

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr James Brian ANDERSON, 167 Scotchmer Street, Fitzroy North Vic 3068

On the night of 16 August 2000, Mr Anderson rescued an elderly woman who was trapped in her burning home in Brunswick, Victoria.

At approximately 8:00pm, Mr Anderson noticed smoke and flames coming from a house in Brunswick, which was occupied by an elderly woman. The woman was trapped on the other side of her front door which she was unable to open because the deadlock had become extremely hot from the fire. Mr Anderson tried to force open the door but was unsuccessful. He then smashed a window near the front door and, despite the heat and flames, entered the burning house through the window but was unable to locate the woman. Intense heat forced him back out of the house. He then asked bystanders to hail down a passing tow truck to ask for a fire extinguisher, before entering the house a second time to search unsuccessfully for the woman. Meanwhile, the tow truck driver had reversed his truck up towards the house and hooked the tow cable onto the security door and ripped the door off its hinges by accelerating the truck. Once the door had been removed, Mr Anderson entered the house a third time and in the darkness was able to locate the unconscious woman and carry her out to safety.

By his actions, Mr Anderson displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available

Mrs Julia Elizabeth BEAMENT,

Kumbychants Station, Ooloo Road, Douglas Daly NT 0847

On 17 June 2000, Mrs Beament rescued a pilot from a burning helicopter that had crashed on the Kumbychants Station in the Northern Territory.

At about noon, Mrs Beament witnessed the crash of a helicopter that had been mustering cattle on her cattle station. Mrs Beament rushed to the crash scene and found the helicopter burning fiercely, with the pilot still strapped in his seat and his clothing and hair on fire. Mrs Beament approached the burning helicopter and reached into the cockpit to release the pilot from his seat belt before dragging him away to a safety. Despite suffering burns from the fire, Mrs Beament helped douse the flames on the pilot's clothing and hair before calling for an ambulance.

By her actions, Mrs Beament displayed considerable bravery.

Phone No: Home (08)8978 2431

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Alexander Keith BEITZ, 17 Beitz Lane, Glasshouse Mountains Qld 4518

On the night of 3 May 1998, Mr Beitz participated in the rescue of four climbers stranded on Mount Tibrogargan, Queensland.

At approximately 8:00pm, Mr Beitz and five other members of the Glasshouse Mountain SES vertical rescue team were called out to rescue four climbers who were stranded on a ledge approximately 120 metres up a sheer cliff face on the side of Mount Tibrogargan. At the time, the area was being lashed by severe electrical storms and heavy rain which made climbing at night extremely hazardous. Mr Beitz was one of two lead rescuers who climbed up to a cave above the ledge where the four climbers were trapped. Using the cave as a base, Mr Beitz was able to establish a rescue line above the trapped climbers and, in the darkness, abseiled 30 metres down the precipice to the narrow ledge on which the four climbers were stranded. The other lead rescuer then joined him on the ledge. By a series of difficult and complicated manoeuvres, including traversing 15 metres across a sheer cliff face in the darkness and against gusty winds and rapidly dropping temperatures, Mr Beitz and the rest of the rescue team were able to transfer each of the stranded climbers, one by one, up the cliff into the relative safety of the cave. Later, the team transferred the climbers to another cave further down the mountain from which they were all able to abseil to the base of the mountain at approximately 6 o'clock the next morning.

By his actions, Mr Beitz displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available

Mr Graeme Andrew CHEAL, 145 Clarkes Road, Beerwah Qld 4519

On the night of 3 May 1998, Mr Cheal participated in the rescue of four climbers stranded on Mount Tibrogargan, Queensland.

At approximately 8:00pm, Mr Cheal and five other members of the Glasshouse Mountain SES vertical rescue team were called out to rescue four climbers who were stranded on a ledge approximately 120 metres up a sheer cliff face on the side of Mount Tibrogargan. At the time, the area was being lashed by severe electrical storms and heavy rain which made climbing at night extremely hazardous. Mr Cheal was one of two lead rescuers who climbed up to a cave above the ledge where the four climbers were trapped. Using the cave as a base, Mr Cheal's companion was able to establish a rescue line above the trapped climbers and, in the darkness, Mr Cheal abseiled 30 metres down the precipice to join the other lead rescuer on the narrow ledge on which the four climbers were stranded. By a series of difficult and complicated manoeuvres, including traversing 15 metres across a sheer cliff face in the darkness and against gusty winds and rapidly dropping temperatures, Mr Cheal and the rest of the rescue team were able to transfer each of the stranded climbers, one by one, up the cliff into the relative safety of the cave. Later, the team transferred the climbers to another cave further down the mountain. At this point, Mr Cheal set off on his own and descended the mountain to pick up warm clothing and raincoats before ascending the mountain again to distribute the clothing. The stranded climbers and the rescue party were able to abseil to the base of the mountain at approximately 6 o'clock the next morning.

By his actions, Mr Cheal displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (07)5494 1141 Mobile 0409 660 351

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Geoffrey Edward FLETCHER, Mardawah Loop via Halls Creek WA 6770

On the evening of 19 May 1998, Mr Fletcher rescued an elderly man who was being attacked by a pack of dogs at Halls Creek, Western Australia.

