

BRAVERY MEDAL

Senior Constable Duncan Robert ABERNETHY, New South Wales Police

On the night of 3 June 2002, Senior Constable Abernethy intervened in an armed robbery at the Smithfield Tavern, New South Wales.

At approximately 10:10pm, Senior Constable Abernethy, a member of the State Protection Group Dog Unit, was on patrol when he was advised of a robbery taking place at the Smithfield Tavern. He informed police and requested backup. He then went to the entrance of the tavern through which he could see a male offender holding a large knife. Patrons were being held in the bar area. Senior Constable Abernethy attempted entry through the doors but was unable to do so. He found another door and entered the tavern. He confronted the offender and called for him to stop. The offender immediately turned and ran. As Senior Constable Abernethy gave chase he noticed a second offender also holding a knife. Both offenders began to run to the rear exit and Senior Constable Abernethy holstered his gun and chased them. The offenders jumped into a car but Senior Constable Abernethy was able to take hold of one of the offenders and struggled with him. The second offender left the car and threw his knife at Senior Constable Abernethy before running away. Although he was almost hit in the head by the knife, Senior Constable Abernethy was able to restrain the remaining offender until fellow police officers arrived.

By his actions, Senior Constable Abernethy displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available

Senior Constable Jason Anthony BROSNAN, Queensland Police

On 21 February 1999, Senior Constable Brosnan attempted to apprehend an armed offender during a police operation at Johnstone, Queensland.

Senior Constable Brosnan, in the company of four other police officers, was conducting a search of a property when they found a man and a woman sleeping in a van. The man and the woman were asked to leave the van to enable it to be searched and while the search was underway the man ran off into bushland. Senior Constable Brosnan immediately ran after the man and after some time caught up to him and tackled him. The pair struggled and the man pressed a pistol into Senior Constable Brosnan's back. Senior Constable Brosnan managed to take hold of the pistol and continued to try to disarm the man. During the struggle, the pistol discharged and Senior Constable Brosnan was wounded in the leg. Senior Constable Brosnan continued in his efforts to disarm the man and in doing so sustained a number of injuries. Although he was finally able to disarm the man, because of his injuries and weakened state, Senior Constable Brosnan was not able to pursue the man when he again ran off.

By his actions, Senior Constable Brosnan displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Phillip John FARMER, Brighton Qld 4017

On the afternoon of 17 July 2002, Mr Farmer assisted in the rescue of a woman trapped in a burning vehicle on the Bruce Highway near Glasshouse Mountain, Queensland.

At approximately 4:00pm, Mr Farmer was driving on the Bruce Highway when he witnessed an accident that resulted in a vehicle losing control, crashing into a pylon and catching fire. Mr Farmer and another witness to the accident ran to the burning vehicle where Mr Farmer forced the driver's side door open and attempted to undo the driver's seat belt. Despite the smoke and flames, Mr Farmer continued his efforts to free the severely injured driver whose legs were trapped in the wreckage. Mr Farmer was finally able to release the seat belt and with the assistance of the other person pulled the driver to safety.

By his actions, Mr Farmer displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (07)3869 4936 Work (07)3269 6466 Mobile 0428 879 239

Mr Helmut Robert HERING, Blacktown NSW 2148

On the morning of 8 September 2001, Mr Hering apprehended an armed offender after a robbery at Blacktown, New South Wales.

At approximately 9:45am, Mr Hering heard his elderly neighbour calling out and when he approached her she told him that she had just been robbed. The neighbour pointed to the offender in a nearby van. Mr Hering approached the van and asked the man to get out. He became agitated and Mr Hering saw the man reach down under the driver's seat. Suspicious, Mr Hering jumped into the passenger side of the van and took hold of the offender. They began to struggle and the man produced a machete-styled knife. Mr Hering continued struggling with the offender, receiving injuries to his arm. Eventually, a police officer broke the driver's side window and restrained the offender. Mr Hering then disarmed the man.

By his actions, Mr Hering displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Jason Matthew JOHNS, Beeliar WA 6164

In the early morning of 28 April 2002, Mr Johns rescued two people from a house fire in Fremantle, Western Australia.

At approximately 1:00am, Mr Johns and a friend were made aware of a fire in a nearby house. Both men ran to the house and Mr Johns tried to put out the fire while the other man attempted to enter the house. Having been advised that entry was possible through the back door, Mr Johns entered the house. After initially being driven back by the intense smoke, he re-entered the house and located an elderly woman unconscious on the floor. With the assistance of his friend, he carried the woman from the house, being guided by a third man. After regaining consciousness the woman advised the men that her grandson was also in the house. Mr Johns again entered the house, found the grandson and led him to safety.

