STAR OF COURAGE

Corporal Shaun Jason CLEMENTS, Vic

Late in the afternoon of 5 May 2001, Corporal Clements rescued the injured driver of a runaway tank during an Army training exercise and prevented the tank crashing into two occupied tanks.

Corporal Clements was a crew member of a tank taking part in an Army Training exercise at the Shoalwater Bay Training Area in Queensland when he heard the tank driver screaming. The turret of the tank had been moving erratically, catching the driver's head between the gun and the outside edge of the driver's hatch. Corporal Clements, who was in the turret with the tank commander, immediately pulled himself out of the turret to go to the aid of the driver, who had suffered serious head injuries. The tank suddenly accelerated and sped down a heavily-wooded gully. While holding the driver's head in one hand, Corporal Clements tried to apply the handbrake with his other hand, and attempted, unsuccessfully, to turn off the engine. The tank continued to pick up speed, crashing into trees that covered the terrain. Corporal Clements could see the tank was on a collision course with two other tanks at the bottom of the gully. He again reached into the driver's compartment and managed to turn the tank up a slope, narrowly avoiding one of the stationary tanks, and used the steep gradient and the trees to bring the tank to a halt. Corporal Clements sustained broken ribs, a collapsed lung and considerable bruising during the incident. However, he remained on the tank to help with the medical evacuation of the driver.

By his actions, Corporal Clements displayed conspicuous courage.

Any enquiries regarding the above award should be directed to Defence Media Liaison on (02) 6265 3343 or 0408 498 664.

Mr Arron Joel AGIUS, 1 Banksia Place, Oakdale NSW 2570

In the early hours of 18 January 2003, Mr Agius rescued a man from a burning car after it crashed in Oakdale, New South Wales.

Mr Agius heard a car accident near his home and immediately went to investigate. As he ran towards the car he could see it was well alight. On reaching the car, Mr Agius heard a man on the passenger side of the vehicle screaming for help. He tried to open the passenger door, but as the car had landed on its roof he was only able to open the door 30 centimetres. Mr Agius then ran to a nearby house for help. Receiving no response to his calls Mr Agius ran back to the car. Mr Agius reached into the car and grabbed hold of the passenger's hand. He was then able to pull the man out of the car through the narrow opening to safety. Mr Agius poured water over the victim's burns and stayed with him until the arrival of emergency services.

By his actions, Mr Agius displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (02)4659 6252 Work (02)9828 8888 Mobile 0401 867 115

Miss Monika Beata BIELSKI, Mount Sheridan Qld 4868

On the afternoon of 20 October 2002, Ms Bielski helped to rescue a young child who had been stabbed by a man in Cairns, Queensland.

Miss Bielski was having lunch by the Little Musgrave River when she heard a woman's cries for help from the other side of the river. Miss Bielski then saw a woman carrying a toddler in her arms and another young child running beside her. Miss Bielski entered the river and swam across to the woman and the children, where she was told that a man had just stabbed the younger child. Although aware that an armed man was in the area, Miss Bielski put aside fears for her own safety and helped the woman and children along the riverbank until they came to a shallow part of the river. Miss Bielski then took the badly injured child and carried her across the river to a nearby hotel to await the arrival of emergency services. Miss Bielski also comforted the victim's four-year-old brother until ambulances arrived at the scene.

By her actions, Miss Bielski displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available.

Mr Peter Kenneth BURCH, PO Box 267, South Yarra Vic 3141

On the evening of 27 August 2002, Mr Burch rescued several people from a woman wielding a knife in central Melbourne.

Mr Burch was supervising preparations for a concert in the Collins Street Baptist Church when he heard screams coming from inside the church. A woman, armed with a knife, had stabbed two women near the entrance of the church and was walking towards Mr Burch. He called out to the woman to drop the knife, but she kept coming towards him. Mr Burch immediately rushed forward, trying to wrench the knife from the woman's grasp. Responding to Mr Burch's calls for help, two other men quickly joined him in trying to disarm the woman. After a lengthy struggle, they managed to prise the knife from the woman's grasp and restrain her until police arrived at the scene. Mr Burch sustained a knife wound to his stomach during the struggle.

By his actions, Mr Burch displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (03)9827 8136 Work (03)9645 5088 Mobile 0408 647 737

Mr Paul Benjamin DEWHURST, 67 Como Parade, Como West NSW 2226

On the morning of 2 July 2002, Mr Dewhurst rescued two teenage boys from the surf at Coledale Beach, New South Wales.

Mr Dewhurst was preparing to surf at Coledale Beach in New South Wales when a man asked him if he could help rescue two boys stranded by big surf. Mr Dewhurst agreed and jumped with a body board from a rock ledge into the ocean, as the waves were too big to attempt to paddle out from the beach. Mr Dewhurst paddled about 500 metres to find the two boys huddled on one board, where they had been waiting for one and a half hours to be rescued. Upon reaching them, Mr Dewhurst gave his board to one of the boys and told them to paddle towards the beach. Mr Dewhurst swam beside them to ensure they reached the beach safely.

By his actions, Mr Dewhurst displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (02)9528 7083 Work (02)9579 3800 Mobile 0414 717 502

Mr Robert Brian FIELD, 9 Hawkesbury Drive, Willetton WA 6155

On the morning of 27 November 1999, Mr Field rescued a colleague from a swarm of bees in Jerdacuttup, Western Australia, disregarding his own allergy to bee stings.

Mr Field was working with a fellow volunteer fire-fighter clearing a firebreak when he noticed his colleague had accidentally disturbed a hive of bees, which instantly swarmed the cabin of his colleague's loader. Despite a severe, and potentially fatal, allergy to bee stings, Mr Field ran to help his colleague, grabbing his arms and urging him to run from the bees. Mr Field helped his colleague through approximately 100 metres of bush before the bees stopped swarming. Another colleague drove the two men to a neighbouring property where they received first aid for multiple bee stings. Mr Field's bee stings swelled over much of his body and he required oxygen in the ambulance to hospital where he was admitted and treated.