At approximately 9:00pm, an elderly man was attacked by a pack of between 20 and 30 dogs, resulting in serious injury to the man. Mr Fletcher, hearing the dogs' barking and cries for help from the man, drove his vehicle to the scene to investigate. He saw the man lying on the ground and being savaged by the dogs. Realising the perilous situation, Mr Fletcher stopped his vehicle beside the man, alighted from his car and went to the man's aid. Mr Fletcher had to beat off several dogs as they attacked him during his attempts to drag the injured man into his car. However, he succeeded in dragging the man into his car, and then drove him to the local hospital for treatment.

By his actions, Mr Fletcher displayed considerable bravery.

Phone No: Work (08)9168 6524

Mr John Calvin FOOTE, 2/25 Blair Street, Bondi Beach NSW 2026

On the night of 21 June 1996, Mr Foote rescued a man who was being attacked by several armed men in an affray in Petersham, New South Wales.

At approximately 10:00pm, Mr Foote was in the vicinity of the Petersham roller skating rink when he saw about 20 machete-wielding youths attacking three men, one of whom had been hacked to death. Mr Foote entered the mêlée and called out to the attackers to stop their attack as he shielded one of the victims. A man armed with an axe approached Mr Foote and threatened him, but Mr Foote told the offender that he would not go away until the victim was left alone. Although Mr Foote attempted to protect the victim, the offenders continued to attack the victim, kicking him in the face, and then smashed the windscreen of a nearby car before making off. Mr Foote remained with the victim until the arrival of an ambulance and the police.

By his actions, Mr Foote displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Patrick Shane O'HARA, deceased,

Late of 38 Montview Parade, Hornsby Heights NSW 2077

On the evening of 23 March 2000, Mr O'Hara lost his life when attempting to rescue a colleague who had fallen from a houseboat into the Hawkesbury River, New South Wales.

At approximately 9:00pm, Mr O'Hara was with a group of friends on board a houseboat on the Hawkesbury River when one of his friends fell overboard. The weather conditions was extremely rough with a strong southerly wind blowing and the river swollen from heavy rain over the previous two days. Seeing that his friend was being swept downstream, Mr O'Hara dived into the river and swam towards his stricken friend. On reaching him, Mr O'Hara attempted to swim back with him to the houseboat but was unable to make any headway against the current. By this time, others on the houseboat had been alerted to the situation, and one of the men had launched a dinghy and had rowed out to Mr O'Hara and his friend. While trying to haul Mr O'Hara and his friend into the dinghy, the man in the dinghy fell overboard and was swept downstream and subsequently drowned. Mr O'Hara was also swept downstream and drowned.

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

NOK: Mr Albert O'Hara (father)

Phone Nos: Home (02)9987 4752 or (02)6649 7797

Mr Warren Nicholas POTTER, 1 Male Court, Broome WA 6725

On the afternoon of 18 December 2000, Mr Potter rescued a girl from the sea off Yallingup Beach, Western Australia, and attempted to rescue a man who had entered the water in an earlier attempt to rescue the girl.

Shortly after 2:00pm, a teen-aged girl who had been swimming at Yallingup Beach was caught in a powerful rip and was being swept out to sea. Her father was alerted by her cries for help and swam out in an attempt to bring her back to safety but he too was caught in the rip and found himself in difficulties. A second man entered the strong swell but, after attempting to tow the girl to the shore, became exhausted and was forced to release her and swim back to the beach. Mr Potter saw the girl and her father in the water and immediately ran down to the beach and swam out to the girl. Mr Potter was able to reach her and drag her back to shallow water where she was pulled ashore by others. Mr Potter then swam out a second time through the strong rip and heavy swell in an attempt to rescue the girl's father. He was unable to locate the man and in the process was dumped by heavy swells, at one stage he almost lost consciousness. Mr Potter was swept out to a nearby reef where he was able to recover and make his way back to safety.

By his actions, Mr Potter displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (08)9192 8885 Work (08)9192 1002 Mobile 0438 923 623

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Derek Lloyd SHELDON, 664 Burnett Creek Road, Maroon via Boonah Qld 4310

On the morning of 10 March 2001, Mr Sheldon rescued a passenger from a burning light aircraft that had crashed near Boonah, Queensland, and attempted to rescue the pilot of the aircraft.

At approximately 11:15am, a two-seater ultralight aircraft with the pilot and one passenger on board crashed and burst into flames near Boonah. Mr Sheldon was the first person on the scene and, despite the heat and the flames from the burning aircraft, reached into the burning cockpit and pulled the passenger clear. Mr Sheldon then returned to the burning aircraft in an attempt to rescue the pilot but was driven back by an explosion of the aircraft's fuel tanks and by the fire that had by now totally engulfed the aircraft.

By his actions, Mr Sheldon displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available

Mr Phillip Clayton THOMPSON, 5/7 Brudenell Drive, Jerrabomberra NSW 2619

On the night of 21 January 2000, Mr Thompson rescued a young girl from a burning apartment in Queanbeyan, New South Wales.

Just after midnight, Mr Thompson was awoken by cries for help from a teen-aged girl whose neighbouring apartment had caught fire. Mr Thompson ran to the rear of the unit and climbed onto the balcony of the burning apartment. Mr Thompson saw that the interior of the apartment was well alight with debris falling from the ceiling. His calls to the girl to get down low and crawl outside went unheeded. Mr Thompson entered the burning apartment but was forced back by the heat. He then entered a second time and ran to the bedroom where he was able to locate the girl, who was overcome with fear and reluctant to leave the bedroom. Mr Thompson persuaded the girl that they should both get out of the building as quickly as possible, and then led her through the burning apartment to the balcony from which they both climbed down to safety.