By his actions, Mr Johns displayed considerable bravery.

Phone No: Home (08)9437 6432

Mr Turanga Gisborne MAKO, Burpengary Qld 4505

On the afternoon of 17 July 2002, Mr Mako assisted in the rescue of a woman trapped in a burning vehicle on the Bruce Highway near Glasshouse Mountain, Queensland.

At approximately 4:00pm, Mr Mako was driving on the Bruce Highway when he witnessed an accident that resulted in a vehicle losing control, crashing into a pylon and catching fire. Mr Mako and another witness to the accident ran to the burning vehicle. Mr Mako attempted to put out the fire with a fire extinguisher while the second witness attempted to free the driver. Despite the intensity of the fire and small explosions occurring, Mr Mako crawled under the car to extinguish the flames and went under the bonnet to douse fuel. He then assisted the other person to pull the driver to safety.

By his actions, Mr Mako displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (07)3888 1602 Work (07)3888 3565 Mobile 0409 925 874

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mrs Karen Leanne NIXON, Bundaberg Qld 4670

On the afternoon of 1 January 2002, Mrs Nixon rescued a man who had been caught in a rip at Kelly's Beach, Bargara, Queensland.

At approximately 4:30pm, Mrs Nixon was swimming with her brother-in-law when they heard cries for help from an elderly man who had gone to the aid of his three children who had all been caught in a rip. Although the father was able to reach his children and hold on to them, he also became caught in the rip and the group was in danger of being swept onto nearby rocks. Mrs Nixon, a stronger swimmer, was aware of the danger to the group. She began swimming toward the group followed by her brother-in-law. The father's adult son also swam to the group. The two men each took one of the children and swam to safety. The father continued supporting the third child until, becoming exhausted, he pushed the child to safety. Mrs Nixon supported the man in the rough seas for some time seeking to comfort him throughout. Realising that they would be injured if they remained in the vicinity of the rocks, she advised him that it would be necessary to swim further out to sea and around the rip back toward the shore. The man was of a heavy build and was, by this stage, almost incapable of supporting himself. Despite his size, Mrs Nixon, with some difficulty, supported him and swam through the rip. As they neared the shore the man's adult son and Mrs Nixon's brother-in-law pushed out a boogie board to them. Mrs Nixon helped the man to climb onto the board and brought him safely to shore.

By her actions, Mrs Nixon displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available

Mr Ross Walter PERRY, Australind WA 6233

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

At approximately 3:40pm, Mr Perry was driving in a suburban street when he was flagged down by a resident. The resident explained that a dog was attacking a neighbour's mother. The woman was being attacked by a fully-grown pit bull dog that had continued its attack despite several attempts to stop it. Mr Perry followed the man to the scene of the attack where he was able to use the dog's collar to form a ligature around its throat. After a short time the dog released its grip on the woman. Both men were then able to drag the dog to behind a nearby gate while the neighbour took the victim into the house and called emergency services.

By his actions, Mr Perry displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (08)9797 1045 Mobile 0427 113 577

BRAVERY MEDAL

Miss Danielle-Ann ROBERTS, Stephens Qld 4227

On the afternoon of 12 June 2002, Miss Roberts went to the aid of a young girl after the girl had been attacked by a dog in Stephens, Queensland.

At approximately 5:00pm, Miss Roberts, aged 13 years, heard a person screaming and a dog growling and went to investigate. Miss Roberts found a young girl suffering the effects of a dog attack. A man who had apparently stopped to give assistance asked her to take the girl home. Miss Roberts began carrying the girl when the dog attacked them both. Miss Roberts was able to hold on to the girl and fight off the dog before reaching the safety of her home.

By her actions, Miss Roberts displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (07)5593 5474 Mobile 0401 925 669

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mrs Kaye Louise ANDERSON, Adamstown Heights NSW 2289

On the afternoon of 9 April 2002, Mrs Anderson, a teacher, negotiated the release of children from a siege situation at the Kootingal Public School, New South Wales.

