

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Dean Richard BARRETT, Kahibah NSW 2290

Mr Dean Barrett is commended for brave conduct for his actions rescuing an unconscious diver in Port Stephens, New South Wales on 15 January 2012.

At approximately 9:00am, Mr Dean Barrett was leading a scuba diving session in Port Stephens when he observed a fellow diver struggling. He swam after the diver to assist, however, the diver used hand signals to indicate he did not want to abort the dive.

Mr Barrett stayed close to monitor the diver who showed signs of confusion and instability, with flailing arms and clear buoyancy issues. The diver then indicated to Mr Barrett an intention to abort the dive.

Mr Barrett assisted the diver to the vessel boat line, however, the diver lost consciousness and ascended quickly, resulting in an inability to perform decompression.

Mr Barrett ascended to reach the diver, despite the risks of decompression injuries. Mr Barrett and the unconscious diver reached the surface, and Mr Barrett lifted him onto the dive vessel.

The diver regained consciousness and Mr Barrett rendered first aid for decompression injuries. Mr Barrett then provided his oxygen bottle to the victim as he was struggling to breathe.

Through his actions in assisting the injured diver, Mr Barrett suffered multiple decompression related injuries.

Mr Jesse CARTER, WA

Mr Jesse Carter is commended for brave conduct for his actions after his mother had a seizure while driving in Shenton Park, Western Australia on 3 November 2021.

Just before 9:00am, Mr Jesse Carter was being driven by his mother to the train station to attend school. Mr Carter and his mother were stopped at an intersection when he noticed her speech had become flustered and she was stuttering. Mr Carter's mother stopped talking, began to shake and then slumped unresponsive into her seat, with her foot on the accelerator.

The car moved forward as Mr Carter tried to rouse his mother. Mr Carter held the steering wheel to prevent the car from leaving the road with his right hand, and called triple zero with his left. The vehicle was driving on the wrong side of the road. Mr Carter heard the recorded message and yelled for an ambulance, then discarded the phone as the car increased in speed and approached a set of traffic lights. Mr Carter steered into the correct lane and passed through red traffic lights without incident.

Mr Carter noticed that there were pedestrians crossing the road ahead. Mr Carter steered the car into a brick wall to avoid a collision with the pedestrians. The car mounted the footpath, crashed into the wall and came to a stop.

Paramedics arrived shortly after and treated Mr Carter, who had broken both legs and his right arm. He was later extracted from the vehicle by emergency services.

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Mr Cameron Lee DENMAN, QLD

Mr Cameron Lee Denman is commended for brave conduct for his actions during a bomb threat at a hospital in Herston, Queensland on 14 August 2019.

In the morning of 14 August 2019, Mr Cameron Lee Denman responded to reports of an agitated patient at a hospital in Herston, Queensland.

The patient had made verbal threats to blow up the hospital, and briefly lifted the front of his shirt showing an explosive-looking device wrapped around his torso.

Mr Denman joined two other security officers in the hospital and assisted in attempts to de-escalate the situation.

The patient was coaxed into a nearby courtyard by one of the security officers. As police sirens sounded nearby, the patient grabbed the device wrapped around his torso.

Mr Denman and the other two security officers leapt in and grabbed the patient, restraining him with the assistance of a hospital employee. Police arrived shortly afterwards and took control.

Mr Dean Douglass GOLLAN, Bray Park QLD 4500

Mr Dean Gollan is commended for brave conduct for his actions during a bomb threat at a hospital in Herston, Queensland on 14 August 2019.

Just after 9:00am, Mr Dean Gollan and a colleague were on duty as security officers at a hospital when they were tasked to assist with an agitated patient.

When Mr Gollan and the colleague arrived, the patient became more agitated, made verbal threats to blow up the hospital, and briefly lifted the front of his shirt exposing wire wrapped around his torso.

Mr Gollan attempted to communicate with the patient to de-escalate the situation, and then moved into an office area to raise the alert with authorities.

Mr Gollan and the colleague coaxed the patient into a nearby courtyard to calm him down and remove him from the immediate area.

As police sirens sounded nearby, the patient grabbed the device wrapped around his torso. Mr Gollan, his colleague and another security officer leapt towards the patient and grabbed hold of him.

