

## **STAR OF COURAGE**

### **Mr Sandro DE MARIA, Reservoir Vic 3073**

On the morning of 16 July 2001, Mr De Maria participated in the apprehension of an armed offender at the Fertility Control Clinic situated in East Melbourne, Victoria.

At approximately 10:10am, a man carrying a hessian shopping bag and another carry bag containing chains, locks, metal bars and pieces of rope, entered the reception area of the clinic. After a brief verbal exchange with the security guard, the man produced a Winchester rifle from the hessian bag and fired a single shot, fatally injuring the guard, and then swung the weapon around in an arc towards Mr De Maria and his female partner who were also in the reception area. As the weapon was pointing in the direction of his partner, and believing that the gunman was about to shoot, Mr De Maria lunged at the offender and grabbed hold of the barrel of the rifle with both hands. He forced the weapon upwards, and a struggle ensued in which the rifle was discharged into the ceiling. Mr De Maria fought with the offender to gain control of the weapon. After an extended struggle during which time another man had come to Mr De Maria's assistance, the offender was overpowered and disarmed, and held to the floor until police officers arrived.

By his actions, Mr De Maria displayed conspicuous courage.

Phone Nos: Not available

### **Miss Katie Louise STEADMAN, Calamvale Qld 4116**

On the morning of 10 September 2000, Miss Steadman assisted in the rescue and attempted rescue of three young children from a house fire in Calamvale, Queensland.

At approximately 6:30am, Miss Steadman was occupying a house with her sister and her sister's three children, two boys and a girl, when a fire broke out. She awoke to the screams of her young niece, and found the house being consumed by thick black smoke. Miss Steadman assisted her sister to locate and drag the boys outside to safety, and then ran back into the blazing house in a desperate attempt to save her niece. By this time the fire had engulfed the lounge room and, subsequently, ignited the whole house. Miss Steadman searched frantically through the house for her niece and, observing her in the lounge room, got down on her stomach and crawled under the smoke and flames in an attempt to reach her. Miss Steadman continued to make her way through the flames but she was eventually overcome by the intense heat and smoke and forced to retreat from the house. Miss Steadman sustained severe burns and was transferred to hospital where she underwent extensive medical treatment and rehabilitation.

By her actions, Miss Steadman displayed conspicuous courage.

Phone Nos: Home (07)3273 1423 Work (07)3223 5000 Mobile 0408 700 187

## **STAR OF COURAGE**

**Mr Stephen Richard THOMAS, Glengowrie SA 5044**

On the morning of 4 February 2000, Mr Thomas rescued a friend who was being repeatedly attacked by a shark near Point Sinclair, South Australia.

Mr Thomas and his friend, who were on a surfing holiday, had been surfing for a couple of hours when they decided to swim back to shore. The pair was about 400 metres off shore, when Mr Thomas' friend was attacked by a 3-metre shark and thrashed about in the water. Mr Thomas paddled over on his surfboard and jumped onto the shark's back, hitting and punching it in an effort to make it release its grip on his friend. As this had little effect, Mr Thomas grabbed and pulled back on the shark's snout and gouged the shark in the eyes repeatedly with his thumbs until the shark released his friend. He then pulled their surfboards together to form a makeshift raft and laid his severely injured friend across them. The shark attacked a second time, ramming the two surfers from beneath the surfboards and knocking them into the water. With Mr Thomas struggled to get his friend safely to the shore, the shark directed its attention towards him but Mr Thomas was able to jam the side of his surfboard into the shark's mouth. At this stage, Mr Thomas' friend had become very weak from the loss of blood and was unable to evade the shark when it attacked yet again. Despite this, Mr Thomas was able to get his friend back onto the remaining surfboard, and pushed him another 300 metres to the shore. Upon reaching the shore Mr Thomas dragged his friend up the beach, administered some basic first aid, and enlisted the help of two other surfers to get him into his car. He then drove to Ceduna from where his friend was subsequently transferred to hospital by ambulance.

By his actions, Mr Thomas displayed conspicuous courage.

Phone Nos: Home (08)8294 2202 Work (08)8344 6609

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Timothy James ANDERSON**, Upper Beaconsfield Vic 3808

On the morning of 16 July 2001, Mr Anderson participated in the apprehension of an armed offender at the Fertility Control Clinic situated in East Melbourne, Victoria.

At approximately 10:10am, a man carrying a hessian shopping bag and another carry bag containing chains, locks, metal bars and pieces of rope, entered the reception area of the clinic. After a brief verbal exchange with the security guard, the man produced a Winchester rifle from the hessian bag and fired a single shot, fatally injuring the guard, and then swung the weapon around in an arc towards a woman and her male partner who were also in the reception area. The woman's partner lunged at the offender and grabbed hold of the barrel of the rifle with both hands. He forced the weapon upwards, and a struggle ensued in which the rifle was discharged into the ceiling. Mr Anderson, who was in the waiting room adjacent to the reception area, responded to a call for help from the woman's partner and came to his assistance. Advancing towards the offender, Mr Anderson grabbed hold of the rifle and was able to disarm him. He then joined the woman's partner in grappling with the offender and, after an extended struggle, the two men overpowered the offender and wrestled him to the floor where he was held until police officers arrived.

