

STAR OF COURAGE

Mr David John DOYLE, 5 Boschetti Road, Tallygaroopna Vic 3634

On the morning of 7 August 1999, Mr Doyle rescued a man from a burning vehicle near Tallygaroopna, Victoria.

A motor vehicle travelling along the Shepparton-Katamatite Road near Tallygaroopna crashed into a bridge, veered off the road and rolled onto the driver's side before bursting into flames. The driver was knocked unconscious in the accident. Mr Doyle, who lived nearby, immediately ran to the crash scene and with three other men made several unsuccessful attempts to push the car upright. They then noticed that the vehicle was fitted with an LPG tank and that gas was escaping. Realising the perilous situation, Mr Doyle smashed the rear window of the burning vehicle and crawled into the cabin to rescue the driver. Thick black smoke made breathing difficult and Mr Doyle was forced to crawl out of the car to regain his breath before crawling back into the vehicle. Through the smoke, Mr Doyle could see that the driver's seat, head restraint and part of the driver's clothing were on fire. Mr Doyle patted out the flames with his bare hands, unclipped the driver's seat belt and, with considerable difficulty, managed to drag the driver towards the smashed rear window. The three other men then assisted him in pulling the driver out and clear of the vehicle.

By his actions, Mr Doyle displayed conspicuous courage.

Phone Nos: Home & Work (03)5829 8416

STAR OF COURAGE

Mr Brian Daniel FARLEY, 140 Victoria Street, Mosman Park WA 6012

On the morning of 6 November 2000, Mr Farley assisted in the attempted rescue of a man from a shark attack at Cottesloe Beach, Western Australia.

Mr Farley was swimming with others in the sea at Cottesloe Beach when a group of swimmers approximately 20 metres away were attacked by a large shark. Mr Farley witnessed the shark tearing a leg off one of the swimmers before grabbing the swimmer a second time by his other leg, dragging him under water for about 25 metres further out to sea. The shark released the victim from its jaws and turned to attack other swimmers as they scrambled ashore. The shark bit a second swimmer in shallow water, causing severe lacerations to the swimmer's legs, and then began to circle menacingly. Despite his being well aware that the shark was still in the immediate area, Mr Farley swam out to the first victim who was now unconscious as a result of his losing a considerable amount of blood. Mr Farley grabbed hold of the swimmer and began to drag him back to the shore. As he neared the beach, other men on surf skis assisted Mr Farley in bringing the victim ashore.

By his actions, Mr Farley displayed conspicuous courage.

Phone Nos: Not available

STAR OF COURAGE

Mr Laurence Charles SAMS,

139/B Severn Street, Island Bay, Wellington, New Zealand

On 17 September 1995, Mr Sams shielded a tandem passenger after a parachute failed to open properly following a free-fall descent at the Aratula Drop Zone in Queensland.

Mr Sams was the tandem master for a first-time passenger during a regular free-fall tandem descent when, at a height of 5,000 feet, he attempted to deploy the main parachute. However, a malfunction caused the parachute to open only partially. Mr Sams carried out various planned procedures to rectify the situation, but the partial malfunction persisted. Mr Sams, therefore, decided to deploy the reserve parachute in an attempt to avoid an uncontrolled landing but this parachute became entangled with the main parachute. As a result, both men were spun around violently in a 'horizontal body' position as they continued their uncontrolled rapid descent. Realising the precarious position they were in and that their vertical speed would result in a serious risk to life, particularly for whoever impacted first, Mr Sams somehow managed to transfer the pair from the 'horizontal body' position to a 'feet to earth' position. He then instructed his passenger to lift his legs up to his chest just before landing and to adopt the fetal position; in such a position, Mr Sams hoped that he (Mr Sams) would be the person to take the full impact on landing. Also, in a last second effort, Mr Sams pulled the passenger closer to him. These combined manoeuvres resulted in the passenger landing on top of Mr Sams and receiving minor injuries only. However, in protecting his passenger, Mr Sams suffered horrendous injuries to both his legs, fractures to his cheekbone, and damage to his facial nerves. He has since had one of his legs amputated below the knee.

By his actions, Mr Sams displayed conspicuous courage.

Phone No: Home 0011 64 4 383 7693

BRAVERY MEDAL

Senior Constable Stuart Charles AVERY, New South Wales Police Service

On the evening of 20 December 1999, Senior Constable Avery rescued two people from a burning vehicle at Lisarow, New South Wales.

Senior Constable Avery witnessed a head-on collision between two vehicles on the Lisarow section of the Pacific Highway. One of the vehicles rolled onto its roof and started burning. Senior Constable Avery ran to the overturned vehicle and found both the driver and the passenger unconscious and hanging upside down, suspended by their seat belts. Senior Constable Avery smashed a door window with his torch and crawled into the burning vehicle. After some initial difficulty, he was able to unclip the driver's seat belt, causing the driver to slump down onto the roof of the overturned vehicle. Senior Constable Avery then dragged the unconscious driver out of the vehicle to a safe distance. He then returned to the burning vehicle and crawled into the cabin a second time to rescue the passenger. Senior Constable Avery unclipped the passenger's seat belt and dragged the unconscious passenger out through the window to safety before flames engulfed the vehicle.

By his actions, Senior Constable Avery displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available

Mr Kerry Lee BILSBOROUGH, 5A Doney Street, Alfred Cove WA 6154

On the evening of 14 June 2000, Mr Bilsborough assisted in the apprehension of an armed offender at Dewson's Supermarket, Canning Highway, Applecross, Western Australia.

