

## STAR OF COURAGE

### **Constable Timothy David CHAMPION,**

Police Marine and Rescue Services, 76 Federal Street, North Hobart Tas 7000

On the evening of 30 December 1998, Constable Champion pursued, confronted and apprehended an armed man at Bicheno, Tasmania.

Constable Champion and a colleague attended a residence where a man needed to be restrained and returned to hospital for psychiatric care. Constable Champion observed blood on the ground, and then saw the offender exit through the back door and pull a knife from his back pocket. After attempts to reason with the offender, Constable Champion charged at the man, kicking him in the chest. The offender remained upright, then stepped backwards and ran towards a boundary fence. At this point, Constable Champion saw another man lying on the ground with blood on his chest. Leaving the other police officer to attend to this second man, Constable Champion pursued the offender into bushland, calling to him to stop. The offender turned to face Constable Champion and, while walking backwards, threatened the constable with the knife. Constable Champion attempted unsuccessfully to negotiate with the man. The offender then turned away from Constable Champion and fled towards a river. After running through thick scrub, Constable Champion caught up with the offender who again turned and faced the constable. Constable Champion, aware of the danger, chose not to draw his gun and sprayed capsicum spray, without effect, at the offender. The offender turned and ran into the river followed by Constable Champion who, having used the remainder of the capsicum spray, chose not to draw his gun but grasped the offender's wrist in an attempt to remove the knife. Constable Champion, unfortunately, lost his footing and went under the water. As he surfaced, he saw the offender standing over him and then felt a pain in his face. Constable Champion realised he had been stabbed. He struggled with the man, receiving numerous stab wounds to his face and upper body. In the struggle, the offender dropped the knife, allowing Constable Champion the opportunity to seize the offender by the wrists. As the offender scrambled to his feet, Constable Champion pushed the offender under the water and sat on him. Constable Champion used his body weight to restrain the offender until assistance arrived. As a result of his efforts, Constable Champion sustained serious injury.

By his actions, Constable Champion displayed conspicuous courage.

Phone Nos: Work (03)6230 2475 Mobile 0419 356 882

## STAR OF COURAGE

**Mr Grant John CUMMING**, 15 Somerton Park Road, Sale Vic 3850

On the afternoon of the 25 September 1998, Mr Cumming attempted to contain the danger caused by a gas vapour cloud following a gas rupture at Esso Australia's Longford Gas Plant, and then attempted to extinguish the ensuing fire.

Mr Cumming, an operator in Gas Plant No 1 Control Room, heard a loud rumbling sound and immediately left the Control Room to investigate. As he emerged from the building, Mr Cumming heard a louder rumbling sound and saw a large gas vapour cloud coming towards the Control Room. Realising the potential for a large explosion and the outbreak of fire, he headed towards a ground fire fighting monitor. At the monitor, Mr Cumming met other colleagues and commenced to hose down the vapour cloud. The vapour cloud started to move away from them and Mr Cumming ran to another monitor, activated it and directed it towards the source of the vapour that was now some ten metres away from him. As the vapour cloud continued to move, Mr Cumming adjusted the monitor on three occasions. Shortly after this, Mr Cumming heard a second louder explosion and saw flames coming from the eastern end of the gas exchanges. He then ran to fetch a dry chemical fire extinguisher, which he wheeled back to the east side and activated it, attempting to put out spot fires. Realising he needed protective clothing, he returned to the Control Room. As soon as re-entered the building Mr Cumming could smell acrid toxic fumes. He seized breathing apparatus equipment and after putting it on went to check on work colleagues. Mr Cumming saw a man lying on the floor covered in a black substance and immediately adjusted the man's breathing apparatus and assisted him from the building through the western door. Mr Cumming then left the building through the north door to return to the fire. He determined more monitors were needed as there were now flames near the pipe racks. Returning to the southern end of the Control Room, he took hold of a monitor and, returning to near the pipe racks, activated the monitor and attempted to douse the flames, hearing pipes burst and seeing the fire spread as he worked. Mr Cumming ran to fetch another monitor and placed it by the first, but before he could activate it a fire truck arrived. Before evacuating the area, Mr Cumming spent some time checking that fuel was isolated from the growing fire.

By his actions, Mr Cumming displayed conspicuous courage.

Phone Nos: Home (03)5144 5806 Work (03)5149 6210

## STAR OF COURAGE

**Mr Robert George MILLER**, 35 Knight Street, Maffra Vic 3860

On the afternoon of 25 September 1998, Mr Miller attempted to contain the danger caused by a gas vapour cloud following a gas rupture at Esso Australia's Longford Gas Plant, attempted to extinguish the ensuing fire, and rescued injured colleagues.

Mr Miller, an Operations Technician, after exiting the Gas Plant No 1 Control Room and walking some thirty metres, heard a roaring sound and saw a large cloud swirling with gas vapour, stones and dirt in the eastern section of Gas Plant No 1. He immediately realised the potential danger of a large explosion. Mr Miller and a colleague ran to a fire fighting monitor, activated it and directed it towards the area of the gas rupture. As Mr Miller assisted with the monitor, he noticed a colleague whose body appeared completely blackened. Mr Miller ran down the eastern side of the Control Room, grasped hold of the injured man and began assisting him away from the source of danger. Mr Miller then noticed another colleague, also blackened, stumbling as he walked. Mr Miller directed the man he was with to move away from the danger area and ran to assist the second man. Mr Miller took hold of this man and pulled him into the Control Room as the vapour cloud was moving in the same direction. Mr Miller then left the building to continue his attempts to contain the situation. Once outside, he heard another louder explosion and saw a large fireball in the area of the heat exchanges. Mr Miller ran to the utility building, started the diesel fire pump and switched the electric fire pump to standby. He then ran back towards the fire to a monitor located east of the fire, activated it and directed the water flow onto the flames. With the assistance of another colleague, he then managed to extinguish a number of spot fires. As the situation deteriorated, Mr Miller assisted with the evacuation of injured employees from the first aid room. Mr Miller and another colleague then checked the pump on the south pond and the level of the water storage tank before being forced to evacuate the area.

By his actions, Mr Miller displayed conspicuous courage.

Phone No: Home (03)5147 2541

## STAR OF COURAGE

**Mr William Maria VISSER**, 12 McLachlan Street, Sale Vic 3850

On the afternoon of 25 September 1998, Mr Visser attempted to extinguish a fire caused by a gas explosion at Esso Australia's Longford Gas Plant, and rescued an injured colleague.

Mr Visser, a Shift Supervisor, was in the lunch shed when he heard an explosion from the section Gas Plant No 1. Realising the potential danger, he immediately left the shed and ran towards the Control Room. Mr Visser saw flames erupt from gas equipment in the eastern section of Gas Plant No 1 as he ran. He entered the Control Room to ascertain the safety of employees and then exited by the southern door from where he observed flames around the gas pipes. Mr Visser ran to a fire fighting monitor, activated it and directed the water flow at the flames. Working with another colleague, he moved additional monitors and fire hoses, directing these at the source of the flames. Mr Visser then moved to the western side of the Control Room, again checking on the safety of employees, and returned to the monitor to redirect the flow as the flames moved. Having done this, he noticed a movement near the base of the fire and identified the figure of a man. Mr Visser ran into the fire to the man, seized hold of the man's collar and pulled him clear of the flames. Mr Visser ran to the western side of the Control Room and, on seeing a colleague, signalled for assistance to move the injured man. Mr Visser and the other rescuer carried the injured man further away from the fire and, after a stretcher was obtained, he assisted in moving the man to the western side of the Control Room. At this stage Mr Visser, realising that the plant radio was not operating, tried unsuccessfully to organise a head count by running to the old guard house in another section. He then attempted to run back into Gas Plant No 1 but an explosion prevented his re-entry. Another larger explosion forced Mr Visser to evacuate the area.

By his actions, Mr Visser displayed conspicuous courage.

Phone No: Home (03)5144 5171

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Sherif ASTASY, deceased,**  
Late of Macquarie Fields NSW 2564

In the early morning of 4 September 1998, Mr Astasy lost his life attempting to rescue his elderly father-in-law from a burning house at Macquarie Fields.

Mr Astasy's wife woke him and informed him that their house was on fire. Mr Astasy immediately smashed the bedroom window and assisted his wife through the window to safety. He then ran to his children's bedroom, smashed the window and pushed his two children through the window to safety. Although the fire had intensified, Mr Astasy then attempted to rescue his elderly and ailing father-in-law who was trapped in another part of the house. On entering the premises, fire officers found the bodies of Mr Astasy and his father-in-law lying near the deadlocked front door.

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

NOK:

Mrs Manal Astasy (wife)  
1 Ward Street, Yagoona NSW 2199  
Phone Nos: Home (02)9644 3884 Mobile 0410 731 480

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Acting Sergeant Symon Paul BAGLEY, Northampton WA 6535**

On the night of 26 May 1999, Acting Sergeant Bagley rescued three stranded people who were trapped by flooded river waters at Horrocks Beach Road in Northampton.

Acting Sergeant Bagley, who was on duty at the time, was advised that the river had burst its banks and three people were stranded in the water. On arriving at the scene, in darkness and heavy rain, Sergeant Bagley used the patrol car headlights to locate the three people who were some 50 metres from the water's edge hanging onto a tree. The flooded area was up to 80 metres wide and the water was some 1.3 metres above road level and rising. Sergeant Bagley used the car's PA system to call to the stranded people but the noise of the water made this ineffective. Sergeant Bagley tied one end of a rope to the roo bar of his vehicle and a tyre tube to the other end of the rope. Placing the tube over his body he waded into the water. Sergeant Bagley was immediately caught in an undercurrent, lost his balance and was washed down river until the rope ran out of length. He was then swept out of the tube and was washed further down the river. Fortunately, he managed to grab hold of a branch of a tree and to climb the tree above water level. Now some 1.5 metres from the stranded people, Sergeant Bagley was thrown another rope from the shore. He tied one end around the tree he was in, and threw the other end to the stranded people, calling to them to tie the rope. Sergeant Bagley directed one of the people to pull himself (the person) along the rope. When he reached Sergeant Bagley, other rescuers were able to bring the person out of the water. The water continued to rise and Sergeant Bagley was then thrown another thicker rope from the shore. He tied one end around his body and as hauled himself along the first attached rope to the other tree he was buffeted by strong currents and hit by debris. Sergeant Bagley, who had now been in the water some three hours, managed to climb the tree and reach the stranded people. Conditions had worsened considerably, and it was only after a grader had been driven into the water to deflect some of the water flow that Sergeant Bagley was able to assist the remaining two people to safety.

