

## STAR OF COURAGE

**Mr Michael Thomas BROWN**, Unit 13/25 Potts Road, Langwarrin Vic 3910

At around midday on 23 March 2005, Mr Brown rescued a woman trapped in a burning vehicle after a collision with a semi-trailer on McClelland Drive at Langwarrin, Victoria.

Mr Brown was driving behind the truck when he saw it collide with a station wagon. He stopped immediately and, in spite of a debilitating back condition and reliance on walking aids for mobility, hurried to the car. Mr Brown found the engine area of the car on fire and the distressed female driver trapped in her seat. He tried to calm her while others attempted to extinguish the flames. At one point he limped back to his own car for a bottle of soda water, which he poured onto the woman's legs to try to stop them from burning. While other rescuers continued to try to extinguish the fire, Mr Brown entered the car from the rear area and managed to break the back of the driver's seat. This allowed him to wrap his arms around the woman and wrench her free. He and the woman rolled out of the car and as they were helped to safety, the car was engulfed in flames. Mr Brown suffered burns to his face in the incident.

By his actions, Mr Brown displayed conspicuous courage.

Phone Nos: Home: 03 9775 6737 Mobile: 0417 695 302

**Mr Rodney Joseph FIECHTNER, deceased**, late of Toowoomba Qld 4350

On the morning of 7 April 2003, Mr Fiechtner attempted to prevent an explosion from a gas leak on a drilling rig at Myall Creek, Surat, Queensland.

Mr Fiechtner, a rig manager, was on site, located midway between the drilling rig and demountable huts used for meals and accommodation, when an uncontrolled release of natural gas occurred without warning at the rig. Flames engulfed the area. Two men who were working on the rig were seriously injured, while others received burns. Despite the risks of approaching the rig carrier, Mr Fiechtner unhesitatingly ran to the area to try to switch off the diesel engines. He was aware that members of his drilling crew were close to where an explosion was likely to occur and that shutting down the engines reduced the risk of flames igniting the gas cloud. Tragically, when Mr Fiechtner attempted to shut down the engines, there was an explosion and he died as a result of serious burn injuries.

By his actions, Mr Fiechtner displayed conspicuous courage, thereby losing his life.

Next of Kin: Mr Colin Fiechtner

Phone Nos: Home: 07 4635 3533 Mobile: 0428 887 828

## STAR OF COURAGE

**Mrs Alicia Violet SOROHAN**, 170 Bacton Road, Chandler Qld 4155

In the early morning of 11 October 2004, Mrs Sorohan saved a man who had been seized by a crocodile at Bathurst Bay, Cape Yorke Peninsula, Queensland.

Mrs Sorohan was camping with family and friends at Bathurst Bay and was woken at about 4 am by a man's screams. She went to investigate and found that a crocodile was attacking a male friend who was sleeping in the tent nearby. The man's wife had grabbed him around the shoulders and was trying to pull him free, but the crocodile retained its hold and dragged the man from the tent. Without hesitation, Mrs Sorohan, who was sixty years old at the time, jumped on the crocodile's back to try to distract it. The crocodile let go of the man, threw back its head and broke Mrs Sorohan's nose, causing her to fall over. The crocodile, which weighed 300kg and was 4.2 metres long, seized Mrs Sorohan by the arm and started thrashing about. Mrs Sorohan's son, who had grabbed a pistol, then shot the crocodile several times. Mrs Sorohan suffered lacerations and a fractured arm in the incident.

By her actions, Mrs Sorohan displayed conspicuous courage.

Phone Nos: Home: 07 3390 1148

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Philip Geoffrey CAINES**, 39 San Marco Quays, Mandurah WA 6210

On the morning of 13 December 1996, Mr Caines rescued a fellow refinery worker severely injured in a high pressure release of chemical slurry at the Alcoa Wagerup Refinery at Waroona, Western Australia.

Mr Caines and a female colleague were working on a pipe valve at the refinery when a 110 degree Celsius mixture of caustic soda and bauxite slurry exploded from the valve. The woman was knocked back by the force of the slurry as it burst from the pipe and Mr Caines lost sight of her in the thick vapour. Mr Caines sustained burns to his own chest and arms while searching through the slurry for the woman. He then picked her up and carried her to a safety shower where he washed the burning liquid from her body and eyes. After ringing for the emergency team, Mr Caines stayed with the woman until they arrived. The woman suffered extensive injuries in the incident and Mr Caines spent two days in hospital being treated for his own injuries.

By his actions, Mr Caines displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home: 08 9535 8412 Mobile: 0413 302 051

**Mr Joshua Ryan CAREW**, 3 Barton Road, Doyalson NSW 2262

Details not available at the request of Mr Carew.

Phone Nos: Not available

**Constable James John DONOVAN**, Victoria Police

On the morning of 14 January 2005, Constable Donovan pursued and disarmed a man who had taken a police revolver and was evading arrest in the central business district of Melbourne, Victoria.

