

STAR OF COURAGE

Constable James Joseph O'BRIEN, Northern Territory Police Service

On 3 August 1999, Constable O'Brien was involved in a gunfight at a police roadblock on the Stuart Highway, near Adelaide River, Northern Territory, and repeatedly left a position of safety to protect others from injury.

Constable O'Brien and a fellow police officer set up a roadblock on the Stuart Highway to assist in apprehending a gunman who had gone on a shooting rampage the previous evening. After several hours directing traffic, the policemen were approached by two men in a removalist vehicle. As Constable O'Brien explained the reason for the roadblock, one of the drivers was suddenly shot in the back and fell to the ground. The shot was fired by the gunman who was hidden in the nearby bush. Reinforcements were called as Constable O'Brien and his colleague returned fire. The gunman refused to surrender and continued with a volley of accurate and controlled fire from a heavy calibre rifle. Constable O'Brien's colleague was mortally wounded. Constable O'Brien then provided covering fire while the wounded driver was dragged to safety by his companion. Exchanges of gunfire continued with Constable O'Brien repeatedly leaving the safety of cover to return the gunman's fire to protect others and himself from further harm. Police reinforcements eventually arrived but from their position they were unable to detect the location of the gunman. In order to protect the unsuspecting officers, Constable O'Brien again left the cover of safety to attract the gunman's attention. As the gunman was about to open fire, Constable O'Brien shot and killed him.

By his actions Constable O'Brien displayed conspicuous courage.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Ronnie Francis AVERY, deceased,
Late of Lot 10 Meyers Road, Ramornie NSW 2460

On the evening of 18 May 1999, Mr Avery lost his life after he attempted to rescue a friend who had fallen into the river from the Clarence River Bridge, Grafton.

Mr Avery witnessed his friend fall and strike his head against a bridge pylon as he fell ten metres into the water. Despite not being a competent swimmer, Mr Avery jumped off the bridge into the water and helped his friend swim to a nearby bridge pylon. Mr Avery's attempts to lift his friend onto the pylon were unsuccessful. He then decided that they should both swim to the riverbank approximately 200 metres away. Mr Avery towed his friend behind him as they both attempted to reach safety. During the swim Mr Avery became exhausted and sank below the surface several times. Mr Avery eventually failed to surface and drowned in his attempt to save his friend.

By his actions Mr Avery displayed considerable bravery thereby losing his life.

NOK: Ms Karen Allen (mother)
Phone No: Home (02) 6644 9847

Mr Graham Martin BICKLE, 4 Janet Street, North Booval Qld 4304

On the morning of 8 April 1999, Mr Bickle assisted in the rescue of a colleague who had been seriously injured in an explosion at a gas plant in Rocklea, Queensland.

During the filling of acetylene gas cylinders, one of the cylinders began to overheat. To avert an explosion, water was played over the 'hot' cylinder while Mr Bickle and two other men isolated the other cylinders and shut the plant down. Moments later, Mr Bickle and his co-workers received warning that the hot cylinder was beginning to blister and about to explode. Before they could escape, however, the cylinder exploded demolishing the loading bay and causing serious injury to one of the employees. Gas clouds and dust rendered the area extremely volatile. On learning that one of the workers had been injured in the blast and was still in the building, Mr Bickle and two other colleagues attempted to enter the building through the rear door but were driven back by gas fumes. They then used another access to enter the building and found the injured employee in the debris. Mr Bickle helped to evacuate the injured man from the damaged building and arranged medical attention before entering the building once again with the two other colleagues in order to isolate the remaining cylinders and to render the area safe from further explosions.

By his actions, Mr Bickle displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (07) 3282 2216 Work (07) 3212 4323

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Alan Robert BROWN, 69 Bougainville Street, Beenleigh Qld 4207

On the morning of 8 April 1999, Mr Brown assisted in the rescue of a colleague who had been seriously injured in an explosion at a gas plant in Rocklea, Queensland.

During the filling of acetylene gas cylinders, one of the cylinders began to overheat. Mr Brown was informed that there was a 'hot' cylinder in the plant and went to assist in isolating other cylinders and to shut the plant down. Moments later, Mr Brown and his colleagues received warning that the cylinder was beginning to blister and about to explode. Before they could escape, however, the cylinder exploded demolishing the loading bay and causing serious injury to one of the employees. Gas clouds and dust rendered the area extremely volatile. Mr Brown emerged from the damaged building and told others that one of the workers was still in the building. Mr Brown and two other colleagues attempted to enter the building through the rear door but were driven back by gas fumes. They then used another access to enter the building and found the injured employee in the debris. Mr Brown helped to evacuate the injured man from the damaged building before entering the building once again with the two other colleagues in order to isolate the remaining cylinders and to render the area safe from further explosions.

By his actions, Mr Brown displayed considerable bravery.

Phone No: Home (07) 3807 4912

Mr Timothy John BROWN, 199 Church Street, Mudgee NSW 2850

On the afternoon of 31 March 1994, Mr Brown participated in the attempted rescue of an infant from a burning house in Mudgee, New South Wales.

Mr Brown and three other men were travelling in the same vehicle when they saw smoke billowing from a nearby house. They went to investigate the fire and found that an infant was still in the house. In an attempt to rescue the infant, Mr Brown and his colleagues entered the burning building but were driven back by thick acrid smoke. On their second attempt, thick black smoke reduced their visibility and Mr Brown and his colleagues were forced to crawl around on their hands and knees in search of the infant. Without regard for their personal safety, Mr Brown and his colleagues entered the building a third time but were driven back by the intense heat and thick smoke. They then attempted to douse the fire with a garden hose but were again driven back by thick smoke, soot and intense heat.

By his actions, Mr Brown displayed considerable bravery.

Phone No: Home (02) 6372 3614

BRAVERY MEDAL

Probationary Constable Matthew Kane CAMPBELL,
New South Wales Police Service

On the night of 16 February 1999, Probationary Constable Campbell rescued a girl from an oncoming train at the Mount Druitt Railway Station, New South Wales.

After arriving at the Mount Druitt Railway Station, a mentally ill girl advised staff that she intended to take her own life by placing herself in the path of an oncoming train. Police were summoned and Probationary Constable Campbell, accompanied by a colleague, attended the scene. As they arrived on the platform, the girl stepped off the platform onto the railway ballast adjacent to the track. At this time, a train was approaching at a speed of approximately 155 kilometres per hour. Probationary Constable Campbell saw the lights of the rapidly approaching train and realised that the girl was in grave danger of being hit by the oncoming train. He then climbed down onto the tracks and ran towards the girl. As he ran he heard the horn of the train sounding and saw the girl step into the path of the oncoming train. Without regard for his personal safety, he lunged at the girl and tackled her onto the railway ballast as the train passed them. The girl continued to struggle with Probationary Constable Campbell as the train carriages passed only a metre from them, but he was able to restrain her until the train had passed.

By his actions, Probationary Constable Campbell displayed considerable bravery

Mr Brett CHURNIN, 75 Brighton Boulevard, Bondi NSW 2026

On the afternoon of 24 June 1999, Mr Churnin rescued the driver of a burning car following an accident in Woollahra, New South Wales.

Mr Churnin was driving along Edgecliff Road when he witnessed a car career across the road and crash into a wall, rupturing a gas main in the process. The front portion of the vehicle immediately burst into flames, which were quickly fuelled by escaping gas from the ruptured main. Mr Churnin immediately drove towards the burning car, stopped and ran to the driver's side where he saw the driver slumped forward over the steering wheel, apparently unconscious. Mr Churnin tried to open the door on the driver's side but it was locked. He then ran around to the passenger side and was able to gain entry into the vehicle. The driver was unconscious and remained strapped by her seat belt. By this time the fire had generated intense heat in the vehicle and the front part of the vehicle was ablaze. Mr Churnin unfastened the seat belt and tried to drag the unconscious driver clear. His first attempt failed. On his second attempt, Mr Churnin was able to free the driver and drag her out of the vehicle to safety. A few minutes later the vehicle was totally incinerated.

By his actions, Mr Churnin displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (02) 9300 8703 Work (02) 9300 8703 Mobile 0411 866 899

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Scott Raymond COOPER, 2 McCarthy Road, Esperance WA 6450

On 14-16 July 1999, Mr Cooper participated in the rescue of the crew of a disabled vessel in heavy seas off the coast at Esperance, Western Australia.

Mr Cooper was a crewmember of the vessel *Southern Image* that responded to a distress call from the ketch *Emmanuel III* which had lost all its sails in heavy seas and had broken down. Mr Cooper embarked on the rescue mission with the full knowledge that the seas were dangerous. After sailing throughout the night in severe weather conditions, the *Emmanuel III* was located the next morning and a towline was secured to it so that it could be towed to safety. During the tow operation, the towline snapped several times which required Mr Cooper and a colleague to run out onto the heaving deck to re-attach the towline. Just after midnight on 16 July, the decision was taken to cut the towline as the *Emmanuel III* was beginning to take in water. It soon sank and its three crewmen left floundering in heavy seas. Mr Cooper positioned himself at the bow of the vessel and, with large waves crashing over him, trained a spotlight on the stricken crewmen so that the skipper of the *Southern Image* could manoeuvre the vessel to pass close by them. During the pass, Mr Cooper positioned himself on the 'marlin board' at the rear of the vessel and, with the help of his colleague, pulled all the stricken crewmen onto the rescue vessel.

By his actions, Mr Cooper displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (08)9071 3035 Work (08) 9071 5111 Mobile 0412 180 575

Mr Brett Kingsley DUNLOP, 4 Anderson Road, Grattai NSW 2850

On the afternoon of 31 March 1994, Mr Dunlop participated in the attempted rescue of an infant from a burning house in Mudgee, New South Wales.

Mr Dunlop and three other men were travelling in the same vehicle when they saw smoke billowing from a nearby house. They went to investigate the fire and found that an infant was still the house. In an attempt to rescue the infant, Mr Dunlop and his colleagues entered the burning building but were driven back by thick acrid smoke. On their second attempt, thick black smoke reduced their visibility and Mr Dunlop and his colleagues were forced to crawl around on their hands and knees in search of the infant. Without regard for their personal safety, Mr Dunlop and his colleagues entered the building a third time but were driven back by the intense heat and thick smoke. They then attempted to douse the fire with a garden hose but were again driven back by thick smoke, soot and intense heat.

By his actions, Mr Dunlop displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (02) 6373 3699 Mobile 0415 402 379

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Stephen Michael HENRY, 5/3 Good Street, Mays Hill NSW 2145

On 11 August 1999, Mr Henry assisted in the apprehension of an armed robber following a robbery at a jeweller's shop in Parramatta, New South Wales.

Mr Henry and a companion heard calls for help and joined in the pursuit of the robber. As Mr Henry and his companion continued the pursuit into a nearby car park they realised the offender was armed. The armed offender threatened the car park attendant with the gun and her screams distracted the offender, temporarily enabling Mr Henry and the two other pursuers to close in on him. On seeing the three men approach him, the offender pointed the pistol at the head of one of the men and pulled the trigger. The pistol misfired and, whilst the offender was in the process of putting a fresh round into the chamber, one of the men charged him. A physical struggle between the two ensued. Without regard for his personal safety, Mr Henry joined the affray and with the assistance of the two other men was able to wrestle the offender to the ground where they disarmed and restrained him until police arrived.

By his actions, Mr Henry displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (02) 9893 4020 Mobile 0407 298 800

Mr Anthony James HOBDEN, PO Box 181, Noonamah, NT, 0837

On 3 August 1999, Mr Hobden rescued a colleague who had been wounded by a gunman at a police roadblock on the Stuart Highway near Adelaide River, Northern Territory.

