

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mrs V

The recipient is commended for brave conduct for her actions during a violent attack in Canberra, Australian Capital Territory in 2019.

As four people arrived home one night, an offender opened the front passenger door and violently assaulted the passenger. The man attempted to defend himself but was hampered by his seat belt as the offender continued to punch and kick him.

The driver grabbed the offender's hand and bit it in an attempt to stop the assault. The offender climbed over the front passenger and punched, choked and bit the driver.

A passenger in the rear of the car got out and ran to a neighbour's house to have them call the police.

The other rear passenger exited and went to the front of the car and jammed the door on the offender's legs. The offender turned and punched him repeatedly in the face and head. He fought back until he was forced away from the car, where he fell and struck his head on the gutter. The offender continued to assault the injured man.

The front passenger got out of the car, grabbed a nearby shovel and struck the offender twice, knocking him out.

Police arrived shortly after and tackled the offender who had, in the meantime, revived. They deployed a full canister of oleoresin capsicum spray but were unsuccessful in subduing the offender. Ambulance officers arrived and eventually sedated the offender.

Sadly, the rear passenger never regained consciousness and died in hospital.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Lachlan Mitchell Ashlin, Cooroy QLD 4563

Mr Lachlan Ashlin is commended for brave conduct for his actions following a house explosion in Cooroy, Queensland on 11 March 2021.

At approximately 1:00am, Mr Lachlan Ashlin went to his neighbour's house after hearing an explosion.

Mr Ashlin reached the property and heard someone moaning at the back of the house. He went through rubble and found a severely burnt man and assisted him to the front of the property.

Shortly after, another explosion occurred inside the house. Mr Ashlin ran back to his house and retrieved a surfboard.

With the help of his father and brother, Mr Ashlin lifted the man onto the surfboard and carried him across the road to safety.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

NT Police, Fire & Emergency Services
Constable First Class Lachlan John Boal

Constable First Class Lachlan Boal is commended for brave conduct for his actions rescuing an injured driver from a burning vehicle in Alice Springs, Northern Territory on 18 March 2022.

At approximately 7:45am, Constable First Class Lachlan Boal was the passenger in a police vehicle when he became aware a car had crashed into a power water plant.

Upon arrival at the accident, he exited his vehicle and ran toward the car which had caught fire and opened the passenger door. The inside was filling with smoke.

He leant into the vehicle, moved the airbags away from the window and attempted to retrieve the semi-conscious man from the driver's seat. He instructed the driver to lift his legs, which allowed him to reach in and drag the man across to the passenger side of the vehicle.

With the assistance of two others, Constable First Class Boal carried the man away from the vehicle.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Matthew James Brunton, Geelong VIC 3220

Mr Matthew Brunton is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the attempted rescue of a driver trapped in a crashed vehicle on fire near Allansford, Victoria on 31 January 2020.

At approximately 10:20pm, Mr Matthew Brunton was driving a bus when he came across a single vehicle accident. The impact of the crash had broken a power pole in half, and live wires on top of the vehicle caused it to catch fire.

He obtained a fire extinguisher and then approached the vehicle. He used the extinguisher on the flames through the rear door and over the back of the vehicle. Another bystander made numerous attempts to open the door to free the unconscious driver in between Mr Brunton's attempts to extinguish the flames.

The extinguisher emptied and he ran back to his bus to obtain a second extinguisher. He returned and continued to fight the fire, however each time he stopped spraying the fire would re-alight.

As he emptied the second extinguisher, the live wires sparked, and the fire spread and increased in size. Determining nothing further could be done, Mr Matthew Brunton and the other witness moved away from the vehicle.

Sadly, the driver did not survive. Emergency services arrived soon after and took control of the scene.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Khan Arthur Bungate

Mr Khan Bungate is commended for brave conduct for his actions apprehending a violent offender in Caringbah, New South Wales on 4 October 2010.

At approximately 1:00pm, Mr Khan Bungate was shopping when he heard a disturbance at the other end of the store.

He saw an offender punching two staff members and another offender swearing at the staff. When the store manager tried to deescalate the situation, the first offender punched him several times and knocked him to the ground.

Mr Bungate ran towards the first offender when an off-duty police officer intervened to assist the manager.