By his actions, Mr Thompson displayed considerable bravery.

Phone No: Home (02)6255 9026

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Brent Andrew WILLIAMS, deceased,

Late of 100 Fenton Street, Thames, North Island, New Zealand

On the evening of 23 March 2000, Mr Williams lost his life when attempting to rescue two of his colleagues, one of whom had fallen from a houseboat into the Hawkesbury River, New South Wales.

At approximately 9:00pm, Mr Williams was with a group of friends on board a houseboat on the Hawkesbury River when one of his friends fell overboard. The weather conditions was extremely rough with a strong southerly wind blowing and the river swollen from heavy rain over the previous two days. Seeing that the man overboard was being swept downstream, another friend dived into the river in an attempt to bring him back to the houseboat; however, the strong current of the river prevented them from reaching the houseboat. Realising their perilous situation, Mr Williams launched a dinghy and rowed out to the two men. Mr Williams was able to reach them but, while attempting to haul them into the dinghy, he fell overboard and was swept downstream and subsequently drowned.

By his actions, Mr Williams displayed considerable bravery.

NOK: Mr Robert Williams (father)

Phone No: Home 0011-64-7-8656 506

Ms Stephanie Maria WYLAARS, PO Box 616, Mount Waverley Vic 3149

On the afternoon of 7 October 2000, Ms Wylaars attempted to rescue her partner who had been electrocuted on her mother's property near Gembrook, Victoria.

At approximately 4:00pm, in between rain showers, Ms Wylaars and her partner were cutting down tree saplings when a falling tree fell onto overhead power lines, dragging the power lines close to the ground. With the tree on the ground, Ms Wylaars' partner began to walk along the tree trunk, using a chainsaw to trim off the branches. In the process he made contact with the downed power lines and was electrocuted. Realising that her partner had been electrocuted, Ms Wylaars ran to him and attempted to pull the wet tree branches away from him. In so doing, she also received an electric shock and was thrown to the ground. A short time later, Ms Wylaars was somehow released from the electric current and, despite burns to her hands and parts of her body, she crawled to her partner and attempted to resuscitate him until ambulance officers arrived.

By her actions, Ms Wylaars displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Senior Constable Peter Edmund BAHEN, Western Australia Police Service

On the afternoon of 22 February 1997, Senior Constable Bahen confronted and disarmed a man armed with a shotgun during a house search in Geraldton, Western Australia.

At approximately 4:30pm, Senior Constable Bahen led a team of four police officers in executing a search warrant on a house in Geraldton. After forcing their way into the premises, the police called for the occupants to lie on the floor to facilitate the search. One of the occupants ignored the policemen's instructions and ran down the hallway to a bedroom where he picked up a shotgun. Senior Constable Bahen had followed the man into the bedroom and saw the offender load the shotgun. Senior Constable Bahen then confronted the offender who brought the butt of the shotgun up to his shoulder and aimed the weapon at the police officer's head. Warning his police colleagues to stay back, Senior Constable Bahen advanced towards the offender, his police revolver drawn and aimed, and called upon the armed man to surrender his firearm. Advancing towards the offender in this way, Senior Constable Bahen was able to take hold of the barrel of the shotgun and remove it from the armed man before handcuffing him and taking him into custody.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

Mr Mark William BLIGHT, 8 Maude Street, Wendouree Vic 3355

On the afternoon of 9 April 2000, Mr Blight participated in the apprehension of an armed robber at a milk bar in Ballarat, Victoria.

At approximately 1:00pm, an armed offender entered a milk bar in Lydiard Street, Ballarat, owned by Mr Blight's parents, and demanded money. Mr Blight was in the family home behind the milk bar and was alerted to the robbery. A friend who was with Mr Blight at the time also became aware the robbery and ran into the shop, confronting a man wearing a balaclava and armed with a pistol. The armed man then pointed the pistol at Mr Blight's friend and threatened to shoot him. Mr Blight's friend charged at the armed man and a struggle between the two ensued. Mr Blight also entered the shop and joined in the scuffle, during which he managed to grab hold of the pistol and disarm the armed offender. Mr Blight's father eventually helped his son and friend in restraining the offender until police arrived.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Christopher Thomas BOARD, 374 Coolangatta Road, Tugun Qld 4224

On the night of 26 February 2000, Mr Board assisted in the rescue of a passenger from a burning motor vehicle after an accident at Currumbin, Queensland.

At approximately 10:00pm, Mr Board and a friend were fishing near the Currumbin Bridge when a car crashed over the bridge and landed on its roof, bursting into flames as it crashed onto the service road below the bridge. Mr Board and his friend ran to the burning wreckage and assisted another man at the scene as he tried to free an injured passenger who was suspended by his seat belt in the upturned vehicle. Parts of the car exploded, forcing Mr Board and the other rescuers to retreat from the burning car. Nevertheless, Mr Board and the other rescuers returned to the wreckage and were able to cut the passenger free and drag him to safety.