Mr Hobden and his colleague were driving on the Stuart Highway when they were stopped by a police roadblock. At the roadblock, the police explained that it had been set up to assist in apprehending a gunman who had been in hiding after going on a shooting rampage the previous evening. Without warning, Mr Hobden's colleague was shot in the back and fell to the ground. The shot was fired by the gunman who was hidden in the nearby bush. Police reinforcements were called as the policemen returned fire. The gunman refused to surrender, mortally wounding one of the policemen. Throughout, Mr Hobden's colleague remained exposed in the line of fire and was in danger of being shot at again by the gunman. Realising this, and without regard for his personal safety, Mr Hobden ran out from behind the cover of the police car to where his wounded friend lay exposed and dragged him to safety.

By his actions, Mr Hobden displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (08)8988 2240 Mobile 0417 672 478

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Peter Robert HUDSON, 145 John Street, Esperance WA 6450

On 14-16 July 1999, Mr Hudson participated in the rescue of the crew of a disabled vessel in heavy seas off the coast at Esperance, Western Australia.

Mr Hudson and two crewmen of the vessel *Southern Image* responded to a distress call from the ketch *Emmanuel III* which had lost all its sails in heavy seas and had broken down. As the skipper of *Southern Image*, Mr Hudson decided to mount the rescue attempt in the full knowledge that the seas were dangerous. After sailing throughout the night in severe weather conditions, the *Southern Image* located the *Emmanuel III* the next morning and a towline was secured to it so that it could be towed to safety. During the tow operation, the towline snapped several times which required Mr Hudson to manoeuvre his vessel in heavy seas perilously close to the *Emmanuel III* to enable the towline to be re-attached. Just after midnight on 16 July, the decision was taken to cut the towline as the *Emmanuel III* was beginning to take in water. It soon sank and its three crewmen left floundering in heavy seas. With one of his crewmen using a spotlight to locate the stricken crewmen, Mr Hudson manoeuvred the *Southern Image* to pass close by them. During the pass, his two colleagues were able to pull all the stricken crewmen onto the 'marlin board' at the rear of the rescue vessel.

By his actions, Mr Hudson displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (08)9071 7464 Work: (08) 9071 5111 Mobile 0417 707 345

Mr Dean LAWRENCE, 14 Hatherton Road, Lethbridge Park, NSW, 2770

On 25 June 1998, Mr Lawrence assisted in disarming an offender at Blacktown, New South Wales.

Mr Lawrence was on his way to work when he witnessed two men struggling over a rifle. One of the men was calling for help, saying that the other man was trying to kill him. Mr Lawrence decided to help and called to another man nearby to join him as he ran to offer assistance. At considerable risk to himself, Mr Lawrence grabbed the rifle with both hands and tried to pull it free from the offender but his attempts to do so were unsuccessful. Mr Lawrence then started kicking the offender who stumbled but still would not let go of the rifle. Another person struck the offender on the head with a piece of concrete, causing him to lose his grip on the rifle. Mr Lawrence immediately grabbed the rifle and moved away from the offender as a group of men intervened and wrestled the offender to the ground where they held him until police arrived. The rifle was later found to be loaded with several live rounds of ammunition and the safety catch released ready to fire.

By his actions, Mr Lawrence displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (02) 9628 5201 Mobile 0403 084 078

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr James Anthony LONG, 64 Elm Street, North Melbourne Vic 3051

On 9 November 1998, Mr Long attempted to apprehend a man who had snatched a handbag from a woman in a Melbourne street.

Mr Long saw the man make the snatch and followed him to a vacant block of land where he demanded that the thief drop the bag. The thief threatened to stab Mr Long with a blood-filled syringe that was purportedly HIV infected. Mr Long challenged the thief. The thief again ran off with Mr Long in pursuit. During the pursuit, Mr Long confronted the thief several times and demanded that he drop the bag. Eventually the thief dropped the bag and ran to his car in a nearby street. Mr Long followed and, without fear for his personal safety, jumped onto the bonnet of the vehicle and clung to it as the vehicle careered down several streets, the driver braking suddenly, swerving sharply and reversing in his attempt to dislodge Mr Long and make good his escape. The thief then drove at speed over several road humps, causing Mr Long to fall from the vehicle and sustain cuts and abrasions to his body. Despite his injuries, Mr Long was able to alert passing police who later intercepted and arrested the offender.

By his actions, Mr Long displayed considerable bravery

Phone Nos: Home (03) 9319 8530 Work (03) 9243 8848 Mobile 0407 874 383

Mr Garry Joseph LONGHURST, "Duccamarrin", Ashford NSW 2361

On the afternoon of 31 March 1994, Mr Longhurst participated in the attempted rescue of an infant from a burning house in Mudgee, New South Wales.

Mr Longhurst and three other men were all travelling in the same vehicle when they saw smoke billowing from a nearby house. They went to investigate the fire and found that an infant was still in the house. In an attempt to rescue the infant, Mr Longhurst and his colleagues entered the burning building but were driven back by thick acrid smoke. On their second attempt, thick black smoke reduced their visibility and Mr Longhurst and his colleagues were forced to crawl around on their hands and knees in search of the infant. Without regard for their personal safety, Mr Longhurst and his colleagues entered the building a third time but were driven back by the intense heat and thick smoke. They then attempted to douse the fire with a garden hose but were again driven back by thick smoke, soot and intense heat.

By his actions, Mr Longhurst displayed considerable bravery.

Phone No: Home (02) 6725 4475

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Jason Andrew LORD, 5/3 Good Street, Mays Hill NSW 2145

On 11 August 1999, Mr Lord assisted in the apprehension of an armed robber following a robbery at a jeweller's shop in Parramatta, New South Wales.

Mr Lord and a companion heard calls for help and joined in the pursuit of the robber. As Mr Lord and his companion continued the pursuit into a nearby car park they realised that the offender was armed. The armed offender threatened the car park attendant with the gun and her screams distracted the offender, temporarily enabling Mr Lord and the two other pursuers to close in on him. On seeing the three men approach him, the offender pointed the pistol at the head of one of the men and pulled the trigger. The pistol misfired and, whilst the offender was in the process of putting a fresh round into the chamber, one of the men charged him. A physical struggle between the two ensued. Without regard for his personal safety Mr Lord joined the affray and with the assistance of the two other men was able to wrestle the offender to the ground where they disarmed and restrained him until police arrived.

By his actions, Mr Lord displayed considerable bravery.

Phone No: Home (02) 9687 4768

Federal Agent Paul Alexander McEWAN, Australian Federal Police

On the afternoon of 11 August 1999 in Viqueque, East Timor, Federal Agent McEwan was serving with the United Nations Assistance Mission in East Timor (UNAMET) when he participated in the rescue of an Indonesian police officer who was being attacked by pro-independence East Timorese villagers.

While on patrol, Federal Agent McEwan and a fellow UNAMET officer encountered a group of East Timorese villagers retrieving the body of a man who had been killed by pro-Indonesian militias. Federal Agent McEwan and his companion were at the scene when the Indonesian police officer arrived. The arrival of the officer provoked the angry villagers who menaced him with their machetes and spears. Federal Agent McEwan and his companion placed themselves between the officer and the hostile crowd and prevented the crowd from pressing their attack. Some of the villagers who tried to strike the officer were wrestled away by Federal Agent McEwan and his companion. Fearing for his life, the officer broke away and ran into nearby bushes. He was pursued by some of the villagers who attacked him with their machetes. Federal Agent McEwan blocked the path of the hostile crowd while his companion followed the officer to prevent him from being killed. The injured officer was later carried to safety.

By his actions, Federal Agent McEwan displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Lee James MALLON, 36 Tingira Crescent, Kiama NSW 2533

On the afternoon of 26 April 1999, Mr Mallon rescued a young boy from drowning after the boy was caught in a rip at Main Beach, Kiama, New South Wales.

Mr Mallon was at the northern end of Main Beach when he saw a woman and two young boys in distress in the water. He contacted police by mobile telephone before running to the rocks at the northern end of the beach to intercept the distressed swimmers. Mr Mallon saw the unconscious woman being pulled from the pounding sea onto the surfboard of a rescuer. One of the two young boys was also being rescued, while the second was floundering in the rip and struggling to keep his head above water. Without regard to his personal safety, Mr Mallon jumped into the ocean and swam out to the distressed boy. He was able to grab hold of the boy and swam with him out to sea so as to avoid the danger of the large waves breaking onto the rocks. Mr Mallon clung onto the boy as they were being swept out to sea by the strong rip. After approximately fifteen minutes of swimming and treading water, they were picked up by a rescue boat and delivered safely to shore.

By his actions, Mr Mallon displayed considerable bravery.

Phone No: Home (02) 4232 2952

Mr Richard Gerard NEWTON, PO Box 1236, Parramatta NSW 2124

On 26 July 1999, Mr Newton attempted to apprehend an offender during a robbery at the National Australia Bank in Carlingford, New South Wales.

Mr Newton was being served at the bank when he saw a man jump the counter and remove money from the teller desks. Realising that a robbery was in progress, Mr Newton immediately left the bank and asked a passer-by to notify the police of the robbery. He then returned to the bank and saw the offender approaching the exit doors. Without regard to his personal safety, Mr Newton grabbed hold of the offender and a struggle between the two ensued. During the struggle the offender struck Mr Newton several times on the face. In the process of striking Mr Newton, the offender dropped the bag of money that he was carrying. Mr Newton picked up the bag and the offender was able to break away and escape on foot across the street. Mr Newton pursued the offender for a short distance but the offender was then joined by an accomplice. Mr Newton returned to the bank to assist the police in their enquiries into the robbery.

By his actions, Mr Newton displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (02) 9890 3601 Mobile 0415 285 049

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Russell Lynton PALMER, 12 Maple Street, Esperance WA 6450

On 14-16 July 1999, Mr Palmer participated in the rescue of the crew of a disabled vessel in heavy seas off the coast at Esperance, Western Australia.

Mr Palmer volunteered to join the vessel *Southern Image* in its rescue attempt of the ketch *Emmanuel III* which had lost all its sails in heavy seas and had broken down. Mr Palmer embarked on the rescue mission with the full knowledge that the seas were dangerous and that he was not an experienced seaman. After sailing throughout the night in severe weather conditions, the *Emmanuel III* was located the next morning and a towline was secured to it so that it could be towed to safety. During the tow operation, the towline snapped several times which required Mr Palmer to run out onto the heaving deck with a colleague to help re-attach the towline. Just after midnight on 16 July, the decision was taken to cut the towline as the *Emmanuel III* was beginning to take in water. It soon sank and its three crewmen left floundering in heavy seas. Mr Palmer's colleague trained a spotlight on the stricken crewmen so that the skipper of the rescue vessel could manoeuvre the vessel to pass close by them. During the pass, Mr Palmer positioned himself on the 'marlin board' at the rear of the vessel and, with the help of his colleague, pulled all the stricken crewmen onto the rescue vessel.

By his actions, Mr Palmer displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (08)9071 1164 Mobile 0417 979 967

Mr Robert Walter PAULL, 14 Laurel Oak Drive, Algeester Qld 4115

On the morning of 8 April 1999, Mr Paull assisted in the rescue of a colleague who had been seriously injured in an explosion at a gas plant in Rocklea, Queensland.

During the filling of acetylene gas cylinders, one of the cylinders began to overheat. Mr Paull was informed that there was a 'hot' cylinder in the plant and went to assist in isolating other cylinders and shut the plant down. Moments later, Mr Paull and his colleagues received warning that the cylinder was beginning to blister and about to explode. Before they could escape, however, the cylinder exploded demolishing the loading bay and causing serious injury to one of the employees. Gas clouds and dust rendered the area extremely volatile. On learning that one of the workers had been injured in the blast and was still in the building, Mr Paull and two other colleagues attempted to enter the building through the rear door but were driven back by gas fumes. They then used another access to enter the building and found the injured employee in the debris. Mr Paull helped to evacuate the injured man from the damaged building before entering the building once again with the two other colleagues in order to isolate the remaining cylinders and to render the area safe from further explosions.