Mr Bungate and the officer brought the offender to ground and held him until further police arrived and took the offender into custody.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Denis Ross Byrne

Mr Denis Byrne is commended for brave conduct for his actions retrieving a man from the Murray River near Mildura, Victoria on 1 May 2015.

At approximately 2:00pm, Mr Denis Byrne was with others on a houseboat on the Murray River when he saw a man struggling in the water.

He drove the houseboat closer to the man while others threw life jackets and ropes towards him, but the man was unable to reach them in the moving current.

Mr Byrne got into a small dinghy and motored over to the man. He jumped out of the boat, held onto the side of it and reached down and grabbed the man who had by this stage sunk below the surface.

He got the man back to the surface, climbed into the dingy and towed the man back to the houseboat keeping his head above the water.

Mr Byrne and others dragged the man onto the houseboat and performed CPR until an ambulance took the man to hospital. Sadly, despite his efforts, the man did not survive.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

The late Mr Luke Johnathan Dorsett, ACT

The late Mr Luke Dorsett is commended for brave conduct for his actions after two rafts collided on a water ride at a theme park on the Gold Coast, Queensland on 25 October 2016.

In the early afternoon, Mr Luke Dorsett was on the Thunder River Rapids Ride at Dreamworld when the raft he was in collided with another and upturned.

Mr Dorsett immediately placed his arm across his niece to prevent her falling from the raft. Sadly however, Mr Dorsett fell from the raft himself, and tragically died at the scene after becoming caught in the ride.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr William James Farley, Kallangur QLD 4053

Mr William Farley is commended for brave conduct for his actions during a dingo attack on K'gari, Queensland on 3 April 2023.

At approximately 3.45pm, Mr William Farley was playing in shallow water with family members when he noticed a dingo approaching his 6 year old cousin.

The dingo lunged at the girl, grabbed the back of her head in its mouth, pushed her underwater and tried to drag her away.

Despite the danger, Mr Farley immediately ran towards the animal, screaming and fighting it off until the animal let go of his cousin.

The dingo walked away past the group and other groups on the beach.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Shane William Fowler, Burrum Heads QLD 4659

Mr Shane Fowler is commended for brave conduct for his actions assisting a neighbour from a house fire in Burrum Heads, Queensland on 3 August 2021.

At approximately 9:30am, Mr Shane Fowler was alerted by a neighbour to a nearby house fire.

He got out of bed and went over to the home where he saw a large volume of smoke. He ran down the side of the house to try and locate the occupant.

He opened the door and called out to his neighbour, who replied from the kitchen. He asked the neighbour to come outside, however he did not receive a response.

Mr Fowler crawled through the living room and into the kitchen, where the elderly man was standing. The man was unable to walk unassisted, so Mr Fowler walked him out of the house and onto the street.

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

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr John Mount Gee, Gailles QLD 4300

Mr John Gee is commended for brave conduct for his actions retrieving a young girl from the Brisbane River in Queensland on 17 April 2021.

At 7:30pm, Mr John Gee and his friend were on a cruise on the Brisbane River when, in the dark and heavy rain, he saw a young girl floating in the water.

Attempts by the boat crew to reach her with a rescue ring were unsuccessful.

Mr Gee saw the girl going under water. He jumped into the river, grabbed the rescue ring and swam to her. He took hold of the girl and kept her calm. They were pulled back to the boat via ropes attached to the rescue ring and crew members lifted her aboard.

The girl was returned to waiting police on shore and transported to hospital.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr John Matthew Gordon, Elanora QLD 4221

Mr John Gordon is commended for brave conduct for his actions rescuing a swimmer caught in rough seas at Dreamtime Beach in Fingal Head, New South Wales on 12 April 2023.

At approximately 3:30pm, Mr John Gordon was at Dreamtime Beach when he witnessed a swimmer caught in rough seas being pulled in a rip towards rocks.

He grabbed his surfboard, paddled over to her and told her to get onto his board.

The large waves continuously threw them both from the surfboard and toward the rocks. He reassured the woman throughout and kept her calm.

While continuing to be hit with waves pushing them close to the rocks, Mr Gordon successfully navigated the waves and exited the rip with the woman and paddled to shore.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Victor Antonio Guthrie, Broken Hill NSW 2880

Mr Victor Guthrie is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the rescue of a man from a submerged vehicle in Menindee, New South Wales on 27 January 2006.

