

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Derek AH CHONG, NSW

Mr Derek Ah Chong is commended for brave conduct for his actions following an assault at Minto in New South Wales on 10 September 2016.

In the late afternoon, Mr Ah Chong heard a disturbance outside his family home and went to investigate. He saw his parents standing between a heavily injured neighbour and another neighbour armed with a hunting knife.

Mr Ah Chong rushed to his parents, standing with them as a barrier between the wounded man and the armed offender. This enabled the wounded man to reach the safety of a nearby business. Two other people came out of the house and stood behind Mr Ah Chong and his parents for support.

The armed offender lunged towards Mr Ah Chong's father with the knife, hurling threats and abuse at him. Mr Ah Chong quickly sourced a broom handle, and his father retrieved a fence paling, in order to protect themselves. Mr Ah Chong's father struck the offender twice to protect the family, and then picked up a large rock for further protection.

At this point two police officers arrived and the armed offender ran towards the police vehicle attacking it with a knife and taunting the officers to fire their weapons at him.

Mr Ah Chong and his father raced towards the officers to assist. The officers were able to disable the armed offender with their Tasers, and remove his knife, as other police officers arrived.

The offender was taken away from the scene whilst the injured man was provided with first aid until emergency services arrived.

Mr Ah Chong is also receiving a Group Bravery Citation for this event.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mrs Pearl AH CHONG, Minto NSW 2566

Mrs Pearl Ah Chong is commended for brave conduct for her actions following an assault at Minto in New South Wales on 10 September 2016.

In the late afternoon, Mrs Ah Chong and her husband were approached by their injured and distressed neighbour. Another neighbour had assaulted the man with a hunting knife and was pursuing him.

Mrs Ah Chong and her husband placed themselves between the armed offender and the injured victim. Mrs Ah Chong's son was inside the house, heard a disturbance and rushed to his parents, standing with them as a barrier between the wounded man and the armed offender. This enabling the injured man to reach the safety of a nearby business.

Two other people came out of the house and stood behind Mrs Ah Chong, her husband and son.

The armed offender lunged towards Mrs Ah Chong's husband with the knife, hurling threats and abuse at him. Her son quickly sourced a broom handle, and her husband retrieved a fence paling, in order to protect themselves. Her husband struck the offender twice in order to protect the family, while her son picked up a large rock.

At this point two police officers arrived and the armed offender ran towards the police vehicle attacking it with a knife and taunting the officers to fire their weapons at him.

Mrs Ah Chong's husband and son raced towards the officers to assist. The officers were able to disable the armed offender with their Tasers, and remove his knife, as other police officers arrived.

The offender was taken away from the scene whilst the injured man was provided with first aid until emergency services arrived.

Mrs Ah Chong is also receiving a Group Bravery Citation for this event.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Matthew Blake AIREY, NSW

Mr Matthew Airey is commended for brave conduct for his actions following a high speed vehicle accident in central Sydney in New South Wales on 9 September 2017.

In the early morning a vehicle travelling at high speed on Goulburn Street in Sydney lost control, hit a barrier, and landed on its roof. The vehicle erupted into flames, trapping four people inside. A man who had witnessed the accident rushed to the vehicle and attempted to remove people from the burning wreck without success.

Mr Airey, then a Probationary Constable with New South Wales Police, and another officer arrived at the scene. Mr Airey located a fire extinguisher from the police vehicle whilst the other officer attempted to extricate the people trapped inside the damaged vehicle.

Two other police officers arrived and Mr Airey and another officer quickly activated their extinguishers which had minimal effect on the intensifying flames.

An officer managed to remove a man from the damaged vehicle. Mr Airey assisted in dragging the man away from the burning wreck to safety and CPR was commenced. Mr Airey and two other officers then attempted to approach the vehicle on two further occasions but were unable to remove any people from the vehicle due to the intensity of the flames. At this time, the situation was deemed too dangerous and they withdrew.

They returned to where the injured man was and assisted in moving him further away from the damaged vehicle.

Moments later a loud bang was heard and the vehicle became completely engulfed in flames.

Paramedics arrived and conveyed the severely injured man to hospital. Sadly the other people in the car did not survive the accident.

Senior Constable Abraham BAIDENGAN, New South Wales Police

Senior Constable Abraham Baidengan is commended for brave conduct for actions during the rescue of six people from a burning building at Belmore in New South Wales on 15 January 2017.

In the evening, Senior Constable Baidengan and other members of the New South Wales Police Force South West Metropolitan Region Enforcement Squad - Operations Support Group, attended a unit block where a person of interest had barricaded herself in her unit, was threatening self-harm, and had lit three fires.

The Enforcement Squad officers in full protection kit took control of the situation and formulated an emergency plan. With flames and smoke billowing from the first level windows, Senior Constable Baidengan and the other officers in Team One forced entry to the unit. Once inside the officers were faced with flames engulfing furniture and walls, and thick black smoke. They cleared the kitchen area and ran through flames searching for the female.

Senior Constable Baidengan and another officer located the woman hiding in the bathroom. They got hold of the woman, who was struggling violently, and took her through the flames to the front door and then to a safe area.

The Enforcement Squad officers were informed that there were still people in the building and so some of the officers re-entered the burning, smoke-filled building and evacuated two adults and two children before returning and rescuing a further person.

Senior Constable Baidengan and the other officers remained in attendance until emergency services arrived.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Senior Constable Matthew Gary BASSFORD, New South Wales Police

Senior Constable Matthew Bassford is commended for brave conduct for his actions following a high speed vehicle accident in central Sydney in New South Wales on 9 September 2017.