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

Phone Nos: Home (07)5521 0187 Mobile 0401 742 278

Mr Danny John BRIDGLAND, 4 Coorabin Crescent, Tallebudgera Qld 4228

On the night of 26 February 2000, Mr Bridgland assisted in the rescue of a passenger from a burning motor vehicle after an accident at Currumbin, Queensland.

At approximately 10:00pm, Mr Bridgland and a friend were fishing near the Currumbin Bridge when a car crashed over the bridge and landed on its roof, bursting into flames as it crashed onto the service road below the bridge. Mr Bridgland and his friend ran to the burning wreckage and assisted another man at the scene as he tried to free an injured passenger who was suspended by his seat belt in the upturned vehicle. Parts of the car exploded, forcing Mr Bridgland and other rescuers to retreat from the burning car. Nevertheless, Mr Bridgland and the other rescuers returned to the wreckage and were able to cut the passenger free and drag him to safety.

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

Phone No: (07)5533 9515

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mrs Dannielle Ruth BROWN, 5 Rio Court, Beechboro WA 6063

On the afternoon of 10 December 2000, Mrs Brown rescued a woman who had been caught in a rip at Trigg Beach, Western Australia.

At approximately 1:00pm, Mrs Brown was walking along Trigg Beach when she was alerted to two swimmers who had been caught in a rip and were being pulled out to sea. The sea conditions were choppy at the time with one to two-metre swells. Mrs Brown immediately arranged for the local surf lifesaving officials to be alerted to the situation and then swam out through the rip to the two swimmers. On reaching the swimmers, Mrs Brown established that one of them, a teen-aged boy, was able to swim back to shore but that the other swimmer, the boy's grandmother, was not a competent swimmer and had begun to swallow large amounts of sea water and was in a very distressed condition. The panic-stricken woman lunged at Mrs Brown several times as she tried to assist her back to shore. Surf lifesaving officials in an inflatable dinghy subsequently intercepted Mrs Brown and the woman, and the woman was pulled into the dinghy and rushed ashore. Mrs Brown swam back to the beach unaided.

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

Phone No: Home (08)9377 4856

Mr Leslie Harold BUDDE, 26 Church Street, Manangatang Vic 3546

On the morning of 25 June 2000, Mr Budde participated in the rescue of an elderly man from a house fire in Manangatang, Victoria.

At approximately 9:45am, Mr Budde and a friend were alerted to a fire in a neighbouring house. They saw smoke coming from the roof and ran to the back door with the intent of gaining entry but were confronted by a wall of thick black smoke. Mr Budde remained at the back door and called out to the owner of the house. Hearing a response, Mr Budde crawled into the burning house and located the elderly man lying on the kitchen floor, apparently overcome by smoke inhalation. Mr Budde called out to his friend who had also crawled into the building and together they were able to drag the elderly man out of the burning house to safety.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr John Richard DOBSON, 24 Rearden Avenue, Kings Langley NSW 2147

On the morning of 3 October 2000, Mr Dobson apprehended a man who had violently robbed a woman in Kellyville, New South Wales.

At approximately 9:30am, Mr Dobson was at the Kellyville Shopping Centre when he heard a woman screaming at one end of the carpark. The woman was lying on the ground and was being punched by a man who was attempting to pull a handbag from her shoulder. The woman refused to release the bag, even though she was being repeatedly punched in the face. The straps of the handbag eventually snapped and the man attempted to escape to a waiting getaway car. Mr Dobson chased the man as he attempted to make good his escape. Two other women who had witnessed the assault tackled the offender as he ran by them, and they too were punched in the face. By this time, Mr Dobson was sufficiently close to the offender to tackle him to the ground and restrain him until police arrived.

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

Phone Nos: Home (02)9624 4163 Mobile 0405 185 405

Mr Fotis ECONOMOPOULOS, 4 Gregory Street, Griffith ACT 2603

On the morning of 28 July 2000, Mr Economopoulos assisted in the apprehension of a man following an attempted bagsnatch at Manuka in the Australian Capital Territory.

At approximately 8:00am, a man attempted to snatch a handbag from a woman near an automatic teller machine outside a bank in Manuka. Mr Economopoulos, who was parking his car nearby, then saw a second man run towards the struggling couple and overpower the offender. Mr Economopoulos ran up to the offender and restrained him in a bear hug from behind while the second man attended to the woman. The male offender struggled and managed to break free from Mr Economopoulos' grip before escaping on foot up a nearby lane. Two men pursued the offender and were able to restrain him until police arrived.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Warwick Gordon EMERY, 6 Susan Avenue, Warilla NSW 2528

On the afternoon of 26 November 2000, Mr Emery apprehended an armed intruder at Warilla, New South Wales.

At approximately 4:00pm, Mr Emery was alerted by the screams of one of his neighbours. As he went to investigate, he saw an intruder walking through his yard, having just jumped over the fence from a neighbouring house from where the screams originated. Mr Emery confronted the intruder who attempted to push past him to make good his escape. Mr Emery attempted a citizen's arrest and a struggle ensued between the two men, resulting in Mr Emery succeeding in overpowering the intruder and pinning him to the ground. The offender then complained that he was having difficulty breathing and asked Mr Emery to release him. On getting to his feet the intruder produced a pair of scissors that he used to stab Mr Emery several times in the neck, legs and stomach. Despite his having been stabbed repeatedly, Mr Emery again struggled with the intruder and, with the assistance of a neighbour, overpowered and disarmed the intruder who was taken into police custody.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

Mrs Ann Katherine FOXX, 94B Roberta Street, Greystanes NSW 2145

On the morning of 3 October 2000, Mrs Foxx assisted in the apprehension of a man who had violently robbed a woman in Kellyville, New South Wales.

