Phone Nos: Home (08)8327 0482 Mobile 018 188 914

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Cyril JACKSON**, 3 Armstrong Way, Newman WA 6753

On 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of July 1998, Mr Jackson walked 260 kilometres across the Great Sandy Desert to obtain assistance for his family who were lost.

Mr Jackson with his wife, baby son and an elderly male and female relative, became bogged in their vehicle. After three days of attempting to extricate the vehicle, its engine failed. Their supplies were now depleted; the family, therefore, decided to leave the vehicle and to seek help on foot. The weather was cool in the day but freezing at night. As they travelled they collected water from claypans and ate wammara: bush apple. The elderly female then decided to travel in a different direction on her own. Mr Jackson and his family continued on, finding neither water nor bush tucker to sustain them. When his family became too weak to continue, Mr Jackson decided to seek help on his own. After walking 260 kilometres, he saw a vehicle in the distance. He then accompanied the vehicle's occupants to save his family. Mr Jackson located the swag he had left to indicate the way and then found his family. Unfortunately, Mr Jackson's son had died. Mr Jackson chose to remain with the rescuers to assist in locating the elderly female, who was found the following day.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

**Miss Michelle Amanda JERRAM**, C/- 4 Hardinge Street, Beaumaris Vic 3193

On the morning of 14 August 1998, Miss Jerram attempted to rescue a man who had fallen onto railway tracks at West Richmond Railway Station.

Miss Jerram entered the railway station and observed an elderly man seated in a motorised wheelchair on the platform. Miss Jerram walked over to the electronic train information centre and found that an express train was due in two minutes. Glancing towards the elderly man again, she observed the wheelchair move forward. Ms Jerram then saw the man and the wheelchair fall onto the tracks. Miss Jerram immediately ran to assist. Yelling for help, she jumped onto the track and tried unsuccessfully a number of times to lift the man back onto the platform. Miss Jerram then jumped back onto the platform and ran to get assistance. Despite her efforts, the man was struck and killed by the on-coming train.

For her actions, Miss Jerram is commended for brave conduct.

Phone No: Mobile 0412 177 071

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Jason Anthony PURDON**, 5 Lovett Street, Queenstown Tas 7467

On the night of 23 December 1998, Mr Purdon rescued a woman from a burning house in Queenstown.

Mr Purdon was wakened by explosive noises. He looked through his bedroom window and observed flames in the house across the road. Mr Purdon rang emergency services. Despite wearing a rigid neck brace, he then ran across the road to assist. Believing that there was someone inside, he forced the front door open and immediately felt intense heat and observed thick smoke close to the floor. Mr Purdon entered the burning house and made his way down the hallway, checking rooms as he went. He found a woman asleep in the third bedroom he entered. He dragged the woman from the bed, then into the hallway and out the front door to safety.

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

Phone Nos: Home (03)6471 2636 Work (03)6473 2732

**Mr Anthony Robert RONNFELDT**, PO Box 1283, Emerald Qld 4720

On the night of 12 June 1995, Mr Ronnfeldt attempted to rescue a woman from a fire at Goondiwindi.

Mr Ronnfeldt looked outside his bedroom window and saw the reflection of flames on the wall of the building opposite. On investigating his unit, Mr Ronnfeldt found the lounge room was on fire and was forced to exit through the back door. Mr Ronnfeldt, knowing an elderly lady lived in the upstairs unit, immediately went to the door leading to the unit and knocked loudly. He heard a woman call for help and attempted to open the door but it was locked. Mr Ronnfeldt re-entered his own unit to obtain a shirt and shoes to wear for protection. He then ran outside and called to neighbours to ring the fire brigade. Mr Ronnfeldt re-entered the building, ran to the door leading to the unit and eventually kicked the door in. Mr Ronnfeldt could not see because of the thick smoke but progressed upstairs, despite falling down a number of times. Entering the unit and still unable to see, he continued to fall over as he looked for the elderly woman. Mr Ronnfeldt was then overcome by smoke and forced to exit the unit. Despite Mr Ronnfeldt's efforts, the woman perished in the fire.

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

Phone Nos: Home (07)4982 4960 Mobile 0417 284 991

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr John Henry PEARCE**, 18 Duffield Street, Manjimup WA 6258

On the afternoon of 23 December 1997, Mr Pearce assisted in the rescue of two trapped firefighters in the Gordon State Forest at Manjimup, Western Australia.

Mr Pearce, an employee with the Department of Conservation and Land Management, was establishing a fire line to contain a bush fire when he received a radio call for help from two colleagues trapped by the fire. Mr Pearce and another colleague drove for approximately a kilometre into the fire to locate the trapped men. As Mr Pearce travelled, he contended with intense heat, flames, thick smoke, and burning and falling trees. Visibility was poor. Mr Pearce then saw the two men huddled together for protection on the ground. Mr Pearce assisted the two men who were both suffering from burns, into the vehicle, applying water to their burns until they reached a safe location. The fuel tank in their vehicle then caught alight and had to be extinguished. Mr Pearce provided first aid and reassurance to the men until medical help arrived.

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

Phone No: Home (08)9771 1438

**Mr John Ireland PEEBLES**, 1/40 Brushy Creek Road, Lenah Valley Tas 7008

On the night of 26 March 1998, Mr Peebles rescued a woman from a burning building at New Town, Tasmania.

Mr Peebles, on hearing a fire alarm, immediately went to investigate. Once outside, he looked across the courtyard and observed a glow in another unit. Mr Peebles hurried to the scene. On arrival he saw a number of people gathered outside the burning building. Mr Peebles was informed that there was a woman trapped inside. He ran to the front door and attempted to break down the door. He then turned the handle and found it unlocked. He opened the door but the flames and smoke prevented entry. Mr Peebles grabbed a garden hose and sprayed it on the flames in the lounge room, successfully extinguishing the fire. He then crawled along the floor through the thick smoke and found a female who was disorientated from the fire in the bedroom. Mr Peebles assisted the woman to safety, once again crawling along the floor to the front door.

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

Phone No: Home (03)6278 1196

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Christopher Michael STEPHEN**, 8 Daveys Bay Road, Mount Eliza Vic 3930

On the afternoon of 8 November 1997, Mr Stephen assisted in the rescue of a girl from a burning vehicle and assisted in the attempted rescue of a man from the same vehicle during the Adelaide Classic Car Rally.