In the early morning a vehicle travelling at high speed on Goulburn Street in Sydney lost control, hit a barrier, and landed on its roof. The vehicle erupted into flames, trapping four people inside. A man who had witnessed the accident rushed to the vehicle and attempted to remove people from the burning wreck.

Two police officers arrived at the scene. While one of the officers attempted to extricate the people trapped in the damaged vehicle, the other officer located a fire extinguisher from the police vehicle.

At this time Senior Constable Bassford, then a Constable, and another officer arrived. Senior Constable Bassford removed the fire extinguisher from his police vehicle and went to the burning car and activated the extinguisher which had minimal effect on the intensifying flames.

An officer managed to remove a man from the damaged vehicle and CPR was commenced. Senior Constable Bassford and two other officers approached the vehicle on two occasions but the situation was deemed too dangerous and they withdrew.

They returned to where the injured man was and assisted in moving him further away from the damaged vehicle.

Moments later a loud bang was heard and the vehicle erupted in flames.

Paramedics arrived and conveyed the severely injured man to hospital. Sadly the other people in the car didn't survive the accident.

Mr Nathan BEASY, VIC

Mr Nathan Beasy is commended for brave conduct for his actions following a vehicle accident and fire at Jancourt East in Victoria on 26 August 2015.

In the late afternoon a vehicle was travelling along the Lavers Hill-Cobden road when it crashed into thick scrub. The damaged vehicle caused a fire to start in the dense vegetation.

Mr Beasy saw the vehicle leave the road and immediately stopped his car and went to assist. He wrenched open the driver's door and attempted to remove the semi-conscious and injured driver. Mr Beasy was joined at the damaged vehicle by two other people who had stopped.

One of the other motorists spoke to the trapped driver who said that her legs hurt too much to move. With flames coming out of the vehicle's air vents, and concern that fire would engulf the vehicle, Mr Beasy and another man worked quickly to remove the trapped driver.

Mr Beasy then assisted in moving the injured woman away from the burning vehicle and to safety.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Paul BRENNAN, Agnes Water QLD 4677

Mr Paul Brennan is commended for brave conduct for his actions during a domestic violence incident in Townsville, Queensland on 5 December 2016.

Mr Brennan was driving towards the city area of Townsville when he noticed a silver car stopped on the side of the road. As he slowed his vehicle a young woman, without warning, ran into the middle of the road, directly in front of his car. He slammed on his brakes to avoid hitting her.

The young woman was distraught and hysterical and she threw herself onto the bonnet of Mr Brennan's car and, holding onto the windshield wipers, screamed at him to speed away.

As he began to accelerate his car the young woman climbed into the vehicle through the passenger side window. Mr Brennan saw a male return to the silver car which then began to pursue Mr Brennan's vehicle, ramming it several times.

On two occasions Mr Brennan's car spun uncontrollably on being rammed. He continued to sound the vehicle's horn as a warning to other motorists as he sped through red lights and roundabouts in an attempt to escape the silver car.

His passenger alerted emergency services as they raced towards the nearest police station. On arrival, they exited the damaged vehicle, seeking refuge inside the station.

Sergeant Blair Cameron BROWN, Victoria Police

Sergeant Blair Brown is commended for brave conduct for his actions during an incident with a distressed man at a police station in Frankston in Melbourne on 8 December 2016.

Sergeant Brown was returning to Frankston Police Station when a member of the public alerted him to an incident happening inside the station.

A distressed man had entered the station with an open can of fuel, some rolls of paper towels, and a mini blow torch and shouted for the building to be evacuated.

Sergeant Brown immediately entered the station and saw another police officer behind the counter trying to negotiate with the distressed man, who was in the middle of the foyer and indicating that he was going to ignite the fuel.

Sergeant Brown rushed towards the offender and made contact with him. The force of the blow knocked the man to the ground, and away from the fuel and rolls of paper towels.

Sergeant Brown then removed the mini blowtorch from the man, and was assisted by other officers to secure the distressed man.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mrs Leanne Mary CHAMBERLAIN, Caniaba NSW 2480

Mrs Leanne Chamberlain is commended for brave conduct for her actions during a roof collapse at a hospital in Lismore in New South Wales on 28 November 2015.

A severe storm cell with strong winds, hail and torrential rain hit the Lismore area in the afternoon. Scaffolding on a construction site at Lismore Base Hospital dislodged and collapsed onto a temporary maternity ward building.

Debris littered the ward as its ceilings fell in, hot water mains burst, and live electrical wires were exposed. Five mothers and new born babies were in the immediate area along with visitors.

Mrs Chamberlain and a colleague were on duty in the ward when the storm hit. Mrs Chamberlain was caring for a mother and new born when the ceiling collapsed. She immediately threw herself across the mother and baby to shield them from the falling debris.

Despite being injured, Mrs Chamberlain made sure the mother and baby were safe and then went to check on the other mothers and babies in the ward.

Her colleague also responded to the calls of the distressed mothers and ran through the heavily damaged building to render assistance.

Mrs Chamberlain and her colleague ensured the women and babies were moved to the safest area in the ward and they continued to provide care and reassurance until emergency services arrived and an evacuation began.

Chief Inspector Brenton James CHARLTON, New South Wales Police

Chief Inspector Brenton Charlton is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the rescue of people from a house fire at Tempe in New South Wales on 30 August 2017.

In the early morning, off-duty Chief Inspector Charlton was driving through Tempe when he saw smoke coming from the rear of a house. He stopped his vehicle and ran to the dwelling and saw that the roof was well alight with thick smoke evident as the fire intensified.

He returned to the front of the house where he was informed that two elderly people were inside. He instructed a passer-by to source a hammer.