Constable Donovan was on duty at the Carlton Police Station when he heard a call over the radio that an offender had taken a police revolver and fired shots while resisting arrest. Constable Donovan and his partner joined the pursuit of the offender, who was at that stage travelling through Melbourne's central business district in a car he had hijacked. When the hijacked car crashed and the armed offender escaped into a shopping plaza, Constable Donovan pursued him on foot until the offender left the shopping plaza and got into the front passenger seat of a taxi. The driver of the taxi abandoned the vehicle and Constable Donovan, after attempting to break the rear passenger window, leaped into the backseat. With the taxi still moving, Constable Donovan grabbed the offender from behind. The man pointed the gun at Constable Donovan's head and fired, narrowly missing him. The taxi crashed into a tram barrier and rolled onto its roof. Constable Donovan continued to wrestle with the man and forced the gun out of his hand. He then held the man until other police officers arrived.

By his actions, Constable Donovan showed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Stuart James GIBBS**, 74 Narr-Maen Drive, Croydon Hills Vic 3136

At around midday on 23 March 2005, Mr Gibbs helped rescue a woman trapped in a burning vehicle after a collision with a semi-trailer on McClelland Drive at Langwarrin, Victoria.

Mr Gibbs was driving when he stopped to assist at an accident between a semi-trailer and a station wagon. He saw flames coming from under the bonnet of the car and immediately disconnected the car's battery so that it would not explode. He then went to the assistance of the injured female driver whose legs were trapped. While others attempted to extinguish the flames, Mr Gibbs reached into the burning car and attempted to free the woman by breaking pieces from the dashboard. When another man finally managed to free the woman, Mr Gibbs helped the rescuer and the woman to move away from the car. Shortly afterwards the car was completely engulfed in flames.

By his actions, Mr Gibbs displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available

**Sergeant Robert Eric HARDIE**, Victoria Police

On the 27 July 2004, Sergeant Hardie saved a woman attempting to commit suicide near Sandowne Park Railway Station, Victoria.

Sergeant Hardie was on duty when he received a report that a woman was attempting to commit suicide near Sandown Park Railway Station by placing herself in the path of an oncoming train. He immediately sent a request that all trains in the vicinity be stopped, then went to the site. On arrival he found a woman on the tracks facing an oncoming train that had evidently not received the notice to stop. With the train only about 50 metres from the woman, Sergeant Hardie left his vehicle, ran to her and struggled with her until he was eventually able to drag her from the tracks.

By his actions, Sergeant Hardie showed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Miss Karly Louise HARRIS**, PO Box 195, Yorketown SA 5576

On the afternoon of 10 April 2005, Miss Harris rescued a boy and attempted to rescue the boy's father after they got into difficulty in a strong current off Edithburg Jetty, South Australia.

Ms Harris was on the Jetty at around 5.15 pm when she was informed that some people had fallen into the water. Miss Harris immediately went to the assistance of a father and son who were being dragged away by the current. Miss Harris, fifteen-years-old at the time, dived in and swam to the men who, by then, were some 50 metres from the jetty. She began towing the boy back to the Jetty, while encouraging his father to swim beside her. The current was very strong, the waves up to a metre high, and the father began swallowing water and panicking. Miss Harris instructed him to float on his back and continued towing the boy. As she was tiring she called for help and a young man dived in to assist when she was about 20 metres from the Jetty. Together they towed the boy until further help arrived. When the boy was safely returned to the Jetty, Miss Harris tied a rope around her waist and returned to the water to assist the father. The father was finally removed from the water by boat, but sadly died in the incident.

By her actions, Miss Harris showed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available

**Mr Jiri HRABAL**, Frankston Vic 3199

Details not available at the request of Mr Hrabal.

**Mr Linton Charles JONES**, Unit 601/10 Vista Street, Surfers Paradise Qld 4217

On the morning of 24 April 2004, Mr Jones went to the aid of a woman who was being abducted in Surfers Paradise, Queensland.

Mr Jones was woken at about 3.15 am by a woman's screams and, from the balcony of his 6<sup>th</sup> floor unit, saw a man reaching into the back seat of his car across the street. Mr Jones ran to the car and confronted the man, who appeared to be attempting to hide something underneath a blanket. As he tried to see what the man was doing, the man began to punch him. A young woman, who had been under the blanket, took this opportunity to escape through the open car door. Mr Jones then tried to prevent the man from escaping, as he jumped into his car and drove off. The woman was treated for shock and knife wounds to her hands.

By his actions Mr Jones showed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home: 07 5538 3891 Mobile: 0412 569 976

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr David Robert O'BRIEN**, 16 Mimosa Avenue, Saratoga NSW 2251

In the early morning of 21 November 2003, Mr O'Brien rescued a child and attempted to rescue other occupants of a burning house in Saratoga, New South Wales.

Mr O'Brien was woken by his girlfriend at around 1.00 am and was told that a neighbouring house was on fire. He ran to the house and found it already engulfed in flames. Learning that there were children in the house, Mr O'Brien attempted to find a way in and eventually saw a small child through a side window. He broke the window by throwing a table at it, ducked through the smoke and flames that blew out towards him and pulled the girl out with the help of another man, while shielding her from the flames with his own body. After a bystander removed the injured girl from his arms, Mr O'Brien attempted to locate another child. He smashed the front door open with a surfboard but found a wall of flames inside the house and was forced to move out into the street. Mr O'Brien sustained minor burns to his feet and chest. Sadly, the adult female occupant of the home died in the fire.

By his actions Mr O'Brien showed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home: 02 4369 3568 Mobile: 0408 865 783

**Mr Robert Eric PEAT**, Melbourne Vic 3000

On the evening of 19 November 2002, Mr Peat took action to prevent an explosion at a petrol station in Noble Park, Victoria.