In the morning, Mr Victor Guthrie and his friend were packing up from fishing at Lake Pamamaroo when they saw a car drive through a safety barrier, plunge down an embankment and into a deep regulator channel.

Mr Guthrie ran down the embankment, entered the water and swam 10 to 20 metres to the car. The driver's son also saw the incident and entered the water to assist.

Mr Guthrie and the driver's son tried to open the driver's side door, but the water pressure kept it shut.

They swam to the passenger's side and opened the door. They both pulled the driver out and brought him toward the shore.

Mr Guthrie and the driver's son were met at the water's edge by Mr Guthrie's friend who helped them bring the driver out of the water and up the embankment.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Danny James Haber, Stockleigh QLD 4280

Mr Danny Haber is commended for brave conduct for his actions after two rafts collided on a water ride at Dreamworld on the Gold Coast, Queensland on 25 October 2016.

At approximately 2:00pm, Mr Danny Haber was waiting in line for the River Rapids Ride at Dreamworld when he heard a loud noise, followed by screams. He jumped over the safety barrier, ran towards the screaming and saw a collision had occurred between two rafts, and one of the rafts was upturned.

He picked up a screaming child, took her back to the safety barrier and passed her over to a bystander.

Mr Haber returned to the rafts and saw a man pinned under water and trapped between a raft and the conveyer belt. Mr Haber searched nearby for something he could use to help the man, but returned to the raft as he could not locate anything. Upon reaching the man he determined he was deceased due to the significant amount of blood in the water.

Mr Haber saw a woman floating in the water, trapped under the conveyer belt and metal mesh. Just prior to attempting to free the woman, Mr Haber saw a small boy nearby calling out for his mother.

Mr Haber picked up the child and carried him across the conveyer belt away from the scene to prevent the child from seeing anything.

Mr Haber returned to the woman with a length of hose and, with others, looped it around the woman's chest and tried to pull her out of the water before realising that this wouldn't work due to the elasticity of the hose.

Mr Haber, with others, dragged the woman towards a concrete ramp and out of the water, and rendered first aid. Sadly, she was pronounced deceased a short time later.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Samuel Haycroft, Cowes VIC 3922

Mr Samuel Haycroft is commended for brave conduct for his actions rescuing a man from a capsized boat off Ventnor Beach on Phillip Island, Victoria on 29 July 2015.

At 6:30pm, Mr Samuel Haycroft and his partner were at home when his partner received a text message from a neighbour alerting them to cries for help.

Mr Haycroft went outside, heard the calls, and ran to the beach where a group of people informed him that a man was in the water. He removed his clothes and entered the water with a surfboard and torch and paddled towards the cries for help.

He paddled approximately 200 metres in the dark, cold water and reached a man beside an upturned tinny. The man was blind and without a life jacket.

He remained with the man and attempted to keep him calm. He placed him on the surfboard, and they paddled together to near the shore.

Another person arrived on a jet ski and took the man back to shore, leaving Mr Haycroft to paddle himself back to shore.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Western Australia Police Force
Senior Constable Kylie Anne Jones

Senior Constable Kylie Jones is commended for brave conduct for her actions during the rescue of two people from a car fire near Harvey, Western Australia on 12 March 2022.

In the morning, Senior Constable Kylie Jones was travelling with another officer along the South Western Highway when they came across a car towing a caravan that had flipped onto its side. The vehicle had started to catch fire and smoke was pouring out.

She called for assistance before joining the other officer who had run straight to the vehicle, joining others who had already arrived.

The other officer kicked in the windscreen of the overturned car and, with the assistance of a civilian, reached into the vehicle and pulled an elderly woman out.

Senior Constable Jones discharged a small fire extinguisher into the cabin and over a trapped elderly male, dampening the flames, while others worked to remove him from the vehicle.

Senior Constable Jones cut the man's seatbelt, then reached inside the burning vehicle, freeing the man's trapped leg before pulling him out and, with the assistance of the other officer, helped him away. Seconds later the vehicle was completely engulfed by fire.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Western Australia Police Force
Constable Reece Michael Josemans

Constable Reece Josemans is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the rescue of two people from a car fire near Harvey, Western Australia on 12 March 2022

In the morning, Constable Reece Josemans was travelling with others along the South Western Highway when they came across a car towing a caravan that had flipped onto its side. The vehicle had started to catch fire and smoke was pouring out.

