

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Nicholas Anthony Abussi, QLD

Mr Nicholas Abussi is commended for brave conduct for his actions treating a victim during the pursuit of an armed offender near Gatton, Queensland on 29 May 2017.

In the early afternoon, Mr Nicholas Abussi, Queensland Ambulance Service, was on duty when he was dispatched to an incident where a police officer had been shot.

On arrival at the location, Mr Abussi and his colleague saw other ambulance officers providing resuscitation to a wounded officer. On exiting their vehicle, they were instructed by police to take cover, as the location of the armed offender was unknown.

Mr Abussi and his colleague collected their gear, proceeded to the wounded officer and assisted with the resuscitation. Multiple gunshots could be heard from an unknown location as they were treating the wounded officer.

Mr Abussi, his colleague and the other ambulance officers then loaded the wounded officer onto a stretcher, into the rear of the ambulance and climbed into the back. From there, and covered by police officers, the ambulance retreated back to an area of safety further down the road and resuscitation continued on the wounded officer.

Sadly, the wounded police officer passed away shortly afterwards.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mrs Julie-Anne Allen

Mrs Julie-Anne Allen is commended for brave conduct for her actions during an assault at a youth justice centre in Malmsbury, Victoria on 3 October 2019.

At approximately 7:30pm, Mrs Julie-Anne Allen was on duty at a youth justice centre when she observed one of the inmates acting aggressively to another staff member.

The inmate picked up a plastic cricket bat from an equipment cage and, after heading inside, repeatedly attacked the staff member. The inmate was joined by others and together they dragged the bleeding staff member up the corridor.

Multiple staff members intervened, and one of the inmates turned and began a frenzied assault on one of them. Mrs Allen placed herself between this staff member and the inmate to shield him from further attacks.

Further staff arrived a short time later and overpowered the inmates.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Steven John Apthorp, NSW

Mr Steven Apthorp 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.

In the early afternoon, Mr Steven Apthorp was on the river rapids ride with his family at Dreamworld when the raft they were in became stuck on the conveyor belt, and another raft collided into it and upturned.

Mr Apthorp helped his family and other uninjured persons out of the raft to safety and told his family he was going back to help those in the upturned raft.

He jumped down onto the conveyor, entered the water and grabbed a woman who was floating face down in the water. He turned her over, checked her airways and gave her CPR.

Mr Apthorp assisted two others to get the woman out of the water.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

NT Police, Fire & Emergency Services
Senior Constable Luke Edward Bevan

Senior Constable Luke Bevan is commended for brave conduct for his actions apprehending a male armed with a kitchen knife in Alice Springs, Northern Territory on 17 July 2022.

At approximately 10.45am, Senior Constable Luke Bevan was off duty with his family at the Todd Street Markets when he saw a man chasing another male with a knife.

Senior Constable Bevan stepped away from his family and yelled at the offender to drop the weapon. As he approached, the offender attempted to strike him with the knife.

Senior Constable Bevan again yelled at the offender to drop the knife. He was joined by another off duty officer and together they tackled the offender to the ground. As they were falling, the offender swung the knife, grazing the right arm of the other officer.

Senior Constable Bevan and the other officer subdued the offender and held him on the ground until uniformed officers arrived and took him into custody.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Jarryd Anthony Boyd, NSW

Mr Jarryd Boyd is commended for brave conduct for his actions taken during the rescue of a person from a house fire in Campsie, New South Wales on 13 April 2017.

At approximately 6:40am, Mr Jarryd Boyd was driving when he saw smoke coming from a house. He was waved down by a woman who told him that her father was trapped inside the house and had been overcome by smoke.

Mr Boyd entered the front of the house to try and reach the man but was beaten back by the thick smoke. He gained entry to the house and went inside where he found the man unconscious and pulled him out.

Mr Boyd grabbed a garden hose and re-entered the building to try and stop the fire from spreading.

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

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Peter John Buxton, Ashmore QLD 4214

Mr Peter Buxton is commended for brave conduct for his actions assisting passengers who were trapped on a burning bus in Moorooka, Queensland on 28 October 2016.

