

Group Bravery Citation

An additional recipient is added to the Group Bravery Citation gazetted on 27 March 2024.

One member added, to total 29 members of the Tactical Operations Unit, Negotiation Unit, Rescue and Bomb Disposal, Dog Unit and Highway Patrol, New South Wales Police Force

The recipients are recognised with the award of the Group Bravery Citation for their actions during a hostage siege at a cafe in Sydney, New South Wales on 15-16 December 2014.

On the morning of 15 December 2014, an armed gunman held numerous staff members and customers hostage at the Lindt Café on Martin Place in Sydney, New South Wales. The gunman claimed to be a member of Islamic State and had a vest and backpack with wires protruding.

Officers of the New South Wales Police Force Tactical Operations Units (TOU) Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, Delta, and Sierra teams arrived on scene. Over the ensuing 16 hours they observed proceedings within the café and remained on standby to initiate an emergency action plan.

At approximately 2am the following morning, one of the hostages was ordered onto his knees and fatally shot by the gunman.

At 2:13am, Officers from TOU Alpha stormed the café from the main entrance, while TOUs Charlie and Delta entered shortly after via the foyer, initiating numerous sound and flash device.

The Officers were fired upon. Two Officers from Alpha team returned fire, killing the terrorist.

After the terrorist was shot, an evacuation effort began. Officers from the TOU teams found remaining hostages and escorted them out of the café, with assistance from officers of TOUs Bravo and Sierra teams.

New South Wales Ambulance Special Operations Paramedics entered the café after the terrorist had been killed and treated injured hostages and attempted in vain to revive the café manager and another civilian who was tragically hit by fragments during the shooting.

After all remaining hostages were evacuated, bomb clearance officers entered the café and used a robot to investigate the area for explosives. During this process, the terrorist's backpack was opened and emptied, and the café was deemed safe.

Group Bravery Citation

Mr Pieter Johannes De Bruyn, Longford TAS 7301

Mr Steven James De Bruyn, TAS

Mr Jak Christopher Oxford, TAS

The recipients are recognised with the award of the Group Bravery Citation for their actions rescuing people from rough seas near St Helens, Tasmania on 29 December 2014.

In the morning, a man and his two crew were checking cray pots when they heard a radio distress call that a boat had capsized in rough waters on St Helen's barway, with an older man and three boys in the water.

The man drove the boat through dangerous waves, chose a moment to enter the barway, and recovered the boys from the water. The boys told the man that their father was in the water, so the man drove the boat further into the bay to continue searching.

Shortly after, a large wave hit the boat and washed two of the recovered boys back into the water. The man and his crew again recovered the boys from the water. The man made the decision to return to shore due to the treacherous conditions.

Unfortunately, the older man's body was later recovered from the water.

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Mr Steven John Apthorp, NSW

The recipients are recognised with the award of the Group Bravery Citation for their 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, two rafts collided on the Thunder River Rapids Ride at Dreamworld, upturning one of the rafts and throwing passengers into the water and conveyor belt below.

Bystanders waiting in line for the ride, and passengers already on board, rushed to assist, entered the water and attempted to revive those thrown from the raft. Children were removed from the immediate area and taken to safety.

Four people tragically died as a result of the incident.

Group Bravery Citation

Mr Adrian Kors, Austinmer NSW 2515

Mr William Gerard Kors, NSW

Mr Adam Turner, Austinmer NSW 2515

The recipients are recognised with the award of the Group Bravery Citation for their actions rescuing seven people in dangerous surf conditions near Wollongong, New South Wales on 18 January 2021.

At approximately 7pm, seven people were standing on a sandbank at Austinmer Beach when a large set of waves came into the shore and washed the people into a strong rip, carrying them out to sea.

Two men at the beach saw this and ran towards the water to help, swimming out to the people in the rip. The first man reached the two closest people and assisted them out of the rip and back to shore.

The second man, wearing fins, swam further out to a person struggling near a rock platform. He pushed the person up onto the rock platform and swam further out to two girls. As the second man got closer, he saw that the girls were trying to use a bodyboard to stay afloat. When he reached the two girls, they tried to clamber on top of him, pushing him under the water.

The second man saw a large wave approaching, which he thought would wash the girls against the rocks. He pushed the two girls under the wave while trying to hold onto the bodyboard. The two girls reappeared on the surface, with the second man temporarily losing grip on the bodyboard.

A third man who was on the beach had phoned emergency services. He then grabbed a surfboard, ran across the rock ledge and jumped into the water near the second man. He took one of the girls onto the surfboard and together with the second man, kicked as hard as they could to get away from the rocks.

Clear of the rocks, the men put the girls on to the boards and together they swam clear of the rip and returned to shore.