By his actions, Mr Field displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (08)9354 7748 Mobile 0429 383 015

Mr Matthew Jon HORNERY,

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'Four Seasons' St James Close, Burradoo NSW 2576

On the night of 4 October 2000 Matthew Hornery attempted to rescue his baby daughter from a house fire in Melton, Victoria.

Mr Hornery was asleep when his partner smelled smoke and found their baby's room engulfed in flames and filled with smoke. She screamed for Mr Hornery, who immediately tried to enter the baby's room, but was forced back by the intense heat and smoke. The fire had cut power supply to the house. In darkness Mr Hornery and his partner managed to find their way out and Mr Hornery used his body to smash the window of the baby's room. Mr Hornery climbed in through the window, but was unable to find his baby. Mr Hornery again entered the house, but became disoriented and collapsed over a window sill, sustaining serious burns and cuts to his stomach. Tragically, his baby daughter perished.

By his actions, Mr Hornery displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: (02)9300 6278 Mobile 0403 995 604

Mr Paul HOWARD, 18 Elm Grove, Langwarrin Vic 3910

On the morning of 25 March 2001, Mr Howard rescued a woman from a house fire in the Melbourne suburb of Frankston North.

Mr Howard was woken by his wife, who heard sounds like a fire from outside their home. Mr Howard investigated and saw that his neighbour's house was ablaze and immediately went to help. Using a block splitter, Mr Howard broke a front window, but was forced back by intense heat and thick smoke. He then went to the rear of the house and, hearing screams from his neighbour, broke another window and this time managed to enter the house. With no visibility Mr Howard was unable to find the woman and was again forced back by the smoke and heat. Mr Howard made a third attempt to enter the house by breaking down the back door. He crawled into the house and managed to find his neighbour, who was lying unconscious on the floor. Mr Howard dragged the woman out of her house to safety.

By his actions, Mr Howard displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available.

Ms Carly Louise HUTCHINSON, Rowley Road, Myponga SA 5202

On an afternoon in February 1999, Ms Hutchison, then aged nine, rescued a toddler from a dam at Myponga, South Australia.

Ms Hutchison was out walking with her two cousins, aged seven and two, on a dairy farm. The youngest child, James, had become separated and could be seen approximately 25 metres away from the older children, standing on the edge of an effluent dam. The older children ran over, but when they reached the dam James had fallen in and could not be seen. Miss Hutchison immediately jumped into the dam and dived under the effluent in an attempt to find her cousin. At first unsuccessful, she dived under again and this time was able to grab hold of him and pull him to safety.

By her actions, Ms Hutchison displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (08)8558 6337 Mobile 0400 586 337

Mr Andrew James JOHNSON,

31 Inglis Street, Bacchus Marsh Vic 3340

In the early hours of 27 December 2001, Mr Johnson, then 16 years of age, pushed a friend out of the way of an oncoming vehicle in Bacchus Marsh, Victoria.

Mr Johnson and his friend were walking along the gravel shoulder of a road when they heard a car approaching from behind. Mr Johnson could see that the car was being driven erratically. He grabbed hold of his friend and pulled him out of the way of the oncoming car, bearing the full brunt of impact himself. The car hit Mr Johnson, flinging him over the bonnet, with his head striking the windscreen. Mr Johnson was then thrown onto the road. He suffered life-threatening injuries as a result of the accident.

By his actions, Mr Johnson displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (03)5367 2807 Work (03)5367 2060 Mobile 0402 732 550

Mrs Suzanne Luci LEONE.

106 Lower Dandenong Road, Mentone Vic 3194

On the morning of 18 October 2000, Mrs Leone tried to rescue a woman who was being attacked by a man armed with a knife in the Melbourne suburb of Mentone.

Mrs Leone was working at a clothing store when she heard a woman's cries for help coming from the store's staff room. Mrs Leone immediately went into the staff room to find her employer huddled on the floor. A man was standing over her armed with a knife. Mrs Leone ran over to the man, grabbed his arm and attempted to disarm him. During the ensuing struggle the knife flew across the room. Mrs Leone then pleaded with the man to stop attacking the woman. Instead, he grabbed another knife from a nearby table and repeatedly stabbed the woman as she lay on the floor. Mrs Leone realised she was incapable of further helping the woman, so ran from the room to call the police.

By her actions, Mrs Leone displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (03)9583 4651

Mr William Thomas MELLINGTON, Rainbow Vic 3424

On the evening of 26 May 2002, Mr Mellington rescued a woman from a burning car after an accident in Werrap, Victoria.

Mr Mellington and his wife were driving along the Rainbow-Jeparit Road when they came across a single-car accident. Mr Mellington stopped his car and went to investigate. Once at the car Mr Mellington could see an injured man trying unsuccessfully to get a woman out of the front passenger seat. Mr Mellington could hear the engine revving loudly and see flames coming from underneath the car. He quickly walked around to the driver's side of the car and turned off the engine. Mr Mellington then forced open the driver's door and spoke to the passenger, who was badly injured. Believing the car could explode into flames at any time, Mr Mellington climbed into the car, took hold of the woman and dragged her out of the car, a process that took several minutes. Moments after Mr Mellington pulled the woman to safety the car was engulfed in flames.

By his actions, Mr Mellington displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available

Mr David Robert NORRIS, 11 Salisbury Drive, Nowra NSW 2541

In the early evening of 16 January 2003, Mr Norris helped to rescue a teenage girl at Racecourse Beach, Bawley Point, in New South Wales.

Mr Norris was fishing at Racecourse Beach when he noticed his daughter and his partner's daughter were in trouble in the surf. Mr Norris immediately threw down his fishing gear and swam out to the girls. Once he reached them, he could see that his daughter was supporting the other girl and holding her head out of the water. Mr Norris waited until the next set of waves and propelled his daughter towards the shore, telling her to swim until she reached the beach, which she safely did. After three attempts, Mr Norris managed to grab hold of the other girl and began swimming towards the shore, all the time yelling for help. Two men responded to Mr Norris's cries for assistance and helped bring the now unconscious girl to shore. Prolonged first aid efforts by people on the beach and, later, by emergency services, managed to get the girl breathing, but tragically, she later died in hospital.