By his actions, Mr Anderson displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available

**Mr Antonio Beltran CABRERA**, Frenchs Forest NSW 2086

On the morning of 14 January 1987, Mr Cabrera assisted in the rescue of a colleague who was involved in an industrial accident at a tanning factory in Botany, New South Wales.

At approximately 11:00am, Mr Cabrera was working at the factory when he became aware that a colleague, who had been working in a covered 3-metre deep sedimentation pit, had been overcome by chemical fumes. Another worker had already attempted to reach the victim, but he had been forced to retreat due to the high concentration of hydrogen sulphide gas which had brought him close to losing consciousness. While other workers were reluctant to risk exposure to the harmful fumes, Mr Cabrera grabbed a ladder and rope and entered the top of the pit through a small manhole doorway. He descended to the bottom of the pit, located the victim lying face down in the water and mud and tied the rope around him. Realising that he was being overwhelmed by the fumes himself, Mr Cabrera climbed up and out of the pit with some difficulty and passed an end of the rope to several co-workers. They then hauled the injured man from the pit and mouth-to-mouth resuscitation was applied. The man was later transferred to hospital.

By his actions, Mr Cabrera displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (02)9975 1580 Work (02)9975 7766

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

### **Mr Noel John DAVIS, McGraths Hill NSW 2756**

At around noon on 20 December 1996, Mr Davis apprehended and disarmed an offender in Cremorne, New South Wales.

Mr Davis, who had been working at a building site, was alerted to the sounds of a commotion and shouts in the street outside and, while investigating, he heard gunshots. Across the road, he observed a man sitting in a gutter holding his head, and a woman wrestling with a man in the driveway of a garage. As Mr Davis ran towards the victims, who were known to him, he saw the offender holding a long-barrelled gun. As the woman continued to struggle with the gunman for control of the weapon, Mr Davis ran over and grabbed the offender from behind, pinning his arms beside him. He then forced the gunman to the ground and dislodged the gun from his grasp. While another bystander intervened to remove the weapon, Mr Davis was able to restrain the offender until police officers arrived.

By his actions, Mr Davis displayed considerable bravery.

Phone No: Mobile 0419 435 882

### **Mr Leo John DREWRY, Cobden Vic 3266**

In the early morning of 16 September 2000, Mr Drewry assisted in the rescue and attempted rescue of two young children from a house fire in Cobden, Victoria.

At approximately 2:20am, Mr Drewry was alerted by a phone call from his hysterical daughter to a house fire at her home in Cobden. After asking his wife to phone emergency services, he drove to his daughter's home nearby, where he could see flames leaping from a front bedroom window. He found his distressed daughter outside the burning house with one of her sons, and was told that she had been unable to locate her other two children. Mr Drewry opened a front bedroom window and climbed in, while one of his daughter's neighbours ran to get a torch. He felt his way around the bedroom, but he was having difficulty breathing in the thick smoke and was forced to retreat out through the window. Accompanied by the neighbour, Mr Drewry ran around to the rear of the house and, covering his face with his jumper, re-entered the building. Although being unable to see through the thick smoke, he nevertheless managed to make his way down the hall and through the dining room to the girl's bedroom. Finding the room full of smoke, he was forced to feel his way along the bed until he located the girl. Mr Drewry pulled her from the bed and was able to carry her through the house to safety.

By his actions, Mr Drewry displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (03)5595 1729 Work (03)5595 1550

Can be also contacted through Mrs Leanne Morris (daughter) on (03)5595 1843

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

### **Ambulance Officer Trevor Maxwell GREEN, Junction Hill via Grafton NSW 2460**

In the early morning of 27 July 2001, Ambulance Officer Green assisted in the rescue of the driver of a burning semi-trailer after it had crashed north of Grafton, New South Wales.

At approximately 12:30am, Ambulance Officer Green responded to a call to attend a motor vehicle accident involving a semi-trailer that had left the highway and exploded upon impact, bursting into flames. On his approach to the scene he could see a large fire burning, and was informed by a police officer that a man was trapped in the burning wreckage. He observed several people throwing water into the cabin area of the vehicle, and heard the trapped driver's screams for help. Although confronted by intense heat and large plumes of smoke, Ambulance Officer Green sought to calm and reassure the man. He returned to his ambulance, called for backup, grabbed a fire extinguisher and expended it around the cabin of the burning semi-trailer. He then attempted to lift the framework off the trapped driver, but without success. Despite sustaining burns to his hands and experiencing difficulty breathing due to the intense heat and smoke, Ambulance Officer Green persisted in his efforts to free the driver's legs, to such an extent that he almost became entangled himself. He then assisted several others to lift the cabin and to pull the driver clear of the burning wreckage. Ambulance Officer Green then treated the man before collapsing himself due to smoke inhalation. Shortly afterwards, the cabin of the semi-trailer was engulfed in flames.

