

STAR OF COURAGE

Mr David Ashley BREEN, 45 Canberra Street, Ayr Qld 4807

On the afternoon of 21 November 2003, Mr Breen rescued a man from a burning vehicle after an accident at Mount Inkerman, Queensland.

Mr Breen was driving north along the Bruce Highway when he noticed an approaching car drift onto the other side of the road, narrowly missing his own vehicle. The car careered across a concrete culvert toward a raised train carriageway before landing upside down on the tracks. Mr Breen saw the accident in his rear vision mirror and called 000 emergency. He then heard the female driver, who had escaped, scream that her husband was trapped in the overturned vehicle. Mr Breen rushed to help. As he approached the car, he noticed smoke coming from the engine bay and that the grass surrounding the car was alight. Mr Breen tried all the doors of the car but they were jammed shut. To free the man he climbed through the front passenger window and dragged him from the burning vehicle. Another person who had arrived on the scene helped Mr Breen move the man to safety. Within 30 seconds the car exploded. In quick succession it then exploded a second time.

By his actions, Mr Breen displayed conspicuous courage.

Phone No: Mobile 0418 743 882

Mr John Roy WUST, 3 Mary Fox Street, Innes Park Qld 4670

On the afternoon of 3 August 2003, Mr Wust rescued a man and a woman from a burning vehicle after an accident on the Leichhardt Highway near Biloela, Queensland.

Mr Wust was travelling south with his wife on the Leichhardt Highway towards Biloela when he saw a station wagon on its roof with large amounts of smoke coming from the engine. Mr Wust stopped his car and asked his wife to turn on the hazard warning lights and to ring 000 emergency. He then ran to the overturned vehicle and saw a man and woman trapped inside in their seats. Both were unconscious. The driver's door was jammed and the car had burst into flames. Mr Wust realised the man and woman would burn to death if he did not act quickly. After considerable effort, he forced open the back door on the driver's side, freed the female driver from her seat belt and dragged her out of the car. The flames were now spreading, with the engine compartment well alight. Mr Wust could feel the heat from the front of the car. Although someone yelled at him not to go back into the vehicle because it was about to explode, Mr Wust returned to help the trapped male passenger. He climbed over the heavy set man and managed to free his broken foot and drag him through the back door of the car. Other people helped Mr Wust to move the man and the woman away from the car before it exploded.

By his actions, Mr Wust displayed conspicuous courage.

Phone Nos: Home (07)4155 6062 Mobile 0418 158 691

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Laurence Alan (Laurie) ANDREW,
Princes Highway, Myrtle Gully, Yatteyattah NSW 2539

On the afternoon of 31 December 2001, Mr Andrew rescued three children after their inflatable dinghy capsized on Lake Conjola, New South Wales.

Mr Andrew was surfing on the edge of Lake Conjola when he saw three children, a girl and two boys, in the water after their inflatable dinghy had capsized. The current was strong and as Mr Andrew paddled out to reach the children, he lost his surfboard in a rip. Mr Andrew reached one boy and started swimming to shore with the child on his back. He looked around and saw that the other two children were being sucked out to sea. Mr Andrew directed the boy to swim to shore and then swam back out to help the other children. Realising he could not carry both of them, Mr Andrew asked the girl to tread water and float on her back while he supported her and at the same time held on to the younger boy. By now they were 500 metres out to sea. Mr Andrew continued to comfort and support the children until another board rider came to help. Mr Andrew and the other man put the children on the board and swam and pushed them back to the shore.

By his actions, Mr Andrew displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available

Mr Rodney Warren BARBER, Mount Martha Vic 3934

On 13 May 2003, Mr Barber rescued a man from rough seas near Flinders, Victoria.

Mr Barber was a member of a coastal surveillance team that had intercepted an abalone poaching operation. An offender fled the scene and became trapped in remote and inaccessible terrain and required rescuing. Weather conditions meant that it would not be possible to execute either a beach landing or a helicopter winching operation to rescue the offender who was located sheltering in a cave at the base of a 50-metre cliff face. Mr Barber was in a patrol boat that was approximately 100 metres from the man but due to the three-metre swell and hidden rocks could get no closer. Mr Barber decided to swim from the boat to the cave, towing a life buoy attached to a rope. He rescued the offender, who was by then suffering from hypothermia and other injuries, towing him to the patrol vessel and helping him aboard so he could receive first aid treatment.

By his actions, Mr Barber displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr William George BENNETT, 380 Ryecroft Road, Darlington WA 6070

On the morning of 17 February 2004, Mr Bennett helped rescue a police officer trapped in a burning police vehicle on the Mitchell Highway at Glendalough, Western Australia.

Mr Bennett was driving along the Mitchell Highway when he saw a police car engulfed in flames. The car had been struck, while stationary, by another vehicle. A police officer was trapped inside, unconscious, and her male colleague was trying to free her. Mr Bennett stopped his vehicle to help, opening the rear door on the passenger's side as the woman could not be freed on the driver's side. By this time, two other bystanders had joined the rescue attempt. Mr Bennett helped pull the woman from the car and carried her about 10 metres from the burning vehicle. The car exploded soon after.

By his actions, Mr Bennett displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available

Master Nicholas Neal BESTER, deceased

Late of Campania Tas 7026

On the afternoon of 10 February 2001, Nicholas Bester, aged 13, rescued his brother from drowning in a dam at Campania, Tasmania.

Nicholas, accompanied by his younger brother aged 9 and another boy aged 16 went to a nearby farm dam in the Campania area to play with a blow-up rubber dinghy. Nicholas launched the dinghy with the 16 year old while his brother remained on the bank. Realising he was still wearing his watch, Nicholas rowed the dinghy back towards the bank. His brother started to wade out to retrieve the watch, but several metres from the edge slipped under water. Aware that his brother could not swim, Nicholas jumped into the dam and grabbed hold of his brother by his shorts, raising his head above the water. While still in the water and with the help of the 16 year old, Nicholas pushed his brother into the dinghy so that he could be taken back to shore. Following this, Nicholas disappeared under the dark and muddy water. Sadly, his body was retrieved by a neighbour later that day.

By his actions, Nicholas displayed considerable bravery, thereby losing his life.

Next of Kin: Mrs Marria Eaton (mother)

Phone No: Home (03)6260 4287

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Uthmaan BRUCE, deceased

Late of Mirrabooka WA 6061

On the afternoon of 1 January 2004, Mr Bruce attempted to rescue his brother who had been caught in a rip off Cottesloe Beach, Western Australia.

Mr Bruce was swimming with his brother and sister at Cottesloe Beach when all three were dragged out by a strong rip, about 25 metres from the shore. Mr Bruce battled one metre high waves in an effort to reach his brother who had become submerged in the water. In the attempt, Mr Bruce lost consciousness and a nearby surfer came to his aid. The strong rip and waves hampered attempts to return to shore and the man and Mr Bruce were washed a further 30 metres out to sea. Mr Bruce was eventually brought back to shore; unfortunately, rescuers were unable to revive him.

By his actions, Mr Bruce displayed considerable bravery, thereby losing his life.

Next of Kin: Mr Gadija Bruce (father)
Phone No: Home (08)9249 5616

Mr Philip Arthur CAMPBELL, 13 Norfolk Boulevard, Torquay Vic 3228

On the afternoon of 4 November 2001, Mr Campbell assisted in the rescue of a man trapped by a collapsed cliff at Bird Rock, Jan Juc, Victoria.

Mr Campbell, a Country Fire Authority member, was called to Bird Rock following the collapse of a cliff face, resulting in a man being pinned under rocks. Mr Campbell climbed down into the rock cavity to reassure the man, whose hand and forearm were visible only. As Mr Campbell cleared rocks around the trapped man, minor landslides kept occurring, making the area extremely unstable. Despite this, Mr Campbell continued to attempt to find ways to access the trapped man. As he crawled into a nearby cavity, Mr Campbell dislocated his knee and had to leave the scene. The trapped man was eventually freed four hours later.

By his actions, Mr Campbell displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available

Mr Simon Paul CAMPBELL-THOMSON, 1/4 Faraday Avenue, Rose Bay NSW 2029

On the afternoon of 3 May 2002, Mr Campbell-Thomson intercepted a bag snatcher armed with a knife at Darlinghurst, New South Wales.

Mr Campbell-Thomson was walking along Burton Street in Darlinghurst when he heard an elderly woman at a nearby bus stop screaming for help. Mr Campbell-Thomson saw the woman wrestle with a man who was trying to grab her backpack. Mr Campbell-Thomson ran about 10 metres to the woman's aid and grabbed the offender from behind. As the bag snatcher turned around, he pulled a knife and stabbed Mr Campbell-Thomson in the chest, causing a deep puncture wound. The knife hit Mr Campbell-Thomson's sternum and just missed his heart. A woman at the scene gave Mr Campbell-Thomson first aid as other bystanders helped apprehend the bag snatcher.