A man armed with a sawn-off shotgun entered the supermarket and demanded money from the checkout operators. The operators complied and placed the takings from the cash registers into a bag. While moving between the cash registers, the gunman dropped the bag, causing the money to spill to the floor. As the gunman bent down to pick up the money, Mr Bilsborough grabbed hold of him from behind and held him around the neck. The store manager joined in the struggle, grabbed hold of the gun and attempted to wrench it from the offender. In the struggle, the gun discharged. Another supermarket employee was able to wrestle the gun away from the offender as Mr Bilsborough and others overpowered the offender and restrained him until police officers arrived.

By his actions, Mr Bilsborough displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (08)9317 4481 Work (08)9445 6431 Mobile 0414 274 481

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Neville John BROWNING, PO Box 6, Brighton Tas 7030

On the morning of 4 May 1999, Mr Browning attempted to rescue a woman from a house fire in Lake Crescent, Tasmania.

Mr Browning and his wife were out walking just before dawn when they noticed smoke coming from a neighbour's house. Mr Browning went to investigate and, through a glass door, saw that the carpet in front of the fireplace in the lounge was well alight and that the room was filling with smoke. Mr Browning and his wife banged on the doors and on a bedroom window to alert the occupants of the house. Mr Browning then smashed the bedroom window and entered the house. He heard the groans of a woman, but thick black smoke and the intense heat forced him out of the house. Despite this, he re-entered the house four more times in an attempt to locate the occupant, but each time he was forced back by the intense heat and thick black smoke. The conditions inside the house became so extreme that Mr Browning was forced to abandon his rescue attempts.

By his actions, Mr Browning displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (03)6273 0841 Work (03)6268 6567 Mobile 0438 500 149

Mr Martin Joseph COUGHLAN, 19 Keans Avenue, Sorrento WA 6020

On the afternoon of 24 April 1997, Mr Coughlan rescued a small child from a house fire in Heathridge, Western Australia.

Mr Coughlan was in the area of Heathridge when he was alerted to a house fire in the neighbourhood. He went to investigate and found that the fire was well established, with flames leaping out of the front bedroom window. A woman standing outside the burning building told Mr Coughlan that her young daughter was missing. Mr Coughlan and the woman twice entered the house to look for the missing child, but their searches yielded nothing. Mr Coughlan then entered the burning house a third time and heard the whimpering of the girl from one of the bedrooms. The bedroom was engulfed in darkness due to the thick black smoke and by the window blinds being pulled down. Guided by the girl's cries, Mr Coughlan was able to feel his way to where the child sat wedged between a chest of drawers and the wall. Mr Coughlan grasped the girl in his arms and carried her outside to safety.

By his actions, Mr Coughlan displayed considerable bravery.

Phone No: Home (08)9447 2398

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Lawrence John EMERSON, 31 Kalang Avenue, Ulladulla NSW 2539

On the morning of 15 June 2000, Mr Emerson rescued two people and attempted to rescue another from a house fire in Ulladulla, New South Wales.

Just after midnight, Mr Emerson was alerted to the sound of a smoke alarm in a neighbouring house. He investigated and found that the house was on fire. After his calls to the occupants of the house went unanswered, Mr Emerson smashed open the kitchen window and gained entry into the house. He was confronted by thick black smoke. Using a torch, he entered a bedroom where he found an elderly woman crouched against a wall. Mr Emerson led her outside and re-entered the burning house to continue his search for other occupants. He subsequently found the woman's husband and led him outside to safety. Once outside, Mr Emerson discovered that the woman had re-entered the burning house. Mr Emerson again entered the house, located the woman and assisted her outside. By this time the fire had taken hold and the hallway was engulfed in flames. Despite this, Mr Emerson entered the house a fourth time to search for the elderly couple's son but he was unable proceed any further into the house as the ceiling and walls had begun to collapse. The extreme conditions forced Mr Emerson to abandon his search.

By his actions, Mr Emerson displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (02)4455 5175 Mobile 0412 469 586

Mr Ilavalu FIEFIA, 47 Prince Charles Road, Frenchs Forest NSW 2086

On the morning of 11 April 2000, Mr Fiefia assisted in the rescue and attempted rescue of several people from their burning vehicles in Dee Why, New South Wales.

A truck travelling along the Warringah Road collided into the rear of another car, causing a concertina-type accident involving several vehicles. One of the vehicles, a small sedan driven by a woman with a baby strapped into the back seat and another child in the passenger seat, was crushed in the impact and became partially wedged under the bumper of the truck where it burst into flames. Mr Fiefia was nearby and, upon hearing the crash, ran to the scene where he saw the back section of the sedan burning strongly. Mr Fiefia saw the woman trapped in the driver's seat, the roof and the doors of the car having buckled around her in the impact. Mr Fiefia tried several times to pull away a section of the car roof but was driven back each time by the intense heat. Using a pinch-bar, he was able to pry open a section of the door. After dousing himself with water, Mr Fiefia reached into the burning vehicle and managed to pull the woman free. He was then told that a baby was still in the back seat. Mr Fiefia again doused himself and approached the burning car, but this time he was repelled by the intense heat and flames.

By his actions, Mr Fiefia displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (02)9452 3753 Work (02)9452 4053

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Mark Walter GILLIES, 43 Winter Street, Deloraine Tas 7304

On the morning of 13 January 1995, Mr Gillies rescued a pilot from a helicopter that had crashed and burst into flames at "Redlands", Lemana Junction, Tasmania.