By his actions, Mr Norris displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (02)4421 8040 Mobile 0412 914 775

Senior Constable Michael Andrew PROTT, New South Wales Police

On the night of 8 June 2002, Senior Constable Prott attempted to apprehend three men after an armed robbery at a video store in Richmond, New South Wales.

Senior Constable Prott, an off-duty police officer, his brother and brother-in-law were eating dinner with their families in a restaurant when they were told that a nearby video store was being robbed. They immediately ran towards the store. Whilst doing so, they could see a robbery in progress, with two men threatening staff. When they were about 10 metres from the store they saw three men emerge and run down the road. Despite suspecting the offenders were armed, they immediately gave chase. Senior Constable Prott reached the offenders as they climbed into a getaway car, identifying himself as a police officer. He reached into the car, grabbed one of the men and dragged him from the car. A violent struggle ensued and Senior Constable Prott was hit on the head from behind by another of the offenders. Senior Constable Prott managed to keep his grip on the offender's leg and then heard another offender yell that he had a knife and was going to stab him. Senior Constable Prott was then stabbed in the back. Despite a continued struggle with the offenders by Senior Constable Prott's brother, the three offenders were able to get in the car and drive away.

By his actions, Senior Constable Prott displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Work (02)6583 0199 Mobile 0429 161 010

Ambulance Officer Stephen Edmund PROTT,

Chapman Parade, Faulconbridge NSW 2776

On the night of 8 June 2002, Mr Prott attempted to apprehend three men after an armed robbery at a video store in Richmond, New South Wales.

Mr Prott, his brother (an off-duty police officer) and their brother-in-law were eating dinner with their families in a restaurant when they were told that a nearby video store was being robbed. They immediately ran towards the store. Whilst doing so, they could see a robbery in progress, with two men threatening staff. When Mr Prott, his brother and brother-in-law were about 10 metres from the store they saw three men emerge and run down the road. Despite suspecting the offenders were armed, they immediately gave chase. They caught up with the offenders as they climbed into a getaway car and a violent struggle ensued, with Mr Prott's brother stabbed in the back. Mr Prott grabbed one of the offenders, but was knocked to the ground and repeatedly punched and kicked. Mr Prott managed to grab the leg of one of the offenders, until he was told by his brother that one of the men had a knife and that he should let go. The three offenders then escaped by car.

By his actions, Mr Prott displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (02)4751 9272 Mobile 0418 297 353

Mr Mark Leslie RYAN, 23 Farleys Road, Moyne Vic 3284

In the early morning of 25 October 2001, Mr Ryan rescued a man from a burning car after an accident at Illowa, Victoria.

Mr Ryan was driving to work when he saw a car crash into a power pole and burst into flames. The force of the impact severed power lines, which were hanging just above the car. Mr Ryan immediately stopped his car, rang emergency services and then ran over to the burning car. Mr Ryan could see a man in the driver's seat and noticed the fire was starting to spread from under the bonnet throughout the car. Mr Ryan ran back to his own car to get a woollen blanket and jacket from the boot. After returning to the burning car, Mr Ryan tried several times to open the driver's door. He finally managed to open the door, reached in and undid the unconscious driver's seatbelt. Mr Ryan then grabbed hold of the injured man, pulled him from the car, and placed him on the ground a safe distance from the burning car. Mr Ryan ran back to the car to check if there were any passengers. Another man also witnessed the accident and helped Mr Ryan carry the driver further away from the burning car to safety.

By his actions, Mr Ryan displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (03)5568 7281 Mobile 0417 547 685

Mr Monitini SATAE, 3A Carnegie Circuit, Chifley NSW 2036

In the early hours of 1 February 2002, Mr Satae rescued a man from a burning house in the Sydney suburb of Chifley.

Mr Satae was woken by his wife who had seen flames coming from a bedroom of the house opposite. Wearing only shorts, a tee-shirt and no shoes, Mr Satae ran across the road where he was joined by other neighbours. They tried several times to break down the front and back doors, and eventually Mr Satae managed to smash a side door and entered the house, followed by several neighbours. Finding no one on the ground floor, Mr Satae went upstairs where he found a man lying on the floor near the flames. He tried to drag the man downstairs, but had to run downstairs to breathe fresh air. He then returned upstairs, carried the man downstairs and handed him to a neighbour. Mr Satae twice tried to get back upstairs, but was forced back by thick smoke. After the arrival of emergency services, a fire fighter handed Mr Satae a fire hose, which he held while two more people were rescued from the house. Mr Satae was treated for smoke inhalation.

By his actions, Mr Satae displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (02)9661 3548 Mobile 0416 334 074

Mr Michael Patrick SHERLOCK.

24 Gollop Crescent, Redwood Park SA 5097

On the morning of 21 September 2002, Mr Sherlock rescued a woman from being stabbed by a man armed with a kitchen knife in the Adelaide suburb of Redwood Park.

Mr Sherlock was in his backyard when he heard a woman's cries for help coming from the house backing onto his own. Mr Sherlock looked over the fence and saw his neighbours struggling at the back door of their home. Mr Sherlock could see that the man was armed with a knife and yelled out for him to stop attacking the woman. Mr Sherlock then grabbed his hiking stick and jumped over the fence. The neighbours' terrier dog immediately attacked him. Mr Sherlock managed to kick the dog away and ran over to the couple, where it was clear that the woman had been cut and stabbed several times, and was in grave danger of further harm. Mr Sherlock shouted at the man to drop the knife, which was then flicked in his direction. Mr Sherlock managed to kick the knife out of the man's reach and was able to pull the man from the woman and restrain him, thus enabling the woman to call the police. While this was happening the dog continued to attack Mr Sherlock.

By his actions, Mr Sherlock displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (08)8264 0057 Mobile 0404 065 534

Mr Andrew George STALLARD, deceased, late of Nannup WA 6275

On the morning of 19 April 2003, Mr Stallard attempted to rescue his mother after she had been swept off rocks at Black Point, Augusta, Western Australia.

