

Bravery Medal (BM)

Mr Chinges Tumurkhuyag West Footscray VIC 3012

Mr Chinges Tumurkhuyag displayed considerable bravery by his actions during the rescue of a woman in Cairns, Queensland on 23 November 2019.

At approximately 6:15pm, Mr Chinges Tumurkhuyag was staying at a hotel in Cairns when, from his room on the 5th floor, he heard shouting and observed a female standing outside the railing of her 7th floor balcony.

Mr Tumurkhuyag climbed from his balcony up to the 7th floor balcony to talk to the female and stop her from jumping. He held onto her arms and hands through the balcony railings for several minutes while waiting for assistance.

A police officer arrived and went out on the balcony and assisted Mr Tumurkhuyag in holding onto the female's arms and hands. The female fought against the men and fell onto the 6th floor balcony. She then climbed to the outside of the railing.

Mr Tumurkhuyag climbed down to the 6th floor balcony and again grabbed her arms to prevent her from jumping.

An off-duty firefighter was staying on the 6th floor. He climbed sideways across two balconies to reach her and assisted Mr Tumurkhuyag in pulling the female back over the balcony to safety.

The police officer then entered the room and provided medical care until further assistance arrived.

Bravery Medal (BM)

Ms Xiaoyan Xi

Ms Xiaoyan Xi displayed considerable bravery by her actions during a stabbing incident in South Hedland, Western Australia on 1 May 2020.

At approximately 9:30am, Ms Xiaoyan Xi was working as a receptionist at a motel when she greeted a hotel guest who walked past her and into the kitchen. He picked up a large chef's knife, exited the restaurant, and grabbed Ms Xi by the shoulder. He raised the knife, but didn't strike her. Ms Xi broke free and ran. The offender gave chase, threw the knife at her, and then went back to the kitchen and obtained another knife.

The offender grabbed another staff member and threatened to stab her, causing her to fall backwards. Ms Xi ran back toward the offender and pulled him away from the woman, who ran away. The offender chased Ms Xi again. She used a trolley to distance herself from him while he made slashing gestures at her.

The offender walked out the front door and began to cross the road. Ms Xi yelled out to people on the street to go indoors, which caused the offender to turn and walk back towards her. Ms Xi ran inside and locked the door. She alerted other staff and guests of the motel to remain in their rooms.

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

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Jeremy Scott Blythman Chiltern VIC 3683

Mr Jeremy Blythman is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the interception of a male offender in Chiltern, Victoria on 3 February 2025.

At approximately 11 pm, Mr Jeremy Blythman was in bed when he heard a loud thud outside and went to investigate.

As he got to the side gate of his property, he heard smashing glass followed by a female voice screaming. He went next door and observed a silhouette on the porch.

He challenged the person on who they were and why they were there. A struggle began and Mr Blythman subdued the intruder. He called out for a baseball bat and for the police to be called. He told the intruder not to try to get away and successfully restrained the offender until the police arrived.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Robert John Copley

Mr Robert John Copley is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the rescue of a person from a burning vehicle in Woongarra, Queensland on 21 April 2022.

At approximately 2:45 pm, Mr Robert Copley and another man were driving separately when they encountered a two-vehicle accident involving a utility vehicle and a sedan.

Mr Copley stopped and checked on the occupants of the utility, as the other man went to the sedan. Mr Copley noticed the sedan was on fire and ran over to help. Together, they opened the driver's door, undid the driver's seatbelt and dragged the driver out of the burning sedan.

Mr Copley and a bystander moved the driver further away from the burning sedan. Mr Copley then checked on a passenger who had been thrown from the vehicle. The other man went to the utility, opened the driver's door and assisted the driver out. A bystander helped him move the driver further away from the utility.

Mr Copley provided first aid to the casualties until paramedics arrived.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Jonathan Paul Croft Hillside VIC 3037

Mr Jonathan Croft is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the rescue of a person from a house fire in Tootgarook, Victoria on 31 December 2023.

At approximately 11:55 pm, Mr Jonathan Croft was walking when he heard fireworks being set off at the front of a house 20 to 30 metres away.