A helicopter being employed on crop dusting duties caught its landing skids on powerlines, causing it to flip over and burst into flames as it crashed to the ground. Mr Gillies was alerted to the crash and drove to the scene where he found the helicopter burning fiercely and the pilot still trapped in the wreckage with his clothes on fire. Aware that the helicopter carried highly volatile fuel that could explode at any moment, Mr Gillies reached into the helicopter cabin and, after several attempts, pulled the pilot clear. Mr Gillies was able to drag the pilot away from the helicopter, and then he attempted to extinguish the pilot's burning clothing by patting the flames with his bare hands. Other farmhands arrived and attended to the pilot, who had suffered extensive burns to most of his body.

By his actions, Mr Gillies displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (03)6362 3730 Mobile 0417 387 293

Mr Alexander John HARRISON, 121 Essex Street, Wembley WA 6014

On the morning of 6 November 2000, Mr Harrison assisted in the attempted rescue of a man from a shark attack at Cottesloe Beach, Western Australia.

Mr Harrison and two fellow lifesavers were on their surf skis about 150 metres out to sea at Cottesloe Beach when they saw a large shark in the water beneath them. On seeing the shark, Mr Harrison and his companions headed back to the shore to warn swimmers of the shark's presence and to assist them from the water. Before they could do this, the shark attacked one of the swimmers and then turned to attack a second swimmer, causing severe lacerations to his legs. Mr Harrison witnessed the second attack and, with his companions, paddled towards the second victim with the intention of positioning their skis between the shark and the swimmer. Mr Harrison and his companions were then alerted to the presence of another man who had swum out to the first victim and was now dragging him back to shore. Despite their being well aware that the shark was still in the immediate area, Mr Harrison and his companions paddled out to assist the rescuer in bringing the unconscious victim ashore.

By his actions, Mr Harrison displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (08)9383 9220 Work (08)9321 3322 Mobile 0412 706 718

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Daniel KICKETT, 22 Weir Crescent, Beckenham WA 6107

On the afternoon of 28 November 1999, Mr Kickett assisted in the rescue of a man from a burning vehicle near Katanning, Western Australia.

Mr Kickett and his brother were driving along Robinson Road near Katanning when a car ahead of them left the road, smashed into a tree and immediately caught fire. The driver of the car was trapped by his legs under the collapsed dashboard. Mr Kickett retrieved two containers of water that he was carrying in his car and, with his brother, ran to the crashed vehicle and attempted to douse the fire by pouring water on the burning dashboard and the engine block where the fire was seated. They were able to douse the flames but the fire continued to smoulder, posing a constant threat of re-ignition. While waiting for a local farmer to arrive with a water truck, Mr Kickett sat in the smouldering vehicle with his brother to comfort the trapped driver and to reassure him that help was on its way. Mr Kickett remained in the vehicle until the rescue crew was able to cut the driver free.

By his actions, Mr Kickett displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available

Mr Noel John KICKETT, 59 Alvah Street, St James WA 6102

On the afternoon of 28 November 1999, Mr Kickett assisted in the rescue of a man from a burning vehicle near Katanning, Western Australia.

Mr Kickett and his brother were driving along Robinson Road near Katanning when a car ahead of them left the road, smashed into a tree and immediately caught fire. The driver of the car was trapped by his legs under the collapsed dashboard. Mr Kickett ran to the crashed vehicle and called to his brother to fetch the water that they were carrying in their car. Mr Kickett entered the burning vehicle and attempted to douse the fire by pouring water on the burning dashboard, while his brother opened the bonnet and poured water on the engine block where the fire was seated. They were able to douse the flames but the fire continued to smoulder, posing a constant threat of re-ignition. While waiting for a local farmer to arrive with a water truck, Mr Kickett again entered the smouldering vehicle and, with his brother, comforted the trapped driver and reassured him that help was on its way. Mr Kickett remained in the vehicle until the rescue crew was able to cut the driver free.

By his actions, Mr Kickett displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (08)9461 7510 Work (08)9461 7500

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Simon Peter MITCHAM, 30B Waddell Road, Palmyra WA 6157

On the evening of 14 June 2000, Mr Mitcham assisted in the apprehension of an armed offender at Dewson's Supermarket, Canning Highway, Applecross, Western Australia.

A man armed with a sawn-off shotgun entered the supermarket and demanded money from the checkout operators. Mr Mitcham was duty manager at the time and was alerted to the presence of the gunman by the screams of one of the operators. Mr Mitcham saw that the gunman was menacing the operators with the gun and demanding that they hand over the contents of the cash registers. Mr Mitcham instructed the operators to comply with the gunman's demands and to place the money into a bag the gunman was carrying. While moving between the cash registers, the gunman dropped the bag, causing the money to spill to the floor. As the gunman bent down to pick up the money, a male customer grabbed hold of him from behind and held him around the neck. Mr Mitcham grabbed hold of the gun and attempted to wrench it away from the offender. In the struggle, the gun discharged. Other people then assisted in overpowering the offender and restrained him until police officers arrived.

By his actions, Mr Mitcham displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (08)9319 9425 Work (08)9316 3533

Inspector Denis Steven PERICH, Western Australia Police Service

On the evening of 25 October 1994, Inspector Perich attempted to defuse a hostage situation at the Central Police Station, Perth, Western Australia.

A highly-agitated man armed with a sawn-off pump action shotgun entered the Central Police Station and took several police officers and civilians hostage, including Inspector Perich. Inspector Perich attempted to calm the gunman, who continued to point the shotgun in a threatening manner at the hostages. Inspector Perich was able to convince the gunman to allow all of the other hostages to leave the building on the proviso that he would remain with the gunman. Over the next seven hours, Inspector Perich endeavoured to pacify the gunman despite his being continuously threatened that the gunman would shoot him. In addition, Inspector Perich facilitated negotiations by relaying information between the gunman and police negotiators via the office telephone system. Eventually, the gunman walked outside the building, pointed his weapon at the waiting armed police officers and was fatally shot.