Mr Stallard, his parents and one of his brothers were fishing at their favourite fishing spot, Black Point, but decided to return home early as only small fish were biting. As they were packing up to leave, Mrs Stallard was swept off the rocks into a channel and out into rough seas in the Southern Ocean. Mr Stallard's brother, Paul, could see his mother was trying to remove her coat and was in difficulty. He immediately dived into the water and swam over to his mother, but the current was dragging them both further out to sea. Mr Andrew Stallard, who was not a strong swimmer, tied a fishing line around his waist and entered the turbulent water. He managed to reach his mother and brother, while their father attempted to drag them to shore. When they were just ten metres from the shore two waves broke on them, pulling them about 100 metres back out to sea. Mr Stallard's mother lost her grip on the line and was swept out to sea. The men's father was still trying to drag his sons to shore, but they were unable to hold on. They, too, were swept out to sea. Tragically, all three lost their lives.

By his actions, Mr Andrew Stallard displayed considerable bravery.

NOK: Mr Ronald Stallard (father)
Phone Nos: Not available

Mr Paul David STALLARD, deceased, late of Nannup WA 6275

On the morning of 19 April 2003, Mr Stallard attempted to rescue his mother after she had been swept off rocks at Black Point, Augusta, Western Australia.

Mr Stallard, his parents and one of his brothers were fishing at their favourite fishing spot, Black Point, but decided to return home early as only small fish were biting. As they were packing up to leave, Mrs Stallard was swept off the rocks into a channel and out into rough seas in the Southern Ocean. Mr Stallard could see his mother was trying to remove her coat and was in difficulty. He immediately dived into the water and swam over to his mother, but the current was dragging them both further out to sea. Mr Stallard's brother, Andrew, who was not a strong swimmer, tied a fishing line around his waist and entered the turbulent water. He managed to reach his mother and brother, while their father attempted to drag them to shore. When they were just ten metres from the shore two waves broke on them, pulling them about 100 metres back out to sea. Mr Stallard's mother lost her grip on the line and was swept out to sea. The men's father was still trying to drag his sons to shore, but they were unable to hold on. They, too, were swept out to sea. Tragically, all three lost their lives.

By his actions, Mr Paul Stallard displayed considerable bravery.

NOK: Mr Ronald Stallard (father)
Phone Nos: Not available

Senior Constable Peter Joseph VAN KEMPEN, Victoria Police

On the afternoon of 14 February 2001, Senior Constable Van Kempen rescued four men after their boat capsized at Skenes Creek near Apollo Bay, Victoria.

Senior Constable Van Kempen, a member of the Victoria Police, was on duty when told that four men had been washed into the sea after their small boat was struck by a large wave and capsized. Senior Constable Van Kempen arrived at the beach and swam approximately 40 metres through a heavy swell to reach the boat. A number of people in a small dinghy had tried to reach the four men, but were forced back by the big surf. When Senior Constable Van Kempen reached the men they were suffering exhaustion and were starting to panic. None was wearing a lifejacket. Two of the men were able to swim to shore unaided. The other two men were by now too tired to swim on their own. One of the men was also entangled in fishing line. Senior Constable Van Kempen grabbed hold of one of the men and, swimming sidestroke, was able to get him ashore. Senior Constable Van Kempen then obtained a knife and entered the surf a second time, swimming out to the other man. He managed to cut through the fishing line and dragged the man to shore. When they reached the beach they were struck by a large wave, pushing Senior Constable Van Kempen hard into the back of the other man, thus injuring his nose.

By his actions, Constable Van Kempen displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Work (03)5237 6750

Mr David WELLS. 16 Gray Street, Swansea NSW 2281

On the night of 15 January 2001, Ambulance Officer Wells rescued several people caught in a rip at Newcastle Beach, New South Wales.

Ambulance Officer Wells and three colleagues received a call to attend Newcastle Beach, where three people were caught in a rip. When they arrived at the beach, it was in total darkness and no lifeguards were present. The waves were three metres high. The ambulance officers entered the water and swam beyond the breakers to find the group of people. The officers directed the stranded people to a nearby sandbar and were then told a fourth person, a woman, was swept further out to sea. Officer Wells went to look for her and swam approximately 300 metres, calling out for the woman and hearing her cries for help. After 15 minutes Officer Wells found the woman vomiting and struggling to keep afloat. He managed to keep her head out of the water for 20 minutes until a helicopter arrived to winch the pair to safety.

By his actions, Mr Wells displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: (02)4972 0945 Mobile 0439 400 421

Mr Dean James BEAMENT, 9 Spence Street, Trigg WA 6029

In the early hours of 8 March 2002, Mr Beament gave medical assistance to two people during a bushfire in Forrestfield, Western Australia.

Mr Beament, a St John's Ambulance paramedic, and his colleague were called to a property, where high winds were fanning a bushfire towards the home. The female occupant of the home suffered chronic asthma, and smoke from the fire had triggered an asthma attack. Her husband suffered from a heart condition. On arriving at the property, Mr Beament and his colleague were met by the couple's son-in-law, who advised that they would be unable to drive to the house as fire had destroyed a bridge. The two officers left their ambulance at the gate and decided to walk to the house – some 150 metres away – carrying first aid equipment, including an oxygen bottle. In extremely hot conditions, they forced their way into the smoke-filled house where they found the woman lying on the floor in a critical condition. Mr Beament treated her, while his colleague found the woman's husband crouching outside the house trying to douse the flames with a garden hose. He was suffering from heat stress and smoke inhalation. The two officers treated the couple for about an hour until the arrival of the Fire Brigade. The couple were later treated in hospital.

For his actions, Mr Beament is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Home (08)9447 5541 Work (08)9334 1222 Mobile 0407 231 707

Mr Carlyle Edward BUIK, 24 Gower Hardy Circuit, Cowra NSW 2794

On the afternoon of 7 December 2002, Mr Buik rescued a boy and attempted to rescue a man from the Murrimbidgee River at Oura Beach, near Wagga Wagga.

Mr Buik was on the shores of the Murrimbidgee River when he heard a man's cries for help. He saw a man and a boy being pulled downriver by a strong current. Mr Buik then saw the boy sitting on the man's shoulders, but within moments Mr Buik was unable to see the man and realised they were in difficulties. Mr Buik immediately entered the water and swam towards them. He grabbed hold of the boy and swam to a protruding log snag. He placed the boy onto the log snag and made sure he was safe before trying to look for the man. A couple in a boat pulled the boy aboard and then helped Mr Buik into the boat. They then spent some time searching unsuccessfully for the man.

