

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Kerrod Alan ANDREWS**, Port Douglas QLD 4877

Mr Kerrod Andrews is commended for brave conduct for his actions during an altercation outside a supermarket in Cooktown, Queensland on 15 May 2018.

At about 1:00pm, Mr Kerrod Andrews was working at a supermarket when he witnessed two women fighting outside. He attempted to diffuse the situation by standing in between the women and pushing them apart. Another man stepped in to assist Mr Andrews.

One of the women produced a knife and recommenced the attack on the other female. Mr Andrews and the other man tried to restrain the armed woman and remove the knife.

During the scuffle, the other man sustained a large laceration to his hand. Mr Andrews was able to dislodge the knife from the woman's grip, and it was picked up by another employee.

Mr Andrews and the other man kept the two women separated until police arrived.

**Senior Constable Ryan Nicholas BADGER**, Queensland Police

Senior Constable Ryan Badger is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the rescue of a man from dangerous surf at Surfers Paradise, Queensland on 12 February 2015.

In the evening, Senior Constable Ryan Badger and another officer were conducting foot patrols in Surfers Paradise when they were advised that a fully clothed man was swimming out into the ocean.

The officers ran to the beach and could see two heads in the water about 100 metres from shore. Surf conditions at the time were rough and visibility poor. Senior Constable Badger and the other officer entered the water. On reaching the two men, one identified himself as a lifeguard, whilst the other man became aggressive and threatening towards the officers.

Despite repeated attempts to negotiate with the distressed man he began to swim further out to sea. Senior Constable Badger's colleague returned to shore to update other officers regarding the situation. Meanwhile Senior Constable Badger attempted to get hold of the man who became violent and pushed him away.

Senior Constable Badger and the lifeguard remained with the distressed man for 30 minutes and, after negotiating with him, they headed towards the shore. On reaching the shallows the man lashed out at the officers.

Senior Constable Badger, exhausted after the lengthy rescue, continued to assist other officers with detaining the man who was taken to Gold Coast University Hospital.

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Fabio CONTU**, Cape Paterson VIC 3995

Mr Fabio Contu is commended for brave conduct for his actions during an incident on an aircraft near Melbourne, Victoria on 31 May 2017.

At about 11:00pm, 225 passengers departed Melbourne, Victoria on an international flight. With the lights dimmed and the aircraft climbing to altitude, a male passenger stood up and retrieved a bag from an overhead locker. He proceeded towards the cockpit, stating he had a bomb and was working with others to destroy the aircraft.

The offender assaulted a flight supervisor when she confronted and attempted to detain him. He continued to demand to enter the cockpit and speak with the pilot. She notified the pilot and followed the man through the cabin.

As the offender moved through the aircraft, a passenger left his seat, grabbed the man by the neck and tackled him in the aisle. Mr Fabrici Contu grabbed the offender around the torso and assisted the passenger to overpower the offender. Other passengers and crew joined to assist. With the offender continuing to resist, more passengers held his legs and secured his arms to prevent him moving.

**Mr Christian CULLEN**, Varsity Lakes QLD 4227

Mr Christian Cullen is commended for brave conduct for his actions after a boy fell down a ravine on Tamborine Mountain in Queensland on 14 March 2020.

At about 3:00pm, Mr Christian Cullen, then 13 years old, was with a friend at the top of a cliff face on Tamborine Mountain in Queensland when his friend fell down a steep ravine.

He navigated his way down to his unconscious friend, who was bleeding from a head wound and tangled in shrubbery. Mr Cullen removed his friend from the shrubbery, placed him in the recovery position and wrapped the wound in a dressing.

He scaled the steep bushland and ran to a nearby camp, where he located an adult who called emergency services. A member of the Queensland Ambulance Service and a Senior Constable from North Tamborine Police descended the cliff to reach the boy.

They remained with the boy until further emergency services officers arrived and winched him to safety.

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Richard DAVIES**, Jerrabomberra NSW 2619

Mr Richard Davies is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the rescue of man caught in a rip at Lilli Pilli, New South Wales on 21 February 2021.

At about 10:30am, Mr Richard Davies was visiting Lilli Pilli Beach when he was alerted to a man being swept out to sea in a rip. Mr Davies knew the man and was aware that he had physical restrictions.

Mr Davies entered the water and swam with the rip to reach the man. He held onto the man and brought him back into the shallow water, where he and another man carried him to shore.