After several attempts, he was able to break through the front door and was confronted with acrid smoke. He, and three men who had stopped to assist, dropped to the ground and crawled along a hallway but were forced back due to the smoke.

Despite warnings, the group entered the house a second time and located an elderly woman in one of the rooms. They quickly dragged the woman out to safety before running to the rear of the house where they located an elderly man near the rear door, whose clothes had caught alight. They grabbed the elderly man and moved him to a safe area.

Emergency services arrived and the elderly couple were taken to hospital. Sadly, the man did not survive his injuries.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Senior Constable Andrew COUCH, New South Wales Police

Senior Constable Andrew Couch is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the rescue of six people from a burning building at Belmore in New South Wales on 15 January 2017.

In the evening, Senior Constable Couch and other members of the New South Wales Police Force South West Metropolitan Region Enforcement Squad - Operations Support Group, attended a unit block where a distressed woman had barricaded herself in her unit, was threatening self-harm, and had lit three fires.

The Enforcement Squad officers in full protection kit took control of the situation and formulated an emergency plan. With flames and smoke billowing from the first level windows, Senior Constable Couch and the other officers in Team Two moved to the rear balcony of the unit. Team One officers forced entry to the unit and, once inside, they were faced with flames engulfing furniture and walls, and thick black smoke. They cleared the kitchen area and ran through flames searching for the female.

Senior Constable Couch and the other Team Two officers were directed to force entry at the rear of the unit due to the increasing smoke and flames. Other officers located the woman hiding in the bathroom. They got hold of the woman, who was struggling violently, and took her through the flames to the front door and then to a safe area.

The Enforcement Squad officers were informed that there were still people in the building. Senior Constable Couch and other officers re-entered the burning, smoke-filled building and evacuated two adults and two children before returning and rescuing a further person.

Senior Constable Couch and the other officers remained in attendance until emergency services arrived.

Mr David Matthew EDDISON, Murphys Creek QLD 4352

Mr Matthew Eddison is commended for brave conduct for his actions in rescuing a person from floodwaters at Murphy's Creek in Queensland on 10 January 2011.

In the afternoon a vehicle attempted to cross a flooded causeway. The driver began to drive slowly across the causeway before the vehicle stalled and the force of the water turned it sideways and carried it into the surging water. Two women inside the vehicle managed to scramble onto the roof as the vehicle was swept away.

A motorist who had witnessed the incident went to get help from his friend, Mr Matthew Eddison, who lived close by, and to also call emergency services.

Mr Eddison, together with his friend, returned to the swollen creek. They ran through bushes and spotted one of the women at the creek's edge. After checking that she was alright, Mr Eddison and his friend continued running until they located the second woman clinging to a sapling in the surging waters. The strong water surge kept pushing her head under.

Mr Eddison and his friend entered the turbulent water. Using a monkey grip hold they formed a human chain and stretched out towards the woman who let go of the sapling and was grabbed by Mr Eddison.

Together the men pulled the exhausted woman out of the fast-rising water and took her to the safety of the bank.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Garry FINLAYSON, Cobden VIC 3266

Mr Garry Finlayson is commended for brave conduct for his actions following a vehicle accident and fire at Jancourt East in Victoria on 26 August 2015.

In the late afternoon a vehicle was travelling along the Lavers Hill-Cobden road when it crashed into thick scrub. The damaged vehicle caused a fire to start in the dense vegetation.

A passing motorist stopped and managed to open the damaged door in an attempt to remove the semi-conscious and injured driver.

Mr Finlayson stopped his vehicle and went to assist. Two other motorists were at the damaged vehicle attempting to remove the trapped driver.

One of the other motorists spoke to the trapped driver who said that her legs hurt too much to move. With flames coming out of the vehicle's air vents, and concern that fire would engulf the vehicle, Mr Finlayson and another man worked quickly to remove the trapped driver.

Mr Finlayson then assisted in moving the injured woman away from the burning vehicle and to safety.

Mr Stephan FOURIE, Nairne SA 5252

Mr Stephan Fourie is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the rescue of a person from a burning cabin at Port Fairy in Victoria on 21 December 2017.

Mr Fourie was holidaying with his family at caravan park in Port Fairy, when he became aware of a fire in a nearby cabin.

He quickly ran to the cabin and was informed that there was someone inside. Together with another man he attempted to gain entry to the cabin. Whilst two men entered the cabin, he alerted people in nearby cabins to evacuate as the flames were spreading.

Mr Fourie went back to the side of the burning cabin and saw that a teenage girl had appeared at a window. He tried to remove the small window frame and then, along with others, coaxed, then pulled her out of the cabin. The guttering above the mens' heads was now on fire.

Mr Fourie and the others dragged the teenager from the cabin which was then consumed by flames.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Christopher GAFFANEY, Enmore NSW 2042

Mr Christopher Gaffaney is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the rescue of people from a house fire at Tempe in New South Wales on 30 August 2017.

In the early morning, Mr Gaffaney was driving to work when he saw smoke coming from the rear of a house. He stopped his vehicle and went to assist.

An off-duty police officer ran to the rear of the dwelling and saw that the roof was well alight and thick smoke evident as the fire intensified. The officer returned to the front of the house where he was informed that two elderly people were inside. After several attempts, he was able to break through the front door.

Despite warnings, Mr Gaffaney, the police officer, and two other men who had stopped to assist, made their way inside the burning house but were forced out due to the thick smoke and low visibility.

Mr Gaffaney and the group entered the house a second time and located an elderly woman in one of the rooms. They quickly dragged her out to safety before running to the rear of the house where they located an elderly man near the rear door, whose clothes had caught alight. They grabbed the elderly man and moved him to a safe area.