For his actions, Mr Buik is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Mobile 0414 629 666

Mr Darren Frederick BYE, deceased, late of Junee NSW 2663

On the afternoon of 7 December 2002, Mr Bye attempted to rescue his young son from the Murrimbidgee River at Oura Beach, near Wagga Wagga.

Mr Bye had taken his two children, his partner and her two children for a swim in the Murrimbidgee River when he realised his seven year-old son was in difficulty in the water. Mr Bye grabbed hold of his son, placing him on his shoulders, but he and the boy were being dragged down with the strong current. Unable to reach the shore, Mr Bye called out for help. A man jumped in and swam towards the pair, grabbing hold of the boy and placing him on a log snag. By now, the man could not see Mr Bye in the water. A couple in a boat pulled the boy to safety and helped the man into the boat. Tragically, Mr Bye drowned while trying to save his son.

For his actions, Mr Bye is commended for brave conduct.

Next of kin: Mr Ian Bye (father)

Phone No: Home (02)4471 2359

Mr Christopher CHARTERS, 27 Beck Street, Paddington Qld 4064

On the morning of 26 November 2002, Mr Charters rescued a man from a sinking car in the Brisbane River, Queensland.

Mr Charters was pushing his bike along Kingsford Smith Drive when he heard a crash. A Brisbane City Council dual cab utility had been struck from behind by a truck, forcing it through a barrier fence and into the Brisbane River, a drop of approximately four metres. Mr Charters and another man immediately entered the river and were able to pull open a door and help the driver of the vehicle to safety. A passenger in the back of the utility was able to free himself. Mr Charters and the man were then told there was another passenger in the utility, which was sinking rapidly. They tried to rescue the remaining passenger, but were unable to do so as his legs were trapped. Tragically, the passenger died.

For his actions, Mr Charters is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Not available

Ms Judith Ann CHRISTENSEN, 6 Emily Street, Innisfail Qld 4860

On the afternoon of 20 October 2002, Ms Christensen helped to rescue her young granddaughter who had been stabbed by a man in Cairns, Queensland.

Ms Christensen took her two young grandchildren for a picnic by the Little Musgrave River. When the picnic was over they walked up the riverbank to their car with Ms Christensen's two-year-old granddaughter leading the way. Once Ms Christensen reached the top of the bank she saw a man kneeling over the little girl, pulling a long-bladed knife from the toddler's back. Ms Christensen ran at the man, screaming and placing herself between him and her granddaughter. Ms Christensen then picked up the child and her four-year-old grandson and ran towards the river calling for help, believing the man was trying to kill them. A woman on the other side of the river swam across and helped Ms Christensen and the children to cross the river.

For her actions, Ms Christensen is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Home (07)4061 8319 Mobile 0409 619 331

Miss Eliza COULTON, 715 Tumut Plains Road, Tumut NSW 2720

On the night of 28 February 2002, Miss Coulton, then aged eight, rescued her mother from a house fire at Goobragandra near Tumut, New South Wales.

Miss Coulton and her mother were asleep in bed when Miss Coulton woke up coughing and had trouble breathing. She left the bedroom intending to get a drink of water, but in the hallway she saw flames on the wall and ceiling. Miss Coulton then noticed that the oven in the kitchen was engulfed in flames. Miss Coulton then calmly returned to the bedroom and woke up her mother. She then attempted to open the bedroom window, which led to the back of the house. The window frame had recently been painted and the window was jammed shut. Miss Coulton managed to break the seal by hitting the frame hard with her shoe. In opening the window, Miss Coulton's actions ensured she and her mother escaped to safety.

For her actions, Miss Coulton is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Home (02)6947 2328

Mr Rhys Stephen CRABB,

10/146-150 Waratah Street, Sutherland NSW 2232

On the morning of 2 July 2002, Mr Crabb, then 15 years of age, rescued his friend from the surf at Coledale Beach, New South Wales.

Rhys Crabb and his friend were body boarding at Coledale Beach when the leg strap of his friend's board snapped in a big wave and the board was washed ashore. Rhys could see his friend was in trouble and without regard for his own safety paddled over so they could both share Rhys' board. During this time the waves had grown larger - up to four metres — and the boys found they were unable to reach the shore. They decided to swim further out to calmer waters to wait for help, but could not initially be seen from shore. An attempt by a lifeguard to reach the boys was unsuccessful because of the large swell. The boys were eventually rescued by a body surfer.

For his actions, Mr Crabb is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Home (02)9542 1851 Mobile 0421 494 101

Mr Jeffrey CREAMER,

RMB 943, Loomberah Road, Loomberah NSW 2340

On the night of 11 February 2003, Mr Creamer rescued a man from a house fire in Tamworth, New South Wales.

Mr Creamer and his wife were driving along Armidale Road in Tamworth when Mr Creamer saw a house on fire. Mrs Creamer stopped the car and phoned emergency services, while her husband ran towards the house. Calling out to anyone who might have been inside, Mr Creamer was able to hear faint calls for help. Despite the think smoke, Mr Creamer saw a man lying on the floor. Mr Creamer kicked open the back door and crawled approximately four metres to reach the man. Mr Creamer dragged the man to his feet and led him out of the house to safety.

For his actions, Mr Creamer is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Home (02)6760 9613 Work (02)6760 9358 Mobile 0429 208 234

Mr Terence Alexander EVANS.

137 Pinner Road, Oxhey, Watford, Hertfordshire WD19E 4EJ, UNITED KINGDOM

On the afternoon of 6 July 2001, Mr Evans rescued a tram driver who was being stabbed in South Melbourne, Victoria.

Mr Evans and his friend were visiting Australia to follow a tour by the British Lions Rugby team. They were travelling on a tram in South Melbourne when a man boarded the tram and immediately started shouting abuse at the driver and hitting the perspex shield protecting the driver. The man alighted from the tram, but jumped back on and began pulling violently on the driver's door. The man alighted again, this time followed by the driver. After an argument, the driver turned to get back onto the tram when the man spat on his head and face. The driver turned back towards the man and a physical struggle followed, during which time the man started stabbing the driver. Mr Evans and his friend, who had witnessed the entire incident, immediately ran to the driver's aid. Mr Evans and his friend managed to tackle the man to the ground, despite his violent resistance, and restrained him, with the help of another passenger, until police arrived.