**Mr Peter Murray EDWARDS**, Mitcham VIC 3132

Mr Peter Edwards is commended for brave conduct for his actions during an incident on a ferry on the Yarra River at Southbank, Victoria on 19 August 2014.

At about 2:30pm, Mr Peter Edwards was on a ferry that had docked when he observed a woman hurriedly walk to the back of the boat with a young child in her arms. Despite efforts by the ferry captain to prevent the distressed woman approaching the edge of the boat, she broke from his grip, stepped over a rope, and fell into the water with the child.

Crew members sourced life buoys and notified emergency services, however, the woman refused assistance and began to drift with the current.

Noticing that the woman made no attempts to be rescued, Mr Edwards removed his outer clothing and dived into the water.

He swam to the pair who had now floated approximately five metres away from the ferry. He towed them towards a nearby jetty where bystanders provided additional life buoys and a ladder to assist the trio from the water.

Emergency services arrived at the scene soon after.

**Mr Dean Charles ENGWIRDA**, QLD

Mr Dean Engwirda is commended for brave conduct for his actions during an altercation outside a supermarket in Cooktown, Queensland on 15 May 2018.

At about 1:00pm, Mr Dean Engwirda was at a supermarket when he witnessed two women fighting outside. A shop employee attempted to diffuse the situation by standing in between the women, and Mr Engwirda stepped in with the shop employee to assist.

One of the women produced a knife and recommenced the attack on the other female. Mr Engwirda and the shop employee tried to restrain the armed woman and remove the knife.

During the scuffle, Mr Engwirda sustained a large laceration to his hand. The other man was able to dislodge the knife from the woman's grip, and it was picked up by another employee.

Mr Engwirda and the shop employee kept the two women separated until police arrived.

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Paul Maxwell EWERT**, Newport VIC 3015

Mr Paul Ewert is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the rescue of a person from a burning vehicle near Invergordon, Victoria on 26 October 2015.

At 12:30pm, Mr Paul Ewert was a passenger travelling in a vehicle near Invergordon when a semi-trailer approaching from the opposite direction crossed over the centre lane and collided with the vehicle, shunting it down an embankment on the side of the road.

The vehicle he was a passenger in was alight when it came to a stop on the embankment. The impact caused his door to open and he fell out. Another motorist, who had swerved to avoid the collision and whose car had also crashed down the embankment, came to his aid and picked him up.

Mr Ewert informed the motorist that there were two other men in the vehicle, the driver, and another in the rear of the vehicle who was moving around in pain.

Despite sustaining serious injuries, Mr Ewert went to the back of the burning vehicle to assist the motorist. By this stage the fire had spread to the dry grass in the immediate area. With the other man's assistance they were able to get the rear seat passenger out via the broken rear window. Mr Ewert and the other passenger were then moved to a safe distance away.

Shortly afterwards the vehicle was engulfed in flames and sadly the driver did not survive.

**Senior Constable Jessica Kate FORCEY**, Victoria Police

Senior Constable Jessica Forcey is commended for brave conduct for her actions during the rescue of a man from rough seas in Frankston, Victoria on 30 June 2019.

At about 2:10pm, Senior Constable Jessica Forcey and a colleague arrived at Frankston Pier responding to a call that a man was clinging to a small overturned boat approximately 30 metres from the pier in rough swells.

The man swam towards the pier, but struggled to keep his head above the water. Senior Constable Forcey removed her equipment belt and lowered herself down a ladder. She reached out to grab the man, however he was swept past her by the strong current.

She entered the water and swam toward the man, who had managed to grab a nearby pylon. Her colleague reached down and, with the assistance of a bystander, pulled the man from the water and onto the pier.

Senior Constable Forcey returned to the ladder and climbed onto the pier, where both she and the man were transported to hospital and treated for hypothermia.

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

### **Mr Steven David HARWOOD, WA**

Mr Steven Harwood is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the rescue of an elderly woman from a house fire in Yangebup, Western Australia on 15 February 2018.

At about 5:25pm, Mr Steven Harwood and his neighbour became aware of a house fire across the road. Approaching the house, they saw flames coming through the front windows.

Mr Harwood's neighbour began to douse the flames through the window, and then asked bystanders whether they knew if the elderly female resident of the property was inside, however no one knew for sure.

The neighbour gave the hose to a bystander and instructed them to continue hosing water through the window. He attempted to open the front door, however it was locked. He held open the fly-screen and instructed Mr Harwood to kick down the dead-bolted door, which opened after several attempts.