Mr Peat was a customer at a service station when he saw a woman trying to ignite a gas bottle with her cigarette lighter. Mr Peat approached her and forcibly removed the gas bottle from her hands. The woman then used a nearby petrol hose to spray fuel on the apron of the service station and attempted to ignite the fuel with a cigarette lighter. Despite the danger to himself, Mr Peat wrestled the lit nozzle from the woman and placed his hand over it to extinguish the flame. Mr Peat then tackled the woman and restrained her until the arrival of police and fire officers.

By his actions, Mr Peat displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home: 03 9548 0917 Mobile: 0418 543 009

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Ian Sherran SOUTER**, 44 Alberta Drive, Bayview Gardens Qld 4870

At around midday on 23 March 2005, Mr Souter helped rescue a woman from a burning vehicle after a collision with a semi-trailer on McClelland Drive at Langwarrin, Victoria.

Mr Souter was driving when he stopped to assist at an accident between a semi-trailer and a station wagon. He ran to the car, which was on fire, and found an injured female driver trapped in her seat. He entered the car on the passenger side and attempted to put out the flames using a blanket and then fire extinguishers. This reduced the flames but did not extinguish them. He saw the woman's legs were burning and went around to the driver's side and used his foot to try to break the seat to free her. The fire flared up again and became very intense, so Mr Souter again went to the passenger side and, with new extinguishers handed to him, attempted to douse the fire. When he saw that another man was trying to pull the woman out from the back seat of the car, Mr Souter reached down and pulled one of her legs free. When the woman and the other man fell out of the car, Mr Souter carried the woman to safety and then helped the man who had pulled her out. The car was shortly afterwards engulfed in flames.

By his actions, Mr Souter displayed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home: 07 4054 3507 Mobile: 0409 322 840

**Mr Gregory Paul SULLIVAN**, 17 Chesapeake Parade, Port Kennedy WA 6172

On the morning of 12 February 2003, then Able Seaman Sullivan helped rescue a colleague from a flooded motor room in the submarine HMAS Dechaineux, off the coast of Western Australia.

Mr Sullivan was on duty in another compartment when he heard a loud bang and ran to investigate. He found that there was a serious flood in the lower motor room and that a crew member was pinned beneath the exit ladder by the force of the flood. He and another seaman were able to reach through a small access hatch into the rapidly flooding space and pull the shocked and disoriented crew member to safety. Despite the risk of electrocution, Mr Sullivan then stayed to assist in damage control operations.

By his actions Mr Sullivan showed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Home: 08 9524 6578 Mobile: 0422 235 090

## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Luke SWINNERTON**, 1/10 Maroomba Road, Terrigal NSW 2251

In the early morning of 21 November 2003, Mr Swinnerton helped rescue a child and attempted to rescue other occupants of a burning house in Saratoga, New South Wales.

Mr Swinnerton was woken by his flatmate at around 1.00 am and was told that the house over the road was on fire. He ran to the house and found it already engulfed in flames. Mr Swinnerton went to every window he could access and tried to attract the attention of any occupants. When he heard a young girl crying and saw her through a window, he attempted to break the window by punching it. Another man succeeded in breaking the glass and when he reached in to rescue the girl, Mr Swinnerton held on to his lower body and pulled him out with the girl. Mr Swinnerton then attempted to locate the woman and another child he knew lived in the house, entering the house downstairs several times, but forced to withdraw each time because of the intensity of the fire. Sadly, an adult female died in the fire.

By his actions Mr Swinnerton showed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Work: 43 246 814 Mobile: 0421 764 854

**Ms Allison WATSON**, Capel WA 6271

On the morning of 12 April 2005, Ms Watson rescued a man after an explosion and fire in the machinery shed of his farm in Caramut, Victoria.

Ms Watson, a farm hand on the property, was driving back to the homestead and machinery shed after feeding lambs, when she heard an explosion. When she arrived at the shed she saw that its walls had been blown out and that what remained of the shed was on fire. Hearing a man moaning from inside the wreckage, Ms Watson immediately went to his aid, in spite of the developing intensity of the flames and the danger of further explosions from toxic and flammable substances stored in the shed and from a bulk fuel storage tank outside the shed. Ms Watson managed with great difficulty to drag the man to safety and raised the alarm using a two-way radio. Concerned about the possibility of the fuel store exploding, she then dragged the man even further away from the shed. With the flames and smoke increasing, Ms Watson continued her efforts to drag the injured man further away from danger until help arrived.

By her actions Ms Watson showed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available



## **BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Mr Foon Yoon WONG**, 2/36 Kerr Street, Blackburn North Vic 3130

In the early morning of 5 July 2004, Mr Wong attempted to rescue an elderly man from a burning house in Blackburn, Victoria.

Mr Wong was woken at about 3.00 am by a noise he believed came from his front yard. On investigation he saw flames coming from the roof of a house across the road. Mr Wong called 000, then ran to the front door of the burning house and tried to attract the attention of the elderly man he knew lived there. He broke the door open by repeatedly charging at it, but he could not enter because of the thick, dark smoke and an obstruction in the doorway. When another neighbour arrived with a torch, Mr Wong and the man were able to enter the house but were forced to withdraw because of the smoke. Mr Wong then took the torch and re-entered the house alone. He checked a bedroom and the bathroom, but was again forced to withdraw because of the smoke and flames. Sadly, the elderly occupant of the house died in the incident.