By his actions, Mr Paull displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (07) 3711 3812 Work (07) 3212 4214

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Richard John PLUMB, 109 Lewis Street, Mudgee NSW 2850

On the afternoon of 31 March 1994, Mr Plumb participated in the attempted rescue of an infant from a burning house in Mudgee, New South Wales.

Mr Plumb and three other men were all travelling in the same vehicle when they saw smoke billowing from a nearby house. They went to investigate the fire and found that an infant was still in the house. In an attempt to rescue the infant, the Mr Plumb and his colleagues entered the burning building but were driven back by thick acrid smoke. On their second attempt, thick black smoke reduced their visibility and Mr Plumb and his colleagues were forced to crawl around on their hands and knees in search of the infant. Without regard for their personal safety, Mr Plumb and his colleagues entered the building a third time but were driven back by the intense heat and thick smoke. They then attempted to douse the fire with a garden hose but were again driven back by thick smoke, soot and intense heat.

By his actions, Mr Plumb displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (02) 6372 6217 Work (02) 6372 5777

Mr Brian William POULTER, 96 Spanns Road, Beenleigh Qld 4207

On the morning of 8 April 1999, Mr Poulter received serious injuries in an explosion at a gas plant in Rocklea, Queensland, after warning his fellow workers.

Mr Poulter was a member of a team filling acetylene gas cylinders when one of the cylinders began to overheat. Mr Poulter immediately warned his work colleagues of the presence of the 'hot' cylinder and played water over the cylinder while his colleagues moved to isolate the other cylinders and to shut the plant down. Without regard for his personal safety, Mr Poulter remained at his post, hosing the hot cylinder down with water. Moments later, Mr Poulter called out that the cylinder was beginning to blister and warned that it was about to explode. Before he and his colleagues could escape, however, the cylinder exploded demolishing the loading bay and amputating Mr Poulter's left leg above the knee. Gas clouds and dust rendered the area extremely volatile. On learning of Mr Poulter's plight the colleagues assessed the danger and carried him out of the damaged building and arranged medical attention before re-entering the building again in order to isolate the remaining cylinders and to render the area safe from further explosions.

By his actions, Mr Poulter displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (07) 3807 3178 Mobile 0411 499 488

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Glen Alan RICH, 12 Bele Place, Kiama NSW 2533

On the afternoon of 26 April 1999, Mr Rich rescued a young boy from drowning after the boy was caught in a rip at Main Beach, Kiama, New South Wales.

Mr Rich was at the northern end of Main Beach when he saw a woman and two young boys in distress in the water. Realising that the three were in danger of being sucked out to sea by the rip, Mr Rich ran down to the rocks to assist the distressed swimmers. On reaching the water's edge Mr Rich, without regard for his personal safety, jumped into the sea and swam over to one of the two boys. He grabbed hold of the boy as they were submerged by a large wave. On resurfacing, Mr Rich saw the unconscious woman float by and grabbed hold of her as well, but the pounding waves caused him to lose hold of her as she disappeared under the surf. Mr Rich held the boy by his arms and swam with him out to sea so as to avoid the danger of the large waves breaking onto the rocks. Mr Rich clung onto the boy as they were being swept out to sea by the strong rip. After approximately fifteen minutes of swimming and treading water, they were picked up by a rescue boat and delivered safely to shore.

By his actions, Mr Rich displayed considerable bravery.

Phone No: Home (02) 4233 1415

Senior Constable Richard Alan ROSTRON, New South Wales Police Service

On the afternoon of 20 January 1999, Senior Constable Rostron assisted in the capture of an armed offender after a bank robbery in Bowral, New South Wales.

Senior Constable Rostron was off duty when he noticed a man emerge from a bank building and pull off a mask before running off down the street. A bank employee followed the man out from the building and reported to Senior Constable Rostron that a masked man had just robbed the bank. The bank employee then pointed out the bank robber to Senior Constable Rostron who pursued the robber on foot. During the pursuit the bank robber realised that Senior Constable Rostron was following him. He turned and threatened to shoot him with a pistol and followed up his threat by firing a shot at Senior Constable Rostron. Despite this and without regard for his personal safety, Senior Constable Rostron continued the pursuit. The robber turned and fired a second time. Undeterred, Senior Constable Rostron continued to pursue the robber who fired a third shot at him before disappearing into a nearby street. Using a mobile phone, Senior Constable Rostron was able to inform the police of the robber's escape route; information that ultimately led to the apprehension of the offender.

By his actions, Senior Constable Rostron displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Timothy William RYAN, 5 Benkalu Court, Palmwoods Qld 4555

On the morning of 9 February 1999, Mr Ryan attempted to rescue a child who had been washed down a stormwater inlet during flooding at Orange Park, Palmwoods, Queensland.

Mr Ryan was driving along Paskins Road when he was flagged down by a group of people gathered around a stormwater manhole. They informed Mr Ryan that a child had disappeared into the stormwater inlet and that the child may be trapped in the manhole pit. Mr Ryan entered the water and with his hands probed the muddy water in an attempt to locate the missing child. He was able to locate the child's body but was unable to dislodge it because of the force of the water. He then asked people at the scene to hold onto his legs and, without fear for his personal safety, entered head first into the flooded access hole to retrieve the child. He failed in his first two attempts, swallowing large amounts of water during each attempt. On the third attempt, he was able to pull the child from the flooded manhole pit and he immediately attempted to resuscitate the child. With the help of others at the scene, resuscitation was continued until the arrival of an ambulance and paramedical team.

By his actions, Mr Ryan displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (07) 5445 9867 Work (07) 5494 5366 Mobile 0417 618 993

Mr Arel Omar SADOWSKY, 7A Lamond Street, Melville WA 6156

On the night of 22 October 1998, Mr Sadowsky attempted to rescue a woman from a knife-wielding assailant who had fatally stabbed her.

Mr Sadowsky was at a house party in Fremantle when he heard the loud screams of a woman from the house next door. Accompanied by two of his companions, he ran to the house to investigate. Mr Sadowsky entered the house and ran to the bedroom from where the screams were coming. On entering the room he saw the assailant straddling the woman and striking her with his fists. Mr Sadowsky grasped the assailant from behind and pulled him off the woman. As the assailant fell backwards, Mr Sadowsky saw that he was clutching a knife and that the woman was covered in blood. The assailant then attacked Mr Sadowsky, lunging at him several times in an attempt to stab him. Without fear for his personal safety, Mr Sadowsky remained in the room and with a mop handle struck the assailant several times to dislodge the knife and causing the assailant to fall onto the floor. Mr Sadowsky then tried to check the condition of the woman but the assailant got up from the floor and attacked him again. A struggle between the two men ensued before others arrived and helped Mr Sadowsky to restrain the assailant.

By his actions, Mr Sadowsky displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (08) 9317 1254 Mobile 0404 273 009

BRAVERY MEDAL

Major John George SHOLL,

Headquarters Australian Theatre, 14-18 Wylde Street, Potts Point NSW 2011

On the afternoon of 11 August 1999 in Viqueque, East Timor, Major John Sholl was serving with the United Nations Assistance Mission in East Timor (UNAMET) when he participated in the rescue of an Indonesian police officer who was being attacked by pro-independence East Timorese villagers.

While on patrol, Major Sholl and a fellow UNAMET officer encountered a group of East Timorese villagers retrieving the body of a man who had been killed by pro-Indonesian militias. Major Sholl and his companion were at the scene when the Indonesian police officer arrived. The arrival of the officer provoked the angry villagers who menaced him with their machetes and spears. Major Sholl and his companion placed themselves between the officer and the hostile crowd and prevented them from pressing their attack. Some of the villagers who tried to strike the officer were wrestled away by Major Sholl and his companion. Fearing for his life, the officer broke away and ran into nearby bushes. He was pursued by some of the villagers who attacked him with their machetes. Major Sholl followed and placed himself between the officer and his attackers so as to prevent the officer from being killed. Moments later Major Sholl was able to lift the injured officer to his feet and carry him to safety.

By his actions, Major Sholl displayed considerable bravery.

Phone No: Work: (02) 9359 4963

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Andrew Colin THIRSK, deceased,
Late of 7 Clare Place, Killarney Heights NSW 2087

On 28 December 1998, Mr Thirsk was taken hostage by a group of Yemeni terrorists and subsequently lost his life as he attempted to protect other members of the group.

Mr Thirsk was a member of a tourist group in Yemen taken hostage by terrorists. The hostages were driven into a remote desert area, divided into two groups, and held there under heavily-armed guard. Despite interrogation by terrorist leaders and involvement in threatening and intimidating exchanges with the bandits, Mr Thirsk did not avoid taking the role of group spokesman. As Yemeni Government forces closed in on the hostage-takers, the tourists were made to stand on top of a small mound with their hands in the air facing the approaching forces, serving as human shields for the terrorists. Without regard for his personal safety, Mr Thirsk deliberately placed himself at the front of the group in a position where he would probably be the first to be hit in any exchange of fire. A fierce gun battle soon erupted between the Government forces and the terrorists. During the battle, Mr Thirsk was shot in the abdomen and fell to the ground. As he lay wounded, he received another gunshot wound in the stomach. In the ensuing firefight, Mr Thirsk and a female British tourist who had gone to his aid were killed by gunshots to the head and abdomen.

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

NOK: Mr Malcolm Thirsk (father)
Phone No: Home (02) 9451 2163

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Enrico VILLANUEVA, 3/47 Chandos Street, Ashfield NSW 2131

On 11 August 1999, Mr Villanueva assisted in the apprehension of an armed robber following a robbery at a jeweller's shop in Parramatta, New South Wales.

Mr Villanueva was working in the jeweller's shop when a man armed with a loaded pistol entered and robbed the shop before escaping on foot. Mr Villanueva pursued the man and several times during the pursuit the armed robber turned and threatened to shoot him. Despite being threatened, Mr Villanueva continued the pursuit into a nearby car park. The pursuit attracted the attention of two men who joined Mr Villanueva in the chase. On entering the car park, the armed robber threatened the car park attendant. Her screams distracted the robber, enabling his pursuers to close in on him. On seeing the three men approach, the robber pointed the pistol at the head of Mr Villanueva and pulled the trigger. The pistol misfired and, whilst the robber was in the process of putting a fresh round into the chamber, Mr Villanueva charged him. A physical struggle between the two ensued. The two men who had joined Mr Villanueva in the pursuit went to his assistance and together they wrestled the offender to the ground where they were able to disarm him and restrain him until police arrived.

By his actions, Mr Villanueva displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (02) 9797 2157 Work (02) 9689 3757 Mobile 0419 239 894

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mrs Margaret WHITEHOUSE, deceased,

Late of 3 Nightingale Gardens, Hook, Hampshire RG27 9DS UK

On 28 December 1998, Mrs Whitehouse was taken hostage by a group of Yemeni terrorists and subsequently lost her life as she attempted to protect an Australian member of the group who had been wounded by gunfire.

Mrs Whitehouse was a member of a tourist group in Yemen taken hostage by terrorists. As Yemeni Government forces closed in on the terrorists, Mrs Whitehouse and three other hostages, including an Australian man, were made to stand on top of a small mound with their hands in the air facing the approaching forces, serving as human shields for the terrorists. A gun battle soon erupted between the Government forces and the terrorists. During the battle, the Australian man was shot in the abdomen and fell to the ground. Mrs Whitehouse, without regard for her personal safety, ran to his aid and used a handkerchief to try and stem the bleeding. As he lay wounded, the man received another gunshot wound in the stomach. Mrs Whitehouse was wounded in the ankle but continued administering aid and comfort to the man. In the ensuing firefight, both Mrs Whitehouse and the Australian were killed by gunshots to the head and abdomen.