By his actions, Acting Sergeant Bagley displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Work (08)9934 1203 Mobile 0417 985 387

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Stephen Noel BENNETT**, 7 Cambridge Road, Mount Martha Vic 3934

On the afternoon of 25 September 1998, Mr Bennett attempted to contain the danger caused by a gas explosion at Esso Australia's Longford Gas Plant, and assisted an injured colleague to shelter.

Mr Bennett, a process technician, was in his area hut when he heard an explosion. Believing it had come from Gas Plant No 1, he ran outside, seized a bicycle, a means of transport on the plant, and cycled towards the Control Room in that area. On approaching the Control Room, he noticed a large gas vapour cloud moving south and realised that it could ignite at any moment. As Mr Bennett alighted from his bicycle, he saw the vapour cloud ignite twice and then saw a fire ball heading towards him, forcing him to run and take shelter on the western side of the Control Room. Fortunately, the fireball stopped short of the building. Mr Bennett then observed two colleagues covered in a black substance come around the south-west corner of the building. Noting that one of the men was bleeding from the eyes, mouth and nose and was doubled over as he tried to walk, Mr Bennett ran up to the man and assisted him to shelter inside the Control Room. While inside the Control Room assisting the injured men, Mr Bennett heard two more explosions and was then overcome by acrid toxic fumes. He ran into another room, seized breathing apparatus and put it on. He re-entered the first room to ensure that it had been evacuated and then left the building to assist in fire fighting. He observed a colleague attempting to establish and activate a portable fire monitor, and ran to assist. Mr Bennett heard more explosions and, as the fire intensified, was forced to retreat to safety.

By his actions, Mr Bennett displayed considerable bravery.

Phone No: Home (03)5974 8749

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

### **Senior Constable Jason William BRYANT,**

Port Macquarie Police Station, Hay Street, Port Macquarie NSW 2444

On the afternoon of 24 May 1999, Senior Constable Bryant assisted in the rescue of six people who were stranded after their vessel had overturned in rough seas on the Port Macquarie bar.

Senior Constable Bryant, on hearing that a local rescue vessel had overturned on a sand bar, made the decision to launch another rescue vessel despite dangerous sea conditions. Once the vessel was launched, Senior Constable Bryant, who was piloting the vessel and accompanied by another police officer, proceeded out of the river entrance to the bar. The surf was at a height that prevented him seeing the stranded people. Through contact with Marine Radio Base, he was directed to the disabled vessel, some 300 metres to the north. En-route, the other officer was injured as the surf and swell pounded him against the interior of the vessel. Senior Constable Bryant saw the stricken vessel with two people aboard. On reaching them, Constable Bryant was informed that there were four people in greater danger as they had been swept away in the water. Senior Constable Bryant and the other officer located these four people and pulled them aboard, one at a time. On returning to the stricken vessel, the boat had capsized again and the people were clinging to the sides of the overturned vessel. Senior Constable Bryant could not take the men aboard as it was beyond the capacity of the vessel, but reassured them that he would return. Returning to the river entrance, another vessel took aboard the four men and Senior Constable Bryant's injured colleague. Senior Constable Bryant immediately returned to the overturned vessel, but the men had been swept away. Senior Constable Bryant spotted the men some 30 metres away. On reaching the men, and as he attempted to rescue one of them, he had to turn the vessel quickly to avoid an oncoming wave. On the next attempt, he pulled the man to safety and then rescued the other man.

By his actions, Senior Constable Bryant displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Work (02)6583 0144 Mobile 0413 131 415



## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Thai-Quoc DANG, deceased,**  
Late of Fairfield Heights NSW 2165

On the morning of 14 December 1998, Mr Dang lost his life after he entered the water to assist in the rescue and attempted rescue of several students from a youth camp who were caught in a rip at Cellito Beach.

Mr Dang, a youth camp leader, entered the water repeatedly attempting to save students who were experiencing extreme difficulty in the water after a rip had developed. The rip was some 200 metres in length. He managed to rescue at least two females and three males, despite increasing exhaustion. Unfortunately, Mr Dang was unable to return to the shore after attempting yet another rescue, and was drowned.

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

NOK:

Mr Dang (father)  
1 Kihilla Street, Fairfield Heights NSW 2165  
Phone Nos: (02)9609 3573 Mobile 0414 609 357

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Rhys John DIVE**, 36 Taloma Street, South Penrith NSW 2750

On the evening of 17 August 1998, Mr Dive attempted to rescue a girl from the flooded Nepean River.

Mr Dive was on duty as an Ambulance Officer when he was informed that a 14 years old girl had been swept away by the current in the flooded river. Realising the girl would be swept down stream by the strong current and estimating her position, Mr Dive and other rescuers attempted to access the river bank but were at first prevented by thick bushland. Mr Dive and the other rescuers spread out along the river bank. Mr Dive could not see the girl but heard cries for help. The girl was then brought into his view by the current, her hand was in the air and she was being repeatedly dragged under the water by the force of the current. Mr Dive discarded his footwear and entered the river. The current quickly brought him to the girl. He grasped hold of the girl and called out for assistance. Mr Dive then became aware of the girl's exhausted condition and that the water was extremely cold. Her clothes and shoes were hindering her movements. Mr Dive reassured the girl, telling her that they would need to go with the current to reach the bank. He managed to remove some of his own clothing while holding the girl. Mr Dive then encouraged the girl to try to float while he blew into his shirt to make a flotation device. The girl then climbed onto his back and they were carried downstream. Each time the shirt deflated, the current forced them under the water and, on resurfacing, Mr Dive blew up the shirt again. They were then struck by floating debris and were both submerged. On resurfacing, Mr Dive was unable to locate the girl. He managed to reach the river bank and informed emergency services of the girl's possible location. This advice greatly assisted in the eventual rescue of the girl.

By his actions, Mr Dive displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (02)4721 7725 Mobile 0419 217 725

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Kevin-Chung DUONG, deceased,**

Late of 11 Moonshine Avenue, Cabramatta West NSW 2166

On the morning of 14 December 1998, Mr Duong lost his life after he entered the water to assist in the rescue and attempted rescue of several students caught in a rip at Cellito Beach.

Mr Duong, a student member of a youth camp, entered the water repeatedly attempting to save students who were experiencing extreme difficulty in the water after a rip had developed. The rip was some 200 metres in length. He managed to save four students, despite increasing exhaustion. Unfortunately, Mr Duong was unable to return to the shore after attempting yet another rescue, and was drowned.

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

NOK:

Mr Minh Duong (father)

Phone No: Home (02)9711 2538 Work (02)9746 4839

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Paul James EASTON**, 26 Lavers Street, Toowoomba Qld 4350

On the morning of 17 December 1998, Mr Easton assisted in the rescue of work colleagues after an explosion at the Watson Tank Facility, Watson Oil Field.

Mr Easton heard a roaring sound. He looked in a westerly direction and some 200 metres away saw the end of a tank, containing crude oil and water, flying through the air. Mr Easton saw liquid run out of the tank and observed flying debris. He then saw a colleague flung into the air and crash to the ground. Mr Easton, although hearing smaller explosions and with another tank containing 60,000 litres of crude oil in flames, he and other rescuers entered a vehicle and drove to the disaster scene. Mr Easton saw two men engulfed in flames, but the intensity of the fire prevented him and the other rescuers from pulling the men clear. He then observed a man walking in a disorientated manner near the fire and assisted the man into the vehicle and took him to a place of safety. Mr Easton, aware of the danger of further explosions, then chose to return to the scene to attempt further rescues. Mr Easton assisted two badly burnt men, who had taken shelter in a nearby evaporation pond, into the vehicle and applied ice and wet sheets and towels to the men's burns.

By his actions, Mr Easton displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: (07)4637 2896 Work (07)4625 1031 Mobile 0419 172 896

## BRAVERY MEDAL

**Mr Samir ELKHEIR**, Sydney NSW 2000

On the afternoon of 18 November 1997, Mr Elkheir apprehended an armed robber at the Moorebank Hotel.

Mr Elkheir, a security guard, had collected the weekly takings from the hotel and had just entered his vehicle, placing the takings on the passenger front seat. As he attempted to close the door of the vehicle, he saw a gun pointed close to his face. Mr Elkheir turned his head and saw a man standing beside him, holding a sawn off rifle and carrying a black bag over his shoulder. The offender instructed Mr Elkheir to put the keys in the ignition and then to move into the passenger seat as the offender was going to drive the vehicle. Mr Elkheir deliberately dropped the keys between his own legs onto the car floor. The offender threatened to shoot Mr Elkheir if he did not retrieve the keys. Mr Elkheir made no attempt to pick the keys up. The offender then bent down to retrieve the keys while still aiming the rifle close to Mr Elkheir's head. Mr Elkheir without hesitating, placed his right leg outside of the vehicle, seized hold of the middle section of the gun and pushed the barrel of the gun upwards as he left the vehicle. He then grasped hold of the offender's shirt and pushed him back against a car parked in the next bay. He continued to hold onto the gun as he began pushing the offender towards the hotel. In the ensuing struggle, Mr Elkheir twisted the gun, directing the barrel over his right shoulder and then heard the gun discharge. He then pulled the clip out of the gun and threw it on the ground. Using both hands, he then pulled the gun away from the offender and threw it on the ground. Despite being bitten, Mr Elkheir forced the offender's arm behind his back and pushed him into the hotel entrance where he was able to restrain him until help arrived.