At approximately 3:00pm, Mrs Anderson and a number of students, aged between 9 and 11 years, were confronted in their classroom by a man armed with a knife and carrying a plastic bag with strings attached. He warned them that the classroom was wired with explosives and that the plastic bag contained a bomb which he would set off if they did not do as he ordered. Other students who were returning to the classroom were also taken hostage, although some managed to escape and alert the Principal. The man ordered Mrs Anderson and the students to the back of the room and instructed the male students to tip over tables and barricade the doors. Mrs Anderson attempted to calm the frightened children and negotiated the release of one student to go and advise the Principal of the situation and to bring back water for the group. Mrs Anderson continued to calm the students and the Principal spoke to the man from outside the room, encouraging him to let other students go free. Mrs Anderson then spoke to the man and tried to persuade him to free the students. After a period of time the man agreed and released more students. By this time police officers had arrived and one officer managed to enter the room through a window and overpowered the man. Mrs Anderson then assisted some of the remaining students to leave through the door while others exited through a window.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

Mr James Patrick CARROLL, North Strathfield NSW 2137

On the afternoon of 11 August 2001 at the Lennon Brothers' Circus in Penrith, New South Wales, Mr Carroll entered a lions' cage and helped stop an attack on the trainer.

At approximately 2:10pm, Mr Carroll, a long-time employee of the circus, was backstage when two lions attacked a trainer towards the end of an act. Part of Mr Carroll's duties involved entering the cage in such a circumstance. Remaining calm, he took charge of opening the cage door. The trainer's brother entered first and, seeing the lion advance on the man, Mr Carroll immediately grabbed a large stool from within the cage and charged the lion's head. The lion retreated, as did the second lion. Mr Carroll then dragged the injured trainer to safety.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Andrew CLARK, Herston Qld 4006

On the afternoon of 25 June 2002, Mr Clark assisted in the rescue of several people from a burning vehicle after an accident on the Sunshine Motorway near Glenfields, Queensland.

At approximately 12:25pm, Mr Clark was driving on the motorway when he came across an accident involving two vehicles. There were two men trapped in one vehicle, which was burning, and a woman lying on the road nearby. A second woman was trapped in the other vehicle. Mr Clark stopped his vehicle and, together with other drivers who had also stopped, ran to the accident. Mr Clark and another man attempted to undo the seatbelt of the man in the front seat of the burning vehicle but they were unable to do so. The second man ran to get scissors or a knife to cut the seatbelt but on his return they were still unable to effectively do so. As the fire became more intense they were eventually able to manoeuvre the man from the seatbelt and remove him from the car to a safe place. Both men then went to the aid of the woman lying on the road and also moved her to a safe place as by this time the vehicle was totally engulfed in flames. A third man was able to remove the other person trapped in the burning vehicle and then went to the assistance of the woman trapped in the second vehicle.

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

Phone Nos: Home (07)3852 3136 Work (07)3236 2355 Mobile 0422 807 991

Detective Sergeant Simon DELANEY, Victoria Police

On 23 February 1999, Detective Sergeant Delaney attempted to apprehend an armed offender at Heidelberg, Victoria.

Around noon, Detective Sergeant Delaney pursued, by car, an offender wanted for questioning in connection with shootings in the Melbourne area. He was joined in the pursuit by other police officers in an unmarked car. Several police in the area had been alerted to the possible presence of the offender as they considered him to be a danger to the public. The two police cars were able to force the offender to stop and Detective Sergeant Delaney parked his car in front of the offender's vehicle and the second police car parked behind the vehicle. Both the offender and a police officer from the second police car got out of their cars with the offender firing at the police officer as he did so, wounding him in the upper torso. The police officer returned fire but the offender continued to shoot and began to approach the wounded police officer. The action took place very quickly and within a few seconds Detective Sergeant Delaney left his vehicle and fired in the direction of the offender to defend his wounded colleague and other officers who were approaching the scene on foot. The offender continued to exchange fire with the officers. Finally, the offender was restrained and Detective Sergeant Delaney went to assist his colleague.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Drew Richard DIVERS, Dundas NSW 2117

On the afternoon of 12 January 2001, Mr Divers rescued a disabled man from a burning vehicle in Ermington, New South Wales.

At approximately 5:00pm, Mr Divers, aged 17 years, was walking down Kissing Point Road when he saw a man waving at him in an agitated manner from inside a parked vehicle. Mr Divers also observed thick black smoke coming from the engine of the vehicle. Mr Divers ran to the vehicle and found the driver in a state of confusion. The man advised Mr Divers that he was a quadriplegic and, as a consequence, was unable to free himself from the car. As flames were clearly visible inside the vehicle, Mr Divers lifted the man from the vehicle and dragged him to safety.