At approximately 9:30am, Mrs Foxx was with her sister in a car at the Kellyville Shopping Centre when she heard a woman screaming at one end of the carpark. The woman was lying on the ground and was being punched by a man who was attempting to pull a handbag from her shoulder. The woman refused to release the bag, even though she was being repeatedly punched in the face. The straps of the handbag eventually snapped and the man attempted to escape to a waiting getaway car. Mrs Foxx's sister alighted from her car and ran towards the attacker who immediately turned on her and began punching her. Mrs Foxx then jumped out of the car and tackled the man who punched her in the face. The offender then attempted to escape but was tackled to the ground by another man who was able to restrain him until police arrived.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Elvin Gordon GEORGE, 137 Gunnalunga Drive, Doomadgee Qld 4830

On the morning of 12 March 2000, Mr George rescued a girl who had fallen into the Nicholson River near Doomadgee, Queensland.

At approximately 11:00am, Mr George was near the weir on the Nicholson River when a young girl, who was fishing from the weir, slipped and fell into the fast flowing and swirling river. On seeing the girl fall into the river, Mr George ran down to the bank and saw the girl floundering in the water and being swept downstream. Mr George immediately entered the river and swam out to the girl. He grabbed hold of her and assisted her back to the weir where others were able to pull her to safety.

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

Phone No: (07)4745 8211

Mr Wayne Ross HENDERSON, 6/85 Jersey Street, Hornsby NSW 2077

On the evening of 23 March 2000, Mr Henderson rescued a colleague who had fallen from a houseboat into the Hawkesbury River, New South Wales.

At approximately 9:00pm, Mr Henderson was with a group of friends on board a houseboat on the Hawkesbury River when one of his friends fell overboard. The weather conditions was extremely rough with a strong southerly wind blowing and the river swollen from heavy rain over the previous two days. Another colleague dived into the water in an attempt to rescue the friend and both men were swept away from the houseboat in the darkness. Yet another friend, realising their perilous situation, launched a dinghy and rowed out to the two men. He was able to reach them but, while attempting to haul them into the dinghy, he fell overboard and was swept downstream with the others. Mr Henderson started up the vessel's engine and steered the houseboat in the direction of where his friends had been swept away. Using torchlight, he was able to locate one of the men, dived into the water and pulled him to safety.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Mervyn Lloyd HIXON, Inverell Motel, 49-57 Otho Street, Inverell NSW 2360

On the evening of 20 February 2001, Mr Hixon attempted to intercept an armed robber during a hold-up at a motel coffee shop in Toowoomba, Queensland.

At approximately 8:30pm, a man armed with a rifle entered the Amble Inn Coffee Shoppe in Ruthven Street, Toowoomba, and held up two women employees. The armed man pointed the rifle at the women and demanded that they fill a bag with the day's takings. The women's screams alerted Mr Hixon who was in another part of the building. Hearing their screams, Mr Hixon went to investigate but, on entering the kitchen, he was confronted by the armed offender. The offender pointed the rifle at Mr Hixon and demanded that he back off. Mr Hixon complied with the man's orders and retreated a few steps, calling out to the women to leave the kitchen through another door. As the armed man escaped, he fired a shot at Mr Hixon, wounding him in the right shoulder, before turning and running across the street. Mr Hixon pursued the armed man out of the coffee shop and up the street before losing sight of him in the darkness.

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

Phone Nos: Home (02)6722 2077 Mobile 0418 718 894

Mr Francis Henry HOLDSWORTH, 11 Church Street, Manangatang Vic 3546

On the morning of 25 June 2000, Mr Holdsworth participated in the rescue of an elderly man from a house fire in Manangatang, Victoria.

At approximately 9:45am, Mr Holdsworth and a friend were alerted to a fire in a neighbouring house. They saw smoke coming from the roof and ran to the back door with the intent of gaining entry but were confronted by a wall of thick black smoke. Leaving his friend at the back door, Mr Holdsworth ran to the front door and crawled into the burning house in search of the elderly occupant. Mr Holdsworth heard his friend call out that he had located the elderly man lying on the kitchen floor and together they were able to drag him out of the burning house to safety.

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

Phone No: Home (03)5035 1038

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Nicholas Lauder JENKINS, 79 San Javier Circle, Secret Harbour WA 6173

On the morning of 4 October 2000, Mr Jenkins rescued a young man from the sea at Secret Harbour, Western Australia.

At approximately 10:15am, Mr Jenkins became aware that a young man, who had been surfing with friends at Secret Harbour, had become caught in a rip and had been dragged out to sea where he remained stranded on his surfboard in treacherous conditions about one kilometre from the shore. The conditions at the time were squally swells of up to three metres. Mr Jenkins volunteered to paddle out on a surfboard to rescue the youth. With the aid of a rescue aircraft circling overhead, he was able to locate the youth and transfer him onto his surfboard before commencing the arduous return trip to shore through the strong rip. Eventually, Mr Jenkins was able to reach the shore some three kilometres south of his original point of entry.