Mr Stephen observed a cloud of smoke ahead and then saw a tree blocking the road. Negotiating his way around the tree, Mr Stephen saw a crashed vehicle off the road. Mr Stephen stopped his vehicle, alighted and ran to assist. He saw the crashed vehicle was lying on its roof and was on fire. Mr Stephen pulled at the passenger's door until it opened, and assisted in pulling the female passenger out. He instructed others to carry her to a safe location away from the fire. Mr Stephen, after trying unsuccessfully to open the driver's door, pushed his arm through a perspex window and released the driver's harness. Unfortunately, there was not enough room to extricate the driver. Mr Stephen then assisted in using a fire extinguisher on the flames but the fire was now out of control.

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

Phone Nos: Home (03)9787 0306 Mobile 0418 123 255

**Mr Peter Allan THOMPSON**, 772 Stumpy Gully Road, Hastings Vic 3915

On the night of 28 October 1998, Mr Thompson attempted to rescue a woman trapped in a burning vehicle at Hastings.

On being informed that there was a car accident near by, Mr Thompson went to assist. Mr Thompson saw that the engine of the crashed vehicle was on fire. On being told there was a woman trapped inside, he ran to the vehicle and called out but there was no response. As the fire intensified, Mr Thompson reached through the passenger's side window and saw that the woman in the driver's seat was slumped forward and not moving. He attempted to find a pulse on the woman and then tried with another rescuer to pull her out. The woman could not be removed as her right leg was trapped under the brake pedal. The flames and smoke intensified to such an extent that Mr Thompson and the other rescuer were forced to move away from the vehicle.

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

Phone Nos: Home (03)5979 7928 Work (03)9784 7160 Mobile 0407 852 787

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Paul William SEATON**, 24/45 Bungaribee Road, Blacktown NSW 2148

On the afternoon of 25 December 1997, Mr Seaton assisted in rescuing a man caught in a rip at North Shelly Beach.

Mr Seaton saw a man some thirty metres off shore with his hand in the air. Mr Seaton observed that the man was caught in a rip. The man then disappeared under the water several times and now appeared to be unconscious. Mr Seaton dived into the water and swam towards the man. When he reached the man, another rescuer was attempting to pull the man onto a surfboard. Mr Seaton assisted the other rescuer and then helped in towing the injured man towards the shore. Some ten metres from the shore, the undertow made progress impossible but, with the help of others, Mr Seaton was able to bring the man onto the beach. He then assisted in helping the man regain consciousness.

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

Phone Nos: Home (02)9676 1425 Work (02)9624 0858 Mobile 0409 909 737

**Mr Stuart Graeme SKINNER**, 772 Stumpy Gully Road, Hastings Vic 3915

On the night of 28 October 1998, Mr Skinner rescued a girl from a burning vehicle and attempted to rescue a woman from the same vehicle that had crashed at Hastings.

Mr Skinner, on hearing a crashing sound, drove his car to investigate and observed a car indicator light flashing some 400 metres off the road. On arrival at the crash site, he rang emergency services for assistance. He saw that the engine was on fire and that access through the driver's door was blocked by vegetation. Mr Skinner ran to the passenger's side and pulled the door open. He saw a female who was slumped forward in the driver's seat and a small girl standing on the back seat. He grabbed hold of the girl and, as he held her, he felt for a pulse on the woman but could not find one. Mr Skinner then ran with the girl and placed her inside his own car. He returned to the burning vehicle and once again tried unsuccessfully to find a pulse on the woman. Mr Skinner then assisted another rescuer in trying to pull the woman out but her right leg was trapped. The smoke and flames intensified, forcing Mr Skinner and the other rescuer to move away from the vehicle.

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

Phone Nos: Home (03)5979 7927 Work (03)9544 8633 Mobile 0419 002 449

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

### **Constable Timothy Patrick WELCH, Tasmanian Police**

On the night of 21 October 1995, Constable Welch assisted at a siege at Willow Lane, Prospect Vale.

Constable Welch, who was off duty at the time, was travelling in his vehicle with his children when he was flagged down and informed of a siege situation. Constable Welch drove his children to a safe location and returned to assist. On arrival at the scene, he heard gunshots and saw a fellow police officer fall to the ground and clutch his leg. Constable Welch then observed the offender pointing a rifle in his direction. Constable Welch heard more shots fired and, as he took refuge behind a police vehicle, the driver's window shattered and he received a wound to the head. Constable Welch, handed a gun by another police officer, could not locate the position of the offender to return fire. He was then shot in the right arm. Constable Welch ordered a civilian to find a safe location and, as the shooting continued, Constable Welch assisted another injured police officer to safety.

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

Phone No: Work (03)6336 3998

### **Mr Philip John WELLS, 70 Inglis Street, Wynyard Tas 7325**

On the night of 28 October 1998, Mr Wells rescued a woman from a house fire at Burnie.

Mr Wells observed an orange glow in the window of a near-by house. Realising it was a fire, Mr Wells ran to assist. On reaching the burning house, he looked through the front window and saw an elderly woman whose clothes were ablaze. Mr Wells yelled to a neighbour to call emergency services. After finding the front door was locked, he attempted unsuccessfully to break down the door. He then ran to the back door but, again, could not gain entry. He tried to punch in the bedroom window and, when it did not give, Mr Wells picked up a garden chair and smashed the window. He climbed through the window, ran down the hall and entered the front room, finding the woman still alight. Mr Wells grabbed the woman and began dragging her towards the back door. He rolled her on the ground and patted her to extinguish the flames. As he dragged her out the back door, the smoke had thickened. Mr Wells then re-entered the house, looking for other people. Finding nobody, Mr Wells left the house, grabbed the garden hose and assisted in extinguishing the flames. Mr Wells suffered burns and cuts to his hands.

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

Phone No: Mobile 0419 358 476

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Peter Graham THOMSON**, 12 Noorooma Crescent, Narooma NSW 2546

On the morning of 6 June 1998, Mr Thomson rescued a man who had fallen into the water after a boating accident at Narooma.

Mr Thomson heard the sound of the bar alarm. The alarm is sounded when a vessel is in distress. Mr Thomson immediately proceeded up to the bar lookout. On arrival, he observed the bow of a boat visible in the water and two people in the water. Mr Thomson called to other people standing near by to fetch a rope and began clambering over the rocks to reach the water's edge. He ignored pleas to turn back due to the dangerous waves and continued over the rocks. Mr Thomson observed one of the men disappear under the water several times. Mr Thomson, hanging onto the rocks with one hand, leant forward and grabbed the man by his shirt and pulled him out of the water. Mr Thomson then wedged himself against the rocks, and then managed to lift the man above his shoulder and to squeeze him around the trunk in attempt to make the man breathe. Mr Thomson then passed the man up to other rescuers. Mr Thomson, suffering a back injury and lacerations to his arms and stomach, continued unsuccessfully to locate other survivors.