Shortly before 9am, Mr Peter Buxton was driving his tow truck when he saw a bus stopped with thick black smoke coming out of the driver's window. Concerned the bus may explode, he used his truck to partially block the road, grabbed a fire extinguisher and ran over.

Arriving at the front door, Mr Buxton discharged his fire extinguisher at the base of the fire. As the smoke cleared, he could see there was a man in the driver's seat, until his view was obscured when the fire flared back up.

Mr Buxton tried to get closer to make his extinguisher more effective but was forced back by the fire. Flaming liquid was flowing out of the bus into the gutter towards Mr Buxton.

Mr Buxton was joined by another person who also used his extinguisher on the fire and tried to get closer to the driver a number of times but was forced back by the smoke.

Emergency services arrived shortly afterwards and took control of the scene. Unfortunately, the bus driver did not survive.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Mariano Frank Catena, Northcote VIC 3070

Mr Mariano Catena is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the rescue of a woman from a burning house in Northcote, Victoria on 16 September 2021.

At approximately 6:40pm, Mr Mariano Catena was driving when he saw a neighbour's house on fire. He stopped his vehicle and ran to the house, hammering on the front door and yelling out the name of a woman he knew to live there.

Mr Catena and another neighbour tried to kick and ram the front door open to no avail. Mr Catena used an object to break a pane of glass in the door and reached inside to open it. Both men entered the house, the rear of which was now fully alight.

Mr Catena searched the house for the woman and found her in a confused and disorientated state in the kitchen, refusing to leave without her dog. The smoke was very thick, and visibility was about one metre.

Mr Catena escorted the woman out of the house, which was now completely engulfed by fire. The neighbour had retrieved the dog from the house, reuniting it with the woman.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Mamadou Diallo, NSW

Mr Mamadou Diallo is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the attempted rescue of two males trapped in an ink vat at Auburn, New South Wales on 7 December 2017.

Shortly after 8:30am, Mr Mamadou Diallo was working in an ink factory when he heard screaming from another building.

Mr Diallo and another person ran towards the building and saw two men trapped in an ink vat by the agitator blades. As Mr Diallo climbed into the vat to help, the agitator blades unexpectedly turned and his leg was caught under the blades, breaking his leg.

After a short time, Mr Diallo was able to free his broken leg and he fell backwards out of the vat onto the factory floor.

Unfortunately, one of the men trapped in the ink vat passed away as a result of his injuries.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Adam Ross Flory, Southport QLD 4215

Mr Adam Flory is commended for brave conduct for his actions treating a victim during the pursuit of an armed offender near Gatton, Queensland on 29 May 2017.

In the early afternoon, Mr Adam Flory, Queensland Ambulance Service, was on duty when he was dispatched to an incident where a police officer had been shot.

On arrival to the location, Mr Flory was directed to park his vehicle and take cover as the location of the armed offender was unknown. Mr Flory saw police officers performing CPR on a wounded officer and could hear gunfire.

Mr Flory made his way to the wounded officer, joining other ambulance officers performing resuscitation. Multiple gunshots could be heard from an unknown location as they were treating the wounded officer.

Mr Flory and the other ambulance officers loaded the wounded officer onto a stretcher and into the rear of an ambulance. From there, and covered by police officers, the ambulance retreated back to an area of safety further down the road and resuscitation continued on the wounded officer.

Sadly, the wounded police officer passed away shortly afterwards.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Ms Claudia Louise Hamilton, Paddington NSW 2021

Ms Claudia Hamilton is commended for brave conduct for her actions during the rescue of multiple people from the surf at Blueys Beach, Foster Tuncurry, New South Wales on 13 January 2023.

At approximately 5pm, Ms Claudia Hamilton was near an unpatrolled beach on the NSW North Coast, when she noticed a number of children and adults caught in what she could see was a dangerous rip.

Ms Hamilton grabbed a small boogie board, ran down onto the beach and entered the surf, reaching a man and two children who she told to hold onto the board.

As Ms Hamilton was taking this group towards a nearby sandbank she saw another child in the water. She let go of the board, swam through the rough surf to the other child and brought her back to the board. With three children and one adult now on the board, Ms Hamilton kicked the board towards the sandbank as waves broke over them.

