

## STAR OF COURAGE

**Mr Geoffrey Douglas ROBINSON,**  
116 Takalvan Street, West Bundaberg, Qld 4670

On the evening of 11 September 2002, Mr Robinson rescued a man from a burning petrol tanker after an accident on the Bruce Highway at Kybong, Queensland.

Mr Robinson, a truck driver, was driving behind a petrol tanker on the Bruce Highway at Kybong when the tanker ran off the road and flipped onto its side. The accident caused both the fuel tank and the rig's chassis to catch fire. Mr Robinson stopped his truck to investigate, joining another driver who had been travelling ahead of him and who had also seen the accident. Fully aware of the danger that the tanker could explode at any moment, Mr Robinson and the other driver ran to the tanker, carrying a fire extinguisher and a torch. Seeing an injured man trapped in the cabin, Mr Robinson and his companion attempted to open the vehicle door to gain access to the man, without success. Mr Robinson's companion then smashed in the tanker's windscreen with a fire extinguisher, enabling the two men to reach into the cabin and pull out the injured tanker driver. They carried the man a safe distance away from the burning tanker, which exploded about five minutes later.

By his actions, Mr Robinson displayed conspicuous courage.

Phone Nos: Home (07)4152 5804 Mobile 0428 525 804

**Mr Dennis Allan SAVAGE,** 10 Rosewood Avenue, Gracemere Qld 4702

On the evening of 11 September 2002, Mr Savage rescued a man from a burning petrol tanker after an accident on the Bruce Highway at Kybong, Queensland.

Mr Savage, a truck driver, was driving immediately behind a petrol tanker on the Bruce Highway at Kybong when the tanker ran off the road and flipped onto its side. The accident caused both the fuel tank and the rig's chassis to catch fire. Mr Savage stopped his truck in the middle of the road to block other traffic, and used his UHF radio to warn other drivers. Another driver who had been following him and had also seen the accident soon joined him. Fully aware of the danger that the tanker could explode at any moment, Mr Savage grabbed a fire extinguisher and torch from his truck and ran with the other driver to the tanker. Seeing an injured man trapped in the cabin, Mr Savage and his companion attempted to open the vehicle door to gain access to the man, without success. Mr Savage then smashed the tanker's windscreen with a fire extinguisher, and made a larger hole with his hands and feet. This enabled the two men to reach into the cabin and pull out the injured tanker driver. They then carried him a safe distance away from the burning tanker, which exploded about five minutes later.

By his actions, Mr Savage displayed conspicuous courage.

Phone Nos: Home (07)4933 3853 Mobile 0408 794 741

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Brett Douglas ANDREW**, 7 Bible Street, Eltham Vic 3095

In the early evening of 11 July 2000, Mr Andrew rescued a woman from a house fire in Rosanna, Victoria.

Mr Andrew was leaving his father's home when he heard a smoke alarm sounding in a house across the street where he knew an elderly woman lived alone. Running to the house to investigate, he heard moaning from inside and saw the kitchen in flames. Mr Andrew used his mobile phone to call 000 for emergency assistance and alerted his father. Finding the house locked, Mr Andrew forced open the back door but was driven back by thick smoke. Mr Andrew then forced the front door, crawled four to five metres through the smoke, and finding the now-unconscious woman lying on the floor, dragged her outside to safety. The woman suffered third degree burns to forty per cent of her body and would have died if Mr Andrew had not intervened.

By his actions, Mr Andrew displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (03)9439 3000 Mobile 0418 557 232

**Mr Ludwig Anton BITTERMANN**, deceased, late of Latham ACT 2615

On the morning of 26 September 2003, Mr Bittermann attempted to apprehend an armed robber at a shop in Latham, Australian Capital Territory.

Mr Bittermann, who was retired, was a customer in a shop in Latham when he witnessed an attempted robbery by a man armed with a large knife. During the robbery the shop owner was stabbed whilst scuffling with the man. Without regard for his own safety, Mr Bittermann went to the aid of the shop owner, and was stabbed a number of times as he struggled with the robber. Despite suffering serious injuries, Mr Bittermann managed to grab an aluminium baseball bat and strike the man heavily about the head and body several times. The man then ran from the shop. Unfortunately Mr Bittermann later died in hospital.

By his actions, Mr Bittermann displayed considerable bravery.

Next of Kin: Mrs Genowefa Bittermann (spouse)  
Phone Nos: Not available

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Daniel Alan BLAKE**, 1/195 McLeod Street, North Cairns Qld 4870

On the evening of 4 October 2003, Mr Blake rescued a child from drowning in a rip at Yorkeys Knob beach near Cairns, Queensland.

At about 6:00 pm Mr Blake was at Simms Esplanade, Yorkeys Knob beach when he saw a man and a boy in difficulties in the water about 40 metres from the shore. The child had been body-surfing and got caught in a rip. Seeing the boy being dragged out to sea, his father had swum out to try to rescue him but had also become caught in the rip. Mr Blake swam out to help the man, grabbing the boy and bringing him back safely to the beach. The man, who had been struggling to stay afloat, then disappeared from view and another beach goer ran into the water to try and find him. However after searching for 20 minutes in rough seas the beach goer was unable to locate the man, and because of exhaustion he had to abandon the rescue attempt and return to shore. Tragically, two days later the man's body was found on a beach three kilometres north of Yorkey's Knob.

By his actions, Mr Blake displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (07)4041 0653 Work (07)4032 3500 Mobile 0407 377 115

**Detective Senior Constable Ivan BOBETIC**, Victoria Police

In the early hours of 25 April 2001, then Senior Constable Bobetic rescued a man from drowning in the flooded Dandenong Creek, Victoria.

While attending a suspected robbery near Dandenong Creek, Keysborough at around 1:00 am, Senior Constable Bobetic and other police surprised two men who attempted to flee by jumping into the flooded and fast-flowing Dandenong Creek. One of the men swam across the 25-metre creek and was apprehended; his companion got into difficulties and sank mid-stream. Senior Constable Bobetic dived into the flooded creek fully-clothed, swam out and located the unconscious man, but had to struggle to hold onto him because of the strong current and the weight of their clothing. With a colleague's help he dragged the man to shore and administered first aid, reviving the man. Whilst doing so, Senior Constable Bobetic had to forcibly subdue an attack from the first offender, who had broken free from police.

By his actions, Senior Constable Bobetic displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Work (03)9566 1578

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Derek Neil BONNEY**, Kalgoorlie WA 6430

On the afternoon of 14 November 2001, Mr Bonney participated in the rescue of an injured passenger from a light aeroplane crash on Mount Monger Road, east of Kalgoorlie, Western Australia.

Mr Bonney and a work colleague were driving on Mount Monger Road when they were waved down by a woman who directed their attention to a light aeroplane that had crashed near the road. Responding to her appeal for help, Mr Bonney and his colleague stopped their car and ran over to the aeroplane with a first aid kit and a fire extinguisher. They saw people trapped inside and observed leaking fuel pooling under the wreckage. Aware of the danger that the aeroplane could burst into flames any minute, Mr Bonney and his colleague pulled one of the injured passengers from the aeroplane, moved him a safe distance away, and administered first aid while comforting the man.

By his actions, Mr Bonney displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Work (08)9024 1425 Mobile 0409 048 153

**Mr John CHRISTOFILAKIS**, Nunawading Vic 3131

On the evening of 3 December 2003, Mr Christofilakis rescued a young woman from electrocution at Nunawading Railway Station, Victoria.

Mr Christofilakis was near Nunawading Railway Station when he heard loud screams for help. Running to assist, he saw smoke coming from the roof of a stationary train and smelt burning. A girl was lying on the roof of the carriage, on top of live power coils feeding a 1500-volt electric current into the train. Aware of the danger of being electrocuted himself, Mr Christofilakis climbed onto the train roof and grabbed the unconscious victim by her, non-conductive, rubber running shoes. He dragged the girl away from the power coils and lowered her to safety on the platform, tending to her while others called an ambulance. The girl sustained severe burns to her arms, chest and legs.

By his actions, Mr Christofilakis displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (03)9878 8335 Mobile 0414 947 440

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Stephen Malcolm COTTEE**, 507-515 Greenbank Road, North Maclean Qld 4280

In the late evening of 16 April 2003, Mr Cottee rescued a woman from a burning vehicle at North Maclean, Queensland.