By his actions, Ambulance Officer Green displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (02)6644 7705 Work (02)6643 1765 Mobile 0412 701 566

### **Miss Lori HARLEY, Rutherglen Vic 3685**

On the afternoon of 16 January 2001, Miss Harley rescued a woman from an armed offender in St Kilda, Victoria.

At approximately 3:00pm, Miss Harley and a friend heard female screams coming from a public toilet block nearby. Rushing to the toilets, they encountered a man standing with his arm across the entrance, blocking the doorway. The screams continued as Miss Harley confronted the man and pushed past him. As she entered the toilet block, Miss Harley could see two sets of feet on the floor of the end cubicle and heard a woman crying. Approaching the cubicle, she observed another female crouched over the victim and holding a knife. Miss Harley told the offender that the police had been called. The victim continued to cry and called for help as the offender stabbed her in the leg. Miss Harley ran from the toilets to seek assistance and to ensure that the police had indeed been called. As she re-entered the toilets, this time with another man, the offender pushed past her and escaped. While the man set off in pursuit, Miss Harley assisted her friend in carrying the distressed victim from the toilets and then provided comfort and reassurance until the arrival of ambulance personnel.

By her actions, Miss Harley displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home & Work (02)6026 5256 Mobile 0438 093 168

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

### **Mr Steve Gordon ROGERS, deceased, Late of Melbourne Vic 3000**

On the morning of 16 July 2001, Mr Rogers lost his life when attempting to apprehend an armed offender at the Fertility Control Clinic situated in East Melbourne, Victoria.

Mr Rogers was employed as a security guard, primarily to deal with protesters at the entrance to the clinic to ensure that the protesters behaved in a non-violent manner towards visitors to the clinic as they entered and left the building. At approximately 10:10am, a man entered the reception of the clinic wearing cotton gloves, sunglasses and a balaclava folded to give the appearance of a beanie. He was carrying a Winchester rifle concealed in a hessian shopping bag and another carry bag containing chains, locks, metal bars and pieces of rope. As the offender entered the reception area, he was approached by Mr Rogers who suspected from the man's appearance that he could have malicious intentions. Several people attending the clinic observed the gunman threaten Mr Rogers, and point the partially concealed weapon at him. Realising the parlous situation in which he and others within the clinic were now placed, Mr Rogers attempted to reason with the gunman in a calm and assured manner. However, after an exchange of words, the offender fired a single shot fatally injuring Mr Rogers.

By his actions, Mr Rogers displayed considerable bravery.

NOK: Details unavailable; however, contact may be made through:

Mr Jeff Asada (friend)

Phone No: Mobile 0402 455 778

### **Sergeant David Lindsay SCOTT, New South Wales Police Force**

In the early morning of 27 July 2001, Sergeant Scott assisted in the rescue of the driver of a burning semi-trailer after it had crashed north of Grafton, New South Wales.

At approximately 12:30am, Sergeant Scott and two colleagues responded to a serious motor vehicle accident involving a semi-trailer that had left the highway and exploded upon impact, bursting into flames. Arriving at the scene he could see the wreckage of the semi-trailer and prime mover mangled around a large uprooted tree, and a number of people attempting to douse the flames with garden hoses and buckets of water. The cabin and engine areas of the vehicle were well alight, and he radioed for urgent backup. Upon finding the driver trapped in the cabin, Sergeant Scott and a colleague grabbed hold of several fire extinguishers and expended them on the fire, while members of the police and emergency services attempted to free the driver's legs. Burning debris began to fall on the driver, so Sergeant Scott positioned himself between the falling debris and the driver, using his body as a shield, while frantic efforts were made by others to free the injured man. He then used his baton to make a larger hole to extricate the victim but, despite efforts to lift the burning cabin, the driver remained pinned in the wreckage. Observing two diesel tanks about a metre away being sprayed with molten debris, Sergeant Scott directed others at the scene to throw water in that direction. Leaning back into the cabin area, he was able to spray water directly onto the trapped driver. Sergeant Scott then assisted several others to lift the cabin so that the driver could be pulled clear of the burning wreck. Shortly afterwards, the cabin of the semi-trailer was engulfed in flames.

By his actions, Sergeant Scott displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

### **Senior Constable Robert Blair STEWART, South Australia Police**

On the evening of 17 April 2001, Senior Constable Stewart rescued a young child from a house fire in Croydon Park, South Australia.

At approximately 8:35pm, Senior Constable Stewart and a colleague responded to a structure fire at West Croydon to find the house engulfed in fire, with flames leaping from the roof and windows and a large volume of thick smoke surrounding the premises. On approaching the blazing house, Senior Constable Stewart was confronted by a distressed woman who informed him that her young child was trapped inside the house. Senior Constable Stewart immediately broke through a front bedroom window and entered the house in search of the toddler. Dense black smoke made it impossible for him to see and, with the fire raging around him, he was forced to use his hands to feel his way. He returned to the window several times for fresh air before he managed to locate the boy, unconscious and not breathing, lying on a bedroom floor. Senior Constable Stewart carried him to the window where the child was revived by paramedics. Within minutes of the rescue, the house was totally gutted by the fire.