By his actions, Mr Elkheir displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mrs Fay Lorraine HAMMOND, deceased,**  
Late of 29 Tamarindus Street, Marcoola Qld 4564

On the afternoon of 16 March 1999, Mrs Hammond lost her life after entering the surf in an attempted rescue of a man and woman who were caught in a rip at Marcoola Beach.

Mrs Hammond was on the beach with her husband when she saw a woman in the water wave both hands above her head, some 60 metres out from the beach and some 120 metres away from where Mr and Mrs Hammond were standing. With her husband, Mrs Hammond headed along the beach closer to the female in the water. A man could now been seen in the water and cries for help could be heard. She and her husband both entered the water. Mrs Hammond swam towards the female but, unfortunately, she herself got into difficulties and, after being brought ashore, could not be resuscitated.

By her actions, Mrs Hammond displayed considerable bravery, thereby losing her life.

NOK:

Mr John Hammond (husband)  
Phone Nos: Not available

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Kimball Adam HARVEY**, Wymah Road, Wymah NSW 2640

On the morning of 19 June 1998, Mr Harvey rescued a colleague from an attack by an armed offender at a building site at Juneee.

Mr Harvey, who was working on a building site, saw a male customer arrive. As he had previously witnessed a serious altercation between this customer and another fellow worker, he took immediate action to protect his colleague. Mr Harvey left the building site, locking the access doors behind him and leaving the colleague inside. After speaking to Mr Harvey, the customer attempted to climb into the building through a broken window. Mr Harvey tried to persuade the man not to enter the building but the man ignored him and entered the building. Mr Harvey then heard his colleague call for help and, on hearing sounds of a struggle, looked through the window and saw the customer wielding a knife as he pinned the colleague to the floor. The knife was pointing at the colleague's stomach. Mr Harvey used his mobile phone to call for assistance and climbed through the window to assist his colleague. He ran to the men and began grappling with the customer who was still holding the knife that was attached to his wrist with a chord. Mr Harvey felt kicks and blows to his body but managed to pull the customer away from his colleague. As he continued in his attempt to overcome the offender, Mr Harvey could see the knife pointing at him. In the ensuing struggle, he was able to push the customer away from him, thereby giving him and his colleague the opportunity to make their escape from the building.

By his actions, Mr Harvey displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (02)6020 2024 Work (02)6043 2344 Mobile 0418 691 196

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Richard HESLEWOOD**, 9 Jamison Place, Barden Ridge NSW 2234

On the night of 9 April 1997, Mr Heslewood assisted in the rescue of four fishermen who were trapped by the rising tide at Coffin Rock on the Kurnell Peninsula.

Mr Heslewood, an Ambulance Paramedic aboard the Westpac Helicopter, Lifesaver 1, on arrival at Coffin Rock observed extremely high and rough seas with large waves breaking over the Rock. There were strong southerly winds at the time. Mr Heslewood spotted the men clinging to the pole of a scoop net that was wedged into a rock crevice, and observed the waves breaking over the men. Mr Heslewood, who was not a strong swimmer, decided he would be winched down to the men without wear flippers in order to get a better grip on the rocks. As he was winched below, there was a danger of the winch cable becoming entangled if the pilot were unable to maintain a hover position. Mr Heslewood found it difficult to find a foothold and was swept off his feet repeatedly by the aircraft's movement but managed to rescue one man, airlifting him onto the cliff face. He was then able to winch a second man to safety. Mr Heslewood was then winched down a third time, successfully winching the remaining two men together in a double lift.

By his actions, Mr Heslewood displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (02)9543 0414 Work (02)9311 3499 Mobile 0416 150 759



## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Mardeny HIRMIZ**, 94 Nelson Street, Fairfield NSW 2165

On the evening of 23 February 1999, Mr Hirmiz attempted to assist a woman who was robbed at the Bonnyrigg Plaza car park.

Mr Hirmiz, a Bonnyrigg Plaza employee, was collecting trolleys in the car park when he heard a woman scream for help. He then saw a woman standing at the driver's side of a vehicle who appeared to be pulling a handbag away from the driver. Mr Hirmiz immediately ran to the vehicle to render assistance. He reached the passenger side of the vehicle and tried to drag the male passenger out of the car. The man then punched Mr Hirmiz in the chest several times and Mr Hirmiz fought back. As the driver of the vehicle commenced to drive off, Mr Hirmiz maintained his grip on the male passenger as he realised that the woman was being pulled along with the car. Mr Hirmiz saw that the strap of the woman's handbag was around her chest and that the driver had not released his grip on the handbag. When the driver turned the vehicle, Mr Hirmiz heard a thumping sound. He saw the woman's legs flung upwards and saw her spin through the air. Mr Hirmiz continued to hold the passenger through the window in an attempt to force the driver to stop. He then heard the driver tell the other man to use something as a weapon on Mr Hirmiz, who had half his body inside the car and his feet off the ground. As the car continued to speed, Mr Hirmiz released his grip and fell to the ground.

By his actions, Mr Hirmiz displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (02)9727 3813 Mobile 0409 830 958

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr John Gerald HODGE**, 9 Carnation Street, Wynnum Qld 4178

On the evening of 17 December 1998, Mr Hodge assisted in the rescue of work colleagues after an explosion at the Watson Tank Facility, Watson Oil Field.

Mr Hodge was working near tanks containing crude oil when he was knocked to the ground. As he fell, he heard a loud rushing noise. When he managed to stand up, he found it difficult to breathe. At this point, he realised there had been a large explosion in one of the tanks, resulting in a fire. Mr Hodge ran towards the evaporation ponds for safety. Looking to his left, he saw a colleague whose clothes were alight, immerse himself in the pond. Mr Hodge immediately after this, saw another colleague engulfed in flames. Mr Hodge ran to assist this second colleague but was forced back by the intense heat. The badly burned man emerged from the flames with his skin alight. As the man reached him, Mr Hodge could not see any area of unburnt flesh, making it impossible to render the man physical support. He helped the injured man into the evaporation pond. Mr Hodge, aware of the danger of further explosions, then entered the pond and instructed the least injured man to try to reach an adjacent pond that had a wall beside it, while he would assist the other man to do the same. Rescuers then arrived in a motor vehicle and the injured men and Mr Hodge were driven from the scene.

By his actions, Mr Hodge displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (07)3893 2969 Mobile 0417 621 356

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Brevet Sergeant Glen Anthony HUITSON, deceased,**  
Late of Adelaide River NT 0846

On the afternoon of 28 February 1999, Brevet Sergeant Huitson apprehended an armed offender who had hijacked a tourist bus on the Stuart Highway.

Brevet Sergeant Huitson was directed to attend a situation involving an armed offender and a tourist bus. He drove north along the highway and soon saw the bus travelling from the south. As he came nearer to the bus, Brevet Sergeant Huitson saw a man sitting on the bull bar of the coach holding a sawn off rifle. The bus came to a stop and Brevet Sergeant Huitson drove past the bus and stopped some twenty metres behind the bus. As he alighted from the vehicle, he saw the offender walk around the front of the bus and stand beside the driver's side. Brevet Sergeant Huitson walked closer to the bus and attempted to pacify the offender who was both aggressive and agitated. Brevet Sergeant Huitson persuaded the offender to place the weapon on the ground; however, the offender then placed his foot on the rifle and refused to move away from the weapon. As Brevet Sergeant Huitson spoke to the bus driver by radio, he was informed that the offender had been threatening the bus driver with the weapon. Aware of the potential danger to the driver and the passengers, Brevet Sergeant Huitson decided to confront the offender to divert his attention away from the bus. Now some ten metres from the offender, Brevet Sergeant Huitson once again tried to pacify the man and to persuade him to give up the weapon, and to move away from the bus. The offender then placed the gun on the roof bar of the bus and walked a few steps towards the road verge, allowing the bus to speed off. Brevet Sergeant Huitson ran to the offender and tackled him to the ground and was quickly assisted in restraining the offender by other police officers.

By his actions, Brevet Sergeant Huitson displayed considerable bravery.

Brevet Sergeant Huitson was killed whilst on duty on 3 August 1999 in a separate incident.

NOK:

Mrs Lisa Huitson (wife)  
2 Echuca Street, Bendigo Vic 3550  
Phone No: Home (03)5443 2446

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Martin Glen JACKSON**, RMB 4080, Longford Vic 3851

On the afternoon of 25 September 1998, Mr Jackson attempted to contain the danger caused by a gas explosion at Esso Australia's Longford Gas Plant., and assisted the rescue an injured colleague

Mr Jackson, a trainee operation technician, was in the canteen when he heard the sound of an explosion, followed by a louder explosion. Mr Jackson and another colleague ran outside and mounted their bicycles and rode to the Control Room located in Gas Plant No 1. As Mr Jackson rode down a slight hill, he saw a large fireball on the eastern side of the Control Room. Once outside the Control Room, he saw a colleague run towards a fire fighting monitor, located north of the Control Room. Mr Jackson alighted from his bicycle and ran to the monitor where he assisted in directing the water onto the burning gas vessels in an attempt to prevent further explosions. Mr Jackson then ran to another monitor on the eastern side of the building and helped re-direct the water as the fire moved. Mr Jackson ran past the Control Room and seized hold of a dry chemical fire extinguisher, and began wheeling it towards the fire. At this point, he saw and smelt a large gas vapour cloud, and he and another colleague were forced to run in a westerly direction. As he ran, he heard a loud explosion followed by smaller explosions. Mr Jackson assisted in moving a portable monitor to a hydrant and then headed to the southern side of the building where he saw a badly injured man, completely blackened from the fire. Mr Jackson took hold of the man and assisted in dragging him to outside the Control Room. Mr Jackson obtained a stretcher and assisted in carrying the man to safety.