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

Phone Nos: Home (02)9638 5475 Mobile 0438 542 474

Mr Darren James ELLIOTT, Gympie Qld 4570

On the afternoon of 3 February 2001, Mr Elliott rescued a man from a vehicle submerged in Lake Alford at Gympie, Queensland.

At approximately 5:00pm, Mr Elliott was driving on the Bruce Highway near Lake Alford when he witnessed an accident that resulted in a vehicle losing control and crashing into the nearby lake. The vehicle came to rest about 20 metres from the shore. Mr Elliott stopped his vehicle and ran to the water's edge where he shouted instructions to the driver to assist him in freeing himself. The driver attempted to do so but began to panic as the vehicle began to sink. Realising that the driver was beginning to panic, Mr Elliott dived into the lake and swam to the vehicle which was now fully submerged and about two metres below the surface. He dived under the water and was able to reach into the vehicle and release the driver's seatbelt. Mr Elliott then took hold of the man, who was quite heavy being weighed down by his wet clothing, and dragged him from the vehicle to safety.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Ignacio GIL, Barcelona, Spain

On the afternoon of 25 June 2002, Mr Gil assisted in the rescue of several people from a burning vehicle after an accident on the Sunshine Motorway near Glenfields, Queensland.

At approximately 12:25pm, Mr Gil was a passenger in a car being driven on the motorway when he came across an accident involving two vehicles. There were two men trapped in one vehicle, which was burning, and a woman lying on the road nearby. A second woman was trapped in the other vehicle. The driver of the car Mr Gil was travelling in stopped his vehicle and, together with other people who had also stopped, Mr Gil ran to the accident. Mr Gil and another man attempted to undo the seatbelt of the man in the front seat of the burning vehicle but they were unable to do so. Mr Gil ran to get scissors or a knife to cut the seat belt but on his return they were still unable to effectively do so. As the fire became more intense they were eventually able to manoeuvre the man from the seatbelt and remove him from the car to a safe place. Both men then went to the aid of the woman lying on the road and also moved her to a safe place as by this time the vehicle was totally engulfed in flames. Mr Gil stayed with the man he had rescued from the burning car, trying to keep him conscious until ambulance officers arrived. A third man was able to remove the other person trapped in the burning vehicle and then went to the assistance of the woman trapped in the second vehicle.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

Constable Anne Maree GODFREY, New South Wales Police

In the early morning of 4 January 2001, Constable Godfrey and a fellow police officer rescued a man from a burning unit in Riverwood, New South Wales.

At approximately 1:20am, Constable Godfrey and a police colleague were on patrol when they were informed that there was a fire in a nearby block of units. Both police officers immediately went to the units where they were able to see a man who appeared to be disoriented inside a burning unit. The officers made several attempts to enter the unit, including an attempt by Constable Godfrey to climb through a window, but were driven back by heat and smoke. They were finally able to enter the unit, made their way through the smoke and heat and found the man unconscious. Constable Godfrey and her colleague then dragged the man to safety.

By her actions, Constable Godfrey is commended for brave conduct.

Phone No: Mobile 0413 488 871

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Darren James HEAD, London, United Kingdom

In the early morning of 28 April 2002, Mr Head assisted in the rescue of an elderly woman from a house fire in Fremantle, Western Australia.

At approximately 1:00am, Mr Head and a friend were made aware of a fire in a nearby house. Both men ran to the house and while Mr Head attempted to enter the house, his friend attempted to extinguish the fire. Mr Head was able to gain entry through a back door and advised his friend. His friend then entered the house and located an elderly woman unconscious on the floor. Responding to a call from the man, Mr Head entered the house and assisted him in carrying the woman from the house, being guided by a third man.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

Mr Trevor John JOHNSON, Blackwater Qld 4717

On the afternoon of 1 January 2002, Mr Johnson helped to rescue several people who had been caught in a rip at Kelly's Beach, Bargara, Queensland.

At approximately 3:00pm Mr Johnson was swimming with his sister-in-law when they heard cries for help from an elderly man who had gone to the aid of his three children who had all been caught in a rip. Although the father was able to reach the children and hold on to them, he also became caught in the rip and the group was in danger of being swept onto nearby rocks. Mr Johnson followed his sister-in-law and swam to the man. Mr Johnson took one of the children and, with some difficulty because the tide was so strong, swam around the rocks taking the child to safety on shore. The father's adult son, who had also swum to the group, took a second child to safety. Mr Johnson assisted the third child from the water and then helped to push a boogie board out toward his sister-in-law and the exhausted father.