By his actions Mr Wong showed considerable bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Christopher David ABBOTT**, 10 Octavia Avenue, Rosemeadow NSW 2560

On the 23 October 2004, Mr Abbott swam for more than five hours to seek help after the boat he was on with two friends capsized off Stanwell Park, New South Wales.

Mr Abbott and his friends were fishing at Bandit Reef approximately 3.5 nautical miles off Stanwell Park when, at about 10.30 am, their vessel took on water and capsized. The men put on lifejackets and clung to the upturned boat. After a short time, Mr Abbot decided to swim to shore to get help. After swimming 6.5 kilometres through choppy seas, he reached the shore at around 4.00 pm and raised the alarm. Water police shortly afterwards brought the other two men to safety.

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

Phone Nos: Home: 46 273 834 Mobile: 0425 257 912

**Mrs Jodie Louise BOURKE**, Rennie St, Lara Vic 3212

On the evening of 24 November 2004, Mrs Bourke helped disarm a woman who was attacking a volunteer worker in the Emergency Department of Geelong Hospital, Victoria.

Mrs Bourke and two colleagues, all nursing staff on duty in the Emergency Department, went to the assistance of a Red Cross volunteer who was being threatened by a woman armed with a knife. As the woman pushed the knife towards the volunteer's throat, one of the nursing staff grabbed her from behind and Mrs Bourke attempted to remove the knife from the offender's hand. After the woman had been disarmed, Mrs Bourke and her colleagues overpowered her and pinned her to the ground until security officers arrived.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

**Chief Petty Officer Derek Martin BRODERICK**, 19 Darley Road, HMAS CERBERUS Vic 3920

On the evening of 2 May 2004, Chief Petty Officer Broderick took action to regain control of a bus after the driver collapsed at the wheel while driving on the Federal Highway, New South Wales.

Chief Petty Officer Broderick was a passenger on a bus travelling from Canberra to Sydney when the bus veered out of control and onto the wrong side of the highway. Chief Petty Officer Broderick noticed the driver vomiting, then passing out. With the bus travelling at about 100 kph, he moved to the driver's seat, grabbed the wheel and attempted to steer the bus back into the correct lane. He flashed the headlights to warn oncoming traffic and, after travelling approximately 100 metres, was able to bring the bus safely to a stop. He then administered first aid to the driver, calmed his fellow passengers and contacted the authorities.

For his actions, Chief Petty Officer Broderick is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Home: 03 5983 0021 Mobile: 0417 174 586

## **COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT**

**Senior Firefighter Philip BROWN**, 253 Lakedge Avenue, Berkeley Vale NSW 2261

On the afternoon of 26 July 2004, Senior Firefighter Brown and a colleague attempted to rescue a child from a burning house in Doyalson, New South Wales.

Senior Firefighter Brown attended the scene of a house fire and on arrival, found the two-storey house well alight and the fire very intense. On learning that a child was still in the upper storey of the house, Senior Firefighter Brown donned breathing apparatus and, with a colleague, used a ladder to enter the house. Despite the intense heat, thick smoke and debris falling from the ceiling, and aware that the upper level would shortly be completely engulfed in flames, Senior Firefighter Brown thoroughly searched two bedrooms and a hallway, but was unable to find the child. As he attempted to return to the ladder, the ceiling collapsed in the hall bringing a blast of heat into the room and forcing Senior Firefighter Brown to find an alternative exit. He smashed a rear window and climbed out onto the roof of the room below. Once on the roof, Senior Firefighter Brown noticed that the room was venting through the broken window and he used the opportunity to re-enter the room to do a more thorough search. He was forced to retreat again by an extreme rise in temperature and, as he climbed back down to the roof below, the room he had been in was engulfed in flames. Senior Firefighter Brown continued to assist with the firefighting effort and later with the search for the body of the child who sadly died in the fire.

For his actions, Senior Firefighter Brown is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Home: 02 4388 3709 Work: 02 4325 1888

**Mr Brendan Ross CAREW**, 3 Barton Road, DOYALSON NSW 2262

Details not available at the request of Mr Carew.

**Mrs Dianne Hazel CHRISTIAN**, 2 Raglin Close, Somerville Vic 3912

On the afternoon of 3 August 2003, Mrs Christian came to the aid of a woman who had set herself on fire at a service station in Somerville, Victoria.

Mrs Christian and a friend were driving past the service station when they noticed smoke and what they thought to be a person on fire. They immediately stopped their car and ran to assist. Although the flames had been extinguished when they got there, the woman was still smouldering and was continually flicking her cigarette lighter. When the woman jumped into her car and attempted to drive away, Mrs Christian reached into the car and grabbed the keys from the ignition. The woman left her car, and chased Mrs Christian. Mrs Christian then calmed the woman and providing comfort and first aid until the ambulance arrived.

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

Phone Nos: Home: 03 5977 6726 Mobile: 0410 597 767

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Matthew Benjamin DEARLOVE**, 71-85 Jarrah Road, Jimboomba Qld 4280

In the early morning of 7 November 2004, Mr Dearlove rescued a woman from a vehicle caught in floodwaters at Mundaloon, Queensland.