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

NOK: Mr Laurence Whitehouse (husband)

Constable Adam WILSON, New South Wales Police Service

On 20 November 1997, Constable Wilson was in the Five Dock area of Sydney when he attempted to apprehend an offender who had snatched a bag from a woman.

On investigating a report, Constable Wilson saw the offender fighting with other men and, with the assistance of another police officer, was able to handcuff the offender's hands to his front. As Constable Wilson was reporting the incident, the offender got to his feet and knocked him to the ground before running off to a nearby car park where the offender had left his vehicle with its engine running. Constable Wilson pursued the offender who managed to get into the car. Through the open car door Constable Wilson tried to pull the offender out of the vehicle; however, the offender was able to drive off, accelerating harshly in an attempt to loosen Constable Wilson's grip as he clung onto him. Constable Wilson was dragged a short distance before his right foot got caught under the rear wheel of the car, causing him to let go of the offender. The car passed over Constable Wilson as it sped off. Despite his injuries, Constable Wilson was able to get to his feet and pursue the car for a short distance before collapsing from his injuries.

By his actions, Constable Wilson displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr David Leslie WINKWORTH, 21 Old Wallagoot Road, Kalaru NSW 2550

On 18 August 1999, Mr Winkworth rescued a man from a crocodile attack at MacArthur Island, Cape York, Queensland.

Mr Winkworth and two of his companions were resting on MacArthur Island after a canoeing trip when he joined one of his companions for a swim in the shallow water. They were paddling about in thigh-deep water when Mr Winkworth's companion suddenly cried out. Mr Winkworth turned and saw that the water around his companion was agitated and that the sand was being churned up in the water. Not knowing what was happening, Mr Winkworth waded towards him and saw the outline of a four metre crocodile in the water. The crocodile had its teeth firmly embedded in his companion's right leg and was trying to sweep him off his feet in a death roll. Without regard for his personal safety, Mr Winkworth jumped on the crocodile, straddling it with his feet and wrapping his arms around its torso. Mr Winkworth clung on to the crocodile in this manner as the crocodile continued to thrash about in the water. Mr Winkworth's action caused the crocodile to release its hold on his companion and, having flicked Mr Winkworth off its back, the crocodile escaped into deeper water.

By his actions, Mr Winkworth displayed considerable bravery.

Phone No: Home (02) 6494 1366

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Chadwick Clifford BEINS, 156 Arlunya Avenue, Cloverdale WA 6105

On 8 December 1998, Mr Beins assisted in the apprehension of two armed robbers who had robbed a jeweller's shop in East Victoria Park, Perth, Western Australia.

Two men armed with a handgun entered the shop and demanded that the owner open the safe. The owner directed the two men to a rear storeroom and immediately ran outside, shouting at passers-by that he was being robbed. At the time, Mr Beins was at his place of work next door to the jeweller's shop and heard the shouting. He went outside and saw two men running away from the scene. Mr Beins immediately gave chase and was joined by another person who had also been alerted to the robbery. Realising that they were being pursued, the two offenders split up. Mr Beins and his companion continued to pursue one of the offenders until the offender's route of escape was blocked by a car that had been purposefully driven onto the footpath. This caused the offender to stop and turn, giving the car driver time to get out of his car and grab hold of the offender from behind. Mr Beins and his companion immediately went to the car driver's assistance and were able to apprehend and restrain the offender until police arrived.

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

Phone No: Home (08)9478 2188

Mr Percival Ignatius BEINS, 42A Toorak Road, Rivervale WA 6103

On 8 December 1998, Mr Beins assisted in the apprehension of two armed robbers who had robbed a jeweller's shop in East Victoria Park, Perth, Western Australia.

Two men armed with a handgun entered the shop and demanded that the owner open the safe. The owner directed the two men to a rear storeroom and immediately ran outside, shouting at passers-by that he was being robbed. At the time, Mr Beins was at his place of work next door to the jeweller's shop and heard the shouting. He went outside to investigate and, realising that a robbery was taking place, returned to his office and arranged for the police to be called. Two other persons also heard the shouting and had run out and pursued the offenders along a laneway. Mr Beins decided to follow the pursuers in his vehicle and after driving around the block saw one of the offenders being pursued along the footpath. Mr Beins then drove his car across the footpath to cut off the offender. This caused the offender to stop and turn, giving Mr Beins time to get out of his car and grab hold of the offender from behind. The two pursuers immediately came to his assistance and the three men were able to apprehend and restrain the offender until police arrived.

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

Phone No: Home (08)9470 5120

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Dean Lloyd BELL, 16 Maling Street, Eden NSW 2551

On 25 May 1999, Mr Bell participated in the rescue of two men from a fire at a block of flats in Eden, New South Wales.

Mr Bell was at a relative's house across the road from the block of flats when he saw that one of the flats was on fire. He alerted his brother-in-law and together they ran to the scene to evacuate the occupants of the burning building. When they arrived on the scene, the two men encountered thick smoke and intense heat but persisted in banging on the doors of the flats, calling upon the occupants to evacuate the building. Mr Bell and his brother-in-law were able to evacuate an elderly male who was oblivious to the danger and was being overcome by smoke inhalation. Despite feeling the effects of smoke inhalation themselves and without regard for their personal safety, the two men then forcibly entered another flat where they found a disoriented elderly man who refused their urgings to evacuate the building. Realising that the man was in danger if he were allowed to remain, Mr Bell and his brother-in-law grabbed hold of the man and dragged him outside to safety, despite his protestations.

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

Phone No: Home (02) 6496 1917

Mr Glen Allan BLACKLOCK, 259 Hastings River Drive, Port Macquarie NSW 2444

On the morning of 25 May 1999, Mr Blacklock participated in the rescue of the crew of two yachts caught in heavy seas off the coast of Port Macquarie, New South Wales

Mr Blacklock was a member of the crew of a rescue vessel that responded to a request for assistance from one of two yachts that were stranded in mountainous seas. Negotiating severe weather conditions, the crew of the rescue vessel were able to rescue two people from one of the yachts. During the day, sea conditions worsened and a crewman who remained on one of the stranded yachts became acutely seasick and needed to be evacuated. With Mr Blacklock and four other crewmen on board who were fully aware that the sea conditions were treacherous, the rescue vessel was put to sea again to retrieve the ailing yachtsman. An inflatable rescue boat (IRB) with a crew of two followed the rescue vessel to act as a back-up. On approaching the yacht, the rescue vessel encountered engine failure and was swamped by huge seas. All five crewmen were tossed into the ocean. The IRB's crew went to their aid and were able to pluck one of the men to safety before venturing out again to rescue the other four. In this second attempt, the IRB lost power and was also overturned by a large wave. Police eventually rescued all the stricken crewmen.

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

Phone Nos: Home (02) 6584 9155 Mobile 0408 478 527

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Anthony James BLACKMAN, 7/50-52 Owen Street, Port Macquarie NSW 2444

On the morning of 25 May 1999, Mr Blackman participated in the rescue of the crew of two yachts caught in heavy seas off the coast of Port Macquarie, New South Wales.

The Port Macquarie Sea Rescue Group responded to a request for assistance from one of two yachts that were stranded in mountainous seas. In extremely rough weather conditions, two people from one of the yachts were rescued. Later in the day, sea conditions worsened and a sailor who had remained on one of the stranded yachts became acutely seasick and needed to be evacuated. Another rescue attempt was mounted, with Mr Blackman and a companion serving as the crew of an inflatable rescue boat (IRB) that was to act as a back-up to the primary rescue vessel. On approaching the yacht, the primary rescue vessel encountered engine failure and was swamped by huge seas, and all members of the crew were tossed into the water. Without regard for their personal safety, Mr Blackman and his companion manoeuvred the IRB through heavy seas and were able to pluck one of the crewmen from the ocean. They returned the crewman to calmer waters before heading back to sea to pick up the others. In their second foray, the IRB lost power and was overturned by large waves. Mr Blackman and his companion were thrown into the ocean and were eventually rescued by the police.

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

Phone Nos: Home (02) 6583 4063 Mobile 0427 102 856

Mr Paul Anthony BOOTH, 4/146 Hall Street, Bondi NSW 2026

On 10 January 1999, Mr Booth participated in the rescue of five men from the surf at Bronte Beach, Sydney.

Mr Booth, a lifesaver patrol captain, was off duty and swimming at the beach when he saw a group of young men at the northern end of the beach jumping off the cliff into the surf. He was aware that the beach had been closed by lifeguards and swam over to the men to warn them to head back to the beach. As he approached them he heard a cry for help from a man who was caught in a rip and was in danger of being smashed against the rocks. Mr Booth swam towards him through the heavy swell and assisted him to shore where he called out for bystanders to help the swimmer. Turning back to the water, Mr Booth saw another male in difficulty in the dangerous swell. Without regard for his personal safety, Mr Booth entered the sea a second time and swam towards the distressed swimmer and was able to help him back onto the rocks. He then called out to a group of junior lifesavers to summon an ambulance and to bring down resuscitation equipment for use on the rescued swimmers. Mr Booth provided first aid to the two swimmers, who had received lacerations to the body and were vomiting large amounts of water. He remained with them until the arrival of ambulance officers.

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

Phone Nos: Home (02) 9300 0848 Work (02) 8205 4847 Mobile 0401 140 991

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Ryan Robert CHANDLER, 138 Bondi Road, Bondi NSW 2026

On 10 January 1999, Mr Chandler participated in the rescue of five men from the surf at Bronte Beach, Sydney.

Mr Chandler was in the area of the beach when he saw a woman waving frantically from the edge of the cliffs at the northern end of the beach. Mr Chandler raced down to the cliff and, in the sea below, saw a man attempting to rescue a swimmer who was unconscious. Both men were being tossed about in a dangerous rip. Without fear for his personal safety, Mr Chandler dived into the sea and after grabbing hold of the unconscious man, attempted to swim back to shore. During the swim, another rescuer joined Mr Chandler who tried to resuscitate the patient by blowing air into his mouth. Other men soon joined in the rescue attempt. Mr Chandler was ultimately thrown onto a rock ledge but still kept hold of the patient by the wrist. Fearing he would lose him as the sea began to draw down from around the rocks, Mr Chandler jumped back into the sea and, with others, tried to drag the unconscious patient away from the rocks to a safer beaching point. Lifesavers in a rescue boat then arrived and they were able to transfer the patient to shore. Mr Chandler swam back to the beach and even though he was exhausted he assisted in giving first aid to the patient.

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

Phone No: Home (02) 9389 2405

Mr Michael Patrick COFFEY, 291 Holmes Road, Forrestfield WA 6058

On the evening of 3 July 1999, Mr Coffey participated in the rescue of a young girl from a house fire in Forrestfield, Western Australia.

Mr Coffey and two of his companions became aware that a house across the road was on fire. The three men went to the scene of the fire to offer assistance and were told that a young girl was still inside the burning house. Mr Coffey and his companions unsuccessfully tried to break down the front door to gain entry. They smashed a front window but were driven back by thick smoke. They then went to the rear of the house and gained entry through the back door. Darkness caused by a power failure also limited visibility in the house. Without regard for their personal safety, Mr Coffey and his two companions repeatedly tried to enter the darkened and smoke-filled house but were repelled each time by thick smoke. Mr Coffey was able to borrow a torch from a neighbour and, using a shirt to cover his mouth, re-entered the burning building. Mr Coffey was able to locate the child huddled against a bed in one of the bedrooms. He placed the shirt over the child's nose and mouth to protect her from smoke inhalation and carried her outside to safety.