He and his neighbour peered under the thick low-lying smoke and located the elderly female resident lying on the ground approximately two metres inside.

They entered the house and dragged the unresponsive woman to the front door, where others helped to move her outside.

Firefighters arrived shortly after and the woman was transported to hospital.

### **Mr Troy Raymond JOYNER, San Remo VIC 3925**

Mr Troy Joyner is commended for brave conduct for his actions during an incident on an aircraft near Melbourne, Victoria on 31 May 2017.

At about 11:00pm, 225 passengers departed Melbourne, Victoria on an international flight. With the lights dimmed and the aircraft climbing to altitude, a male passenger stood up and retrieved a bag from an overhead locker. He proceeded towards the cockpit, stating he had a bomb and was working with others to destroy the aircraft.

The offender assaulted a flight attendant when she confronted and attempted to detain him. He continued to demand to enter the cockpit and speak with the pilot. She notified the pilot and followed the man through the cabin.

As the offender moved through the aircraft, Mr Troy Joyner left his seat, grabbed the man by the neck and tackled him in the aisle. Another passenger grabbed the offender around the torso and helped Mr Joyner to overpower him. Other passengers and crew joined to assist. With the offender continuing to resist, more passengers held his legs and secured his arms to prevent him moving.

The pilot performed an emergency landing and the offender was escorted from the aircraft.

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mrs Constance McALLISTER**, Mundubbera QLD 4626

Mrs Constance McAllister is commended for brave conduct for her actions during the rescue of an elderly man from a burning house in Mundubbera, Queensland on 22 July 2020.

Just after midday, Mrs Constance McAllister was delivering meals to elderly residents when she saw thick black smoke coming from inside a house and heard someone calling for help.

She entered the house and made her way to the lounge room where the floor was on fire. She located an elderly man who had mobility issues and was struggling to breathe. She assisted the man out of the house and to the front steps.

She alerted emergency services and re-entered the house. She filled a kettle with water and ran back and forth between the kitchen and the lounge room numerous times to extinguish the flames.

Emergency services arrived and took control of the situation.

**Sergeant Julie Susan MORRIS**, Victoria Police

Sergeant Julie Morris is commended for brave conduct for her actions during the rescue of a man from rough seas in Frankston, Victoria on 21 November 2019.

At about 11:00am, Sergeant (then Senior Constable) Julie Morris and a colleague responded to a call about a man who had been clinging to the underside of Frankston Pier for approximately 25 minutes. The man was losing strength and in danger of drowning due to the strong winds and rough seas.

Sergeant Constable Morris bent over the pier and located the man. She obtained a floatation device, removed her equipment and entered the water. She took hold of the man and swam against the current to the end of the pier, and to safety.

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Mathew James O'BRIEN**, Frenchville QLD 4701

Mr Mathew O'Brien is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the rescue of a woman from a house fire at Park Avenue, Queensland on 3 February 2020.

At 8:30 pm, Mr Mathew O'Brien was alerted by his brother to a house fire at their neighbour's property.

His brother jumped the fence, ran up the back stairs and kicked open a locked door. Mr O'Brien followed and ran into the well-alight kitchen near the back door, where his brother had just dragged an elderly woman from a burning bedroom.

He joined his brother and together they dragged the woman out of the house to the top of the stairs. By this time the intense heat from the fire was melting the house cladding and the eaves were on fire. He sourced a garden hose and returned to the stairs to douse his brother, the elderly woman, and the house.

With the assistance of two others, Mr O'Brien and his brother moved the woman down the stairs and away from the burning house.

Emergency services arrived shortly afterwards. Mr O'Brien, his brother, and the elderly woman were taken to the hospital for treatment for smoke inhalation.

**Mr Mathew REEVES**, QLD

Mr Mathew Reeves is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the rescue of a man from dangerous surf at Surfers Paradise, Queensland on 12 February 2015.

In the evening, Mr Mathew Reeves, then a Constable with Queensland Police, and another officer, were conducting foot patrols in Surfers Paradise when they were advised that a fully clothed man was swimming out into the ocean.

The officers ran to the beach and could see two heads in the water about 100 metres from shore. Surf conditions at the time were rough and visibility poor. Mr Reeves and the other officer entered the water. On reaching the two men, one identified himself as a lifeguard, whilst the other man became aggressive and threatening towards the officers.