By his actions, Mr Jackson displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Peter Clifford JOYCE**, 3 Thrush Court, Wulagi NT 0812

On the afternoon of 28 February 1999, Mr Joyce refused entry to an armed offender onto a tourist bus on Stuart Highway.

Mr Joyce, the driver of a tourist bus, saw a car coming directly towards the bus in the same lane. Mr Joyce immediately turned the bus away from the road but the car collided with the wheel of the driver's side of the bus. When the collision occurred both vehicles had almost stopped. Mr Joyce then saw a man alight from the car carrying a sawn off rifle. The offender waved the weapon in the air, some three metres from the driver's side of the bus and then ran to the other side of the bus, stopping at the door. The offender banged on the door with the weapon, aiming the gun at Mr Joyce and demanding entry into the bus. Mr Joyce, concerned for the safety of the passengers, decided to drive away from the offender. He reversed the vehicle and started to drive forward when the offender jumped onto the bull bar at the front of bus. Mr Joyce increased his speed and then braked in an unsuccessful attempt to dislodge the offender. Mr Joyce partially wound down the window and attempted to pacify the man. As they travelled, Mr Joyce kept talking to the offender while the rifle continued to be aimed in his direction. On seeing a police vehicle pass the bus and then stop, Mr Joyce stopped the bus. The offender kept the weapon trained on Mr Joyce while a police officer attempted to persuade the offender to give up the weapon. Once the armed offender stepped off the bull bar and outside the line of travel, Mr Joyce drove off, taking his passengers to safety.

By his actions, Mr Joyce displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: (08)8945 3514 Work (08)8947 3500 Mobile 0419 848 021

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Senior Constable Anthony Francis LONG,**  
Port Macquarie Police Station, Hay Street, Port Macquarie NSW 2444

On the afternoon of 24 May 1999, Senior Constable Long assisted in the rescue of four people who were stranded after their vessel had overturned in rough seas on the Port Macquarie bar.

Senior Constable Long, on hearing a local rescue vessel had overturned on a sand bar, joined another police officer to assist. Senior Constable Long and his colleague secured the use of another sea rescue vessel and proceeded out of the river entrance to the bar despite the dangerous conditions. The surf was at a height that prevented him seeing the vessel. Through contact with Marine Radio Base, the officers were directed to the disabled vessel, some 300 metres to the north. En-route, Senior Constable Long was injured as the surf and swell pounded him against the interior of the vessel. Senior Constable Long then saw the stricken vessel with two people aboard. On reaching them, the police officers were informed that there were four people in greater danger as they had been swept away in the water. The police officers then located the four people and, despite his injuries Senior Constable Long assisted in pulling them aboard. On returning to the stricken vessel, the boat had capsized again and the two people were clinging to the sides of the overturned vessel. Senior Constable Long reassured them that the police would return to rescue them. Returning to the river entrance, another vessel took aboard the four rescued men and Senior Constable Long who had sustained injuries to his chest and legs. The remaining stranded persons were later rescued by Senior Constable Long's colleague.

By his actions, Senior Constable Long displayed considerable bravery.

Phones Nos: Work (02)6583 0199 Mobile 0412 848 007

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr William James LOOF**, 47 Leah Avenue, Salisbury Qld 4107

On the morning of 17 December 1998, Mr Loof assisted in the rescue of work colleagues after an explosion at the Watson Tank Facility, Watson Oil Field.

Mr Loof was engaged in work when he heard an unusual sound. He then saw a large ball of fire near fuel tanks containing crude oil, some 200 metres west of him. This was followed by a large explosion and another tank containing 60,000 litres of crude oil burst into flames. Mr Loof and two other work colleagues immediately drove to the area of the tanks. Mr Loof stopped near the fire, allowing the other rescuers to alight, and then drove to the office to contact emergency services. On learning that emergency services had been alerted, he returned to the scene despite the continuing sound of small explosions. Arriving at the scene, Mr Loof and other rescuers found two badly burnt men sheltering in an evaporation pond not far from the burning tanks. Mr Loof stayed with the injured men while other rescuers went to fetch mattresses, sheets and ice. He reassured the men in the pond and went looking for the other rescuers. Mr Loof saw them driving towards him and, when they stopped beside him, he entered the vehicle which was then driven through a fence to return to the men in the pond. Mr Loof and the other rescuers assisted the badly injured men into the vehicle, and then drove the injured men to safety.

By his actions, Mr Loof displayed considerable bravery.

Phones Nos: Home (07)3277 1360 Mobile 0407 407 229

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Mathew Martin O'SHANNESSY**, PO Box 96, Thargomindah Qld 4492

On the morning of December 1998, Mr O'Shannessy assisted in the rescue of work colleagues after an explosion at the Watson Tank Facility, Watson Oil Field.

Mr O'Shannessy was engaged in welding when he heard a roaring sound, felt vibrations through the ground and then heard a large explosion. Mr O'Shannessy ran to the other side of a parked vehicle and saw smoke billowing in the air, some 200 metres west of him. He then saw debris fly through the air, the body of a man crash to the ground and flames engulf a tank containing 60,000 litres of crude oil. Mr O'Shannessy with other rescuers ran to a vehicle and drove to the area of the tanks. On arrival at the scene, Mr O'Shannessy saw a man walking in a disorientated manner near the fire. Mr O'Shannessy assisted the other rescuers in getting the man inside the vehicle. During this time, smaller explosions could be heard and flames extended from the middle area of the tanks. Mr O'Shannessy with the other rescuers drove the man to the main office. Mr O'Shannessy immediately returned to the scene despite hearing continuing explosions. He then saw two badly burnt colleagues heading in the direction of nearby evaporation ponds and another man standing near the ponds. Mr O'Shannessy returned to the main office to obtain mattresses, sheets and water to assist the injured men. He then, with other rescuers, headed in the direction of the evaporation ponds, driving through a fence to reach the area. He assisted in placing the injured men into the vehicle and driving them to a safer location.

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

Phone No: Home (07)4655 3007



## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Ms Teresita PETERSON**, 3A Keneally Way, Casula NSW 2170

On the morning of 12 September 1995, Ms Peterson assisted in the rescue of a woman who was being attacked by her husband with a knife at Liverpool.

Ms Peterson was escorting her daughter across the school grounds when she saw a man walk from behind a building and walk behind her. The man then went up to a woman who was near Ms Peterson. Facing the woman, the offender opened his jacket, pulled out a knife and stabbed the woman in the right breast area. As the woman fell to the ground, Ms Peterson heard her calling for help and saw people running. The man then sat on top of the woman and continued to stab her in the stomach. Ms Peterson saw the offender strike with the knife at the woman's head, but the woman swung her head from side to side and was stabbed in the hand instead. Ms Peterson, realising the woman's life was in danger, stepped forward and kicked the offender's hand that was holding the knife. Ms Peterson, as a result of her action, saw the knife leave the offender's hand and fall on the ground. She then seized the knife and threw it onto a roof to prevent the offender getting hold of it again. The offender continued to attack the woman until other people assisted in pulling him away. Ms Peterson proceeded to give assistance to the injured woman.

By her actions, Ms Peterson displayed considerable bravery.

Phone No: Home (02)9602 7483

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Raymond Alan REVELL**, 14 Hardy Crescent, Heathmont Vic 3135

On the morning of 30 September 1998, Mr Revell apprehended and disarmed an offender during a robbery at the Heathmont Post Office.

Mr Revell, his wife and a female assistant were working at the front counter in the post office when he became aware of a male standing near the counter. Mr Revell looked up and saw a man holding a shotgun. The gun was pointed in Mr Revell's direction. The offender loudly demanded money be placed in the bag he put on top of the counter. Mr Revell pushed the two women aside, telling them to move away, and attempted to engage the offender in conversation while assessing the situation. The offender became more aggressive in his demands for money and Mr Revell moved towards the cash register. The offender then climbed onto the counter top, stood up and pointed the shotgun at Mr Revell's head at a distance of no more than 30 cms. Mr Revell pushed the shotgun barrel aside, seized the gun and then pulled the gun and the offender towards him. The offender released the gun, jumped from the counter and ran out of the post office. Mr Revell put the gun down and ran after the offender. Once outside, Mr Revell saw the offender run down the street and into a lane.. Mr Revell followed the offender as he entered a front yard of a house and then into the backyard. As the offender attempted to jump a fence, he lost his footing and Mr Revell tackled him to the ground. Mr Revell pulled one of the offender's arms behind his back, seized hold of his collar and proceeded to escort him back to the post office. The offender then began to struggle and scratched Mr Revell's face repeatedly. The struggle ended when police assistance arrived.

By his actions, Mr Revell displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (03)9870 1604 Work (03)9870 6192 Mobile 0411 314 640

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Evangelo SARANTAKOS, Sydney NSW 2000**

On the morning of 14 December 1998, Mr Sarantakos entered the water to assist in the rescue and attempted rescue of several students from a youth camp who were caught in a rip at Cellito Beach.

Mr Sarantakos, a student member of the youth camp, was swimming when he heard someone call that there was a male student in trouble on a body board. Mr Sarantakos swam to the student instructing him to return to shore. As he and the student had nearly reached the beach, Mr Sarantakos was told that another boy was drowning. Mr Sarantakos changed direction and with another rescuer swam to the second boy. As he reached the boy, he felt the pull of a strong rip. He saw the boy was struggling to keep his head out of the water and his breathing was erratic. The boy appeared semi-conscious. Mr Sarantakos and the other rescuer placed the boy on the board and, while the other rescuer paddled the boy to shore, Mr Sarantakos remained in the water alerting other students to the existence of the rip and telling them to return to shore. Mr Sarantakos became aware that a number of students were now in difficulty and then heard calls for help. Mr Sarantakos swam to one of the students and brought him to safety onto the shore. He immediately re-entered the water and swam to two other students. Hanging onto both of them, Mr Sarantakos began swimming towards the beach. He then managed to get the students to catch a wave, allowing them to safely reach the shore. Once on the beach, Mr Sarantakos saw another rescuer struggling to bring a girl ashore. Mr Sarantakos re-entered the water. As he reached the two people, a wave hit them and the girl was dragged away. Mr Sarantakos swam after her, seized hold of her and, maintaining his grip, managed to bring her to the shore. Mr Sarantakos then attempted unsuccessfully to resuscitate one of the rescued students. Three people lost their lives in the incident.