Mr Cottee was watching television in his living room when he heard a loud bang nearby. He ran outside and saw that a vehicle had run off the road and crashed into a tree, bursting into flames. The injured driver, a woman, was trapped in the front seat. Mr Cottee ran to the car and finding the driver's side front door had opened on impact, reached in to try and pull the woman from the vehicle. Unable to free her because one of her legs was jammed underneath the collapsed dashboard, Mr Cottee reached further into the vehicle to reach the woman's trapped leg and after several attempts was able to free it. He then dragged the woman from the car and moved her a safe distance away, where he comforted her until emergency services arrived. Soon after Mr Cottee rescued the woman, her car was totally engulfed in flames.

By his actions, Mr Cottee displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (07)3297 5144 Mobile 0419 790 281

**Mr David James GAWLER**, 13 Kalamunda Close, Elanora Qld 4221

On the afternoon of 20 November 2002, Mr Gawler rescued a child from drowning in the Coomera River, Queensland.

Mr Gawler and a work colleague were driving along the Pacific Highway from the Sunshine Coast when they saw a woman throw her two children and herself off the Coomera River Bridge. The tide was sweeping them away from the bridge. Mr Gawler and his colleague stopped their car and both ran to help. Without hesitation, Mr Gawler entered the water and swam to the three people. The river was murky, with a strong current. When Mr Gawler reached the woman, he saw she was holding a young boy underwater. He wrestled with the woman to free the child, and after a struggle Mr Gawler managed to grab hold of the boy and swam with him to the riverbank.

By his actions, Mr Gawler displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (07)5534 4665

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Brian Roger (Bill) GORRIE**, 11 Jarvis Place, Kalgoorlie WA 6430

On the afternoon of 14 November 2001, Mr Gorrie participated in the rescue of an injured passenger from a light aeroplane crash on Mount Monger Road, east of Kalgoorlie, Western Australia.

Mr Gorrie and his wife were driving on Mount Monger Road when they saw a light air plane crash close to the road whilst attempting an emergency landing. Mr Gorrie stopped his car and phoned emergency services. His wife began to run towards the plane, but he called her back to the car to safety. Mr Gorrie then approached the plane, where he saw people trapped inside and observed leaking fuel pooling under the wreckage. Aware of the danger that the aeroplane could burst into flames any minute, Mr Gorrie ran back to his car to fetch a fire extinguisher, returned to the aeroplane and sprayed it with fire retardant. Joined by other passers-by who had stopped to help, he assisted in rescuing one of the injured passengers from the aircraft.

By his actions, Mr Gorrie displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available

**Mr Hector Robert GRAHAM**, 1/5 President Street, Kalgoorlie WA 6430

On the afternoon of 14 November 2001, Mr Graham participated in the rescue of an injured passenger from a light aeroplane crash on Mount Monger Road, east of Kalgoorlie, Western Australia.

Mr Graham and a work colleague were driving on Mount Monger Road when they were waved down by a woman who directed their attention to a light aeroplane that had crashed near the road. Responding to her appeal for help, Mr Graham and his colleague stopped their car and ran over to the plane with a first aid kit and a fire extinguisher. They saw people trapped inside and observed leaking fuel pooling under the wreckage. Aware of the danger that the aeroplane could burst into flames any minute, Mr Graham and his colleague pulled one of the injured passengers from the plane, moved him a safe distance away, and administered first aid while comforting the man.

By his actions, Mr Graham displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mrs Susan Kathleen HEALEY**, 11 Kennedy Street, Euroa Vic 3666

Details not available at request of Mrs Healey.

Phone Nos: Not available

**Mr Faatiga IOSIA**, deceased, late of Cairns Qld 4870

On the evening of 4 October 2003, Mr Iosia attempted to rescue his partner's son from drowning in a rip at Yorkeys Knob beach near Cairns, Queensland.

At about 6:00 pm Mr Iosia, his partner and their two children were at Simms Esplanade, Yorkeys Knob beach. One of the children, a boy then aged nine, was body-surfing about forty metres from the shore. After a few minutes the boy became caught in a rip and was dragged out to sea. Although not a strong swimmer, Mr Iosia ran into the water to try to rescue the boy. Once he reached the child, Mr Iosia grasped hold of him and tried to swim to the shore, but also became caught up in the rip. A male beach goer saw the two were in difficulties and swam out to assist, grabbing the boy and bringing him back safely to the beach. Mr Iosia, who had been struggling to stay afloat, then disappeared from view and another man ran into the water to try and find him. After searching for 20 minutes in rough seas the man was unable to locate Mr Iosia. Totally exhausted by the ocean conditions, despite being a strong swimmer, the man had to abandon his attempt to rescue Mr Iosia and returned to shore. Tragically, two days later Mr Iosia's body was found on a beach three kilometres north of Yorkey's Knob.

By his actions, Mr Iosia displayed considerable bravery.

Next of Kin: Miss Kathleen Bartholomew (partner)

Phone Nos: Not available

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Gregory Alan KHAN**, 2/130 King Street. Sandy Bay Tas 7005

On the afternoon of 29 May 2003 during a Qantas Airways flight from Melbourne to Launceston, Mr Khan, a flight purser, confronted and restrained an armed man on board.

Soon after take off, with the aeroplane still on its ascent path, Mr Khan and fellow cabin crew members were going about their duties in the galley when a male passenger got up and moved toward them in a threatening manner. The man was armed with two wooden double-pointed pickets, two aerosol cans and two cigarette lighters. On reaching the galley he stabbed one of the female flight attendants in the face, and then struck out at Mr Khan. A struggle ensued, during which Mr Khan grabbed the man around the upper body and pushed him back into the main aircraft cabin. As this was happening the man repeatedly thrust the sharpened pickets into the back of Mr Khan's head. A number of passengers went to Mr Khan's aid, wrestling with the offender and eventually subduing and disarming him. The flight returned to Melbourne and Mr Khan was later treated in hospital for head injuries.

By his actions, Mr Khan displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (03)6224 6990 Mobile 0408 162 734

**Master Ashleigh Alan LANCASTER**, 4 Jeffery Street, Hampton Park Vic 3976

On the evening of 17 December 2003, Master Lancaster, then aged 10, helped to rescue a girl, aged 8, from drowning near the mouth of the Patterson River at Carrum Beach, Victoria.

Master Lancaster and a young girl were swimming near the mouth of the Patterson River when the wind blew up and the sea became rough. A number of adults and children were swimming at the beach that night as the weather was very hot. A wave submerged Master Lancaster and the girl, who were caught in a strong rip that began dragging them out to sea. Whilst yelling for help, Master Lancaster kept the panicking girl from sinking by holding her above the water as best he could. He persisted in his actions, despite being pulled underwater a number of times and consequently swallowing a lot of water. Master Lancaster's mother, and the father of the girl, swam out to help but also got into difficulties in the rip. The two children and two adults were rescued and brought to shore safely by beach goers who had seen them in difficulties and swam to their aid. Master Lancaster and the girl were treated in hospital after their ordeal.

By his actions, Master Lancaster displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Patrick Edward LARKIN**, 32 Dudley Road, Marryatville SA 5068

On the morning of 5 June 2002, Mr Larkin intercepted an armed offender at a restaurant in Leabrook, South Australia.

Mr Larkin was in the reception area of a doctor's surgery in Leabrook when the woman proprietor of a nearby restaurant came into the surgery seeking assistance as her shop was being robbed. Mr Larkin ran with the woman back to the restaurant, and on entering saw a man standing near the counter. He confronted the man and a struggle ensued during which the man stabbed Mr Larkin in the left shoulder with a kitchen knife. Mr Larkin picked up a chair and thrust it at the man, who dropped the knife and fled.

By his actions, Mr Larkin displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (08)8431 5771 Mobile 0409 656 646

**Mr John Theodore LEUSENKAMP**, 21 Daphne Way, Cranbourne North Vic 3977

On the evening of 25 August 2002, Mr Leusenkaamp rescued two children from a burning vehicle in Hamilton Drive, Cranbourne, Victoria.

Mr Leusenkaamp was driving along Hamilton Drive when he saw the cabin of an oncoming sedan explode, and the inside of the car catch alight. The car veered off the road and came to a stop in a front yard. The male driver, his clothes on fire, escaped the car along with two children and was crying for help. When Mr Leusenkaamp stopped his car and ran to the burning vehicle, he saw two young boys trapped in the back seat, covered in flames. Without hesitation Mr Leusenkaamp pulled one of the children out of the car to safety, helping roll the boy on the grass to put out his burning clothing. Mr Leusenkaamp returned to the car and extricated the other child, who was severely burned. He then helped tend to one of the boys until an ambulance arrived. During the rescue, Mr Leusenkaamp suffered severe burns to his hands.