With the group safely on a nearby sandbank, Ms Hamilton swam back out to another man screaming for help. Upon reaching the man, she saw he had a young girl with him. Ms Hamilton put the young girl and the man on the board and swam the board towards the shore. With waves crashing over them and the rip dragging them further out to sea she tried to keep the people calm and get closer to the shore.

As she neared the shore, a person swam out with a rope and helped Ms Hamilton, the man and the young girl onto a sandbank and back to shore.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr David Wilfred Harrison, Plenty VIC 3090

Mr David Harrison is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the rescue of two men from a burning house in Plenty, Victoria on 13 June 2020.

At approximately 10:30pm, Mr David Harrison and another person were in their respective homes when a barking dog drew their attention to a house fire.

Mr Harrison and the other person entered the burning house and found their severely disabled neighbour asleep. The two men woke the man up and took him outside.

The other person ran back inside the burning house as the ceiling started to collapse around him and pulled another man out and took him across the road to safety.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mrs Madeline Claire Hili, NSW

Mrs Madeline Hili is commended for brave conduct for her actions in rescuing two people from a river near Windsor, New South Wales on 25 January 2021.

At around 4:30pm, Mrs Madeline Hili was on the shore of a river, known as Windsor Beach, when she heard two men and two children screaming for help.

Mrs Hili went into the river, located one child in distress and handed them to another person who took them to shore. She then found the other child and returned them to the riverbank.

Another person found one of the men and assisted him back to shore, however the second man had submerged underwater and could not be seen.

Mrs Hili returned to the water and swam to where the second man was last seen. She dived down on two occasions to locate the man. She was able to pull him to the surface and began swimming him back to shore, where she received assistance by a passer-by who pulled the man onto a paddleboard. Together they took the man back to shore and administered first aid whilst they waited for emergency services to arrive.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Shane David Hudson, Koo Wee Rup VIC 3981

Mr Shane Hudson is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the attempted rescue of three people from rough seas in Bushrangers Bay, Victoria on 13 January 2021.

Shortly after 3:30pm, Mr Shane Hudson was at a beach when he saw a large wave wash a group of people off the rocks into the water.

Mr Hudson entered the water and swam over to the group of three people and helped to keep them afloat. Another man paddled over to Mr Hudson on his surfboard and together they used the surfboard to keep everyone afloat.

After approximately 30 minutes, emergency services arrived on scene and pulled Mr Hudson and the other four people from the water.

Unfortunately, another person who was separated from the group passed away.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Joshua Craig Humphris, NT

Mr Joshua Humphris is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the rescue of students from a partially submerged bus during flooding at Batchelor, Northern Territory on 7 March 2023.

At approximately 8am, Mr Joshua Humphris was driving near the Little Finnis river when he saw the local school bus trapped in a fast-flowing creek in over 1.2 metres of water. As Mr Humphris got closer, he could see three boys waving out of the window of the bus, yelling for help.

Mr Humphris reversed his ute into the creek towards the bus. He climbed out of the driver's window and stood on the tray. The driver was shaking and clinging to the steering wheel. He yelled out to the boys in the bus to move towards the front.

The three boys climbed out of the bus onto its roof and Mr Humphris helped them from the bus into the tray of his ute.

Whilst Mr Humphris was encouraging the driver to get off, the bus slipped further down the causeway. Mr Humphris grabbed hold of a ladder rack and helped the driver open the bus door, before dragging him onto the ute.

Mr Humphris then drove away as the bus slipped further into the creek.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Western Australia Police Force
Sergeant Christopher Stuart Jacob

Sergeant Christopher Jacob is commended for brave conduct for his actions recovering a child's body from a river near Walpole, Western Australia on 17 October 2021.

On 10 October 2021, a boy fell from his kayak and could not be located. A large-scale search over a number of days discovered the boy's body was in an underwater crevice. Following lengthy deliberations, a plan was formulated to recover the body.

At approximately 10am on 17 October 2021, Sergeant Christopher Jacob, then Senior Constable, commenced a retrieval operation, with the support of a number of organisations.