Constable Josemans ran towards the vehicle joining others who had already arrived, while another officer called for assistance.

Constable Josemans kicked in the windscreen of the overturned car and used his bare hands to pull it away. He and a civilian reached into the vehicle and pulled an elderly woman out. The civilian pulled her further away while Constable Josemans returned to the vehicle.

Constable Josemans and two others worked to remove an elderly man who was trapped by his leg and seatbelt from the overturned vehicle which was by now burning fiercely.

One of the officers discharged a small fire extinguisher into the cabin and over the driver, dampening the flames.

Two of them reached inside the burning vehicle to free the man's trapped leg. Constable Josemans and another officer reached inside the burning vehicle and pulled the driver out and helped him away. Seconds later the vehicle was completely engulfed by fire.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Dylan John Lazzaroni, QLD

Mr Dylan Lazzaroni is commended for brave conduct for his actions rescuing a person who had fallen from a waterfall in Mareeba, Queensland on 6 March 2021.

In the afternoon, Mr Dylan Lazzaroni was with a group of friends at Emerald Creek Falls when one of his friends fell, hit his head and was swept 20-30 metres down the waterfall.

Mr Lazzaroni navigated his way down the waterfall and arrived at a pool of deep, fast flowing, and turbulent water. He jumped in to search for his friend but couldn't find him.

He saw his friend's pants float up in another pool further down. He ran to the second pool of turbulent water, dived in and grabbed his friend before he was swept over the edge.

The men were dragged further down the falls by the current, until Mr Lazzaroni was able to stop and drag his friend partially out of the water.

Mr Lazzaroni, joined by the rest of the group, commenced CPR and assisted paramedics once they had arrived. The friend was airlifted to hospital with severe injuries and later made a full recovery.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Martin Ernest Long, Wareek VIC 3465

Mr Martin Long is commended for brave conduct for his actions rescuing a trapped person from floodwaters in Wareek, Victoria on 13 October 2022.

At approximately 7:30pm, Mr Martin Long contacted his neighbour regarding a car that was trapped in rising floodwater in Bet Bet Creek. Mr Long asked if various vehicles were available to use to assist the trapped car, however none were available or suitable for the task.

Mr Long drove his own tractor to the creek and into the floodwaters, retrieved an elderly female, and drove back to waiting police.

He informed police that an elderly man was still in the vehicle and that he would require assistance to get him out. He and one of the police officers re-entered the water in the tractor and saw that the vehicle had washed into trees.

He and the police officer stopped as close as they could to the vehicle. The police officer got out of the tractor and climbed over the bonnet to the right-side tyre which was covered by the water.

The police officer grabbed a chain and threw it to Mr Long, who swam from the cabin of the tractor to the car.

He opened the car door, got the elderly male occupant out, and gave him the chain. The police officer pulled both men back to the tractor and helped Mr Long lift the elderly man into the cabin.

Mr Long drove the tractor out of the floodwater and returned the man to the bank.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Ms Katrina Lovelock, Harrison ACT 2914

Ms Katrina Lovelock is commended for brave conduct for her actions apprehending two males who held her and her friends hostage in Bonython, Australian Capital Territory on 19 July 1999.

At approximately 8:00pm, Ms Katrina Lovelock was at home with her partner and three friends when two men burst into their property, armed with several knives, and held the group hostage.

Over the next four hours, the offenders assaulted the group, threatened to kill them, and had some of them kneel while holding knives to their throats. One of them received a cut to their neck during these attacks. The offenders gave the victims the impression that other assailants were waiting outside and were armed with firearms.

Shortly after midnight, one of the offenders lunged at one of them, grabbed them by the shirt and throat and pushed them against the wall.

Ms Lovelock took up a heavy metal triangular rotary engine piston from a bookshelf and struck the offender multiple times around the head and back. When the other offender ran to the first offender's aid, she struck him around the head and neck.

Ms Lovelock and the rest of the victims subdued the offenders. She then phoned police who took the two men into custody.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Christopher John Lucas, Moana SA 5169

Mr Christopher Lucas is commended for brave conduct for his actions rescuing a person from flash flooding at a waterfall in Wooroonooran National Park, Queensland on 2 August 2019.