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

Phone Nos: Home (07)4982 7213 Work (07)4980 5416 Mobile 0407 580 257

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Constable Michael KELLY, New South Wales Police

On the afternoon of 28 February 2002, Constable Kelly assisted in the apprehension of a man armed with a sawn-off shotgun in Minto, New South Wales.

At approximately 4:35pm, Constable Kelly was patrolling with a fellow officer in a police vehicle when they observed a man, wanted by police, pushing a trail bike along the street. Both officers were aware that the man was possibly in possession of a firearm. The police officers drove in the direction of the man who tried to start the trail bike and ride away. When he was unable to do so, he began to run away and the police officers left their vehicle and chased after him. Constable Kelly was about to grab the man when he turned and struck him with a sawn-off shotgun. The man continued to run away and Constable Kelly and his colleague again ran after him. Constable Kelly tackled the man while the other officer attempted to take control of the gun. Both officers struggled with the man as he attempted to get his hand to the trigger of the gun. The other police officer was finally able to disarm the man but the offender continued to struggle. With the assistance of an elderly man who had witnessed the incident, the officers were then able to restrain the offender until other police officers arrived.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

Mr Oteti KOFE, Macquarie Fields NSW 2564

On the afternoon of 28 February 2002, Mr Kofe helped two police officers to restrain a man who was armed with a sawn-off shotgun in Minto, New South Wales.

At approximately 4:35pm, Mr Kofe, aged 65 years, was inside a house and heard a call for help. He went outside and saw a male and a female police officer struggling with a man. As he approached the group he noticed that the male police officer was bleeding. On seeing the blood, Mr Kofe went to assist the officers. He was able to help the officers to tackle the man to the ground, and the police officers then restrained the offender until other officers arrived.

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

Phone Nos: Home (02)9618 0306 Mobile 0405 176 497

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Warren Lindsay LENNON, Werrington NSW 2747

On the afternoon of 11 August 2001 at the Lennon Brothers' Circus in Penrith, New South Wales, Mr Lennon entered a lions' cage and helped stop an attack on the trainer.

At approximately 2:10pm, Mr Lennon, a lion trainer, was in the audience of his family's circus when his brother was attacked by a dominant male lion towards the end of an act. A second lion joined the attack. With Mr Lennon leading the way, he and another man entered the lions' cage. Mr Lennon shouted commands and quickly asserted control over one of the lions which retreated. Straddling his brother's body, he struck the other lion with training sticks and shouted commands to assert dominance. The lion released his brother, retreated, but then attempted to return to the attack. Mr Lennon stood between his brother and the lion and shouted commands until the animal finally retreated. While this occurred another man removed Mr Lennon's brother to safety.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

Constable Kristy MAHLBERG, New South Wales Police

On the afternoon of 28 February 2002, Constable Mahlberg assisted in the apprehension of a man armed with a sawn-off shotgun in Minto, New South Wales.

At approximately 4:35pm, Constable Mahlberg was patrolling with a fellow officer in a police vehicle when they observed a man, wanted by police, pushing a trail bike along the street. Both officers were aware that the man was possibly in possession of a firearm. The police officers drove in the direction of the man who tried to start the trail bike and ride away. When he was unable to do so he began to run away and the police officers left their vehicle and chased after him. The other officer was about to grab the man when the offender turned and struck him with a sawn-off shotgun. The man continued to run away and Constable Mahlberg and her colleague again ran after him. Constable Mahlberg attempted to take control of the gun after the other officer tackled the man. Both officers struggled with the offender as he pushed the gun into Constable Mahlberg's chest and attempted to get his hand to the trigger of the gun. Constable Mahlberg was finally able to disarm the man but the offender continued to struggle. With the assistance of an elderly man who had witnessed the incident, the officers were then able to restrain the offender until other police officers arrived.

By her actions, Constable Mahlberg is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Not available

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Edward Joseph PARKER, Sandy Creek via Kilcoy Qld 4515

On the afternoon of 25 June 2002, Mr Parker assisted in the rescue of several people after an accident on the Sunshine Motorway near Glenfields, Queensland.