By his actions, Mr Campbell-Thomson displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Geoffrey CLARKE, 109 Grand Promenade, Bedford WA 6052

On the afternoon of 10 December 2002, Mr Clarke rescued his father from drowning in the ocean after he was swept off rocks at The Gap in Albany, Western Australia.

Mr Clarke was with his father and friends at The Gap, a scenic spot where sheer rock faces drop many metres into a turbulent sea. Mr Clarke's father was taking photographs when a strong gust of wind blew him off the cliff, and he fell 40 metres into the water. Mr Clarke, a trained lifesaver, ran to help his father who had managed to climb back onto the rocks. His father was covered in cuts and abrasions and told Mr Clarke he thought he had punctured a lung. As Mr Clarke was assisting his father to a safer spot they were hit by a wave and swept back into the ocean. Mr Clarke pulled himself onto the rocks, but saw his father had been caught in the churning current and was struggling to swim to safety. Mr Clarke asked his friends to phone emergency services, then swam back out approximately 70 metres to his father, grabbed hold of him and towed him to the rocks. Mr Clarke pushed his father into a more sheltered position on the rock edge away from the waves. Emergency services officers then abseiled down the cliff to assist Mr Clarke's father.

By his actions, Mr Clarke displayed considerable bravery.

Phone No: Mobile 0400 992 875

Ms Kelly-Maree COYNE, Formerly New South Wales Police

On the evening of 4 September 1999, Ms Coyne (then Senior Constable Coyne) put her life at risk to protect a colleague at the scene of a violent domestic dispute at Wilcannia, New South Wales.

Ms Coyne and a fellow police officer were called to the scene of a critical domestic assault. When they arrived they were confronted by a violent offender who threatened to attack and cut Ms Coyne's face with a pair of scissors. The enraged offender placed his hands on Ms Coyne's chest, forcibly pushing her back until her head hit a metal pole, stunning her. When the male offender ran away Ms Coyne and her colleague pursued him. The offender started throwing heavy metal and wooden objects at Ms Coyne and the other officer. Some of the items hit Ms Coyne and injured her in the back. The offender then threatened Ms Coyne and her fellow officer with a long blade carving knife. When the offender turned on her colleague and tried to slash the other officer with the knife, Ms Coyne yelled at him to stop or she would be forced to draw her firearm. As a warning, she drew her gun, but then re-holstered it. The offender continued to run at the officers with the knife and a lump of wood. Ms Coyne struck the offender a number of times with her baton, believing he was going to stab and seriously injure her colleague. After a time, Ms Coyne was able to handcuff the offender but was struck with a large piece of timber by another man. Eventually Ms Coyne and her colleague managed to get the offender into the police truck and take him to the station.

By her actions, Ms Coyne displayed considerable bravery.

Phone No: Home (02)6725 4005

BRAVERY MEDAL

First Class Constable David Malcolm ELSON, Western Australia Police

On the afternoon of 14 November 2001, First Class Constable Elson helped rescue several people in a plane crash near the Mount Monger Road, east of Kalgoorlie, Western Australia.

Constable Elson attended a crash scene involving a light plane that had attempted to make an emergency landing near Mount Monger Road. On arriving at the scene Constable Elson ran to the plane to check for casualties and found three men trapped inside, including the pilot who was deceased. His body was removed and a decision made to try to free the two seriously injured trapped passengers despite the danger from leaking aviation fuel. Constable Elson cut the front passenger's seat belt but was unable to free him due to extensive damage to the plane requiring emergency equipment to assist. With fuel leaking over him, Constable Elson and others at the scene helped free the other injured passenger in the back seat while rescuers used a fire extinguisher to douse the fuel, which was forming a puddle under the plane. Constable Elson then helped hold up the right wing of the aircraft while fire officers used the jaws of life to cut open the aircraft and free the trapped front seat passenger. The injured man was then taken away by ambulance.

By his actions, Constable Elson displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Work (08)9941 1444 Mobile 0439 719 711

Senior Constable Stephen Gregory FOX, New South Wales Police

On the afternoon of 18 September 2003, Senior Constable Fox assisted in the rescue of a fisherman who was swept off the rocks at Bannister Head, Mollymook, New South Wales.

Senior Constable Fox and several police officers were called out to Bannister Head where a fisherman had been washed off the rocks. When they arrived the man was approximately 20 metres from the rocks, floating on his back and frantically kicking his arms and legs to prevent himself from drifting further out to sea. A rescue vehicle was deployed, but by this time the man was about 75 metres from shore with larger waves breaking over him. The man was becoming more distressed. Senior Constable Fox and a colleague decided to swim out to the man, each on a boogie board. They undressed down to their uniform trousers, waited for an incoming swell so the rocks below them were covered and then jumped from a height of three to four metres into the water. The water was extremely cold with a strong undertow and a three-metre swell due to a strong north easterly wind. Senior Constable Fox and colleague swam out to the fisherman, joined their boogie boards together and pulled the exhausted fisherman onto the boards. Both he and his colleague stayed with the man for about 25 minutes until the rescue boat arrived. It took three attempts before they were all pulled aboard to safety.

By his actions, Senior Constable Fox displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Michael GAJAWULA, Garmadi Outstation via Ramingining NT 0822

On the evening of 1 November 2003, Mr Gajawula rescued his nephew from a crocodile attack at Garmadi Outstation in the Northern Territory.

Mr Gajawula's nephew had just finished hunting for the day and was washing geese blood from his hands in the Blythe River near Maningrida when he was attacked by a large crocodile. The crocodile seized hold of the man and held his leg in its jaws, dragging him into the river. Mr Gajawula witnessed the attack and ran down to the river's edge to help a woman who was attempting to free the man from the crocodile's jaws. The crocodile lashed out with its tail at both rescuers. The crocodile was eventually forced to release the man from its jaws and swam away. The rescuers then dragged the man from the water.

By his actions, Mr Gajawula displayed considerable bravery.

Phone No: Home (08)8979 0328

Senior Constable Peter Duncan GELME, New South Wales Police

On the evening of 4 September 1999, Senior Constable Gelme (then Constable Gelme) risked his life at the scene of a critical domestic violence incident at Wilcannia, New South Wales.

Senior Constable Gelme and a female police officer were called to the scene of a violent domestic assault. When they arrived they were confronted by the offender who threatened to cut the face of the female officer with a pair of scissors. Senior Constable Gelme pushed the offender away from his colleague and pursued him. The male offender, agitated and abusive, threatened to harm the officers with a chair. At this point Senior Constable Gelme activated capsicum spray but strong winds interfered with the direction of the spray and some of the fumes came back on the officers. The offender threw several objects at the officers and eventually lunged at Senior Constable Gelme's colleague with a carving knife. Senior Constable Gelme pulled her away. The offender then turned on Senior Constable Gelme thrusting the knife towards his chest. Senior Constable Gelme ducked out of the way and attempted to hit the man with his baton. The offender continued to run at the officers with a knife and a lump of wood, striking Senior Constable Gelme in the upper chest just below his neck. Senior Constable Gelme staggered backwards but was still able to strike the offender with his baton, forcing the man to drop the wood and fall to the ground. As his colleague was handcuffing the offender, another man at the scene grabbed a police baton and hit Senior Constable Gelme on the right leg. Despite this, Senior Constable Gelme and his colleague continued to struggle with the offender until they managed to get him in the police truck and take him to the station.

By his actions, Senior Constable Gelme displayed considerable bravery.

Phone No: Work (02)6493 4244

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Austin John GRIFFIS, 80 Brown Street, Boggabilla NSW 2409

On the afternoon of 27 February 2001, Mr Griffis rescued a man and a woman caught in floodwaters at Aida Creek in the Northern Territory.

In torrential rain, Mr Griffis, a tour bus operator, approached the flooded Aida Creek causeway, stopping his vehicle behind another passenger bus displaying its hazard warning lights. As he went to help the driver and his stranded passengers, he saw a car approach the flooded creek from the opposite side. Despite attempts to stop it, the car continued into the swollen current, was washed off the crossing and came to rest against a row of small trees about 25 metres from land. The driver's door was jammed up against the trees and could not be opened against the strong current. Water completely covered the car. Mr Griffis and the other bus driver struggled across the current to reach the car. In the meantime, the current turned the car and freed the driver's door from the trees. Mr Griffis reached the car and noticed a man and a woman in the water about two metres downstream, holding on to small branches and struggling against the current. The woman was having difficulty stopping herself from being washed further downstream so Mr Griffis headed towards her. Despite not being a strong swimmer, Mr Griffis towed the woman on his left arm across the current to land where others helped her to shore. Mr Griffis then returned to the man and pulled him to safety.