Emergency services arrived and the elderly couple were taken to hospital. Sadly, the man did not survive his injuries.

The late Mr Henry Herbert GRANT Formerly of Victoria

The late Mr (then Police Constable) Henry Grant is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the rescue of a man from a well in Temora in New South Wales on 3 May 1921.

The late Police Constable Henry Grant, and another officer, were on duty in Temora when they attended a property after a man became trapped in a well shaft.

The man was cleaning a 15 metre deep well shaft when he was overcome by foul air and was unable to extricate himself. Constable Grant lowered the other officer into the well who located the man and began carrying him up on a rope.

The pair slipped and both fell back down the well shaft sustaining a number of injuries, and were unable to recommence the climb out.

Immediately Constable Grant entered the contaminated well and made his way down the shaft to reach the other officer and injured man.

Constable Grant was able to bring the man to safety whilst the other officer, who was also injured, managed to make his own way out of the well.

The man didn't survive his injuries.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Ian HODDINOTT, Murphys Creek Qld 4352

Mr Ian Hoddinott is commended for brave conduct for his actions in rescuing a person from floodwaters at Murphy's Creek in Queensland on 10 January 2011.

In the afternoon, Mr Ian Hoddinott was driving through heavy rain when he saw a vehicle attempt to cross a flooded causeway. The driver began to drive slowly across the causeway before the vehicle stalled and the force of the water turned it sideways and carried it into the surging water. Two women inside the vehicle managed to scramble onto the roof as the vehicle was swept away.

Mr Hoddinott quickly went to get help from a friend who lived close by, and to also call emergency services.

Mr Hoddinott, together with his friend, returned to the swollen creek. They ran through bushes and spotted one of the women at the creek's edge. After checking that she was alright, Mr Hoddinott and his friend continued running until they located the second woman clinging to a sapling in the surging waters. The strong water surge kept pushing her head under.

Mr Hoddinott and his friend entered the turbulent water. Using a monkey grip hold they formed a human chain and stretched out towards the woman who let go of the sapling and was grabbed by Mr Hoddinott's friend.

Together the men pulled the exhausted woman out of the fast rising water and took her to the safety of the bank.

Mrs Mary-Ann HYDE, Wollongbar NSW 2477

Mrs Mary-Ann Hyde is commended for brave conduct for her actions during a roof collapse at a hospital in Lismore in New South Wales on 28 November 2015.

A severe storm cell with strong winds, hail and torrential rain hit the Lismore area. Scaffolding on a construction site at Lismore Base Hospital dislodged and collapsed onto the temporary maternity ward building below, piercing the roof and causing the ceiling to collapse.

Debris littered the ward as its ceiling caved in, hot water mains burst, and live electrical wires were exposed. Five mothers and new born babies were in the immediate area along with visitors.

Mrs Hyde and a colleague were on duty in the ward when the storm hit. Despite being surrounded by falling ceiling panels and surrounded by water, Mrs Hyde managed to wade through the water and slide across a wall to reach the maternity pod. She immediately responded to the calls of the distressed mothers and ran through the heavily damaged building to render assistance.

Her colleague, who had been injured by falling ceiling panels while tending to a mother and new born helped them to move to safe place, before making her way through the damaged ward checking on other distressed mothers and their babies.

Mrs Hyde and her colleague ensured the women and babies were moved to the safest area in the ward and continued to provide care and reassurance until emergency services arrived and an evacuation began.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Constable Cecelia Ann JARVIS, Queensland Police

Constable Cecelia Jarvis is commended for brave conduct for her actions during an incident with a distressed person at Eimeo in Queensland on 23 February 2019.

On that morning, Constable Jarvis and another officer were on duty at Mackay Northern Beaches police station when they attended a residence in response to a call that a distressed woman had locked herself inside the house, poured fuel on herself, and was threatening to ignite it.

On arrival, Constable Jarvis called several times for the distressed woman to open the door. Eventually the woman unlocked the door but didn't open it. Constable Jarvis and the other officer entered the house and located the woman now in the garage, next to a jerry can of fuel, and fumbling with a cigarette lighter.

The other officer quickly opened windows to ventilate the fume-filled garage, before going to the police vehicle to alert other agencies, grabbing a fire extinguisher, and returning to the garage.

Meanwhile the distressed woman refused to heed Constable Jarvis' instructions to hand over the cigarette lighter, instead pouring more fuel over herself and trying to spark the lighter. Constable Jarvis lunged towards the woman and, after a struggle, was able to remove the lighter from the woman.

The woman was restrained by both officers, removed from the garage, and later taken to Mackay hospital.

Mr Nicholas T KARAGIANNIS, Lidcombe NSW 2141

Mr Nicholas Karagiannis is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the rescue of people from a house fire at Homebush in New South Wales on 9 November 2014.

Around midday, Mr Karagiannis was returning to his workplace when he noticed plumes of black smoke billowing from a house close by.

He raced down the street towards the burning house whilst a colleague contacted emergency services. On reaching the house he saw two metre high flames engulfing the building.

He saw a woman outside the front of the house who then ran to the back of the house, grabbed a garden hose, and entered the house in an attempt to put out the flames.

Despite the smoke and intensifying flames, Mr Karagiannis immediately entered the burning building and located the woman. He quickly brought her to the safety of the front garden.

Emergency services soon arrived to fight the fire which caused extensive damage to the house.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Lachlan Howard KIRWAN, Earlwood NSW 2206

Mr Lachlan Kirwan is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the rescue of people from a house fire at Tempe in New South Wales on 30 August 2017.

In the early morning, Mr Kirwan had just finished a night shift and was heading home when he saw smoke coming from the rear of a house. He stopped his motorbike, called 000, and went to provide assistance.