In the morning, Mr Christopher Lucas was with his family at Josephine Falls when warning lights flashed to alert swimmers to evacuate due to rising water levels and imminent flash flooding.

He saw a teenage girl lose her footing while evacuating and get swept downstream. She clung to a boulder and called for help.

Mr Lucas and another person formed a human chain in an attempt to reach the girl but were unable to reach her.

He swam to the boulder, reached the girl and told her to hold onto his neck. Mr Lucas then swam back to the water's edge with the girl on his back, where they were both helped out of the water by others.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Patrick George Mackey, Broken Hill NSW 2880

Mr Patrick Mackey is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the rescue of a man from a submerged vehicle in Menindee, New South Wales on 27 January 2006.

In the morning, Mr Patrick Mackey was at Lake Pamamaroo with his father when he saw his father lose control of the car and drive through a safety barrier, plunge down an embankment and into a deep regulator channel.

Mr Mackey navigated the ballast rocks, entered the water, and swam to the car. Another person had also witnessed the incident and arrived to assist.

Mr Mackey and the other person tried to open the driver's side door, but the water pressure kept it shut. They swam to the passenger's side and opened the door. They both pulled the driver out and brought him toward the shore.

They were met at the water's edge by another person who helped them bring the driver out of the water and up the embankment.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Brad McCosh, Warrnambool VIC 3280

Mr Brad McCosh is commended for brave conduct for his actions rescuing a swimmer at Logans Beach in Warrnambool, Victoria on 4 March 2019.

At approximately 2:00pm, Mr Brad McCosh was walking along Logans Beach when he heard screaming.

He ran towards a distressed female who advised him that her partner was stuck in a rip and unable to swim.

He ran into the water and swam to the male who was going under the water. He placed him on his back and told him to stay calm. The man was thrashing about and in a distressed state.

Mr McCosh reached an area where he could touch the ground, and then dragged the man out of the water and onto the beach.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Mark Steven Milliken, Perth WA 6019

Mr Mark Milliken is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the rescue of two people from a car fire near Harvey, Western Australia on 12 March 2022.

At approximately 10:30am, Mr Mark Milliken was travelling with others on the South Western Highway when they came across a car towing a caravan that had flipped onto its side. The vehicle had started to catch fire and smoke was pouring out.

He and the others rushed over to assist another passer-by who was already at the vehicle trying to remove the trapped elderly couple.

Two police officers also arrived at the scene, and one of them kicked in the windscreen. He and one of the officers reached into the vehicle and pulled an elderly woman out. Mr Milliken pulled her further away while the officer returned to the vehicle.

Mr Milliken returned to the vehicle and assisted two others to remove an elderly man who was trapped by his seatbelt and leg from the overturned vehicle, which was by now burning fiercely.

He found a knife amongst the debris which an officer used to cut the seatbelt.

Mr Milliken reached inside the burning vehicle with one of the officers to free the man's trapped leg. The officers removed the man from vehicle seconds before it was completely engulfed by fire.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Gary Nguyen, NSW

Mr Gary Nguyen is commended for brave conduct for his actions assisting two people struggling in the Parramatta River in Concord West, New South Wales on 14 August 2014

In the early afternoon, Mr Gary Nguyen and a colleague were conducting an outside activity with school students when they heard calls for help coming from the Parramatta River.

Mr Nguyen and his colleague approached the shoreline and saw a man and a woman struggling to stay afloat, and a small empty boat circling near them.

They entered the water and swam approximately 150 to 200 metres to the couple. They reached them and saw that the male was bleeding, and the woman was distressed. Mr Nguyen and his colleague assisted the couple in the water.

Shortly after, the Sydney Harbour Ferry and a Port Authority vessel arrived and assisted the victims from the water and returned them to land where ambulance and police were waiting.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Donald Garry Ogden, Blackwater QLD 4717

Mr Donald Ogden is commended for brave conduct for his actions after a front-end loader caught fire in Queensland on 28 January 2018.

At approximately 2:00pm, Mr Donald Ogden was at work at a chemical process factory when the front-end loader he was driving caught fire in a shed storing chemicals.

Despite the fire shattering the rear window of the cab and starting to impinge inside, Mr Ogden moved the vehicle five metres away from the stockpile face before the fire rendered the loader inoperable.