By his actions, Mr Sarantakos displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Muharem SEN**, 21 Higinbotham Street Coburg Vic 3058

On the night of 8 April 1996, Mr Sen rescued residents from a burning building at Kew Cottage, a residential facility for disabled men.

Mr Sen, an Intellectual Disability Service Officer, on being informed of the fire, immediately ran to assist. He saw smoke coming from the building and a red glow in the sky above it. On arrival at the scene, Mr Sen entered the burning building by the eastern side door. Looking down the corridor, he saw thick smoke and then observed further down the corridor, a staff member with a group of residents. Mr Sen could hear people yelling. He began grabbing hold of the residents, pushing them to the eastern side door and directing them outside. Some of the residents were multi-handicapped, some had been heavily sedated for the night and many were disorientated by events. Mr Sen observed a male staff member coughing and then saw him collapse. Mr Sen picked up the injured man, carried him outside and checked his condition. Mr Sen then re-entered the building and observed the smoke was now close to the floor. He assisted another rescuer in evacuating a disorientated resident and helped carry the resident to a safe unit. Mr Sen re-entered the burning building and continued to assist in the evacuation. The density of the smoke then forced Mr Sen back outside. Once outside, Mr Sen assisted in a head count of residents and helped evacuate another nearby unit as a precautionary measure. Nine residents died in the fire and two were severely injured.

For his actions, Mr Sen displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (03)9354 7817 Mobile 0412 691 142

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr David Robert STUBBS**, 10 Gunsynd Drive, Mudgeeraba Qld 4213

On the night of 1 February 1999, Mr Stubbs rescued a man and a woman from a flooded creek at Mudgeeraba.

Mr Stubbs was inside his house, which is located beside a creek, when he heard a female voice call for help. He immediately went outside and saw a girl in wet clothes who informed him that a man and woman were trapped in the creek and that she had managed to swim to safety. Mr Stubbs then heard a male voice call for help and ran in the direction the girl indicated. After some minutes, Mr Stubbs could hear the voice more clearly and saw a man in the water clinging to an overhanging tree branch. Mr Stubbs entered the water at a point past the man, realising that he needed to swim with the current to reach the man. As well as poor visibility, there was a strong current carrying debris with it, and it was raining heavily. Mr Stubbs reached the man, grabbed hold of him and swam until they were out of the water. The man informed Mr Stubbs that the woman had been swept past him some ten minutes earlier. Mr Stubbs ran beside the creek and then heard a female voice call for help. After some minutes, Mr Stubbs saw a woman clinging to an overhanging tree branch. He entered the water on the western side of the creek. At first he was pulled away from the direction of the woman by the current but managed to reach her. Mr Stubbs seized hold of the woman by her arm and reassured her. Seeing lights on the eastern bank he called out for a rope. Other rescuers then threw one end of a rope to Mr Stubbs who immediately tied the rope around the woman's arm. Mr Stubbs held onto the rope and the woman, and they were pulled out of the water.

By his actions, Mr Stubbs displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (07)5530 2201 Mobile 0418 782 553

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr James Martin WARD**, 33 Nerrigundah Drive, Glenmaggie Vic 3858

On 25 September 1998, Mr Ward attempted to contain the danger caused by a gas explosion at Esso Australia's Longford Gas Plant.

Mr Ward, a Control Room Operator at the plant, was in the Control Room when he heard an explosion. He looked out the south door window and saw a large gas vapour cloud travelling from the east to the west. Mr Ward ran to the operating panel and checked all instruments. Again looking through the south door window, he observed injured colleagues moving. Mr Ward ran back to the control panel and activated the fire alarm. Returning to the door and looking out, Mr Ward realised the gas vapour cloud had ignited as one section of equipment was on fire and flames were impinging on nearby pipe work. Mr Ward, realising the potential for a major disaster if fuel sources to the fire were not disconnected, left the building and ran down the path until he reached the ESD1 switch. He then activated the switch to stop the flow of gas into the plant. The heat and smoke then forced Mr Ward to return to the Control Room. Inside the building, he saw several injured colleagues who had taken shelter inside. Mr Ward rang the guard house requesting all emergency vehicles attend and to activate all emergency services. Mr Ward heard continuing explosions and was overcome by toxic fumes within the building. He was forced to exit. After putting on a breathing apparatus he re-entered the building but could still smell fumes. As conditions worsened, Mr Ward was forced to evacuate the area.

By his actions, Mr Ward displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available

## BRAVERY MEDAL

**Mr Jason Gerald WATSON**, 15 Polaris Drive, Sale Vic 3850

On the afternoon of 25 September 1998, Mr Watson attempted to contain the danger caused by a gas explosion at Esso Australia's Longford Gas Plant.

Mr Watson, a trainee operation technician, was in the canteen when he heard the sound of an explosion, followed by a louder explosion, and he felt the building vibrate. Mr Watson and another colleague ran outside and mounted their bicycles and rode to the Control Room in Gas Plant No 1 to assist. As Mr Watson rode down a slight hill, he saw a large fireball on the eastern side of the Control Room. Once outside the Control Room, he saw a colleague run towards a fire fighting monitor, located north of the Control Room. Mr Watson ran to the monitor where he assisted in directing the water onto the burning gas vessels in an attempt to prevent further explosions. Mr Watson then ran to another monitor to help re-direct the water as the fire moved. He then ran past the Control Room and seized hold of a dry chemical fire extinguisher, and began wheeling it towards the fire. At this point, he saw and smelt a large gas vapour cloud that could ignite at any moment, and he and another colleague were forced to run in a westerly direction. As he ran, Mr Watson heard a loud explosion followed by smaller explosions. He then assisted in manning fixed and mobile monitors and, whilst assembling one monitor, cut his hand. Mr Watson entered the Control Room to find a bandage to stem the bleeding but was overcome by toxic fumes and was forced outside. Mr Watson was then taken to the first aid building and after his hand was bandaged, returned to the Control Room and assisted in carrying an injured man to safety.

By his actions, Mr Watson displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (03)5144 3994 Work (03)5149 6478

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Robert Rudolf ARNESS**, 19 Richardson Street, Fairfield NSW 2165

On the morning of 14 December 1998, Mr Arness assisted in the rescue of several students from a youth camp who were caught in a rip at Cellito Beach.

Mr Arness, a student member of the camp, was on the beach when he was informed that some of the students were having difficulties in the water. Mr Arness then observed that a rip, some 200 metres in length, had developed and some of the students were struggling to reach the shore. He entered the water and swam to a young boy and returned the boy to the beach. Mr Arness re-entered the water, swam out further and located a girl in trouble and, with the assistance of another rescuer, brought the girl onto the beach. Mr Arness, despite being exhausted, reassured the younger students of the camp and organised a head count.

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

Phone Nos: Home (02)9724 2875 Mobile 0409 921 917

**Mrs Joanne Lenore BERRY**, 10 Lawrence Close, Macgregor ACT 2615

On the afternoon of 25 January 1990, Mrs Berry assisted a man who was being pursued by an armed offender on the Hume Highway near Sutton Forest.

Mrs Berry, accompanied by children, was driving along the highway when she saw two men, some two hundred metres in front of her, run onto the road. It appeared as though one man was chasing the other. The first man was waving his arms, attempting to flag down a car. Mrs Berry saw cars brake and swerve to miss hitting the two men, and then continue driving. Mrs Berry now some thirty metres away from the men and having slowed down, saw the second man tackle the first man to the ground in the middle of the road. Mrs Berry saw the first man get to his feet and run to the right side of the road and wave at a car that had to swerve to avoid hitting him. The man then ran onto the left side of the road into the path of Mrs Berry's vehicle. Mrs Berry stopped the vehicle to avoid hitting the man. At this point, she observed a parked vehicle on the verge to her left. The man who had forced her to stop ran to the driver's window of Mrs Berry's car, asking for help and stating that the other man had a gun. Mrs Berry allowed the man to get into the back of her vehicle. As she reversed to drive to the nearest police station, she saw the other man run to the parked vehicle on her left, holding something against his chest.

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

Phone No: Home (02)6254 0434



## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Constable Donald Arthur BONNER**, Champ Street, Bicheno Tas 7215

On the evening of 30 December 1998, Constable Bonner assisted in the apprehension of an armed offender at Bicheno, Tasmania.

Constable Bonner and a colleague were directed to attend a residence where a mentally disturbed man needed to be restrained and returned to hospital for psychiatric care. Constable Bonner observed the back door was open and saw blood on the ground. He then saw the offender exit through the back door. The offender on seeing the police officers produced a knife from his back pocket and, at this point, Constable Bonner saw a man lying on the ground. Constable Bonner attempted unsuccessfully to reason with the offender. The offender then ran around a stone wall and Constable Bonner went in pursuit. As he passed a house window, he saw a bleeding woman inside who informed him that she had been stabbed. As Constable Bonner pursued the offender, he used capsicum spray but the offender was unaffected. Constable Bonner threw the capsicum spray to his colleague and returned to the man lying on the ground, but found no signs of life. He then entered the house and rendered live saving medical aid to the injured woman. When the ambulance arrived, Constable Bonner ran to assist his colleague. As he ran, he heard the other officer call for assistance. On reaching his colleague, Constable Bonner assisted in restraining the offender.

Phone Nos: Work (03)6375 2020 Mobile 0417 520 517

**Mr Branislav BRDARIC**, Sydney NSW 2000

On the afternoon of 4 December 1999 Mr Brdaric assisted in the evacuation of a woman from an amusement centre after a gas explosion in Kogarah.