For his actions, Mr Evans is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Home (0011) 44 1923 461 633 Mobile (0011) 44 7765 866 609

Mr James Patrick FISHER, 11 Clarendon Court, Thornlie WA 6108

On the afternoon of Christmas Day, 1998, Mr Fisher helped quell a prison riot at Casuarina Prison, Perth, Western Australia.

Mr Fisher, Assistant Director, Training and Specialist Services, of the Western Australia Ministry of Justice, was at home on Christmas Day when he was informed that prisoners were rioting and had broken into medication cabinets. The situation rapidly deteriorated, with a growing number of prisoners rampaging through the prison, attacking guards and control stations. Several prison officers were trapped and threatened by rioting prisoners. At the prison, Mr Fisher organised and led seven members of a special unit designed to combat prison riots (the Training and Mr Fisher and these officers were confronted by Specialist Services Unit). approximately 100 rioting prisoners who pelted them with rocks, stakes and metal bars. They were unable to make any headway towards the accommodation units to free the trapped prison officers. Mr Fisher, without any protective clothing, and armed with only a baton, led the group, now bolstered by eight prison officers, towards the rioting prisoners. After a fierce confrontation, staff were eventually able to regain control of the accommodation units, secure the prisoners and release the trapped officers.

For his actions, Mr Fisher is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Home (08)9493 0750 Mobile 0409 657 285

Mr Thomas Roy FITZGERALD, 92 Berrima Parade, Batemans Bay NSW 2536

In the early hours of 1 February 2002, Mr Fitzgerald rescued a man from a burning house in the Sydney suburb of Chifley.

Mr Fitzgerald was at home when he saw flames coming from a bedroom of the house opposite. He ran across the road and was joined by other neighbours. They tried several times to break down the front and back doors, and eventually Mr Fitzgerald and another neighbour managed to smash a side door and entered the house. Mr Fitzgerald followed his neighbour upstairs, where a man was lying on the floor near the flames. Mr Fitzgerald helped his neighbour drag the man downstairs, where he opened the front door. The man was then carried out onto the front lawn. Mr Fitzgerald stayed with the man until the arrival of emergency services.

For his actions, Mr Fitzgerald is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Not available

Station Officer Shane Joseph HARDING, 8 Bank Street, Alphington Vic 3078

On the night of 6 May 2002, Station Officer Harding rescued a man trapped in a burning vehicle after an accident on the Eastern Freeway in Melbourne, Victoria.

Station Officer Harding was one of several emergency services personnel attending a car accident when a large utility collided with the rear of a stationary ambulance at the scene. The force of the crash ruptured the utility's liquid petroleum gas supply line and the vehicle burst into flames with the driver trapped inside. Station Officer Harding and an ambulance officer ran over to the burning utility and tried to free the driver, but the intense heat and flames forced them back. While fire officers kept high-pressure hoses trained on the trapped driver and the rest of the utility, Station Officer Harding and his paramedic colleague made a second attempt to rescue the driver and succeeded in dragging the man out through a rear door.

For his actions, Station Officer Harding is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Home (03)9497 5760 Work (03)9420 3730 Mobile 0404 866 982

Mr Brendan John HICKLETON, Heatherton Vic 3202

Details not available at the request of Mr Hickleton.

Phone Nos: Not available.

Mr Raymond John HICKLETON, Pearcedale Vic 3912

Details not available at the request of Mr Hickleton.

Phone Nos: Not available.

Mr Robert Bruce HILES, 266 Winston Drive, Eagleton NSW 2324

On the night of 15 January 2001, Ambulance Officer Hiles rescued several people caught in a rip at Newcastle Beach, New South Wales.

Ambulance Officer Hiles and three colleagues received a call to attend Newcastle Beach, where three people were caught in a rip. When they arrived at the beach, it was in total darkness and no lifeguards were present. The waves were three metres high. The ambulance officers entered the water and swam beyond the breakers to find the group of people, who told them a fourth person had been swept out to sea. The officers directed the group to a nearby sandbar from where Officer Hiles and two of the officers helped the swimmers back to shore. Another ambulance officer swam further out to sea to search for and eventually find the fourth person who was winched to safety by a rescue helicopter.

For his actions, Mr Hiles is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Not available.

Mr Graham Eric KLINGBERG, Kuchel Road, Murray Bridge SA 5253

On the morning of 26 May 2002, Mr Klingberg rescued a woman from a burning car on the road from Mypolonga to Murray Bridge, South Australia.

Mr Klingberg was driving his truck towards Mypolonga when he saw smoke coming from around a bend in the road. As he rounded the bend he realised the smoke was coming from a car, which had crashed into a tree and burst into flames. Mr Klingberg stopped his truck, grabbed his fire extinguisher and ran over to investigate. He found a woman slumped unconscious in the driver's seat. Mr Klingberg tried to extinguish the fire, but was unable to do so. He went back to his truck to contact his wife via citizens band radio and asked her to call emergency services. Returning to the burning car, Mr Klingberg then broke a side window to enable him to open the passenger door, and pulled the woman from the car. Mr Klingberg and another driver, who had also stopped, dragged the woman away from the burning car to safety.

For his actions, Mr Klingberg is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Home (08)8532 4575 Mobile 0417 804 331

Mr Ross William LUTEY, 56/30 Russell Street, Melbourne Vic 3000

On the evening of 27 August 2002, Mr Lutey helped to disarm a woman who stabbed two people in central Melbourne.

Mr Lutey was making preparations for a concert at the Collins Street Baptist Church when a woman entered the church and stabbed two women. Another man approached the woman, asking that she drop the knife. After the man grabbed the woman's arm and called for help, another man then took hold of her wrist, and Mr Lutey joined them in trying to disarm the woman. After a lengthy struggle, the group managed to prise the knife from the woman's grasp and restrain her until police arrived at the scene.