The car, with one female driver in it, was submerged to its headlights in very fast flowing floodwater that extended 60 to 80 metres across the road. The driver of the car was in imminent danger as the water was gradually pushing her car off the road. Mr Dearlove, a tow truck driver, was advised that the Fire Brigade could not attend for some time and, although warned by the police that it would be a risky undertaking, immediately agreed to drive his truck into the water to reach the trapped driver. The force of the water buffeted Mr Dearlove's truck and made its rear end slide sideways but he was able to draw up beside the car, allowing a police officer to pull the woman through her car window and onto the truck's tray. Mr Dearlove then drove through the water to the other side of the flooded section of road and, when the water subsided to a safer level, brought the woman back across to the waiting emergency services vehicles.

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

Phone Nos: Home: 07 5547 8585 Mobile: 0432 234 139

**Sergeant Robert Alexander DUNCAN**, Queensland Police

In the early morning of Sunday 7 November 2004, Sergeant Duncan helped rescue a woman from a vehicle caught in floodwaters at Mundaloon, Queensland.

Sergeant Duncan was advised of a vehicle caught in floodwaters on Mundoolun Road at Mundaloon. The car and its female driver were trapped in very fast moving floodwater that extended 60 to 80 metres over the road. Observing that the woman was in imminent danger of being pushed off the road by the waters, and having been advised that the Fire Brigade could not attend for some time, Sergeant Duncan sought the assistance of a tow truck driver to drive into the water to reach the woman. The force of the water buffeted the truck and made its rear end slide sideways, but the driver managed to draw up beside the car. Sergeant Duncan, riding on the back of the truck, was able to pull the woman to safety through her car window and onto the truck's tray.

For his actions, Sergeant Duncan is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Not available

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Craig Stuart FARQUHARSON, 11 Elmo Road, Montmorency Vic 3094**

On the afternoon of 8 August 2004, Mr Farquharson went to the aid of colleagues injured in a series of explosions at the Al Kasik Army Base in northern Iraq.

Mr Farquharson, then a civilian catering manager at the base, was in his office when a tanker exploded in front of the building, knocking him out of his chair. About three seconds later, a truck exploded and several mortars or rockets were fired into the building. Despite the risk of further explosions and when the extent of damage to the building was unknown, Mr Farquharson immediately went to the aid of his injured and dying colleagues and evacuated a number of severely injured people in repeated trips to the base hospital.

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

Phone Nos: Home: 03 9720 0274 Mobile: 0400 638 061

**Mrs Eve Mary FOSTER, 26 Mooramba Avenue, Gosford North NSW 2250**

On the afternoon of 12 January 2004, Mrs Foster helped rescue a resident from a burning unit and assisted with the evacuation of other residents from a retirement village in Wyoming, New South Wales.

Mrs Foster was working in the kitchen when another staff member advised her that there was a fire in one of the units. Mrs Foster assisted with the evacuation of a number of residents. Realising that they could not access some of the units from the internal corridor because of heat and smoke from the fire, she and another female staff member climbed down a 2.5 metre log retaining wall, despite having no clear line of retreat, to rescue an elderly woman in a wheelchair, whose room was rapidly filling with smoke. Mrs Foster and the other staff member then carried the woman out of danger through a small gap between the building and the retaining wall.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Stuart Graeme HARVEY**, 4 Del Rio Drive, Copacabana NSW 2251

On the afternoon of 29 January 2005, Mr Harvey rescued a man, and attempted to rescue another man, from a rip at Spoon Bay, New South Wales.

Mr Harvey, a surf lifesaver, was off duty just south of Spoon Bay Beach when he responded to a radio call advising that there were people in difficulty in a rip at Spoon Bay. After radioing for assistance, Mr Harvey borrowed a surfboard and paddled through 100-150 metres of very rough surf to reach the two distressed men. The first man he pulled onto the board was unfortunately washed off by a wave. Knowing that he could only hold one man on the surfboard and observing that the first man was lying face down in the water, Mr Harvey made the decision to rescue the second man who was still semi-conscious. He pulled the man onto the board and wrapped his own body around him to secure him. Mr Harvey then manoeuvred the board out of the rip and when a surf rescue boat arrived about five minutes later, directed it to attempt to rescue the other man. Mr Harvey continued to support the semi-conscious man until a second rescue boat arrived and took him to shore.

Sadly, the man Mr Harvey was unable to rescue died in the incident.

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

Phone Nos: Work: 02 4329 3780 Mobile: 0438 422 659

**Mr David Barry HORN**, 13 John Holland Court, Blackburn Vic 3130

In the early morning of 5 July 2004, Mr Horn attempted to rescue an elderly man from a house fire in Blackburn, Victoria.

Mr Horn was woken at about 3.00 am by his wife who had noticed that the house across the road was on fire. Mr Horn and another neighbour entered the house, which was well alight and full of smoke, to attempt to rescue the elderly man they knew lived there. Mr Horne was forced to withdraw because of the smoke and darkness. Sadly, the elderly man died in the incident.

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

Phone Nos: Home: 03 9878 6065 Mobile: 0417 312 859

**Mr Ian KOHLHARDT**, 7 Scerri Drive, Kioloa NSW 2539

On the morning of 28 December 2003, Mr Kohlhardt helped rescue a man and his children caught in a rip at Kioloa Beach, New South Wales.