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

Phone Nos: Home (08)9524 8717 Work (08)9581 5522 Mobile 0414 587 061

Miss Tennealle Xanthe JOHNSON-ROLL,
132A Abbott Road, North Curl Curl NSW 2099

On the afternoon of 25 April 2000, Miss Johnson-Roll attempted to rescue her grandfather who had fallen into the Hawkesbury River, New South Wales.

At approximately 4:30pm, Miss Johnson-Roll (who was 9 years old at the time) and her grandfather were boating on the Hawkesbury River in a powered aluminum dinghy when her grandfather fell overboard. The grandfather called out to her to stop the boat but, not knowing how to, Miss Johnson Roll jumped into the river and swam over to her grandfather. She grabbed hold of him and attempted to pull him towards the shore approximately 150 metres away. After several unsuccessful attempts, the grandfather told her that he would float on his back while she swam ashore to seek help. Swimming against the tide in the rapidly fading daylight, Miss Johnson-Roll eventually made it to shore and was able to flag down a passing motorist and raise the alarm. Tragically, her grandfather drowned.

By her actions, Miss Johnson-Roll is commended for brave conduct.

Please contact through Mrs Suzanne Johnson-Roll (mother)
Phone Nos: Home (02)9907 2539 Work (02)9633 5544 Mobile 0419 465 112

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Michael Geoffrey KEEN, 19 Swanbourne Way, Elanora Qld 4221

On the night of 26 February 2000, Mr Keen assisted in the rescue of a passenger from a burning motor vehicle after an accident at Currumbin, Queensland.

At approximately 10:00pm, Mr Keen was fishing near the Currumbin Bridge when a car crashed over the bridge and landed on its roof, bursting into flames as it crashed onto the service road below the bridge. Mr Keen ran to the burning wreckage and attempted to release an injured passenger who was suspended by his seat belt in the upturned vehicle. Two other men joined Mr Keen, and all three attempted to free the passenger. Parts of the car exploded, forcing Mr Keen and the other rescuers to retreat from the burning car. Nevertheless, Mr Keen and the other rescuers returned to the wreckage and were able to cut the passenger free and drag him to safety.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

Miss Lorraine Barbra KEEVERS, 94B Roberta Street, Greystanes NSW 2145

On the morning of 3 October 2000, Miss Keevers assisted in the apprehension of a man who had violently robbed a woman in Kellyville, New South Wales.

At approximately 9:30am, Miss Keevers was with her sister in a car at the Kellyville Shopping Centre when she heard a woman screaming at one end of the carpark. The woman was lying on the ground and was being bashed by a man who was attempting to pull a handbag from her shoulder. The woman refused to release the bag, even though she was being repeatedly punched in the face. The straps of the handbag eventually snapped and the man attempted to escape to a waiting getaway car. Miss Keevers jumped from her car and ran towards the attacker who immediately turned on her and began punching her in the face. Miss Keevers' sister then joined the affray and she too was punched. The offender then attempted to escape but was tackled by another man who was able to restrain him until police arrived.

By her actions, Miss Keevers is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Not available

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Peter Anthony KIRK, 12 Emma Street, Carrum Vic 3197

On the morning of 28 July 2000, Mr Kirk assisted in the apprehension of a man following an attempted bagsnatch at Manuka in the Australian Capital Territory.

At approximately 8:00am, Mr Kirk and a work colleague were in Bougainville Street, Manuka, when Mr Kirk heard the screams of a woman trying to fend off a male offender who was attempting to snatch her handbag. Mr Kirk ran towards the struggling couple, knocking both the offender and the woman to the ground where he was able to restrain the offender until another man came to his assistance. Mr Kirk then attended to the woman on the ground, but the offender broke free and escaped up a nearby lane. Mr Kirk and his work colleague pursued the offender and restrained him until police arrived.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

Detective Senior Constable Gary Dene KRUGER, Queensland Police Service

On the afternoon of 20 November 1997 at the Netanya Resort, Noosa Heads, Queensland, Detective Senior Constable Kruger disarmed an offender armed with a shotgun.

At approximately 1:00pm, Detective Senior Constable Kruger and another policeman executed a search warrant at a unit at the Netanya Resort, Noosa Heads. The search yielded a substantial sum of money and a quantity of needles and syringes. During the search, the occupant of the unit produced a shotgun and pointed it at Detective Senior Constable Kruger, threatening to shoot him. Detective Senior Constable Kruger lunged at the gunman and grabbed hold of the barrel of the shotgun with both hands, forcing the barrel away from him. A violent struggle between the police officer and the armed man ensued, during which the weapon was discharged. Detective Senior Constable Kruger's colleague, who was in another room, heard the weapon discharge and immediately ran into the room and helped Detective Senior Constable Kruger to overpower and disarm the gunman.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Joshua Stuart LUCAS, Lot 1 Clover Hill Road, Jamberoo NSW 2533

On the afternoon of 26 April 1999, Mr Lucas rescued a woman after she was caught in a rip at Main Beach, Kiama, New South Wales.