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

Phone Nos: Home (08) 9359 2106 Work (08) 9274 2949 Mobile 0401 184 767

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Walter William COOPER, "Antion Station", PO Box 51, Cloncurry Qld 4824

On 17 February 1999, Mr Cooper rescued a man from being attacked by an enraged bull at a cattle station near McKinlay, Queensland.

Mr Cooper was with a group of jackaroos running cattle up a race and injecting them with growth hormones. One of the bullocks became enraged in the drafting yard and refused to go up the race. A man jumped into the yard to help push the bull up the race. The bull, weighing about 550 kilograms, suddenly turned on the man and charged at him knocking him to the ground and trapping him against the rails of the steel yard where it began to repeatedly pummel the man using its head as a battering ram. The man lay motionless, having sustained cracked ribs, severe bruising and lacerations to his head and body. Without regard for his personal safety, Mr Cooper jumped over the fence and landed on the bullock's head, grappling with it so as to divert its attention away from the injured man. The bullock shook Mr Cooper loose and turned on him, hitting him in his ribs with its head and smashing him into the gate. Mr Cooper's actions distracted the bullock's attention and enabled others to enter the yard and remove the injured man. Mr Cooper was able to scramble clear of the yard.

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

Phone Nos: Home (07) 4742 5925 Mobile 0417 781 054

Mr Anthony James CROWE, 26 Bellangry Road, Port Macquarie NSW 2444

On the morning of 25 May 1999, Mr Crowe participated in the rescue of the crew of two yachts caught in heavy seas off the coast of Port Macquarie, New South Wales

Mr Crow was a member of the crew of a rescue vessel that responded to a request for assistance from one of two yachts that were stranded in mountainous seas. Negotiating severe weather conditions, the crew of the rescue vessel were able to rescue two people from one of the yachts. During the day, sea conditions worsened and a crewman who remained on one of the stranded yachts became acutely seasick and needed to be evacuated. With Mr Crowe and four other crewmen on board who were fully aware that the sea conditions were treacherous, the rescue vessel was put to sea again to retrieve the ailing yachtsman. An inflatable rescue boat (IRB) with a crew of two followed the rescue vessel to act as a back-up. On approaching the yacht, the rescue vessel encountered engine failure and was swamped by huge seas. All five crewmen were tossed into the ocean. The IRB's crew went to their aid and were able to pluck one of the men to safety before venturing out again to rescue the other four. In this second attempt, the IRB lost power and was also overturned by a large wave. Police eventually rescued all the stricken crewmen.

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

Phone No: Home (02) 6584 3260

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Stephen DWYER, 60 Hewlett Street, Bronte NSW 2024

On 10 January 1999, Mr Dwyer participated in the rescue of five men from the surf at Bronte Beach, Sydney.

Mr Dwyer was on duty as a lifesaver at Bronte when he saw a group of men jumping off the cliffs into the surf at the northern end of the beach. Knowing that the area was dangerous, Mr Dwyer paddled to the area on his surfboard to warn the swimmers. On reaching the area he saw a man attempting to rescue a swimmer who was unconscious. Both the rescuer and his patient were being tossed about in a dangerous rip. Mr Dwyer paddled to where the two men were and attempted to pull the patient onto the surfboard. Each time that they tried to lift the patient onto the rescue board large waves washed the patient off and separated him from the two rescuers. On each occasion that they were able to pull the patient onto the board, Mr Dwyer attempted to resuscitate him by blowing air into his mouth. Other men soon joined in the attempt to get the patient to shore. Without regard for his personal safety, Mr Dwyer remained in the sea and participated in attempts to save the patient until lifers arrived in a rescue boat. On his return to the beach Mr Dwyer assisted in giving first aid to the patient.

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

Phone Nos: Home (02) 9387 1816 Mobile 0418 216 808

Mr Lachlan Macquarie EAMES, 11 Glenbrook Avenue, Clayton Vic 3168

On 27 January 1999, Mr Eames rescued a passenger from a light aircraft after it had made a forced landing on Ferntree Gully Road, Glen Waverley, Victoria.

A single-engine light aircraft with the pilot and two passengers aboard took off from Moorabbin Airport. Shortly after take off the aircraft engine stalled, forcing the pilot to make an emergency landing on Ferntree Gully Road. During its descent the plane clipped a power line and a tree before spinning around and coming to rest on the footpath. The plane began to fill with petrol fumes, dramatically increasing the risk of a fire. The pilot and one of the passengers were able to evacuate the aircraft but the third passenger was trapped in the rear of the plane. Mr Eames observed the aircraft make the emergency landing. He saw the pilot and one other passenger leave the plane and noticed the trapped passenger frantically trying to kick the cabin door open. Despite the high risk of a fire, Mr Eames ran to the aircraft and forced open the passenger door and pulled the passenger out of the aircraft.

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

Phone No: Home (03) 9544 1581

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Michael John EDWARDS, 21 Third Avenue, Seven Hills NSW 2147

On 25 June 1998, Mr Edwards assisted in disarming an offender at Blacktown, New South Wales.

Mr Edwards witnessed two men struggling over a rifle. One of the men was calling for help saying that the other man was trying to kill him. Mr Edwards decided to help and, without regard to his personal safety, ran to offer assistance. As he approached the two men, the rifle was being held in a horizontal position as the two men were contesting it. During the struggle the gun barrel was swung around and pointed directly at Mr Edwards. Mr Edwards then saw a green bag on the opposite side of the laneway and went to retrieve it, finding that it contained four petrol bombs. He took the bag and gave it to a bystander before returning to the scene to assist in physically restraining the offender. The offender eventually succumbed and released the weapon. He was then wrestled to the ground and restrained until police arrived. The rifle was later found to be loaded with several live rounds of ammunition and the safety catch released ready to fire.

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

Phone Nos: Home (02) 9920 6924 Mobile 0404 226 579

Mr Denis John FAWELL, Port Macquarie NSW 2444

On the morning of 25 May 1999, Mr Fawell participated in the rescue of the crew of two yachts caught in heavy seas off the coast of Port Macquarie, New South Wales

Mr Fawell was a member of the crew of a rescue vessel that responded to a request for assistance from one of two yachts that were stranded in mountainous seas. Negotiating severe weather conditions, the crew of the rescue vessel were able to rescue two people from one of the yachts. During the day, sea conditions worsened and a crewman who remained on one of the stranded yachts became acutely seasick and needed to be evacuated. With Mr Fawell and four other crewmen on board who were fully aware that the sea conditions were treacherous, the rescue vessel was put to sea again to retrieve the ailing yachtsman. An inflatable rescue boat (IRB) with a crew of two followed the rescue vessel to act as a back-up. On approaching the yacht, the rescue vessel encountered engine failure and was swamped by huge seas. All five crewmen were tossed into the ocean. The IRB's crew went to their aid and were able to pluck one of the men to safety before venturing out again to rescue the other four. In this second attempt, the IRB lost power and was also overturned by a large wave. Police eventually rescued all the stricken crewmen.

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

Phone No: Mobile 0419 696 352

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Simon FEATHERSTONE, 2 Moonar Street, Carlton Beach Tas 7173

On 14 January 1998, Mr Featherstone participated in the attempted rescue of four people from the surf at Frederick Bay, Carlton, Tasmania.

Mr Featherstone was informed that several swimmers were caught in a rip and were being swept out to sea. He proceeded immediately to the beach and arranged for foam rescue boards to be taken from the Surf Club to the water's edge. Torrential rain was falling at the time and the wind had picked up causing large waves out in the bay. Without regard for his personal safety, Mr Featherstone paddled out into the bay to help in the search for the distressed swimmers. During the search a hailstorm hit the area. Mr Featherstone met another rescuer paddling back to the beach with the body of a girl on his rescue board. The girl was transferred to Mr Featherstone's board while the other rescuer returned to continue his search for more swimmers. Mr Featherstone stayed in the area until the arrival of an inflatable rescue boat. The crew retrieved the body of the girl from Mr Featherstone and headed back to the beach. Mr Featherstone paddled back to the beach to help coordinate the search for other swimmers before re-entering into the water to assist in the search.

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

Phone No: Home (03) 6265 8585

Mr Steven John FITZSIMONS, 6A Barwood Close, Westleigh NSW 2120

On 12 July 1999, Mr Fitzsimons attempted to rescue the driver from a burning vehicle on the Pacific Highway north of Moorland, New South Wales.

A vehicle with a caravan in tow crossed onto the wrong side of the road and crashed into the road railing causing the vehicle to burst into flames. Mr Fitzsimons was driving approximately 200 metres from the vehicle when he saw the explosion. Without concern for his personal safety, Mr Fitzsimons rushed to the burning vehicle and attempted to rescue the driver who was semi-conscious but trapped by his seat belt. Mr Fitzsimons tried several times to extricate the driver from the burning vehicle but the seat belt failed to unlock. By this time the back seat of the vehicle was on fire and the roof lining of the vehicle was also alight, causing intense heat in the interior of the vehicle. Mr Fitzsimons repeatedly tried unsuccessfully to release the seat belt. His attempts to pull the driver through the seat belt were also unsuccessful. The fire then began to engulf the entire vehicle, causing the driver's clothing and hair to catch fire. Mr Fitzsimons attempted to put out the fire on the man's hair and clothing with his hands, but the intense heat drove him back. The driver of the vehicle was incinerated.

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

Phone No: Home (02) 9875 1759

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr John William HAMILTON, 80 Read Street, Bronte NSW 2024

On 10 January 1999, Mr Hamilton participated in the rescue of five men from the surf at Bronte Beach, Sydney.

Mr Hamilton was in the area of the beach when he saw a woman waving frantically from the edge of the cliffs at the northern end of the beach. Mr Hamilton raced down to the cliff and in the sea below saw a man, apparently unconscious, being tossed about by the waves and the surf. Without fear for his personal safety, Mr Hamilton jumped off the cliff into the sea and, after grabbing hold of the unconscious man, attempted to swim back to shore. Mr Hamilton and his patient were continually dunked and buffeted about by the large waves. After being in the sea for about three minutes, another rescuer on a surfboard joined Mr Hamilton and together they tried to lift the patient onto the board. At each attempt, large waves washed the patient off and separated him from the two rescuers. Other men soon joined in the attempt to get the patient to shore. Mr Hamilton remained in the sea and participated in attempts to remove the unconscious patient to the shore until lifesavers arrived in a rescue boat. Mr Hamilton swam to the beach and assisted in giving first aid to the patient.

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

Phone Nos: Home (02) 9387 4448 Work (02) 9313 4227

Mr Ralf HOFMANN, 16 Huddleston Street, Colyton NSW 2760

On the night of 16 February 1999, Mr Hofmann persuaded a girl from committing suicide at the Mount Druitt Railway Station, New South Wales.

A mentally ill girl arrived at the Mount Druitt Railway Station and advised Mr Hofmann, a Station Assistant, of her intention of committing suicide by placing herself in the path of an oncoming train. Mr Hofmann and a companion followed the girl onto the railway platform to try to dissuade her from taking her own life. Whilst Mr Hofmann's companion talked to the girl, Mr Hofmann went to the station office and reported the matter to the police before returning to the girl on the platform. A freight train then appeared and Mr Hofmann was able to persuade the girl not to jump into its path.

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

Phone Nos: Home (02) 9263 6389 Work (02) 9379 2677 Mobile 0408 292 829

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Robert Geoffrey HOLLEY, 50 Vendul Crescent, Port Macquarie NSW 2444

On the morning of 25 May 1999, Mr Holley participated in the rescue of the crew of two yachts caught in heavy seas off the coast of Port Macquarie, New South Wales.