By his actions, Senior Constable Stewart displayed considerable bravery.

Phone No: Mobile 0414 877 462

### **Master Jayden Peter THORNTON, Bligh Park NSW 2756**

On the afternoon of 3 December 2001, Jayden Thornton assisted in the rescue of his younger brother who had been swept into a stormwater pipe in Cronulla, New South Wales, following a severe thunderstorm.

Jayden, aged 7, was playing with his younger brother at a union picnic day in Cronulla, when the area was struck by a severe thunderstorm. Following torrential rain, water at depths of 10 cms washed through the park towards the bay. Jayden's brother was sucked rapidly into a large hole in a stormwater pipe that had been exposed by the violent storm. A vacuum effect in the surrounding ditch caused the water to rush towards the narrow stormwater opening. Jayden saw his brother being washed into the pipe and rushed to his aid, holding his brother's head as he was being sucked further into the stormwater pipe. Jayden continued to hold on to his brother, even though the force of the water was drawing him into the pipe as well. By this time, two men who had been in the park for the function heard the boys' screams and ran over to offer assistance. One of them jumped into the drain and grabbed the younger boy, who was now about a metre down the pipe, but was unable to pull him out because of the pressure of the water. While the rescue efforts continued, Jayden maintained his hold on his brother to prevent him being swept further down the pipe. Through the combined efforts of both men, Jayden and his brother were pulled to safety.

By his actions, Jayden displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (02)4572 5051 Mobile 0407 725 051

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

### **Mr Graham John WALKER, Narraweena NSW 2099**

On the evening of 5 August 2001, Mr Walker rescued two wheelchair bound people from a house fire in Narraweena, New South Wales.

At approximately 7:30pm Mr Walker, who was sitting in his lounge room, heard the sounds of screams and breaking glass from a neighbouring house. Upon investigation, he heard a smoke alarm sounding and saw flames flickering from the house. While his mother phoned the fire brigade, Mr Walker ran down the street to his neighbours' house. As he entered the house he could see a wall engulfed in flames and heard a woman screaming inside, but he was driven out by the thick smoke and, due to the poor visibility, was unable to see any of the occupants. He searched outside the house for a hose to extinguish the flames without success. He re-entered the house and, this time, was able to locate a disabled woman and man, both of whom were in motorised wheelchairs. As he considered the man to be in more imminent danger, Mr Walker attempted to wheel him outside, but the chair locked up and he was forced to drag the man outside in his wheelchair. He then re-entered the burning house again to rescue the woman who, by now, had become severely distressed. After confirming that there were no other people in the house, Mr Walker then assisted the couple to move to a safe distance from the fire. Shortly after the arrival of the fire brigade there was a violent explosion from within the building.

By his actions, Mr Walker displayed considerable bravery.

Phone No: Home (02)9971 9637

### **Senior Constable Stuart James WHITE, Victoria Police**

On the evening of 17 August 2000, Senior Constable White rescued a man from the path of an oncoming train at the Lalor Railway Station, Victoria.

At approximately 7:00pm, Senior Constable White responded to a call advising that there was a man walking along a railway line, apparently attempting to commit suicide. He attended the scene accompanied by colleagues, and observed the man running down the centre of the track about 50 metres ahead of him. Senior Constable White could hear a train approaching and could see the light of the train illuminating the trees at the side of the track. He estimated the rapidly approaching train to be about 600 metres away. Senior Constable White increased his pace as the man stopped in the middle of the track with his arms outstretched. He approached the man from behind and attempted to pull him from the track. A violent struggle ensued but Senior Constable White was able to drag the man onto the grass at the side of the track just as the train passed only metres away from them. He continued to grapple with the man, and was able to restrain him until the arrival of fellow police officers.

By his actions, Senior Constable White displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available



## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

### **Mr Hassan AWADA, Bexley NSW 2207**

On the afternoon of 25 December 2000, Mr Awada rescued a young male swimmer who was being dragged out to sea at La Perouse, New South Wales.

At approximately 2:10 pm on Christmas Day, Mr Awada was enjoying the day on Congwong Bay beach with his family when he observed a young boy on an inflatable boat drifting out to sea. Although Mr Awada was not a strong swimmer, he grabbed his snorkel and mask, entered the water and began swimming towards the boat, which had now drifted about 250 metres from shore. The wind picked up, and Mr Awada saw the boat capsize and the boy being thrown into the water. He swam rapidly towards the boy, who had become very tired and distressed, and assisted him to swim towards the shore. When they were about 50 metres from shore, Mr Awada observed the boy's father swimming towards them and he handed the boy over to him.

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

Phone Nos: Home (02)9150 0606 Work (02)9523 8116 Mobile 0414 851 155

### **Mr Cameron James BIRCH, Fairview Park SA 5126**

On the afternoon of 9 February 1999, Mr Birch assisted in the apprehension of an offender after a robbery at the Tea Tree Plaza in Modbury, South Australia.

