

Group Bravery Citation

The following recipient is added to the Group Bravery Citation gazetted on 31 March 2020.

Mr Robert Gordon Menzies

The recipients are recognised with the award of the Group Bravery citation for their actions during a prison riot at Long Bay Gaol in New South Wales.

On the evening of 23 October 1986, a prison riot broke out at the Metropolitan Remand Centre at Long Bay Gaol. Three prison officers were taken hostage by inmates armed with makeshift weapons and, despite attempts by the officers to negotiate with the prisoners, they were locked in a nearby cell. Seventy inmates then took control of a section of the Centre. Meanwhile 11 members of the Malabar Emergency Unit assault team moved in to free the prison officers. As they entered the Centre they were violently attacked by inmates with some members being badly injured. The team pushed through the chaotic fighting, freed the prison officers, removed them to safety, and then returned to regain control of the Centre.

Group Bravery Citation

The following recipients are added to the Group Bravery Citation gazetted on 19 March 2025.

Mr Luke O'Shaughnessy

Mr Paul Joseph O'Shaughnessy NSW

The recipients are recognised with the award of the Group Bravery Citation for their actions in intervening and apprehending a man armed with a knife in Sydney, NSW on 13 August 2019.

At approximately 2pm, a man was in Sydney CBD when he saw another man wearing a balaclava armed with a large knife attempting to stab passers-by. He grabbed a chair from a café and chased the offender down the street and confronted him with the chair. The offender jumped onto the bonnet of a car in the middle of an intersection.

The offender then came into view of firefighters who were near the scene. A firefighter stopped the fire truck, got out, and yelled at the offender multiple times to put the knife down. Other firefighters also got out of the truck, and one of them asked bystanders if anyone was hurt and another armed himself with a halligan tool. A bystander took a crowbar from the truck and pursued the offender.

Two other firefighters joined the pursuit of the offender. The offender yelled at them to kill him. The offender then ran up a street and the firefighters and civilians gave chase. A member of the public confronted the offender with a chair and gave chase. Another firefighter armed himself with an axe and sledgehammer and went up the street to find his colleagues.

Another member of the public also armed himself with a chair and chased the offender. Firefighters and members of the public continued to chase the offender as he ran through the city. The offender continued to yell at them to kill him and stated that he had a bomb.

Three bystanders also gave chase. A member of the public shoved the offender from behind, knocking him to the ground, and the knife out of his hand. Several people attempted to stop the offender, using objects including a chair and milk crate to pin down his head and shoulders. More bystanders approached the scene and assisted until police arrived.

Group Bravery Citation

Mr Wayne Anthony Maconachie Bayview Heights QLD 4868

Mr Robert Frank Petersen Bayview Heights QLD 4868

Mr Mark Robert Porton Bayview Heights QLD 4868

Mr Barry Richard Uhr Bayview Heights QLD 4868

Mr Teokatai Umaki QLD

The recipients are recognised with the award of the Group Bravery Citation for their actions rescuing a woman from a burning house in Bayview Heights, Queensland on 20 September 2022.

At approximately 5:00pm, a man was driving home when he noticed black smoke coming from a nearby residence. He parked and ran towards the home and saw his neighbour, who was walking past and had also noticed the smoke, already at the residence.

They looked around the house for an entry point and made their way to the back of the house where they removed the sliding door with force and entered. There was thick smoke with low visibility. Another neighbour heard screaming and calls for help. He looked over the fence and could see the house on fire and equipped himself with a garden hose. He made his way to the rear entrance and was joined another passerby who had also seen the smoke and came over to assist. They entered the house, and the man used the hose as they went inside.

The victim was seen lying on the floor, so she was pulled outside by those inside and onto the grass.

Thinking another person was still inside, some re-entered the home. Another neighbour also heard screaming and calls for help and went into the house to assist in searching for the additional person, but they were then advised the other person was not there.

Shortly after, emergency services arrived and took control of the scene.

Group Bravery Citation

Mr Martin Patrick Collins Carina Heights QLD 4152

Dr Trevor Hollingsworth QLD

Ms Anne Josephine Jones Ipswich QLD 4305

Ms Kim Leanne Shepherd TAS

The recipients are recognised with the award of the Group Bravery Citation for their actions restraining an armed offender at a hospital in Toowong, Queensland on 28 August 2016.

At approximately 6:20pm, hospital staff at Toowong Private Hospital were alerted to a duress alarm. Two nurses were on their break and ran 20-30 metres toward noise in the corridor and saw a male on the ground with a large deep laceration to his thigh, and a female offender standing over him with a knife.

The nurses restrained the offender and pinned her to the ground.

A hospital patient, who saw the initial attack and sounded the duress alarm, ran from his room and with the assistance of another staff member, pinned the offender's arm and they removed the knife. The staff member then placed the knife in a secure location.

The offender got free and ran back into a nearby room and retrieved another large knife. She returned and attacked the victim with the knife before the nurses and other staff members restrained her. They treated the victim until police arrived and took the offender into custody.

Group Bravery Citation

Mr Anthony Gerard Kelly Charlestown NSW 2290

Mr Christopher Kelly Whitebridge NSW 2290

The recipients are recognised with the award of the Group Bravery Citation for their actions retrieving people from dangerous surf at Newcastle Beach, New South Wales on 20 May 2023.

At approximately 1:00pm, a man was with his family when they heard screaming in the water. The surf swell was approximately 4-5 feet, and the beach was not patrolled by lifeguards at the time.

The man jumped into the water to assist a woman that was caught in a rip and brought her to the shore.

His son and another bystander saw a man floating face down in the water about 200 metres from shore, and they entered the water and commenced bringing him to shore. With the assistance of the man, they brought the unconscious swimmer to the rocky shoreline.

Another member of the public commenced resuscitation. Shortly after, police and paramedics arrived on the scene and assisted. Sadly, the unconscious man could not be saved and was pronounced dead at the scene.

Group Bravery Citation

Mr Donald Anthony Coombes

Mr David Robert Ribaux

Mr Ashley William Walker Gilgandra NSW 2827

The recipients are recognised with the award of the Group Bravery Citation for their actions retrieving victims of a plane crash in Mudgee, New South Wales on 14 September 2014.

At approximately 10:50am, a small plane with two occupants crashed near Mudgee airport. A passing motorist saw the plane in trouble. He stopped his car near the plane and could smell aviation fuel. He looked inside the cabin and saw a male pilot slumped forward. Due to the smell of fuel, he went back to his vehicle and moved it further away to protect his family inside, before returning to the plane.

Another man in a nearby property had heard the plane's engine spluttering as it flew overhead, and then heard the engine stop, followed by a loud thud. From his paddock he saw that the plane had crashed on the ground near the runway. He drove to the scene with his wife, pulled up about 100 metres from the crash site and then ran over to assist.

The two onlookers approached the plane and saw a female victim also in the cabin. One of them held back the woman's head to help her breathe, however she appeared unconscious and had laboured breathing. The other man checked for a pulse on the male victim, however he appeared to be deceased. One of them turned off the plane's ignition to reduce the chance of the fuel igniting, however they could still hear a buzzing sound from the cockpit panel and, concerned that the leaking fuel could ignite, instructed other bystanders to move further away.

Another bystander arrived on scene and could see the others assisting the two victims inside the plane cabin. He assisted the female victim by unbuckling her seatbelt to help her breathe while the others continued to hold the victims' heads.

Emergency services arrived some time later and took over.