Mr Holley was a member of the crew of a rescue vessel that responded to a request for assistance from one of two yachts that were stranded in mountainous seas. Negotiating severe weather conditions, the crew of the rescue vessel were able to rescue two people from one of the yachts. Mr Holley and the rescuers found that the remaining yachtsman on board was severely seasick and unable to remain in control of the yacht. Without regard for his personal safety, Mr Holley elected to remain with him on the yacht and to maintain radio contact with the Sea Rescue Co-ordination Centre. Later in the day, sea conditions worsened and the condition of the ailing yachtsman deteriorated. Mr Holley took control of the yacht and radioed for the yachtsman to be evacuated. He also reported that the yacht was dangerously short of fuel. The attempt to evacuate the yachtsman failed after wild seas swamped the two rescue vessels. Over the next 24 hours, Mr Holley remained on the yacht until sea conditions improved and he was able to assist the two yachts to return to Port Macquarie.

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

Phone No: Home (02) 6582 2908

Mr Paul HOWARD,

C/- Glass Doctor, 882 Albany Highway, East Victoria Park WA 6101

On 8 December 1998, Mr Howard assisted in the apprehension of two armed robbers who had robbed a jeweller's shop in East Victoria Park, Perth, Western Australia.

Two men armed with a handgun entered the shop and demanded that the owner open the safe. The owner directed the two men to a rear storeroom and immediately ran outside, shouting at passers-by that he was being robbed. At the time, Mr Howard was at his place of work close to the shop and heard the shouting. He went outside and saw two men running away from the scene. Mr Howard immediately gave chase and was joined by another person who had also been alerted to the robbery. Realising that they were being pursued, the two offenders split up. Mr Howard and his companion continued to pursue one of the offenders until the offender's route of escape was blocked by a car that had been purposefully driven onto the footpath. This caused the offender to stop and turn, giving the car driver time to get out of his car and grab hold of the offender from behind. Mr Howard and his companion immediately went to the car driver's assistance and were able to apprehend and restrain the offender until police arrived.

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

Phone No: Work (08)9361 7760

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Andrew Wilson HOWE, 36 Topley Drive, Lewisham Tas 7173

On 14 January 1998, Mr Howe participated in the attempted rescue of four people from the surf at Frederick Bay, Carlton, Tasmania.

Mr Howe was at Carlton Beach when he noticed three people about 500 metres offshore bobbing about in a rip which was funnelling out of the river mouth into the ocean. Mr Howe alerted another person and, without regard for their personal safety, they paddled out on rescue boards to attempt to rescue of the distressed swimmers. Mr Howe was able to locate one male in the rip and pulled him onto his surfboard. Mr Howe's companion also rescued a swimmer. On their way back to the beach, they were met by another rescuer who had paddled out to join in the search. He was instructed to search the area for the two missing swimmers. Moments later, the rescuer shouted that he had located the body of a girl lying face down in the water and that he had dragged her on board. Mr Howe turned and paddled towards the rescuer and arranged for a swap of the patients. Mr Howe took the girl onto his board and immediately tried to resuscitate her. After about five minutes the girl had not responded. Another rescuer on a surfboard appeared and retrieved the girl from Mr Howe who then re-entered the water to continue the search for other swimmers.

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

Phone Nos: Home (03) 6265 8733 Work (03) 6230 8600 Mobile 0409 979 697

Mr David Wayne HURST, 6 Walgoonan Way, Ocean Shores NSW 2483

On 29 July 1998, Mr Hurst assisted in the rescue of the driver from a burning vehicle on the Pacific Highway near Burringbar, New South Wales.

The driver of a semi-trailer truck hauling plastic bottles and metal drums of kerosene and turpentine along the Pacific Highway lost control of the vehicle near Burringbar. The vehicle slammed into a guardrail causing the prime mover and trailer to flip onto its side and igniting the kerosene and turpentine in the process. Flames from the burning cargo quickly spread to the front of the vehicle and threatened to incinerate the driver. Mr Hurst and a companion were working nearby and saw the accident. They ran up to the burning vehicle and clambered up the overturned cabin to offer assistance. They saw that the driver was unconscious and that he had sustained extensive injuries. Flames were beginning to burn the back of the cabin, and containers of kerosene and turpentine on the trailer began to explode. Without regard for their personal safety, Mr Hurst and his companion grabbed hold of the unconscious driver by his arms and pulled him free of the burning vehicle. Others came and assisted in carrying the injured driver away from the vehicle that was now engulfed by flames.

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

Phone No: Mobile 0403 377 166

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Michael Paul JENKINSON, 159 Clovelly Road, Clovelly NSW 2031

On 10 January 1999, Mr Jenkinson participated in the rescue of five men from the surf at Bronte Beach, Sydney.

Mr Jenkinson was in the area of the beach when he saw a woman waving frantically from the edge of the cliffs at the northern end of the beach. Mr Jenkinson raced down to the cliff and in the sea below, saw a man attempting to rescue a swimmer who was unconscious. Both men were being tossed about in a dangerous rip. Without fear for his personal safety, Mr Jenkinson and another companion dived into the sea and, after grabbing hold of the unconscious man, attempted to swim back to shore. During the swim they were continually dunked and buffeted about by the large waves. Whilst in the water, Mr Jenkinson was able to help in attaching a float tube to the patient to keep him afloat. Other men soon joined in the attempt to get the patient to shore. Mr Jenkinson remained in the sea and participated in attempts to remove the unconscious patient to the shore until lifesavers arrived in a rescue boat. Mr Jenkinson returned to the beach and assisted in giving first aid to the patient.

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

Phone Nos: Home (02) 9326 5551 Mobile 0410 571 082

Mr Rodney Donald JOHNSON, Villa 2, 1A Barcoo Street, Leumeah NSW 2560

On 29 October 1998, Mr Johnson disarmed a woman who was slashing another woman with a sharp razor knife in a supermarket in Campbelltown, New South Wales.

Mr Johnson was on duty as the store manager when he was alerted to a fight taking place in the supermarket between two women. Mr Johnson investigated and saw that both women were on the ground with the attacker sitting on top of her victim and slashing her face, arms and abdomen with a sharp cutting knife. A male friend of the victim tried to intervene by pulling the attacker away but he too was slashed in the hand. Realising that the attacker was armed and that the victim was being seriously injured, Mr Johnson yelled out to the attacker, causing her to pause momentarily. Without regard for his personal safety, he then grabbed the attacker by the wrist and removed the knife.

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

Phone Nos: Home (02) 4626 5263 Work: (02) 4625 8921 Mobile 0407 702 809

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Todd Matthew KELLY, PO Box C69, Werrington County NSW 2747

On 25 June 1998, Mr Kelly assisted in disarming an offender at Blacktown, New South Wales.

Mr Kelly witnessed two men struggling over a rifle. One of the men was calling for help, saying that the other man was trying to kill him. Mr Kelly decided to help and, without regard for his personal safety, ran to offer assistance. As he approached the two men, the rifle was being held in a horizontal position as the two men were contesting it. During the struggle the gun barrel was swung around and at one stage was pointed directly at Mr Kelly. With the gun still pointing at him, Mr Kelly told the armed offender to put the weapon down. This diverted the offender's attention for a moment before he was set upon from behind by another man who grabbed the rifle and tried to pull it free. The struggle continued and, with others, Mr Kelly intervened to overpower the offender. The rifle was later found to be loaded with several live rounds of ammunition and the safety catch released ready to fire.

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

Phone Nos: Home (02) 9673 4891 Work (02) 9289 5100 Mobile 0412 741 674

Mr David Edwin McALLISTER, 48 Coolock Crescent, Baulkham Hills NSW 2153

On 25 June 1998, Mr McAllister assisted in disarming an offender at Blacktown, New South Wales.

Mr McAllister witnessed two men struggling over a rifle. One of the men was calling for help, saying that the other man was trying to kill him. Mr McAllister decided to help and, without regard to his personal safety, ran to offer assistance. As he approached the two men, the rifle was being held in a horizontal position as the two men were contesting it. During the struggle the gun barrel was swung around and several times was pointed directly at Mr McAllister. Mr McAllister then saw another man approach the armed offender from behind and attempt to pull the gun away. Seeing this, Mr McAllister picked up a piece of concrete and struck the offender on the head, stunning the offender and causing him to stumble. This enabled Mr McAllister and others to overpower the offender. The rifle was later found to be loaded with several live rounds of ammunition and the safety catch released ready to fire.

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

Phone Nos: Home (02) 9899 9949 work (02) 9831 7222 Mobile 0419 227 499

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Michael McCARTHY, 60 Gregory Street, South West Rocks NSW 2431

On 8 September 1998, Mr McCarthy assisted in apprehending an armed offender who had threatened him with a firearm.

Mr McCarthy was on duty as a Drug and Alcohol Counsellor at the Kempsey Community Health Centre when a male patient entered the Centre in a highly agitated state and demanding to see a counsellor. The patient was assured that a Counsellor would see him and Mr McCarthy was summoned to attend the patient. When Mr McCarthy arrived, the patient confronted him with a firearm which he pointed at Mr McCarthy in a threatening manner. Without regard for his personal safety, Mr McCarthy immediately grappled with the patient. On hearing the commotion, a worker at the Centre entered the room and tackled the offender, causing the firearm to fall to the floor. Mr McCarthy then assisted in restraining the offender until police arrived.

By his actions, Mr McCarthy is commended for brave conduct

Phone Nos: Home (02) 6566 5036 Work (02) 6562 6066 Mobile 0427 908 261

Mr Sean Timothy McCARTHY, 50 Tigerhead Road, Dodges Ferry Tas 7173

On 14 January 1998, Mr McCarthy participated in the attempted rescue of four people from the surf at Frederick Bay, Carlton, Tasmania.

Mr McCarthy was at Carlton Beach when he became aware that three people were caught out in a rip and were in danger of drowning. Mr McCarthy agreed to join in the rescue attempt. Before entering the water, he arranged for the Surf Club to be opened and additional rescue equipment to be made available. Without regard for their personal safety, Mr McCarthy and a companion entered the water and paddled out into the rip to locate the swimmers. Torrential rain was falling and the wind had picked up, creating large waves. Despite the adverse conditions, Mr McCarthy was able to locate one of the swimmers and pulled him onto his rescue board before paddling back to the beach. Mr McCarthy then re-entered the water to continue the search for other swimmers. He located another rescuer with a patient and helped them to the shore.

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

Phone No: Home (03) 6265 9036

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Stuart Ross MILES, 39 Dans Avenue, Coogee NSW 2034

On 10 January 1999, Mr Miles participated in the rescue of five men from the surf at Bronte Beach, Sydney.

Mr Miles was on surf patrol when he heard screaming from the northern end of the beach. On hearing the screams, he grabbed a rescue tube and ran to the point to investigate. In the sea below, Mr Miles saw two men attempting to rescue a swimmer who was unconscious. The three men were being tossed about in a dangerous rip. Without fear for his personal safety, he jumped into the sea and swam towards the three men with a rescue tube in tow. Mr Miles was able to attach a float tube to the patient in order to keep him afloat. Other men soon joined in the attempt to get the patient to shore. Mr Miles remained in the sea and assisted the unconscious patient until lifesavers arrived in a rescue boat.

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

Phone No: Home (02) 9665 6097

Mr Michal MOCZULSKI, 10 Tillbrook Street, Glen Forrest WA 6071

On the evening of 3 July 1999, Mr Moczulski participated in the rescue of a young girl from a house fire in Forrestfield, Western Australia.