By his actions, Mr Leusenkaamp displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (03)5995 7134 Work (03)5977 0666 Mobile 0413 599 986

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Joe LIJEWSKI**, 18 Sequioa Close, Elanora Qld 4221

On the afternoon of 20 November 2002, Mr Lijewski rescued a child from drowning in the Coomera River, Queensland.

Mr Lijewski and a work colleague were driving along the Pacific Highway from the Sunshine Coast when they saw a woman throw her two children and herself off the Coomera River Bridge. The tide was sweeping them away from the bridge. Mr Lijewski and his colleague stopped their car and both ran to help. Without hesitation, Mr Lijewski jumped off the Bridge into the river, which was approximately 1.5 metres deep and murky with a strong current. He swam to where one of the children, a baby, was floating face-down, and grabbed hold of the baby. Realising it had stopped breathing, Mr Lijewski administered basic resuscitation after which the baby revived. He then swam with the baby to the river bank where others tended to it until ambulance services arrived.

By his actions, Mr Lijewski displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Mobile 0405 748 535

**Mr Euan Scott McKENZIE**, Lot 3 Clearview Road, Michelago NSW 2620

Near midday on 13 January 2003, Mr McKenzie rescued the pilot of a firefighting helicopter which had crashed into Bendora Dam in the Namadgi National Park, Australian Capital Territory, during major bush fires.

Mr McKenzie was an air crewman on a water-bombing helicopter fighting bushfires in the Namadgi National Park when he and his colleague found another fire-fighting helicopter that had crashed into Bendora Dam. The helicopter was upturned and sinking, and believing the pilot was trapped in the cabin and would drown, Mr McKenzie and his colleague decided to attempt a rescue. As the helicopter hovered about 6 metres overhead, Mr McKenzie jumped into the water and swam to the helicopter, where he found the unconscious pilot still strapped in his safety harness. Mr McKenzie released the pilot and pulled him to the surface. Using the helicopter skids for support, he gave the man emergency resuscitation but after a short time the helicopter sank beneath them. Mr McKenzie started swimming the 60 metres to shore, supporting the pilot, but weighed down by his own and the pilot's wet clothing, he began to suffer from exhaustion. At this point a third helicopter, responding to a distress call from Mr McKenzie's colleague, landed on the dam foreshore and two of its passengers swam out and helped Mr McKenzie bring the pilot to safety. Mr McKenzie and another rescuer administered cardio pulmonary resuscitation for about 20 minutes until the man began to breathe independently. Ambulance services then flew the pilot to hospital for treatment.

By his actions, Mr McKenzie displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Christopher Bruce McMURTRIE,**

21 Golf Street, Yorkeys Knob, North Cairns Qld 4870

On the evening of 4 October 2003, Mr McMurtrie attempted to rescue a man from drowning at Yorkeys Knob beach near Cairns, Queensland.

At about 6:00 pm Mr McMurtrie was at Simms Esplanade, Yorkeys Knob beach when he saw a man and a boy in difficulties in the water about 40 metres from the shore. The child had been body-surfing and had got caught in a rip. Seeing the boy being dragged out to sea, his father swam out to try to rescue him but had also become caught in the rip. Another beach goer swam to help the man, grabbing the boy and bringing him back safely to the beach. The man, who had been struggling to stay afloat, then disappeared from view and Mr McMurtrie ran into the water to try and find him. However after searching for 20 minutes in rough seas Mr McMurtrie, a strong swimmer, was unable to locate the man and was forced through exhaustion to abandon the rescue attempt and return to shore. Tragically, two days later the man's body was found on a beach three kilometres north of Yorkey's Knob.

By his actions, Mr McMurtrie displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (07)4055 8006

**Mrs Sharon Ann MADDEN,** 9 Nicole Place, Goulburn NSW 2580

On the afternoon of 16 April 2002 a riot broke out at Goulburn Correctional Centre during which Mrs Madden, a corrections officer, threw herself across an injured colleague to protect him from attack by prisoners.

Mrs Madden was with colleagues on a cell-block landing at the Goulburn Correctional Centre awaiting the arrival of prisoners to commence afternoon "lock-in". After some prisoners had reached the landing and moved into their cells, they re-emerged carrying a range of objects including wooden table legs. In a surprise attack, the rioters struck at Mrs Madden and her colleagues. A male colleague standing next to her was knocked to the floor, whereupon a number of prisoners continued to hit him using handmade weapons, fists and their feet. Mrs Madden threw herself over her severely-injured colleague and used her body to shield him from further attacks. Mrs Madden stayed in this position until she was dragged to safety by a colleague, despite sustaining serious injuries.

By her actions, Mrs Madden displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (02)4821 9323 Work (02)4823 2222

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Anthony John MARKS**, 166 Kinghorne Street, Goulburn NSW 2580

On the afternoon of 16 April 2002 a riot broke out at Goulburn Correctional Centre during which Mr Marks, a corrections officer, was seriously injured as he attempted to protect one of his colleagues from attack by several prisoners.

Mr Marks was with colleagues on a cell-block landing at the Goulburn Correctional Centre awaiting the arrival of prisoners to commence afternoon "lock-in". After some prisoners had reached the landing and moved to their cells, they re-emerged carrying a range of objects including wooden table legs. In a surprise attack, the rioters struck out at the corrections officers, knocking one of them to the ground. When Mr Marks and a colleague ran to assist, prisoners struck his colleague with a wooden table and knocked him down. Mr Marks grabbed his colleague around the waist to pull him away from the rioters, and suffered a severe blow to the head. He continued to try to pull his colleague to safety despite being continually struck about the head and body. The attacks were such that Mr Marks fell unconscious to the ground. He later underwent surgery for his injuries.

By his actions, Mr Marks displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (02)4821 4657 Mobile 0419 615 653

**Mr Kenneth John MELOURY**, 118 Causeway Road, Booyal Qld 4671

On the afternoon of 30 November 1999, Mr Meloury participated in the rescue of two people from an aeroplane crash near Childers Aerodrome, Queensland.

Council worker Mr Meloury was working with three colleagues near the Childers Aerodrome when they saw a light aircraft go into a dive and crash into nearby bush. Mr Meloury and his colleagues went to the crash site and found the aeroplane upside down in dense scrub with two injured men trapped inside. Highly flammable aviation gasoline was leaking from its ruptured fuel tanks. Mr Meloury and a colleague lifted the tail section of the plane, enabling other colleagues to crawl into the wreckage and cut one of the men free. After rescuing the first man and carrying him to safety, Mr Meloury and his colleagues tried unsuccessfully to disconnect the aeroplane's battery to reduce the chance of an electrical spark setting the fuel alight. Despite the danger, Mr Meloury and his colleagues repeated their actions to rescue the second man. Mr Meloury then bulldozed a track from the road to the crash site to enable an ambulance to reach the victims.

By his actions, Mr Meloury displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (07)4126 0201 Mobile 0427 807 938

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Eugene MICKLE**, Unit 1/39 Gifford Road, 'Thurstun Lane', Dunsborough WA 6281

On the morning of 5 May 2002, Mr Mickle rescued a man from drowning in the ocean at High Rock, north of Carnarvon, Western Australia.

At approximately 6.30 am, Mr Mickle was at the Blowholes Caravan Park when he was roused by a local station-owner seeking help for a fisherman who had been washed off High Rock by a king wave. The man, who was in grave danger of drowning, was battling to stay afloat in churning seas at the base of the rocks. Without hesitation Mr Mickle, an experienced sailor, agreed to undertake a rescue in his 5.49 metre runabout boat. One of Mr Mickle's neighbours, a professional fisherman, volunteered to assist him. High Rock is eight kilometres north of the Blowholes Caravan Park, and Mr Mickle had to navigate his boat through a reef passage in extremely rough seas to access the open sea from Blowholes Bay. He and his companion then motored to High Rock and found the fisherman, who at that stage had been in the water for about three hours. Negotiating perilous 8-metre waves, Mr Mickle manoeuvred the boat close to the man, and he and his companion pulled the man into the boat to safety. Mr Mickle then steered his boat back to a safe anchorage, after which others took the fisherman to hospital for treatment.

By his actions, Mr Mickle displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available

**Mr Mark John MONLEY**, Childers Qld 4660

On the afternoon of 30 November 1999, Mr Monley participated in the rescue of two people from an aeroplane crash near Childers Aerodrome, Queensland.