At approximately 1:30pm, Mr Birch heard a commotion, and he witnessed an elderly woman being pushed to the ground and robbed after she had withdrawn some money from a nearby Automatic Teller Machine. Mr Birch, with a friend and another man, chased after the female offender, catching up with her in a car park. One of the other men reached her first but fell to the ground unconscious after being repeatedly kicked and punched by the offender in her attempts to escape. Mr Birch and his friend continued to pursue the offender through the car park. Mr Birch grasped the offender in a headlock and, after an extended and violent struggle, the two men managed to restrain her until police officers arrived.

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

Phone Nos: Home (08)8251 4444 Work (08)8365 5344

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

### **Mrs Denise Anne BLACKWELL, Quakers Hill NSW 2763**

On the evening of 4 October 2000, Mrs Blackwell assisted in the rescue her husband who was being attacked by savage dog in Toongabbie, New South Wales.

At approximately 10:00pm, Mrs Blackwell was in the kitchen of a friend's house when she heard her husband, who had been hanging washing in the yard, scream for help. She ran to the door and saw him being mauled by the friend's Rottweiler dog. Her husband was on the ground being thrown around by the dog, which had grasped his left arm in its jaws. Mrs Blackwell ran out and launched herself at the dog, attempting to prise its jaws open with her hands while her daughter kicked frantically at the dog. Releasing the husband, the dog turned on Mrs Blackwell, savaging her left hand. While the dog's owner held the dog in a headlock, Mrs Blackwell managed to pull herself free and everyone ran for the safety of the house. Mrs Blackwell was helping her husband to reach the back door when the dog attacked again, grabbing him by his right leg and dragging him down the outside steps. Mrs Blackwell again intervened and, this time, was able to get her husband back inside the house.

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

Phone Nos: Mobile 0401 927 039 or 0428 765 537

### **Mr Adam Paul BOAG, Scoresby Vic 3179**

On the morning of 30 October 2000, Mr Boag assisted in the rescue of several members of a family from a house fire in Wheelers Hill, Victoria.

At approximately 7:15am, Mr Boag was driving to work when he observed smoke coming from a house. He and another man, who had been travelling in a separate vehicle, stopped to investigate and ran to the burning building. Mr Boag could see smoke billowing from the back of the house and could hear screaming from inside. The men arrived at the house to find the occupants distressed and having difficulty opening a deadlocked front door. After the front door was unlocked and while the other man assisted three of the occupants to safety, Mr Boag proceeded to search room by room for a fourth person believed to be still in the burning house. Unable to find the man, Mr Boag ran outside. Upon discovering the missing man safe in the garden, Mr Boag doused the flames with a garden hose until the fire brigade arrived.

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

Phone Nos: Home (03)9763 1378 Work (03)9287 1648 Mobile 0427 525 561

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

### **Ms Elizabeth Mary BRIGHT, deceased, Late of Cremorne NSW 2090**

At around noon on 20 December 1996, Ms Bright came to the assistance of her partner who was being attacked by an armed offender in Cremorne, New South Wales.

Ms Bright had just returned home from a shopping trip with her partner when she observed a man crossing the street towards the garage where her husband was parking their vehicle and to pull a gun from under his jacket. She screamed a warning and ran over to the garage, where she saw the offender attempt to poke the gun through the open driver's side window. Ms Bright's partner managed to force the car door open and grappled with the offender, and the gun discharged. As the offender was attempting to reload the gun, Ms Bright grabbed hold of the gunman's arms from behind. The man freed himself from her grasp, but Ms Bright then located her own small pistol and exchanged shots with the offender. Both shots missed, and Ms Bright again grappled with the offender. Alerted by the sounds of gunshots, a nearby employee of the couple came to her assistance. He grabbed the offender and tackled him to the ground, restraining him until police officers arrived.

By her actions, Ms Bright is commended for brave conduct.

Ms Bright died in July 1999.

NOK: Mr William John Padget (partner)  
Phone No: Home (02)9953 8998

### **Mr Wayne Donald BROUGH, Coolum Beach Qld 4573**

In the early morning of 13 May 2000, Mr Brough assisted in the rescue of a man who was trapped in a submerged vehicle in Maroochydore, Queensland.

At approximately 4:30am, Mr Brough was undertaking a delivery run with a colleague when he observed an approaching vehicle jump the kerb, smash through the guardrails of a bridge, and plummet down the embankment and into the water. He pulled over and put his hazard lights on, and phoned emergency services. Mr Brough ran to the top of the embankment from where he could see the vehicle sinking slowly into the water. His colleague entered the water and swam out to the vehicle. A man emerged through the passenger's window onto the vehicle's roof, calling out frantically to another man trapped in the rear of the submerged vehicle. Mr Brough joined his colleague in diving repeatedly in an effort to rescue the second person, but without success. Following the arrival of a police officer, the men secured a torch which they used to break the rear window of the vehicle. This enabled them to rescue the trapped man and drag him to the bank.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

### **Constable Scott David CARPENTER, New South Wales Police Force**

In the early morning of 27 July 2001, Constable (then Probationary Constable) Carpenter assisted in rescue of the driver of a burning semi-trailer after it had crashed north of Grafton, New South Wales.