Mr Brdaric smelt gas and went to investigate. As he walked past business premises, the gas smell became stronger. Mr Brdaric then felt the gas coming through a crack on the pavement outside an amusement centre. Mr Brdaric fetched barricades and barricaded the front entrance of the amusement centre. Mr Brdaric remained near the barricades directing people away from the scene. After the police arrived, Mr Brdaric was leaving the scene, when he heard an explosion. Mr Brdaric ran back to the amusement centre and saw the building was on fire and a man who was alight being pulled outside. Mr Brdaric used his vest to extinguish the flames on the man's hair. Mr Brdaric then heard a female voice call for help. Obtaining a fire extinguisher, he entered the building and assisted her outside.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Brian David BYRNE**, 13 Bird Avenue, Liverpool NSW 2170

On the evening of 7 March 1999, Mr Byrne rescued a small child from a car that had impacted with gas mains after a car accident in Smithfield.

Mr Byrne heard what sounded like a vehicle crashing. He then entered his car and drove in an easterly direction to investigate. Mr Byrne saw a vehicle resting on its roof having crashed through factory gates and impacted with gas mains. Mr Byrne could hear a hissing sound made by the leaking gas and could smell gas. Aware of the possible danger of explosion, Mr Byrne stopped his car and called emergency services. He then alighted from the car and ran to assist. As he ran, he saw that there were two adults in the front of the car and two children in the back. One child managed to exit through the rear driver's side door. Mr Byrne observed the remaining child on the passenger rear side was not moving. Mr Byrne reached into the car and tried unsuccessfully to rouse the child. He then attempted to pull her across the seat and continued to try and rouse her. The girl regained consciousness and Mr Byrne assisted her out of the vehicle and escorted her to safety. Mr Byrne returned to the vehicle and attempted unsuccessfully to open the driver's side door. He picked up a metal pipe lying on the ground and with assistance prised the door open. Mr Byrne attempted unsuccessfully to remove the driver's seat belt. At this point, police officers arrived.

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

Phone Nos: Home (02)9602 8438 Work (02)9725 1566

**Mr Chandara CHEY**, 84 Brown Road, Bonnyrigg NSW 2177

On the morning of 14 December 1998, Mr Chey assisted in the rescue of several students from a youth camp who were caught in a rip at Cellito Beach.

Mr Chey, a student member of the youth camp, was swimming in the water when he felt the pull of a rip. He swam back to the beach. Once out of the water, Mr Chey saw that the rip was some 200 metres in length and that up to ten students were struggling to return to shore, including several boys clinging to a body board. Mr Chey saw rescue attempts being made and then observed a young boy in obvious distress in the water, some 25 metres out. Mr Chey entered the water, swam to the boy and on reaching him, took hold of him and swam to shore with the boy clinging to Mr Chey's shoulders. Again on the beach, Mr Chey saw a girl in difficulty some 35 metres out, he re-entered the water and swam to the girl. Mr Chey took hold of her and, maintaining his grip on the girl, swam back to shore.

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

Phone No: Home (02)9610 6370

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Peter Robert DUNCAN,**

Donnybrook Police Station, South Western Highway, Donnybrook WA 6239

On the afternoon of 1 December 1998, Senior Constable Duncan assisted in the rescue of a teenage boy from the sea at Bunbury.

Senior Constable Duncan after receiving information that a surfer had lost his surfboard and was drifting out to sea, attended the scene. Observing south westerly winds of some thirty knots, swells up to three metres and waves over a metre high, Constable Duncan then saw the surfer in the water some four hundred metres from shore. Senior Constable Duncan removed his uniform and after obtaining a surf board entered the water. However, he was washed back onto the rocks receiving cuts to his feet and legs. Senior Constable Duncan abandoned the board and swam out to the surfer and was then joined by a surf lifesaver with a rescue board. Senior Constable Duncan and the other rescuer, with the surfer between them on the board, paddled out to sea to meet a rescue boat.

For his actions, Senior Constable Duncan is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Home (08)9731 0421 Work (08)9731 1126

**Mr Luigino GALASSO,** 265 Queen Street, Concord West NSW 2138

On the afternoon of 4 December 1999, Mr Galasso assisted in extinguishing a fire in an amusement centre after a gas explosion in Kogarah.

Mr Galasso, an AGL employee, was instructed to attend a business premise where a gas explosion had occurred. On arrival at the scene, Mr Galasso saw flames emerging from an amusement centre and observed emergency services in attendance. Mr Galasso took hold of a fire extinguisher and ran to the building. He observed flames coming through cracks in the footpath. He immediately directed the extinguisher onto the front of the building and the footpath. Once the flames had died down, Mr Galasso and a colleague began searching for the gas leak as he was aware the fire could reignite at any moment. On discovering a partially exposed gas pipe, Mr Galasso and his colleague squeezed the pipe to cut off the gas flow. Mr Galasso, however, could still see gas bubbling up through the footpath. He continued his attempts to locate the gas leak. Mr Galasso remained at the scene until he had assisted in locating the gas leak.

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

Phone Nos: Home (02)9743 1519 Work (02)9565 7000 Mobile 0419 292 230

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Reuben Erwin GRIEGER**, 23 Young Street, Horsham Vic 3400

On the morning of 31 December 1995, Mr Grieger rendered first aid to an injured and trapped driver and assisted him out of the vehicle to safety after a car accident at Horsham.

Mr Grieger, an Ambulance Officer, was tasked to attend a single vehicle accident. On arrival at the scene, Mr Grieger saw a car lying on its roof in a shallow table drain. Mr Grieger saw an unconscious man inside the car with his head trapped between the windscreen and the top of the dashboard. The sound of the man's breathing suggested to Mr Grieger that the man's airways could be compromised. Mr Grieger then saw fuel flowing from the petrol cap area. Mr Grieger climbed into the vehicle by the rear passenger window. Mr Grieger managed to check and clear the man's airways and applied an oxygen mask and cervical collar in spite of the narrow working space. After a colleague slid a spine board into the crashed vehicle, Mr Grieger slid the board up to the patient's hips and with the assistance of others removed the injured man from the vehicle.

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

Phone Nos: Home (03)5382 1052 Work (03)5382 5087

**Lieutenant Justin David HARDIMAN, RAN**,  
49 Pakenham Street, Fremantle WA 6160

On the morning of 14 October 1998, Lieutenant Hardiman rescued stranded yachtsmen from the yacht "Lady Lloydz" near Merimbula.

Lieutenant Hardiman, a crew member of a Seahawk Helicopter, was tasked to take part in the rescue of five yachtsmen from a distressed yacht some 140 miles east of Merimbula. On reaching the stricken vessel, Lieutenant Hardiman observed high winds and swells up to ten metres. The crew of the helicopter winched one yachtsman directly from the yacht but as the aircraft's high wire became damaged, Lieutenant Hardiman chose to be winched into the sea to effect double lift rescues. Lieutenant Hardiman, with limited experience, was winched into the sea four times, successfully bringing the remaining yachtsmen to safety aboard the helicopter.

For his actions, Lieutenant Hardiman is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Home (08)9335 1121 Work (08)9553 5071 Mobile 0414 666 110

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Geoffrey Ralph HAYWARD**, 29 Prince Street, Perthville NSW 2795

On the morning of 14 December 1998, Mr Hayward assisted in the rescue and attempted rescue of several students from a youth camp who were caught in a rip at Cellito Beach.

Mr Hayward was on the beach with his family when a person ran up to him and informed him that students from a youth camp were in difficulties in the water. Mr Hayward looked out to sea and saw up to 12 students struggling to return to shore, one student was face down in the water, three were clinging to a body board and another two were clinging to a body board closer to shore. Mr Hayward ran some 20 metres down the beach, entered the water with a body board and swam to the two students on the board. He then towed them to shore. Mr Hayward then headed towards the student who was still face down. He reached the student, seized hold of him and pulled him onto the board. However, they were both carried further out by a rip that was some 200 metres in length. Mr Hayward was now close to the three students clinging to a body board and he heard them call for help. Mr Hayward swam to them and transferred one student to the other board. Mr Hayward then kept hold of both boards, treading water and going with the rip. It took some 30 minutes to return the four students to shore.

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

Phone Nos: Home (02)6337 2325 Work (02)6331 2766

**Mr David Arthur HODGES**, "Buntingford", Racecourse Road, Mornington Vic 3931

On the morning of 29 October 1998, Mr Hodges assisted in the rescue of two children from a burning house at Mornington.

Mr Hodges was working outside on a residence when he heard the sounds of a smoke alarm and then became aware of smoke coming from an adjoining house. Mr Hodges and a colleague immediately went to alert possible occupants of the burning house. After forcing the front door open, Mr Hodges saw dense smoke and smelt an acrid burning odour. Mr Hodges crouched below thick smoke and called out to alert any residents. He found two children and carried them out through the front door, and then, re-entered the house, crawling to the rear of the residence looking for other occupants. Two adults were alerted and were able to exit through the back door. Mr Hodges and his colleague entered the house with a garden hose and attempted to douse the flames. As the hose was too short, Mr Hodges and his colleague went outside, broke a window and directed the water onto the fire, successfully extinguishing it.

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

Phone Nos: Home (03)5976 2719 Work (03)9782 5222 Mobile 0417 357 990

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Michal Cyril HUTTON**, Unit 2, 13 Hart Street, Warwick Farm NSW 2170

On the morning of 12 September 1995, Mr Hutton assisted in the rescue of a woman who was being attacked by her husband at a school at Liverpool.

Mr Hutton was escorting his son across the school grounds when he observed a scuffle between two people. A few seconds later, a woman ran towards Mr Hutton calling out that a man had a knife. As Mr Hutton ran to where the scuffle was, he saw a man holding a woman on the ground with his left hand and punch her repeatedly in the stomach with his right hand. As Mr Hutton reached them, the woman had struggled free of the offender's grip but the latter seized hold of her hair with his right hand. Mr Hutton observed blood on the offender's left hand as he struck repeatedly at the woman. Mr Hutton grasped the offender by his left arm and right wrist, telling the offender to release the woman. Mr Hutton persisted in his efforts until help arrived.