Mr Moczulski and two of his companions became aware that a house across the road was on fire. The three men went to the scene of the fire to offer assistance and were told that a young girl was still inside the burning house. Mr Moczulski and his companions unsuccessfully tried to break down the front door to gain entry. They smashed a front window but were driven back by thick smoke. They then went to the rear of the house and gained entry through the back door. Darkness caused by a power failure also limited visibility in the house. Without regard for their personal safety, Mr Moczulski and his two companions repeatedly tried to enter the darkened and smoke-filled house but were repelled each time by thick smoke. One of Mr Moczulski's companions was able to borrow a torch and, using a shirt to cover his mouth, re-entered the burning building. Mr Moczulski also re-entered the building and headed in the opposite direction to search for the child. During the search he heard one of his companions shout that he had found the child. The child was subsequently carried to safety.

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

Phone Nos: Home (08)9298 9036 Work: (08) 9274 2949

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Mark Ronald MURNANE, Lot 1 Cudgera Road, Burringbar NSW 2483

On 29 July 1998, Mr Murnane assisted in the rescue of the driver from a burning vehicle on the Pacific Highway near Burringbar, New South Wales.

The driver of a semi-trailer truck hauling plastic bottles and metal drums of kerosene and turpentine along the Pacific Highway lost control of the vehicle near Burringbar. The vehicle slammed into a guardrail causing the prime mover and trailer to flip onto its side and igniting the kerosene and turpentine in the process. Flames from the burning cargo quickly spread to the front of the vehicle and threatened to incinerate the driver. Mr Murnane and a companion were working nearby and saw the accident. They ran up to the burning vehicle and clambered up the overturned cabin to offer assistance. They saw that the driver was unconscious and that he had sustained extensive injuries. Flames were also beginning to burn the back of the cabin and containers of kerosene and turpentine on the trailer began to explode. Without regard for their personal safety, Mr Murnane and his companion grabbed hold of the unconscious driver by his arms and pulled him free of the burning vehicle. Others came and assisted in carrying the injured driver away from the vehicle that was now engulfed by flames.

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

Phone Nos: Home (02) 6677 1627 Work (02) 6677 1099 Mobile 0414 913 143

Mr Brett James NEWTON, "Tennessee", Gilgandra NSW 2827

On 9 October 1997, Mr Newton rescued a fellow worker who had been electrocuted while servicing an air conditioner at the South Dubbo Infants' School, New South Wales.

Mr Newton was an apprentice electrician assisting in the servicing of air conditioners at the school when a fellow worker cut through a live cable and was electrocuted. The worker became "welded" to the cable and suffered severe injuries to his arm, trunk and internal organs. Without regard for his personal safety, Mr Newton charged at his companion and knocked him off balance, thus breaking the electrical circuit and saving his companion's life.

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

Phone Nos: Home (02) 6847 2972 (02) 6847 2130

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr William Andrew OLIVER, 8/5-7 Dudley Street, Randwick NSW 2031

On the night of 22 October 1998, Mr Oliver assisted in the attempted rescue of a woman from a knife-wielding assailant who had fatally stabbed her.

Mr Oliver was at a house party in Fremantle when he heard the loud screams of a woman from the house next door. Accompanied by two of his companions, Mr Oliver ran to the house to investigate. He followed his companions into the house and into the bedroom from where the screams were coming. On entering the room, he saw a man straddling the woman and striking her with his fists. One of the companions pulled the man off the woman and a struggle between the two men followed. Mr Oliver ran to the kitchen and grabbed a broomstick, which he used to strike the offender and force him off his companion. Without regard for his personal safety, Mr Oliver then joined the scuffle and with his companions was able to restrain the offender until police arrived.

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

Phone Nos: Home (02) 9314 5484 Mobile 0411 086 484

Mr Ryan Phillip PERCY, 276 Bimbadeen Avenue, Albury NSW 2640

On the evening of 3 July 1999, Mr Percy participated in the rescue of a young girl from a house fire in Forrestfield, Western Australia.

Mr Percy and two of his companions became aware that a house across the road was on fire. The three men went to the scene of the fire to offer assistance and were told that a young girl was still inside the burning house. Mr Percy and his companions unsuccessfully tried to break down the front door to gain entry. They smashed a front window but were driven back by thick smoke. They then went to the rear of the house and gained entry through the back door. Darkness caused by a power failure also limited visibility in the house. Without regard for their personal safety, Mr Percy and his two companions repeatedly tried to enter the darkened and smoke-filled house but were repelled each time by thick smoke. One of Mr Percy's companions was able to borrow a torch and, using a shirt to cover his mouth, re-entered the burning building. Mr Percy also re-entered the building to search for the child. During the search he heard one of his companions shout that he had found the child. The child was subsequently carried to safety.

By his actions, Mr Percy is commended for brave conduct

Phone Nos: Home (02) 6021 8479 Mobile 0419 495 080

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Taiehu Tuterangi PIAHANA, 49 Menora Loop, Warnbro WA 6169

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

Mr Piahana was driving in Patterson Road, Rockingham, when his wife pointed out a man being pursued by a police officer. Mr Piahana drove alongside the escapee, who pointed a gun in the direction Mr Piahana's wife. Mr Piahana stopped the car and chased after the escapee. As he ran, Mr Piahana saw another man attempting to tackle the escapee to the ground. Mr Piahana was able to help in forcing the escapee to the ground and in restraining him until others arrived. Mr Piahana forced the gun out of the escapee's grip and threw it clear of the escapee. Only then did Mr Piahana realise that the gun was a replica.

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

Phone No: Home (08) 9593 4784

Senior Constable Jeffrey Edward PIDGEON, Queensland Police Service

On 6 February 1999, Senior Constable Pidgeon rescued a man from a flooded creek in Closeburn, Queensland, and whilst still at the scene assisted in the recovery of the body of a girl who had been washed into a flooded stormwater pipe.

Senior Constable Pidgeon and a fellow police officer were directed to attend to a report that a girl had disappeared into a flooded stormwater pipe at Cedar Creek, Closeburn. At the scene, they were met by the missing girl's father who subsequently jumped into the swollen creek in an attempt to search for his missing daughter, but he was also sucked into the stormwater pipe. Senior Constable Pidgeon and his companion were able to grab hold of the man and pull him from the water. Senior Constable Pidgeon then entered the flooded creek to search for the missing girl along the rocky creek bed and bank overhangs. He continued his search about 200 metres downstream but failed to locate the missing child. He then re-entered the creek and crawled partially into the stormwater pipe and saw the body of the child trapped against the outlet by the force of the water. With the assistance of others, Senior Constable Pidgeon and a local fireman were lowered by their legs into the flooded stormwater pipe and, with their heads fully immersed, they attempted to dislodge the trapped body. After several attempts in the hazardous conditions, they were able to retrieve the body of the child.

By his actions, Senior Constable Pidgeon is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Steven Kenneth PITCHER, 25 Cobbs Road, Woombye Qld 4559

On the afternoon of 9 February 1999, Mr Pitcher assisted in the rescue of two children and two youths from the flooded Petrie Creek at Nambour, Queensland.

Two children, a boy and a girl, jumped into the flooded creek in an attempt to save their dog. They got into difficulty and were swept away; however, the boy managed to grab hold of the dog. He also managed to cling to a large gum tree, while the girl grabbed hold of a signpost. Two youths waded and swam out to the children. One of the youths grabbed hold of the signpost. The second youth grabbed hold of the dog but was swept downstream towards the Warana Bridge. Mr Pitcher tied one end of a rope to a pylon and the other end around his waist. He then entered the floodwaters and waded towards the girl and the second youth. He grabbed hold of girl and returned her safely to the bank of the river. He then re-entered the creek and assisted the youth back to the bank. The second youth and the boy were rescued by other members of the Nambour community.

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

Phone Nos: Home (07) 5442 1206 Work (07) 5441 7775 Mobile 0407 761 087

Mr Geoffrey Arthur SALT, 9 Karalee Parade, Port Macquarie NSW 2444

On the morning of 25 May 1999, Mr Salt participated in the rescue of the crew of two yachts caught in heavy seas off the coast of Port Macquarie, New South Wales

Mr Salt was a member of the crew of a rescue vessel that responded to a request for assistance from one of two yachts that were stranded in mountainous seas. Negotiating severe weather conditions, the crew of the rescue vessel were able to rescue two people from one of the yachts. During the day, sea conditions worsened and a crewman who remained on one of the stranded yachts became acutely seasick and needed to be evacuated. With Mr Salt and four other crewmen on board who were fully aware that the sea conditions were treacherous, the rescue vessel was put to sea again to retrieve the ailing yachtsman. An inflatable rescue boat (IRB) with a crew of two followed the rescue vessel to act as a back-up. On approaching the yacht, the rescue vessel encountered engine failure and was swamped by huge seas. All five crewmen were tossed into the ocean. The IRB's crew went to their aid and were able to pluck one of the men to safety before venturing out again to rescue the other four. In this second attempt, the IRB lost power and was also overturned by a large wave. Police eventually rescued all the stricken crewmen.

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

Phone Nos: Home (02) 6582 2123 Work (02) 6562 5477

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Glenn Leslie SIPPEL, 13 Alexander Street, Boonah Qld 4310

On 15 August 1999, Mr Sippel attempted to rescue a child from a house fire in Boonah, Queensland.

Mr Sippel, an off-duty fireman, was woken by shouts from a neighbour's house and on investigating saw that the house was on fire. Mr Sippel immediately called the local fire brigade and ran to the house to offer assistance. The occupant of the house told him that a child was trapped in a bedroom. He then covered himself with a water-soaked blanket and crawled through the back door into the burning house. Intense heat and dense smoke drove him back. Without regard for his personal safety, Mr Sippel re-entered the house through the front entrance. Again he was driven back by intense heat and smoke and was unable to locate the missing child. By this time, the fire brigade had arrived and Mr Sippel advised them that they should enter through the front entrance and that breathing apparatus would be required. He was also able to brief them on where the missing child could be found. Mr Sippel remained at the scene to offer advice and assistance.

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

Phone Nos: Home (07) 5463 1752 Work: 5463 1366

Mr Paul Mathew STOVE, 16 Maling Street, Eden NSW 2551

On 25 May 1999, Mr Stove participated in the rescue of two men from a fire at a block of flats in Eden, New South Wales.

Mr Stove was at home when his brother-in-law told him that the block of flats across the road was on fire. Mr Stove and his brother-in-law immediately ran to the scene to evacuate the occupants of the burning building. When they arrived on the scene, the two men encountered thick smoke and intense heat but persisted in banging on the doors of the flats, calling upon the occupants to evacuate the building. Mr Stove and his brother-in-law were able to evacuate an elderly male who was oblivious to the danger and was being overcome by smoke inhalation. Despite feeling the effects of smoke inhalation themselves and without regard for their personal safety, the two men then forcibly entered another flat where they found a disoriented elderly man who refused their urgings to evacuate the building. Realising that the man was in danger if he were allowed to remain, Mr Stove and his brother-in-law grabbed hold of him and dragged him outside to safety, despite his protestations.

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

Phone No: Home (02) 6496 1917

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Peter Frederick TAYLOR, 78A Savoy Street, Port Macquarie NSW 2444

On the morning of 25 May 1999, Mr Taylor participated in the rescue of the crew of two yachts caught in heavy seas off the coast of Port Macquarie, New South Wales

Mr Taylor was a member of the crew of a rescue vessel that responded to a request for assistance from one of two yachts that were stranded in mountainous seas. Negotiating severe weather conditions, the crew of the rescue vessel were able to rescue two people from one of the yachts. During the day, sea conditions worsened and a crewman who remained on one of the stranded yachts became acutely seasick and needed to be evacuated. With Mr Taylor and four other crewmen on board who were fully aware that the sea conditions were treacherous, the rescue vessel was put to sea again to retrieve the ailing yachtsman. An inflatable rescue boat (IRB) with a crew of two followed the rescue vessel to act as a back-up. On approaching the yacht, the rescue vessel encountered engine failure and was swamped by huge seas. All five crewmen were tossed into the ocean. The IRB's crew went to their aid and were able to pluck one of the men to safety before venturing out again to rescue the other four. In this second attempt, the IRB lost power and was also overturned by a large wave. Police eventually rescued all the stricken crewmen.