For his actions, Mr Lutey is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Home (03)9654 0747 Work (03)9685 2444 Mobile 0407 304 439

Mr Gary Vivian MACLURE, 80 Matthew Place, Port Lincoln SA 5606

On the morning of 31 March 1998, Mr MacLure rescued a woman under attack from an armed man in Port Lincoln, South Australia.

Mr MacLure was supervising four young people in gardening work, as part of a Young Offenders' program, when a young man and woman in the group started arguing. The young man grabbed hold of a screwdriver, which Mr MacLure had been using to repair equipment, and rushed towards the girl, yelling abuse and threatening to kill her. He held the young woman's throat in one hand and the screwdriver in the other. Mr MacLure ran over to the pair, grabbed the young man's arm, wrenching the screwdriver from his grasp. He then ordered the young man from the premises. As he was leaving, the young man spotted a pocket knife on the ground, picked it up and charged towards the young woman and another girl in the group. Mr MacLure placed himself between the young man and the two girls, and told them to run to safety. Mr MacLure then persuaded the young man to calm down and give him the knife. After a short time, the young man threw down the knife.

For his actions. Mr MacLure is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Home (08)8682 4910 Work (08)8688 3020

Mr Wayne MANN, 90 George Street, North Strathfield NSW 2137

In the early evening of 16 January 2003, Mr Mann helped to rescue a teenage girl at Racecourse Beach, Bawley Point, in New South Wales.

Mr Mann was inside his unit at Racecourse Beach when he heard people calling out for assistance as two people were in difficulty in the surf. Mr Mann went outside and saw a man and a girl in the water about 100 metres from the beach. Mr Mann swam out to the pair and was told by the man to help the teenage girl who was unconscious. Mr Mann helped to get the girl back to the shore, the whole time trying to keep her head above the water. Once he reached the shore, Mr Mann carried the girl up to the beach. Prolonged first aid efforts by people on the beach and, later, by emergency services, managed to get the girl breathing, but tragically, she later died in hospital.

For his actions, Mr Mann is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Home (02)9743 0962 Work (02)8298 9930 Mobile 0413 271 423

Mr Warren Lindsay NIELSON, 104 Church Street, Yass NSW 2582

On the morning of 17 February 2002, Mr Nielson rescued a man who was caught in a rip at Racecourse Beach, Bawley Point, New South Wales.

Mr Nielson was holidaying with his family at the Racecourse Beach caravan park when a man from a neighbouring cabin ran in and asked for his help in rescuing a man and a woman who had been caught in a rip and dragged out to sea. Mr Nielson grabbed children's size boogie boards and entered the water. During this time, the woman managed to swim to the side of the rip and make her way to shore. Mr Nielson and his neighbour paddled out to the man, who had been taken approximately 200 metres out to sea. Mr Nielson's neighbour was dumped by a large wave, lost his board and decided it was too dangerous to continue swimming without a board, so he swam back to shore. Mr Nielson continued to paddle towards the man, who was by now exhausted. Mr Nielson pulled the man onto his board while he swam back to shore alongside the man, a task that took approximately 20 minutes because of the dangerous conditions.

For his actions, Mr Nielson is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Not available.

Mr Raymond Thomas NOLAN, 14 Botany Court, Wantira Vic 3152

On the night of 6 May 2002, Mr Nolan rescued a man trapped in a burning vehicle after an accident on the Eastern Freeway in Melbourne, Victoria.

Mr Nolan was one of several emergency services personnel attending a car accident when a large utility collided with the rear of a stationary ambulance at the scene. The force of the crash ruptured the utility's liquid petroleum gas supply line and the vehicle burst into flames with the driver trapped inside. Mr Nolan and a fire officer ran over to the burning utility and tried to free the driver, but the intense heat and flames forced them back. While fire officers kept high-pressure hoses trained on the trapped driver and the rest of the utility, Mr Nolan and his fire officer colleague made a second attempt to rescue the driver and succeeded in dragging the man out through a rear door.

For his actions, Mr Nolan is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Home (03)9801 1925 Work (03)9881 5505 Mobile 0429 011 925

Mr Edward Olof OLSSON, 21 Marwood Drive, Beecroft NSW 2119

On the morning of 4 September 2002, Mr Olsson rescued a man from attack by a woman wielding a knife on the Gore Hill Freeway, Artarmon, New South Wales.

Mr Olsson was driving a semi-trailer in peak hour traffic on the Gore Hill Freeway when he was stopped behind a bus and two cars. Mr Olsson then noticed a man, covered in blood, staggering alongside the bus. The man was soon confronted by a woman wielding a knife. Mr Olsson immediately jumped down from his truck and grabbed a metal pipe from his sleeping cabin. As Mr Olsson moved towards the woman she stabbed the man and he collapsed to the ground. On seeing that Mr Olsson was approaching the woman from behind, a group of people tried to distract the woman, who was now holding the knife in her right hand with it pointing outwards. Mr Olsson struck the woman's outstretched arm using the metal pipe, thus disarming her.

For his actions. Mr Olsson is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Not available

Mr Leo Jonathon REBEL-LEISHA, North Rockhampton Qld 4701

Details not available at request of Mr Rebel-Leisha.

Phone Nos: Not available.

Mr Richard ROSADA.

33 Villiers Road, Watford, Herfordshire WD19 4AL, UNITED KINGDOM

On the afternoon of 6 July 2001, Mr Rosada rescued a tram driver who was being stabbed in South Melbourne, Victoria.

Mr Rosada and his friend were visiting Australia to follow a tour by the British Lions Rugby team. They were travelling on a tram in South Melbourne when a man boarded the tram and immediately started shouting abuse at the driver and hitting the perspex shield protecting the driver. The man alighted from the tram, but jumped back on and began pulling violently on the driver's door. The man alighted again, this time followed by the driver. After an argument, the driver turned to get back onto the tram when the man spat on his head and face. The driver turned back towards the man and a physical struggle followed, during which time the man started stabbing the driver. Mr Rosada and his friend, who had witnessed the entire incident, immediately ran to the driver's aid. Mr Rosada and his friend managed to tackle the man to the ground, despite his violent resistance, and restrained him, with the help of another passenger, until police arrived.

