

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Hussain ASSAF, Algester Qld 4115

On the afternoon of 4 October 2000, Mr Assaf participated in the rescue of a woman from an armed offender at her florist shop in Brisbane, Queensland.

At approximately 4:00pm, Mr Assaf and a male companion heard a gunshot and a woman screaming, and went to investigate. They discovered a woman with a wound to her chest lying on the floor of a florist shop with a man standing over her armed with a rifle. The woman was struggling with the man who was apparently attempting to shoot her again. Mr Assaf and his companion entered the shop and, while his companion struggled with the offender in an attempt to disarm him, Mr Assaf assisted the wounded woman from the shop. The offender was eventually disarmed and taken into police custody.

By his actions, Mr Assaf displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available

Mr Ferdinand Marinus BAST, deceased, Late of Townsville Qld 4810

In the early hours of 1 May 1999, Mr Bast lost his life when attempting to apprehend two armed offenders during a robbery at a pharmacy in Townsville, Queensland.

At approximately 1:35am, Mr Bast was awoken by an audible alarm sounding at the nearby pharmacy and left his home to investigate. Mr Bast arrived at the pharmacy and noticed that the front glass sliding door had been smashed with a length of pipe. He then saw two offenders inside. Mr Bast confronted the offenders and a struggle began. The offenders were able to get away from Mr Bast and ran from the premises. Mr Bast then picked up the length of pipe and gave chase. During the pursuit, one of the offenders fired several shots at Mr Bast, fatally wounding him.

By his actions, Mr Bast displayed considerable bravery.

NOK: Mrs Anita Bast (wife)

Phone Nos: Not available

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Hendrikus Antonius BECKMANS, Kangaroo Flat Vic 3555

On the evening of 1 October 1999, Mr Beckmans went to the aid of a wounded police officer during a siege at Kangaroo Flat near Bendigo, Victoria.

On the evening of 1 October, a siege situation developed following a domestic incident at a home in Kangaroo Flat. During the siege, four police officers were shot and seriously wounded by a male offender armed with a rifle. One of the wounded officers was shot in the chest when he attempted to clear civilian pedestrians and motorists away from the immediate siege area. Mr Beckmans and his daughter, who was a registered nurse and who had witnessed the shooting, went to the aid of the wounded officer who was now lying in a culvert but still in the gunman's line of fire. After his daughter had assessed the officer's condition, Mr Beckmans made his way back across the line of fire, taking cover where he could, to report the officer's condition to other police officers while his daughter remained with the wounded officer.

By his actions, Mr Beckmans displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available

Ms Mary-Ann BECKMANS, Kangaroo Flat Vic 3555

On the evening of 1 October 1999, Ms Beckmans went to the aid of a wounded police officer during a siege at Kangaroo Flat near Bendigo, Victoria.

On the evening of 1 October, a siege situation developed following a domestic incident at a home in Kangaroo Flat. During the siege, four police officers were shot and seriously wounded by a male offender armed with a rifle. One of the wounded officers was shot in the chest when he attempted to clear civilian pedestrians and motorists away from the immediate siege area. Ms Beckmans, who is a registered nurse, and her father witnessed the shooting and went to the aid of the wounded officer who was now lying in a culvert but still in the gunman's line of fire. After Ms Beckmans had assessed the officer's condition, her father made his way back to safety to report the officer's condition to other police officers. Ms Beckmans was later joined by two other officers and remained in the culvert until they were rescued by officers in an armoured vehicle.

By her actions, Ms Beckmans displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Robert Lachlan BRISCOE, Albany WA 6330

On the afternoon of 20 August 2001, Mr Briscoe assisted in the rescue of a friend after a boating accident off Nanarup Beach, Albany, Western Australia.

Sometime between 3:00pm and 4:00pm, Mr Briscoe and two friends were fishing in two boats about two kilometres off Nanarup Beach when the weather deteriorated and they decided to head for shore. Mr Briscoe made it safely back to shore in his boat but the boat in which the other men were in was overturned by a huge wave. Both men were thrown into the water. One of the friends disappeared below the surface and the other man was having difficulty saving him. Mr Briscoe went back out in his boat and manoeuvred it next to the floating men. He was then able to drag the distressed man into the boat with the assistance of his other friend. When all three men were on board, the distressed man was revived.

By his actions, Mr Briscoe displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (08)9842 6249 Mobile 0417 930 048

Mr Orisi Naulumatua CAVUILATI, Belmore NSW 2192

On the afternoon of 18 January 2002, Mr Cavuilati apprehended an armed offender after a robbery at the Commonwealth Bank in Marrickville, New South Wales.