Sergeant Jacob entered the water and climbed into the crevice, which was just wide enough to fit his body and found a small opening further down.

Sergeant Jacob returned to the surface and donned a modified breathing apparatus set. The modifications included removing certain safety features to reduce the size of the equipment to better enable him to navigate the confined space.

Sergeant Jacob recommenced his dive and descended through the crevice feet first. Over the course of approximately 10 minutes, he managed to move two metres further into the crevice and reached the area where the boy's body was believed to be located.

Sergeant Jacob couldn't find the boy's body so forced his way through an even smaller opening in the crevice and was able to locate him. He pulled the boy's body free and manoeuvred his way in complete darkness back to the surface.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Miss Ebony Helen Jones, Armadale WA 6112

Miss Ebony Jones is commended for brave conduct for her actions during an incident at Hilbert, Western Australia on 5 January 2023.

Shortly before 8:45pm, Miss Ebony Jones was at her mother's house when she received a phone call from her friend's child stating that her mother was sick. Miss Jones could hear yelling in the background.

On her way to the house, Miss Jones received a distressed phone call from her friend stating that her partner had hit her and asking Miss Jones to call the police.

Miss Jones arrived at the house and went inside to see her friend holding her baby, on the ground, being assaulting by her partner. Miss Jones yelled at the offender to stop and grabbed the baby from her friend's arms. She attempted to separate the two and told the offender to go outside.

Miss Jones located a second child in the house and took care of both until police arrived.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Lachlan John Marks, QLD

Mr Lachlan Marks is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the rescue of an unconscious surfer at Fingal Head, New South Wales on 9 September 2019.

Shortly before 9am, Mr Lachlan Marks was running along a beach when he saw a surfboard caught in a wave break approximately 40-50 metres offshore. He noticed a dark shadow beside the board and realised it was a person.

Mr Marks grabbed a nearby life ring and, in difficult surf conditions, swam out to the surfboard. He found an unconscious man attached to the surfboard by a leg rope. Mr Marks floated the man on his back and battled the waves and the current to get him and the surfboard back to the beach.

Mr Marks performed CPR on the man until emergency services arrived and took over. Unfortunately, the man died a few days later.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Crispin McCorry, Booval QLD 4304

Mr Crispin McCorry is commended for brave conduct for his actions assisting passengers who were trapped on a burning bus in Moorooka, Queensland on 28 October 2016.

Shortly before 9am, Mr Crispin McCorry was driving his green waste truck when he saw black smoke coming from the front of a parked bus. He pulled up across the road, grabbed a fire extinguisher and ran over to the bus.

Arriving at the front door, Mr McCorry saw another man who had used a fire extinguisher to try and put out the fire. Mr McCorry stepped onto the first step of the bus and used his extinguisher on the fire. There was a lot of smoke and visibility was poor and he had to step off the bus three to four times, before continuing to try and extinguish the fire. As the smoke cleared, he could see there was a man in the driver's seat, until his view was obscured when the fire flared back up.

The other man pointed to another fire that had started on the bus and Mr McCorry used the last of his extinguisher on the flames.

Emergency services arrived shortly afterwards and took control of the scene. Unfortunately, the bus driver did not survive.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Douglas McKenzie, QLD

Mr Douglas McKenzie is commended for brave conduct for his actions treating a victim during the pursuit of an armed offender near Gatton, Queensland on 29 May 2017.

In the early afternoon, Mr Douglas McKenzie, Queensland Ambulance Service, was on duty when he was dispatched to an incident where a police officer had been shot.

On arrival at the location, Mr McKenzie and his colleague saw other ambulance officers providing resuscitation to a wounded officer. On exiting their vehicle, they were instructed by police to take cover, as the location of the armed offender was unknown.

Mr McKenzie and his colleague collected their gear, proceeded to the wounded officer and assisted with the resuscitation. Multiple gunshots could be heard from an unknown location as they were treating the wounded officer.

Mr McKenzie, his colleague and the other ambulance officers then loaded the wounded officer onto a stretcher, into the rear of the ambulance and climbed into the back. From there, and covered by police officers, the ambulance retreated back to an area of safety further down the road and resuscitation continued on the wounded officer.