By his actions, Mr Griffis displayed considerable bravery.

Phone No: Home (07)4676 2165

Sergeant Stephen Gregory HEGARTY, New South Wales Police

On the afternoon of 18 September 2003, Sergeant Hegarty assisted in the rescue of a fisherman who was swept off the rocks at Bannister Head, Mollymook, New South Wales.

Sergeant Hegarty and several police officers were called out to Bannister Head where a fisherman had been washed off the rocks. When they arrived the man was approximately 20 metres from the rocks, floating on his back frantically kicking his arms and legs to prevent himself drifting further out to sea. A rescue vehicle was deployed, but by this time the man was about 75 metres from shore with larger waves breaking over him. The man was becoming more distressed. Sergeant Hegarty and a colleague decided to swim out to the man, each on a boogie board. They undressed down to their uniform trousers, waited for an incoming swell so the rocks below them were covered and then jumped from a height of three to four metres into the water below. The water was extremely cold with a strong undertow and a three-metre swell caused by a north easterly wind. Sergeant Hegarty and his colleague swam out to the fisherman, joined their boogie boards together and pulled the exhausted fisherman on to the boards. Both he and his colleague stayed with the man for about 25 minutes until the rescue boat arrived. It took three attempts before they were all pulled aboard to safety.

By his actions, Sergeant Hegarty displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available

BRAVERY MEDAL

Senior Constable Matthew Christopher LEWIS, Western Australia Police

On the afternoon of 14 November 2001, Senior Constable Lewis (then Constable Lewis) helped rescue several people in a plane crash near the Mount Monger Road, east of Kalgoorlie, Western Australia.

Senior Constable Lewis attended a crash scene involving a light plane that had attempted to make an emergency landing near Mount Monger Road. On arriving at the scene Senior Constable Lewis ran to the plane to check for casualties and found three men trapped inside. Senior Constable Lewis helped pull the deceased pilot from the wreck. A decision was then made to try to rescue the two remaining trapped passengers despite the danger from leaking aviation fuel. He then assisted in several unsuccessful attempts to free a seriously injured passenger in the front seat of the plane. Extensive damage to the plane meant that emergency equipment would be required. With fuel leaking over him, Senior Constable Lewis and other officers helped free a second injured passenger in the back while rescuers used a fire extinguisher to douse the fuel, which was forming a puddle under the plane. Senior Constable Lewis then helped hold up the right wing of the aircraft while fire officers used the jaws of life to cut open the aircraft. The remaining injured man in the front was then freed and taken away by ambulance.

By his actions, Senior Constable Lewis displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available

Mr John Edward McINTOSH-BROWN, 42 Eudoria Street, Gosnells WA 6110

On the morning of 17 February 2004, Mr McIntosh-Brown helped rescue a police officer trapped in a burning police vehicle on the Mitchell Highway at Glendalough, Western Australia.

Mr McIntosh-Brown was driving along the Mitchell Highway when he saw a police car engulfed in flames. The car had been struck, while stationary, by another vehicle. A police officer was trapped inside, unconscious, and her male colleague was trying to free her. Mr McIntosh-Brown stopped his vehicle to assist, together with two others. Mr McIntosh-Brown helped pull the woman from the car and carried her about 10 metres from the burning vehicle. The car exploded soon after.

By his actions, Mr McIntosh-Brown displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (08)9398 8027 Work (08)9451 5333 Mobile 0412 378 160

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Michael John McKINNEL, 33 Newgrove Road, Healesville Vic 3777

On the evening of 20 October 2003, Mr McKinnell rescued a girl from a burning house in Healesville, Victoria.

Mr McKinnell was in search of his dog when he heard the sound of breaking glass and saw flames coming out of the living room windows of a house down the road. He yelled for his wife to call the fire brigade and, with an axe in hand, ran to the burning house. A woman and a boy ran out, screaming that a young girl was trapped inside. Mr McKinnell tried twice to smash down the front door with his axe. The heat was so intense he could not enter. Mr McKinnell then ran to the back of the house but a thick wall of smoke prevented him from moving more than three or four steps inside. After yelling out several times to the girl, Mr McKinnell could hear her voice coming from the front room which was well alight. He ran back to that side of the house, smashed the windows, climbed inside and crawled on his hands and knees in search of the girl. Mr McKinnell found her behind a chair. He dragged her across the room to the front window, lifted her out and passed her to a woman who was waiting outside.

By his actions, Mr McKinnell displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (03)5962 5020 Mobile 0429 799 455

Mr Gareth Alexander MARTIN, 60 Scott Street, Mortdale NSW 2223

On the afternoon of 22 January 2003, Mr Martin tried to rescue a man from a burning vehicle after an accident in Sylvania, New South Wales.

Mr Martin was riding his motorcycle in Sylvania when he saw a car hit a telegraph pole on the driver's side and immediately burst into flames. Mr Martin and another man ran to help the driver who was trapped in the vehicle. When the passenger door would not open, Mr Martin forced his foot through the car window, sustaining cuts to his leg. The window broke and Mr Martin then reached into the car to grab hold of the male driver, who was unconscious and on fire. Mr Martin realised the man was stuck and he was forced to withdraw when the smoke and flames became too intense. He received minor burns and was treated by ambulance officers at the scene. Sadly, the driver of the car perished.

By his actions, Mr Martin displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (02)9585 0405 Mobile 0416 232 569

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Daniel O'DONNELL, deceased

Late of Gosse SA 5223

On the morning of 9 November 2003, Mr O'Donnell attempted to rescue a man who had fallen in the water off Remarkable Rocks, Kangaroo Island, South Australia.

Mr O'Donnell took a group of ten tourists to Remarkable Rocks where a member of the party fell off a slippery slope at the water's edge while photographing scenery. Mr O'Donnell yelled for help and was joined by a tourist in the group. They went to the bottom of the rocks and Mr O'Donnell threw a life buoy out to the man in the water who was unable to catch it. A big wave then crashed down and swept Mr O'Donnell and the other rescuer out to sea. With all three in the water, waves crashed over them and surf surged in and out of the rocks. One of the men in the water attempted to help Mr O'Donnell and hold him out of the water, but a large wave separated them. Unfortunately, Mr O'Donnell was later found floating face down in the water.

By his actions, Mr O'Donnell displayed considerable bravery, thereby losing his life.

Next of Kin: Mrs Naomi O'Donnell (spouse)
Phone No: Mobile 0408 816 123

Ms Margaret RAINBUMA, Garmadi Outstation via Ramingining NT 0822

On the evening of 1 November 2003, Ms Rainbuma rescued her nephew from a crocodile attack at Garmadi Outstation in the Northern Territory.

Ms Rainbuma's nephew had just finished hunting for the day and was washing geese blood from his hands in the Blythe River near Maningrida when he was attacked by a large crocodile. The crocodile seized hold of the nephew and held his leg in its jaws, dragging him into the river. Ms Rainbuma witnessed the attack and ran to the river's edge, grabbing hold of her nephew to try to free him from the crocodile. A man also witnessed the attack and ran to help Ms Rainbuma. The crocodile lashed out with its tail at both of them. Ms Rainbuma repeatedly punched and kicked the crocodile on its head with no success. She eventually kicked it in the soft area behind its front leg forcing the crocodile to release her nephew from its jaws and swim away. Ms Rainbuma then helped drag her nephew from the water.

By her actions, Ms Rainbuma displayed considerable bravery.

Phone No: Home (08)8979 0328

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr David Charles READER, 3 Lyle Street, Hurstville NSW 2220

On the morning of 24 April 2002, Mr Reader confronted a man armed with a knife in Hurstville, New South Wales.

Mr Reader was woken around 6:30 am by the sound of breaking glass at the unit complex next door to his home. He went to investigate and saw a male neighbour standing outside a next-door unit, armed with a knife and piece of masonry tile. The blade of the knife was about 18 to 20 centimetres long. The front fly screen doors of the unit had been ripped off, and the front windows smashed. At a second unit he saw blood splatters on the blinds, windowsills and verandah. Still armed with the knife, the man threatened two females inside the units, before returning to his own unit. Mr Reader ran back to his home to tell his wife to ring the police and armed himself with a golf club. He checked on the women next door and advised them to stay inside and wait for the police. As Mr Reader went to see that other residents were unharmed, the offender, still armed with the knife, advanced on him threatening to harm him and the women. The approaching offender backed Mr Reader toward his own property where the offender lunged at Mr Reader at least four times, before slipping on the wet grass. As the offender got back on his feet, he waved the knife and called out threats to Mr Reader's daughter and grand-daughter. Mr Reader continued to stand his ground against the offender until police arrived and apprehended the man.