At approximately 12:30am, Constable Carpenter and a senior colleague responded to a serious motor vehicle accident involving a semi-trailer that had left the highway and exploded upon impact bursting into flames. Arriving at the scene he could see that the cab section of the semi-trailer and surrounding grassed areas were engulfed in flames, and several people were attempting to douse the flames with garden hoses and buckets of water. Although Constable Carpenter was unable to see the trapped driver due to the thick smoke and flames, he could hear the distressed man's screams. He joined other emergency personnel in their efforts to pull apart a section of the cabin, but they were forced to retreat by the intense heat. Returning to the police vehicle, Constable Carpenter grabbed a fire extinguisher and assisted others to douse the cabin section. Despite the burning debris falling around him, Constable Carpenter then assisted other emergency personnel to free the driver's trapped legs and to lift the cabin so that the injured man could be pulled clear of the burning wreck. Shortly afterwards, the cabin of the semi-trailer was engulfed in flames.

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

Phone No: Work (02)6642 0222

### **Mr Dean Francis CHEVALIER, Hoppers Crossing Vic 3029**

On the afternoon of 30 December 2000, Mr Chevalier rescued several people from a house fire in Lara, Victoria.

At approximately 3:30pm, Mr Chevalier saw smoke coming from a neighbour's house and went to investigate. He rushed to the front screen door to find it locked, and the female occupant unable to find the keys. Through the thick smoke, Mr Chevalier could also see two young boys trapped inside. He searched outside the house for something to break the window and, when finding nothing suitable, he clenched his fist and smashed it through the window. Clearing the jagged areas of glass, Mr Chevalier leaned through the window, grasped each of the boys and pulled them to safety. He then spotted the front door keys and guided the woman towards them; she was then able to escape through the front door. Mr Chevalier, mistakenly believing a young girl to be trapped inside, entered the burning house but he was forced back by the intense heat, smoke and flames. He then attempted to douse the flames with a garden hose until the fire brigade arrived.

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

Phone Nos: Home (03)9974 3066 Mobile 0403 853 834

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

### **Mr Scott John DALTON, West Ryde NSW 2114**

On the morning of 1 April 2001, Mr Dalton went to the aid of a neighbour who had been electrocuted on the roof of his house in West Ryde, New South Wales.

Mr Dalton's neighbour was electrocuted when attempting to do some electric wiring in the roof cavity of his home and, believing the power to be switched off, touched the main wire supplying power with a pair of non-insulated wire-cutters. The victim's son, who was at the foot of the ladder when the accident occurred, phoned the emergency services and rushed next door to seek Mr Dalton's help. Mr Dalton, a tiler by trade, grabbed a ladder and climbed onto the roof, walking a few metres across to reach the victim. While searching for the victim's pulse and attempting to turn him over to see if he was still breathing, Mr Dalton experienced a minor electric shock. He noticed the victim's hand was clenched around the wire-cutters which were still attached to the main wire. Mr Dalton used a rake to disengage his neighbour's grip from the wire-cutters, thus breaking the electrical circuit. He checked the victim again but was unable to locate a pulse.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

### **Ms May Elizabeth DARE, West Hoxton NSW 2171**

On the morning of 20 December 2001, Ms Dare displayed commendable bravery, professionalism and composure during a siege situation involving an armed offender at the Miller Public School in Miller, New South Wales.

At approximately 9:50am, Ms Dare was teaching her Year 5 class when an emotionally distraught man entered the classroom and demanded to see the principal to commence negotiations regarding an outstanding family law matter. Ms Dare observed the intruder holding a can of petrol and cloth and, while the intruder barricaded the classroom doors with furniture, she sent two students to alert the principal. Ms Dare responded by moving the remainder of her students to the front of the room and engaged them in activities to keep them calm and to distract their attention. While the principal negotiated with the man through the classroom windows, the offender became very angry and agitated, dousing his clothes with petrol and threatening to take his own life. The offender then agreed to release a number of the children who had now become terrified and feeling sick. After extensive negotiations, the siege concluded with the offender agreeing to leave the building and to surrender to the police. After the arrest, Ms Dare walked her students from the room in a calm and reassuring manner.

By her actions, Ms Dare is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Home (02)9825 9557 Mobile 0403 337 970

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

### **Mr Guy John Powell ELLIS, St Peters SA 5069**

On the night of 26 August 2000, Mr Ellis rescued a man and his dog from a fire in a unit in St Peters, South Australia.

Mr Ellis and his parents were returning home at around midnight when they observed smoke pouring out of a unit in a nearby street. While his father phoned the fire brigade, Mr Ellis ran to the unit and called out to see if anyone was inside. The flat was dark and the fire well advanced, with flames leaping out through a shattered bedroom window. An elderly male occupant called out for help. Mr Ellis ran to the back door and crawled through the burning unit. Despite the thick smoke and intense heat, he was able to locate the occupant in the kitchen and dragged him to safety. Mr Ellis re-entered the unit to rescue the man's dog.