By his actions, Inspector Perich displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr John Christopher VERITY, 53 Cawston Road, Attadale WA 6156

On the morning of 6 November 2000, Mr Verity assisted in the attempted rescue of a man from a shark attack at Cottesloe Beach, Western Australia.

Mr Verity and two fellow lifesavers were on their surf skis about 150 metres out to sea at Cottesloe Beach when they saw a large shark in the water beneath them. On seeing the shark, Mr Verity and his companions headed back to the shore to warn swimmers of the shark's presence and to assist them from the water. Before they could do this, the shark attacked one of the swimmers and then turned to attack a second swimmer, causing severe lacerations to his legs. Mr Verity witnessed the second attack and, with his companions, paddled towards the second victim with the intention of positioning their skis between the shark and the swimmer. Mr Verity and his companions were then alerted to the presence of another man who had swum out to the first victim and was now dragging him back to shore. Despite their being well aware that the shark was still in the immediate area, Mr Verity and his companions paddled out to assist the rescuer in bringing the unconscious victim ashore.

By his actions, Mr Verity displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (08)9317 7254 Mobile 0402 332 447

Mr Gary WHYATT, Perth WA 6000

On the morning of 6 November 2000, Mr Whyatt assisted in the attempted rescue of a man from a shark attack at Cottesloe Beach, Western Australia.

Mr Whyatt and two fellow lifesavers were on their surf skis about 150 metres out to sea at Cottesloe Beach when they saw a large shark in the water beneath them. On seeing the shark, Mr Whyatt and his companions headed back to the shore to warn swimmers of the shark's presence and to assist them from the water. Before they could do this, the shark attacked one of the swimmers and then turned to attack a second swimmer, causing severe lacerations to his legs. Mr Whyatt witnessed the second attack and, with his companions, paddled towards the second victim with the intention of positioning their skis between the shark and the swimmer. Mr Whyatt and his companions were then alerted to the presence of another man who had swum out to the first victim and was now dragging him back to shore. Despite their being well aware that the shark was still in the immediate area, Mr Whyatt and his companions paddled out to assist the rescuer in bringing the unconscious victim ashore.

By his actions, Mr Whyatt displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Geoffrey Ronald ATKINSON, deceased,

Late of 1 Alvis Road, Croydon Park SA 5008

On the evening of 16 July 1999, Mr Atkinson attempted to rescue a man from the Murray River near Goolwa, South Australia.

Mr Atkinson was a passenger on his friend's boat that was travelling on the Murray River from Hindmarsh Island to Goolwa, when the owner of the boat slipped and fell overboard into the river. As those aboard the vessel attempted to turn the boat around, the man in the water called out that he was having difficulty staying afloat. In the increasing darkness, Mr Atkinson dived into the water and swam towards the floundering man. However, before Mr Atkinson could reach him, the man disappeared beneath the surface. Mr Atkinson then attempted to swim back to the boat and grab the end of a rope that had been thrown out to him, but he was unable to grasp it before he too got into difficulties. Both men drowned.

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

NOK: Mrs Ranjit Atkinson (wife)

Phone Nos: Home (08)8346 3777 Mobile 0412 828 335

Mr Graham Francis BOSCHETTI, 31 Acacia Street, Shepparton Vic 3630

On the morning of 7 August 1999, Mr Boschetti assisted in the rescue of a man from a burning vehicle near Tallygaroopna, Victoria.

A motor vehicle travelling along the Shepparton-Katamatite Road near Tallygaroopna crashed into a bridge, veered off the road and rolled onto the driver's side before bursting into flames. The driver was knocked unconscious in the accident. Mr Boschetti, who lived nearby, immediately ran to the crash scene and with three other men made several unsuccessful attempts to push the car upright. They then noticed that the vehicle was fitted with an LPG tank and that gas was escaping. Realising the perilous situation, one of the men smashed the rear window of the burning vehicle and crawled into the cabin to rescue the driver. Mr Boschetti approached the burning vehicle and, upon seeing some of the driver's clothing on fire, reached into the vehicle and with his bare hands patted out the flames on the driver's arm. Mr Boschetti then helped the other men to pull the unconscious driver out and clear of the vehicle.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Timothy James BOSCHETTI, 43 Grutzner Avenue, Shepparton Vic 3630

On the morning of 7 August 1999, Mr Boschetti assisted in the rescue of a man from a burning vehicle near Tallygaroopna, Victoria.

A motor vehicle travelling along the Shepparton-Katamatite Road near Tallygaroopna crashed into a bridge, veered off the road and rolled onto the driver's side before bursting into flames. The driver was knocked unconscious in the accident. Mr Boschetti, who lived nearby, immediately ran to the crash scene and with three other men made several unsuccessful attempts to push the car upright. They then noticed that the vehicle was fitted with an LPG tank and that gas was escaping. Realising the perilous situation, one of the men smashed the rear window of the burning vehicle and crawled into the cabin to rescue the driver. Mr Boschetti then helped the other men to pull the unconscious driver out and clear of the vehicle.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

Mr Ian Godfrey CLARKE, 50 Deane Street, Mount Barker WA 6324

On the evening of 14 June 2000, Mr Clarke assisted in the apprehension of an armed offender at Dewson's Supermarket, Canning Highway, Applecross, Western Australia.