An off-duty police officer ran to the rear of the dwelling and saw that the roof was well alight and thick smoke evident as the fire intensified. The officer returned to the front of the house and continued to shout warnings to any people inside.

Another man, who had stopped to assist, ran next door to alert neighbours and was told that two elderly people were inside.

Despite warnings, Mr Kirwan, the police officer, and two other men made their way inside the burning house but were forced out due to the thick smoke and low visibility.

Mr Kirwan and the group entered the house a second time and located an elderly woman in one of the rooms. They quickly dragged her out to safety before running to the rear of the house where they located an elderly man near the rear door, whose clothes had caught alight. They grabbed the elderly man and moved him to a safe area.

Emergency services arrived and the elderly couple were taken to hospital. Sadly, the man did not survive his injuries

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Constable Caitlin LANGERAK, New South Wales Police

Constable Caitlin Langerak is commended for brave conduct for her actions following a high speed vehicle accident in central Sydney in New South Wales on 9 September 2017.

In the early morning a vehicle travelling at high speed on Goulburn Street in Sydney lost control, hit a barrier, and landed on its roof. The vehicle erupted into flames, trapping four people inside. A man who had witnessed the accident rushed to the vehicle and attempted to remove people from the burning wreck.

Two police officers arrived at the scene. While one of the officers, assisted by a member of the public, attempted to extricate the people trapped in the damaged vehicle, the other officer located a fire extinguisher from the police vehicle.

At this time Constable Langerak, then a Probationary Constable, and another officer also reached the scene. The other officer removed the fire extinguisher from his police vehicle and went to the vehicle where he activated the extinguisher which had minimal effect on the intensifying flames.

An officer managed to remove a man from the damaged vehicle and Constable Langerak commenced CPR on him. Other officers approached the vehicle on two occasions but the situation was deemed too dangerous and they withdrew.

They returned to where the injured man was being treated by Constable Langerak and assisted in moving him further away from the damaged vehicle.

Moments later a loud bang was heard and the vehicle erupted in flames.

Paramedics arrived at the scene and conveyed the severely injured man to hospital. Sadly the other people in the car didn't survive the accident.

Sergeant Michael McCLAFFERTY, New South Wales Police

Sergeant Michael McClafferty is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the rescue of people from a house fire at Chipping Norton in New South Wales on 15 July 2018.

In the late evening, Sergeant McClafferty, and two other police officers, responded to a house fire in Chipping Norton.

On arrival frantic neighbours informed them two people were inside the house. Fire Brigade Units hadn't yet arrived and the front door and entrance area were already on fire.

Sergeant McClafferty and the two officers went to the rear of the property. One officer forced entry through the laundry door but was blocked by smoke and household items. Another officer kicked through glass doors and Sergeant McClafferty and the other officers entered the house. They were confronted by heavy smoke which forced them to crawl on their stomachs. They made their way through the house and located an unresponsive male on the floor.

The officers were able to drag the man back through the house and out the rear door. Once outside, the officers were informed that the female occupant had managed to get out of the house unassisted.

The officers carried both occupants to the front yard where they were treated by ambulance officers.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Senior Constable Todd MACKAY, New South Wales Police

Senior Constable Todd Mackay is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the rescue of six people from a burning building at Belmore in New South Waels on 15 January 2017.

In the evening, Senior Constable Mackay and other members of the New South Wales Police Force South West Metropolitan Region Enforcement Squad - Operations Support Group, attended a unit block where an armed female offender had barricaded herself in her unit, was threatening self-harm, and had lit three fires.

The Enforcement Squad officers in full protection kit took control of the situation and formulated an emergency plan. With flames and smoke billowing from the first level windows, Senior Constable Mackay and the other officers in Team Two moved to the rear balcony of the unit. Team One officers forced entry to the unit and, once inside, they were faced with flames engulfing furniture and walls, and thick black smoke. They cleared the kitchen area and ran through flames searching for the female.

Senior Constable Mackay and the other Team Two officers were directed to force entry at the rear of the unit due to the increasing smoke and flames. After smashing a window, Senior Constable Mackay and two other officers dove through the broken glass into the unit and unlocked the unit's rear door allowing for an egress point. Other officers located the woman hiding in the bathroom. They got hold of the woman, who was struggling violently, and took her through the flames to the front door where Senior Constable Mackay and other officers took the woman to a safe area.

The Enforcement Squad officers were informed that there were still people in the building. Senior Constable Mackay and other officers re-entered the burning, smoke-filled building and evacuated two adults and two children before returning and rescuing a further person.

Senior Constable Mackay and the other officers remained in attendance until emergency services arrived.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Michael Owen MAYTOM, Bective NSW 2340

Mr Michael Maytom is commended for brave conduct for his actions when assisting people trapped in floodwaters at Stroud in New South Wales on 21 April 2015.

The township of Stroud, New South Wales experienced extreme weather conditions, with rain falling quickly, causing flash flooding. Wind gusts reached in excess of 100kmph.

Mr Maytom was travelling home from work at 3am when rising floodwater blocked his path. He then learned that there were people camped at the local showground. He drove to the showground to alert the campers and, on arrival, yelled at the campers to get out.

He abandoned his car due to the rising water and climbed into the grandstand. One of the campers he had alerted was swept along in the floodwaters and Mr Maytom entered the swift running water in the dark and grabbed the elderly man's hand and pulled him back to grandstand.

Meanwhile, a couple were swept away from their caravan and were clinging onto a brick amenities building, near the grandstand. The man managed to make it onto the roof of the building but couldn't pull the woman up.

Mr Matyom threw them his jumper and belt so that a sling could be made to keep the woman attached to the building. He kept talking to the couple, encouraging them to hold on, and at the same time relayed information about the situation to emergency services.