Mr Monley was working with three colleagues near the Childers Aerodrome when they saw a light aircraft go into a dive and crash into nearby bush. Mr Monley and his colleagues went to the crash site and found the aeroplane upside down in dense scrub with two injured men trapped inside. Highly flammable aviation gasoline was leaking from its ruptured fuel tanks. His colleagues lifted the tail section of the plane, enabling Mr Monley and another colleague to crawl into the wreckage and cut one of the men free. After carrying the first man to safety, Mr Monley and his colleagues tried unsuccessfully to disconnect the aeroplane's battery to reduce the chance of an electrical spark setting the fuel alight. Despite the danger, Mr Monley and his colleague crawled back into the wreckage to rescue the second man, who could only be moved a few metres from the plane because of his injuries. Mr Monley remained with the men until police and ambulance arrived.

By his actions, Mr Monley displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (07)4126 2165

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Garry John MOTT**, MS71, 105 Railway Road, Booyal, via Gin Gin Qld 4671

On the afternoon of 30 November 1999, Mr Mott participated in the rescue of two people from an aeroplane crash near Childers Aerodrome, Queensland.

Mr Mott was working with three colleagues near the Childers Aerodrome when they saw a light aircraft go into a dive and crash into nearby bush. Mr Mott radioed to advise authorities of the accident, and then ran with a colleague to find the aeroplane which was upside down in dense scrub with two injured men trapped inside. Highly flammable aviation gasoline was leaking from its ruptured fuel tanks. Mr Mott sent for his other colleagues, who lifted the tail section of the plane, enabling him and another colleague to crawl into the wreckage and cut one of the men free. After carrying the first man to safety Mr Mott and his colleagues tried unsuccessfully to disconnect the aeroplane's battery to reduce the chance of an electrical spark setting the fuel alight. Despite the danger, Mr Mott and his colleague crawled back into the wreckage to rescue the second man, who could only be moved a few metres from the plane because of his injuries. Mr Mott remained with the men until police and ambulance arrived.

By his actions, Mr Mott displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (07)4126 0195 Mobile 0428 921 003

**Mr Joel MURCHIE**, New South Wales Police

On the night of 12 October 2002, and in the early hours of Sunday, 13 October 2002, Mr Murchie rescued several people from the Sari Club, Bali following a terrorist bombing.

Mr Murchie, an off-duty police officer, was with his girlfriend in the Sari Club at the time of the bombings. The force of the explosion threw Mr Murchie to the ground. Amidst falling debris and flames, Mr Murchie became separated from his girlfriend and was forced by the intense heat of the fire to move to an opening next to a wall at the back of the Club. Once there Mr Murchie attempted to calm the injured, and helped several people to climb over rubble and escape to safety. Despite having sustained severe burns, Mr Murchie returned to the Club to continue searching for his girlfriend, but was unable to find her and was eventually forced to leave the Club.

By his actions, Mr Murchie displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Work (02)9349 9299 Mobile 0414 545 751

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Ross Cecil O'BRIEN**, 6 Pizzey Street, Childers Qld 4660

On the afternoon of 30 November 1999, Mr O'Brien participated in the rescue of two people from an aeroplane crash near Childers Aerodrome, Queensland.

Mr O'Brien was working with three colleagues near the Childers Aerodrome when they saw a light aircraft go into a dive and crash into nearby bush. Mr O'Brien and his colleagues went to the crash site and found the aeroplane upside down in dense scrub with two injured men trapped inside. Highly flammable aviation gasoline was leaking from its ruptured fuel tanks. Mr O'Brien and a colleague lifted the tail section of the plane, enabling other colleagues to crawl into the wreckage and cut one of the men free. After rescuing the first man and carrying him to safety, Mr O'Brien and his colleagues tried unsuccessfully to disconnect the aeroplane's battery to reduce the chance of an electrical spark setting the fuel alight. Despite the danger, Mr O'Brien and his colleagues repeated their actions to rescue the second man. Mr O'Brien then directed ambulance, police and the fire brigade to the crash site.

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

Phone Nos: Home (07)4126 1731

**Mr Guy Damien PARENT**, Crafers SA 5152

Details not available at the request of Mr Parent

Phone Nos: Not available

**Acting Sergeant Gary Edward SQUIRES**, Victoria Police

On the evening of 17 December 2003, Acting Sergeant Squires rescued several people from drowning near the mouth of the Patterson River at Carrum Beach, Victoria.

Acting Sergeant Squires, an off-duty policeman, was with his family at Carrum Beach near the Patterson River mouth when the wind blew up and the sea became rough. A number of people, including Acting Sergeant Squires' daughter, were swimming at the beach that night as the weather was hot. Acting Sergeant Squires saw two adults and two children being carried out to sea by a strong rip. He immediately swam out to the group, grabbed hold of them and attempted to calm them, whilst keeping them afloat. A motorboat came to assist and its operator threw out plastic-wrapped lifejackets. Holding onto the children, Acting Sergeant Squires unwrapped the lifejackets and put them on the children. While he helped one child to shore, another rescuer assisted the second child. During this rescue, Acting Sergeant Squires became aware that his daughter was also in difficulties in the water some distance away. As Acting Sergeant Squires continued to assist the people he had come to help, his daughter was rescued by another beach goer.

By his actions, Acting Sergeant Squires displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Work (03)9536 2666 Mobile 0438 310 575

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

### **Mr John James STONEBRIDGE, WA**

On the afternoon of 5 July 2003, Mr Stonebridge rescued a man from a burning vehicle after an accident occurred in O'Connor, Western Australia.

Mr Stonebridge was shopping at O'Connor when he saw a truck crash and land upside down on a nearby traffic island. Seeing the cabin fill with smoke he ran to the truck and crawled into its cabin through a broken window, locating the driver who was trapped entangled in his seatbelt. Liquid from a container behind the vehicle had spilt onto the road and the truck, leaking engine oil, was in danger of exploding. After checking that there were no other people in the vehicle, Mr Stonebridge freed the driver and dragged him a safe distance away. The man then punched Mr Stonebridge, knocking him down, and ran away. Mr Stonebridge chased and caught the man, who was known to police, returned him to the accident site and helped restrain him until police arrived to arrest him.

By his actions, Mr Stonebridge displayed considerable bravery.

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

### **Mr Nam Duc TO, 64 Crimea Street, Morley WA 6062**

On the evening of 10 August 2002, Mr To rescued his sister from an armed offender at his family's food shop at Koondoola Plaza Shopping Centre, Western Australia.

Mr To was working in the storeroom at the rear of his parent's delicatessen shop at Koondoola Plaza when he saw a man carrying a large meat cleaver enter the store and approach his sister at the front counter. The intruder had a table-napkin tied around his face as a mask. As Mr To drew near he heard the man demand money from his sister, and saw him grab her from behind and hold the cleaver to her throat. As Mr To came closer, the intruder turned and swung at him with the meat cleaver, striking him on the arm. Mr To managed to grab hold of the intruder, and after a struggle overcame him. He then restrained the man, who was still holding onto the cleaver, until police arrived.

By his actions, Mr To displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (08)9275 0098 Work (08)9342 0798 Mobile 0433 164 239

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Noel Edgar WILSON**, 36A Alderbury Street, Floreat WA 6014

On the morning of 28 May 2003, Mr Wilson rescued two people from drowning in the ocean at Dunne's Rocks, Cape LeGrande National Park, Western Australia.

Mr Wilson, a retired man, and his wife were fishing at Dunne's Rocks with an elderly couple when a king wave swept Mr Wilson and the couple into the ocean. Mr Wilson climbed back onto the rocks, injuring his leg, and went to his car to collect a life jacket, an esky and some rope. Wearing the life jacket, he tied himself with the rope to the esky and using it as a flotation device, he swam 300 metres to rescue the couple. On reaching them, Mr Wilson towed them back towards the shore, and after an hour and a half they all reached the rocks. After climbing onto the rocks he helped the man to safety. During this, the woman lost her grip on the rocks and was again washed out to sea. The water temperature was cold (16-17 degrees Celsius) and the current was strong. Mr Wilson re-entered the water and towed the woman, who was suffering from hypothermia, back to the rocks, before pulling himself and the woman out of the water. Despite suffering from exposure and pain caused by the injuries he had sustained, Mr Wilson drove the couple for one hour to the Esperance District Hospital where all three received treatment.

By his actions, Mr Wilson displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (08)9387 7976 Mobile 0402 852 346

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

### **Senior Constable Andrew David ADAMS, Victoria Police**

In the early evening of 17 December 2003, Senior Constable Adams rescued several people from drowning near the mouth of the Patterson River at Carrum Beach, Victoria.