A man armed with a sawn-off shotgun entered the supermarket and demanded money from the checkout operators. The operators complied and placed the takings from the cash registers into a bag. While moving between the cash registers, the gunman dropped the bag causing the money to spill to the floor. As the gunman bent down to pick up the money, he was grabbed from behind by a male customer who held him around the neck. The store manager then grabbed hold of the gun and attempted to wrench it from the offender. In the struggle, the gun discharged. Mr Clarke, who witnessed the incident, then joined the struggle and was able to wrestle the gun away from the offender while others overpowered the offender and restrained him until police officers arrived.

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

Phone No: Mobile 0438 512 671

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Senior Constable Stephen Ernest CREMERIUS, New South Wales Police Service

On the morning of 17 August 2000, Senior Constable Cremerius assisted in the rescue of two children from a house fire in Queanbeyan, New South Wales.

Senior Constable Cremerius was on duty at the Queanbeyan Police Station when the Station was alerted to a house fire. Several police officers, including Senior Constable Cremerius responded to the report and, upon arriving at the scene of the fire, were told that there were two young children and their parents in the burning building. Senior Constable Cremerius and one of his colleagues attempted to enter the building through the front door but were beaten back by thick black smoke and extreme heat. With the assistance of other police officers, Senior Constable Cremerius then smashed open the window to the room where the children were trapped and pulled himself up onto the window ledge from where he was able to peer into the smoke-filled room. He located one of the children on a bed. He grabbed hold of the child and pulled him to safety. Senior Constable Cremerius then climbed into the room and was able to locate and rescue the second child. He and a colleague re-entered the house through the back door to try to locate the parents, but they were forced out by the intense heat and smoke.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

Senior Constable Tracey Margaret CREMERIUS, New South Wales Police Service

On the morning of 17 August 2000, Senior Constable Cremerius assisted in the rescue of two children from a house fire in Queanbeyan, New South Wales.

Senior Constable Cremerius was on duty at the Queanbeyan Police Station when the Station was alerted to a house fire. Several police officers, including Senior Constable Cremerius, responded to the report and, upon arriving at the scene of the fire, were told that there were two young children and their parents in the burning building. Senior Constable Cremerius and another police officer entered the burning house through the front door and, by crawling on their hands and knees, they were able to proceed up the hallway. However, before they could reach the bedrooms, they were beaten back by the thick smoke and intense heat. In their retreat, Senior Constable Cremerius' colleague became disoriented. Senior Constable Cremerius shouted directions to him and waited for him until he was back in the hallway, and they left the house together. The police officers then assisted one of their colleagues to gain access through a bedroom window to rescue the two children.

By her actions, Senior Constable Cremerius is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Not available

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Constable David Lloyd FITZGERALD, New South Wales Police Service

On the morning of 1 September 1999, Constable Fitzgerald assisted in the rescue of several people from a fire in a block of units in Riverwood, New South Wales.

In the early hours of the morning, a police officer on patrol noticed flames and thick smoke billowing out from the top floor of a three-storey block of units in the Riverwood Housing Commission Estate. The police officer reported the fire and proceeded to the top floor of the burning building where he found that the fire was well advanced and had spread to the roof cavities. He then commenced evacuating residents from the building. At this juncture other police officers, including Constable Fitzgerald, arrived. Constable Fitzgerald accompanied the first police officer to the top floor of the building to search for residents. They encountered excessive heat and thick black smoke in the top landing and stairwell. Using a blanket to protect themselves, the two police officers forcibly entered one of the burning units. Thick smoke forced the men to crawl on their hands and knees, the flames damaging the blanket as they searched for any occupants. Eventually, Constable Fitzgerald and his companion were able to ascertain that the unit was unoccupied.

By his actions, Constable Fitzgerald is commended for brave conduct.

Phone No: Mobile 0418 673 811

Mr Michael Wing FONG, 1 Bushland Avenue, Forestville NSW 2087

On the afternoon of 7 September 1998, Mr Fong attempted to prevent a robbery at the Colonial State Bank, Lane Cove, New South Wales.

Mr Fong was standing at the counter of the bank when four men wearing balaclavas over their heads, and one armed with a baseball bat, entered the bank. Realising that a robbery was in progress, Mr Fong walked over to one of the robbers, who was attempting to shut the main door, and hit him over the head with the motorcycle helmet that he was carrying. The robber armed with the baseball bat struck Mr Fong across the mouth with the bat, causing extensive injuries, and all the offenders then escaped. Despite his injuries, Mr Fong was able to open the door of the bank and alert the public to the robbery.

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

Phone Nos: Home (02)9453 1878 Work (02)9420 3165 Mobile 0425 231 516

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Pietro Giuseppe GAROFALO, 22/606 Maidstone Crescent, Exmouth WA 6707

On the morning of 8 April 2000, Mr Garofalo assisted in the apprehension of an armed offender at Margaret River, Western Australia.

In the early hours of the morning, a police officer pursued and caught a man who had been acting in a suspicious manner outside a doctor's surgery in Margaret River. On apprehension, the man struggled with the police officer and produced a screwdriver which he used to threaten the police officer. Mr Garofalo, a taxi driver who was passing through the area at the time, saw the struggle and turned his vehicle towards the pair. On seeing the taxi approaching, the armed offender fled on foot. Mr Garofalo attempted to block the escape route by driving his taxi into the offender's path, but the offender ran around the taxi and continued his escape. Mr Garofalo immediately got out of his taxi and joined the chase. As Mr Garofalo closed in on the offender, the police officer called out to warn him that the offender was armed. Regardless, Mr Garofalo continued the pursuit and tackled the offender to the ground before the police officer arrived to take the offender into custody.