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

Phone Nos: Home (08)8362 3230 Mobile 0411 180 438

### **Mr Christopher George GAUT, Cobden Vic 3266**

In the early morning of 16 September 2000, Mr Gaut assisted in the rescue and attempted rescue of two young children from a house fire in Cobden, Victoria.

At approximately 2:20am, Mr Gaut, a volunteer firefighter, responded to a call for assistance in relation to a house fire near his home. Approaching the house on foot, he could see flames leaping through the window of the front bedroom. Mr Gaut also saw a woman at the front gate, screaming that her children remained trapped inside the building. He ran to the house and attempted unsuccessfully to kick in the wooden front door. Mr Gaut then moved to a bedroom window, where he was joined by another man. Upon opening the window the two men realised that the house was totally dark inside and so Mr Gaut raced home for a torch. The men then entered the house from the rear. Mr Gaut ran through the house to the kitchen where he was confronted by intense heat and heavy smoke, and was forced to retreat outside. Observing the other man emerging from the house carrying a young girl, Mr Gaut assisted him to carry her to safety.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

### **Mr Peter William Rohan GERMAN, Walkley Heights SA 5098**

On the afternoon of 9 February 1999, Mr German assisted in the apprehension of an offender after a robbery at the Tea Tree Plaza in Modbury, South Australia.

At approximately 1:30pm, Mr German was visiting the shopping centre with friends when he heard a commotion and witnessed an elderly woman being pushed to the ground and robbed after she had withdrawn some money from a nearby Automatic Teller Machine. Mr German, with one of his friends and another man, chased after the female offender and caught up with her in a car park. Upon reaching the offender first, the third man engaged in a violent struggle with her but he fell to the ground unconscious after being repeatedly punched by the offender in her attempts to escape. Mr German and his friend continued to pursue the offender through the car park. After an extended and violent struggle, they were eventually able to restrain the offender until police officers arrived.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

### **Mr Scott Michael GUNNING, Maroubra NSW 2035**

On the evening of 11 June 2001, Mr Gunning attempted to apprehend an armed offender at the Maroubra Bay Hotel in Maroubra, New South Wales.

At approximately 8:15pm, Mr Gunning was sitting in the main bar of the Maroubra Bay Hotel enjoying last drinks with a few friends when the barman called out in surprise. Upon turning to the door, Mr Gunning saw a man armed with a revolver forcing his way into the hotel. The offender threatened the barman and patrons, demanding that they drop to the floor. Mr Gunning stood his ground, grappled with and repeatedly punched the offender, and forced him to the floor. During the struggle, Mr Gunning received several blows to the head and the weapon discharged, wounding him in the stomach. Nevertheless, Mr Gunning still attempted to intercept the offender as he fled from the pub. The offender turned the weapon towards Mr Gunning and threatened him before escaping.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

### **Mrs Edith Lillian HOLMES, Mandurah WA 6210**

On the evening of 2 October 2001, Mrs Holmes confronted and resisted an armed intruder in her home in Mandurah, Western Australia.

At approximately 9:30pm, Mrs Holmes, a 74 years old pensioner, was in her bedroom when she heard her dog barking and went to investigate. Upon entering the lounge room, she disturbed a male intruder who was wearing a balaclava. Mrs Holmes confronted him and demanded to know what he wanted, and also tore off the balaclava. The intruder threatened Mrs Holmes and demanded money, placing a knife against her throat. He then grabbed the front of her nightie and pushed her to the floor. Once the intruder had left the room and had entered the kitchen, Ms Holmes went into the bathroom and picked up a length of curtain rod. She entered the kitchen to again confront the intruder, attempting to strike him with the rod. The intruder disarmed Mrs Holmes and, after locating some money, left the house through a sliding door.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

### **Mr Scott Phillip LEWIS, Gilles Plains SA 5086**

On the afternoon of 9 February 1999, Mr Lewis assisted in the apprehension of an offender after a robbery at the Tea Tree Plaza in Modbury, South Australia.

At approximately 1:30pm, Mr Lewis witnessed an elderly woman being pushed to the ground and robbed after she had withdrawn some money from a nearby Automatic Teller Machine. Mr Lewis and two other men chased after the female offender, catching up with her in a car park. The offender struggled violently with Mr Lewis in an effort to escape, kicking him in the groin and stomach, and punching him about his head and shoulders. While wrestling with the offender, Mr Lewis suffered a cardiac arrest and fell to the ground unconscious. The other men intervened to grapple with the offender, and restrained her until police officers arrived. Mr Lewis was examined by a bystander who determined that he had stopped breathing. Mr Lewis' breathing was restored by ambulance officers on route to hospital where he remained unconscious for a number of days. As a result, he sustained brain damage requiring long-term rehabilitation.

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

Phone Nos: Not available



## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Peter William MACDONALD**, Kalgoorlie WA 6430

In the early morning of 13 May 2000, Mr Macdonald assisted in the rescue of a man who was trapped in a submerged vehicle in Maroochydore, Queensland.