At approximately 12:30pm, Mr Lucas was at the northern end of Main Beach when he saw two of his friends enter the surf to rescue a woman and two young boys who were in distress and in danger of being dragged out to sea by a rip. Mr Lucas saw his two friends reach the woman and the two boys, but they were being dumped by large waves and were also being pulled out to sea by the strong rip. Mr Lucas entered the water on his surfboard and, despite the surf and the strong rip, paddled out towards the people. In the surf he saw the woman float by him, apparently unconscious. Mr Lucas lifted the woman onto his surfboard and held on to her as large waves crashed over him. Despite being continuously dumped by the large waves, Mr Lucas managed to keep the woman on his surfboard and called out for help. A rescue boat arrived about 15 minutes later and Mr Lucas and the unconscious woman were transferred into the boat. Mr Lucas then assisted in attempts to resuscitate the woman en route to the shore.

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

Phone Nos: Home (02)4237 7719 Work (02)4236 0123

Mr Mark McGARRIGLE, 47 Beach Street, Woolgoolga NSW 2456

On the evening of 1 January 2001, Mr McGarrigle rescued a man from an oncoming train at Flemington Railway Station, Sydney, New South Wales.

At approximately 8:00pm, a man lost his balance and fell from the platform at the Flemington Railway Station onto the railway tracks. Mr McGarrigle was alerted to the situation and, upon investigation, found that the man had injured his foot and was having difficulty standing up. Realising that the man was in danger of being hit by a fast approaching train, Mr McGarrigle jumped onto the tracks and dragged the injured man to a safe area just eight seconds before the train passed by. After the train had cleared, Mr McGarrigle assisted the man back onto the platform.

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

Phone Nos: Home (02)9631 3592 Work (02)9752 8432 Mobile 0421 505 017

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Miss Danielle Lea MINERS, 71 Bowral Street, Welby NSW 2575

On the night of 25 December 1999, Miss Miners rescued three small children from a house fire at Moss Vale, New South Wales.

At approximately 8:30pm, Miss Miners (who was 10 years old at the time) was watching a video in the lounge room of her home. Also in the room were her 3 years' old brother and her two cousins, aged 2 years and 8 months respectively. Her mother was outside tending to horses in a paddock. Miss Miners heard the walls of the lounge room crackling and smelled something burning. She then saw flames coming out of the walls and ceiling and realised that the house was on fire. She immediately picked up her younger cousin and told her brother to go outside with her to a shed in the backyard where she left the two children. Miss Miners then entered the burning house to pick up the elder cousin and carry her safely out of the house. After ensuring that the children were safe, Miss Miners then alerted her mother to the fire.

By her actions, Miss Miners is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Not available

Mr Curtis MITCHELL, Doomadgee Qld 4830

On the afternoon of 5 September 2000, Mr Mitchell rescued a man from a burning caravan at Doomadgee, Queensland.

At approximately 3:00pm, Mr Mitchell was near the Doomadgee Caravan Park when he saw a caravan and its adjoining annex engulfed in flames. The owner of the caravan had earlier entered the burning building to rescue his dogs and in the process was trapped by the flames and collapsing parts of the annex. Seeing the fire, Mr Mitchell ran towards the burning caravan and tried to crawl under a cyclone fence that surrounded the caravan but was driven back by the intense heat. Meanwhile, sections of the burning roof had collapsed onto the caravan's owner, causing his shirt to catch fire. Mr Mitchell then entered the burning caravan where he was able to locate the owner and drag him to safety.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Nathan Craig PEGLER, 4 Eustace Street, Wendouree Vic 3355

On the afternoon of 9 April 2000, Mr Pegler participated in the apprehension of an armed robber at a milk bar in Ballarat, Victoria.

At approximately 1:00pm, an armed offender entered a milk bar in Lydiard Street, Ballarat, and demanded money. Mr Pegler was in the owner's family home behind the milk bar and was alerted to the robbery. Mr Pegler ran into the shop and confronted a man wearing a balaclava and armed with a pistol. The armed man then pointed the pistol at him and threatened to shoot him. Mr Pegler charged at the armed man and a struggle between the two ensued. During the struggle the son of the milk bar's owner also entered the shop and joined in the scuffle, resulting in the man being disarmed. With the help of the milk bar's owner, the armed offender was eventually overpowered and restrained until police arrived.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

Mr Jason Gregory RAMSAY, 1/5 Ovata Drive, Tullamarine Vic 3043

On the morning of 28 July 2000, Mr Ramsay assisted in the apprehension of a man following an attempted bagsnatch at Manuka in the Australian Capital Territory.

At approximately 8:00am, Mr Ramsay was working in Bougainville Street, Manuka, when he was alerted to a scuffle outside a bank. Upon investigating, Mr Ramsay saw an elderly man restraining another man, while a work colleague of Mr Ramsay was attending to a woman lying on the ground. Mr Ramsay saw the male offender break free and escape up a nearby lane. Mr Ramsay pursued the offender up the lane where he eventually caught up with him and, with the assistance of his work colleague, restrained him until police arrived.

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

Phone No: Mobile 0411 439 126

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Seyed Hesomaldin RAZAVI, 71 Tain Street, Ardross WA 6153

On the afternoon of 18 December 2000, Mr Razavi attempted to rescue a girl from the sea off Yallingup Beach, Western Australia.

Shortly after 2:00pm, a teen-aged girl who had been swimming at Yallingup Beach was caught in a powerful rip and was being pulled out to sea. Her father was alerted by her cries for help and swam out in an attempt to drag her back to safety but he too was caught in the rip and found himself in difficulties. Mr Razavi was on the beach and heard the girl's cries for help. He swam out to her and attempted to tow her back to the beach. With the girl in tow, Mr Razavi made little headway against the heavy seas and the strong rip. Becoming exhausted, he was compelled to release the girl and swim back to shore. The girl was subsequently pulled from the sea by another swimmer.