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

Phone Nos: Home (02)9601 6418 Work (02)9772 8267

**Mr Andrew Kenneth JACK**,  
13A Acacia Street, Arts Industry Estate, Byron Bay NSW 2481

On the morning of 26 July 1998, Mr Jack rescued a woman from a burning building at Byron Bay.

Mr Jack, after being told there was a fire in the two-storey block of units located across the road from his residence, ran to assist. He saw flames from the bottom units spreading to the top level and along the sides of the exterior of the building. On reaching the back of the units, Mr Jack saw an elderly woman at the window of an upstairs unit and heard her call for help. He immediately scaled the wall and reached the window. Mr Jack told the woman to climb out the window and he would assist her down. The woman exited the window, climbed down Mr Jack's back using him as a ladder and reached the ground. Once safely on the ground, Mr Jack was informed there was another person trapped upstairs. Mr Jack scaled the wall to reach the same window and climbed into the room. Mr Jack attempted to search for other people but the conditions forced him to retreat through the window.

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

Phone Nos: Home and Work (02)6685 7529

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Ali KAIS**, Unit 3, 50-52 Robertson Street, Kogarah NSW 2217

On the afternoon of 4 December 1999, Mr Kais assisted in the rescue of a woman from an amusement centre after a gas explosion in Kogarah.

Mr Kais was serving a customer in his jewellery shop when he heard an explosion and felt the shop vibrate. Mr Kais looked outside and saw people standing still, looking in one direction. Mr Kais left the shop and went to the scene. He saw a woman with blood on her face being escorted across the road and then saw flames coming from an amusement centre and from cracks within the footpath. Mr Kais saw a badly burnt man lying on the footpath who was being assisted by others. After telling someone to ring for an ambulance, Mr Kais went to the front of the amusement centre and heard a female voice call for help from inside. Mr Kais and other rescuers entered the shop. Mr Kais saw flames and felt intense heat. He saw a woman at the back of the shop and with the other rescuers assisted the woman out of the premises to safety.

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

Phone Nos: Home (02)9588 6206 Work (02)9587 1191 Mobile 0415 200 819

**Mr Robert Andrew LAWRENCE**, Unit 1, 39 Bourke Street, Cobar NSW 2835

On the evening of 14 September 1998, Mr Lawrence rescued a man from a burning unit at Cobar.

Mr Lawrence was at home when he was alerted to a fire in near by unit. He immediately ran to the unit observing the fire was well advanced. He pulled a screen off a window, opened the window and climbed inside the unit. Mr Lawrence saw flames but poor visibility prevented him seeing if anyone was trapped inside. He then felt around on the floor until he located a man. Mr Lawrence pulled the man to the front door, opened the wooden door but finding the screen door was locked, Mr Lawrence kicked it open. He then pulled the man to safety onto the front lawn, remaining with the man until emergency services arrived.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

### **Superintendent William Rhodes LEA,**

Unit B502, 780 Bourke Street, East Redfern NSW 2016

On the morning of 26 July 1998, Superintendent Lea rescued a girl from a burning building at Byron Bay.

Superintendent Lea, a Zone Commander for New South Wales Fire Brigades, was called to attend a fire in a two-storey block of units. The flames had extended to the top level and smoke was billowing out of the building. After ensuring all fire fighting strategies were in place, Superintendent Lea looked through a smashed window and through the dense smoke thought he could see a person lying on the floor. Superintendent Lea climbed through the window and negotiated his way, some five metres into the room until he located the girl. He then carried the girl to the window and passed the girl to another rescuer. Superintendent Lea attempted to search for other people in the room but the conditions of the fire forced him to retreat.

For his actions, Superintendent Lea is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Home (02)9699 4916 Work (02)9585 7700 Mobile 0419 438 082

### **Mr Damian Paul LINDSAY, Sydney NSW 2000**

On the afternoon of 4 December 1999, Mr Lindsay assisted in extinguishing a fire in an amusement centre after a gas explosion in Kogarah.

Mr Lindsay, an AGL employee, was instructed to attend a business premise where a gas explosion had occurred. On arrival at the scene, Mr Lindsay saw flames emerging from an amusement centre and observed emergency services in attendance. Mr Lindsay seized hold of a fire extinguisher and ran to the building. He saw flames coming through cracks in the footpath. He immediately directed the extinguisher onto the front of the building and the footpath. Once the flames had died down, Mr Lindsay and a colleague began searching for the gas leak as he was aware the fire could reignite at any moment. On discovering a partially exposed gas pipe, Mr Lindsay and his colleague squeezed the pipe to cut off the gas flow. Mr Lindsay, however, could still see gas bubbling up through the footpath. He continued his attempts to locate the gas leak. Mr Lindsay then heard an explosion and saw flames erupt from the amusement centre. He ran to assist, once again using the fire extinguisher on the front of the premises until the fire hoses were employed. Mr Lindsay remained at the scene until he had assisted in locating the gas leak.

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

Phone Nos: Not available



## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Charles Vallance LOGAN**, 18 Station Street, Allansford Vic 3277

On the morning of 19 May 1999, Mr Logan rescued a man from a burning building at Allansford.

Mr Logan, a fire officer with the Country Fire Authority on reaching the scene of a house fire was informed of the possibility of people trapped inside. As Mr Logan moved to the fire tanker to obtain bolt cutters and a torch, he observed the entire front of the house was engulfed in flames. Mr Logan ran to the side gate of the residence and cut the padlock of the gate and then ran to the back of the house. He saw thick smoke billowing from the back of the house and observed that the back door was open. On hearing sounds of movement from inside, he called out advising anyone inside to lie on the floor. Mr Logan without breathing apparatus entered through the back door and lying down inside the doorway shone his torch around until he identified a pair of feet. Mr Logan crawled across the floor on his stomach, grabbed the person by the feet and pulled the man towards the door. As Mr Logan, managed to get to his feet, he seized the man around the waist and pulled him out of the building. Mr Logan remained with the injured man until he was taken to hospital.

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

Phone Nos: Home (03)5565 1493 Mobile 0418 528 574

**Mr Ian Ross McGILL**, 19 Beefwood Street, Kununurra WA 6743

On the morning of 27 June 1996, Mr McGill after a helicopter crashed to the ground in the Isdell Ranges, travelled over extremely difficult terrain to obtain assistance for his fellow passengers.

Mr McGill and three other people were on board a helicopter when it crashed to the ground in an isolated area. Mr McGill managed to extricate himself from the aircraft. Ascertaining the other passengers were conscious but suffering injuries, Mr McGill and another passenger tried unsuccessfully to radio for help and to activate the emergency beacon. Mr McGill despite injuries to his leg and back decided, he was the most fit, to leave the crash site and seek help. After walking with difficulty for some three hours, he located a creek he was familiar with. His injuries forced him to continue to travel in the water pulling himself along with his hands until it became dark. Mr McGill rested until daylight when he continued his journey, this time walking despite the pain until he found people at a campsite. Mr McGill then gave the directions to the crash site.

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

Phone Nos: Home (08)9168 2051 Work (08)9168 4200 Mobile 0419 953 411

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Malcolm Craig MACFARLANE,**

Brick Cottage, Camden Valley Way, Camden NSW 2570

On the evening of 17 August 1998, Mr Macfarlane attempted to rescue a girl from the flooded Nepean River.

On being informed, a girl was trapped in the river near an area adjoining his property, Mr Macfarlane and other rescuers attempted to drive to the river but dense scrub prevented access. After several attempts, they reached the bank of the river. Mr Macfarlane and the other rescuers spread out to search for the girl. Mr Macfarlane observed that debris was being swept quickly along the river by a strong current. He then saw the girl pulled past him out of view by the current. Mr Macfarlane called out to alert other rescuers and then followed the girl along the bank of the river. Mr Macfarlane spotted the girl in the water being held by another rescuer. Mr Macfarlane saw both the girl and the other rescuer go under the water and then lost sight of the girl. Mr Macfarlane entered the water but could not locate the girl.

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

Phone Nos: Home (02)4658 1331 Mobile 0403 011 528

**Mr Brett Andrew MILLANE, 7 Swallows Close, Mornington Vic 3931**

On the morning of 29 October 1998, Mr Millane assisted in the rescue of two children from a burning house at Mornington.

Mr Millane and a colleague were working outside on a residence when Mr Millane heard the sounds of a smoke alarm and then became aware of smoke coming from an adjoining house. Mr Millane and a colleague immediately went to alert possible occupants of the burning house. After the front door was forced open, Mr Millane saw dense smoke and smelt an acrid burning odour. Mr Millane crouched below thick smoke and called out to alert any residents. He then continued to search the house looking for occupants. Two adults were alerted and able to exit through the back door. Mr Millane and his colleague entered the house again, equipped with a garden hose attempting to douse the flames. As the hose was too short, Mr Millane and his colleague went outside, broke a window and directed the water onto the fire, successfully extinguishing it.

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

Phone No: Mobile 0407 871 806

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Donald Edward PAGE**, Unit 3, 15 Ripper Street, Montmorency Vic 3094

On the evening of 31 December 1998, Mr Page apprehended an offender during a robbery at the Midway Arcade, Eltham.

Mr Page was outside his business premises when he saw a man pull his shirt up by the collar, cover his face and enter a shop two doors away. Mr Page immediately followed the man into the shop. Once inside the shop, Mr Page saw the man had one arm under his shirt and appeared to be pointing a concealed gun at the female shop owner as he tried to open the till with his other hand. Mr Page also heard the offender demand money. Mr Page tried to verbally calm the man as he approached the offender behind the counter. As soon as Mr Page was close enough to the man, he seized hold of the offender around the chest and lifted him off the ground. At this point, Mr Page realised the offender was not armed. Mr Page continued to restrain the offender until police officers arrived.