Senior Constable Adams, an off-duty policeman, was with his family near the Patterson River mouth when the wind blew up and the sea became rough. The night was hot and a number of adults and children were in the water swimming. Senior Constable Adams saw four people being carried out to sea by a strong rip, and as he ran to respond he saw a friend, also an off-duty policeman, swimming to assist this group. Senior Constable Adams then saw two of his own children, and his friend's daughter, in trouble in the water. He swam to them and supported them, and helped by another man, brought one child to safety. Senior Constable Adams swam back to the other two children and brought them back to shore with the help of others. Seeing his police colleague struggling to rescue the original group, Senior Constable Adams swam to help them. In the middle of the river he found a man in difficulties, and stayed supporting him on a floating rubber tyre until a boat towed them to shore.

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

Phone Nos: Work (03)9333 1300 Mobile 0419 000 943

### **Mr Edwin Raymond ALEXANDER,** 8/58 Ernest Street, Kings Meadows, Launceston Tas 7249

On the afternoon of 29 May 2003 during a Qantas Airways flight from Melbourne to Launceston, Mr Alexander, a passenger, confronted and restrained an armed man on board.

Soon after take off, with the plane still on its ascent path, a male passenger in one of the seats in front of Mr Alexander got up and moved in a threatening manner towards cabin crew in the galley. The man was armed with two wooden double-pointed pickets, two aerosol cans and two cigarette lighters. On reaching the galley the man stabbed a female flight attendant and struck out at the flight purser. A struggle ensued, during which the purser grabbed his attacker around the upper body and pushed him back into the main aircraft cabin. As this was happening the man repeatedly thrust the sharpened pickets into the back of the purser's head. As the scuffle moved down the aisle to row eight where Mr Alexander was sitting, he grabbed the offender's leg and pulled him off-balance. A number of other passengers then went to the purser's aid, wrestling with the offender and subduing him. While they held him down, another passenger disarmed him.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

### **Master Caleb Shaun BODYCOTE,**

13 Parham Street, Elizabeth Downs SA 5113

On the morning of 24 November 2002, Master Bodycote steered a runaway car to safety after his father, who was driving, suffered a seizure in Elizabeth North, South Australia.

Master Bodycote, who was nine years old at the time, was a passenger with his two younger brothers in a car driven by their father along a main road. Suddenly their father had a severe seizure and lost control of the car which sped up to 100 kilometres per hour. Master Bodycote, in the front seat and concerned for the safety of his family, leant over his unconscious father and attempted to steer the car out of the way of traffic, avoiding two vehicles and a row of trees. He continued trying to control the car until it came to a stop in a nearby front yard. Master Bodycote, his father and brothers escaped with minor cuts and bruises.

By his actions, Master Bodycote is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Home (08)8252 5049

### **Mr Domenic BORDIN, 1179 Illawarra Road, Longford Tas 7301**

On the afternoon of 29 May 2003 during a Qantas Airways flight from Melbourne to Launceston, Mr Bordin, a passenger, confronted and restrained an armed man on board.

Soon after take off, with the plane still on its ascent path, a male passenger got up and moved in a threatening manner towards cabin crew in the galley. The man was armed with two wooden double-pointed pickets, two aerosol cans and two cigarette lighters. On reaching the galley the man stabbed a female flight attendant and struck out at the flight purser. A struggle ensued, during which the purser grabbed his attacker and pushed him backwards into the main aircraft cabin. The man repeatedly thrust the sharpened pickets into the back of the purser's head. As the scuffle moved down the aisle, Mr Bordin and a number of other passengers went to the purser's aid. Mr Bordin helped to subdue the man, kneeling on his chest and punching him. While they held the man down another passenger disarmed him. Mr Bordin and another passenger obtained two pairs of handcuff like restraints from the cabin crew and secured the man's wrists and ankles.

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

Phone Nos: Home (03)6326 1726 Mobile 0438 122 678

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mrs Danica BOSKOVSKA**, 6 Tooth Court, Mill Park Vic 3082

On the morning of 19 February 2001, Mrs Boskovska rescued a man being attacked by two dogs at Mill Park, Victoria.

Mrs Boskovska was standing on her verandah when she heard cries for help coming from the direction of a running track near her house, and saw two large dogs attacking a man who had been jogging past. The man was lying on the ground trying to fight off the dogs, which were biting him on the arms and legs. With her neighbour Mrs Boskovska grabbed a broom and ran towards the man, yelling at the dogs to distract them, and then helped the injured man to safety in her backyard. The man, who had feared for his life during the attack, later required extensive plastic surgery.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

**Mr Bruce Kenneth BOURNE**, 4 Field Street, McKinnon Vic 3204

On the morning of 26 January 2001, Mr Bourne rescued a man from a burning car following a fatal multi-vehicle accident on the South Gippsland Highway near Koo Wee Rup, Victoria.

Mr Bourne was driving on the South Gippsland Highway when he came upon the scene of a recent multi-vehicle accident. A petrol tanker had collided with two oncoming cars, with only the tanker driver and one of the car drivers surviving. Mr Bourne joined others who had stopped to help. Seeing an injured man in one car, Mr Bourne forced open the door to get him out, but could not as the man was tangled in his seatbelt. Flames were coming from the car's engine. Mr Bourne ran to retrieve a pair of scissors from his car, and cut the man free. Helped by another person, he then pulled the man from the car to safety.

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

Phone Nos: Home (03)9557 6704 Work (03)9546 8755 Mobile 0409 352 228

**Mr Shaun Dennis BREEN**, 13 Hawkes Way, Boat Harbour NSW 2316

Details not available at request of Mr Breen.

Phone Nos: Not available

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Keith CHARLTON**, 1 Yarralumla Drive, Langwarrin Vic 3910

On the afternoon of 29 May 2003 during a Qantas Airways flight from Melbourne to Launceston, Mr Charlton, a passenger, confronted and restrained an armed man on board.

Soon after take off, with the aeroplane still on its ascent path, a male passenger got up and moved in a threatening manner towards cabin crew in the galley. The man was armed with two wooden double-pointed pickets, two aerosol cans and two cigarette lighters. On reaching the galley the man stabbed a female flight attendant and struck out at the flight purser. A struggle ensued, during which the purser grabbed his attacker and pushed him backwards into the main aircraft cabin. The man repeatedly thrust the sharpened pickets into the back of the purser's head. As the scuffle moved down the aisle, Mr Charlton and a number of other passengers moved forward and went to the purser's aid, wrestling the man to the floor. While they held the man down another passenger disarmed him, and others bound his wrists and ankles with handcuff like restraints.

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

Phone Nos: Home and Work (03)9775 9655 Mobile 0407 057 175

**Sergeant Kenneth Alexander DUNMILL**, Victoria Police

On 17 June 2003, Sergeant Dunmill participated in the rescue of a number of people who were threatened by floods and other hazards in East Timor.

Sergeant Dunmill was a member of the 11<sup>th</sup> Australian Police Contingent, serving as a United Nations Police Officer in East Timor (UNPOL) in the Covalima District when he and his colleagues became aware of severe flooding in a nearby village, Suai Loro. Torrential rain had caused the worst flooding in 20 years. Hearing that the village was isolated by flood waters and many people were trapped in their homes, Sergeant Dunmill and fellow UNPOL officers launched a relief operation, driving to the village to render assistance. On arrival, they waded through hazardous waist-deep floodwaters to the village huts in search of people. The water was also laden with debris including dead and drowning animals, and possibly crocodiles, which were known to frequent the tidal estuaries surrounding the village. For nearly two hours, Sergeant Dunmill, helped by his colleagues, carried and assisted the entire village of 110 people, many of whom were elderly or young children, to safety through the fast-flowing water and evacuating them to a truck that was waiting on higher ground.

By his actions, Sergeant Dunmill is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Not available

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

### **Mr Kenneth ELKAN,**

Lambkin Tannery (BlueBerg), Sales Yard Road, Benalla Vic 3672

On the morning of 11 February 1999, Mr Elkan helped to rescue an injured colleague from a fire at the Lambkin Tannery in Benalla, Victoria.