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

Phone Nos: Home & Work (02)4476 1552

**Mr Martin Anthony VAN DER BURGT**, 80 Hodges Road, Healesville Vic 3777

On the evening of 26 October 1996, Mr Van Der Burgt rescued an injured man from a fire and rendered safe potentially explosive material.

Mr Van Der Burgt was at home when he heard explosive noises. Believing that the noise was coming from a near-by air balloon business, Mr Van Der Burgt looked in that direction and saw flames above the trees. He immediately went to assist. On arrival at the scene, Mr Van Der Burgt saw an LP gas tank and a number of trees on fire. Finding a man with burn injuries, Mr Van Der Burgt assisted the injured man away from the fire to a safe location. He then searched the area for other people, but found nobody. He then switched off a generator and moved a vehicle with a trailer that was partly on fire away from the burning gas tank. Mr Van Der Burgt provided first aid to the injured man until assistance arrived.

For his actions, Mr Van Der Burgt is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Home (03)5962 3442 Work (03)5965 2000 Mobile 0418 585 026

## GROUP CITATION FOR BRAVERY

### New South Wales Ambulance Service, Campbelltown Station

**Mr Ronald Max BAKER, and  
Mr Richard Ernest SMITH**

On the morning of 20 July 1994, Messrs Baker and Smith, Ambulance Officers with the New South Wales Ambulance Service, rescued a man trapped under steel plates at a construction site in Appin.

Messrs Baker and Smith were directed to attend a construction site where two men were trapped under five plates of steel, each plate weighing 4.2 tonnes. On arrival at the scene, they observed that the steel plates were lying on sloping ground and that a crane was overhanging the steel plates with a steel rod in its jaws. On going to one end of the steel plates, Messrs Baker and Smith noticed a gap of some 30 centimetres between the steel and the ground. Both officers immediately began to crawl through this space looking for the trapped men. They could hear the steel plates move as they crawled. On reaching the men, the officers rendered medical assistance to one man and attached life monitoring equipment to the other man who was not moving. Messrs Baker and Smith managed to remove both men but, unfortunately, one man had died.

**Mr Ronald Max BAKER**

Phone Nos: Home (02)4359 3408 Work (02)9489 6639

**Mr Richard Ernest SMITH**

Phone Nos: Home (02)4628 5041 Work (02)4625 0333 Mobile 0411 281 677

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Joshua WHITE**, PO Box 300, Somerville Vic 3912

On the afternoon of 12 January 1998, Mr White assisted in an attempt to save a man caught in a rip at Punchbowl Beach.

As Mr White was swimming, he turned around and saw his friend being swept out by a rip. Mr White called to his friend, advising him to swim at an angle to the rip. Mr White observed his friend swimming, then heard him call out and saw him wave his arms in the air. Seeing another rescuer unsuccessfully trying to assist his friend, Mr White swam over to the pair. Mr White repeatedly attempted to grab hold of his friend as he disappeared under the choppy water. Mr White was now too exhausted to continue the rescue attempt and was relieved by other rescuers, who managed to bring his friend ashore. Resuscitation attempts failed to revive his friend.

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

Phone Nos: Home (03)5977 6582 Work (03)5975 5287

**Mr Mark Geoffrey WOODS**, "Allen Brae", Toongabbie Vic 3856

On the afternoon of 1 November 1998, Mr Woods rescued two people caught in dangerous surf at Lakes Entrance.

Mr Woods saw a woman in the water on the break of the sand bar, some 25 metres off shore, floating on her back and being buffeted by the waves. Mr Woods immediately entered the water and went to her aid. As he lifted her up, he noticed her body was limp and that she appeared to be only semi-conscious. Mr Woods brought the woman onto the beach. Mr Woods then located a girl in the water, some 40 metres from shore and beyond the sand bar. The girl was waving her arms in the air and was clearly in distress. Mr Woods re-entered the water and swam to the edge of the sandbar. It was at this point that he became aware of a rip near by. He encouraged the girl to move to the west, realising the conditions would eventually bring her back to shore. He then signalled to his wife on the beach, indicating where the girl would come ashore. Mr Woods continued to monitor the girl's progress and was then caught in the rip himself. After some effort, he managed to clear the rip and make his way onto the beach.

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

Phone Nos: Home (03)5192 4509 Work (03)5174 6311 Mobile 018 513 513

## 1998 SYDNEY TO HOBART YACHT RACE

### BRAVERY MEDAL

**Mrs Michelle Maree BLEWITT**, "Wollondilly", Crookwell Road, Goulburn NSW 2580

On the afternoon of 27 December 1998, Mrs Blewitt was involved in the rescue of yachtsmen stranded during the 1998 Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race.

Mrs Blewitt was a crew member of the SouthCare helicopter that was tasked to attend a distress call from the stricken yacht, "Stand Aside", 65 nautical miles south east of Merimbula. On arrival at the scene, the crew observed the yacht being tossed about by large waves and 60 knot winds. The dismasted vessel had its roof torn off and was sinking. Water spray and drizzling rain hampered visibility but four yachtsmen were seen in a life raft near the yacht. The life raft was observed being overturned several times. Mrs Blewitt was then winched into the sea where she was submerged several times by the swell. On reaching the life raft, Mrs Blewitt was struck on the head when the raft overturned in the heavy seas. Nevertheless, she managed to secure the rescue strop around one of the yachtsmen and, as the winching process began, she observed the winch operator at the door of the helicopter. Mrs Blewitt quickly realised the cause of the problem and, using a knife, cut the life raft lead that was fouling the winch. Mrs Blewitt and the yachtsman were then winched on board the helicopter. Despite the possibility of the winch being damaged, Mrs Blewitt was then winched a second time into the sea to rescue another yachtsman.

By her actions, Mrs Blewitt displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (02)4848 1203 Work (02)6207 9988 Mobile 017 155 495

## GROUP CITATION FOR BRAVERY

### Transfield Construction, Appin site

**Mr Harry David FARRANT,  
Mr Adam Cowper HUDSON,  
Mr Ennio Cesare LA CIOPPA, and  
Mr Douglas Ian LANGE**

On the morning of 20 July 1994, Messrs Farrant, Hudson, La Cioppa and Lange, then employees of Transfield Construction, attempted to rescue two work colleagues trapped under steel plates at a construction site in Appin.