By his actions, Mr Reader displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (02)9591 9946 Mobile 0412 460 707

Mr George Peter RICHARDS, 24 Ilma Street, Gosnells WA 6110

On the morning of 17 February 2004, Mr Richards helped rescue a police officer trapped in a burning police vehicle on the Mitchell Highway at Glendalough, Western Australia.

Mr Richards was driving along the Mitchell Highway when he saw a police car engulfed in flames. The car had been struck, while stationary, by another vehicle. A police officer was trapped inside, unconscious, and her male colleague was trying to free her. Mr Richards stopped his vehicle to assist, together with two others. Mr Richards helped pull the woman from the car and carried her about 10 metres from the burning vehicle. The car exploded soon after.

By his actions, Mr Richards displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (08)9398 1582 Mobile 0418 908 378

BRAVERY MEDAL

First Class Constable Brendon Grant SHANAHAN, Western Australia Police

On the afternoon of 14 November 2001, First Class Constable Shanahan helped rescue several people in a plane crash near the Mount Monger Road, east of Kalgoorlie, Western Australia.

Constable Shanahan attended a crash scene involving a light plane that had attempted to make an emergency landing near Mount Monger Road. On arriving at the scene Constable Shanahan ran to the plane to check for casualties and found three men trapped inside. Constable Shanahan checked the pilot, but found no signs of life and helped pull the pilot's body from the wreck. Despite the danger from leaking aviation fuel, a decision was made to try to rescue the other two passengers. He then assisted in several unsuccessful attempts to free a seriously injured passenger in the front seat of the plane. Due to the extent of damage to the plane, emergency equipment was required. With fuel leaking over him, Constable Shanahan and the other officers helped free a second injured passenger in the back while rescuers used a fire extinguisher to douse the fuel, which was forming a puddle under the plane. Constable Shanahan then helped hold up the right wing of the aircraft while fire officers used the 'jaws of life' to cut open the aircraft. Constable Shanahan and ambulance officers then freed the remaining front seat passenger and carried him away from the aircraft.

By his actions, Constable Shanahan displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available

Mr Matthew Sidney SHARP, 157 Attunga Road, Yowie Bay NSW 2228

On the afternoon of 22 January 2003, Mr Sharp attempted to rescue a man from a burning vehicle after an accident in Sylvania, New South Wales.

Mr Sharp witnessed an accident in Sylvania in which a car hit a telegraph pole on the driver's side and immediately burst into flames. Mr Sharp and another man ran to help the driver who was trapped in the vehicle. Mr Sharp pulled at the passenger door to try to open it, but it was jammed shut. Mr Sharp could not get to the driver's side of the car as it was already burning. The second man forced his foot through the passenger window, and both he and Mr Sharp tried to reach the driver, who was unconscious and on fire. The flames were too intense and the smoke had become very thick, causing Mr Sharp and the other man to withdraw. Sadly, the driver of the car perished.

By his actions, Mr Sharp displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Dougal MacGregor SMART, deceased

Late of Edinburgh, Scotland

On the morning of 9 November 2003, Mr Smart attempted to rescue a man who had fallen into the sea off Remarkable Rocks, Kangaroo Island, South Australia.

Mr Smart was part of a tourist group visiting Remarkable Rocks when a member of the group accidentally fell into the water off slippery rocks while photographing scenery. Soon after, a big wave carried the man about 15 to 20 metres away from the water's edge. The tour operator yelled for help. Without hesitation, Mr Smart went with him down to the bottom of the rocks to lend a hand. After the man was located in the water a life buoy was thrown to him, but a big wave crashed down and Mr Smart and the other rescuer were swept out to sea. Waves crashed over them and water surged in and out of the rocks. Unfortunately, Mr Smart was later seen floating face down in the water.

By his actions, Mr Smart displayed considerable bravery, thereby losing his life.

Next of Kin: Mrs Joan Smart (spouse)
Phone Nos: Not available

Sergeant Philip Martin SPENCE, Australian Federal Police

On 18 January 2003, as bushfires encroached on and destroyed parts of urban Canberra, Sergeant Spence, at the height of the firestorm, entered burning homes to evacuate residents and later in the face of significant threat acted to secure a magazine store located at the Weston Police Complex.

During the late morning of 18 January Sergeant Spence was called to duty as part of the emergency response to the fires. He initially commenced traffic control in a high-risk area and as conditions deteriorated over the day patrolled the immediate fire zone in the Chapman area on foot entering burning properties, alone and in the company of another rescuer, to ensure residents were safely evacuated. When he became aware that the firearms range at the Weston Police Complex was on fire he was concerned about the risk of fire destroying a magazine located at the Complex. Realising the seriousness of the situation, Sergeant Spence went to the Complex and entered the office area adjacent to the magazine. He saw that the office was filled with smoke, visibility was low and breathing difficult. Sergeant Spence entered the magazine with another police officer, checked the items stored inside and secured the area. Sergeant Spence then went to the nearby firearms range at the Complex where small arms ammunition was exploding and assisted in fighting the fire at the range before being relieved. He then returned to the magazine store. Sergeant Spence remained on duty at the Complex throughout the night putting out spot fires.

By his actions, Sergeant Spence displayed considerable bravery, particularly in the Chapman area and at the Weston Police Complex.

Enquiries relating to the above award should be directed to AFP Media Liaison on (02)6275 7100.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Ms Lisa STRATHERN, 10/100 Bordeaux Street, Eight Mile Plains Qld 4113

On the afternoon of 2 March 2003, Ms Strathern rescued tandem jump parachutists whose harness had become entangled as they jumped from a plane flying above Caboolture, Queensland.

Ms Strathern was the pilot of a Cessna aircraft carrying five parachutists, including a tandem jump pair. She piloted the aircraft to the drop zone. The first three jumpers exited the aircraft successfully. As the tandem divers jumped, part of their harness snagged around the starboard wheel strut leaving them hanging mid air attached to the undercarriage of the Cessna. As soon as she became aware of the emergency, Ms Strathern executed some turns of the aircraft to try to free the jumpers. The manoeuvres did not work, so Ms Strathern leant out of the aircraft keeping one hand on the controls while trying to pull the harness strap free from the strut. When this failed, one of the trapped jumpers called out to her to cut them free. Ms Strathern immediately loosened her seatbelt, crouched on the floor of the aircraft and once again leant out and this time cut the harness with a knife. Ms Strathern had no parachute and, because the plane had no autopilot, she had to control it with one hand while cutting free the pair. She was flying at 7,000 feet at the time.

By her actions, Ms Strathern displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home (07)3423 1738 Work (07)3831 3705 Mobile 0414 840 668

Constable Keith TARVER, Western Australia Police

On the morning of 17 February 2004, Constable Tarver helped rescue a colleague from a burning police vehicle on the Mitchell Highway at Glendalough, Western Australia.

Constable Tarver was a passenger in an unmarked police car driven by a colleague. The pair noticed a tyre tread on the highway and stopped the police car, positioning it at an angle across the traffic lanes to enable Constable Tarver to remove the tread. Constable Tarver activated the blue police light and placed it on the roof of the car. As he alighted the car, another vehicle struck the right hand corner of the police car, causing the fuel tank to explode and the car to spin almost 360 degrees. Constable Tarver's colleague, who was knocked unconscious, was trapped in the vehicle. Constable Tarver tried to lift his partner's legs from under the steering wheel, but was unable to free her. Three bystanders came to his aid. With their help Constable Tarver pulled his colleague from the burning car and carried her about 10 metres away. Soon after, the car exploded.

By his actions, Constable Tarver displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Charles Henry TAYLOR, 18 Riverwood Drive, Nerang Qld 4211

On the morning of 19 June 2000, Mr Taylor intervened in an armed robbery at the Westpac Bank in Bundall on the Gold Coast, Queensland.