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

Phone Nos: Home (08)9949 1063 Mobile 0429 780 691

Sergeant Wayne David HUMPHREY, New South Wales Police Service

On the weekend of 11-12 March 2000, Sergeant Humphrey assisted in the rescue of two hikers from the flooded Williams River, Barrington Tops, New South Wales.

A group of hikers were attempting to traverse the Williams River south of the Williams River Falls when one of the hikers fell and broke his leg. Heavy rains had caused flooding of the gorge, making conditions extremely dangerous. One of the hikers remained with the injured man, while the others went to seek help. Eventually, a short break in the weather enabled a helicopter to be deployed to winch Senior Constable Humphrey and two other rescuers into the gorge. Despite the atrocious conditions, the three men were able to make contact with the injured man and his colleague. The rescue helicopter was requested and, on its arrival, a winch rope was dropped into the gorge. A member of the rescue party then secured himself in a dual harness and, with the injured man strapped in the harness with him, was winched up into the helicopter. Despite the hazardous conditions, this procedure was repeated three times to lift all personnel from the gorge. Senior Constable Humphrey assisted in the winching operations.

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

Phone Nos: Work (02)4992 3004 Mobile 0409 825 097

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Jesse IANNONE, 60 Skyline Drive, Flagstaff Hill SA 5159

On the evening of 24 December 1998, Mr Iannone apprehended an armed offender after a break-in at the West Torrens Council Office, South Australia.

Mr Iannone, an employee of the City of West Torrens, was informed of alarm activation at the front door of the West Torrens Civic Centre. Mr Iannone and a colleague proceeded immediately to the Centre and, on arrival, saw a man ostensibly talking into a phone at a desk inside the Council Office. Mr Iannone approached the intruder and requested some identification. The intruder failed to identify himself adequately and left the building, followed by Mr Iannone and his colleague. Once outside, the intruder attempted to escape but was restrained by Mr Iannone who immediately called for police assistance. The intruder then told Mr Iannone that he had a gun and made moves as though he was trying to get a gun from under his shirt. Believing that the intruder did indeed have a gun, Mr Iannone grabbed hold of the intruder's hand and a violent struggle ensued. During the struggle, police officers arrived and took the intruder into custody.

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

Phone Nos: Home (08)8358 3550 Work (08)8416 6285 Mobile 0419 859 459

Paramedic Kenneth Arthur ILES,

C/- NSW Ambulance Service, 75 Denison Street, Hamilton NSW 2303

On the weekend of 11-12 March 2000, Paramedic Iles assisted in the rescue of two hikers from the flooded Williams River, Barrington Tops, New South Wales.

A group of hikers were attempting to traverse the Williams River south of the Williams River Falls when one of the hikers fell and broke his leg. Heavy rains had caused flooding of the gorge, making conditions extremely dangerous. One of the hikers remained with the injured man, while the others went to seek help. Eventually, a short break in the weather enabled a helicopter to be deployed to winch Paramedic Iles and two other rescuers into the gorge. Despite the atrocious conditions, the three men were able to make contact with the injured man and his colleague. The rescue helicopter was requested and, on its arrival, a winch rope was dropped into the gorge. Paramedic Iles then secured himself in a dual harness and, with the injured man strapped in the harness with him, was winched up into the helicopter. Despite the hazardous conditions, Paramedic Iles repeated this procedure three times to lift the remaining people from the gorge.

By his actions, Paramedic Iles is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Home (02)4952 8002 Work (02)4921 7540 Mobile 0417 405 694

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Ronald Graham JAMES, 5/19 Anembo Road, Berowra NSW 2081

On the morning of 11 April 2000, Mr James assisted in the rescue and attempted rescue of several people from their burning vehicles in Dee Why, New South Wales.

A truck travelling along the Warringah Road collided into the rear of another car, causing a concertina-type accident involving several vehicles. One of the vehicles, a small sedan driven by a woman with a baby strapped into the back seat and another child in the passenger seat, was crushed in the impact and became partially wedged under the bumper of the truck. Mr James was nearby and ran to the scene of the accident. He could see the woman driver and a young child in the front passenger seat of the sedan. Mr James attempted to pull the child out of the vehicle, but the sedan immediately burst into flames and he was driven back. Mr James again approached the burning vehicle, leaned in through the passenger window and pulled the child to safety. Other people at the scene subsequently rescued the driver and the other child from the burning car.

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

Phone Nos: Home (02)9456 4763 Work (02)9905 0574 Mobile 0407 207 918

Mr Bradley Robert LEWIS,

Barrington Guest House, Salisbury via Dungog NSW 2420

On the weekend of 11-12 March 2000, Mr Lewis assisted in the rescue of two hikers from the flooded Williams River, Barrington Tops, New South Wales.

A group of hikers were attempting to traverse the Williams River south of the Williams River Falls when one of the hikers fell and broke his leg. Heavy rains had caused flooding of the gorge, making conditions extremely dangerous. One of the hikers remained with the injured man, while the others went to seek help. Eventually, a short break in the weather enabled a helicopter to be deployed to winch Mr Lewis and two other rescuers into the gorge. Despite the atrocious conditions, the three men were able to make contact with the injured man and his colleague. The rescue helicopter was requested and, on its arrival, a winch rope was dropped into the gorge but was carried away by the swollen river. Mr Lewis entered the river and retrieved the rope. He then anchored himself under a rock ledge to enable others access to the winch rope. A member of the rescue party then secured himself in a dual harness and, with the injured man strapped in the harness with him, was winched up into the helicopter. Despite the hazardous conditions, this procedure was repeated three times to lift all personnel from the gorge.