At approximately 2:50pm, Mr Cavuilati, as part of his employment, was on his way to collect security and recycle bins from the Commonwealth Bank in Marrickville. As he approached the bank he noticed several people running out of the bank screaming. He also saw a man wearing a balaclava and carrying a bag running from the bank behind these people. As the offender passed close to Mr Cavuilati, Mr Cavuilati punched him in the head and knocked him to the ground. The offender then produced a handgun and pointed it toward Mr Cavuilati. A struggle began during which Mr Cavuilati, who sustained some minor injuries to his face and hands, was able to pull the gun away from the offender. With the assistance of others, Mr Cavuilati then restrained the offender until police officers arrived.

By his actions, Mr Cavuilati displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Phillip Leslie CLARK, Sefton NSW 2162

On the morning of 23 April 2001, Mr Clark attempted to apprehend an armed offender at a newsagency in Sefton, New South Wales.

At approximately 10:00am, Mr Clark was in the office at the rear of his newsagency when a male person entered the shop and pointed a gun at Mr Clark's sister, who was working behind the counter, and demanded money. Mr Clark joined his sister behind the counter and stood beside her as she placed money from the till into a plastic shopping bag. As she handed over the money to the offender Mr Clark grabbed hold of the barrel of the gun and attempted to pull the gun from the offender. The gun discharged, wounding Mr Clark's sister, but Mr Clark continued to struggle with the offender. Mr Clark managed to take possession of the money, and then the offender ran off.

By his actions, Mr Clark displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (02)9644 1093 Mobile 0414 887 753

Sergeant Antonius Maria COMMADÉUR, Victoria Police

On the evening of 1 October 1999, Sergeant Commadeur, went to the aid of a fellow police officer who had been wounded during a siege at Kangaroo Flat near Bendigo, Victoria.

On the evening of 1 October, a siege situation developed following a domestic incident at a home in Kangaroo Flat. During the siege, four police officers were shot and seriously wounded by a male offender armed with a rifle. One of the wounded officers had been trying to negotiate with the gunman when, shortly afterwards, he was shot in the chest and fell to the ground. As he lay there, further gunshots were fired and he was hit in his right upper thigh. Sergeant Commadeur crawled to the officer while the gunman continued shooting. Assisted by a police colleague, Sergeant Commadeur then dragged the wounded officer out of the line of fire to safety behind a brick fence.

By his actions, Sergeant Commadeur displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Jason William CORDON, Albany WA 6330

On the afternoon of 20 August 2001, Mr Cordon assisted in the rescue of a friend after a boating accident off Nanarup Beach, Albany, Western Australia.

Sometime between 3:00pm and 4:00pm, Mr Cordon and two friends were fishing in two boats about two kilometres off Nanarup Beach when the weather deteriorated and they decided to head for shore. One friend made it safely back to shore in his boat but the boat in which Mr Cordon and the second friend were in was overturned by a huge wave. Both men were thrown into the water. They began to swim to nearby rocks but Mr Cordon's friend started to disappear under the surface. Mr Cordon swam to the man and took off his windcheater and handed one end of it to his friend in an attempt to use the clothing as a rope for the man to hold on to. This was only successful for a few minutes before the friend began to sink again. Mr Cordon then removed his shirt and persuaded his friend to hang on to it while Mr Cordon dragged him towards the rocks. Mr Cordon realised that he could not swim back to shore and so he tried to use the current to keep them both afloat. The friend again sank below the surface and Mr Cordon grabbed him and held his head out of the water until the second friend returned in his boat. Together, Mr Cordon and the second friend dragged the distressed man into the boat where they were able to revive him.

By his actions, Mr Cordon displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (08)9844 7834 Mobile 0412 623 181

Mr Joseph Desmond DIGNAN, Australind WA 6233

On the afternoon of 30 October 2001, Mr Dignan rescued a woman from a dog attack at Australind, Western Australia.

At approximately 3:40pm, Mr Dignan heard screams coming from a neighbour's garden and went to investigate. In the garden, he saw a middle aged woman bleeding profusely and being attacked by a dog, and his female neighbour who was trying to pull the dog away. Mr Dignan picked up an implement with a metal base and struck the dog across its back, but the dog maintained its grip on the woman. Realising that he would be unable to stop the attack on his own, Mr Dignan sought the help of two passing motorists who had stopped nearby when they had heard the commotion. One of the motorists was able to use a belt to form a ligature around the dog's throat and, after a short time, the dog released its grip on the woman. The men then dragged the dog to a nearby gate, while Mr Dignan's neighbour helped the injured woman into the house and called emergency services.