Mr Elkan and a colleague were working at the Lambkin Tannery in Benalla when a chemical explosion occurred in a nearby section of the tannery. As a result of the explosion, which was followed by a fireball, one of their workmates was engulfed in flames. Yelling a fire warning to alert others, Mr Elkan and his colleague rushed to the burning area without regard for their own safety, and used a fire extinguisher to put out the flames that engulfed their workmate. They then took him out of the factory to safety and placed him under a cold shower. After leaving the injured man in the care of fellow workers, Mr Elkan and his colleague returned to check that everyone else had left the tannery building. Their injured workmate, who sustained fatal burns, later died. Due to the fierceness of the fire seventy per cent of the Tannery was destroyed.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

### **Mr Ernesto FAVARO,** Hotel Dili, Dili, East Timor

On the afternoon of 4 December 2002, Mr Favaro helped to protect the life of a man during street riots in Dili, East Timor.

On 4 December 2002, Dili was wracked by protest riots following a student demonstration that went out of control. Stone-throwing, looting, arson and general mayhem ensued through the day and night, with police shooting at the rioters whose targets included foreigners. Mr Favaro, the brother of the manager of the Hotel Dili, responded to a phone call for help from an Australian man who was trapped in his office across the other side of town from the hotel. Mr Favaro arranged a taxi to pick up the man and bring him to relative sanctuary at the Hotel Dili, and personally escorted the taxi on his motorbike, riding his motorbike through police barricades, gunfire and rioting crowds to help protect the man's safe passage.

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

Phone Nos: Work 0011 670 331 1219

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Derrek FINLAY**, 58 Trevallyn Road, Trevallyn Tas 7250

On the afternoon of 29 May 2003 during a Qantas Airways flight from Melbourne to Launceston, Mr Finlay, a passenger, confronted and restrained an armed man on board.

Soon after take off, with the plane still on its ascent path, a male passenger got up and moved in a threatening manner towards cabin crew in the galley. The man was armed with two wooden double-pointed pickets, two aerosol cans and two cigarette lighters. On reaching the galley the man stabbed a female flight attendant and struck out at the flight purser. A struggle ensued, during which the purser grabbed his attacker and pushed him backwards into the main aircraft cabin. The man repeatedly thrust the sharpened pickets into the back of the purser's head. As the scuffle moved down the aisle, Mr Finlay got out of his seat and jumped on the two men to stop them moving further down the plane. Other passengers then joined in, wrestling with the offender and pulling him away from the injured purser. As his fellow-passengers subdued and disarmed the offender, Mr Finlay, a paramedic, assisted the purser to the front of the aircraft and gave him first aid.

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

Phone Nos: (03)6334 3939 Mobile 0409 187 167

**Miss Madaline Abbey HEALEY**, 11 Kennedy Street, Euroa Vic 3666

Details not available at the request of Miss Healey.

Phone Nos: Not available

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Garry HEYS**, 288 Carradine Road, Bedfordale WA 6112

On the afternoon of 29 May 2003 during a Qantas Airways flight from Melbourne to Launceston, Mr Heys, a passenger, confronted and restrained an armed man on board.

Soon after take off, with the plane still on its ascent path, a male passenger got up and moved in a threatening manner towards cabin crew in the galley. The man was armed with two wooden double-pointed pickets, two aerosol cans and two cigarette lighters. On reaching the galley the man stabbed a female flight attendant and struck out at the flight purser. A struggle ensued, during which the purser grabbed his attacker and pushed him backwards into the main aircraft cabin. The man repeatedly thrust the sharpened pickets into the back of the purser's head. As the scuffle moved down the aisle, Mr Heys and a number of other passengers went to the purser's aid, wrestling the offender to the floor. While they held the man down another passenger disarmed him. Mr Heys and another passenger obtained two sets of handcuff like restraints from the cabin crew, and secured the offender's hands and feet.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

**Mr David John HILL**, 74 George Street, Mount Isa Qld 4825

On the morning of 28 February 2003, Mr Hill participated in the rescue of a teenage boy from floodwaters in the Leichhardt River near the Alma Street Causeway at Mount Isa, Queensland.

Mr Hill was working near the Alma Street Causeway when he saw a schoolboy trying to cross the flooded 70 metre-wide Causeway. The fast flowing current washed the boy off the Causeway and he was caught in a whirlpool. Mr Hill and his colleague drove to the riverbank and ran onto the Causeway near the boy to try and rescue him. Another man stopped his four-wheel drive vehicle at the river crossing, and parked it on the Causeway to try and buffer the current away from the boy. Standing in waist-deep water with his work mate holding onto him, Mr Hill attempted to grab the boy but could not reach him. Mr Hill jumped into the water still wearing his work gear including steel-capped boots, grasped hold of the boy and dragged him to calmer water. The man in the four-wheel drive then tossed a rope to Mr Hill's colleague, who threw it to Mr Hill, who tied the rope around the boy. The other men pulled the boy to safety, before repeating the process to drag Mr Hill to the riverbank.

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

Phone Nos: Work (07)4744 4200 Mobile 0421 870 126

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Cal John HUTCHINS**, 18 Graeme Court, Benalla Vic 3672

On the morning of 11 February 1999, Mr Hutchins helped to rescue an injured colleague from a fire at the Lambkin Tannery in Benalla, Victoria.

Mr Hutchins and a colleague were working at the Lambkin Tannery in Benalla when a chemical explosion occurred in a nearby section of the tannery. As a result of the explosion, which was followed by a fireball, one of their workmates was engulfed in flames. Yelling a fire warning to alert others, Mr Hutchins and his colleague rushed to the burning area without regard for their own safety, and used a fire extinguisher to put out the flames covering their workmate. They then took him out of the factory to safety and placed him under a cold shower. After leaving the injured man in the care of fellow workers, Mr Hutchins and his colleague returned to check that everyone else had left the tannery building. Their injured workmate, who sustained fatal burns, later died. Due to the fierceness of the fire seventy per cent of the Tannery was destroyed.

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

Phone Nos: Mobile 0411 257 097

**Sergeant Geoffrey Peter KELLY**, Victoria Police

In the early hours of 25 April 2001, Sergeant Kelly helped rescue a man from drowning in the flooded Dandenong Creek, Victoria.

When attending a suspected robbery near Dandenong Creek, Keysborough, at around 1:00 am, Sergeant Kelly and other police surprised two men who attempted to flee by jumping into the flooded and fast-flowing Dandenong Creek. One of the men swam across the 25 metre creek and was apprehended; his companion got into difficulties and sank in mid-stream. One of Sergeant Kelly's colleagues dived into the water, swam out and found the man, but then struggled to hold onto him. Without hesitation, Sergeant Kelly swam to his colleague's assistance and helped to drag the man to shore, where he, with his colleague, administered first aid, reviving the man. Whilst doing so, Sergeant Kelly assisted in subduing the first offender, who had broken free from police.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Boris KIRKOVSKI**, 10 Tooth Court, Mill Park Vic 3082

On the morning of 19 February 2001, Mr Kirkovski rescued a man being attacked by two dogs at Mill Park, Victoria.

Mr Kirkovski was visiting a neighbour when he heard cries for help coming from the direction of a nearby running track, and saw two large dogs attacking a man who had been jogging past. The man was lying on the ground trying to fight off the dogs, which were biting him on the arms and legs. With his neighbour, Mr Kirkovski grabbed a broom and ran towards the man, yelling at the dogs to distract them. He then stood between the dogs and the man, forcing them away with the broomstick, and kept watch over the dogs while his neighbour helped the injured man to safety. The man, who had feared for his life during the attack, later required extensive plastic surgery.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

**Mr Andrew Phillip LEARY**, 3 Litchfield Place, Gilmore ACT 2905

Details not available at request of Mr Leary.

Phone Nos: Not available

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

### **Mr Peter William LUCAS-SMITH AFSM,**

Emergency Service Authority, 123 Carruthers Street, Curtin ACT 2605

Around midday on 13 January 2003, Mr Lucas-Smith participated in the rescue of a pilot of a firefighting helicopter after it crashed into Bendora Dam in the Namadji National Park, Australian Capital Territory, during major bushfires.

Mr Lucas-Smith was a passenger in a helicopter carrying out a routine bushfire survey in the Namadji National Park when they received a mayday call from a firefighting helicopter that another helicopter had crashed into Bendora Dam. The crew of the first helicopter, seeing the crashed aircraft upturned and sinking, began an attempt to rescue the pilot who was trapped in the cabin. Responding to the emergency, Mr Lucas-Smith's helicopter flew to the crash site and landed on the dam foreshore. Seeing a man they thought was the pilot of the crashed helicopter hanging onto the skids of the semi-submerged aircraft, Mr Lucas-Smith and another passenger stripped to their underwear and swam towards the helicopter about 60 metres from the shore. As Mr Lucas-Smith and his companion came nearer, they realised that the man they had first seen was engaged in trying to rescue the unconscious pilot. Seeing the man struggling to keep the pilot's head above water, Mr Lucas-Smith and his companion helped him bring the pilot back to shore safely. Mr Lucas-Smith and the first rescuer gave the pilot cardio pulmonary resuscitation for about 20 minutes until he started to breathe independently. Ambulance services then flew the pilot to hospital for treatment.

