

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Gregory John ANDERSON, Robina QLD 4226

Mr Gregory Anderson is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the attempted rescue of a man from a rip in Currumbin, Queensland on 6 November 2020.

At 5:30am, Mr Gregory Anderson went for his daily swim with five friends at Currumbin Beach when he and two of the others were dragged out by a strong rip.

After Mr Anderson got himself out of the rip, he and another swimmer assisted one of the elderly men, who was closer to shore, to safety.

The group noticed one of the men was missing. Mr Anderson saw a shadow in the water and went back in, but when he reached the man he found him unresponsive. Mr Anderson flipped the man over, and kept his head above water.

Another member of the group obtained a rescue board and entered the water to assist Mr Anderson bring the man to shore.

CPR was commenced, but sadly the swimmer passed away.

Leading Senior Constable Simon John BARKER, Victoria Police

Leading Senior Constable Simon Barker is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the rescue of two people from a submerged car in Creswick, Victoria on 7 November 2019.

At approximately 11:00am, a vehicle with two elderly occupants drove into a dam. Another person who was nearby ran over to assist and freed the driver from the sinking vehicle.

Leading Senior Constable Simon Barker arrived on scene shortly afterwards and entered the water. He freed the passenger from the vehicle, which by this time had sunk three to four metres depth, and took her to shore.

Further emergency services arrived soon after and took control of the scene.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Sergeant Mark Jason EADE, Victoria Police

Sergeant Mark Eade is commended for brave conduct for his actions rescuing a man on fire in Shepparton, Victoria on 28 February 2021.

At 10:10pm, Sergeant Mark Eade responded to reports of a man lying in the middle of the road. Sergeant Eade arrived and observed the man lying next to a bicycle and three onlookers. Sergeant Eade approached and tried to speak with the man, however he did not respond.

Suddenly the man's entire upper body was on fire. He screamed and tried to get up. Sergeant Eade yelled at the man to drop and roll, however he did not comply. Sergeant Eade pushed the man to the ground in an attempt to roll him and pat out the flames, but they would not extinguish.

Sergeant Eade grabbed the man's burning jumper, removed it from his body and threw it to the side. A police van arrived and Sergeant Eade asked them to extinguish the fire.

Ambulance crews arrived and treated the man for serious burns to his upper body. Sergeant Eade was treated for minor burns.

Mr Matthew James FERRIER, Thailand

Mr Matthew Ferrier is commended for brave conduct for his actions rescuing a man caught in a rip in Marcoola, Queensland on 12 April 2005.

In the afternoon, Mr Matthew Ferrier was working at a resort near Marcoola Beach when he was alerted by a guest that a family was in distress on the beach.

Mr Ferrier ran down to the family on the beach and saw a man stuck in a rip in rough conditions.

Mr Ferrier stripped down and swam approximately 100 metres out to the man, who was exhausted and struggling to stay afloat. The man was compliant and held onto Mr Ferrier once he arrived.

Mr Ferrier swam back with the man and brought him to shore with the assistance of a passer-by who had also entered the water. The man was taken to hospital.

Mr Timothy Berrigan GAUNT, NSW

Mr Timothy Gaunt is commended for brave conduct for his actions rescuing a young girl from a rip in Killcare, New South Wales on 19 April 2022.

At 5:30pm, Mr Timothy Gaunt, an off duty fire fighter, was walking his dog along Killcare Beach when he noticed a young girl being pulled in a rip adjacent to a rock platform and out to sea in heavy surf.

Mr Gaunt ran to the water, dived into the rip and swam out to the distressed girl. Mr Gaunt calmed her, kept her head above water and assisted her away from the rocks.

Mr Gaunt swam with the girl out of the rip and back through the surf, before using a body board provided by two other swimmers to return the girl safely to shore.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Andrew David HOBMAN, QLD

Mr Andrew Hobman is commended for brave conduct for his actions assisting victims of a stabbing attack in Gordonvale, Queensland on 14 March 2016.

At approximately 3:45pm, Mr Andrew Hobman, a paramedic officer, was off duty when he heard screaming coming from his neighbour's property.

Mr Hobman ran out to his neighbour's property, where he saw three people gathered in the driveway, one of whom had multiple stab wounds to his upper chest. Mr Hobman instructed those with the man to get towels to compress the man's wounds.

Another person asked Mr Hobman to go with him to the rear of the property. In the backyard, Mr Hobman found a woman lying on her back on the ground and a teenage girl next to her distressed and crying, and with injuries to her face and hands.

Mr Hobman assessed the woman on the ground and found that she had no pulse, was not breathing, her pupils were non-responsive and that her skin was pale. He observed that she had multiple wounds to her head, neck and arms. Mr Hobman began CPR, and the teenage girl advised him that the woman had been attacked by her father.