By his actions, Mr Dignan displayed considerable bravery.

Phone No: Home (08)9797 1937

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Peter Boutros ELCHAM, Main Beach Qld 4217

On the afternoon of 4 October 2000, Mr Elcham participated in the rescue of a woman from an armed offender at her florist shop in Brisbane, Queensland.

At approximately 4:00pm, Mr Elcham and a male companion heard a gunshot and a woman screaming, and went to investigate. They discovered a woman with a wound to her chest lying on the floor of a florist shop with a man standing over her armed with a rifle. The woman was struggling with the man who was apparently attempting to shoot her again. Mr Elcham entered the shop, confronted the offender, and began to struggle with him in an attempt to disarm him. In the meantime, Mr Elcham's companion assisted the wounded woman from the shop. After a prolonged struggle Mr Elcham was able to disarm the offender. He then took the rifle outside and locked the offender in the shop until police officers arrived.

By his actions, Mr Elcham displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (07)5527 0508 Work (07)5571 1410 Mobile 0408 263 333

Mr Colin John GOLDTHORPE, Colyton NSW 2760

On the morning of 11 September 2001, Mr Goldthorpe rescued a small child from a burning motor vehicle in Colyton, New South Wales.

At approximately 10:50am, Mr Goldthorpe was driving along Bennett Road in Colyton when he came upon a stationary car that was on fire. Mr Goldthorpe saw a distressed woman trying to release her small child from the back of the burning vehicle. The woman had burns to her face and hands and was struggling to release the child from the car seat. Mr Goldthorpe climbed into the burning vehicle and, despite his not being able to see what he was doing due to the thick smoke, eventually managed to unbuckle the child's harness and pulled her from the car. As the child had received burns to her face and legs, Mr Goldthorpe carried her to a nearby house and, with the assistance of the homeowner, placed the child in a bath filled with cold water.

By his actions, Mr Goldthorpe displayed considerable bravery.

Phone No: Home (02)8807 8684

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Bryan Joseph GOODWIN, deceased, Late of Rosedale Qld 4674

On the afternoon of 8 April 2001, Mr Goodwin lost his life while rescuing a small child and attempting to rescue another from a rip at the mouth of Round Hill Creek, near the Town of 1770, Queensland.

At approximately 4:15pm, Mr Goodwin, his wife and three of their neighbour's children went to the mouth of Round Hill Creek to swim. Mr Goodwin and his wife were supervising the children and instructed them a number of times to stay near the water's edge. One of the children ventured out further to retrieve a toy that floated away with the tide, and his sister swam out to assist him. Mr Goodwin observed that the children were in difficulty, apparently caught in a strong rip, some 25 metres from shore. Despite his not being a strong swimmer, Mr Goodwin dived into the water fully clothed and swam out to the children. He took hold of one child, and the second child climbed onto his back. Mr Goodwin was able to throw one of the children to safety out of the rip so that the child could swim safely to shore. This action appears to have aggravated an existing back injury and, as a consequence, Mr Goodwin was unable to move. He sank below the surface and drowned. The second child also died.

By his actions, Mr Goodwin displayed considerable bravery.

NOK : Mrs Dianne Goodwin (wife)
Phone Nos: Not available

Miss Judith Ann HOUGHTON, Ballangeich Vic 3281

On the evening of 16 January 2001, Miss Houghton rescued a driver from a burning prime mover after an accident north of Ballangeich, Victoria.

At approximately 10:50pm, Miss Houghton was at home when she heard the sounds of a motor vehicle accident and went to investigate. A milk tanker involved in the accident had ended up on its roof in a paddock. The engine of the tanker had exploded and the cabin of the prime mover was on fire. Miss Houghton saw that the driver was trapped in the cabin and tried to kick in a side window, but was unable to do so. The driver was able to locate a metal bar and passed it through the smashed and crushed windscreen to Miss Houghton. Miss Houghton then used the bar to smash the side window and was able to drag the driver out of the cabin to safety some 30 metres away from the burning vehicle. The vehicle exploded a second time and Miss Houghton ran to her house to call for help.

By her actions, Miss Houghton displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr John Joseph HOYNE, Carrum Vic 3197

On the afternoon of 10 January 2002, Mr Hoyne attempted to apprehend an armed offender at a post office/newsagency in Carrum, Victoria.