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

Phone Nos: Work (02)6207 8606 Mobile 0419 011 645

### **Senior Constable David James McCANN OAM,** New South Wales Police

On 17 June 2003, Senior Constable McCann participated in the rescue of a number of people who were threatened by floods and other hazards in East Timor.

Senior Constable McCann was a member of the 11<sup>th</sup> Australian Police Contingent, serving as a United Nations Police Officer in East Timor (UNPOL) in the Covalima District, when he and his colleagues became aware of severe flooding in a nearby village, Suai Loro. Torrential rain had caused the worst flooding in 20 years. Hearing that the village was isolated by flood waters and many people were trapped in their homes, Senior Constable McCann and fellow UNPOL officers launched a relief operation, driving to the village to render assistance. On arrival, they waded through hazardous waist-deep floodwaters to the village huts in search of people. The water was also laden with debris including dead and drowning animals, and known to be crocodile infested. For nearly two hours, Senior Constable McCann, helped by his colleagues, carried and assisted the entire village of 110 people, many of whom were elderly or young children, to safety through the fast-flowing water and evacuating them to a truck that was waiting on higher ground.

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

Phone Nos: Work (02)6927 3044 Mobile 0427 273 044

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Craig Steven MacKELLAR**, 4 Knutsford Street, North Perth WA 6006

On the morning of 17 November 2002, Mr MacKellar participated in the rescue of a man caught in a rip at Watermans Beach, Western Australia.

Mr MacKellar was at Watermans Beach early in the morning when he noticed a man in trouble and crying for help in the sea about 100 metres offshore. The man, who had been gathering abalone, had become caught in a rip and was in danger of drowning in the turbulent conditions. The sea was rough, running a 1.4 metre swell. One rescuer who had already swum out to the man was struggling to bring him to shore because of the strong ocean currents. Mr MacKellar swam out to help, joining another beach goer who had also gone to assist. He and the other two rescuers rolled the distressed man onto his back and dragged him to safety on the beach. Mr MacKellar helped tend to the man, who subsequently recovered and left the beach.

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

Phone Nos: Home and Work (08)9242 1239 Mobile 0417 186 380

**Mr Gregory Craig MARTIN**, Moorabbin Vic 3189

On the afternoon of 29 May 2003 during a Qantas Airways flight from Melbourne to Launceston, Mr Martin, a passenger, confronted and restrained an armed man on board.

Soon after take off, with the plane still on its ascent path, a male passenger got up and moved in a threatening manner towards cabin crew in the galley. The man was armed with two wooden double-pointed pickets, two aerosol cans and two cigarette lighters. On reaching the galley the man stabbed a female flight attendant and struck out at the flight purser. A struggle ensued, during which the purser grabbed his attacker and pushed him backwards into the main aircraft cabin. The man repeatedly thrust the sharpened pickets into the back of the purser's head. As the scuffle moved down the aisle, Mr Martin and a number of other passengers went to the purser's aid, wrestling the offender to the floor and subduing him. While they held the man down another passenger disarmed him. Mr Martin and two passengers then bound and secured the man's wrists and ankles with handcuff like restraints.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Brendan Shaun MITCHELL**, 11 Delphi Court, Rossmayne WA 6148

On the morning of 17 November 2002, Mr Mitchell participated in the rescue of a man caught in a rip at Watermans Beach, Western Australia.

Mr Mitchell (then aged 17) was walking along Watermans Beach early in the morning when he noticed a man in trouble and crying for help in the sea about 100 metres offshore. The man, who had been gathering abalone, had become caught in a rip and was in danger of drowning. The sea was rough, running a 1.4 metre swell. Mr Mitchell stripped to his board shorts and swam out to the man, who was panicking, and attempted to calm him before bringing him to shore. Two other men on the beach had also heard the man's calls for help and noticed Mr Mitchell trying to rescue the man. They swam out to help and with their assistance, Mr Mitchell rolled the distressed man onto his back and dragged him to safety on the beach. Mr Mitchell and the other rescuers then tended to the man, who subsequently recovered and left the beach.

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

Phone Nos: Home (08)9354 1982 Mobile 0421 213 635

**Senior Constable Craig Allan PARKS**, Australian Federal Police

At 4.30 in the morning of 6 April 2000, Senior Constable Parks intervened in an armed robbery at Civic, Australian Capital Territory.

Senior Constable Parks was on patrol in Civic when he was alerted to a break-in a nearby office building. After meeting fellow police and security guards at the front entrance, Senior Constable Parks entered the building with his police dog to look for the intruder, accompanied by one of the security guards. Hearing loud banging sounds, Senior Constable Parks and the security guard followed the noise to a basement carpark where they encountered a man armed with a crowbar. Senior Constable Parks and the security guard pursued the man into a small room where the man rushed at Senior Constable Parks, striking him in the head with the crowbar and knocking him down. The man tried to escape, but was pursued and tackled to the ground by the security guard. As the guard struggled with the man, Senior Constable Parks sprayed the intruder with capsicum spray, subduing him sufficiently to allow the security guard to restrain the man until other police arrived.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Donald Roy SILLS**, 32 Hilary Street, Mount Isa Qld 4825

On the morning of 28 February 2003, Mr Sills participated in the rescue of a teenage boy from floodwaters at Mount Isa, Queensland.

Mr Sills was working near the Alma Street Causeway when he saw a schoolboy trying to cross the flooded 70 metre-wide Causeway. The fast-flowing current washed the boy off the Causeway and he was caught in a whirlpool. Mr Sills and his colleague drove to the riverbank and ran onto the Causeway to try and rescue the boy. Another man stopped his four-wheel drive vehicle at the river crossing, and parked it on the Causeway to try and buffer the current away from the boy. Standing in waist-deep water, Mr Sills held onto his work mate to stop him from falling in, while his colleague attempted to grab hold of the boy but could not reach him. His work mate then jumped into the water, grasped hold of the boy and dragged him to calmer water. The man in the four-wheel drive then tossed a rope to Mr Sills, who threw it to his colleague. After the rope had been tied around the boy, Mr Sills and the man in the vehicle pulled him to safety, before repeating the process to drag the other rescuer to the river-bank.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

**Miss Carolyn Mercedes SMITH**, 59 Edmund Street, Sanctuary Point NSW 2540

On the morning of 26 September 2003, Miss Smith tried to restrain an armed robber at a shop in Latham, Australian Capital Territory.

Miss Smith was serving customers at a shop in Latham when a man entered and threatened her with a large knife, demanding that she hand over the money in the cash register. Miss Smith activated a security alarm, and when the robber tried to reach into the cash register, she closed it on his fingers and cried out for help. The shop owner then entered the shop and attempted to restrain the man with the help of a customer. In the ensuing struggle, the man stabbed his assailants a number of times. Seeing this, Miss Smith struck the robber with a metal rack, knocking the knife from his hand. Although a customer continued to overpower the robber he escaped from the shop.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Howard Martin SMITH**, P O Box 54, Latham ACT 2615

On the morning of 26 September 2003, Mr Smith attempted to prevent an armed robbery at a shop in Latham, Australian Capital Territory.

Mr Smith, the owner of a shop in Latham, was standing outside the front entrance when he saw a masked man entering the premises. Alarmed, Mr Smith followed the man inside to find a robbery in progress. The masked man was threatening the shop assistant, Mr Smith's daughter, with a large knife as she tried to jam the man's fingers in a cash register. The shop assistant cried out for help and Mr Smith body charged the man from behind. A struggle ensued, during which the robber stabbed Mr Smith a number of times about the head and body, seriously injuring him. Mr Smith's daughter and a customer came to his aid, and tried to overpower the robber who then ran out of the shop.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

**Mr Jonathan Donald STANHOPE MLA**, Canberra ACT 2600

Around midday on 13 January 2003, Mr Stanhope participated in the rescue of a pilot of a firefighting helicopter after it crashed into Bendora Dam in the Namadji National Park, Australian Capital Territory, during major bushfires.