Messrs Farrant, Hudson, La Cioppa and Lange, on hearing that two colleagues were trapped under steel plates, ran to assist. On arrival at the scene, they saw five plates of steel, each weighing 4.2 tonnes lying on sloping ground. The rescuers used a crane to partially lift the plates, providing a clearance of some 30 centimetres between the steel plates and the ground. Despite the steel plates being unstable, the rescuers crawled under the plates and were able to move one of the trapped men into a more stable position but could not assist the other trapped man as there was insufficient room to render first aid or to move him.

**Mr Harry David FARRANT**

Phone Nos: Home (02)9476 6667 Work (02)9555 6531 Mobile 0418 471 843

**Mr Adam Cowper HUDSON**

Phone Nos: Home (02)9974 1760 Work (02)9935 7142 Mobile 0417 290 774

**Mr Ennio Cesare LA CIOPPA**

Phone Nos: Home (02)9671 5438 Mobile 0416 128 231

**Mr Douglas Ian LANGE**

Phone Nos: Home (02)4683 0728 Mobile 0418 589 521

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr David Shane DUTTON**, PO Box 1929, Tuggeranong ACT 2901

On the morning of 28 December 1998, Mr Dutton was involved in the rescue of yachtsmen stranded during the 1998 Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race.

Mr Dutton was a paramedic crew member of the SouthCare helicopter that was tasked to attend a distress call some 56 nautical miles south east of Merimbula. On reaching the location, Mr Dutton observed waves up to sixty feet in height swamping the yacht and three men on the deck. He then saw the yacht was severely damaged. After one yachtsman was seen to jump into the sea and be swept away from the vessel by the heavy swell, the helicopter crew signalled to the other yachtsmen to use the life raft. Mr Dutton was then winched into the sea and, with great difficulty, reached the yachtsman in the water and secured the rescue strop around him. Mr Dutton indicated he was ready to be winched aboard the helicopter. Once aboard, Mr Dutton medically assessed the yachtsman and administered first aid. Mr Dutton, despite battling exhaustion, continued the rescue mission, taking it in turns with another paramedic to be winched back in the water until four more yachtsmen were rescued.

By his actions, Mr Dutton displayed considerable bravery.

Phone No: Work (02)6207 9988

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Peter Gordon DAVIDSON**, 86 Church Street, Traralgon Vic 3844

On the afternoon of 27 December 1998, Mr Davidson was involved in the rescue of yachtsmen stranded during the 1998 Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race.

Mr Davidson was the paramedic with the South Eastern Victoria Ambulance Service "Heli-Med 1" helicopter crew that was tasked to attend a distress call from a stricken yacht. The yacht had rolled several times in heavy seas and was severely damaged. On arrival at the location, dangerous weather conditions prevailed with winds up to seventy knots and waves up to seventy feet. Mr Davidson saw that the yacht had been dismantled and that the cabin was torn off. The yacht's crew were afloat in a life raft that was dangerously close to the unstable yacht. Mr Davidson was winched into the sea and was submerged numerous times due to the force of the swell. He managed to reach the life raft, climbed in, and attached the rescue strop to one of the men; both were then winched aboard the helicopter. Despite growing exhaustion, Mr Davidson insisted on being winched into the sea seven more times, successfully rescuing a yachtsman each time.

By his actions, Mr Davidson displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (03)5174 2074 Work (03)5120 0257 Mobile 0417 303 600

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Petty Officer Brian Joseph LEE,**

817 Squadron, HMAS Albatross, Nowra NSW 2541

On the night of 27 December 1998, Petty Officer Lee assisted in the rescue of yachtsmen stranded during the 1998 Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race.

Petty Officer Lee was a crew member of the Royal Australian Navy Sea King 920 helicopter that was tasked to search for a missing yacht, last sighted some 100 nautical miles south east of Merimbula. During the search, Petty Officer Lee temporarily took over the post of Observer, without any training in this position, as the appointed Observer was ill. The yacht was not at the given location but was eventually spotted by Petty Officer Lee. Weather and sea conditions at this stage had worsened, with winds reaching over 50 knots and swells up to 60 feet. The aircraft rescue winch, operated by Petty Officer Lee, was then lowered into the sea bringing two yachtsmen safely aboard the aircraft. Petty Officer Lee observed that the remaining yachtsman still in the water was unable to attach the winch strop to himself due to injury and fatigue. Petty Officer Lee immediately donned a wet suit and was winched into the sea. At first the heavy swells pushed him away from the yachtsman. On reaching the yachtsman, Petty Officer Lee managed to attach the winch strop to him, despite of the high waves. Petty Officer Lee and the yachtsman were tossed by waves and they then became entangled in the winch cable. It took Petty Officer Lee several attempts before he could untangle the cable, allowing them to be winched aboard the helicopter.

By his actions, Petty Officer Lee displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (02)4422 4940 Work (02)4421 1465

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

### **Senior Constable David Ernest KEY, Victoria Police Force**

On 27 and 28 December 1998, Senior Constable Key was involved in the rescue of yachtsmen stranded during the 1998 Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race.

Senior Constable Key, an air observer with the Victorian Police Air Wing, was tasked as a helicopter crew member to locate and rescue a man washed over board from a yacht, some 60 nautical miles east of Gabo Island. Senior Constable Key on arrival at the location observed a flare from the yacht. The yachtsmen informed the rescue crew that the man overboard had been swept some 300 metres to the west and had been in the freezing water for up to 45 minutes. Senior Constable Key identified an empty life ring and then saw the man in the water. Despite dangerous conditions including waves 80 to 90 feet high, a cloud base varying between 600 to 2,000 feet, rain showers and continuous sea spray, Senior Constable Key was winched into the sea. As he was winched down, Senior Constable Key sawd the man in the water submerge several times. On touching the water, Senior Constable Key was swept under the water and buffeted by waves. Despite feeling disorientated, Senior Constable Key managed to reach the yachtsman. The yachtsman was totally exhausted, forcing Senior Constable Key to secure the rescue harness without any assistance. At this point, the winch cable became entangled around Senior Constable Key's legs. He untangled the cable and then signalled to the winch operator to begin winching them aboard. The winch cable jammed as Senior Constable Key and the yachtsman were at the top of the hoist outside the door and it took several attempts before they were brought aboard the aircraft. On the following day, Senior Constable Key was again winched into the sea, rescuing another three people in dangerous conditions until he became too ill to continue.