At approximately 3:30pm, Mr Hoyne entered the newsagency situated in Station Street, Carrum. Once inside, he became aware that an offender armed with a knife had confronted two employees and was demanding money. Mr Hoyne approached the counter and grabbed the offender from behind. The offender struck Mr Hoyne and a struggle ensued. During the struggle the offender stabbed Mr Hoyne several times, inflicting serious injury. The offender then ran off.

By his actions, Mr Hoyne displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available

Sergeant Peter Aldo LUKAITIS, Victoria Police

On the evening of 1 October 1999, Sergeant Lukaitis, went to the aid of a fellow police officer who had been wounded during a siege at Kangaroo Flat near Bendigo, Victoria.

On the evening of 1 October, a siege situation developed following a domestic incident at a home in Kangaroo Flat. During the siege, four police officers were shot and seriously wounded by a male offender armed with a rifle. Sergeant Lukaitis was in the process of briefing a fellow officer when the officer was shot in the stomach and fell to the ground. Sergeant Lukaitis, who was wearing a protective vest, immediately lay on the ground and positioned himself between his colleague and the gunman's line of fire. He then encouraged and assisted the officer to crawl a short distance to a slightly safer position behind a police vehicle. During this time Sergeant Lukaitis was himself shot in the foot. As his colleague's condition deteriorated Sergeant Lukaitis continued his efforts to remove him to a more secure position, encouraging him to seek cover and consciously positioning himself between his colleague and the line of fire. Eventually, the two officers managed to reach cover behind a bus shelter.

By his actions, Sergeant Lukaitis displayed considerable bravery.

Phone No: Work (03)5472 2099

BRAVERY MEDAL

Detective Senior Constable Craig Anthony MILLER, Victoria Police

On the evening of 1 October 1999, Detective Senior Constable Miller, went to the aid of a fellow police officer who had been wounded during a siege at Kangaroo Flat near Bendigo, Victoria.

On the evening of 1 October, a siege situation developed following a domestic incident at a home in Kangaroo Flat. During the siege, four police officers were shot and seriously wounded by a male offender armed with a rifle. One of the wounded officers had been trying to negotiate with the gunman when, shortly afterwards, he was shot in the chest and fell to the ground. As he lay there, further gunshots were fired and he was hit in his right upper thigh. After first escorting a member of the public from the immediate vicinity of the shooting, Detective Senior Constable Miller went to the assistance of the wounded officer. Together with a police colleague and while the gunman continued shooting, he crawled to the wounded officer and dragged him out of the line of fire to safety behind a brick fence. Following this incident, Detective Senior Constable Miller attempted to clear civilian pedestrians and motorists away from the siege area. In doing so, he became exposed to the gunman and was shot in the chest.

By his actions, Detective Senior Constable Miller displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available

Mr Peter ORR, deceased, Late of Melbourne Vic 3000

On the morning of 15 December 1998, Mr Orr lost his life when he attempted to apprehend an armed offender after a robbery at the Lynall Hall Community School in Richmond, Victoria.

Just before midday, the school principal returned to his office to disturb a young man rummaging through his office. When confronted, the man left the office and ran down the corridor, with the principal in pursuit. Mr Peter Orr, a teacher's aide, heard the principal's calls for assistance, left his classroom, and saw the offender running towards him in the corridor. In an attempt to apprehend the offender, Mr Orr grabbed him by the jacket, with the momentum throwing them both to the floor. At the same time, the offender saw Mr Orr moving to intercept him and produced a knife, which he used to stab Mr Orr in the head. As the principal reached the men he observed that Mr Orr had sustained an injury to the left side of his head, and he saw a knife on the floor between them. Mr Orr continued to struggle to restrain the offender until he was overcome by his injuries, and the offender was able to escape. Despite medical intervention, Mr Orr died a few days later as a result of the serious brain injuries he had sustained.

By his actions, Mr Orr displayed considerable bravery.

NOK: Details not available

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Harold James STIRTON, Kangaroo Flat Vic 3555

On the evening of 1 October 1999, Mr Stirton went to the aid of a wounded police officer during a siege at Kangaroo Flat near Bendigo, Victoria.

On the evening of 1 October, a siege situation developed following a domestic incident at a home in Kangaroo Flat. During the siege, four police officers were shot and seriously wounded by a male offender armed with a rifle. One of the wounded officers was shot in the chest when he attempted to clear civilian pedestrians and motorists away from the immediate siege area. Mr Stirton, who had witnessed the shooting, ran from his house to attend to the wounded officer who was now lying in a culvert. Observing that the officer lay in the line of fire of the gunman and was wearing a white shirt, Mr Stirton placed his own dark-coloured jacket over him in an attempt to obscure the officer from the gunman's view. Mr Stirton then made his way back across the line of fire, taking cover where he could, to report the officer's location and condition to other police officers.

