

## GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

**Mr Paul Redmond CONNOLLY**, Geraldton WA 6530  
**Senior Constable Reece Colin EASTHER**, Western Australia Police  
**Mr David Michael FARCICH**, Lancelin WA 6044  
**Senior Constable Bevan Troy RANKIN**, Western Australia Police  
**Ms Robin Michelle TURNER**, QLD

The recipients are recognised with the award of the Group Bravery Citation for their actions during the rescue of people from burning vehicles in Breton Bay, Western Australia on 27 August 2019.

At about 6.30pm, two cars collided on Indian Ocean Drive, trapping both drivers. A fire started in one of the damaged vehicles.

Four passing motorists stopped to render assistance and were later joined by two police officers. An attempt was made to smash the driver's window of the car on fire. A fire extinguisher was sourced and used on the flames with little effect. One motorist broke a rear window and discovered the interior was filled with pieces of wood. Together with a second motorist they began to remove the wood but were forced back due to the flames and heat. A police officer emptied a second fire extinguisher on the flames, which continued to intensify.

A second attempt smashed the driver's window and an unconscious driver was located. A police officer emptied a second fire extinguisher, but the increasing intensity of the flames and heat forced everyone back.

By this time the second vehicle was on fire. One motorist spoke to the driver who indicated that he was trapped. Working together the motorists and police officers prised open the driver's door, cut the man from his seatbelt, and dragged him out of the wreckage to a safe distance.

A short time later a small explosion occurred and the second vehicle was fully engulfed in flames. Sadly, the driver of the first car perished at the scene.

**Mr Fabio CONTU** Cape Paterson VIC 3995  
**Mr Troy Raymond JOYNER** San Remo VIC 3925

The recipients are recognised with the award of the Group Bravery Citation for their 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, a passenger left his seat, grabbed the man by the neck and tackled him in the aisle. Another passenger grabbed the offender around the torso and assisted to overpower him. Other passengers and crew assisted, and with the offender continuing to resist, additional 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.

## GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

**Mr David Andrew BONE** VIC  
**Mr Stephen Gary BURNS** VIC  
**Mr Darren HILL** Hazelwood North VIC 3840  
**Mr Daniel HUDSON** Pakenham VIC 3810  
**Mrs Melissa MOON** VIC  
**Mr Jack SCHULZ** Walkerville VIC 3956  
**Mr Baden WILLIAMS** Foster VIC 3960

The recipients are recognised with the award of the Group Bravery Citation for their actions during the rescue of people during a flash flood at Wilsons Promontory National Park, Victoria on 22 March 2011.

An unprecedented rainfall event occurred at Wilsons Promontory National Park in Victoria that dumped over 370mm of rain in the space of 24 hours.

During the afternoon an Emergency Response was initiated by Parks Victoria rangers who, concerned for the welfare of park visitors, staff and contractors, began to warn persons at risk in various remote locations throughout the park to leave the area.

At around 9:00pm, serious flash flooding occurred in the Darby and Tidal rivers that had received 130mm of rain in the preceding 12 hours. Approximately 200 people were trapped in the Tidal River township, with half a metre of water surging through the area's campground. The power to the campground failed, plunging the area into darkness, as waters rose to almost 2 metres in some areas.

A number of Rangers were involved in the rescue of people from flooded tourist cabins, caravans and cars. They encountered extremely hazardous conditions including neck deep and fast flowing water and debris. People were taken to a lodge above the waterline and it became the unofficial community centre and gathering point.

The extensive flooding severely affected many buildings, damaged roads and tracks, and caused the collapse of the Darby River Bridge which cut road access to the promontory.

No casualties occurred during the incident, and visitors were evacuated from the area by helicopter over the following days.