By his actions, Senior Constable Key displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Work (03)9374 1311

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Stephen Gerard MITCHELL**, 36 Beasley Street, Pearce ACT 2607

On the morning of 28 December 1998, Mr Mitchell was involved in the rescue of yachtsmen stranded during the 1998 Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race.

Mr Mitchell was a paramedic crew member of the SouthCare helicopter that was tasked to attend a distress call 56 nautical miles south east of Merimbula. On arrival at the location, Mr Mitchell saw waves up to 60 feet in height swamping the yacht. There were three men standing on the vessel's deck. Mr Mitchell then saw that the yacht's mast was snapped back to its anchor point and was lying back towards the stern. Mr Mitchell and the crew signalled to the yachtsmen to use the yacht's life raft after they had observed one yachtsman go to the stern of the vessel and jump into the sea. Mr Mitchell observed the man drifting away. After watching a colleague effect a rescue, Mr Mitchell fully realised the danger but, despite this, he insisted that he be winched into the sea. He then managed to rescue a second yachtsman. Battling exhaustion, he then took it in turns with a colleague to be winched back into the sea. After each rescue, Mr Mitchell medically assessed and assisted the injured yachtsman.

By his actions, Mr Mitchell displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (02)6290 0452 Work (02)6285 6620

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Miss Kristy Yolande McALISTER**, 9 Gratwick Street, Gowrie ACT 2904

On the afternoon of 27 December 1998, Miss McAlister was involved in the rescue of yachtsmen stranded during the 1998 Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race.

Miss McAlister was a crew member of the SouthCare helicopter that was tasked to attend a distress call from the stricken yacht, "Stand Aside", 65 nautical miles south east of Merimbula. On arrival at the scene, the crew observed the yacht being tossed about by large waves and winds blowing at some 60 knots. The vessel was dismasted, its roof torn off and it was in the process of sinking. Water spray and drizzling rain hampered visibility but four yachtsmen were spotted in a life raft near the yacht. Miss McAlister was then winched into the sea where she was submerged several times by the swell. She managed to reach the life raft and despite the raft overturning several times, secured the rescue strop around a yachtsman. She then indicated to the crew in the helicopter to start winching. Miss McAlister and the yachtsman were then winched aboard the helicopter. Miss McAlister descended a second time into the sea and to rescue another yachtsman.

By her actions, Miss McAlister displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Cameron George ROBERTSON**, Lot 5 Elswyk Road, Moe Vic 3825

On the morning and afternoon of 28 December 1998, Mr Robertson was involved in the rescue of yachtsmen stranded during the 1998 Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race.

Mr Robertson was a crew member of the South Eastern Victoria Ambulance Service "Heli-Med 1" helicopter that was tasked to attend a distress call from a stricken yacht. Mr Robertson saw a flare and sighted the yacht "Solo Globe Challenger" struggling in huge waves and being pounded by strong winds. Mr Robertson and other crew members attempted to hand signal to the stranded yachtsmen. Mr Robertson was then winched into the sea. He secured the rescue strop around one yachtsman and they were both winched aboard the helicopter. Mr Robertson was winched twice more into the sea, successfully rescuing two more people. In the afternoon of the same day, Mr Robertson was a crew member of a different team that was tasked to recover stranded yachtsmen from a life raft, 80 nautical miles north east of Mallacoota. Mr Robertson was then winched into the sea four times, successfully rescuing a person each time.

By his actions, Mr Robertson displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (03)5126 1597 Work (03)200 288

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Petty Officer Brian Shane PASHLEY, 9 North Street, Berry NSW 2535**

On the night of 28 December 1998, Petty Officer Brian Shane Pashley was involved in the rescue of yachtsmen stranded during the 1998 Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race.

Petty Officer Pashley was a crew member of the Royal Australian Navy Seahawk 875 helicopter that was tasked to identify a light source observed 80 nautical miles, south east of Merimbula. On arrival at the scene, the crew noted that the wind was coming from the south east at some 30 knots, the swell was 10 metres, the wind chop was at two metres and visibility was reduced to 2000 metres. Petty Officer Pashley observed two men in the remains of a life raft, one of whom was injured. Petty Officer Pashley was then winched into the sea to rescue the injured man, and was buffeted by strong winds on his way down. Despite the darkness and the large swell, Petty Officer Pashley managed to reach the life raft and attach the winch strop to the injured man. At this point, the aircraft's auto pilot system malfunctioned causing the aircraft to abandon its hover position and, consequently, dragging Petty Officer Pashley and the injured man some 50 metres through the sea. It was a further 15 minutes before they were winched to safety and, during this period, Petty Officer Pashley maintained a grip on the injured man. The crew, realising the increased danger caused by the technical problem with the aircraft, decided to rescue the second yachtsman in a single lift. The unmanned winch was lowered into the sea and, on the second attempt, once he had secured the winch strop to himself, the remaining yachtsman was winched safely aboard the helicopter.

By his actions, Petty Officer Pashley displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (02)4464 2613 Work (02)4421 1894 Mobile 0414 870 917

## GROUP CITATION FOR BRAVERY

### SouthCare helicopter

**Mr David Shane DUTTON,  
Captain Simon Christopher LOVELL,  
Mr Stephen Gerard MITCHELL, and  
Mr Matthew Denzil SMITH**

On the morning of 28 December 1998, the crew of SouthCare helicopter rescued yachtsmen stranded during the 1998 Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race.

The crew were directed to fly to a position 56 nautical miles south east of Merimbula where a yacht was foundering in heavy seas. The weather conditions deteriorated en-route with a cloud base of 500 feet, heavy rain showers and winds reaching some 50 knots. The crew did not sight the yacht until they were within 1000 metres to the vessel due to poor visibility. The crew observed that the yacht was severely damaged with its mast broken and it was being swamped by waves. Mr Smith attempted to communicate with hand signals to the three yachtsmen standing on the deck. The helicopter crew then saw one of the yachtsmen dive from the stern into the sea and was immediately swept away from the vessel. While Captain Lovell fought to keep the aircraft steady, Mr Smith assisted Mr Dutton to be winched into the sea. Mr Smith then had the task of controlling the winch cable, ensuring the length of the cable did not endanger Mr Dutton's life. Mr Smith was simultaneously in constant dialogue with the pilot to aid with the positioning of the craft as the pilot was operating without visual clues. Captain Lovell, as well as maintaining a hover position, had to lift the aircraft repeatedly to avoid contact with the waves. Mr Dutton, once he was winched into the sea, was swamped by waves but managed to reach the yachtsman in the water who was then winched aboard the helicopter. Mr Mitchell was then winched into the sea and after struggling against heavy seas brought a second yachtsman aboard the helicopter. The helicopter crew continued operations until three more yachtsmen were winched to safety.