By his actions, Mr Stirton displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (03)5447 7619 Work (03)5443 6611 Mobile 0417 477 617

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Angus Patrick BAULCH, Hawksdale Vic 3287

On the afternoon of 10 January 2001, Mr Baulch assisted in the rescue of a man who had become entangled in kelp and was trapped under a rock shelf at Port Fairy, Victoria.

At approximately 4:30pm, while preparing to go snorkelling, Mr Baulch was advised that a scuba diver had become entangled in kelp and was trapped under a rock shelf held fast by his scuba equipment. Mr Baulch went to assist, taking a knife with him. After unsuccessfully trying to remove some of the equipment, another rescuer held the trapped diver while Mr Baulch dived under the surface and cut the airline. Both rescuers then held the diver's head out of the water and dragged him to nearby rocks where police officers attempted to resuscitate him.

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

Phone Nos: Home (03)5560 8715 Mobile 0419 350 115

Mr Adrian BLACKBURN, Yangebup WA 6164

On the evening of 16 February 2002, Mr Blackburn rescued a woman who was being physically assaulted near Yangebup Lake, Western Australia.

At approximately 6:00pm a young woman was walking home when she was attacked by a man. Following the intervention of a passer-by, the woman was able to run away, but the attacker chased after her, knocked her to the ground and began to assault her. During the struggle, the woman managed to use her mobile phone to call for help. Mr Blackburn, with whom the young woman was staying, was advised by his wife of the attack and cycled to the scene of the struggle. He confronted the attacker, struggled with him and, after a short chase, restrained him until police officers arrived.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Constable Troy Bernhard DAUBARAS, Queensland Police

On the afternoon of 9 March 2001, Constable Daubaras assisted in the rescue of several people from floodwaters in Moorooka, Queensland.

At approximately 5:30pm Constable Daubaras and a fellow police officer were returning home during a storm that was causing extensive road flooding. Seeing a stranded vehicle, the two officers waded through the water and helped the female driver to escape. A second vehicle became stranded by the increasing floodwaters, and this car immediately began to fill with water and sank just below the surface. The driver managed to get out of the car and climb onto the vehicle's roof. Constable Daubaras and his colleague were joined by two other police officers and an attempt was made to pass a life jacket to the stranded driver. When this proved unsuccessful, Constable Daubaras tied one end of a piece of rope around his waist and the other end to a nearby fence post and, wearing a life jacket, swam over to the submerged vehicle. He then passed his life jacket to the driver and tied the rope around the driver's waist, thus enabling the other police officers to pull the driver to safety. Emergency services' personnel then arrived and Constable Daubaras was returned to safety.

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

Phone No: Work (07)3826 1888

Ms Lynette Alicia DAY, Maroochydhore Qld 4558

In the early hours of 13 September 2001, Ms Day rescued a woman and her two children from a burning townhouse in Maroochydhore, Queensland.

At approximately 4:10am Ms Day was awoken by the screams of a woman crying for help. She immediately went to investigate and saw a townhouse across the road on fire with a woman and two children trapped on the third floor balcony. Unable to access the burning building, Ms Day immediately went to the townhouse adjacent to the one on fire and raced up to the third floor apartment. She woke the elderly residents and, alerting them that to the situation, ran over to the balcony closest to the balcony on which the screaming woman and her two children were stranded. Due to the thick smoke, Ms Day could not actually see the people who were trapped and was forced to call to the woman to pass the children over the balcony through the smoke. In turn, she pulled each of the children to safety. With the assistance of another neighbour, Ms Day was then able to pull the woman from the burning balcony and escort her and her children to the safety of the footpath.

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

Phone No: Home (07)5479 1028

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Quoc Dat DUONG, deceased, Late of Lansvale NSW 2166

On the evening of 16 January 2001, Mr Duong lost his life when he attempted to rescue a friend who had encountered difficulties while swimming in the Georges River at Picnic Point, New South Wales.

At approximately 8:40pm, Mr Duong and his friend were fishing at Picnic Point when his friend decided to go for a swim. After wading into the river, the friend got into difficulties and began to splash around in the water. Despite being a poor swimmer, Mr Duong went to the aid of his friend but he too encountered difficulties in the river and subsequently drowned.

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

NOK: Mr Doi Van Duong (father)
Phone No: Home (02)9754 1137

Miss Adelina Andrea FUSCO, Auburn NSW 2144

On the afternoon of 29 October 2001, Miss Fusco rescued a small child from a burning house in Auburn, New South Wales.