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

Phone Nos: Home (08)9316 3885 Mobile 0411 777 678

Mr Robert James STEGGALL, 3 Glenray Avenue, Caloundra Qld 4551

In the early evening of 4 September 2000, Mr Steggall rescued a youth who had been washed out to sea at Moffatt Beach, Queensland.

At approximately 5:40pm, Mr Steggall was with a group of fellow students at a barbecue at the Moffatt Beach Park when two of the students, who were swimming in the surf, were caught in a rip and swept approximately 200 metres out to sea. In the failing light, Mr Steggall swam out to rescue them. He reached one of the students and was able to guide him around the rip towards the shore where others assisted them to safety. The other student managed to swim back to the beach unassisted.

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

Phone Nos: Home (07)5491 4828 Work (07)5499 5109 Mobile 0418 710 961

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr David John TOPLISS, 37 Codrington Street, Barnsley NSW 2278

On the afternoon of 8 May 2001, Mr Topliss attempted to rescue a man after a car was washed off the flooded causeway at Barnsley Weir, New South Wales.

At approximately 4:45pm, Mr Topliss witnessed an elderly man attempt to drive his car across the flooded causeway at Barnsley Weir. Extremely heavy rain in the region had caused flooding with extreme swelling of the waterways and the Barnsley Weir causeway was flooded to a depth of about one metre. Immediately upon entering the water the car was swept off the causeway into the torrent and began floating downstream for a short distance before becoming totally submerged. Mr Topliss drove his vehicle down by the floodwater to a point where the other vehicle had disappeared, and twice dived into the turbulent water to search for the vehicle. Unfortunately, he was unable to locate either the vehicle or the driver.

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

Phone Nos: Home (02)4953 3720 Mobile 0402 353 720

Detective Sergeant Paul Alexander ZOHN, Queensland Police Service

On the afternoon of 20 November 1997 at the Netanya Resort, Noosa Heads, Queensland, Detective Sergeant Zohn assisted in the disarming of an offender armed with a shotgun.

At approximately 1:00pm, Detective Sergeant Zohn and another policeman executed a search warrant at a unit at the Netanya Resort, Noosa Heads. The search yielded a substantial sum of money and a quantity of needles and syringes. During the search, the occupant of the unit produced a shotgun and pointed it at Detective Sergeant Zohn's colleague. Detective Sergeant Zohn, who was in another room at the time, was not aware of the man's threat to shoot his colleague and of the ensuing struggle between the offender and the police officer. Detective Sergeant Zohn heard the weapon discharge and immediately ran into the room and assisted his colleague to overpower and disarm the gunman.

By his actions, Detective Sergeant Zohn is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Not available

GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

Members of the Glasshouse Mountains SES vertical rescue team

Mr Alexander Keith BEITZ,
Mr Anthony Michael BORG,
Mr Graeme Andrew CHEAL,
Mrs June Anne FRISKE,
Mr Neil Rodney HALPIN, PSM, and
Mr Louis James SPANN

On the night of 3 May 1998, several members of the Glasshouse Mountains SES vertical rescue team participated in the rescue of four climbers stranded on Mount Tibrogargan, Queensland.

At approximately 8:00pm, members of the Glasshouse Mountain SES vertical rescue team were called out to rescue four climbers who were stranded on a ledge approximately 120 metres up a sheer cliff face on the side of Mount Tibrogargan. At the time, the area was being lashed by severe electrical storms and heavy rain which made climbing at night extremely hazardous. Members of the rescue team climbed up to a cave above the ledge on which the four climbers were trapped. Using the cave as a base, the team members were able to establish a rescue line above the trapped climbers and, in the darkness, two of the rescuers supported by others in the team abseiled 30 metres down the precipice to the narrow ledge. By a series of difficult and complicated manoeuvres, including traversing 15 metres across a sheer cliff face in the darkness and against gusty winds and rapidly dropping temperatures, the rescuers were able to transfer each of the stranded climbers, one by one, up the cliff into the relative safety of the cave. Later, the team transferred the climbers to another cave further down the mountain from which they were all able to abseil to the base of the mountain at approximately 6 o'clock the next morning.

Mr Alexander Keith BEITZ, 17 Beitz Lane, Glasshouse Mountains Qld 4518
Phone Nos: Not available

Mr Anthony Michael BORG, 112 Yeates Road, Beerwah Qld 4519
Phone Nos: Home (07)5494 6714 Work (07)5494 0362

Mr Graeme Andrew CHEAL, 145 Clarkes Road, Beerwah Qld 4519
Phone Nos: Home (07)5494 1141 Mobile 0409 660 351

Mrs June Anne FRISKE, 34 Coonowrin Road, Glasshouse Mountains Qld 4518
Phone No: Home (07)5493 0408

Mr Neil Rodney HALPIN, PSM, 48 Pine Camp Road, Beerwah Qld 4519
Phone Nos: Home (07)5494 6853 Work (07)5496 0166 Mobile 0428 757 018

Mr Louis James SPANN, 17 Hargrave Street, Morayfield Qld 4506
Phone Nos: Home (07)5433 0377 Work (07)5496 9205 Mobile 0438 389 998