At approximately 12:25pm, Mr Parker was driving on the motorway when he came across an accident involving two vehicles. There were two men trapped in one vehicle, which was burning, and a woman lying on the road nearby. A second woman was trapped in the other vehicle. Mr Parker stopped his vehicle and put his hazard lights on, creating a safety zone. Together with other drivers who had also stopped he ran to the accident. Mr Parker dragged the man in the rear seat of the burning vehicle to safety while two other men attempted to manoeuvre the man in the front seat from the seatbelt and remove him from the car. Mr Parker then went over to the second vehicle and tried to free the woman inside. He realised that he would be unable to do so because her legs were trapped under the dashboard. Mr Parker made the woman as comfortable as he could but he became concerned that she was in danger because of the fuel spillage on the road and the flames from the burning vehicle. He returned to his vehicle, a truck, and drove it closer to the vehicle in which the woman was trapped. With the assistance of another man who attached a snatch strap to the truck and the car, he was able to tow the woman's car to a safe distance away from the burning vehicle.

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

Phone Nos: Home (07)5498 1271 Mobile 0414 549 812

Miss Evelyn Rita RIESSEN, Coober Pedy SA 5723

On the afternoon of 16 September 1999, Miss Riessen rescued an elderly man from a burning caravan in Coober Pedy, South Australia.

At approximately 12:50pm, Miss Riessen (who was a member of the South Australia Police at the time of the incident) was advised of a fire in a caravan. On arriving at the caravan Miss Riessen heard sounds from a person inside. She entered the caravan, crawled through thick smoke and found an elderly man attempting to douse the flames. Although the man was reluctant to leave the caravan, Miss Riessen, appreciating the danger the man was in, took charge and dragged him to safety outside the caravan.

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

Phone No: Home (08)8672 5481

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Senior Constable Eric Rudolf SENFF, New South Wales Police

In the early morning of 4 January 2001, Senior Constable Senff and a fellow police officer rescued a man from a burning unit in Riverwood, New South Wales.

At approximately 1:20am, Senior Constable Senff and a fellow police officer were on patrol when they were informed that there was a fire in a nearby block of units. Both police officers immediately went to the fire and they were able to see a man who appeared to be disoriented inside the burning unit. The officers made several attempts to enter the unit but were driven back by heat and smoke. They were finally able to enter the unit after Senior Constable Senff forced the lock on the door. They made their way through the smoke and heat and found the man unconscious. Senior Constable Senff and his fellow officer then dragged the man to safety.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

Mr Jason-Leigh STRIEGHER, Victoria Police

In the early afternoon of 23 February 1999, Mr Strieggher attempted to apprehend an armed offender at Heidelberg, Victoria.

Around noon, Mr Strieggher (who was a member of the Victoria Police at the time of the incident) responded to a call from a fellow police officer in pursuit of an offender, wanted for questioning in connection with shootings in the Melbourne area. He joined in the pursuit in an unmarked police car. Several police in the area had been alerted to the possible presence of the offender as they considered him to be a danger to the public. The police officers were able to force the offender to stop and Mr Strieggher parked his vehicle behind the offender's and the second police officer parked in front of the offender's vehicle. Both the offender and Mr Strieggher got out of their cars with the offender firing at Mr Strieggher as he did so, wounding him in the upper torso. Mr Strieggher called upon the offender to drop his weapon and when he did not, returned fire. The offender continued to shoot and began to approach him. The second police officer then left his vehicle and fired at the offender to protect Mr Strieggher. A further exchange of fire occurred and, finally, the offender was restrained.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Vladimir SVIRIDOV, Melbourne Vic 3000

On the morning of 28 January 2002, Mr Sviridov rescued his grandson from a dog attack at Altona Meadows, Victoria.

At approximately 10:30am, Mr Sviridov heard his grandson screaming and ran to investigate. Mr Sviridov saw a large dog standing over the boy with his jaws clamped around the boy's head. The dog was shaking and dragging the boy and inflicting bites on other parts of his body. Mr Sviridov ran over to the boy and attempted to drag him from the dog which would not let go. When a neighbour, who had run from further down the street, arrived he waved and yelled at the dog causing him to let go. The dog ceased its attack and ran off. Mr Sviridov then assisted the boy, who had multiple injuries, to safety.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

Mr Peter John WEBB, Orient Point NSW 2540

On the afternoon of 30 January 2002, Mr Webb attempted to rescue a man from the sea off Culburra Beach, New South Wales.

At approximately 4:00pm, Mr Webb was walking to the beach with his daughter when he encountered a distressed woman. She informed them that her stepfather was swimming further out to sea than usual and that he appeared to be in difficulties. Mr Webb entered the water and swam out to the man. The man was face down in the water and Mr Webb attempted to turn him face up. The surf was quite rough and Mr Webb was hit by a wave and lost his grip on the man. Because of the heavy sea he was unable to find the man again and was forced to swim to shore.

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

Phone Nos: Home & Work (02)4447 3662 Mobile 0403 396 604