At approximately 5:15pm Adelina, aged 8 years, was sitting in the front garden of a neighbour's house when she heard a small child crying from inside the house. Standing at the front door, Adelina could see the child near the door of the front bedroom and noticed that the bed was on fire. Adelina, although scared, realised that there were two other young children asleep in another bedroom and entered the house and attempted to wake them. She then picked up the first child and carried him from the house, alerting her mother who immediately phoned for emergency service. Neighbours then attempted to rescue the other children.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Ms Michele Ann GIBAUD, Medina WA 6167

On the evening of 20 October 2001, Ms Gibaud confronted armed offenders during a home invasion at Medina, Western Australia.

At approximately 11:30pm, Ms Gibaud was awoken by a light and noises. She woke her partner who went to investigate. Initially, he saw just one intruder, but was then attacked from behind by another intruder who was armed with a baseball bat. A struggle ensued. Ms Gibaud, hearing the commotion, went to her partner's aid and assisted in holding the second intruder face down on the floor after her partner had knocked him to the ground. Ms Gibaud was then attacked by a third intruder, causing her to release her hold on the second intruder. All three intruders then ran from the house.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

Mr Marco Leigh GOLDSMITH, Port Fairy Vic 3284

On the afternoon of 10 January 2001, Mr Goldsmith assisted in the rescue of a man who had become entangled in kelp and was trapped under a rock shelf at Port Fairy, Victoria.

At approximately 4:30pm, Mr Goldsmith became aware that a scuba diver had been entangled in kelp and trapped under a rock shelf. Mr Goldsmith went to assist and realised that the diver was held fast by his scuba equipment. After unsuccessfully trying to remove some of the equipment, Mr Goldsmith held the trapped diver while another rescuer dived under the surface and cut the airline. Both rescuers then held the diver's head out of the water and dragged him to nearby rocks where police officers attempted to resuscitate him.

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

Phone No: Home (03)5241 1019

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Senior Constable Gary William HARRISON, Victoria Police

On the evening of 1 October 1999, Senior Constable Harrison went to the aid of a fellow police officer who had been wounded during a siege at Kangaroo Flat near Bendigo, Victoria.

On the evening of 1 October, a siege situation developed following a domestic incident at a home in Kangaroo Flat. During the siege, four police officers were shot and seriously wounded by a male offender armed with a rifle. One of the wounded officers was shot in the chest when he attempted to clear civilian pedestrians and motorists away from the immediate siege area, and lay wounded in a culvert in the gunman's line of fire. Senior Constable Harrison witnessed the shooting. Together with a police colleague, he made his way to the wounded officer by climbing fences and taking cover where he could while shots continued to be fired. Senior Constable Harrison and his colleague then remained with the wounded officer until they were rescued by other police officers in an armoured vehicle.

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

Phone No: Work (03)5440 2510

Mrs Linda Marie HATCHER, Kuraby Qld 4112

On the evening of 22 April 1999, Mrs Hatcher assisted in the attempted rescue of a man at the scene of a motor vehicle accident in Underwood, Queensland.

At approximately 10:30pm, there was a motor accident involving three vehicles near Mrs Hatcher's home. Mrs Hatcher and her husband heard the accident and she immediately went to investigate while her husband phoned for emergency service. When she arrived at the accident, Mrs Hatcher saw a young man trapped in the passenger side of one of the vehicles and the driver engulfed in flames. Mrs Hatcher was joined by her husband and by another man, and together they tried to extinguish the flames. All three then attempted to lift the vehicle in order to release the trapped man. Unfortunately, they were unable to do so and the young man perished.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Martin Lewis HATCHER, Kuraby Qld 4112

On the evening of 22 April 1999, Mr Hatcher assisted in the attempted rescue of a man at the scene of a motor vehicle accident in Underwood, Queensland.

At approximately 10:30pm, there was a motor accident involving three vehicles near Mr Hatcher's home. Mr Hatcher and his wife heard the accident and he phoned for emergency service. He then went to the scene of the accident where he, his wife and another man sought to free a person who appeared to be trapped by his foot in the passenger seat of one of the vehicles. The vehicle was on fire and attempts were made to extinguish the flames. Although they managed to free the passenger's foot they were still unable to remove him from the vehicle; nevertheless they continued in their efforts to do so. Mr Hatcher, his wife and the other man then attempted to lift the vehicle in order to release the trapped man. Unfortunately, they were unable to do so and the young man perished.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

Mr Richard Ralph HOAGLAND, Bankstown NSW 2200

On the afternoon of 19 May 2001, Mr Hoagland rescued an elderly woman from her unit following a gas explosion at Bankstown, New South Wales.