Mr Croft started to film the fireworks, when a flare shot across the road and he heard a loud bang. He witnessed a fire start in the house opposite.

Mr Croft ran to the property and observed an individual inside the room that was on fire. He used a concrete garden edge to smash the large window. The disabled resident was on the floor unable to move.

Mr Croft entered the burning room and carried the unconscious individual out through the broken window onto the front lawn.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Jack Lawrence Daw Gin Gin QLD 4671

Mr Jack Daw is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the rescue of an individual from a burning vehicle near Tirroan, Queensland, on 22 October 2024.

At approximately 9:40 am, Mr Jack Daw, an off-duty Rural Fire Service Queensland (RFSQ) member, was a passenger in his father's car, when they came across a crashed vehicle that was on fire and leaking fuel. The driver pulled over and put the hazard lights on. A bystander informed Mr Daw and his father that he was talking to police.

While Mr Daw donned partial RFSQ personal protective equipment, his father approached the burning vehicle and noted an unconscious person through the broken windscreen. The fire was about 60 centimetres from the dashboard. The man became conscious and yelled to get him out of there.

Mr Daw and his father began to pull on the man, but his legs were stuck. The injured man wriggled and freed his legs and was able to extricate himself from the vehicle. They assisted him away from the burning vehicle, and when they were about two metres from the vehicle, a tyre exploded. The vehicle was fully engulfed in flames within minutes after extraction.

Mr Daw and his father took the injured man to the back of their station wagon until emergency services arrived.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Steven Mark Daw

Mr Steven Daw is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the rescue of an individual from a burning vehicle near Tirroan, Queensland, on 22 October 2024.

At approximately 9:40 am, Mr Jack Daw, an off-duty Rural Fire Service Queensland (RFSQ) member, was a passenger in his father's car when they came across a crashed vehicle that was on fire and leaking fuel. A bystander informed Mr Daw and his father that he was talking to 000, and that an unconscious person was in the vehicle. The driver pulled over and put the hazard lights on.

While Mr Daw donned partial RFSQ personal protective equipment, his father approached the burning vehicle and noted an unconscious person through the broken windscreen. The fire was about 60 centimetres from the dashboard. Mr Daw's father yelled that they needed to get the injured man out. The man became conscious and shouted to get him out of there.

Mr Daw and his father began to pull on the man, but his legs were stuck. The injured man wriggled and freed his legs and was able to extricate himself from the vehicle, with the support and guidance of Mr Daw and his father. Meanwhile a tyre had exploded due to the fire. They assisted him away from the burning vehicle, and within minutes it was fully engulfed in flames.

Mr Daw and his father took the injured man to the back of their station wagon and provided first aid until emergency services arrived.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Giuseppe Falabella

Mr Giuseppe Falabella is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the rescue of a person from a burning vehicle in Woongarra, Queensland on 21 April 2022.

At approximately 2:45 pm, Mr Giuseppe Falabella and another man were driving separately when they encountered a two-vehicle accident involving a utility vehicle and a sedan.

Mr Falabella stopped and checked on the occupants of the sedan, which was on fire internally at the rear left passenger side. The driver's door was jammed with the driver still inside, while the passenger had been thrown from the vehicle.

The other man checked on the occupants of the utility, but noticed the sedan was on fire and ran over to help Mr Falabella. They opened the driver's door, undid the driver's seatbelt and dragged the driver out of the burning sedan. The other man and a bystander moved the driver further away from the burning sedan.

Mr Falabella went to the utility, opened the driver's door and assisted the driver out. A bystander assisted him in moving the driver further away from the utility.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Konrad Frost Jindalee WA 6437

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

At approximately 10am, Mr Konrad Frost exited a shopping centre when a man lunged at him and stabbed him in the neck, before running into the shopping centre. Mr Frost followed the offender into the centre to warn others.

Mr Frost yelled out to warn a woman who was holding her baby, but the offender stabbed her in the back. The woman pushed the trolley containing her daughter out of the way of the offender and called out for help.

The offender turned back to Mr Frost and attempted to slash him before running further into the shopping centre. Mr Frost had to sit down due to feeling weak from blood loss.