For his actions, Mr Rosada is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Home (0011) 44 01923 248 602 Mobile (0011) 44 07968 361 726

Mr Thomas Austin RYAN, 51 Lynch Street, Footscray Vic 3011

On the evening of 27 August 2002, Mr Ryan helped disarm a woman who had stabbed two people in central Melbourne.

Mr Ryan was making preparations for a concert at the Collins Street Baptist Church when a woman entered the church and stabbed two women. Another man approached the woman, asking that she drop the knife. After the man grabbed the woman's arm and called for help, Mr Ryan took hold of her wrist, and another man joined them in trying to disarm the woman. After a lengthy struggle, the group managed to prise the knife from the woman's grasp and restrain her until police arrived at the scene.

For his actions, Mr Ryan is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Home (03)9362 7282 Work (03)9645 0246 Mobile 0417 311 653

Paramedic Craig Ronald TELFORD, 6 Bolger Gardens, Kelmscott WA 6111

In the early hours of 8 March 2002, Mr Telford gave medical assistance to two people during a bushfire in Forrestfield, Western Australia.

Mr Telford, a St John's Ambulance paramedic, and his colleague were called to a property, where high winds were fanning a bushfire towards the home. The female occupant of the home suffered chronic asthma, and smoke from the fire had triggered an asthma attack. Her husband suffered from a heart condition. On arriving at the property, Paramedic Telford and his colleague were met by the couple's son-in-law, who advised that they would be unable to drive to the house as fire had destroyed a bridge. The two officers left their ambulance at the gate and decided to walk to the house – some 150 metres away – carrying first aid equipment, including an oxygen bottle. In extremely hot conditions, they forced their way into the smoke-filled house where they found the woman lying on the floor in a critical condition. While his colleague treated the woman, Paramedic Telford found her husband crouching outside the house trying to douse the flames with a garden hose. He was suffering from heat stress and smoke inhalation. The two officers treated the couple for about an hour until the arrival of the Fire Brigade. The couple were later treated in hospital.

For his actions, Mr Telford is commended for brave conduct.

Note: Paramedic Telford was previously awarded a Commendation for Brave Conduct in 1995 for his role in rescuing a person trapped in a burning vehicle following a traffic accident.

Phone Nos: Home (08)9495 1939 Work (08)9334 1222 (ask for Marketing)

Mobile 0414 651 939

Mr Stuart Cameron THOMSON, Chilcott's Grass NSW 2480

Details not available at request of Mr Thomson.

Phone Nos: Not available.

Mr Charles Stanley TILSE, 92 The Esplanade, Toolakea Qld 4818

On the morning of 7 December 2000, Mr Tilse helped extinguish flames after a colleague's clothes caught fire at Toolakea Beach Road, Queensland.

Mr Tilse and two other volunteer members of the Toolakea Rural Fire Brigade were preparing to conduct a controlled burn-off at the local Girl Guides Group's camping ground. Their initial attempts to start a fire were unsuccessful because of heavy dew so Mr Tilse was instructed to empty the fuel from his drip torch on the area to be burned, while another colleague obtained a can of fuel from the fire tender. Mr Tilse's colleague was unaware that a seam on the corner of the fuel can had split, allowing fuel to drip onto his trousers and onto the ground. Within seconds, he was enveloped by flames. Mr Tilse immediately knocked his colleague to the ground, covering the man's torso with his own body, thus smothering flames in that area. Their other colleague doused the flames on the man's legs by pouring water from canvas water bags onto them.

For his actions, Mr Tilse is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Home (07)4788 6185 Mobile 0407 754 435

Mr Robert Humphreys WALLACE, 483 Wright Road, Modbury SA 5092

On the morning of 9 February 2002, Mr Wallace rescued an elderly man from a burning house in central Adelaide.

Mr Wallace was alerted to a fire in a house opposite his office in Giles Street, Adelaide. With another man, he pulled down part of the back fence of the house to gain access to the property. Mr Wallace was then told by two women that an elderly man was inside the house. He went inside the smoke-filled house, crawling on his hands and knees, until he found the man. The man wanted to stay in the house and fight the fire, but Mr Wallace persuaded him to leave the house and led him out to safety. With another man, Mr Wallace put out the elderly man's hair, which had caught on fire.

For his actions, Mr Wallace is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Not available

GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

Awardees comprise members of the New South Wales State Emergency Service, Nundle, NSW, a member of the Rural Fire Service and a local volunteer

Mr Derek Percival BEDFORD,
Mr Colin Lindsay DAWSON,
Mr Gary Trevor HEGGS,
Ms Dianne Helen MURRAY,
Mr Darrel Andrew SLADE,
Mr Paul John SUMMERS, and
Mr Tony Keith TAYLOR

Late on the night of 19 November 2000 and into the morning of the following day, members of the New South Wales State Emergency Service, a member of the Rural Fire Service and a member of the community, assisted in the evacuation and rescue of residents during a flash flood in the northern New South Wales town of Nundle.

Torrential rain started falling in the Nundle area late at night and within a short time local creeks were flooding. The Nundle area branch of the State Emergency Service was receiving calls for help from local residents stranded by the rapidly rising floodwaters. With only the light of their vehicles to guide them and with the ever-present danger of logs and other potentially lethal debris flowing through the floodwaters, the group worked to evacuate and rescue residents, trapped in their homes, and colleagues, whose rescue vehicles were caught in the floodwaters. Their efforts continued throughout the night.

Mr Derek Percival BEDFORD,

5/23 Warburton Street, North Ward Qld 4810

Phone Nos: 07 4724 0274

Mr Colin Lindsay DAWSON, 'Colann', Nundle Road, Woolomin NSW 2340

Phone Nos: Not available

Mr Gary Trevor HEGGS, Lot 2 Crawney Road, Nundle NSW 2340

Phone Nos: Not available

Ms Dianne Helen MURRAY, Tamworth NSW 2340

Phone Nos: Not available

Mr Darrel Andrew SLADE, Lot 2 Barry Road, Hanging Rock NSW 2340

Phone Nos: Not available

Mr Paul John SUMMERS, 112 Gill Street, Nundle NSW 2340

Phone Nos: Not available

Mr Tony Keith TAYLOR, 42 Gill Street, Nundle NSW 2340

Phone Nos: Not available