Mr Kohlhardt was on the beach with his wife when they heard a cry for help from a man whose children were being swept out to sea on their boogie boards. Although Mr Kohlhardt was not young and had suffered a heart attack in the past, he immediately entered the water, swam to one of the children and brought her to the shore. He then re-entered the water to help the children's father who had got into difficulty himself while trying to rescue the other children. Mr Kohlhardt and his wife attracted the attention of two surfboard riders and while one of these helped two children to shore, Mr Kohlhardt assisted the other to bring the remaining child to safety.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Ms Deaane Adele LAWRY**, 34 Benelong Crescent, Seaford Vic 3198

At around midday on 23 March 2005, Ms Lawry removed a child to safety from a burning vehicle after a collision with a semi-trailer on McClelland Drive at Lagwarrin, Victoria.

Ms Lawry, an off-duty paramedic, was driving when she stopped to assist at an accident between a semi-trailer and a station wagon. Ms Lawry ran to the station wagon and saw that the injured female driver was trapped by her legs and that there was a young child in the back seat. Noticing flames coming from the engine she opened the rear door, removed the child and carried her to safety.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

**Detective Senior Constable Paul Stephan LEIGHTON**, Victoria Police

On the morning of 14 January 2005, Detective Senior Constable Leighton chased and helped apprehend a man with a firearm who was evading arrest in the central business district of Melbourne, Victoria.

Detective Senior Constable Leighton and another officer attempted to arrest an offender for burglary when, in the ensuing struggle, the man grabbed the other officer's gun and fired it close to Detective Senior Constable Leighton's head. Detective Senior Constable Leighton continued to wrestle with the offender and attempt to remove the gun from the man's grip but the man broke free and, threatening to shoot Detective Senior Constable Leighton, ran from the scene. Detective Senior Constable Leighton radioed for assistance, then pursued the man who jumped into a car and forced the driver to take him into Melbourne's central business district. Detective Senior Constable Leighton continued to pursue the still armed offender by car and then on foot through a shopping complex. The offender was finally apprehended when the taxi he tried to escape in crashed and a uniformed officer disarmed him.

For his actions, Detective Senior Constable Leighton is commended for bravery.

Phone Nos: Not available

**Mr Justin Don Juan LONG**, Clarence Park SA 5034

In the early morning of 8 July 2004, Mr Long attempted to rescue a woman from a burning apartment at Clarence Park, South Australia.

Mr Long was woken by the sound of breaking glass and loud voices. From his bedroom window, he saw smoke and flames coming out of the front door of a neighbouring unit. He ran to the unit and found the male occupant of the unit lying on the lawn. The man told Mr Long that his wife was still in the unit. Mr Long opened a security door, found the woman slumped unconscious in a chair, and dragged her to safety. Sadly, the woman later died from her injuries.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Cory Stephen MCMILLAN**, 90 Market Street, Sale Vic 3850

On the morning of 13 April 2004, Mr McMillan helped rescue four men in difficulties after their boat had capsized at McLaughlin's Beach in South East Gippsland, Victoria.

Mr McMillan and his friends were setting out for a day's fishing when they came across an upturned vessel and five men in the water, one of them unconscious and being supported by his son. Mr McMillan attempted to throw life jackets and a rope from the boat, but was unsuccessful because of the wind and the rough seas. He then dived into the water, swam 15 to 20 metres and took hold of the unconscious man. A rope was thrown to him and he was pulled back to the boat by two of his friends. Four of the five men were rescued, but sadly the unconscious man died in the incident.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

**Mr Jerome Nicholas MATTERS**, Geelong Vic 3220

On the evening of Wednesday 24 November 2004, Mr Matters helped disarm a woman who was attacking a volunteer worker in the Emergency Department of Geelong Hospital, Victoria.

Mr Matters and two colleagues, all nursing staff on duty in the Emergency Department, went to the assistance of a Red Cross volunteer who was being threatened by a woman armed with a knife. As the woman pushed the knife towards the volunteer's throat, one of the nursing staff grabbed her from behind and Mr Matters was able to remove the knife from the offender's hand and throw it away. Mr Matters and his colleagues then overpowered the woman and pinned her to the ground until security officers arrived.

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

Phone Nos: Mobile: 0416 168 395

**Ms Laura Margaret MERTIN**, 69 McWhae Circuit, Wanniasa ACT 2903

On the afternoon of 2 November 2004, Ms Mertin rescued her friend from a flooded stormwater drain at Mawson, Australian Capital Territory.

Following heavy rain, the stormwater drain near where Ms Mertin and her friends caught the bus after school was very full and fast moving. When Ms Mertin and her friend joined others looking at the water, the friend was pulled into the drain by another girl who slipped and fell. Ms Mertin's friend was briefly knocked unconscious when she hit her head and was swept, face down, towards where the drain entered a tunnel under a road. While others looked on, Ms Mertin saw the danger and ran to her friend's assistance. She jumped into the fast flowing water, managed to pull her friend out and, after comforting her, accompanied her home.

For her action, Ms Mertin is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Not available



## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Ms Diane Joy MORE**, PO Box 176, Neerim South Vic 3831

On the evening of 24 November 2004, Ms More helped disarm a woman who was attacking a volunteer worker in the Emergency Department of Geelong Hospital, Victoria.