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

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Thomas Alan Gallaway Koyuga VIC 3622

Mr Thomas Gallaway is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the rescue of a person from a vehicle accident near Kyabram, Victoria on 20 February 2024.

At approximately 6 pm, Mr Thomas Gallaway and another man came across a single-vehicle accident in which a power pole had been knocked over. The live power lines started a grass fire, which then spread to the car.

The male driver of the vehicle was injured and trapped inside. Mr Gallaway and the man approached the scene, navigating over live power lines, and reached the burning vehicle.

Mr Gallaway and the man extricated the male driver from the vehicle and handed him over to a bystander before leaving the scene.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Russell Timothy Harrison VIC

Mr Russell Harrison is commended for brave conduct for his actions during an assault in Frankston, Victoria on 11 December 2015.

At approximately 1 pm, Mr Russell Harrison was at his home when he heard his female neighbour screaming for help. He walked across the street and observed a person run to the rear of the home.

Mr Harrison jumped over the fence and ran to the rear of the house, where he witnessed the offender assaulting his neighbour in her laundry. Mr Harrison verbally confronted the offender, which allowed his neighbour to break free.

The offender ran and Mr Harrison instructed the victim to leave, which she did, while he pursued the offender. He reached the offender as he attempted to open the locked front screen door. Mr Harrison asked the intruder to stop, but the offender turned and lunged at him, and a struggle ensued.

Mr Harrison placed the offender into a chokehold and subdued him. Police arrived and assessed the offender and noted he was not breathing. Mr Harrison commenced first aid until additional police officers arrived and took over. The offender was pronounced dead at the scene.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr James Hermiston New Farm QLD 4005

Mr James Hermiston is commended for brave conduct for his actions in intercepting an armed offender in Indooroopilly, Queensland on 5 July 1999.

At approximately 9:05 am, off duty police Sergeant James Hermiston was with his wife and daughter at a shopping centre when he was alerted to an armed robbery taking place at the nearby Medicare office. The offender was wearing a balaclava and had threatened staff for money.

Sergeant Hermiston observed the offender through the front doors of the office and that there were a number of people, including children, inside. He noted the offender had plastic bags filled with money and a black pistol.

Once the offender left the office, Sergeant Hermiston grabbed him from behind, forced him to the ground and removed the balaclava. A struggle then ensued, with the offender on his back and Sergeant Hermiston on top. The offender struck him in the face with the pistol and placed the firearm against his head, pulling the trigger several times. The firearm producing a clicking sound without discharging.

Sergeant Hermiston and his daughter, with the assistance of a others, restrained the offender until police arrived.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Ms Brianna Kathryn Hurst VIC

Ms Brianna Kathryn Hurst is commended for brave conduct for her actions during the rescue of three swimmers at Marengo Beach, Marengo, Victoria, on 17 March 2024.

At approximately 1:15 pm, Ms Brianna Hurst was at Marengo Beach, Marengo, Victoria, when a woman asked for her assistance as three men were being swept out by the incoming tide and struggling to stay afloat.

Ms Hurst entered the water and swam approximately 20 metres to rescue the first unresponsive swimmer. She brought him back to the shallows where she was met by a male bystander who assisted in dragging him out to the shore and began cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) on the swimmer.

Ms Hurst re-entered the water and swam 20 to 30 metres out to the second unresponsive swimmer and brought him back to shore. Ms Hurst was met by four bystanders who provided CPR on the male.

Ms Hurst entered the water a third time, swam 20 to 30 metres, retrieved an unresponsive swimmer and brought him to shore. The first rescuer began CPR on the unresponsive swimmer, with police soon taking over.

Two of the male victims recovered, sadly one was unable to be revived.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

The late Mr Antong Jiang Wollongong NSW 2500

The late Mr Antong Jiang is commended for brave conduct for his actions attempting to rescue a distressed swimmer in Wollongong, New South Wales on 29 October 2023.

At 6:30pm, Mr Antong Jiang was swimming with others at Fairy Meadow Beach when one of their friends got caught in a rip.