With the assistance of a hospital employee they restrained the patient, until police arrived shortly afterwards and took the patient into custody.

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Corporal Hayden GUILFOYLE, Puckapunyal VIC 3662

Corporal Hayden Guilfoyle is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the rescue of teenagers from floodwaters in Townsville, Queensland on 4 February 2019.

At approximately 2:00pm, Corporal Hayden Guilfoyle was responding to calls for emergency assistance with colleagues in an Australian Light Armoured Vehicle (ASLAV) throughout flood affected parts of Townsville when they noticed four teenagers clinging to a street sign in fast flowing neck high water.

An officer parked the ASLAV approximately 25 metres away from the stranded teenagers, so as to not risk the ASLAV being swept away in the water.

Corporal Guilfoyle and a colleague left the vehicle, waded through the water, and dragged a rope with a heavy shackle on the end towards the teenagers.

Corporal Guilfoyle and the colleague fixed the rope to a speed sign, creating a handrail between it and the ASLAV. Using the rope, Corporal Guilfoyle and the colleague took each teenager back through the water to safety.

Mr Paul Trevor KINNEAR, Burpengary QLD 4505

Mr Paul Kinnear is commended for brave conduct for his actions during a bomb threat at a hospital in Herston, Queensland on 14 August 2019.

Just after 9:00am, Mr Paul Kinnear and a colleague were on duty as security officers at a hospital when they were tasked to assist with an agitated patient.

When Mr Kinnear and his colleague arrived, the patient became more agitated, made verbal threats to blow up the hospital, and briefly lifted the front of his shirt exposing wire wrapped around his torso. Mr Kinnear maintained his position in the corridor and continued the efforts to de-escalate the situation.

Mr Kinnear and the colleague coaxed the patient into a nearby courtyard to calm him down and remove him from the immediate area.

As police sirens sounded nearby, the patient grabbed the device wrapped around his torso. Mr Kinnear, his colleague and another security officer leapt towards the patient and grabbed hold of him.

With the assistance from a hospital employee they restrained the patient, until police arrived shortly afterwards and took the patient into custody.

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Mr Mark Alan LUSH, Australind WA 6233

Mr Mark Lush is commended for brave conduct for his actions rescuing two people from flood waters in Nanga Brook, Western Australia on 7 August 2018.

At 5:00pm, Mr Mark Lush was checking water levels on a causeway along the Murray River when he heard calls for help.

Mr Lush spotted a woman clinging to a tree, and also a man who was entangled in blackberry vines, still wearing his hiking pack with only his head and shoulders above water.

Mr Lush anchored a rope and entered the river to reach the man whose condition was worsening. Mr Lush returned to his vehicle to get a knife, and re-entered the water to cut the man from the blackberry vines and assisted him out of the water.

He provided first-aid to the man, and left him in his car with the heater on.

Mr Lush went back in the water, threw a rope to the woman and pulled her to safety as emergency services arrived.

Mr Andrew ORMSBY, North Lakes QLD 4509

Mr Andrew Ormsby is commended for brave conduct for his actions confronting a machete-wielding robber in Mermaid Beach, Queensland on 5 July 2019.

Just before 1:00am, Mr Andrew Ormsby was at a gaming room when he heard a woman scream. Mr Ormsby saw a man dressed in black wearing a balaclava and wielding a machete demand money from the gaming room attendant.

Mr Ormsby picked up a stool and swung it at the offender, hitting him in the head and causing him to stumble backwards. He then used the stool to attempt to disarm the offender, until he rose to his feet swinging the machete in his direction.

Mr Ormsby picked up a pot plant and threw it at the offender. He then picked up another bar stool to use in his defence. The offender continued to demand money from the attendant.

The gaming room attendant threw a bag of money at the offender, at which point he dropped the machete and fled from the venue. Mr Ormsby chased and tackled the man outside, with the gaming attendant following behind. Mr Ormsby was able to subdue the offender for a short time, until he fled the area.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Harley Maris SCHMITH, QLD

Mr Harley Schmith is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the rescue of teenagers from floodwaters in Townsville, Queensland on 4 February 2019.