At approximately 5:30pm, Mr Hoagland was at home when he heard an explosion and saw a flash that lit up the whole area. He immediately left his unit to investigate and saw an elderly woman walking around inside her ground floor unit which showed signs of damage from an explosion. The woman appeared disoriented and her clothing was burned and melted to her skin. Mr Hoagland entered the woman's unit through the balcony door just as she was about to sit on a smouldering chair. This caused her clothes to reignite and Mr Hoagland removed his shirt and used it to extinguish the flames. He then located the keys to the unit and assisted the woman out of the unit to safety.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Constable Mitchell Henry LEAHY, Western Australia Police

In the early hours of 8 June 2002, Constable Leahy intervened in a fight between armed youths at the Planet 1168 Internet Café, Bentley, Western Australia.

At approximately 4:20am, two youths began to fight in the café. One of the youths was armed with a samurai sword. Constable Leahy, who was off-duty, immediately intervened and was subsequently attacked by a third youth wielding the scabbard of the samurai sword. A bystander came to Constable Leahy's aid and helped him to tackle the third youth to the floor. The bystander disarmed the youth, and continued to restrain him while Constable Leahy sought to stop the fight between the original two youths. Constable Leahy took hold of one of them, realised that the youth had been stabbed, and rendered first aid until other police and ambulance officers arrived.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

Senior Constable Michala Jan MASKELL, Victoria Police

On the evening of 1 October 1999, Senior Constable Maskell went to the aid of a fellow police officer who had been wounded during a siege at Kangaroo Flat near Bendigo, Victoria.

On the evening of 1 October, a siege situation developed following a domestic incident at a home in Kangaroo Flat. During the siege, four police officers were shot and seriously wounded by a male offender armed with a rifle. One of the wounded officers was shot in the chest when he attempted to clear civilian pedestrians and motorists away from the immediate siege area, and lay wounded in a culvert in the gunman's line of fire. Senior Constable Maskell witnessed the shooting. Together with a police colleague, she made her way to the wounded officer by climbing fences and taking cover where she could while shots continued to be fired. Senior Constable Maskell and her colleague then remained with the wounded officer until they were rescued by other police officers in an armoured vehicle.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Graham Dudley MILNE, Medina WA 6167

On the evening of 20 October 2001, Mr Milne confronted armed offenders during a home invasion at Medina, Western Australia.

At approximately 11:30pm, Mr Milne's partner was awoken by a light and noises. She woke Mr Milne, who went to investigate after first arming himself with a Kuma, a martial arts training weapon. Initially, he saw one intruder, but was then attacked from behind by another intruder who was armed with a baseball bat. Mr Milne was able to hit the second intruder with the Kuma and knocked him to the ground. Mr Milne's partner, hearing the commotion, came to his aid but was soon attacked by a third intruder. All three intruders then ran from the house.

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

Phone Nos: Home (08)9419 7626 Mobile 0401 048 637

Mr Peter Thomas MURPHY, Darwin NT 0800

On the morning of 7 June 2000, Mr Murphy rescued a person and attempted to rescue another who had been caught in a rip off the island of Batek near Qecussi, East Timor.

At approximately 10:00am, Mr Murphy was swimming with others in the ocean off the island of Batek in East Timor when he noticed that two United Nations Civil Police Officers were in difficulty. Mr Murphy swam over to the officers and instructed them to float on their backs. He was able to calm one of the men, who was in a state of panic, and dragged him out of the current to safe water. The man was then able to swim back to the shore. Mr Murphy, who was by then nearing exhaustion, swam over to assist the second man who was also in a state of panic and showing evident signs of distress. He attempted to drag the second man from the current but was unable to do so and began to be dragged under the surface himself. Realising that he did not have sufficient energy to continue the rescue, Mr Murphy was forced to return to shore.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Glenn Jeffrey PARTRIDGE, Inverell NSW 2360

On the afternoon of 17 August 2000, Mr Partridge disarmed a student who was threatening other students with a knife at Inverell High School, New South Wales.

At approximately 2:00pm, a student attacked another student at Inverell High School and was subsequently restrained. The attacker was taken to a room to calm down but escaped and armed himself with a carving knife. The student then began brandishing the knife and making threats. Several teachers, including Mr Partridge, followed the student while other teachers ushered the remaining students into a small assembly building for their protection. The student with the knife then began to head in the direction of the building. Mr Partridge, realising the potential for the attacker to injure several people in the confined space of the assembly building, rushed the student and grabbed hold of the student's wrist holding the knife. With the assistance of another teacher, Mr Partridge wrestled the offender to the ground and held him there until police officers arrived.

