

Bravery Medal (BM)

Senior Constable Karyn Louise Hart

Queensland Police Service

Senior Constable Karyn Hart displayed considerable bravery by her actions protecting a woman during a violent attack in Dakabin, Queensland on 27 August 2020.

At approximately 12:10am, off duty Senior Constable Karyn Hart was at her home when she was alerted to a disturbance across the road. She opened her front door and heard a woman screaming. She called emergency services and went across the road where a woman came out of her residence with a gash to her thigh and blood down her leg. Senior Constable Hart ushered the woman back to her house.

Senior Constable Hart saw the offender approaching from the residence across the road. He was armed with two knives and shouting threats. She stood in front of the woman to protect her as others helped the female into the house and tended to her wounds.

Senior Constable Hart retreated inside her house and locked the security screen door as the offender walked towards the house, yelling and swinging a knife in each hand. She shouted at the offender to leave but he continued and repeatedly struck the door with the knives. After cutting at the screen several times he left the front door and disappeared around the corner.

Senior Constable Hart exited her house to keep an eye on the offender and observed him still in her front yard. He then threw two knives at her and then ran towards her. Senior Constable Hart again retreated inside her house. The male rammed the door with a wheelie bin and attempted to open the door several times before returning to his residence.

Senior Constable Hart again exited her house to wait for police and keep watch on the offender. Police arrived and the male again armed himself with a knife and threatened them. The officers called on the male to drop the knife before he was fatally shot. Senior Constable Hart rushed to assist officers who were providing first aid, until ambulance officers arrived.

Bravery Medal (BM)

Miss Aaliah Paige Johnson

Miss Aaliah Johnson displayed considerable bravery by her actions after an incident in Albanvale, Victoria on 14 March 2022.

At approximately 5:20pm, Miss Aaliah Johnson was at her home with her siblings when their stepfather poured petrol in the lounge room, kitchen, and on their mother. He then set fire to the house and the mother.

Miss Aaliah Johnson assisted her mother to the shower. She put the fire out and poured cold water on her mother before helping her to the front lawn.

Emergency services arrived shortly afterwards. Tragically, the mother died.

Bravery Medal (BM)

Miss Tyra Jayde Johnson

Miss Tyra Johnson displayed considerable bravery by her actions after an incident in Albanvale, Victoria on 14 March 2022.

At approximately 5:20pm, Miss Tyra Johnson was at her home with her siblings when their stepfather poured petrol in the lounge room, kitchen, and on their mother. He then set fire to the house and the mother.

Miss Johnson, in the kitchen at the time, was caught in the flames and suffered severe burns to her legs and lower torso. She fled the house through the rear door and used water to extinguish the flames on her.

She then ran around the side of the house to the outside of her bedroom, forced open a window and re-entered the burning house and retrieved her two-year-old stepbrother. She handed her stepbrother over a fence to another sibling before climbing over the fence herself.

Emergency services arrived shortly afterwards. Tragically, the mother died.

Bravery Medal (BM)

The late Ms Lisa Marie Mandeltort VIC

The late Ms Lisa Mandeltort displayed considerable bravery by her actions attempting to rescue a child from a rip at Venus Bay, Victoria on 13 January 2021.

At 6:30pm, Ms Lisa Mandeltort was at the beach when she noticed two children in distress in the water, which had big and choppy waves and a strong rip moving into the breakers. Visibility was low due to the setting sun reflecting off the water.

One child got themselves back to shore, but the other continued to struggle. Another onlooker cried out for a strong swimmer, and Ms Mandeltort went straight into the water to assist. She was caught in the rip and swept past the breakers and out of sight of onlookers.

She was located unresponsive approximately ten minutes later, where she was returned to shallow water. Sadly, Ms Mandeltort could not be revived.

Bravery Medal (BM)

Miss Chantelle Sims VIC

Miss Chantelle Sims displayed considerable bravery by her actions after an incident in Albanvale, Victoria on 14 March 2022.

At approximately 5:20pm, Miss Chantelle Sims was at her home with her siblings when their stepfather poured petrol in the lounge room, kitchen, and on their mother. He then set fire to the house and the mother.

Miss Sims was adjacent to the kitchen when the fire broke out. She went to run outside through the lounge room when she observed her baby half-brother on the couch. She stopped, picked him up and carried him outside.

Emergency services arrived shortly afterwards. Tragically, the mother died.

Bravery Medal (BM)

Mr Joshua William Smith

Mr Joshua Smith displayed considerable bravery by his actions rescuing two children who were being stabbed in Wingfield, South Australia on 15 August 2022.