Sadly, the wounded police officer passed away shortly afterwards.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Yatin Mehta, Box Hill NSW 2765

Mr Yatin Mehta is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the attempted rescue of a man trapped in an ink vat at Auburn, New South Wales on 7 December 2017.

At approximately 8:30am, Mr Yatin Mehta was working in an ink factory when he heard a man calling for help from inside an ink vat. Mr Mehta called for assistance and climbed into the vat to help.

While assisting the man, Mr Mehta slipped, and his left leg became stuck under the agitator blade. Mr Mehta continued to support the man in the ink vat until emergency services arrived.

Unfortunately, the other man passed away as a result of his injuries.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

NT Police, Fire & Emergency Services
Senior Sergeant Michael John Milde

Senior Sergeant Michael Milde is commended for brave conduct for his actions apprehending a male armed with a kitchen knife in Alice Springs, Northern Territory on 17 July 2022.

At approximately 10.45am, Senior Constable Michael Milde was off duty with his family at the Todd Street Markets. He heard a commotion and saw an off duty police officer yelling at a man to drop a knife.

Senior Sergeant Milde shoulder charged the offender and together the officers tackled him to the ground. As they were falling, the offender swung the knife at Senior Sergeant Milde, grazing his right arm.

Senior Sergeant Milde and the other officer subdued the offender and held him on the ground until uniformed officers arrived and took him into custody.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Michael Ettie Misi, Earlville QLD 4870

Mr Michael Misi is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the rescue of a young girl from flood waters near Woree, Queensland on 17 February 2023

At approximately 4pm, Mr Michael Misi was walking home from school when he heard a group of children calling for help near a bridge.

Mr Misi went to the bridge and saw a young girl trapped neck deep in a fast flowing, flooded creek.

Mr Misi entered the water and grabbed the girl as she was starting to slip under. He dug his feet into the rocks and mud to avoid being swept away, injuring his ankle and back in the process.

Mr Misi was able to get the girl and himself to safety on rocks, until they were assisted by emergency services who arrived shortly afterwards.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Ms Maria Frances Mourilyan, QLD

Ms Maria Mourilyan is commended for brave conduct for her actions treating a victim during the pursuit of an armed offender near Gatton, Queensland on 29 May 2017.

In the early afternoon, Ms Maria Mourilyan, Queensland Ambulance Service, was on duty when she was dispatched to an incident where a police officer had been shot.

On arrival at the location, Ms Mourilyan and her colleague were directed to park their vehicle and take cover as the location of the armed offender was unknown. Ms Mourilyan saw police officers performing CPR on a wounded officer and could hear gunfire.

Ms Mourilyan and her colleague crawled to the wounded officer and took over first aid. She realised they needed further equipment, and her colleague made a dash to retrieve it from the ambulance. She obtained the equipment and carried it back, and Ms Mourilyan and her colleague commenced further Advanced Life Support resuscitation.

Additional back up arrived who assisted in the treatment of the wounded officer. Multiple gunshots could be heard from an unknown location as they were treating the wounded officer.

Ms Mourilyan, her colleague and other ambulance officers loaded the wounded officer onto a stretcher, into the rear of the ambulance and climbed into the back. From there, and covered by police officers, the ambulance retreated back to an area of safety further down the road where resuscitation treatment continued on the wounded officer.

Sadly, the wounded police officer passed away shortly afterwards.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Aguek Nyok, QLD

Mr Ayuek Nyok is commended for brave conduct for his actions assisting passengers who were trapped on a burning bus in Moorooka, Queensland on 28 October 2016.

Shortly before 9am, Mr Aguek Nyok was walking on a footpath when he saw a man run from a bus with his shorts on fire.

Mr Nyok ran to the bus and saw people at the rear door and windows of the bus screaming for help. They were unable to escape as the front of the bus was alight and rapidly filling with smoke. He tried to open the rear door with his hands and ended up kicking in the door.

Mr Nyok held the door open, helping the people get out. Smoke was also pouring out the rear door and there was a horrid burning rubber smell. He closed the rear door and went to the front door to assist the other men who were attempting to fight the fire.