Mr Taylor was at a Westpac branch when an armed offender, wearing a full-face balaclava and holding a .22 calibre rifle, ran up to a female teller, demanding money. Fearing for the woman's safety, Mr Taylor walked behind the armed man, grabbed hold of him from behind and twisted the man's left arm, forcing the gun to point away from the teller. The offender struck Mr Taylor on the head and body with the rifle several times while continually shouting threats at him. Mr Taylor wrestled the offender to the front door, but the armed man continued to hit and threaten him. Once outside the bank, the offender hit Mr Taylor with such force that the rifle smashed in two, slicing a deep gash across Mr Taylor's head, which later required 10 stitches. Mr Taylor threw a rubbish bin at the offender before withdrawing to seek help. The offender re-entered the bank and stole a large sum of money from the teller before escaping in a vehicle. Mr Taylor took down the vehicle's registration number and provided police with a description of the car. The offender was later apprehended.

By his actions, Mr Taylor displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available

Sergeant Stephen Paul THOMPSON, Victoria Police

On the afternoon of 4 November 2001, Sergeant Thompson rescued a man from a collapsed cliff at Bird Rock, Jan Juc, Victoria.

Sergeant Thompson was called to Bird Rock following the collapse of a cliff face, resulting in a man being pinned under rocks. Sergeant Thompson was forced to wade through knee deep water to reach the trapped man. A series of small landslides kept occurring, creating a very unstable environment. Sergeant Thompson climbed over several large rocks into a cavity, where he could make out the man's hand and forearm, about 1.5 metres into the opening. Sergeant Thompson was able to reassure the man through the rescue process. The man was eventually freed four hours later.

By his actions, Sergeant Thompson displayed considerable bravery.

Phone No: Work (03)5560 1189

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Shayne Hamilton ABBOTT, 14 Cocos Court, Broadbeach Waters Qld 4218

On the afternoon of 7 April 2004, Mr Abbott rescued a man from the sea at Mermaid Beach, Queensland.

Mr Abbott was walking along the beach at Broadbeach Waters when he noticed a man caught in a rip. He swam out to the man, and supported him for approximately 15 minutes. Mr Abbott was having difficulty keeping the man afloat as he was twice his weight. Eventually they both became caught in the rip. An off-duty policeman swam about 500 metres to both of them. Mr Abbott was then able to swim to shore and help the policeman drag the man out of the water.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

Mr Nicholas Argyle ATKINSON, 81 Gooseberry Hill Road, Gooseberry Hill WA 6076

On the afternoon of 3 May 2002, Mr Atkinson intercepted a bag snatcher armed with a knife at Darlinghurst, New South Wales.

Mr Atkinson was sitting at a Darlinghurst café when he saw an elderly woman at a bus stop across the road grappling with a man who was trying to snatch her backpack. Mr Atkinson ran 50 metres to help the woman. The offender had already stabbed one man, and Mr Atkinson grabbed the bag snatcher in a bear hug and fought with him. The offender threatened Mr Atkinson with a knife and a screwdriver but, with the help of other bystanders, the man was wrestled to the ground.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

Miss Samantha Jade ATKINSON, 14 Ivy Street, Hampton Vic 3188

On the afternoon of 26 December 2002, Miss Atkinson helped rescue three men from the surf at YCW Beach at Phillip Island, Victoria.

Miss Atkinson was sitting in her car at YCW Beach on Phillip Island when she noticed three men struggling in the surf about 100 metres from the shoreline. Miss Atkinson ran 150 metres along the beach and into the surf. A strong swimmer, she soon reached two of the men who were struggling to hold on to their bodyboard and were pulling each other under water. Miss Atkinson calmed them down and held them out of the water. Another man on the beach paddled out to help her, dragging the two men back to shore on his surfboard. Miss Atkinson then turned her attention to the third man, towing him through the strong current and back to the beach.

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

Phone Nos: Home (03)9598 2722 Mobile 0401 319 164 or 0408 564 862

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Robert Leslie BARTLEY, 73 Queenscliff Drive, Woodbine NSW 2560

In the early hours of 20 November 2003, Mr Bartley distracted a man from driving a front-end loader into a building at Campbelltown Hospital, New South Wales.

Mr Bartley had just finished a security patrol of the area when he heard a loud noise and looked up to see a 12-tonne front-end loader heading towards Waratah House at Campbelltown Hospital. Mr Bartley ran towards the front entrance of the House, calling for help on his radio. He tried to distract the loader driver by throwing debris and yelling out to him. When this failed, Mr Bartley climbed onto the loader and tried to get the man to stop before jumping off. At this point the man started to reverse the loader out of the building's entrance and swung it towards Mr Bartley. Noticing the loader was heading towards an oxygen cylinder, Mr Bartley continued to distract the man until he changed direction. On two occasions the machine was only centimetres away from Mr Bartley who felt the driver wanted to run him over. The loader then changed direction and headed up the road and out of sight.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

Constable Allan Jeffrey BELL, Australian Federal Police

On 18 January 2003, as bushfires encroached on and destroyed parts of urban Canberra, Constable Bell acted to reduce the significant risk posed by fire to a magazine store located at the Weston Police Complex.

In the afternoon of 18 January Constable Bell undertook traffic control duties in the immediate fire-affected areas of Weston Creek, Canberra. When he became aware that the Weston Police Complex was suffering fire damage and that the firearms range was well alight, he realised the risk to the magazine located at the Complex. With another officer, Constable Bell went to the Complex and began to hose down the building. Later the wind shifted and burning embers were blown towards the Complex. Constable Bell went onto the roof of the magazine building and hosed it with water. He continued to spray down the roof until a helicopter arrived to water bomb the facility. Using arm gestures he directed the crew of the helicopter where to bomb the area. Shortly after another helicopter arrived to water bomb the building and Constable Bell again directed the crew. The water bombing continued for some time during which Constable Bell continued hosing other areas of the roof. He remained on the roof as he could no longer see embers coming towards the building and the situation had eased.

By his actions, Constable Bell is commended for brave conduct, particularly for his actions at the Weston Police Complex.

Enquiries relating to the above award should be directed to AFP Media Liaison on (02)6275 7100.

Mr Brian Leslie BOLTON, Sydney NSW 2000

Details not available at the request of Mr Bolton.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Ian BRADY, 49 Smythe Street, Rockingham WA 6168

On the morning of 16 July 2001, Mr Brady rescued the driver and three female passengers in a vehicle that had crashed off a cliff in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Mr Brady was holidaying in Kuala Lumpur, travelling in a chauffeur-driven tourist van on a day trip to the highlands. An oncoming truck travelling on the wrong side of the road forced the van off the road and down a steep ravine. The van rolled several times before coming to rest on a ledge against a clump of trees. Mr Brady freed himself and the male driver, instructing the man to go for help. Mr Brady then dragged a woman from the vehicle, which was sitting precariously over a steep drop. Mr Brady also assisted a 12-year-old girl to safety before pulling an unconscious woman from the wreck. Emergency workers reached the victims some hours later and carried them up the cliff on stretchers.

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

Phone No: Home (08)9592 4633

○ **Senior Constable Rodney Colin CARNALL**, Australian Federal Police

On 18 January 2003, as bushfires encroached on and destroyed parts of urban Canberra, Senior Constable Carnall acted to reduce the significant risk posed by fire to a magazine store located at the Weston Police Complex.

In the afternoon of 18 January Senior Constable Carnall undertook traffic control duties in the immediate fire-affected areas of Weston Creek, Canberra. With another officer he patrolled the suburb of Chapman and adjoining areas. Later that day he became aware that the firearms range at the Weston Police Complex was well alight and realised the risk to the magazine store located at the Complex. With another officer, Senior Constable Carnall went to the Complex and together they entered the office area adjacent to the magazine. He saw that the office was filled with smoke; visibility was low and breathing difficult. Senior Constable Carnall entered the magazine, checked the items stored inside and secured the area. He then went back outside and assisted in putting out fires on the eastern side of the building whilst monitoring the safety of one of his colleagues who was on the roof of the building hosing it down.

○ By his actions, Senior Constable Carnall is commended for brave conduct, particularly for his actions at the Weston Police Complex.

Enquiries relating to the above award should be directed to AFP Media Liaison on (02)6275 7100.

Mrs Brenda CASERTA, 168 Wattle Avenue, Werribee Vic 3030

Details not available at the request of Mrs Caserta.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Constable Stephen Ryan CROSS, Australian Federal Police

On 18 January 2003, as bushfires encroached on and destroyed parts of urban Canberra, Constable Cross, acted to reduce the significant risk posed by fire to a magazine store located at the Weston Police Complex.

In the afternoon of 18 January Constable Cross undertook traffic control duties in the immediate fire-affected areas of Weston Creek, Canberra. Later that day he became aware that the firearms range at the Weston Police Complex was on fire and realised the risk to the magazine store located at the Complex. With other colleagues, Constable Cross returned to the Complex. As they drove to the Complex both sides of the road were ablaze and steam was rising from the road surface. With another colleague, Constable Cross immediately started to hose down the building. Constable Cross remained at the Complex for several hours assisting in controlling fires rekindled on the grounds.