Mr Stanhope was a passenger on a helicopter carrying out a routine bushfire survey in the Namadji National Park when they received a mayday call from a firefighting helicopter advising that another helicopter had crashed into Bendora Dam. The crew of the first helicopter, seeing the crashed aircraft upturned and sinking, began an attempt to rescue the pilot who was trapped in the cabin. Responding to the emergency, Mr Stanhope's helicopter flew to the crash site and landed on the dam foreshore. Seeing a man they thought was the pilot of the crashed helicopter hanging onto the skids of the semi-submerged aircraft, Mr Stanhope and another passenger stripped to their underwear and swam towards where the helicopter lay in the water, about 60 metres from the shore. As Mr Stanhope and his companion came nearer, they realised that the man they had first seen was engaged in trying to rescue the unconscious pilot. Seeing the man struggling to keep the pilot's head above water, Mr Stanhope and his companion helped to bring the pilot back to safety on shore. Ambulance services then flew the pilot to hospital for treatment.

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

Phone Nos: Work (02)6205 0104

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Garry John STEWART**, 134 Noga Avenue, East Keilor Vic 3033

On the afternoon of 29 May 2003 during a Qantas flight from Melbourne to Launceston, Mr Stewart, a passenger, confronted and restrained an armed man on board.

Soon after takeoff, with the plane still on its ascent path, a male passenger got up and moved in a threatening manner towards cabin crew in the galley. The man was armed with two wooden double-pointed pickets, two aerosol cans and two cigarette lighters. On reaching the galley the man stabbed a female flight attendant and struck out at the flight purser. A struggle ensued, during which the purser grabbed his attacker and pushed him backwards into the main aircraft cabin. The man repeatedly thrust the sharpened pickets into the back of the purser's head. As the scuffle moved down the aisle, Mr Stewart and a number of other passengers went to the purser's aid, wrestling the offender to the floor and subduing him. While they held the man down another passenger disarmed him, and others then bound and secured the man's wrists and ankles with handcuff like restraints.

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

Phone Nos: Home and Work (03)9336 1336 Mobile 0419 529 720

**Mr Peter John STUBBS**, 28 Anaconda Place, Sorrento WA 6020

On the morning of 17 November 2002, Mr Stubbs participated in the rescue of a man caught in a rip at Watermans Beach, Western Australia.

Mr Stubbs was jogging on Watermans Beach when he noticed a man in trouble and crying for help in the sea about 100 metres offshore. The man, who had been gathering abalone, had become caught in a rip and was in danger of drowning in the turbulent conditions. The sea was rough, running a 1.4 metre swell. One rescuer who had already swum out to the man was struggling to bring him to shore because of the strong ocean currents. Mr Stubbs swam out to help, and was joined by another beach goer who had also gone to assist. He and the other two rescuers rolled the distressed man onto his back and dragged him to safety on the beach. Mr Stubbs helped tend to the man, who consequently recovered and left the beach.

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

Phone Nos: Home (08)9448 6313 Mobile 0407 426 018

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Antonios TIGANIS**, 18 Shiel Street, North Melbourne Vic 3051

On the night of 13 March 2001, Mr Tiganis rescued a woman from a violent offender in North Melbourne.

Mr Tiganis was in his lounge room when he heard screams for help from the street nearby. He ran out to investigate, and saw a nun that he and his wife knew lying on the ground near her car. A man was climbing into the car and attempting to steal it. Mr Tiganis ran to the car and as he approached, the man fled down the street with the woman's handbag. Mr Tiganis gave chase for several metres until the man threatened him with a rock. Deciding to abandon the chase, Mr Tiganis returned to help the woman who had been injured until ambulance services arrived.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

## GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

### Awardees comprise members of the New South Wales Emergency Service (SES), Ashford, NSW, and community volunteers

**Mr Peter John BAKER,**  
**Mr Wade Anthony BENNETT,**  
**Mr David HENDERSON,**  
**Mr Michael John HOSCHER,**  
**Mr Shorn Roy KIPPAX,**  
**Mr Shane Paul PENDLEBURY,**  
**Mr Grahame Jerome VOSS, and**

**Mr Gary Ronald BATES,**  
**Mr John Raymond CARRAGHER,**  
**Mr Kevin Patrick HILTON,**  
**Mr Justin Trent IRWIN,**  
**Mr David Manning MacDONALD,**  
**Mr Trevor John SMITH,**  
**Mr John Sidney WHITE.**

Late on the evening of 19 November 2000 and into the afternoon of the following day, members of the New South Wales State Emergency Service, and several community volunteers, assisted in the evacuation and rescue of residents during a flash flood in the New South Wales town of Ashford in the New England district.

Torrential rain started falling in the Ashford area late at night and within a short time local creeks and rivers were flooding. The Ashford 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 and torches to guide them, and with the ever-present danger of electrocution by arcing power lines, and floating debris such as fuel drums and logs flowing through the floodwaters, the group manned flood boats and worked to evacuate and rescue town residents trapped in their homes. They also rescued a number of local property owners and their pets. Members of the group waded through fast flowing currents and formed human chains in order to reach trapped families. The group also rescued colleagues whose boat broke down about 7 kilometres down river after evacuating people from a flooded homestead. Their efforts continued throughout the night and into the afternoon of the next day.

**Mr Peter John BAKER**  
80 Ely Street, Ashford NSW 2361  
Phone Nos: Not available

**Mr Gary Ronald BATES**  
46 Brindabella Way, Port Macquarie NSW 2444  
Phone Nos: Work (02)6583 0199 Mobile 0427 213 350

**Mr Wade Anthony BENNETT**  
5 Warrienbah Street, Warwick Qld 4370  
Phone Nos: Home (07)4661 8491 Mobile 0408 065 991

**Mr John Raymond CARRAGHER**  
42 Ely Street, Ashford NSW 2361  
Phone Nos: Home (02)6725 4349 Work (02)6725 4014

**Mr David HENDERSON**  
66 Martyn Street, Ashford NSW 2361  
Phone Nos: Home (02)6725 4016 Work (02)6725 4101

**Mr Kevin Patrick HILTON**  
11 Alabama Street, Ashford NSW 2361  
Phone Nos: Not available

## GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

**Mr Michael John HOSCHER**

30 Martyn Street, Ashford NSW 2361

Phone Nos: Home (02)6725 4454

**Mr Justin Trent IRWIN**

'Encliffe', Bonshaw NSW 2361

Phone Nos: Home (02)6725 8766 Mobile 0427 360 684

**Mr Shorn Roy KIPPAX**

43 Course Street, Grafton NSW 2460

Phone Nos: Not available

**Mr David Manning MacDONALD**

Coolendoon, Ashford NSW 2361

Phone Nos: Not available

**Mr Shane Paul PENDLEBURY**

3 David Street, Ashford, NSW 2361

Phone Nos: Not available.

**Mr Trevor John SMITH**

13 Alabama Street, Ashford NSW 2361

Phone Nos: Not available

**Mr Grahame Jerome VOSS**

3 David Street, Ashford, NSW 2361

Phone Nos: Not available.

**Mr John Sidney WHITE**

'Dirragun', Wallanura Road, Ashford NSW 2361

Phone Nos: Home (02)6725 4048

## GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

**Awardees comprise members of a Victoria Police Air Wing helicopter crew on duty in the Wangaratta and Shepparton areas of central Victoria on 5 October 1993**

**Federal Agent Steven William COLLINS,  
Mr Neil Robert DAVEY, and  
Mr Robert Ian GALT.**

Late on the evening of 5 October 1993 and into the following morning, the members of a three-man Victoria Police Air Wing helicopter crew on duty in the Wangaratta and Shepparton areas of central Victoria rescued a man from the roof of his car caught in rising floodwaters on the Midland Highway between Benalla and Shepparton.

During the night, the helicopter crew received a distress call advising that a man was trapped on the roof of his car by rising floodwaters on the Midland Highway. The crew immediately prepared the helicopter and flew to the aid of the man. Having located him, they saw his car was wedged against a large gum tree, making aerial rescue more difficult. The crew called for a State Emergency Services flood boat to assist, but the current was too strong for the boat to reach the man. The helicopter crew, who had not been trained to perform night winching rescues, then declared an official "mercy flight" as they feared that without their intervention, the man would soon drown. As the helicopter hovered 130 feet above the floodwaters, a crewman was winched down towards the car through the tree branches. The trapped man held out a baseball bat for the crewman to grab hold of, and pulled him onto the car roof. The crew member then secured the man in a rescue harness, and his colleagues winched them both to safety.

**Federal Agent Steven William COLLINS**

Australian Federal Police  
Phone Nos: Not available

**Mr Neil Robert DAVEY**

44 Hosken Street, Balwyn North Vic 3104  
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**Mr Robert Ian GALT**

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