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

Phone Nos: Home (02)6722 2967 Work (02)6722 3777

Senior Constable Frank Bryan REID, Victoria Police

On the evening of 1 October 1999, Senior Constable Reid assisted with the rescue of a fellow police officer who had been wounded during a siege at Kangaroo Flat near Bendigo, Victoria.

On the evening of 1 October, a siege situation developed following a domestic incident at a home in Kangaroo Flat. During the siege, four police officers were shot and seriously wounded by a male offender armed with a rifle. One of the wounded officers had been trying to negotiate with the gunman when, shortly afterwards, he was shot in the chest and fell to the ground. As he lay there, further gunshots were fired and he was hit in his right upper thigh. Two of Senior Constable Reid's colleagues went to the aid of the officer while Senior Constable Reid endeavoured to provide cover for them as the gunman continued firing. Through the combined efforts of the three officers the wounded officer was dragged to safety.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Dane William SCOTT, Kempsey NSW 2440

On the afternoon of 26 May 2001, Mr Scott rescued his father after their boat capsized off Smoky Cape, New South Wales.

At approximately 4:30pm Mr Scott, together with his father and a friend, were fishing off Smoky Cape when a large wave capsized their boat and all three were thrown into the sea. They floated in the water for some time and, realising that they were being dragged out to sea, decided to swim to nearby rocks. Mr Scott then noticed that his father was experiencing difficulties. He took hold of his father and swam towards the rocks. After several attempts, he managed to push his father onto the rocks where he tried to resuscitate him. Unfortunately, he was unable to revive his father.

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

Phone Nos: Home (02)6562 4499 Mobile 0438 624 499

Mr Neil Ashley SHAW, Port Fairy Vic 3284

On the afternoon of 10 January 2001, Mr Shaw attempted to rescue a scuba diver who had become entangled in kelp and was trapped under a rock shelf at Port Fairy, Victoria.

At approximately 4:30pm, Mr Shaw was preparing to go swimming when he became aware that a scuba diver had become entangled in kelp and was trapped under a rock shelf. Mr Shaw obtained a knife before swimming to an island adjacent to where the diver was trapped. He spoke briefly to the diver's brother and, after swimming about 40 metres, located the diver who was held fast by his scuba equipment. Mr Shaw dived under the surface several times to try to free the diver, but visibility was almost non-existent and he was unable to cut the man free. Mr Shaw then realised that he was becoming physically drained and could not continue with the rescue. He swam back to the island and handed the knife to another rescuer. The trapped diver was eventually freed.

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

Phone Nos: Home (03)5568 2970 Mobile 0408 033 169

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Ben SIMS, Bayswater WA 6053

In the early hours of 8 June 2002, Mr Sims went to the aid of a police officer who was being assaulted at the Planet 1168 Internet Café, Bentley, Western Australia.

At approximately 4:20am, two youths began to fight in the café. One of the youths was armed with a samurai sword. An off-duty police officer immediately intervened and was subsequently attacked by a third youth wielding the scabbard of the samurai sword. Mr Sims went to the police officer's aid and helped him to tackle the third youth to the floor. Mr Sims disarmed the youth, and continued to restrain him while the police officer sought to stop the fight between the original two youths.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

Mr Andrew Malcolm SNELL, South Hedland WA 6722

On the evening of 5 October 2000, Mr Snell pursued an armed offender after a robbery in Cannington, Western Australia.

At approximately 9:35pm, Mr Snell witnessed a man demanding money from a woman who was depositing money in the night safe at the Commonwealth Bank in Cannington. The woman dropped the money and ran towards her car; the offender picked up the money and ran down the street. Mr Snell chased the offender and caught him. In the ensuing struggle, Mr Snell received minor stab wounds. The offender then dropped the money and ran off.

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

Phone No: Home (08)9172 5449

Mrs Marlene Mavis WHYTE, Thomastown Vic 3074

On the evening of 24 November 2001, Mrs Whyte rescued a small child from the path of a reversing vehicle in Thomastown, Victoria.

At approximately 7:45pm, Mrs Whyte was walking along the footpath when she saw a small child walk behind a large 4-wheel drive vehicle that was being reversed out of a driveway. Mrs Whyte immediately ran to the child, picked him up and carried him out of the path of the vehicle.

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

Phone No: Home (03)9465 3275