Mr Hobman temporarily stopped CPR to check if the offender was present. Mr Hobman continued CPR and looked around for an improvised weapon should he need to defend himself but none were available.

Mr Hobman conducted CPR alone for approximately 15 minutes, before being assisted by police and ambulance officers.

Mr Hobman returned to the street to assist with other patients and observed that police had a man in custody.

Mr Lindsay John LARNER, Mundubbera QLD 4626

Mr Lindsay Larner is commended for brave conduct for his actions rescuing a trapped driver from a burning vehicle in Philpott, Queensland on 11 February 2021.

At approximately 4:30am, Mr Lindsay Larner was at home when he heard a crash on the bridge next to his property.

Mr Larner drove to the bridge and found a truck and trailer on its side in the middle of the bridge with the trailer on fire. The driver was trapped in the cabin, which had also just caught fire.

Mr Larner grabbed a nearby stick and used it to smash holes in the windscreen. He ripped open a hole in the windscreen with his bare hands, reached into the cabin and dragged the driver out of the truck.

Mr Larner pulled the driver clear of the now burning cabin with the assistance of a passer-by.

Emergency services arrived shortly afterwards and took control of the scene.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Benjamin Charles McCAULEY, Eimeo QLD 4740

Mr Ben McCauley is commended for brave conduct for his actions retrieving a shark attack victim in Cid Harbour on Whitsunday Island, Queensland on 19 September 2018.

At approximately 5:30pm, Mr Ben McCauley was on duty on the RACQ CQ Rescue helicopter which had been dispatched to retrieve a woman from her yacht following a shark attack.

The helicopter was unable to winch the woman from the yacht due to its rigging, tall masts, and proximity to other boats, and so Mr McCauley entered the water and swam approximately 40 metres to the yacht.

Mr McCauley reached the yacht in fading light, treated the wounded patient, and placed her in the yacht's dinghy.

Mr McCauley steered the dinghy towards the helicopter, attached both himself and the woman to the wire, and was lifted up into the helicopter with the patient.

The woman was transported to Mackay Base Hospital.

Mr Robert Malcolm MEDARIS, Kirribilli NSW 2061

Mr Robert Medaris is commended for brave conduct for his actions assisting two girls who were caught in a rip on the Gold Coast, Queensland on 10 December 2020.

At 6:00am, Mr Robert Medaris was walking on Surfers Paradise beach when he heard two young girls screaming for help in the water. One girl was approximately 80 metres from shore and the other approximately 40 metres out.

Mr Medaris entered the water and swam to the girl farthest out. Mr Medaris calmed the girl, and swam her back to shore.

Mr Medaris returned to the water and assisted the other girl back to shore where emergency services were waiting.

Both girls were conveyed to hospital in a stable condition.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Leading Senior Constable Raymond James MORELAND, Victoria Police

Leading Senior Constable Raymond Moreland is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the rescue of two people from a burning property in Buchan, Victoria on 30 December 2019.

At 8:00pm, Leading Senior Constable Raymond Moreland and his colleague were on duty monitoring bushfire activity when they observed a fire heavily impacting an area north of Buchan.

Leading Senior Constable Moreland was aware that an elderly couple lived in the vicinity of the fire, and so they decided to check on their welfare and the state of the property.

The officers arrived at the property and saw that the bushfire was impacting the house and that one side of the house was engulfed by flames. The officers saw the couple's car parked outside on the road, and saw the elderly male attempting to douse the flames with a garden hose.

Leading Senior Constable Moreland and his colleague ran toward the house, but were pushed back to their vehicle due to the heavy fire and smoke. As the wind changed direction, his colleague made a second attempt and reached the corner of the house looking toward the carport. Leading Senior Constable Moreland guided the elderly male through the fire and smoke and led him to the safety of the police vehicle.

Leading Senior Constable Moreland's colleague got the woman out of the house and escorted her to the veranda stairs, where she was led to the police vehicle with the assistance of Leading Senior Constable Moreland.

Miss Mabel Rose OXENHAM, NSW

Miss Mabel Oxenham is commended for brave conduct for her actions during the rescue of a woman from Sydney Harbour, New South Wales on 14 December 2021.

At approximately 3:00pm, Miss Mabel Oxenham was travelling with friends on a boat between Quarantine Beach and Balmoral Beach when they heard a nearby ferry sounding its horn and saw a person in the water.

One of the girls jumped into the water and swam to the woman to help her, while Miss Oxenham and the other friends searched the boat for a life jacket.

The girls found a life jacket and Miss Oxenham jumped into the water to take the life jacket to the woman. The girls spoke with the woman to calm her and provide reassurance, however she resisted assistance.