Ms More and two colleagues, all nursing staff on duty in the Emergency Department, went to the assistance of a Red Cross volunteer who was being threatened by a woman armed with a knife. As the woman pushed the knife towards the volunteer's throat, Ms More grabbed her from behind and one of her colleagues was able to remove the knife from the offender's hand. Ms More and her colleagues then overpowered the woman and pinned her to the ground until security officers arrived.

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

Phone Nos: Home: 03 5628 4118 Mobile: 0425 764 176

**Station Officer Dennis Leslie RAYNER**, 57 Moola Road, Buff Point NSW 2262

On the afternoon of 26 July 2004, Station Officer Rayner attempted to rescue a child from a burning house in Doyalson, New South Wales.

Station Officer Rayner attended the scene of a house and on arrival, found the two-storey house well alight and the fire very intense. On learning that a child was still in the upper storey of the house, Station Officer Rayner donned breathing apparatus and, with a colleague, used a ladder to enter the house. Despite the intense heat, thick smoke and debris falling from the ceiling, and aware that the upper level would shortly be engulfed in flames, Station Officer Rayner searched a bedroom and a bathroom. Unable to locate the child and concerned for his colleague when the ceiling collapsed in the hall, he retreated out of the window and down the ladder. Station Officer Rayner continued to assist with the firefighting effort until the fire was put out. Sadly, the child died in the incident.

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

Phone Nos: Home: 02 4390 7608 Mobile: 0404 517 658

**Mr Matthew READ**, PO Box 228, Yorktown SA 5576

On Sunday 10 April 2005 Mr Read helped rescue a boy who, with his father, was in difficulty in a strong current off the Edithburg Jetty, South Australia.

Mr Read was riding his bicycle on the Jetty when he noticed a girl dive into the water and then saw two males, an adult and a boy, in the water and being dragged away from the Jetty. The girl swam to the two males and had towed the boy some 30 metres towards the Jetty but was tiring and calling for assistance. Mr Read, seventeen years old at the time, removed some of his clothing and dived in to help her. Mr Read helped the girl tow the boy through the strong rip and waves up to one metre high, until further help arrived.

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

Phone Nos: Mobile: 0413 233 531

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Jason Warren ROBERTS**, 14 Ford Street, Hopetoun Vic 3396

On the evening of 26 July 2003, Mr Roberts attempted to rescue his cousin's children from a burning house at Hopetoun, Victoria.

Mr Roberts was watching television with his cousin, who had earlier put his two young children to bed in the house next door. A neighbour alerted them to a fire in the house in which the children slept. Mr Roberts went to the front door of the house but realised there was no way to enter as the fire was well underway in the front rooms. He then joined his cousin and the neighbour at the rear of the house and entered the building, though it was well alight and full of thick smoke. He carried one child out of the house while others rescued the second child. While rescuers performed CPR on the children, Mr Roberts fetched a vehicle and then drove the children to hospital. Sadly attempts to resuscitate the children were unsuccessful.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

**Mr Nathan John ROBERTS**, 21 Ford Street, Hopetoun Vic 3396

Details not available at the request of Mr Roberts.

Phone Nos: Not available

**Mr Peter Arnold ROOK**, 19 Ford Street, Hopetoun Vic 3396

On the evening of 26 July 2003, Mr Rook attempted to rescue two children from a burning house at Hopetoun, Victoria.

Mr Rook was watching television in his home when he noticed flames coming from the house next door. After attempting to dial 000, he rushed to alert his neighbours to the fire. On learning two young children were sleeping in a rear bedroom of the burning house, he went with other rescuers to the house and entered by the back door. Mr Rook was forced outside by the smoke but re-entered when he heard the neighbour calling for help. He took one of the children from the house and, when the children were in the backyard, assisted in performing CPR. Sadly attempts to resuscitate the children were unsuccessful.

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

Phone Nos: Home: 03 5083 3405 Work: 03 5083 3414

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr David Henry ROSEWARNE**, 47 Graves Street, Kadina SA 5554

On the evening of 22 October 2004, Mr Rosewarne helped rescue a man from a burning vehicle at Kadina, South Australia.

Mr Rosewarne was with his son in the front yard of his home when a passing vehicle burst into flames. The male driver of the car shouted for help as he could not release his seat belt and his clothing and hair were on fire. Mr Rosewarne and his son ran to the car and, although it was fully alight, reached in and unclipped the driver's seatbelt. Together they dragged the injured man to safety. Mr Rosewarne then returned to the car, which was still moving and on fire, turned the ignition off, applied the handbrake, and extinguished the fire.

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

Phone Nos: Home: 08 8821 3999 Mobile: 0418 859 001

**Mr Henry John ROSEWARNE**, 47 Graves Street, Kadina SA 5554

On the evening of 22 October 2004, Mr Rosewarne helped rescue a man from a burning vehicle at Kadina, South Australia.

Mr Rosewarne was with his father in the front yard of his home when a passing vehicle burst into flames. The male driver of the car shouted for help as he could not release his seat belt and his clothing and hair were on fire. Mr Rosewarne and his father ran to the car and, although it was fully alight, reached in and unclipped the driver's seatbelt. Together they dragged the injured man to safety. Mr Rosewarne provided first aid to the injured man while waiting for the ambulance to arrive.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

**Mrs Robyn Mary SHEPPARD**, 4 Kenneth Court, Pearcedale Vic 3912

On the afternoon of 3 August 2003, Mrs Sheppard came to the aid of a woman who had set herself on fire at a service station in Somerville, Victoria.