At approximately 11:30pm, Mr Joshua Smith was driving south on the North South Motorway when he observed a car parked on shoulder of the road with the passenger-side door open.

He slowed his vehicle and saw a woman standing on the road next to the car bending over two children on the ground. He exited his vehicle to check on them and noticed that both children had blood on their heads and arms, and the woman attacking them with a knife.

He positioned himself between the woman and the children and engaged her verbally to de-escalate the situation.

She raised the knife and threatened to stab him. He wrestled her to the ground and disarmed her, but she continued to resist and kick out to strike the children. Mr Smith moved her away and restrained her to the ground again.

Mr Smith flagged down passing motorists, who checked on the children and called emergency services. He directed first aid instructions to those that assisted the children and continued to physically restrain the woman until police arrived.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Brevet Sergeant Gregory John Blieden
South Australia Police

Brevet Sergeant Gregory Blieden is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the rescue of a child from a burning building in Paralowie, South Australia on 18 May 2019.

At 12:30am, Brevet Sergeant Gregory Blieden, then Senior Constable First Class, attended a house fire with other officers and was advised by a neighbour that a woman and her five-year-old son were still inside.

As the fire was blocking access to the front entrance, Brevet Sergeant Blieden and two other officers gained access to the rear of the property where they heard the cries of the child. They entered the residence but were forced to withdraw due to the heat and smoke.

Brevet Sergeant Blieden and another officer looked for an alternate entry and smashed a window to gain access. They entered on their hands and knees and attempted to locate the woman and child.

The structure of the house started deteriorating and parts of the ceiling and structure collapsed. Brevet Sergeant Blieden and the other officer were forced to withdraw and exit, as the other half of the house was blocked by debris. Due to smoke inhalation and a laceration to his arm, Brevet Sergeant Blieden was assisted by the other officer to exit.

Metropolitan Fire Service arrived, and Brevet Sergeant Blieden provided them with information which assisted their search. The five-year-old child was located and removed from the house, but sadly the woman could not be saved.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Detective Sergeant Bradley Dann Galpin

South Australia Police

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Metropolitan Fire Service arrived. The five-year-old child was located and removed from the house, but, sadly, the woman could not be saved.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Connor William Herwig Queens Park WA 6701

Mr Connor Herwig is commended for brave conduct for his actions during a stabbing incident in South Hedland, Western Australia on 1 May 2020.

At approximately 9:50am, Mr Connor Herwig was in the driver's seat of his vehicle with his door open in a McDonald's carpark when a man approached him and stabbed him in the neck.

Mr Herwig reclined over the centre consol and kicked out through the open door. The offender continued to stab at him and cut his ankle.

The offender abandoned his attack and approached a couple outside the McDonald's restaurant. Mr Herwig shouted out to the couple, which caused the offender to turn back and run at him. Mr Herwig threw his coffee at the offender, who pursued him for a moment before suddenly changing course, running towards a nearby shopping centre.

The offender's attack continued at various locations until he was fatally shot by police.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr John Stephen Kenny NSW

Mr John Kenny is commended for brave conduct for his actions standing up to an aggressive male threatening students on a bus in North Sydney, New South Wales on 20 November 2019.

At approximately 6:10pm, Mr John Kenny was travelling on a bus with other school students, including his 13-year-old brother, when the bus was involved in a minor collision.

The driver of the car exited his vehicle and directed expletives toward the bus driver, who exited the bus to de-escalate the situation. One of the students yelled out to the offender, who then stormed onto the bus. He paced up and down, yelling at the students and aggressively searching for who yelled out at him.

Mr John Kenny stood up and tried to reason with the offender. The offender punched Mr Kenny in the face, who fell backwards and hit his head on the roof and window, receiving damage to his teeth and eye. The offender continued to yell at Mr Kenny and his brother who was sitting next to him, before eventually leaving the bus.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Martin Colin Lloyd MP Creek QLD 4606

Mr Martin Lloyd is commended for brave conduct for his actions rescuing a woman from floodwater in MP Creek, Queensland on 6 March 2022.

At approximately 5:00pm, Mr Martin Lloyd and his wife had driven to a flood crossing to check on the water level near their property when they noticed their friend who they had just lunched with, clinging to a tree about 20 metres downstream. The water was 1.6 metres, fast flowing and loud.

Mr Lloyd rushed back to his property and sourced some rope and returned to the creek crossing with his son for assistance, while his wife kept an eye on the woman and searched the area for the woman's car and husband.