**Mr David Shane DUTTON, Paramedic**

Phone No: Work (02)6207 9988

**Captain Simon Christopher LOVELL, Pilot**

Phone Nos: Home (02)6296 4828 Work (02)6205 5256

**Mr Stephen Gerard MITCHELL, Paramedic**

Phone Nos: Home (02)6290 0452 Work (02)6285 6620

**Mr Matthew Denzil SMITH, Aircrewman**

Phone Nos: Work (02)6205 5256 Mobile 0411 396 567

## GROUP CITATION FOR BRAVERY

### SouthCare helicopter

**Mrs Michelle Maree BLEWITT,  
Mr Mark Anthony DELF,  
Miss Kristy Yolande McALISTER, and  
Captain Raymond Charles STONE**

On the afternoon of the 27 December 1998, the crew of the SouthCare helicopter rescued yachtsmen stranded during the 1998 Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race.

The crew were directed to a point, 65 nautical miles south east of Merimbula. On arrival at the location, the crew observed the yacht had been dismasted, the cabin roof was torn off and the vessel was in danger of sinking. The crew then saw four yachtsmen on a life raft that was being tossed about by the waves. The seas were running at some 20 metres, there was a wind up to 60 knots, a rain squall was approaching and daylight was fading. The crew as a team decided on the method of recovering the men and went into action. Captain Stone struggled to keep the aircraft steady without visual clues and had to lift the aircraft repeatedly to avoid the crest of the waves. Mr Delf assisted Miss McAlister to be winched into the sea. During the winch operation, Mr Delf had to control the length of the winch cable carefully so as not to endanger Miss McAlister's life and, at the same time, he was required to maintain a constant dialogue with the pilot to assist with the positioning of the aircraft. Miss McAlister, on entering the sea and despite being swamped by waves, swam to the life raft which kept overturning, grabbed one of the men, secured the winch strop and then Mr Delf winched them both aboard. Miss McAlister was winched into the sea a second time and assisted in rescuing a second yachtsman. Mrs Blewitt was then winched into the sea and was struck on the head by the overturning life raft but managed to grab hold of one of the yachtsmen, secured the winch strop and then Mr Delf winched them to safety. The crew at this stage realised the winch cable could be damaged but chose to continue the rescue mission. Mrs Blewitt then re-entered the sea and assisted in bringing the remaining yachtsman aboard the helicopter.

**Mrs Michelle Maree BLEWITT, Paramedic**

Phone Nos: Home (02)4848 1203 Work (02)6207 9988 Mobile 017 155 495

**Mr Mark Anthony DELF, Aircrewman**

Phone Nos: Home (02)6260 3888 Work (02)6205 5256 Mobile 0418 817 928

**Miss Kristy Yolande McALISTER, Paramedic**

Phone Nos: Not available

**Captain Raymond Charles STONE, Pilot**

Phone Nos: Home (02)6236 9366 Work (02)6217 1670

## GROUP CITATION FOR BRAVERY

### South Eastern Victoria Ambulance Service "Heli-Med 1" helicopter

**Mr John BAYLEY,**  
**Captain Howard Edward BOSSE,**  
**Mr Cameron George ROBERTSON, and**  
**Mr Stephen Gregory SIMPSON**

On the morning of 28 December 1988, the crew of the South Eastern Victoria Ambulance Service "Heli-Med 1" helicopter rescued yachtsmen stranded during the 1998 Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race.

The crew of the "Heli-Med 1" helicopter were engaged in search operations when they picked up a distress beacon on the aircraft's tracking device and then sighted a flare on the horizon. On arrival at the location, the crew saw the stranded yacht with several yachtsmen on the deck. The crew made frantic attempts at hand communications with the yachtsmen. The crew, working as a team, then winched Mr Robertson into the sea with some 60 foot waves and a 40 knot wind. Mr Robertson was able to secure the winch stop around one yachtsman and they were both then winched aboard the helicopter. The helicopter crew were informed by the rescued man that three yachtsmen were injured. The crew decided to lower a portable radio to the yacht to assist with communication. The crew then winched Mr Robertson into the sea a further two occasions, bringing a yachtsman to safety each time. The crew then organised with ground control for the yacht to be towed to safety. The crew continued to search the area for other stranded yachtsmen.

**Mr John BAYLEY, Observer**

Phone Nos: Home (03)5176 0458 Work (03)5174 6833

**Captain Howard Edward BOSSE, Pilot**

Phone Nos: Not available

**Mr Cameron George ROBERTSON, Paramedic**

Phone Nos: Home (03)5126 1597 Work (03)5120 0288

**Mr Stephen Gregory SIMPSON, Aircrewman**

Phone Nos: Home (03)5143 2166 Work (03)5146 7600 Mobile 0414 417 980

## GROUP CITATION FOR BRAVERY

### South Eastern Victoria Ambulance Service "Heli-Med 1" helicopter

**Mr Peter Gordon DAVIDSON,  
Mr Peter John LEIGH,  
Mr John Anthony SLOYAN, and  
Mr David William SULLIVAN**

On the afternoon of 28 December 1998, the crew of the South Eastern Victoria Ambulance Service "Heli-Med 1" helicopter rescued yachtsmen stranded during the 1998 Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race.

The crew of the "Heli-Med 1" helicopter were tasked to attend a stricken yacht that had rolled several times. On arrival at the location, the crew observed conditions of winds up to 70 knots, waves up to 70 feet and a broken cloud base of some 1000 to 1500 feet. The yacht was dismasted, the cabin super structure was torn away and the vessel was in danger of sinking. There were men in a life raft that was dangerously close to the yacht. The helicopter crew then decided as a team on the method of rescue. As Captain Leigh struggled to keep the helicopter in a hover position, Mr Davidson was winched into the sea by the crew. The winch cable had to be quickly lengthened to prevent Mr Davidson being hit by the yacht. The crew then commenced the first winching operation, but during this procedure the wind made the open door of the helicopter unstable and adjustments had to be quickly made to the door. The crew then worked together to winch seven more yachtsmen to safety aboard the helicopter. On three occasions, the crew made the decision to pause for a rest to overcome their fatigue before continuing with the rescue mission.