By his actions, Constable Cross is commended for brave conduct, particularly for his actions at the Weston Police Complex.

Enquiries relating to the above award should be directed to AFP Media Liaison on (02)6275 7100.

Mr William Luke FLOOD, 104 Lock Street, Stanthorpe Qld 4380

On the afternoon of 17 October 2002, Mr Flood assisted two elderly people during bushfires at Glen Aplin, Queensland.

Mr Flood was working on a property at Stanthorpe when bushfires raged through the area, destroying houses and machinery. As Mr Flood and his elderly companion ran towards a dam to shelter from the flames, the man had an angina attack. Mr Flood helped the man, who was struggling for breath, to enter the dam and poured water over him to keep him cool amid the scorching heat and surrounding flames. Visibility was almost zero, and the heat was intense. After the fire had passed, Mr Flood sat the man up against a nearby vehicle and then went in search of the man's wife in the main house. Mr Flood had to wait for a wind change to find the verandah and front door. He located the woman wrapped in a wet blanket inside the house. At this point, verandahs on both sides of the house were on fire and flames were burning through the floor. Mr Flood carried the woman out of the house to safety. He then drove the man and woman to hospital for treatment. Mr Flood was treated for smoke inhalation.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Master Wade Francis GANNON, 49 Geiger Road, Canungra Qld 4275

On 18 May 2003, Wade Gannon, aged 10, rescued his young cousin who had fallen into Canungra Creek, Queensland.

During a family picnic, Wade was riding his bicycle with his cousins along a road next to his grandparents' property at Canungra. Near Canungra Creek bridge, Wade's 5-year-old cousin lost his balance and fell approximately two metres into the flooded heavily weeded creek, with his bicycle falling on top of him. Wade immediately jumped into the cold and murky water and pulled his cousin from under the water, carrying him under his armpits. Wade frog-kicked through the long reeds, which kept tangling around his legs, until he could drag his cousin to safety.

By his actions, Wade is commended for brave conduct.

Phone No: Home (07)5544 1321

Mrs Rose Mary GEISLER, 9 Carey Street, Goolwa SA 5214

On the evening of 16 February 2003, Mrs Geisler rescued an elderly woman from a burning home in Goolwa, South Australia.

Mrs Geisler received a phone call from an elderly friend, who could not walk without the aid of a frame or walking stick, to say her house was on fire. Alerting a neighbour along the way to call the fire brigade, Mrs Geisler ran more than 150 metres from her home to her friend's house. By the time she arrived, Mrs Geisler could see mustard coloured smoke, filling the house to about waist height. She found her friend in the kitchen, went straight to her and helped her out of the house through the front door. Mrs Geisler then went back to the house and switched off the power. As she returned to her friend the house exploded in flames.

For her actions, Mrs Geisler is commended for brave conduct.

Phone No: Home (08)8555 1041

Mr Christopher Charles GOFF,

Gate 16, Ulm Road, Aviation Rescue Firefighting, Mascot Airport, Mascot NSW 2020

On the afternoon of 27 September 1981, Mr Goff stopped a runaway aircraft from colliding with passenger aircraft at Mascot Airport, New South Wales.

Mr Goff was on duty at Mascot Airport as a firefighter when high winds caused a stationary DC3 aircraft to break away from its mooring. Mr Goff watched the plane gather momentum, running over a vehicle in its path and damaging a nearby weather aid. Mr Goff and another man jumped into a 20-tonne fire tender and pursued the runaway plane. The aircraft fishtailed violently as it moved in the direction of a number of passenger aircraft. Mr Goff manoeuvred the tender at high speed in front of the free moving aircraft, hitting the wing tip, and using the tender's brakes to stop the plane. The tender was badly damaged in the process.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Reginald GOLDFINCH, 795 Duncans Road, Werribee South Vic 3030

On the afternoon of 6 February 2001, Mr Goldfinch helped rescue two people from a burning vehicle at Werribee, Victoria.

Mr Goldfinch was at home when he heard a loud thud and the sound of crunching metal. He ran outside and saw a car on fire, upside down with its roof crashed and wedged in the trees. Three young women were trapped inside, including the female driver who was screaming for help. Mr Goldfinch ran back to the house to get a fire extinguisher and a crowbar. Mr Goldfinch tried to lever the driver's door open with the crowbar and then used it to dig dirt away from the car to gain better access to the trapped driver. As bystanders lifted the burning vehicle, Mr Goldfinch helped pull the driver from the car and move her to safe ground. Another injured girl had been pulled out of the car earlier. Sadly, the third female died in the accident. Soon after, the car exploded into flames.

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

Phone Nos: Home (03)9742 1840 Mobile 0429 382 416

Mr Troy Daniel GRAY, 95 Ballan Road, Werribee Vic 3030

On the afternoon of 6 February 2001, Mr Gray helped rescue two people from a burning vehicle at Werribee, Victoria.

Mr Gray was driving behind a vehicle which crashed at high speed and became airborne, eventually landing upside down in a clump of trees. Three young women were trapped inside. Mr Gray ran over to the crash scene and pulled one of the girls from the vehicle, which had now caught alight. The driver was still trapped inside and Mr Gray unsuccessfully tried to open the driver's door. Mr Gray then drove his own vehicle to a nearby shop to get a fire extinguisher and returned to douse the flames. As bystanders lifted the burning vehicle and levered the door open with a crowbar, Mr Gray helped pull the driver from the car. It exploded soon after. Sadly, the third female in the car perished.

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

Phone Nos: Home (03)9742 3780 Mobile 0433 218 765

Constable Matthew Anthony GROOM, Queensland Police

On the afternoon of 7 April 2004, Constable Groom rescued a man from the sea at Mermaid Beach, Queensland.

Constable Groom, who was at the beach and off duty at the time, was alerted by a passer-by that two people were caught in a rip. Constable Groom swam 500 metres out to a man and a boy, both of whom were struggling to stay afloat in the choppy surf. Constable Groom grabbed the man, propping him on top of himself, and dragged and towed him to shore. The boy was able to swim ashore unassisted. Constable Groom and the boy then dragged the man out of the water.

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

Phone No: Work (07)3258 2444

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Edward David HURD, 203/320 St Kilda Road, Melbourne Vic 3004

On the afternoon of 3 May 2002, Mr Hurd intercepted a bag snatcher armed with a knife at Darlinghurst, New South Wales.

Mr Hurd was sitting at a Darlinghurst café when he saw an elderly woman at a bus stop across the road grappling with a man trying to snatch her backpack. Mr Hurd ran 50 metres to help, witnessing the offender stab another man who had intercepted him. Mr Hurd ran across the road to ask someone to call the police. When he returned, the offender threatened Mr Hurd with a knife. With the help of others, Mr Hurd wrestled the bag snatcher to the ground and disarmed him. The police arrived shortly after.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

Mr Adrian Trevor JOHANSON,
25554 New England Highway, Applethorpe Qld 4378

On the afternoon of 17 October 2002, Mr Johanson assisted an elderly couple during bushfires at Glen Aplin, Queensland.

Mr Johanson was working on a property at Stanthorpe when bushfires raged through the area, destroying houses and machinery. Realising the fire was close and jumping 50 metres or more at a time, Mr Johanson instructed an elderly male companion to remove himself and his vehicle to the safety of a dam. Meanwhile Mr Johanson took shelter under machinery as the fire passed over him. He then went to the main house, where the verandahs were on fire and the man's elderly wife was trapped inside. Mr Johanson used an excavator to try to knock the sides off the verandah to prevent the fire from spreading. Another man was then able to enter the house and assist the woman outside. As the heat intensified, Mr Johanson acted quickly to convey the woman in the tray of the excavator to safety and to be reunited with her husband. Mr Johanson was treated for smoke inhalation.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

Dr Albel Singh KANG, 70 Victoria Road, Rooty Hill NSW 2766

On the evening of 18 October 2002, Dr Kang disarmed an offender following an attempted robbery at Rooty Hill, New South Wales.

Dr Kang was walking with his wife when a young man approached them, pointed a gun and demanded their wallets. When the offender discovered they were not carrying any money he started to walk past them, still pointing the gun at them. The offender told Dr Kang and his wife to move on, and walked away tucking the gun into the waistband of his pants. As the young man turned his back, Dr Kang grabbed him from behind, locking him in a bear hug so he could not reach his gun. After a short struggle, Dr Kang disarmed the man and the police arrived shortly after.