Other staff initiated the site's emergency procedures, began to shut down the plant and called triple 0.

Two other staff moved a heavy response trolley to the shed while others loaded a light vehicle with further firefighting equipment and travelled to the shed. As the men arrived at the shed, they saw that the engine bay of a front end loader was well alight and the fire was starting to impinge on the loader's tyres.

Four of the staff members fought the fire with hand lines and ground monitors, while Mr Ogden and others sourced another loader and towing equipment to tow the burning loader from the shed.

The men dragged the loader from the shed and extinguished the fire.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Queensland Police Service

Senior Constable Anthony William Poole

Senior Constable Anthony Poole is commended for brave conduct for his actions rescuing a trapped driver from a burning vehicle in Mount Stuart, Queensland on 16 March 2021.

At approximately 5:00pm, Senior Constable Anthony Poole and another officer were on duty when they responded to a welfare check.

On arrival, they observed a woman trapped and injured in her heavily damaged vehicle, which had been driven off an embankment. Light smoke was coming from the vehicle, and the engine was running and unable to be turned off.

Senior Constable Poole cut the woman's seatbelt in case the vehicle caught fire, however they waited for Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) to arrive to safely extract the woman from the vehicle.

Shortly after, smoke increased in intensity and filled the vehicle, and the front of the vehicle caught fire.

Unable to wait for QFES, the officers forcibly removed the driver's door to create more room, and then extracted the injured woman. They then dragged her away from the vehicle, which was now fully engulfed.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Thomas Martin Robinson, VIC

Mr Thomas Robinson is commended for brave conduct for his actions during an armed arson attack in Coronet Bay, Victoria on 15 September 2019.

At approximately 3:00am, Mr Thomas Robinson and his wife awoke to a man banging on the front door of their holiday home, claiming that people were after him and he needed to call the police. Mr Robinson let the man inside and lent him a mobile phone to call triple 0.

The man struggled to use the phone and threw it across the room in frustration. Mr Robinson instructed his wife to leave the house and call triple 0.

The man picked up a box of matches from the kitchen bench and began lighting small pieces of paper on fire, while Mr Robinson tried to calm him down. The man grabbed a gas lighter and continued to set fire to the paper. He then pulled down the window blind and sprayed an aerosol on it to act as an accelerant.

Mr Robinson tried to obtain a fire extinguisher to put out the fire, but the man grabbed a knife and told him to put the extinguisher down. Mr Robinson approached the man but was pushed back, injuring his leg.

The man continued to act erratically inside the house. He grabbed Mr Robinson's shirt while still holding the knife in his other hand. He held on for some time, alternating between threatening Mr Robinson and apologising.

The fire progressed, and the house filled with thick smoke. They went down on their knees to get under the smoke. The man eventually dropped the knife, but then tossed other items onto the flames to ignite it further.

The men crawled along the hallway and Mr Robinson assisted the man outside where they were met by emergency services.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Ms Tenaia June Salesulu

Ms Tenaia Salesulu is commended for brave conduct for her actions rescuing a family from a house fire in Cranbourne, Victoria on 12 October 2020.

At 9:30am, Ms Tenaia Salesulu was at a park when she heard a smoke alarm and saw smoke billowing from a nearby house.

She ran to the house, gained entry, and was confronted with thick smoke. She located a baby in one bedroom, and then a toddler in another. She took both outside to safety.

She re-entered the house and located a woman in another room and took her outside.

Ms Salesulu returned to the park. Emergency services arrived shortly afterwards and extinguished the fire.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Queensland Police Service
Constable Adam Thomas See

Constable Adam See is commended for brave conduct for his actions rescuing a trapped driver from a burning vehicle in Mount Stuart, Queensland on 16 March 2021.

At approximately 5:00pm, Constable Adam See and another officer were on duty when they responded to a welfare check.

On arrival, they observed a woman trapped and injured in her heavily damaged vehicle, which had been driven off an embankment. Light smoke was coming from the vehicle, and the engine was running and unable to be turned off.

The officers waited for Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) to arrive to safely extract the woman from the vehicle, however the other officer cut the woman's seatbelt in case the vehicle caught fire.

Shortly after, smoke increased in intensity and filled the vehicle, and the front of the vehicle caught fire.