Emergency services arrived shortly afterwards and took control of the scene. Unfortunately, the bus driver did not survive.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mrs Lay Jane Ong, QLD

Mrs Lay Ong is commended for brave conduct for her actions treating a victim during the pursuit of an armed offender near Gatton, Queensland on 29 May 2017.

In the early afternoon, Mrs Lay Ong, Queensland Ambulance Service, was on duty when she was dispatched to an incident where a police officer had been shot.

On arrival at the location, Ms Ong and her colleague were directed to park their vehicle and take cover as the location of the armed offender was unknown. Ms Ong saw police officers performing CPR on a wounded officer and could hear gunfire.

Mrs Ong and her colleague crawled to the wounded officer and took over first aid. Ms Ong realised they needed further equipment from the ambulance. As she made a dash to the ambulance to get the equipment, she was stopped by a female police officer telling her not to proceed any further as it was too dangerous. Explaining the reason for the dash, Ms Ong continued to the ambulance while the officer provided limited cover. She obtained the equipment and dragged it back to her colleague and the injured police officer where they commenced further Advanced Life Support resuscitation.

Additional back up arrived who assisted in the treatment of the wounded officer. Multiple gunshots could be heard from an unknown location as they were treating the wounded officer.

Ms Ong, her colleague and other ambulance officers loaded the wounded officer onto a stretcher, into the rear of the ambulance and climbed into the back. From there, and covered by police officers, the ambulance retreated back to an area of safety further down the road and resuscitation continued on the wounded officer.

Sadly, the wounded police officer passed away shortly afterwards.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Christopher David Perrott, VIC

Mr Christopher Perrott is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the attempted rescue of three people from rough seas in Bushrangers Bay, Victoria on 13 January 2021.

Shortly after 3:30pm, Mr Christopher Perrott, an off-duty lifeguard, had been driving when he heard over the radio reports that a group of people had been washed off rocks at a nearby beach.

Mr Perrott made his way to the beach, grabbed a surfboard and flippers, and entered the water. He paddled over to another man who was helping keep the group of three afloat. Together, Mr Perrott and the other man used the surfboard to keep everyone afloat.

After approximately 30 minutes, emergency services arrived on scene and pulled Mr Perrott and the other four people from the water.

Unfortunately, another person who was separated from the group passed away.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Craig Scott Reynolds

Mr Craig Reynolds is commended for brave conduct for his actions assisting a woman in Wellard, Western Australia on 7 June 2021.

At approximately 12:30am, police were called to reports of a woman on a bridge over the Kwinana Freeway. The woman had climbed over the railing of the bridge and was walking along the narrow ledge above the freeway.

One of the officers negotiated with the woman, who threatened to jump on several occasions. After approximately one hour she sat down on the ledge, held onto the vertical bars of the railing and lowered her legs off the ledge. The woman slipped and hung off the bars unsupported.

Another officer rushed forward, grabbed the woman by the wrist and called for help.

At this time Mr Craig Reynolds, then Sergeant, the police negotiator and other officers rushed over and held the woman by her wrists for approximately four minutes while they attempted to pull her back up.

With the group unable to pull her to safety, Mr Reynolds climbed over the railing onto the narrow ledge. He took hold of the woman's shirt and pulled her up enough for her to get her knees back onto the ledge.

Mr Reynolds and the other officers pulled the woman back over the railing and she was transported to hospital.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Anthony William Roach, Baan Baa NSW 2390

Mr Anthony Roach is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the rescue of person from a house fire in Baan Baa, New South Wales on 10 July 2021.

Shortly after 8:20pm, Mr Anthony Roach was at home when he saw that his neighbour's house was on fire.

Mr Roach ran to the property and saw the house was significantly alight.

When emergency services arrived, Mr Roach told one of the firefighters that he believed the neighbour was still inside.

Mr Roach and the firefighter entered the rear of the burning building and found an unconscious man on the floor inside the house and dragged him outside, where they administered first aid. Unfortunately, the man passed away.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Barney Robson, Canowindra NSW 2804

Mr Barney Robson is commended for brave conduct for his actions rescuing a person from a vehicle fire in Cowra, New South Wales on 30 May 2021.