At approximately 2pm, Mr Harley Schmith, then Trooper, was responding to calls for emergency assistance with colleagues in an Australian Light Armoured Vehicle (ASLAV) throughout flood affected parts of Townsville, Queensland when they noticed four teenagers clinging to a street sign in fast flowing neck high water.

An officer parked the ASLAV approximately 25 metres away from the stranded teenagers, so as to not risk the ASLAV being swept away in the water.

Mr Schmith and a colleague left the vehicle, waded through the water, and dragged a rope with a heavy shackle on the end towards the teenagers.

Mr Schmith and the colleague fixed the rope to a speed sign, creating a handrail between it and the ASLAV. Using the rope, Mr Schmith and the colleague took each teenager back through the water to safety.

Mr Sukhbir Singh SEEHRA, Mango Hill QLD 4509

Mr Sukhbir Singh Seehra is commended for brave conduct for his actions during a bomb threat at a hospital in Herston, Queensland on 14 August 2019.

At 9:15am on 14 August 2019, Mr Sukhbir Singh Seehra was on shift at a hospital in Herston, Queensland when he became aware of an agitated patient.

The patient made verbal threats to blow up the hospital, and briefly lifted the front of his shirt showing an explosive-looking device wrapped around his torso.

Mr Seehra phoned triple zero and conveyed the situation.

The patient was coaxed into a nearby courtyard by security officers. As police sirens sounded nearby, the patient grabbed the device wrapped around his torso.

Three security officers leapt in and grabbed the patient. Mr Seehra rushed in and assisted restraining the patient, until police arrived shortly afterwards and took control.

Ms Sandra SOLTY, Schleswig-Holstein GERMANY

Ms Sandra Solty is commended for brave conduct for her actions after a man was stabbed in Herston, Queensland on 17 April 2016.

At approximately 2:00pm, Ms Sandra Solty was working as the on-site Manager at a care facility when she heard a loud scream. She ran to the games room and observed a man covered in blood holding a knife, and another man on the floor with multiple stab wounds.

After calling emergency services she approached the armed offender and spoke quietly to him in an effort to calm him down. The armed man walked around the room, then out onto a balcony, before re-entering the room and throwing the knife on the floor.

The man surrendered and placed his hands on a wall, remaining in that position until police arrived. Ms Solty cared for the wounded victim until ambulance officers arrived.

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Mr Emmanuel VASSALLO, Altona VIC 3018

Mr Emanuel Vassallo is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the rescue of a woman being assaulted by an armed offender in Altona, Victoria on 29 October 2014.

At about 10:30am, Mr Emmanuel Vassallo was cycling when he noticed a distressed female ahead. Moments prior, the female had been grabbed from behind by a male who was armed with a knife, and who had forced her into bushes.

Mr Vassallo yelled at the offender, who ran off. He dismounted his bike and beckoned the female to come towards him. Mr Vassallo could see the offender attempting to hide amongst the trees. The female explained the situation to Mr Vassallo, who rang emergency services.

Mr Vassallo grabbed his bike and moved towards the trees. He yelled for the offender to come out, and when he didn't, he rode to another area and looked under bushes to locate the man. Without success, he returned to provide comfort to the victim until emergency services arrived and took control of the situation.

Mr Steven John WILLDERN, NSW

Mr Steven Willdern is commended for brave conduct for his actions assisting a female who had been injured during an attack in Port Macquarie, New South Wales on 3 November 2016.

At 6:00pm, Mr Steven Willdern was with his daughter at the rear of his residence when they heard a woman screaming.

Mr Willdern ran to his garage, grabbed a small pinch bar and ran down his driveway towards the screaming which was coming from his neighbour's house. As Mr Willdern approached the front door of his neighbour's house, the door flung open and his screaming neighbour came out. She was bleeding profusely and Mr Willdern could smell accelerant on her.

Mr Willdern grabbed his neighbour and supported her to his garage. He instructed his daughter to call an ambulance. Another neighbour arrived and called police while Mr Willdern applied pressure to her wounds and poured water on her face to rinse off the accelerant which was burning her skin. Mr Willdern's daughter also assisted in providing first aid to the woman's injuries.

The woman was treated by emergency services, and had sustained 11 stab wounds.