Unable to wait for QFES, the officers forcibly removed the driver's door to create more room, and then extracted the injured woman. They then dragged her away from the vehicle, which was now fully engulfed.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Steven Drew Shaw, Langwarrin VIC 3910

Mr Steven Shaw is commended for brave conduct for his actions assisting an elderly neighbour from a burning residence in Langwarrin, Victoria on 4 October 2019.

At approximately 3:00pm, Mr Steven Shaw was in his front yard when he observed flames coming from his neighbour's front window.

Knowing the neighbour was home, Mr Shaw approached and opened the front door. He entered the home and called out to the sole occupant, a 92-year-old woman, and found her in the lounge room where the fire was most impactful.

Mr Shaw assisted the woman out of the home. He then returned to the property, turned the gas off and began extinguishing the fire with a garden hose.

He continued to hose down the house until emergency services arrived and took control of the scene.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr John Danial Stewart, QLD

Mr John Stewart is commended for brave conduct for his actions rescuing a trapped driver from floodwaters in St George, Queensland on 22 February 2020.

In the afternoon, Mr John Stewart was driving his truck along Wanganui Lane when he saw that a ute had been washed off the Bindle Creek causeway.

He could only see the top of the ute's cab but could see that the driver's door was open and there was no sign of the driver. He contacted his parents who alerted emergency services and drove to the crossing.

Mr Stewart was told that emergency services were not able to reach his location due to floodwaters, so he drove his truck into the water to reach the ute. He got close to the ute and spotted the driver still inside the cab, clinging to the steering wheel with only his head and shoulders above the water.

He exited his truck and moved through shoulder-high water to reach the ute, where he saw that the driver's foot was trapped. He freed the driver, placed him into his truck and drove back to the crossing.

Mr Stewart and his parents rendered first aid to the driver until he was able to be driven home.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Jamie Robert Stuart, VIC

Mr Jamie Stuart is commended for brave conduct for his actions rescuing a person from a burning car in Glenroy, Victoria on 26 December 2021.

At approximately 1:30am, Mr Jamie Stuart was driving a B-double truck on Western Ring Road when an out-of-control car collided into him. Both vehicles subsequently caught fire, and the car became wedged between the truck and the road barrier.

Mr Stuart exited his burning truck and pulled the female occupant from her car through the right passenger door. He returned to the car to ensure there were no other passengers.

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

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Levi John Symington BM, NSW

Mr Levi Symington is commended for brave conduct for his actions following an incident with a driver in Canberra, Australian Capital Territory on 24 February 2021.

At approximately 7:30pm, Mr Levi Symington was driving when he came across an incident in which a ute had rammed two stationary vehicles at high speed. The driver was spinning the ute's tyres which caused smoke and dust, and the ute lunged towards onlookers.

He approached the vehicle which was surging and losing traction in the dirt. He called out to the driver to stop, who then attempted to punch him from within the vehicle.

He reached into the vehicle and fought with the driver, who attempted to drive away and strike onlookers.

Mr Symington removed the keys from the steering column which disabled the vehicle. There were unrestrained aggressive dogs in the vehicle and smoke was pouring out.

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

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Dylan Taylor, Dalby QLD 4405

Mr Dylan Taylor is commended for brave conduct for his actions rescuing an unconscious person from a submerged vehicle in Dalby, Queensland on 4 April 2022.

In the afternoon, Mr Dylan Taylor was driving when he witnessed a car cross the incorrect side of the road at high speed, hit a grass bank and launch into Myall Creek.

He stopped his car and observed the vehicle sinking. He exited his car and approached the creek, and saw a female driver slumped over the steering wheel.

He removed his shirt, jumped into the creek and swam toward the sinking vehicle. He was unable to open the driver's door and so moved to the driver side rear door which he opened, causing water to rush into the vehicle making it sink faster.

He entered the rear of the vehicle to alert the driver, but she was unresponsive. He noticed that the driver still had her seatbelt on, so he reached across her and unclipped her seatbelt. By this time, the water was halfway up her legs and rising fast.

Mr Taylor removed the driver from the vehicle and swam approximately 10 metres to the weir where they were assisted from the water.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Timothy Richard Thorncraft, Bellingen NSW 2454

Mr Timothy Thorncraft is commended for brave conduct for his actions rescuing a man from a vehicle about to fall off a cliff in Kalang, New South Wales on 24 September 2021.