When Mr Lloyd returned, his wife returned to their property to phone triple 0.

Mr Lloyd tied one end of the rope to a tree and the other end around his waist. He entered the water and swam to the woman, pulling himself through bushes he was caught in on the way. He untied the rope from his waist and tied it onto the tree and then guided the woman back along the rope through the fast-flowing water.

Mr Lloyd and his son walked along the banks to find the car and the woman's husband but could not locate either. Emergency services arrived and took over.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr David Francis Lopez Glenmore Park NSW 2745

Mr David Lopez is commended for brave conduct for his actions intercepting a person from oncoming vehicles on a motorway near Jamisontown, New South Wales on 23 March 2020.

At approximately 5:30pm, Mrs Kirrilly Lopez was driving with her husband Mr David Lopez on the M4 Western Motorway, when they witnessed a distressed person exit a vehicle that was parked on the shoulder.

Mr and Mrs Lopez exited the car and went over to the female to offer assistance. Despite the language barrier they attempted to communicate with her, however she pushed past them and ran onto the motorway in the path of oncoming vehicles. Mr and Mrs Lopez took actions to assist the female, which included running onto the motorway and removing the female to the side of road as oncoming cars beeped their horns and swerved.

She resisted and broke free and re-entered the motorway. Again, Mr and Mrs Lopez removed the female to safety. Another member of the public stopped to assist and was successful in communicating with her and calmed her down.

A police officer who was travelling on the motorway and saw the situation stopped and took control of the incident.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mrs Kirrilly Petah Lopez Glenmore Park NSW 2745

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Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Rydell Murray QLD

Mr Rydell Murray is commended for brave conduct for his actions during a house fire in Acacia Ridge, Queensland on 4 June 2020.

At approximately at 9:30pm, Mr Rydell Murray was at his home when he heard his neighbour's smoke alarms sounding. He banged on the window of his other neighbour, alerting him that the neighbour's house was on fire.

Mr Murray and the other neighbour ran over to the house. The other neighbour entered the house and assisted a female occupant out of the house. Mr Murray then entered the house and removed the female who had gone back into the house.

The other neighbour went back in and found an incapacitated male in the bedroom on the burning bed and tried to get him out. Mr Murray returned with a bucket of water to pour onto the burning bed, but to little effect. Mr Murray ran out of the house for some air, then returned to the bedroom to assist the other neighbour, however the flames and heat were too intense, and they exited the burning residence.

Both men then attempted to fight the fire through the window. Mr Murray and the other neighbour tried to control the fire with the hose and discharged two fire extinguishers.

A short time later, emergency services arrived. Mr Murray suffered smoke inhalation and chest pains as a result of his actions.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Michael David Napper Findon SA 5023

Mr Michael Napper is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the retrieval of a father and daughter from rough seas at Grange Beach, South Australia on 20 January 2022.

In the morning, Mr Michael Napper noticed a young girl on an inflatable ring being blown out to sea, and her father heading out to rescue her.

The girl's father reached his daughter approximately 100 metres from the shore. Mr Napper witnessed the little girl jump from the ring into her father's arms. Due to the depth of the water the father was struggling to stay afloat.

Mr Napper swam out with his granddaughter's skim board. When he reached them, the young girl was crying as her father was struggling to hold her above the water.

Mr Napper put the girl onto the skim board and turned the unconscious father onto his back. Using one arm to steer the girl on the board with the lead and hold the father afloat, he swam back to shore where he was assisted by other bystanders. Sadly, the father was unable to be resuscitated.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Stephen John Parker Surrey Hills VIC 3127

Mr Stephen Parker is commended for brave conduct for his actions in rescuing a man from a burning electric vehicle in Barramunga, Victoria on 13 June 2022.

Shortly after 2pm, Mr Stephen Parker was driving when he came across two people on the side of the road who told him they had been in a car accident and the other car had gone down a steep embankment.

Mr Parker ran down the embankment and found the car against a tree with the cabin full of smoke, and a man trapped inside.

When none of the car doors would open, Mr Parker and another passer-by pulled the trapped driver through the rear window of the car, which was by now on fire.

Mr Parker, assisted by other passers-by, carried the man back up the embankment. As they were carrying the man, the car exploded and was engulfed by fire.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr William Harry Reissenweber Mount Barker SA 5251

Mr William Reissenweber is commended for brave conduct for his actions entering a burning car to attempt to free a trapped driver in Gawler Belt, South Australia on 15 August 2019.