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

Phone Nos: Home (02) 6584 2056 Mobile 0419 999 451

Detective Senior Constable Allen Bruce TOWIE, Western Australia Police Service

On 5 April 1999, Detective Senior Constable Towie rescued six people stranded on rocks after their boat ran aground on Stragglers Rock, approximately eight kilometres north-west of Fremantle, Western Australia.

Detective Senior Constable Towie and a fellow police officer were on patrol when they responded to a distress call from a boat that had run aground on Stragglers Rock and whose occupants had clambered onto the rocks for safety. In the darkness, Detective Senior Constable Towie and his companion used a spotlight to help steer their vessel through the reef and to locate the stranded passengers. A combination of darkness, the rising ocean swell and wash from waves against the rocks prevented the police vessel from approaching closer than 15 metres to the rocks. Using an inflatable dinghy, Detective Senior Constable Towie was initially unable to reach the stranded passengers. However, with additional rope obtained from the police vessel, he was able to throw one end of the rope to the stranded passengers who, in turn, were able to pull the dinghy in close enough for one of the passengers to jump from the rock into it. Using another rope secured to the police vessel, Detective Senior Constable Towie pulled the dinghy to the vessel and transferred the passenger on board. Without fear for his personal safety, he returned to the rock five more times and by using the same process removed the remaining stranded passengers to safety.

By his actions, Detective Constable Towie is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Jamie Vaughn VOGELE, 2/200 Hastings River Drive, Port Macquarie NSW 2444

On the morning of 25 May 1999, Mr Vogele participated in the rescue of the crew of two yachts caught in heavy seas off the coast of Port Macquarie, New South Wales.

The Port Macquarie Sea Rescue Group responded to a request for assistance from one of two yachts that were stranded in mountainous seas. In extremely rough weather conditions, two people from one of the yachts were rescued. Later in the day, sea conditions worsened and a sailor who had remained on one of the stranded yachts became acutely seasick and needed to be evacuated. Another rescue attempt was mounted, with Mr Vogele and a companion serving as the crew of an inflatable rescue boat (IRB) that was to act as a back-up to the primary rescue vessel. On approaching the yacht, the primary rescue vessel encountered engine failure and was swamped by huge seas, and all members of the crew were tossed into the water. Without regard for their personal safety, Mr Vogele and his companion manoeuvred the IRB through heavy seas and were able to pluck one of the crewmen from the ocean. They returned the crewman to calmer waters before heading back to sea to pick up the others. In their second foray, the IRB lost power and was overturned by large waves. Mr Vogele and his companion were thrown into the ocean and were eventually rescued by the police.

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

Phone Nos: Home (02) 6584 5606 Mobile 0419 995 021

Mr Thomas Ernest VOIGT, 21 Bundaleer Crescent, Port Macquarie NSW 2444

On 8 September 1998, Mr Voigt assisted in apprehending an armed offender who had threatened a fellow worker with a firearm.

Mr Voigt was in the reception area of the Kempsey Community Health Centre when a male patient entered the Centre in a highly agitated state and demanded to speak to a Drug and Alcohol Counsellor. The patient was assured that he would be seen by a counsellor and was ushered into the waiting room. As the patient left the reception area, Mr Voigt noticed that he had an object concealed in his back pocket. When the counsellor arrived, the patient withdrew a gun from his back pocket and pointed it in a threatening manner at the counsellor who then grappled with the patient. On hearing the commotion, Mr Voigt immediately entered the waiting area and, without regard for his personal safety, tackled the offender, causing the firearm to fall to the floor. With the help of the counsellor, Mr Voigt was able to restrain the offender until police arrived.

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

Phone Nos: Home (02) 6582 5319 work (02) 6588 2721 Mobile 0427 661 279

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Benjamin Paul WALLER, 5 Ulvergerne Street, Park Beach Tas 7173

On 14 January 1998, Mr Waller participated in the attempted rescue of four people from the surf at Frederick Bay, Carlton, Tasmania.

Mr Waller was summoned to Carlton Beach to assist in the rescue of swimmers who had been caught in a rip. On his arrival, Mr Waller saw a rescuer in the water about 500 metres offshore waving for assistance. Without regard for his personal safety, Mr Waller entered the water and using a rescue board paddled out into the rip. On reaching the rescuer he was told that two of the swimmers had been rescued and that he should search for two others who were unaccounted for. Mr Waller soon located the body of a girl lying face down in the water. He pulled the girl onto his board and checked unsuccessfully for signs of life. He then called out for assistance and paddled towards the other rescuers. One of the rescuers arranged a swap of patients so that he could try to resuscitate the girl on his board while Mr Waller commenced paddling back to shore with a male patient. Another rescuer on a rescue board intercepted Mr Waller and transferred the patient to shore. Mr Waller returned to the water in an inflatable rescue boat and continued to search for other swimmers.

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

Phone No: Home (03) 6265 8410

Mr Wayne Peter WALTISBUHL, 6 Danmarann Court, Highvale Qld 4520

On 6 February 1999, Mr Waltisbuhl assisted in the recovery of the body of a girl who had been washed into a flooded stormwater pipe.

Mr Waltisbuhl, a volunteer with the Samford Rural Fire Brigade, attended a report that a girl had disappeared into a flooded stormwater pipe at Cedar Creek, Closeburn. At the scene, Mr Waltisbuhl entered the swollen creek and joined a local policeman in searching for the missing girl along the rocky creek bed and bank overhangs. They continued the search about 200 metres downstream but failed to locate the missing child. The policeman then re-entered the creek and crawled partially into the stormwater pipe and saw the body of the child trapped against the outlet by the force of the water. With the assistance of others, Mr Waltisbuhl and the policeman were lowered by their legs into the flooded stormwater pipe and, with their heads fully immersed, they attempted to dislodge the trapped body. After several attempts in the hazardous conditions, they were able to retrieve the body of the child.

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

Phone Nos: Home (07) 3289 7344 Work (07) 5499 1009 Mobile 0408 017 172

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Jamie Robert WARNER, 56 Hendry Street Tewantin, Qld 4565

On 2 February 1999, Mr Warner rescued two motorists trapped in floodwaters in Louis Bazzo Drive, near Pomono, Queensland.

Mr Warner, accompanied by two other emergency service volunteers, responded to a report that two motorists attempting to cross the flooded road in their vehicle had been washed off the roadway and were stranded in a grove of trees about 50 metres off the roadway. Mr Warner and his companions took a fibre glass boat and, on arriving at the scene, found that the two motorists were stranded on the roof of their submerged vehicle and were surrounded by fast flowing and turbulent floodwaters. Uprooted trees and other debris were being swept along in the torrent making any approach to the stranded motorists extremely hazardous. Trapped debris and trees also prevented the boat from approaching any closer than six metres from the stranded motorists. From the rescue boat, Mr Warner attached a safety rope to himself and holding lifejackets and lifelines entered the floodwaters, allowing himself to be swept along by the torrent towards the stranded motorists. In his first attempt, Mr Warner was tangled up in trees and debris and had to be pulled back. However, he was able to reach the stranded motorists on his second attempt and was able to attach a lifeline and lifejacket to each of them before they were pulled, one after the other, through the torrent and into the rescue boat.

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

Phone No: Home (07) 5474 0637

Mrs Dorothy Melba WATT, 80 Anzac Road, Trafalgar Vic 3824

On the night of 16 January 1993, Mrs Watt removed a live electrical wire from two men who had been electrocuted in Merimbula, New South Wales.

Mrs Watt and members of her family were woken by her grand-daughter's screams after she had accidentally stepped on a live electric wire. The girl's father ran outside to investigate and also stepped on the wire. He received an electric shock and was thrown to the ground with the wire laying across his chest and stomach, the shock rendering him unconscious. Another family member rushed to the man and attempted to pull the wire off him. He too received an electric shock and was thrown to ground unable to release the wire from his clutches. Without regard for her personal safety, Mrs Watt rushed to the two men and used a wooden broomstick handle to remove the wire from the two men, thereby saving the life of one of them.

By her actions, Mrs Watt is commended for brave conduct.

Phone No: Home (03) 5633 2034

GROUP CITATION FOR BRAVERY

Community group, Nambour Qld

**Mr Kerry BALDWIN,
Mr Simon John CARTER,
Mr Lynton Scott HANSON,
Mr Scott Joseph MILLS, and
Mr Steven Kenneth PITCHER,**

On the afternoon of 9 February 1999, several members of the community in Nambour, Queensland, assisted in the rescue of two children and two youths from the flooded Petrie Creek.

Two children, a boy and a girl, jumped into the flooded creek in an attempt to save their dog. They got into difficulty and were swept away; however, the boy managed to grab hold of the dog. He also managed to cling to a large gum tree, while the girl grabbed hold of a signpost. Two youths waded and swam out to the children. One of the youths grabbed hold of the signpost. The second youth grabbed hold of the dog but was swept downstream towards the Warana Bridge. Messrs Baldwin, Carter, Hanson and Mills held onto the rail of the bridge with one arm and as the youth was swept under the bridge Mr Hanson grabbed hold of him. The other three men helped to haul the youth from the flooded creek and onto the bridge. Mr Pitcher tied one end of a rope to a pylon and the other end around his waist. He then entered the floodwaters and waded towards the girl and the second youth. He grabbed hold of girl and returned her safely to the bank of the river. He then re-entered the creek and assisted the youth back to the bank. The boy was saved by Mr Carter in his small motorised aluminium dinghy, with the assistance of an ambulance officer.

Mr Kerry BALDWIN, 55 Mapleton Road, Nambour Qld 4560
Phone Nos: Home (07) 5441 1250 Work (07) 5441 3626

Mr Simon John CARTER, 8 Greenhaven Close, Nambour Qld 4560
Phone Nos: Home (07) 5476 2548 Mobile 0414 562 548

Mr Lynton Scott HANSON, 35 Raylee Avenue, Nambour Qld 4560
Phone Nos: Home (07) 5441 5131 Mobile 0412 786 794

Mr Scott Joseph MILLS, 51 Reids Road, Woombye Qld 4559
Phone Nos: Not available

Mr Steven Kenneth PITCHER, 25 Cobbs Road, Woombye Qld 4559
Phone Nos: Home (07) 5442 1206 Work (07) 5441 7775 Mobile 0407 761 087

GROUP CITATION FOR BRAVERY

Martin children, Frankston Vic

Miss Brodie Louise MARTIN, (then aged 4),
Master Saeje Kyle MARTIN, (then aged 6), and
Miss Tara Lee MARTIN, (then aged 9).

In the evening of 19 September 1999, Brodie, Saeje and Tara Martin helped to rescue their mother who was attacked by a youth as they walked home from the shopping centre in Karingal, Victoria.

The three children were walking home through bushland with their mother when a youth attacked her with a large piece of timber, forced her to the ground and put his hands around her neck. As their mother tried to resist, the children began yelling and pushing the youth, and then jumped onto his back. Their actions forced the youth off their mother. The youth then demanded money but the mother refused. After this, the youth apologised for his actions and ran off into the bushland.

Point of contact:

Mrs Sharlene Phipps (mother)
33 Burnley Street, Frankston Vic 3199
Phone Nos: (03) 9783 8803 Mobile 0413 600 625