A ferry arrived and threw a life ring to the girls, which Miss Oxenham and her friend eventually managed to put around the woman. They took the woman to a ladder which had been dropped by the ferry and assisted her up.

Miss Oxenham and her friend returned to their own boat and continued to Balmoral Beach before going to the Manly Wharf and making themselves known to police.

The woman was conveyed to Northern Beaches Hospital.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Trevor Thomas PARMINTER, Katanning WA 6317

Mr Trevor Parminter is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the rescue of a woman from a burning vehicle in Wickepin, Western Australia on 10 February 2021.

At approximately 2:30pm, Mr Trevor Parminter was driving in convoy with a colleague when they came across a car which had crashed into a tree and was ablaze. This disturbed and agitated a number of bees.

Mr Parminter could see a woman still in the car, and he and his colleague stopped their vehicles and ran over to the car.

Mr Parminter and his colleague stabilised the woman, then removed her from the burning vehicle.

Mr Parminter used his hand to put out the woman's burning clothes while his colleague helped with first aid.

Mr Parminter and his colleague rendered first aid until emergency services arrived and took control of the scene. Mr Parminter was transported to hospital for burns and a significant number of bee stings.

Mr Trevor Kenneth RICHARDS, QLD

Mr Trevor Richards is commended for brave conduct for his actions when he pushed a woman out of the path of an out of control vehicle in Woodford, Queensland on 22 April 2019.

At 12:30pm, Mr Trevor Richards was in the office at a cattle sale yard when a car collided with a truck and careened into the yard towards the office.

Mr Richards quickly left the office and pushed a woman out of the path of the car, taking the full impact himself. Mr Richards was thrown into the air and hit by flying debris as the car continued onto the office steps.

Mr Richards suffered injuries as a result.

Mr Riley SECCULL, Ballarat VIC 3350

Mr Riley Seccull is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the rescue of an elderly man from a house fire in Ballarat, Victoria on 22 February 2020.

At approximately 5:50pm, Mr Riley Seccull was riding his bike along a suburban street when he heard a smoke alarm and saw smoke coming from the window of a house.

Mr Seccull observed an elderly lady in the front yard, who informed Mr Seccull that her husband was still in the house. Mr Seccull entered and found an elderly man in the kitchen attempting to extinguish the fire. Mr Seccull escorted the man through thick smoke back outside the house.

Mr Seccull re-entered the property to extinguish the fire but found it had burnt itself out, and so exited the building.

Mr Seccull entered a third time and opened a window to assist clearing the smoke from inside the premises.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Lucas Glenn SHORT, Palm Beach QLD 4221

Mr Luke Short is commended for brave conduct for his actions rescuing two swimmers in Angourie, New South Wales on 2 January 2022.

At 5:00pm, Mr Luke Short was with his friend at Spooky Beach when they saw a young girl caught in a rip and being swept out to sea.

He picked up a surfboard from the beach and paddled through the choppy sea. He reached the girl, and her father who was also caught in the rip, and guided them to safety.

His friend had also swam out to assist, however he became caught in the rip and required assistance.

Mr Short re-entered the water on the board and paddled towards his friend, who had gone limp. He reached his friend, wrapped his legs around him, and paddled him towards the beach where others helped drag them onto the sand.

His friend was treated by ambulance officers and taken to hospital for observation.

Mr Steven TANEVSKI, Dapto NSW 2530

Mr Steven Tanevski is commended for brave conduct for his actions rescuing three people from the Wollondilly River in Goodmans Ford, New South Wales on 17 January 2022.

At approximately 9:15am, Mr Steven Tanevski and a colleague were working at a site over the Wollondilly River when they spotted a man, and two children wearing life jackets, on an inflatable boat travelling quickly downstream towards the bridge.

Mr Tanevski rushed to the side of the bridge, reached over and grabbed hold of a young boy and pulled him clear before the boat went underneath the bridge.

Mr Tanevski saw the boat emerge on the other side of the bridge. The man had grabbed hold of a partially submerged tree. After confirming the man had a good grip on the tree, Mr Tanevski went to his vehicle to call for assistance. His colleague remained on the bridge and provided verbal comfort to the man and girl.

Mr Tanevski tied a rope to the vehicle which he threw to the boat, and then tied a second rope to himself and jumped the one metre gap from the bridge to the tree. He moved along the tree, retrieved the girl from the boat and took her back to the bridge.

Mr Tanevski moved back along the tree to the boat and brought the man back the bridge.

Emergency services arrived shortly afterwards and took control of the scene.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Leading Senior Constable Andrew Peter TRACE, Victoria Police

Leading Senior Constable Andrew Trace is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the rescue of two people from a burning property in Buchan, Victoria on 30 December 2019.

At 8:00pm, Leading Senior Constable Andrew Trace and his colleague were on duty monitoring bushfire activity when they observed a fire heavily impacting an area north of Buchan.