At approximately 8:00pm, Mr Timothy Thorncraft was walking along Kalang Road when he noticed that a vehicle travelling along Cooks Creek Trail had failed to reappear on Kalang Road.

He ran up Cooks Creek Trail to investigate and found the vehicle balancing precariously on the edge of a steep incline with an elderly driver trapped inside.

He spoke to the driver to calm the situation. The driver agreed he needed to exit the vehicle, however as he released his foot from the brakes the car inched forward even further down the embankment.

Mr Thorncraft gently opened the car door and, with his back to the vehicle, lifted his foot inside and onto the brakes to prevent the car slipping further. He reached inside the vehicle and pulled the driver clear. He then released his foot from the brake, which sent the car over the edge of the embankment where it flipped and landed on the riverbank below.

Mr Thorncraft escorted the driver home.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Robert Tomecki, Hampton Park VIC 3796

Mr Robert Tomecki is commended for brave conduct for his actions after a bank caught fire in Springvale, Victoria on 18 November 2016.

At 11:15am, Mr Robert Tomecki was heading to a bank when he heard screaming and saw black smoke coming from the bank doors.

Mr Tomecki ran from a nearby plaza to a fire door around the back and saw six bank employees come out of the door.

Mr Tomecki and two other men went into the bank as they could hear people yelling behind an internal door, which Mr Tomecki opened. The three men assisted approximately 10 customers out of the building.

Mr Tomecki returned with a fire extinguisher and put out the fire. He became overcome by fumes and exited the bank.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Gregory Duncan Wiltshire, Cudal NSW 2864

Mr Greg Wiltshire is commended for brave conduct for his actions assisting flood affected residents in Cudal, New South Wales on 13 November 2022.

Shortly after 10:30pm, heavy rain was occurring in Cudal when Mr Greg Wiltshire attended a house on Main Street that was affected by flooding. He met up with a member of the Cudal Rural Fire Service. They tried to sandbag the house, but the heavy rain and flow of water prevented any progress.

The Rural Fire Service member heard a roar of water coming down the creek towards the town and saw that a number of low-lying houses would be affected by flooding. They went to Merga Street on a Rural Fire Service truck to reports of someone trapped in a house by flooding. They were unable to progress down Merga Street due to the floodwaters.

Mr Wiltshire went back home to get his tractor, and went an alternate route to reach the house, while the Rural Fire Service member went in his truck. They travelled through 1.5 metre floodwaters to rescue the man and evacuate the rest of Merga Street.

Mr Wiltshire then drove to Flood Street and took a woman from her flooded house to an evacuation centre.

They travelled to Short Street and Creek Street and doorknocked the streets on foot to evacuate the residents from the floodwaters. They were unable to communicate with each other due to the heavy rain.

While on Short Street, Mr Wiltshire was washed off his tractor by a wall of water. He climbed over a fence and ran to a man's house, then walked the man out of his house and flagged down the Rural Fire Service member in his truck and loaded the man in.

By 2:45am the group had evacuated the houses at flood risk. Mr Wiltshire continued to check on houses that were under threat to see if the residents' needed assistance.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Daryl Christopher Wright

Mr Daryl Wright is commended for brave conduct for his actions assisting flood affected residents in Cudal, New South Wales on 13 November 2022.

Shortly after 10:30pm, heavy rain was occurring in Cudal when Mr Daryl Wright, Senior Deputy Captain, Cudal Rural Fire Service, was alerted by a neighbour that a house was flooding on Main Street. Mr Wright went to the house and was met by another local. Together they tried to sandbag the house, but the heavy rain and flow of water prevented any progress.

Mr Wright heard a roar of water coming down the creek towards the town and saw that a number of low-lying houses would be affected by flooding. Mr Wright used the Rural Fire Service truck, while the other man went home and got his tractor, to go to Merga Street following reports of someone trapped in a house by flooding.

They travelled through 1.5 metre floodwaters to rescue the trapped man and evacuate the rest of Merga Street.

They travelled to Short Street and Creek Street and doorknocked the streets on foot to evacuate the residents from the floodwaters. They were unable to communicate with each other due to the heavy rain.

By 2:45am they had doorknocked and evacuated other houses in the area.