Sometime later two boats appeared with a number of men aboard. They reached the couple and helped the woman into one boat and she was taken for medical treatment. The man was put into another boat and a short time later he and Mr Maytom walked through waist deep water to safety.

Constable Cameron Blake MEANI, New South Wales Police

Constable Cameron Meani is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the rescue of people from a house fire at Chipping Norton in New South Wales on 15 July 2018.

In the late evening, Constable Meani, and two other police officers, responded to a house fire in Chipping Norton.

On arrival frantic neighbours informed them two people were inside the house. Fire Brigade Units hadn't yet arrived and the front door and entrance area were already on fire.

Constable Meani and the two officers went to the rear of the property. One officer forced entry through the laundry door but was blocked by smoke and household items. Constable Meani kicked through glass doors and he and the other officers entered the house. They were confronted by heavy smoke which forced them to crawl on their stomachs. They made their way through the house and located an unresponsive male on the floor.

The officers dragged the man back through the house and out the rear door. Once outside, the officers were informed that a female occupant had managed to exit the house unassisted.

The officers carried both occupants to the front yard where they were treated by ambulance officers.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Ms Demi MOUNSEY, VIC

Ms Demi Mounsey is commended for brave conduct for her actions following a vehicle accident and fire at Jancourt East in Victoria on 26 August 2015.

In the late afternoon a vehicle was travelling along the Lavers Hill-Cobden road when it crashed into thick scrub. The damaged vehicle caused a fire to start in the dense vegetation.

A passing motorist stopped and managed to open the damaged door in an attempt to remove the semi-conscious and injured driver. Ms Mounsey stopped her vehicle and went to assist. Two other motorists were at the damaged vehicle attempting to remove the trapped driver.

Ms Mounsey spoke to the woman who told her that her legs hurt too much to move. Ms Mounsey reached into the vehicle and tried to move the driver's seat backwards but was unsuccessful. With flames coming out of the vehicle's air vents, and concern that fire would engulf the vehicle, the two other motorists worked quickly to remove the trapped driver.

Ms Mounsey assisted with moving the woman away from the vehicle and to safety. The injured woman expressed concern that her dog was still in the car so Ms Mounsey returned to the burning vehicle and managed to open a rear door and the dog ran out.

Senior Constable Brendan Michael O'FLYNN, New South Wales Police

Senior Constable Brendan O'Flynn is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the rescue of six people from a burning building at Belmore in New South Wales on 15 January 2017.

In the evening, Senior Constable O'Flynn and other members of the New South Wales Police Force South West Metropolitan Region Enforcement Squad - Operations Support Group, attended a unit block where an armed female offender had barricaded herself in her unit, was threatening self-harm, and had lit three fires.

The Enforcement Squad officers in full protection kit took control of the situation and formulated an emergency plan. With flames and smoke billowing from the first level windows, Senior Constable O'Flynn and the other officers in Team One forced entry to the unit. Once inside they were faced with flames engulfing furniture and walls, and thick black smoke.

Senior Constable O'Flynn assisted in clearing the kitchen area before pushing back through the flames and smoke and running to the rear of the unit where he assisted the Team Two officers to gain access to the rear of the unit.

Other officers located the woman hiding in the bathroom. They got hold of the woman, who was struggling violently, and took her through the flames to the front door and Senior Constable O'Flynn assisted in taking the woman to a safe area.

The Enforcement Squad officers were informed that there were still people in the building and so Senior Constable O'Flynn and some of the officers re-entered the burning, smoke-filled building and evacuated two adults and two children before returning and rescuing a further person.

Senior Constable O'Flynn and the other officers remained in attendance until emergency services arrived.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Senior Constable Hansell PEREIRA, New South Wales Police

Senior Constable Hansell Pereira is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the rescue of six people from a burning building at Belmore in New South Wales on 15 January 2017.

In the evening, Senior Constable Pereira and other members of the New South Wales Police Force South West Metropolitan Region Enforcement Squad - Operations Support Group, attended a unit block where an armed female offender had barricaded herself in her unit, was threatening self-harm, and had lit three fires.

The Enforcement Squad officers in full protection kit took control of the situation and formulated an emergency plan. With flames and smoke billowing from the first level windows, Senior Constable Pereira and the other officers in Team One forced entry to the unit. Once inside they were faced with flames engulfing furniture and walls, and thick black smoke.

Senior Constable Pereira and another officer located the woman hiding in the bathroom. They got hold of the woman, who was struggling violently, and took her through the flames to the front door and then to a safe area.

The Enforcement Squad officers were informed that there were still people in the building and so some of the officers re-entered the burning, smoke-filled building and evacuated two adults and two children before returning and rescuing a further person.

Senior Constable Pereira and the other officers remained in attendance until emergency services arrived.

Senior Constable Rhys Patrick PERSHOUSE, New South Wales Police

Senior Constable Rhys Pershouse is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the rescue of six people from a burning building at Belmore in New South Wales on 15 January 2017.

In the evening, Senior Constable Pershouse and other members of the New South Wales Police Force South West Metropolitan Region Enforcement Squad - Operations Support Group, attended a unit block where an armed female offender had barricaded herself in her unit, was threatening self-harm, and had lit three fires.

The Enforcement Squad officers in full protection kit took control of the situation and formulated an emergency action plan. With flames and smoke billowing from the first level windows, Senior Constable Pershouse and the other officers in Team Two moved to the rear balcony of the unit. Team One officers forced entry to the unit and, once inside, they were faced with flames engulfing furniture and walls, and thick black smoke. They cleared the kitchen area and ran through flames searching for the female.