His colleague was aware that an elderly couple lived in the vicinity of the fire, and so the officers decided to check on their welfare and the state of the property.

The officers arrived at the property and saw that the bushfire was impacting the house and that one side of the house was engulfed by flames. The officers saw the couple's car parked outside on the road, and saw the elderly male attempting to douse the flames with a garden hose.

Leading Senior Constable Trace and his colleague ran toward the house, but were pushed back to their vehicle due to the heavy fire and smoke. As the wind changed direction, his colleague made a second attempt and retrieved the elderly man from the carport and took him to the police vehicle.

As this was happening, Leading Senior Constable Trace ran up the front veranda as the elderly woman exited the house, and told her they were to leave immediately. However, despite the increasing intensity of the fire, the woman ran back inside the house to gather personal belongings.

Leading Senior Constable Trace followed the woman inside and attempted to locate her in the dark room. He eventually got the woman out of the house and escorted her to the veranda stairs, where she was led to the police vehicle with the assistance of his colleague.

Leading Seaman Trent TRAYNOR, Royal Australian Navy

Leading Seaman Trent Traynor is commended for brave conduct for his actions during a submarine fire in Rockingham, Western Australia on 8 April 2021.

In the evening, Leading Seaman Trent Traynor was on duty in HMAS *Waller* stationed at Fleet Base West, when a fire broke out in the aft auxiliary machinery space.

As a member of the firefighting party, Leading Seaman Traynor and his team entered the compartment but were unable to identify the source of the fire, and so the officer of the day flooded the compartment with halon.

Approximately two hours later, a more intense fire broke out in the same place. Leading Seaman Traynor and a colleague re-entered the compartment and were met with thick smoke and extreme heat, with visibility further impacted by limited emergency lighting. They determined the fire was being fed by compressed air bottles that could explode at any time.

Leading Seaman Traynor's colleague reached through the fire to isolate the air bursts. Leading Seaman Traynor and his colleague then used halon fire extinguishers to extinguish the fire.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Daniel Lee WHITE, Sidonia VIC 3444

Mr Daniel White is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the rescue of a man from a burning vehicle in Baynton, Victoria on 30 March 2018.

At approximately 9:50am, Mr Daniel White and his brother were travelling along the Burke and Wills Track when they came across a car at the bottom of a steep embankment a few metres from the road. There was a person in the driver's seat and the engine bay was smoking.

Mr White drove a short way ahead to block the oncoming flow of traffic with their vehicle. He then ran back to join his brother who had got out of the vehicle and was attempting to remove the driver from the vehicle as it had caught fire.

Mr White reached the vehicle and saw that the driver's trousers were on fire. His brother unclipped the driver's seatbelt and together they removed the driver from the vehicle. They pulled the man a short distance away from the car and removed his trousers.

The brothers moved the driver further away as the fire grew in size and set fire to the surrounding grass and scrub. Ammunition cartridges on the back seat of the car exploded.

With the assistance of others, Mr White and his brother removed the man further away from the vehicle to a safer distance.

Emergency services then arrived and took control of the scene.

Petty Officer James Edmund WILLSON, Royal Australian Navy

Petty Officer James Willson is commended for brave conduct for his actions during a submarine fire in Rockingham, Western Australia on 8 April 2021.

In the evening, a fire broke out in the aft auxiliary machinery space of HMAS *Waller* stationed at Fleet Base West.

Petty Officer James Willson, ashore at the time, was recalled to HMAS *Waller* and volunteered to lead a re-entry team to overhaul the fire and assess the damage. Petty Officer Willson found the fire was extinguished so he reconfigured the diesel exhaust to evacuate the smoke.

Approximately two hours later, a more intense fire broke out in the same place. Petty Officer Willson and a colleague re-entered the compartment and were met with thick smoke and extreme heat, with visibility further impacted by limited emergency lighting. They determined the fire was being fed by compressed air bottles that could explode at any time.

Petty Officer Willson blindly reached through the fire to isolate the air bursts. Petty Officer Willson and his colleague then used halon fire extinguishers to extinguish the fire.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Daniel Gareth WILSON, Gladstone QLD 4680

Mr Daniel Wilson is commended for brave conduct for his actions during a house fire in West Gladstone, Queensland on 15 February 2017.

In the morning, Mr Daniel Wilson was travelling to work when he saw smoke coming from a house. Mr Wilson drove into the street to investigate.

Mr Wilson arrived at the house and entered through the front door to check for any trapped people, but was forced back by thick smoke.

Mr Wilson and another man went to the rear of the property, kicked in the back door and again searched for any persons who may be trapped.

Finding no one inside, Mr Wilson proceeded to fight the fire with a garden hose before emergency services arrived and took control of the scene.