**Mr Peter Gordon DAVIDSON, Paramedic**

Phone Nos: Home (03)5174 2074 Work (03)5120 0257 Mobile 0417 303 600

**Mr Peter John LEIGH, Pilot**

Phone Nos: Home (03)5176 1453 Work (03)5176 1265

**Mr John Anthony SLOYAN, Observer**

Phone Nos: Home (03)5195 5237 Work (03)5120 0250

**Mr David William SULLIVAN, Aircrewman**

Phone Nos: Home (03)5148 0485 Work (03)5176 1288 Mobile 0408 836 676

## GROUP CITATION FOR BRAVERY

### NRMA CareFlight 1 helicopter

**Mr Graeme Noel FROMBERG,  
Mr Murray Anthony TRAYNOR, and  
Captain Daniel Elwain TYLER**

On the night of 28 December, the crew of the NRMA CareFlight 1 helicopter rescued yachtsmen stranded during the 1998 Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race.

The crew were tasked to respond to a distress flare seen some 47 nautical miles from Merimbula. On arriving at the location, the crew saw the yacht's mast was broken, the sail was in the water and the yacht was 45 degree port bow to the swell. The weather was overcast with drizzling rain, winds were reaching up to 60 knots and there were waves up to 8 metres. The crew then observed that there were men standing on the deck of the yacht waving their arms. The crew then reviewed rescue procedures and decided on a course of action. Mr Fromberg used hand signals to indicate to the yachtsmen that they were to take it in turns to jump in the water and be winched to safety. Captain Tyler maintained the helicopter in a hover position for over 35 minutes, keeping sight of the horizon in confused weather conditions. Mr Fromberg had the dual tasks of operating the winch to avoid swells and keeping up a constant dialogue with Captain Tyler to help him maintain the aircraft's position. Once winched into the sea, Mr Traynor reached the first yachtsman in the water and managed to attach the winch strop; they were then winched on board the helicopter. The crew used the winch repeatedly to rescue another six yachtsmen, finally winching a tracking beacon and leaving it on the yacht to enable the vessel to be recovered later.

**Mr Graeme Noel FROMBERG, Aircrewman**

Phone Nos: Home (02)4947 0890 Work (02)9891 6144 Mobile 0408 247 164

**Mr Murray Anthony TRAYNOR, Paramedic**

Phone Nos: Home (02)4758 8273 Work (02)9833 1467 Mobile 0414 588 273

**Captain Daniel Elwain TYLER, Pilot**

Phone Nos: Home (02)9621 4882 Work (02)9891 6144 Mobile 0419 493 634

## GROUP CITATION FOR BRAVERY

### South Eastern Victoria Ambulance Service "Heli-Med 1" helicopter

**Mr Steven William COLLINS,  
Mr Cameron George ROBERTSON,  
Mr Stephen Gregory SIMPSON, and  
Captain Stefan Paul SINCICH**

On the afternoon of 27 December 1998, the crew of the South Eastern Victoria Ambulance Service "Heli-Med 1" helicopter rescued yachtsmen stranded during the 1998 Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race.

The crew of the "Heli-Med 1" helicopter were directed to a location, 80 nautical miles north east of Mallacoota, where a fixed wing aircraft had spotted survivors stranded on a life raft. On arrival at the scene, the crew saw four people aboard the life raft and observed the life raft tossed about by heavy seas. Working as a team with Captain Sincich maintaining the helicopter in a hover position, Mr Robertson was winched into the treacherous seas on four occasions, bringing the stranded men to safety. After the rescue mission was completed, the crew continued to search for other stranded yachtsmen.

**Mr Steven William COLLINS, Aircrewman**

Phone Nos: Home (03)9589 1891 Work (03)5176 1265 Mobile 0408 108 400

**Mr Cameron George ROBERTSON, Paramedic**

Phone Nos: Home (03)5126 1597 Work (03)5120 0288

**Mr Stephen Gregory SIMPSON, Aircrewman**

Phone Nos: Home (03)5143 2166 Work (03)5146 7600 Mobile 0414 417 980

**Captain Stefan Paul SINCICH, Pilot**

Phone Nos: Home (03)5174 5356 Work (03)5176 1265

## GROUP CITATION FOR BRAVERY

### Royal Australian Navy Sea King 920 helicopter

**Lieutenant David William HUTCHINSON,  
Lieutenant Commander Paul Rodney LEA,  
Petty Officer Brian Joseph LEE, and  
Lieutenant Christopher Millar MONEY**

On the night of 27 December 1988, the crew of the Royal Australian Navy Sea King 920 helicopter rescued yachtsmen stranded during the 1998 Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race.

The crew were tasked to search for a missing yacht that was last sighted some 100 nautical miles south east of Merimbula. En-route to this location, weather conditions worsened with storm force winds, swells reaching upwards to 60 feet and a cloud base dropping to 500 feet. It took the crew two and half hours to locate the missing yacht. The crew made the decision to rescue the yachtsmen using the Hi Line technique, involving dropping an unmanned winch with a harness attached. This decision was made in spite of the dangerous weather conditions and in conditions of darkness. After successfully winching two yachtsmen on board, the crew, observing a third yachtsman in the water who was having difficulty in attaching the winch strop to himself due to injury and fatigue, then winched down a crew member into the sea to assist the injured man. The injured man was attached to the winch strop and winched to safety aboard the helicopter.

**Lieutenant David William HUTCHINSON, Observer and Winch Operator**  
Phone Nos: Home (02)4423 1745 Work (02)4421 1465 Mobile 0409 038 773

**Lieutenant Commander Paul Rodney LEA, Aircraft Captain**  
Phone Nos: Not available

**Petty Officer Brian Joseph LEE, Aircrewman**  
Phone Nos: Home (02)4422 4940 Work (02)4421 1465

**Lieutenant Christopher Millar MONEY, Co-Pilot**  
Phone Nos: Home (02)4441 5515 Work (02)4421 1465

## GROUP CITATION FOR BRAVERY

### Victoria Police Air Wing helicopter

**Senior Constable Barry Scott BARCLAY,  
Senior Constable Darryl Anthony JONES, and  
Senior Constable David Ernest KEY**

On the 27 and 28 December 1998, the crew of the Victoria Police Air Wing helicopter rescued yachtsmen stranded during the 1998 Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race.