By his actions, Dr Kang is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Home (02)9675 2696 Work (02)9672 2641 Mobile 0425 202 680

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mrs Sarabjeet Kaur KANG, 70 Victoria Road, Rooty Hill NSW 2766

On the evening of 18 October 2002, Mrs Kang helped to disarm an offender following an attempted robbery at Rooty Hill, New South Wales.

Mrs Kang was walking with her husband when a young man approached them, produced a gun and pointed it at Mrs Kang and her husband and demanded their wallets. On discovering they were not carrying any money, the young offender then walked past them, still pointing the gun at them. He told Mrs Kang and her husband to move on, started to walk away, and tucked the gun into the waistband of his pants. As the young man turned his back, Mrs Kang's husband grabbed him from behind, locking him in a bear hug so he could not reach his gun. Mrs Kang hit the offender and held his legs. After a short struggle, the man was disarmed. Mrs Kang went for help and the police arrived shortly after.

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

Phone Nos: Home (02)9675 2696 Mobile 0425 203 923

Mr Stuart Thomas KENNY, 39 High Street, South Brighton SA 5048

On the morning of 4 December 2002, Mr Kenny intervened in a struggle with an offender armed with an axe in Unley, South Australia.

Mr Kenny, an electrician, was preparing to start work when he saw two men struggling in the gutter near a parked car. Mr Kenny observed that one of the men appeared to be threatening the other man with an axe, which was about 50 centimetres long. The victim yelled for help and Mr Kenny responded by approaching the two men. He grabbed the offender's wrists, sinking his thumbs into the pressure points until the man loosened his grip on the axe. Mr Kenny then grabbed hold of the axe and removed it from the offender.

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

Phone Nos: Home (08)8297 3623 Mobile 0408 985 399

Ms Jaimi-Lea LEIGHTON, 59 Simpson Parade, Albion Park NSW 2527

On the afternoon of 31 December 2001, Jaimi-Lea Leighton, aged 12, helped rescue a boy after their inflatable dinghy capsized in Lake Conjola, New South Wales.

Jaimi-Lea and two boys were snorkelling at the entrance of Lake Conjola while holding onto the edges of their inflatable dinghy. Within minutes a strong current carried the dinghy 20 to 30 metres out to sea and Jaimi-Lea realised that the waves were becoming bigger. She grabbed one boy and helped him into the dinghy. The other boy started swimming towards the shore. By this time the dinghy was being sucked further out to sea and strong waves caused it to capsize. Jaimi-Lea swam to the boy who had been in the dinghy to help him. In his panic, the boy clambered onto her, pushing her under water. Jaimi-Lea calmed the boy down, persuading him to tread water with her until two board riders came to their rescue.

By her actions, Jaimi-Lea is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Not available

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Timothy Mark MANTON, Kentucky, Narrabri NSW 2390

On the evening of 1 June 2002, Mr Manton rescued a woman from a hotel fire at Narrabri, New South Wales.

Mr Manton noticed a fire coming from an upstairs window of the hotel next door. Mr Manton ran up the external stairs onto the hotel verandah to check that everyone was out of the building. He yelled and banged on all the windows to locate anyone inside. A few minutes later Mr Manton heard a faint voice coming through one of the windows. He could not enter the building because of the intense heat and thick smoke, so smashed the glass with his hands. Mr Manton eventually forced the window open and found a woman in a bathroom in a distressed state. With considerable physical effort and coaxing, Mr Manton persuaded the woman to accompany him. He then pulled the woman out through the window to safety.

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

Phone No: Home (02)6792 5983

Mr Terrence Patrick MARSHALL, 81 Arthur Street, Fairfield Vic 3078

One the morning of 11 December 2003, Mr Marshall rescued an unconscious driver from a burning car on the Frankston Highway at Paterson Lakes, Victoria.

Mr Marshall, a paramedic, was travelling towards the city on the Frankston Highway when he came across a vehicle that had smashed into a tree. The driver was slumped over the steering wheel, unconscious. Mr Marshall saw smoke coming from underneath the car. He asked some bystanders to help him pull the man from the vehicle as he thought the LPG tank was about to explode. However, they ran away in fear, so Mr Marshall reached into the passenger side to try to free the man, who was of a large build. By this time flames were spreading throughout the vehicle and Mr Marshall's legs were singed. Eventually he pulled the driver free and they both landed on the ground as the car was completely engulfed in flames. An ambulance officer helped Mr Marshall drag the unconscious man to safety.

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

Phone Nos: Home (03)9481 4362 Work (03)9840 3500 Mobile 0409 186 795

Mr Michael Stephen O'BRIEN, 3A Moore Street, Ferntree Gully Vic 3156

On the afternoon of 30 December 2002, Mr O'Brien rescued a man from a burning vehicle in Preston, Victoria.

Mr O'Brien was driving north along Gilbert Road in Preston when he saw a car coming straight towards him from the opposite direction. He swerved several times to avoid a collision. As he passed the car Mr O'Brien looked in his rear vision mirror and saw the other vehicle veer off the road, crash into a power pole and catch alight. Mr O'Brien turned back to help. As he neared he saw the unconscious driver lying across the passenger seat. Mr O'Brien and another man forced the driver's door open and released his seatbelt before dragging the driver out by his feet to safety. The car then exploded.

By his actions, Mr O'Brien is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Home (03)8711 8607 Work (08)9674 2727 Mobile 0438 073 611

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Alan John PLAYFORD SC, 10 Rosann Close, New Lambton NSW 2305

On 18 January 2003, as bushfires encroached on and destroyed parts of urban Canberra, Mr Playford, a paramedic with the Ambulance Service of New South Wales, at the height of the fire front entered burning homes to evacuate residents.

Mr Playford had been deployed to the Canberra area with other emergency services personnel to assist with firefighting operations to the west of the city. Despite being off duty after finishing night shift, on learning the fire had broken containment lines and was threatening suburban areas, he volunteered to assist. He went to the Weston Creek area where he joined police and others directing people away from the fire front. Realising the direct threat to residents, he made a decision to leave the protection of the vehicle he was travelling in to enter burning homes surrounded by embers and emitting intense heat to locate and evacuate trapped and frightened residents. In the company of a police colleague and at other times alone, he moved from house to house in the suburb of Chapman being unwilling to leave each of the properties he entered until all residents had been accounted for and had safely left the area. He guided residents and those found disoriented on roadways to available transport to be removed from the fire zone. Mr Playford continued to assist in evacuating people to safety until later that afternoon.

By his actions, Mr Playford is commended for brave conduct for his actions in the suburb of Chapman.

Phone Nos: Home (02)4965 5050 Work (02)4921 7500 Mobile 0410 651 054

Mr Ivan John ROUTLEDGE, 15 Barridale Drive, Kingsley WA 6026

On the morning of 17 February 2004, Mr Routledge helped rescue a police officer from a burning police vehicle on the Mitchell Highway at Glendalough, Western Australia.

Mr Routledge witnessed an accident in which a passing truck collided with a stationary police vehicle, causing it to spin almost 360 degrees and burst into flames. An injured, unconscious female police officer was trapped inside. As three men tried to extricate the woman from the burning vehicle, Mr Routledge took a fire extinguisher from the bus he was driving and tried to douse the fire, minimising the risk of explosion to the rescuers. The woman was freed and carried 10 metres from the burning car before it exploded shortly after.

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

Phone Nos: Home (08)9409 1050 Work (08)9246 9866 Mobile 0417 901 945

Mr Giovanni Anthony RUSSO, 21 Chester Road, Ingleburn NSW 2565

Details not available at the request of Mr Russo.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Clement George SENIOR, 355 Diagonal Road, Seacombe Gardens SA 5047

In the early hours of 2 December 2001, Mr Senior restrained an inebriated man on a bus in Adelaide, South Australia.

Mr Senior, a retired man, was travelling on a bus along South Road at St Marys when a man attacked a fellow passenger, fracturing his nose. The driver stopped the bus and Mr Senior helped the driver drag the offender off the victim. In the struggle Mr Senior pulled the offender off the bus driver, falling to the floor in the process, with the man landing on top of him. Mr Senior suffered a minor heart attack and was taken to the hospital, later undergoing surgery.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

Mr Kevin Jerry STIPKOVIC, 1160 Thompsons Road, Cranbourne Vic 3977

On the morning of 7 November 2003, Kevin Stipkovic, aged 15, assisted a young boy after his backpack had become caught in the door of a moving train at Merinda Station, Victoria.