At approximately 4:30am, Mr Macdonald was undertaking a delivery run with a colleague when he observed an approaching vehicle jump the kerb, smash through the guardrails of a bridge, and plummet down the embankment and into the water. After his colleague had stopped the van, Mr Macdonald got out and ran to the breached guardrail where he could see the vehicle sinking nose first into the water. Unable to hail the occupants, Mr Macdonald ran to the water's edge, stripped off and swam out to the vehicle, which by this time was almost fully submerged. While attempting to open the driver's door, Mr Macdonald saw a man climbing through the passenger's window and onto the vehicle's roof, calling out frantically to another man trapped in the rear of the submerged vehicle. Mr Macdonald dived repeatedly in an effort to rescue the trapped person, but without success, while his colleague attempted to open the rear door. Following the arrival of a police officer, the men secured a torch which they used to break the rear window of the vehicle. This enabled them to rescue the trapped man and drag him to the bank.

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

Phone No: Mobile 0408 901 851

**Mr Rodrigo Alberto OSORIO**, Huskisson NSW 2540

On the afternoon of 16 January 2001, Mr Osorio assisted in the rescue of a woman from an armed offender in St Kilda, Victoria.

At approximately 3:00pm, Mr Osorio heard a female screaming from within a nearby public toilet block. He approached the toilets and saw a man standing guard in the doorway, preventing a woman from entering the toilets to investigate. The woman pushed her way into the toilets and returned outside shortly afterwards to inform Mr Osorio that a woman was being attacked by another woman armed with a knife. While another bystander called the police, Mr Osorio entered the toilets with the woman but the female offender pushed past them and ran out of the block. Upon reaching the end cubicle he could see a distressed woman on the ground clutching her handbag and bleeding from numerous stab wounds to her legs. While the original woman attended to her wounds, Mr Osorio chased the offender through a nearby park and down a number of streets. He was forced to abandon his pursuit, however, after being threatened by the offender and several male accomplices. They were later apprehended by police officers.

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

Phone No: Home (02)4441 7286

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

### **Mr Wayne Robert PILBEAM, Rowville Vic 3178**

On the morning of 30 October 2000, Mr Pilbeam assisted in the rescue of several members of a family from a house fire in Wheelers Hill, Victoria.

At approximately 7:15am, Mr Pilbeam was driving to work when he observed flames coming from a house. Mr Pilbeam phoned for emergency assistance on his mobile while he and another driver, who had also stopped to investigate, ran to the house. As he approached Mr Pilbeam could see flames leaping along the eaves and onto the roof, and smoke billowing from the back of the building. The two men arrived at the house to find the occupants screaming and distressed. When the front door was unlocked, Mr Pilbeam entered the burning house and assisted a young woman to escape. After rescuing a second occupant, Mr Pilbeam ran back into the house and down the hall to the kitchen where he found an elderly man, and dragged him to safety also. Believing that another occupant was in danger, Mr Pilbeam entered the house a fourth time to conduct a room by room search but, by this time, the house was well ablaze and he was driven back by the intense heat and smoke.

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

Phone Nos: Home (03)9764 3792 Work (03)9420 6263 Mobile 0407 347 969

### **Ms Cassandra Jane STEADMAN, Runcorn Qld 4113**

On the morning of 10 September 2000, Ms Steadman assisted in the rescue and attempted rescue of her three young children from a house fire in Calamvale, Queensland.

At approximately 6:30am, Ms Steadman was occupying a house with her three children and sister when a fire broke out. She awoke to the screams of her young daughter, and found that fire had engulfed the lounge room. Ms Steadman went in search of her two sons and, making her way through the flames and thick black smoke, she found the boys' bedroom door well alight. With the assistance of her sister, Ms Steadman was able to drag the boys outside to safety. At this point it was realised that the little girl was still trapped inside. While her sister searched frantically inside the burning building for the little girl, Ms Steadman attempted to re-enter but was driven back by the intensity of the flames which had now engulfed the entire house.

By her actions, Ms Steadman is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Home (07)3711 4806 Work (07)3273 1423 Mobile 0422 034 888

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mrs Samantha WARFE**, Alice Springs NT 0870

On the afternoon of 8 January 2002, Mrs Warfe defended herself and her two small children from an armed offender in a car park in Alice Springs, Northern Territory.

At approximately 4:10pm, Mrs Warfe had parked in the McCafferty's Greyhound car park and had removed her two young children from the car. She was placing her baby son in the pram when she was confronted by a male offender who demanded money. When Mrs Warfe resisted his demands, the offender moved closer and produced a knife. The offender became more aggressive, threatening Mrs Warfe with the knife and holding it close to her face while he demanded both her money and jewellery. Frightened for her own safety and that of her children, Mrs Warfe pulled her daughter and son in behind her for protection. She then grabbed the offender's wrist and thrust the knife away, and punched him in the face with all her strength, knocking him to the ground. Mrs Warfe left him lying on the ground and rushed with her children to a nearby store where she sought police assistance.

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

Phone Nos: Not available