Senior Constable Pershouse and the other Team Two officers were directed to force entry at the rear of the unit due to the increasing smoke and flames. Other officers located the woman hiding in the bathroom. They got hold of the woman, who was struggling violently, and took her through the flames to the front door where Senior Constable Pershouse and other officers took the woman to a safe area.

The Enforcement Squad officers were informed that there were still people in the building. Senior Constable Pershouse and other officers re-entered the burning, smoke-filled building and evacuated two adults and two children before returning and rescuing a further person.

Senior Constable Pershouse and the other officers remained in attendance until emergency services arrived.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Sergeant David William RAYMOND BM, Queensland Police

Sergeant David Raymond is commended for brave conduct for his actions at a building fire at Mermaid Beach in Queensland on the 28th of December 2019.

In the late afternoon, off duty policeman, Sergeant Raymond, and other family members were travelling near Mermaid Beach when they saw a large plume of grey smoke coming from the roof of a three story unit block.

They immediately stopped and Sergeant Raymond and his son went to investigate. They noticed gas bottles located on the balcony of a top floor unit, and a large dog on the balcony of a first floor unit. Bystanders were unable to confirm if any of the units were occupied.

Sergeant Raymond and his son attempted to gain entry to the block but a locked entry barred their way. They quickly made a makeshift ladder, scaled a wall, and climbed onto the balcony of the first floor unit where the large dog was located.

Both men entered the unit to search for occupants. Not finding anyone, Sergeant Raymond's son took the large dog to safety. Sergeant Raymond went to the smoke filled unit on the third floor. His son then re-joined him and both men entered and searched the unit.

Once they established that there were no occupants in the burning building, both men returned downstairs.

Mr Jacob Alexander RAYMOND, Gordonvale QLD 4865

Mr Jacob Raymond is commended for brave conduct for his actions at a building fire at Mermaid Beach in Queensland on 28 December 2019.

In the late afternoon, Mr Raymond and other family members were travelling near Mermaid Beach when they saw a large plume of grey smoke coming from the roof of a three story unit block.

They immediately stopped and Mr Raymond and his father went to investigate. They noticed gas bottles located on the balcony of a top floor unit, and a large dog on the balcony of a first floor unit. Bystanders were unable to confirm if any of the units were occupied.

Mr Raymond and his father attempted to gain entry to the block but a locked entry barred their way. They quickly made a makeshift ladder, scaled a wall, and climbed onto the balcony of the first floor unit where the large dog was located.

Both men entered the unit to search for occupants. Not finding anyone, Mr Raymond took the large dog to safety while his father went to the smoke filled unit on the third floor. He then re-joined his father and both men entered and searched the unit.

Once they established that there were no occupants in the burning building, both men returned downstairs.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Mario SARDELICH, Allambie Heights NSW 2100

Mr Mario Sardelich is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the rescue of people from Manly Dam in New South Wales on 5 December 1978.

Three teenage boys were attending an end of year picnic at Manly Dam at Manly Vale when one of the boys, who was swimming in deep water, got into difficulty.

As one of boys tried to keep him afloat, the other boy swam to seek assistance.

Mr Sardelich, who was working at the dam, heard the boys' cries and ran from his office. He dived into the cold and dark water, located one of the boys, and took him to shore.

He then learned another boy was still in the water and immediately entered the water again. Despite his repeated dives into the dam he was unable to locate the missing boy.

The missing boy's body was later recovered by police divers.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Grant SCHOLZ, Bowen QLD 4805

Mr Grant Scholz is commended for brave conduct for his actions during a knife attack at a hostel in Home Hill in Queensland on 23 August 2016.

In the late evening a man armed with a large knife dragged a young woman from her bed at the hostel and out onto a balcony. He held the knife to her throat and told other guests who had gathered to leave the area.

On hearing the commotion, Mr Scholz, the manager of the hostel, and another guest appeared on the balcony and approached the offender, pleading with him to put down the weapon.

The offender inflicted a wound to the young woman and she fell to the floor.

As Mr Scholz moved to protect the woman he was also wounded in the leg by the offender.

The young woman got to her feet and ran down a corridor towards the safety of a bathroom. Two other guests went to assist her and the offender followed. He entered the bathroom and began assaulting one of the guests.

Police arrived and the offender was arrested. Paramedics arrived and began treating the injured man and woman. Sadly, neither the man nor the woman survived the injuries they had sustained.

Mr Luigi SPINA, Italy

Mr Luigi Spina is commended for brave conduct for his actions during an assault in Southbank in Melbourne on 24 February 2017.

Just before midnight, Mr Spina finished his shift at a restaurant on Yarra Promenade when he witnessed a young woman being assaulted by an agitated young male.

Fearful for the young woman's safety, Mr Spina quickly approached the pair and kicked the offender in the face.

The offender let go of the young woman, withdrew a knife from his clothing, and advanced towards Mr Spina. The young male punched Mr Spina a number of times before forcing him against a wall and stabbing him with the knife.

The armed offender then fled the scene.

Mr Spina sought assistance for his injuries before being taken to hospital in a critical condition where he underwent surgery.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Senior Constable Matthew John STEWART, New South Wales Police

Senior Constable Matthew Stewart is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the rescue of six people from a burning building at Belmore in New South Wales on 15 January 2017.

In the evening, Senior Constable Stewart and other members of the New South Wales Police Force South West Metropolitan Region Enforcement Squad - Operations Support Group, attended a unit block where an armed female offender had barricaded herself in her unit, was threatening self-harm, and had lit three fires.