Kevin was walking to the train station with another teenager when he noticed a schoolboy being dragged along by a train after his backpack had become caught in the doors of the carriage. The schoolboy was unconscious, having been dragged about 20 metres along the platform. Kevin immediately pressed the emergency button at the station. With assistance, he then lifted the student from the track onto the platform. The driver of an incoming train was then alerted.

By his actions, Kevin is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Home (03)5995 7317 Mobile 0409 807 445

Mr Glenn Douglas TAYLOR, 5 The Crest, Bulleen Vic 3105

In the early hours of 3 December 2003, Mr Taylor rescued a man trapped in a car in floodwaters at Lower Templestowe, Victoria.

Mr Taylor, an SES member, was on duty when a severe rainstorm hit Melbourne and two cars were submerged in floodwaters at Lynnwood Parade. A muffled voice was heard coming from one of the cars. Mr Taylor swam out to the sinking vehicle, a 4WD, wearing overalls, boots and wet weather gear. Visibility was poor and the water was dark and murky. Mr Taylor secured a rope to the pack rack and tried to open all the car doors, without success. By this stage the water level was up to the driver's neck. Mr Taylor tried in vain to break the car windows with his fist and then with his boots. Finally he kicked in the rear quarter window and cleared the glass away, pulling the man from the rapidly sinking car. Mr Taylor told the man to grab the rescue rope and he escorted him to the water's edge.

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

Phone Nos: Home (03)9850 1921 Mobile 0418 383 020

GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

Awardees comprise members of the Australian Federal Police, ACT Ambulance Service and Ambulance Service of NSW

Constable Joanne Theta APOSTOLOFF
Constable Allan Jeffrey BELL
Senior Constable Martin Stuart
BERESFORD
Senior Constable Richard BREINER
Detective Constable Andrew Paul
CAMPBELL
Constable Gavin Alan CAMPBELL
Senior Constable Rodney Colin
CARNALL
Constable Tyrone Robert CLARK
Constable Stephen Ryan CROSS
Federal Agent Jody Brian EARL
Sergeant Peter Lawrence FITTLER
Constable Marcus Luke FITZGERALD
Sergeant Raymond Arthur FITZPATRICK
Mr John Harold GLEESON
Constable Peter Rodney GREEN
Senior Constable Bruce Edward HARRIS
Constable Ashley Dean LAIDLER
Sergeant Allen Raymond LE LIEVRE
Detective Superintendent Chris LINES
Constable Jane Glenda MacKENZIE

Constable Colleen Marcelle McKILLOP
Constable Darren Scott MACKERETH
Constable Daniel Bruce MEYER
Detective Sergeant Christopher Jon
MORGAN
Detective Sergeant Gregory John MOWLE
Sergeant Stephen Gary PEREIRA
Mr Alan John PLAYFORD SC
Constable Angela Louise RICHARDSON
Mr Christopher John RIDDELL
Sergeant Michael John SEK
Mr Ross Darron SHADBOLT
Mr John Benedict SLATER
Constable Jason Scott SMITH
Sergeant Philip Martin SPENCE
Federal Agent Michael Desmond
TRAVERS
Constable Gavin Joel WALL
Federal Agent Glenn John WARNES
Acting Sergeant Andrew Palmer WARRY
Constable John S S WONG
Mrs Jean Elizabeth YOUNG
Constable Peter Gerard YOUNG

On the afternoon of 18 January 2003 severe bushfires accelerated by extreme weather conditions encroached on urban areas of Canberra causing the tragic death of four people, the loss of almost 500 homes and 93 community, commercial and farm buildings, damage to many other homes and businesses as well as major disruption to the city's infrastructure and widespread destruction of forests and the environment.

A State of Emergency was declared in the early afternoon. Members of the group worked in the Weston Creek area at the height of the firestorm where it had the greatest impact, particularly in the suburbs of Chapman, Duffy, Rivett and Holder. They worked in a unit manner as individuals and in small teams under extremely dangerous conditions to protect lives and property at great personal risk to themselves, evacuating residents and animals, directing anxious and distressed people to safety, and providing medical aid. Some members of the group entered burning buildings to ensure residents had evacuated to safety. All were exposed to huge walls of flames being fuelled by nearby pine forests and strong winds, exploding gas lines and cylinders, falling power poles and trees that were well alight. Intense smoke limited vision and made breathing difficult. Their efforts continued well into the night.

Enquiries relating to members of the Australian Federal Police included in the Group Bravery Citation should be directed to Australian Federal Police Media Liaison on (02)6275 7100.

GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

Individual contact details:

Mr John Harold GLEESON

Phone Nos: Home (02)4952 3602 Mobile 0419 255 165

Mr Alan John PLAYFORD SC

Phone Nos: Home (02)4965 5050 Work (02)4921 7500 Mobile 0410 651 054

Mr Christopher John RIDDELL

Phone Nos: Home (02)6282 2656 Mobile 0417 288 649

Mr Ross Darron SHADBOLT

Phone Nos: Not available

Mr John Benedict SLATER

Phone Nos: Home (02)6292 8550 Work (02)6207 9901 Mobile 0404 097 560

Mrs Jean Elizabeth YOUNG

Phone Nos: Home (02)6253 8056 Mobile 0417 821 718

GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

Awardees comprise members of the Victoria Police,
Paramedics, Search and Rescue Squad, State Emergency Service,
and the Country Fire Authority

Mr Michael Andrew BELTON
Senior Constable Mark Wolfgang
BRAUN
Mr Philip Arthur CAMPBELL
Mrs Linda Jane CHERUBIN
Mr Anthony John de WIT
Mr Friedrich Hans DREHLICH
Mr Anthony Alan FOSS
Mr Graeme Francis JACKMAN
Sergeant Timothy Michael JAMES
Mr Anthony Ross JOHNSON

Mr Ross Alan JOHNSON
Mr Gary Robert LOANE
Leading Senior Constable Donald James
McCONNELL
Leading Senior Constable Robert Gladwin
MANKS
Sergeant Gregory PAUL
Mr Stephen James PEARSON
Mr Darren Peter PERRYMAN
Sergeant Stephen Paul THOMPSON

On the afternoon of 4 November 2001, a number of members of various emergency service organisations worked together to rescue a man pinned under rocks after a cliff collapse Bird Rock, Jan Juc, Victoria.

A group of surfers at Bird Rock were heading into the sea at high tide when they heard a rumble and turned to see the cliff face fall to the beach. A man tried to run, but was injured and fell over. He was pinned under rocks, with only his hand and forearm visible to onlookers. Police clambered over rocks and waded through the sea to help rescue the man and coordinate emergency service personnel. Smaller landslides kept occurring during the rescue effort, making the area extremely unstable, putting rescuers at risk. Personnel from the Country Fire Authority and State Emergency Service attended the scene and an ambulance crew monitored the rescue mission. The rocks were cleared as the tide started to recede and rescuers worked to free the man from the rocks. The man was eventually pulled free four hours later and taken to hospital. The rescue effort was perilous for all involved due to recurring landslides which destabilised the site.

GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

Individual contact details:

Mr Michael Andrew BELTON
Phone Nos: Not available

Senior Constable Mark Wolfgang BRAUN
Phone Nos: Not available

Mr Philip Arthur CAMPBELL
Phone Nos: Not available

Mrs Linda Jane CHERUBIN
Phone Nos: Not available

Mr Anthony John de WIT
Phone Nos: Work 1300 883 200 Mobile 0419 571 719

Mr Friedrich Hans DREHLICH
Phone Nos: Not available

Mr Anthony Alan FOSS
Phone No: Mobile 0412 508 974

Mr Graeme Francis JACKMAN
Phone Nos: Home (03)5261 3263 Mobile 0417 341 294

Sergeant Timothy Michael JAMES
Phone No: Work (03)9399 7520

Mr Anthony Ross JOHNSON
Phone No: Mobile 0409 963 293

Mr Ross Alan JOHNSON
Phone Nos: Home (03)5261 5227 Work (03)5261 3855 Mobile 0418 615 227

Mr Gary Robert LOANE
Phone Nos: Home (03)5261 3462 Work (03)5229 5570 Mobile 0409 186 501

Leading Senior Constable Donald James McCONNELL
Phone No: Work (03)9521 9099

Leading Senior Constable Robert Gladwin MANKS
Phone No: Work (03)9399 7503

Senior Sergeant Gregory PAUL
Phone Nos: Not available

Mr Stephen James PEARSON
Phone Nos: Home (03)5281 1962 Mobile 0412 416 963

Mr Darren Peter PERRYMAN
Phone Nos: Home (03)5261 9233 Work 13 22 44 Mobile 0411 482 206

Sergeant Stephen Paul THOMPSON
Phone No: Work (03)5560 1189