At approximately 11:00am, Mr William Reissenweber and his colleague were on duty as paramedics in Gawler Belt, South Australia when they saw a collision near the Sturt Highway.

Mr Reissenweber observed the front passenger door open, the right rear on fire, and other people at the scene using fire extinguishers. The flames continued to spread throughout the vehicle, so Mr Reissenweber's colleague took the fire extinguisher from the ambulance and discharged it.

Mr Reissenweber witnessed people pointing to the passenger front door, so he ran to check if it was still occupied. He saw the driver was wearing his seat belt, slumped to the left in his seat and appeared unconscious. The internal headliner of the car was on fire.

Mr Reissenweber assisted a truck driver who was already in the vehicle attempting to free the driver. They grabbed the driver's left arm and pulled, but the driver was caught by the seatbelt clasp. The fuel tank then exploded and shattered some of the windows. Mr Reissenweber tried to re-enter the vehicle, but due to the deteriorating state of the vehicle and the heat and flames, he was unable to continue his rescue efforts.

The car engulfed in flames and emergency service arrived. Sadly, the driver of the burning vehicle was unable to be saved.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Dean Rossit NSW

Mr Dean Rossit is commended for brave conduct for his actions rescuing two swimmers in Austinmer, New South Wales on 11 April 2023.

At approximately 1:50pm, Mr Dean Rossit was driving near Little Austinmer Beach when he saw a man and child in the water signalling for help.

Mr Rossit pulled over and ran to the beach. He swam 70-100 metres to the two struggling swimmers. He tried to save both swimmers at first but was unable to, so he focused his attention on the child. He swam with the child across the rip, and towards shore, to where a bystander with a surfboard assisted them to safely.

Mr Rossit noticed the now semi-conscious swimmer was close to rocks. Mr Rossit swam out and then climbed onto the rocks that extended into the surf. During a break in the waves, he stepped down to a ledge, reached out and pulled the victim onto the rocks.

Bystanders ran out onto the rocks to assist Mr Rossit carry the swimmer to the beach. Bystanders provided first aid, and emergency services soon arrived and took control of the scene.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Michael Paul Schmidt Acacia Ridge QLD 4110

Mr Michael Schmidt is commended for brave conduct for his actions during a house fire in Acacia Ridge, Queensland on 4 June 2020.

At approximately 9:30pm, Mr Michael Schmidt was at his home when his neighbour banged on his window alerting him of a fire at another neighbour's house.

Mr Schmidt jumped out of bed and ran over to the house with the other neighbour and saw the bedroom was on fire. He entered the house through the front door and encountered a female resident near the bedroom. He assisted her out of the house. The other neighbour entered the house and removed the female resident who had gone back into the house.

Mr Schmidt went back in and found an incapacitated male in the bedroom on the burning bed and tried to get him out. The other neighbour returned with a bucket of water to pour the onto the burning bed, but to little effect. He ran out of the house for some air, then returned to the bedroom to assist Mr Schmidt, however the flames and heat were too intense.

Mr Schmidt told the other neighbour to get out, and they exited the burning residence. Both men then attempted to fight the fire through the window. Mr Schmidt used a garden hose, however the water pressure was low, so he called for someone to get his fire extinguisher from his house. Mr Schmidt and the other neighbour tried to control the fire with the hose and discharged two fire extinguishers.

A short time later, emergency services arrived. Mr Schmidt sustained burns to his arms and face during his actions.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Gethyn Timothy Singleton Beulah Park SA 5067

Mr Gethyn Singleton is commended for brave conduct for his actions rescuing a man from dangerous waters at Waitpinga Beach, South Australia on 15 January 2019.

At approximately 12:30pm, Mr Gethyn Singleton was surfing at Waitpinga Beach when he saw a man struggling to stay afloat.

Mr Singleton paddled to the man, who was approximately 800 metres offshore when he reached him. The man spoke very little english and was unable to understand Mr Singleton's instructions as he tried to get him onto his surfboard. Due to the size of the swell, the surfboard capsized.

Mr Singleton, holding the surfboard with one arm, propelled the board with his legs and one arm towards shore.

Approximately 150 metres from shore, both were knocked off the surfboard by a wave. Mr Singleton signalled to the man to hold on to his feet while he paddled to shore. After about 40 minutes from commencement of the rescue, Mr Singleton brought the man to shore.

Mr Singleton realised another man was missing in the water, so he went back out to search for him until PolAir and Sea and Rescue arrived a short time later.