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

Phone Nos: Home (02)4929 1544 Work (02)4995 3212

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Senior Constable Donald Lachlan McKINNON, New South Wales Police Service

On the morning of 11 April 2000, Senior Constable McKinnon assisted in the rescue and attempted rescue of several people from their burning vehicles in Dee Why, New South Wales.

A truck travelling along the Warringah Road collided into the rear of another car, causing a concertina-type accident involving several vehicles. One of the vehicles, a small sedan driven by a woman with a baby strapped into the back seat and another child in the passenger seat, was crushed in the impact and became partially wedged under the bumper of the truck where it burst into flames. When Senior Constable McKinnon arrived at the scene the woman driver and one of the children had been pulled from the burning sedan. Senior Constable McKinnon was told that a baby was still trapped in the back seat. He attached a winch hook from his police vehicle onto the front undercarriage of the burning sedan, and then winched the sedan free from under the truck. At this point the Fire Brigade arrived and began dousing the fire. Senior Constable McKinnon was able to enter the burnt vehicle through a passenger door and retrieve the baby from the back seat.

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

Phone No: Work (02)9971 3399

Miss Joanna Louise McNALLY, Queanbeyan NSW 2620

On the morning of 17 August 2000, Joanna McNally assisted in the rescue of her two younger brothers from a house fire in Queanbeyan, New South Wales.

In the early hours of the morning, Joanna (who was 9 years old at the time of the incident) was awakened by a smoke alarm in her family's home. She immediately ran outside but, sensing the danger that the fire posed to other members of her family and showing great presence of mind and courage for someone so young, she ran back into the burning house to retrieve a cordless phone which she used to call the emergency line to alert authorities to the fire. Joanna waited outside until police officers arrived and assisted them by indicating the room where her two younger brothers were sleeping. As a result of this information, a police officer was able to gain entry to the house and rescue the two boys.

By her actions, Joanna is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Not available

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Sergeant Phillip Anthony MAHONEY, New South Wales Police Service

On the morning of 17 August 2000, Sergeant Mahoney assisted in the rescue of two small children from a house fire in Queanbeyan, New South Wales.

Sergeant Mahoney was on duty at the Queanbeyan Police Station when the Station was alerted to a house fire. Several police officers, including Sergeant Mahoney, responded to the report and, upon arriving at the scene of the fire, were told that there were two young children and their parents in the burning building. Sergeant Mahoney and one of his colleagues attempted to enter the building through the front door but were beaten back by thick black smoke and extreme heat. With the assistance of the other police officers, Sergeant Mahoney's colleague then smashed open the window to the room where the children were trapped and pulled himself up onto the window ledge. This officer was able to locate and rescue the two children. Sergeant Mahoney and his colleague then re-entered the house through the back door to try to locate the parents, but they were forced out by the intense heat and smoke. The two officers went to the rear of the house where they discovered a petrol bomb alight on top of a car in the garage. Sergeant Mahoney grabbed hold of a hose and sprayed the bomb with water until the flames were extinguished.

By his actions, Sergeant Mahoney is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Work (02)6298 0568 Mobile 0402 135 199

Mr Tony Ralph MANNO, Sydney NSW 2000

On the morning of 16 August 1999, Mr Manno pursued and apprehended an armed offender at Auburn, New South Wales.

Two female employees of a shop in Auburn were on their way to a nearby bank with the shop takings when they were accosted by a man wearing a balaclava over his head and armed with a knife. The man forcibly grabbed the bag of money before escaping. Mr Manno was working in a fruit shop nearby and saw the offender run into a car park, pursued by others. Mr Manno immediately joined the chase and eventually caught up with the offender who threw the bag of money at him and threatened him with the knife, before escaping again. Undeterred, Mr Manno continued to pursue the armed man who again stopped and threatened him with the knife. This time, Mr Manno attempted to kick the knife out of the man's hand, but was unsuccessful. He then lunged at the armed man, tackling him to the ground, and was able to restrain him until police officers arrived to take the offender into custody.

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

Phone No: Mobile 0410 520 017

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Daniel Gerard MASLEN, 1/99 Welwyn Avenue, Salter Point WA 6153

On the evening of 14 June 2000, Mr Maslen assisted in the apprehension of an armed offender at Dewson's Supermarket, Canning Highway, Applecross, Western Australia.

A man armed with a sawn-off shotgun entered the supermarket and demanded money from the checkout operators. The operators complied and placed the takings from the cash registers into a bag. While moving between the cash registers, the gunman dropped the bag, causing the money to spill to the floor. As the gunman bent down to pick up the money, he was grabbed from behind by a male customer who held him around the neck. The store manager then grabbed hold of the gun and attempted to wrench it from the offender. In the struggle, the gun discharged. Another supermarket employee was able to wrestle the gun away from the offender. Mr Maslen, who witnessed the incident, then assisted others in overpowering the offender and restrained him until police officers arrived.

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

Phone No: Mobile 0438 268 725

Mr James Charles MATTHEWS, 19 Bungonia Road, Leumeah NSW 2560

On the afternoon of 11 April 2000, Mr Matthews attempted to apprehend an armed offender in Bathurst Street, Liverpool, New South Wales.