The crew was tasked to attend a location 60 nautical miles east of Gabo Island where a man had fallen over board from a yacht. En-route, the crew experienced 85 knot tail winds and on nearing the location observed waves up to 90 feet, a cloud base from 500 to 2000 feet, rain showers and constant sea spray. When the yacht was located, the yachtsmen using an emergency radio channel informed the helicopter crew that the man overboard had drifted some 300 metres to the west. After spotting the man, the helicopter crew decided to winch Senior Constable Key into the sea to effect a rescue. During the winching process, Senior Constable Jones had to maintain a hover position between 100 and 150 feet. At one stage, Senior Constable Jones had to climb abruptly by some 50 feet to avoid the crest of a wave. Senior Constable Barclay had the dual tasks of operating the winch cable and engaging in constant dialogue with the pilot to assist him in maintaining a hover position. Senior Constable Key was submerged several times but managed to reach the yachtsman. As he and the yachtsman were being winched towards the helicopter, the winch cable jammed at the top of the hoist outside the door. Senior Constables Jones and Barclay corrected the fault and the two men were brought safely on board. On the following day, the helicopter crew, working in equally dangerous conditions, winched another three stranded yachtsmen to safety.

**Senior Constable Barry Scott BARCLAY, Observer**

Phone No: Work (03)9374 1311

**Senior Constable Darryl Anthony JONES, Pilot**

Phone No: Work (03)9374 1311

**Senior Constable David Ernest KEY, Observer**

Phone No: Work (03)9374 1311

## GROUP CITATION FOR BRAVERY

### Royal Australian Navy Seahawk 875 helicopter

**Lieutenant Aaron Seaton ABBOTT,  
Lieutenant Commander Richard Duncan NEVILLE,  
Petty Officer Brian Shane PASHLEY, and  
Lieutenant Nicholas Mark TRIMMER**

On the night of 28 December 1998, the crew of the Royal Australian Navy Seahawk 875 helicopter rescued yachtsmen stranded during the 1998 Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race.

The crew were tasked to identify a light source that had been observed 80 nautical miles south east of Merimbula. On nearing the given location, the lack of visibility forced the crew to fly slowly with the cabin door open. On sighting a light, the helicopter was placed in a hover position and the crew identified two people in a life raft. Despite the crew facing conditions involving winds up to 30 knots, a swell of some 10 metres and poor visibility, they decided to attempt a rescue mission. The aircraft was placed in a hover position 80 feet above the stranded yachtsmen and a crew member, Petty Officer Pashley, was winched down to assess the yachtsmen's physical condition before attempting a rescue. On reaching the life raft, Petty Officer Pashley attached the winch strop to one of the yachtsmen. Unfortunately, before he and the yachtsman could be winched aboard, the helicopter's auto pilot system malfunctioned, dragging the pair some 50 metres through the sea. Through team effort and determination, the helicopter's position was corrected after some 15 minutes and the winching operation was then successfully carried out. The crew, realising the increased danger caused by the technical problem with the aircraft, decided to rescue the second yachtsman in a single lift. The unmanned winch was lowered into the sea and, on the second attempt, once he had secured the winch strop to himself, the remaining yachtsman was winched safely aboard the helicopter.

**Lieutenant Aaron Seaton ABBOTT, Observer and Winch Operator**

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**Lieutenant Commander Richard Duncan NEVILLE,  
Flight Commander and Tactical Coordinator**

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**Petty Officer Brian Shane PASHLEY, Aircrewman**

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**Lieutenant Nicholas Mark TRIMMER, Aircraft Captain**

Phone Nos: Not available (currently deployed on HMAS Melbourne)

## GROUP CITATION FOR BRAVERY

### Batemans Bay Coastal Patrol rescue vessel "Community Spirit"

**Mr George Paul MERCIECA,  
Mr Peter John PAINE,  
Mr Gordon Colin PATTERSON,  
Mr Peter ROSENKRANZ, and  
Mr Michael TRICK**

On the night of 26 December 1998, the crew of the Batemans Bay Coastal Patrol rescue vessel "Community Spirit" rescued yachtsmen stranded during the 1998 Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race.

The volunteer crew of "Community Spirit" made the decision to respond to an emergency request for tow assistance despite gale predictions and lack of visibility. The "ABN Amro Challenge", a 46 foot yacht with twelve people aboard, had been taking on water and steering problems had developed. "Community Spirit", a 32 foot vessel, departed the Batemans Bay marina at 11.35pm. The crew used the Global Position System (GPS) and radar to track the stricken yacht, travelling 25 nautical miles in two hours to reach the yacht. The crew of "Community Spirit" attached a 100 metre tow line to the yacht on the first attempt in the pitch black, in north east winds up to 40 knots and with swells up to 4 metres. While the tow was being attached, the crew of "Community Spirit" were aware that both vessels were pitching in the waves and that there was a danger of collision. Some six hours later, the crew successfully brought the stricken yacht to Batemans Bay.

**Mr George Paul MERCIECA**

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**Mr Peter John PAINE**

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**Mr Peter ROSENKRANZ**

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**Mr Michael TRICK**

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## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Murray Anthony TRAYNOR**, 29 Taylor Road, Woodford NSW 2778

On the night of 28 December 1998, Mr Traynor was involved in the rescue of yachtsmen stranded during the 1998 Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race.

Mr Traynor was a crew member of the NRMA Careflight 1 helicopter that was tasked to respond to a distress flare some 47 nautical miles off Merimbula. On arriving at the location, he observed the yacht was some 45 degree port bow to the sea and was pitching and rolling. There were south-easterly winds of 50 to 60 knots, waves up to 8 metres and drizzling rain. Mr Traynor saw yachtsmen waving from the deck. Mr Traynor and the crew were forced to use hand signals to the distressed men as the noise of the wind and surf prevented verbal communication. As it was too dangerous to winch the men directly from the yacht, the plan was for one yachtsman at a time to attach a safety line and to jump into the sea. As Mr Traynor was winched down, he indicated for a yachtsman to jump from the yacht. Once in the water, Mr Traynor was submerged continually by the waves but was able to swim to the yachtsman who was located some 10 metres from the yacht. Mr Traynor placed the winch strop over the man, checked that the safety line to the yacht was disconnected and that neither he nor the yachtsman was entangled in the winch line. Mr Traynor then signalled to the helicopter and, with the yachtsman, he was winched back on board the aircraft. In the helicopter, the first rescued man revealed there were six more survivors on board and two deceased persons. Mr Traynor was winched into the sea six more times, bringing each survivor to safety. While in the water, he threw a Datum Buoy onto the pitching yacht so that the deceased persons and vessel could be retrieved later. Mr Traynor, after the final rescue, then assessed and treated the rescued men on board the helicopter.

By his actions, Mr Traynor displayed considerable bravery.

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