Mrs Sheppard and a friend were driving past the service station when they noticed smoke and what they thought to be a person on fire. They immediately stopped their car and ran to assist. Although the flames had been extinguished when they got there, the woman was still smouldering and was continually flicking her cigarette lighter. When the woman had been calmed by her friend, Mrs Sheppard helped pour water over her and stayed with her, providing comfort, until the ambulance arrived.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Ms Patricia Ann SINGLETON**, 14 Blueberry Street, Wyoming NSW 2250

On the afternoon of 12 January 2004, Ms Singleton helped rescue a resident from a burning unit and assisted with the evacuation of other residents from a retirement village in Wyoming, New South Wales.

Ms Singleton was alerted to a fire in a unit of the retirement home by another staff member and, on entering the unit, found an occupant standing beside a burning chair. Ms Singleton evacuated the occupant and returned to the unit with a fire extinguisher. Unable to re-enter the unit and, with the fire spreading through the ceiling, she began evacuating residents in nearby units. Realising that they could not access some of the units from the internal corridor because of heat and smoke from the fire, Ms Singleton and another female staff member climbed down a 2.5 metre log retaining wall, despite having no clear line of retreat, to rescue an elderly woman in a wheelchair, whose room was rapidly filling with smoke. Ms Singleton and the other staff member then carried the woman out of danger through a small gap between the building and the retaining wall.

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

Phone Nos: Not available

**Mr James Harold WILLIAMS**, 35 Roberts Rd, Maroota NSW 2756

On the afternoon of 4 December, Mr Williams attempted to rescue an elderly man trapped by bushfires in his burning caravan at Wiseman's Ferry, New South Wales.

Mr Williams, a rural bush fire fighter, responded to a call over the Rural Fire Service radio to assist an elderly man who lived in a caravan on a property on Wiseman's Ferry Road. Familiar with the area and the fire situation, Mr Williams immediately drove to the property to evacuate the man. When he arrived at the property he found everything in his path on fire. Although a weather meter in his vehicle registered temperatures of over 60 degrees celsius, Mr Williams left his vehicle and attempted to approach the caravan. He was forced to withdraw when the intense heat knocked him off his feet and he became disoriented in the smoke. With flames touching his legs and his protective facemask and clothes melting, he managed to return to his vehicle and leave. Sadly, the elderly man perished in the fires.

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

Phone Nos: Home: 02 4566 8265 Mobile: 0438 668 265

## GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

**Awardees comprise a student and a teacher who tackled and restrained an armed offender after a crossbow attack on a fellow student at Tomaree High School, Salamander, New South Wales.**  
**(added to the Group Bravery Citation awarded and gazetted on 29 August 2005).**

**Mr Mark Roderick GLEASE**  
**Mr David John SMITH**

On the morning of 3 April 2003, a group of students and a teacher tackled and restrained an armed offender after a crossbow attack on a student at Tomaree High School, Salamander, New South Wales.

A male student from Tomaree High School entered the school grounds armed with a range of weapons. As the offender approached a group of students, he produced an armed crossbow, took aim at a female student and fired a single shot which passed through her back and out through her upper chest. The arrow continued in motion through the legs of another female student. Four students immediately went to assist and comfort the two victims. The offender was then seen to put the crossbow down and light a Molotov cocktail, which he threw at the group. The device failed to explode and smashed against a wall, covering in fuel one of the victims and two other female students. The offender then tried to ignite a second device, but two students rushed him and, assisted by others who joined the fray, helped wrestle the offender to the ground and restrained him until a teacher could take hold of him and lead him away. Several of the students continued to comfort the two victims until ambulance officers arrived.

### ***Individual contact details:***

**Mr Mark Roderick GLEASE**  
HMAS PENGUIN, Middle Head Road, Mosman NSW 2088  
Phone Nos:      Mobile: 0432 145 276

**Mr David John SMITH**  
Salamander Bay NSW 2317  
Phone Nos:      Home: 02 4982 0249 Mobile: 0411 540 710

## GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

### Awardees comprise members of the Victoria Police Air Wing

**Senior Constable Brendon John FRANCIS**  
**Mr Cameron Paul HARDIMAN**  
**Constable Raymond John PITTS**

On the night of 3 February 2005, the crew of a Victoria Police Air Wing helicopter rescued a man from a stricken yacht 56 nautical miles out to sea from Lakes Entrance, Victoria.

The crew was tasked with winching a lone sailor stranded on a yacht that had been demasted and was floundering in a swell of around 5 metres. In severe weather conditions the helicopter crew located the yacht and on the first rescue attempt landed a man on deck. However, the police officer was swept off the yacht and, after several attempts by the crew in the helicopter to lift him back onto the vessel, it was decided he would remain in the water just behind the yacht and the sailor would swim to him. When the sailor reached the police officer in the water, the strop was placed over his shoulders and under his arms and the pilot was signalled to take the aircraft up. During the lift the strop became loose and fell down around the sailor's ankles, lifting him upside down. The crew lowered the two men back into the water, the strop was adjusted and the winch was then successfully completed.

#### *Individual contact details*

**Senior Constable FRANCIS and Constable PITTS:**  
Victoria Police Air Wing

**Mr Cameron Paul HARDIMAN**  
Surrey Hills Vic 3127