A woman carrying a bag containing a large amount of money was accosted in a car park by a man armed with a pistol who demanded that she hand over the money to him. After snatching the bag, the armed man ran off towards a getaway car that was being driven by an accomplice. Mr Matthews heard the woman's screams and saw the armed offender running towards the getaway car. He pursued and confronted the offender as he was about to get into the vehicle. The armed offender aimed the pistol at Mr Matthews' chest and ordered him to back away, threatening to shoot if Mr Matthews did not retreat. The offender continued to aim the pistol at Mr Matthews as the car moved off. Undaunted by the threats, Mr Matthews followed the car as it exited the car park, the armed man firing in the air as the car sped away. However, Mr Matthews was able to obtain valuable information as to the offender's identity.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Chief Inspector Peter MITROPOULOS, New South Wales Police Service

On the morning of 1 September 1999, Chief Inspector Mitropoulos assisted in the rescue of several people from a fire in a block of units in Riverwood, New South Wales.

In the early hours of the morning, Inspector Mitropoulos was on patrol duty when he noticed flames and thick smoke billowing out from the top floor of a three-storey block of units in the Riverwood Housing Commission Estate. Inspector Mitropoulos reported the fire and proceeded to the top floor of the burning building where he found that the fire was well advanced and had spread to the roof cavities. He then commenced evacuating residents from the building. At this juncture other police officers arrived, one of whom accompanied Inspector Mitropoulos to the top floor of the building to search for residents. They encountered excessive heat and thick black smoke in the top landing and stairwell. Using a blanket to protect themselves, the two police officers forcibly entered one of the burning units. Thick smoke forced the men to crawl on their hands and knees, the flames damaging the blanket as they searched for any occupants. Eventually, Inspector Mitropoulos and his companion were able to ascertain that the unit was unoccupied.

By his actions, Inspector Mitropoulos is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Not available

Mrs Linda Clare OLIVER, 5 John Street, Koo Wee Rup Vic 3981

On the morning of 19 May 1996, Mrs Oliver prevented an attempted abduction of a young girl in Koo Wee Rup, Victoria.

In the early hours of the morning, a man wearing a balaclava over his head entered a house in Kee Wee Rup and carried away a young girl from her bed. As she was being abducted, the young girl awoke and started screaming and struggling with the man as he attempted to drag her along the street away from the house. Alerted by the screams, Mrs Oliver jumped out of bed and rushed outside where she saw the young girl struggling with her abductor. Mrs Oliver ran towards the man, shouting at him and demanding that he release the girl. Mrs Oliver's intervention caused the man to release the girl and run off.

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

Phone Nos: Home (03)5997 1723 Mobile 0417 552 964

Mr Troy Brendan PETTERSEN, 2/41 Bawdan Street, Willagee WA 6156

On the morning of 21 June 2000, Mr Pettersen went to the aid of an elderly lady who was being assaulted in Perth, Western Australia.

Mr Pettersen was standing outside some public toilets waiting for his female friend who had entered the toilet facility. The friend soon emerged to alert him to the fact that a woman was in one of the toilet cubicles crying out for help. Mr Pettersen immediately entered the toilet block and heard the woman crying out for help from one of the cubicles. He opened the cubicle door and saw that a man was indecently assaulting an elderly woman. Mr Pettersen grabbed hold of the man by his T-shirt and dragged him outside the toilets where he was able to restrain him until police officers arrived.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

Mr Wayne Charles RIMMER, 300 Acton Avenue, Kewdale WA 6105

On the morning of 11 January 2000, Mr Rimmer prevented a burning truck from crashing into stationary vehicles in Lesmurdie, Western Australia.

Mr Rimmer was on duty at the Welshpool Depot of the Fire and Emergency Services Authority when his crew was required to attend a vehicle accident on Welshpool Road. On arrival at the accident scene, they found a cargo truck ablaze with debris from the burning cargo causing spot fires in the scrub nearby. While the fire was being extinguished, the truck's braking system failed causing the truck to roll backwards down the slope towards stationary vehicles that had banked up on the roadway. Realising the danger posed to the motorists, Mr Rimmer raced to the truck, opened the driver's door and attempted to depress the foot brake with his hands while running sideways with the truck. The truck door was pushing against him as the truck gathered momentum down the slope. Mr Rimmer's attempts to stop the truck failed. He then grabbed hold of the steering wheel and steered the moving truck into the kerb and away from the waiting cars. In the process, Mr Rimmer was knocked to the ground and fell on some burning debris, causing him to lose consciousness and sustaining second-degree burns to his face and legs. The truck eventually came to a halt against an unattended parked car.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Master Rhys Alexander WHETSTONE,
Section 28, 100 of Finlayson, Streaky Bay SA 5680

On the evening of 17 March 2000, Rhys Whetstone sought assistance after a car accident on Gawler Ranges Road, South Australia.

Rhys Whetstone was the sole passenger in a car being driven by his mother along an isolated and unsealed section of the Gawler Ranges Road, when the vehicle collided head-on with another vehicle. Rhys (who was 7 years of age at the time of the incident) emerged from the accident uninjured but badly shaken. The accident left his mother barely conscious and very badly injured. She lay trapped under the crushed dashboard and steering wheel, and was unable to move. The driver of the other vehicle was also very badly injured and was having difficulty breathing. Realising that the situation was very serious, Rhys indicated to his mother that he was going to seek assistance. In the approaching darkness and despite the trauma he had just encountered, Rhys ran approximately 2 kilometres down the road before he was able to flag down an approaching vehicle and inform the driver of the accident. Ambulance and emergency rescue services were alerted, and his seriously injured mother was extricated from the wreckage and evacuated by rescue helicopter to Adelaide for medical attention.

By his actions, Rhys is commended for brave conduct.

Please contact through:

Ms Julie Cupples (mother)

Phone Nos: Home (08)8626 1712 Work (08)8626 1095 Mobile 0428 261 712