Despite repeated attempts to negotiate with the distressed man he began to swim out to sea. Mr Reeves returned to shore to update other officers regarding the situation.

The officer and the lifeguard remained with the distressed man for 30 minutes and they had drifted further out to sea. After negotiating with him, he headed towards the shore. On reaching the shallows the distressed man lashed out at the officers.

Mr Reeves assisted his colleagues in detaining the distressed man who was taken to Gold Coast University Hospital.

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Navonkar SINGH**, Glendenning NSW 2761

Mr Navonkar Singh is commended for brave conduct for his actions after his semi-trailer caught fire at a service station in McDougalls Hill, New South Wales on 6 December 2019.

In the morning, Mr Navonkar Singh pulled into a service station in McDougalls Hill to refuel his semi-trailer at the heavy vehicle diesel pumps. Upon exiting the cabin, he observed smoke and flames emitting from underneath the vehicle.

Mr Singh re-entered the vehicle, and with smoke filling the cabin, he drove approximately 20 metres away from the fuel tanks until he was forced to exit.

Mr Singh obtained some water and attempted to douse the flames, however the fire destroyed the vehicle before emergency services arrived.

**Miss Holli Thersey SPENCE**, QLD

Miss Holli Spence is commended for brave conduct for her actions during the rescue of a young woman in Hervey Bay, Queensland.

In the afternoon, Ms Holli Spence and her friend were swimming at Torquay Beach when a wave swept her friend away and into nearby jetty pylons.

She quickly swam towards her friend who was now being dunked by waves. She wrapped her arms around the girl despite both being swept against the pylons.

As she swam her friend towards the shore, the girl became unresponsive and was unable to move her legs. She dragged her friend into shallow water where others arrived and helped keep her head above water.

She called emergency services and supported her unresponsive friend until paramedics arrived.



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### **Mr Finley William TAYLOR, QLD**

Mr Finley Taylor is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the rescue of a man from dangerous surf at Surfers Paradise beach in Queensland on 12 February 2015.

In the evening, Mr Finley Taylor was exercising near the Surfers Paradise Beach foreshore when he noticed a large, fully clothed man stumbling in the shallows before falling face down in the water. He quickly reached the unresponsive man and dragged him onto the sand. He was about to commence CPR on the man when he jumped up, ran into the water and began to swim out to sea.

Mr Taylor followed the man into the water and tried to negotiate with him but the man fought off Mr Taylor. The pair were about 100 metres from shore when two police officers swam out to them. The man became aggressive and threatening towards the officers. Surf conditions at the time were rough and visibility was poor.

Despite repeated attempts to negotiate with the man, he swam further out to sea. One of the officers swam to shore while Mr Taylor and the other officer negotiated with the distressed man for 30 minutes before they headed towards the shore.

On reaching the shallows the man lashed out at the officers. The officers on shore were able to detain the man who was taken to Gold Coast University Hospital for examination.

### **Mr Shane Paul WILKINS, WA**

Mr Shane Wilkins is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the rescue of an elderly woman from a house fire in Yangebup, Western Australia on 15 February 2018.

At about 5:25pm, Mr Shane Wilkins and his neighbour became aware of a house fire across the road. Approaching the house, they saw flames coming through the front windows.

Mr Wilkins sourced an old hose and began to douse the flames through the window, He asked bystanders if they knew whether the elderly female resident of the property was inside, however no one knew for sure.

He gave the hose to a bystander and instructed them to continue hosing water through the window. He attempted to open the front door, however it was locked. He held open the fly-screen and instructed his neighbour to kick down the dead-bolted door, which opened after several attempts.

Both men peered under the thick low-lying smoke and located the elderly female resident lying on the ground approximately two metres inside.

They entered the house and dragged the unresponsive woman to the front door, where others helped to move her outside.

Firefighters arrived shortly after and the woman was transported to hospital.

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Christopher James WILTON, VIC**

Mr Christopher Wilton is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the rescue of a woman from a burning vehicle in Dandenong, Victoria on 3 September 2015.

At about 6:20am, Mr Christopher Wilton was driving in Dandenong, Victoria when he saw flames emitting from the front of a stopped car. The driver, who had been involved in an accident, was dazed and still in the car as flames began to spread across the vehicle.

Mr Wilton stopped his car, ran over and pulled open the jammed door. He lifted the female out as the fire spread from the bonnet to underneath the vehicle. Shortly after the car was fully engulfed in flames.