The Enforcement Squad officers in full protection kit took control of the situation and formulated an emergency plan. With flames and smoke billowing from the first level windows, Senior Constable Stewart and the other officers in Team Two moved to the rear balcony of the unit. Team One officers forced entry to the unit and, once inside, they were faced with flames engulfing furniture and walls, and thick black smoke. They cleared the kitchen area and ran through flames searching for the female.

Senior Constable Stewart and another officer dived through the smashed window and into the unit. He then unlocked an entry point allowing Team Two officers to enter. Other officers located the woman hiding in the bathroom. They got hold of the woman, who was struggling violently, and took her through the flames to the back door where Senior Constable Stewart and other officers evacuated the woman down a flight of stairs and then to a safe area.

The Enforcement Squad officers were informed that there were still people in the building. Senior Constable Stewart and other officers re-entered the burning, smoke-filled building and evacuated two adults and two children before returning and rescuing a further person.

Senior Constable Stewart and the other officers remained in attendance until emergency services arrived.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Senior Constable Arun Scott TREVITT, New South Wales Police

Senior Constable Arun Trevitt is commended for brave conduct for his actions following a high speed vehicle accident in central Sydney in New South Wales on 9 September 2017.

In the early morning a vehicle travelling at high speed on Goulburn Street in Sydney lost control, hit a barrier, and landed on its roof. The vehicle erupted into flames, trapping four people inside. A man who had witnessed the accident rushed to the vehicle and attempted to remove people from the burning wreck.

Senior Constable Trevitt, then a Constable, and another officer arrived at the scene. Senior Constable Trevitt and the member of the public who had witnessed the accident attempted to extricate the people trapped inside the damaged vehicle.

Two other police officers arrived. Fire extinguishers were located and two officers activated the extinguishers on the vehicle which had minimal effect on the intensifying flames.

Senior Constable Trevitt managed to remove a man from the damaged vehicle and another officer began to administer CPR on the injured man. Senior Constable Trevitt and two other officers attempted to approach the vehicle again on two occasions but the situation was deemed too dangerous and they withdrew.

They returned to where the injured man was and assisted in moving him further away from the damaged vehicle.

Moments later a loud bang was heard and the vehicle erupted in flames.

Paramedics arrived at the scene and conveyed the severely injured man to hospital. Sadly the other people in the car didn't survive the accident.

Mr Stephen TUCKER, Moorebank NSW 2170

Mr Stephen Tucker is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the rescue of people from a house fire at Tempe in New South Wales on 30 August 2017.

In the early morning, Mr Tucker was heading to work when he saw smoke coming from the rear of a house. He stopped his vehicle, called 000, and went to provide assistance.

An off-duty police officer ran to the rear of the dwelling and saw that the roof was well alight and thick smoke was evident as the fire intensified. The officer returned to the front of the house and continued to shout warnings to any people inside.

Mr Tucker ran next door to alert neighbours and was told that two elderly people were inside. He returned to the burning house and informed the police officer about the residents. He then went to his car and sourced a hammer as the police officer broke through the front door.

Despite warnings, Mr Tucker, the police officer and two other men who had stopped to help, made their way inside the burning house but were forced out due to the thick smoke and low visibility.

Mr Tucker and the group entered the house a second time and located an elderly woman in one of the rooms. They quickly dragged the woman out to safety before running to the rear of the house where they located an elderly man near the rear door, whose clothes had caught alight. They grabbed the elderly man and moved him to a safe area.

Emergency services arrived and the elderly couple were taken to hospital. The man did not survive his injuries.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Senior Constable Benjamin WHITE, New South Wales Police

Senior Constable Benjamin White is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the rescue of six people from a burning building at Belmore in New South Wales on 15 January 2017.

In the evening, Senior Constable White and other members of the New South Wales Police Force South West Metropolitan Region Enforcement Squad - Operations Support Group, attended a unit block where a distressed woman had barricaded herself in her unit, was threatening self harm, and had lit three fires.

The Enforcement Squad officers in full protection kit took control of the situation and formulated an emergency plan. With flames and smoke billowing from the first level windows, Senior Constable White and the other officers in Team One forced entry to the unit. Once inside they were faced with flames engulfing furniture and walls, and thick black smoke. Senior Constable White assisted in clearing the kitchen area.

Other officers located the woman hiding in the bathroom. They got hold of the woman, who was struggling violently, and took her through the flames to the front door where Senior Constable White was waiting to help them evacuate safely from the unit. He and the other officers took the woman to a safe area.

The Enforcement Squad officers were informed that there were still people in the building and so Senior Constable White and some of the officers re-entered the burning, smoke-filled building and evacuated two adults and two children before returning and rescuing a further person.

Senior Constable White and the other officers remained in attendance until emergency services arrived.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Senior Constable Brent WHITEN, New South Wales Police

Senior Constable Brent Whiten is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the rescue of people from a house fire at Chipping Norton in New South Wales on 15 July 2018.

In the late evening, then Leading Senior Constable Whiten, and two other police officers, responded to a house fire in Chipping Norton.

On arrival, frantic neighbours informed them that two people were inside the house. Fire Brigade Units hadn't yet arrived and the front door and entrance area were already on fire.

Leading Senior Constable Whiten went to the rear of the property and forced entry through the laundry door but was blocked by smoke and household items. Another officer kicked through glass doors and they entered the house. He and the other two officers were confronted by heavy smoke which forced them to crawl on their stomachs. They made their way through the house and located an unresponsive male on the floor.

The officers dragged the man back through the house and out the rear door. Once outside, the officers were informed that a female occupant had managed to exit the house unassisted.

The officers were able to drag the man back through the house and out the rear door. Once outside, the officers were informed that a female occupant had managed to get out of the house unassisted.

The officers carried both victims to the front yard where they were treated by ambulance officers.