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

Phone Nos: Home (03)9434 4638 Work (03)9439 4334

**Mr Raymond Timothy PARMENTER**,

Stawell Traffic Operations Group, 9 Patrick Street, Stawell Vic 3380

On the afternoon of 25 December 1997, Sergeant Parmenter rescued a baby from a burning vehicle on the Western Highway.

Sergeant Parmenter, who was off duty at the time, was travelling along the highway in an easterly direction when he observed a car travelling in the opposite direction, some three hundred metres away. Sergeant Parmenter, looking to his left, observed a man sitting on the verge of the road. Sergeant Parmenter then saw the car ahead veer to the wrong side of the road and collide with the man on the verge. The car skidded further off the road, impacted with trees and flames emerged from beneath the bonnet of the car. Sergeant Parmenter immediately stopped his vehicle, alighted and ran to assist. Sergeant Parmenter saw smoke inside the crashed vehicle and could hear a baby cry. After attempting to force the back doors of the car opened, he managed to open the front passenger door. He entered the vehicle and climbed into the back of the car where a baby was strapped in a car seat. Sergeant Parmenter checked the other occupants of the car but found no response. Sergeant Parmenter extricated the baby from the vehicle taking the baby away from the vehicle. As he turned to look at the crashed vehicle, he saw it was now totally engulfed in flames.

For his actions, Sergeant Parmenter is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Work (03)5358 8209 Mobile 0418 124 431

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Jordan Alexander Thomas**, 4 Reid Place, Illawong NSW 2234

On the afternoon of 2 December 1997, Mr Thomas used a garden hose while standing on the roof of a house to prevent the house being engulfed by bushfires at Menai.

Mr Thomas, who was twelve years of age at the time, was visiting a family friend. Unfortunately, the friend's mobility was restricted by a broken leg. Mr Thomas observed that the bushfire was coming closer to the house and decided he must climb onto the roof of the house to damp it down. Mr Thomas maintained his vigil on the roof for some time, hosing the guttering despite poor visibility, dense billows of smoke and heat. As a result of his efforts, the bushfires skirted around the property line.

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

Phone Nos: Home (02)9543 1245 Mobile (Mother's - Helen Thomas) 0417 775 529

**Mr Darryl Keith TINK**, 32 Stanton Street, Eaton WA 6232

On the morning of 25 March 1999, Mr Tink entered a burning house in Bunbury and searched for any occupants.

Mr Tink, after being alerted to a fire in a nearby residence, immediately ran to assist. He climbed the back fence of the residence and continued to run to the back door. Mr Tink saw flames and smoke billowing out of one of the rear windows and observed no lights were on in the house. Mr Tink, with the assistance of another person, finding the back door locked, kicked it open. Mr Tink then entered the kitchen despite dense smoke, calling out to locate any possible occupants and continued down the hallway. Mr Tink saw one room of the hallway was completely ablaze but continued his search. He entered one room on his hands and knees, continuing to call out. At this point, Mr Tink was overcome by smoke and toxic fumes and was forced to retreat out the back door. He then smashed a side window hoping to alert anyone inside and turned off a gas main in the front yard.

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

Phone No: Home (08)9724 1791

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Zdravko Jim TRKULJA**, 41 Madeline Street, Fairfield NSW 2165

On the morning of 14 December 1998, Mr Trkulja assisted in the rescue of several students from a youth camp who were caught in a rip at Cellito Beach.

Mr Trkulja, a student member of the youth camp, was on a body board some 75 metres out when he became aware of a rip. Mr Trkulja was returning to shore, when he looked back towards the sea and saw a boy some five metres away, lying face up in the water. Mr Trkulja swam to the boy and as he came closer, observed the boy's face was submerged. Mr Trkulja took hold of the boy and lifted the boy's head out of the water. Realising the boy was only semi-conscious, Mr Trkulja who was lying down on the body board helped the boy onto his back. With the boy clinging to him, Mr Trkulja attempted unsuccessfully to get out of the rip. Mr Trkulja waved towards the beach for assistance and another rescuer swam out to them. Mr Trkulja and the other rescuer managed with the boy between them to return to the beach. Mr Trkulja observing several students in trouble re-entered the water with the body board and gave the board to the students to cling to and reassured them.

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

Phone Nos: Home (02)9728 7941 Mobile 0411 187 783

**Mr Samuel Sean WATKINS**, 25 Pockett Road, Healesville vic 3777

On the night of 27 March 1999, Mr Watkins attempted to restrain an armed offender on board a bus outside the Bayswater Railway Station.

Mr Watkins saw and heard a man and woman verbally abusing a group of teenage girls, and then saw the woman physically attack one of the girls. Mr Watkins immediately went to intervene. Mr Watkins called out to the woman to stop and then tried to calm the woman down. After some minutes, the woman appeared calm. Mr Watkins, the man and woman, and the teenage girls boarded the same bus. The teenage girls sat at the rear of the bus, the man and woman sat some seats in front of the girls while Mr Watkins sat in the middle of the bus. The woman then began to verbally abuse the same girl and started to walk towards the girl. At this point, Mr Watkins left his seat to intervene. The woman produced a pocket knife and threatened him. Mr Watkins pushed her into a seat and moved away from the woman after trying unsuccessfully to remove the knife. The woman stood up and approached the girl with the knife. Mr Watkins called out to the woman to stop and then the offender walked up to him. As Mr Watkins tried to calm the woman, he felt a pain in his stomach and realised he had been stabbed.

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

Phone No: Home (03)5962 3028

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Ray Charles ZAHRA**, 108 Boronia Street, South Wentworthville NSW 2145

On the afternoon of 22 October 1997, Mr Zahra rescued two men after a retaining wall collapsed at a construction site at Arncliffe.

Mr Zahra was working at the construction site when he saw water come through the bottom of a retaining wall inside an open section of a tunnel, and then heard a loud ripping sound and saw the wall break away. Mr Zahra saw water flood the tunnel, men scrambling to safety and a cherry picker float down the tunnel. Mr Zahra ran beside the tunnel and saw a colleague surface in the water then disappear from view. Mr Zahra entered the debris filled water, looking around until he located the man and pulled him closer to the edge. Mr Zahra was assisted by other rescuers in pulling the man out of the water. On hearing someone call that another person was in the water, Mr Zahra looked but could not see anyone. He then felt around in the water and located another colleague who was removed from the water by Mr Zahra and other rescuers.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

**Mr Noel Lloyd ZIMMERMAN**,  
Unit 76, 5 Martens Street, Mount Warren Park Qld 4207

On the morning of 10 January 1999, Mr Zimmerman rescued an elderly woman from a burning unit at Beenleigh.

Mr Zimmerman, a resident of a retirement village, heard his female neighbour call for help and heard the word, *fire*. He immediately went to assist. On reaching the gate of the burning unit, Mr Zimmerman was able to see the woman lying in the hallway through an open door. Despite observing dense smoke inside the unit, Mr Zimmerman entered the unit. Realising the woman was immobile, he grasped hold of her under the arms and dragged her out of the unit to safety. Mr Zimmerman then attempted to douse the fire with garden hoses until emergency services arrived.

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

Phone No: Home (07)3287 5569

## GROUP CITATION FOR BRAVERY

### *Employees at Esso Australia's Longford Gas Plant, East Gippsland*

**Mr Stephen Noel BENNETT,  
Mr Grant John CUMMING,  
Mr Martin Anthony GALLAGHER,  
Mr William Alexander HECTOR,  
Mr Martin Glen JACKSON,  
Mr Robert George MILLER,  
Mr Andrew George NOBLE,  
Mr Ronald Thomas RAWSON,  
Mr William Maria VISSER,  
Mr James Martin WARD,  
Mr Jason Gerald WATSON, and  
Mr Steven Laurence YOUNG**

On the afternoon of 25 September 1998, several employees at Esso Australia's Longford Gas Plant assisted in attempts to contain the danger following a gas rupture in Gas Plant No 1 and also assisted injured colleagues to safety.

The gas rupture caused a large vapour cloud that after ignition caused explosions, fires, intense heat and toxic fumes. In spite of the danger of a major explosion, these men undertook various brave actions, either on an individual basis or working with other colleagues in close proximity to the fire. Fixed and portable fire fighting monitors were activated and the flow of water was directed and re-directed onto the moving gas vapour cloud and ensuing fires. Portable chemical fire extinguishers were wheeled closer to the fire in an attempt to extinguish spot fires on the ground. Injured and disorientated colleagues were assisted to safety and were provided with breathing apparatus when overcome by toxic fumes. Numerous efforts were made by the men to isolate fuel sources from the fire, disconnecting valves and turning off switches to prevent the passage of fuel through the pipelines.

Phone Nos: Please see the next page.

**Mr Stephen Noel BENNETT**

Phone No: Home (03)5974 8749

**Mr Grant John CUMMING**

Phone Nos: Home (03)5144 5806 Work (03)5149 6210

**Mr Martin Anthony GALLAGHER**

Phone No: Home (03)5145 6686

**Mr William Alexander HECTOR**

Phone Nos: Home (03)5148 9420 Work (03)5149 6478 Mobile 0407 046 921

**Mr Martin Glen JACKSON**

Phone Nos: Home (03)5149 7633 Work (03)5149 6333

**Mr Robert George MILLER**

Phone No: Home (03)5147 2541

**Mr Andrew George NOBLE**

Phone Nos: Home (03)5147 2440 Work (03)5149 6206 Mobile 0411 742 030

**Mr Ronald Thomas RAWSON**

Phone No: Home (03)5147 1496

**Mr William Maria VISSER**

Phone No: Home (03)5144 5171

**Mr James Martin WARD**

Phone Nos: Not available

**Mr Jason Gerald WATSON**

Phone Nos: Home (03)5144 3994 Work (03)5149 6478

**Mr Steven Laurence YOUNG**

Phone Nos: Home (03)5157 8272 Work (03)5149 6210