At approximately 10:30am, Mr Barney Robson was driving when he came across a car accident.

Mr Robson stopped his vehicle and ran over to assist, finding the driver unconscious in the vehicle with smoke emanating from the engine bay. Mr Robson tried to open the car doors, but they were jammed so he banged on the window. The banging woke the driver up, who was able to undo her seatbelt and open the passenger door from the inside.

As Mr Robson was administering first aid, another passer-by told him the car was about to blow up and that he should leave the driver behind as the fire was increasing. Mr Robson grabbed the driver under the arms and pulled her from the vehicle as flames engulfed the cabin.

Mr Robson, assisted by other passers-by, helped the driver away from the vehicle which then exploded.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Alexander David Stewart, Rocklea QLD 4106

Mr Alexander Stewart 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 Alexander Stewart 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.

Mr Stewart went to the vehicle and attempted to remove an elderly couple who were trapped inside. Others, including two police officers, arrived to assist shortly after.

The trapped elderly woman was freed by one of the officers and a civilian. Mr Stewart joined one of the officers and the civilian to remove an elderly man who was trapped by his seatbelt and leg from the overturned vehicle which was by now burning fiercely.

The man was freed from the vehicle and removed to safety. Seconds later the vehicle was completely engulfed by fire.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Dean Tustin, Plenty VIC 3090

Mr Dean Tustin is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the rescue of two men from a burning house in Plenty, Victoria on 13 June 2020.

At approximately 10:30pm, Mr Dean Tustin and another person were in their respective homes when a barking dog drew their attention to a house fire.

Mr Tustin and the other person entered the burning house and found their severely disabled neighbour asleep. The two men woke the man up and took him outside.

Mr Tustin ran back inside the burning house as the ceiling started to collapse around him and pulled another man out and took him across the road to safety.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mrs Lisa Mary Whitbourn, NSW

Mrs Lisa Whitbourn is commended for brave conduct for her actions during the rescue of a man in Merewether, New South Wales on 25 December 2022.

Shortly before 6pm, Mrs Lisa Whitbourn was at a beach with her family when she saw three young men being dragged out in a strong rip, with one further out than the others. The two closer men were rescued by bystanders and returned to shore.

Mrs Whitbourn ran into the water and swam to the man who was being carried out into deep water. When she reached the man, he was completely underwater.

Mrs Whitbourn dove down to get him back to the surface. She tried to get the man to float on his back, but he panicked and pushed her under the water. Ms Whitbourn pushed away, and tried to swim back a number of times, but on each occasion a wave would hit, causing the man to panic and attempt to grab onto her.

Mrs Whitbourn was eventually able to get the man to float on his back while she supported him. After a short while, other people arrived with boogie boards to help.

Mrs Whitbourn and the other people got the man onto the boogie board and took him back to shore.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Jamieson Woods, QLD

Mr Jamieson Woods is commended for brave conduct for his actions treating a victim during the pursuit of an armed offender near Gatton, Queensland on 29 May 2017.

In the early afternoon, Mr Jamieson Woods, Queensland Ambulance Service, was on duty when he was dispatched as the initial Forward Commander to an incident where a police officer had been shot.

On arrival to the location, Mr Woods and his colleagues were directed to park his vehicle and take cover as the location of the armed offender was unknown. Mr Woods saw police officers performing CPR on a wounded officer and could hear gunfire.

Mr Woods and his colleagues proceeded to a wounded officer and determined a defibrillator was required. Mr Woods returned to his ambulance whilst being provided cover from police officers to retrieve the necessary equipment and rejoined the others to continue treatment. Multiple gunshots could be heard from an unknown location as they were treating the wounded officer.

Mr Woods and other ambulance officers loaded the wounded officer onto a stretcher, into the rear of an ambulance and climbed into the back. From there, and covered by police officers, the ambulance retreated back to an area of safety further down the road and resuscitation continued on the wounded officer.

Sadly, the wounded police officer passed away shortly afterwards.