Mr Jiang and others swam to their friend, and one of them assisted the distressed swimmer back to shallow water where he was able to walk to shore. Mr Jiang got caught in the rip himself and was carried further out to sea where he disappeared from sight.

Police conducted an extensive search but were unable to locate Mr Jiang. His body was recovered some time later.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

The late Dr Luqman Khaleel Jubair

The late Doctor Luqman Khaleel Jubair is commended for brave conduct for his actions attempting to rescue a distressed fisherman in Miami Beach, Queensland on 17 February 2022.

At approximately 6pm, Dr Luqman Khaleel Jubair entered the surf with others to rescue a fisherman.

Dr Jubair struggled to stay afloat himself and called out for help. He was later witnessed to be floating face down in the water before disappearing from sight.

Dr Jubair's body was found the following day at the water's edge approximately 600m north of where he had entered the water.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Ben Matthew Kettle QLD

Mr Ben Matthew Kettle is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the rescue of a driver from a burning vehicle in Moresby, Queensland on 20 August 2022.

At approximately 4:30 pm, Mr Ben Kettle was driving when he came across a vehicle that had crashed into a sugarcane locomotive at a level railway crossing.

Mr Kettle noticed that there was smoke coming from the engine. He ran to the driver, who was injured and trapped, and observed that the fire was intensifying. Mr Kettle ran to a couple that had stopped nearby and instructed them to move to a safe distance and phone emergency services.

Mr Kettle ran back to the burning vehicle, confirmed that there were no other occupants, and called out to another bystander to assist him. The fire was now inside the cabin and burning the driver.

Mr Kettle, with the assistance of the bystander, unbuckled the driver and removed him from the burning vehicle. They carried him to a nearby cane paddock, where he received treatment for his injuries.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Warrick Bruce Lee Morphett Vale SA 5162

Mr Warrick Lee is commended for brave conduct for his actions during an armed robbery in Morphett Vale, South Australia on 18 February 2023.

At approximately 3:50 pm, Mr Warrick Lee was in his home when he heard a man screaming for help and another person demanding a phone.

Mr Lee went outside and observed two males about 30 to 40 metres away. The victim was lying on his back on the ground, while the offender stood over him, attempting to strike him with a knife and kicking him. Mr Lee ran towards them and yelled for the armed male to drop the knife, but the offender turned towards Mr Lee and tried to run around him.

Mr Lee shouldered him, causing him to stumble and throw the knife into a front yard. The offender regained his balance and ran off with an accomplice who was a short distance away.

Mr Lee phoned emergency services and waited with the victim until they arrived.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Richard Mathiasz Kilsyth VIC 3137

Mr Richard Mathiasz is commended for brave conduct for his actions in intercepting an armed offender in Bayswater North, Victoria on 15 March 2023.

At approximately 8:15 pm, Mr Richard Mathiasz and his wife were at their local pharmacy with the owner and his wife when an armed masked offender entered.

The offender pointed his firearm at the pharmacy owner and his wife, instructing them not to press any buttons, and racked the slide of the firearm.

Mr Mathiasz asked the offender what he wanted, and the offender told him to fill the bag with drugs, or he would be shot. The offender dropped a large duffel bag and shouted at him again to fill the bag, or he would shoot him. The pharmacy owner picked up the duffel bag and walked towards the front of the dispensary.

Mr Mathiasz stepped forward and the offender held the gun to his head. The pharmacy owner handed the full bag to the offender. As the offender turned his back and started to walk out of the pharmacy, the pharmacy owner grabbed the offender from behind and they both fell to the floor.

Mr Mathiasz rushed to assist the pharmacy owner. As they overpowered and restrained the offender, his wife assisted. The women then ran outside the pharmacy and shouted for help, alerting bystanders who entered the pharmacy and assisted in restraining the offender until police arrived.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Dr Fergus McCabe WA

Dr Fergus McCabe is commended for brave conduct for his actions in restraining an armed offender in North Perth, Western Australia on 28 September 2023.

At approximately 8:45 am, Dr Fergus McCabe was at work at a medical practice when he heard screaming come from one of the consulting rooms. Dr McCabe entered the room and saw his colleague on the floor in a pool of blood and an offender trying to get on top of her, with a patient trying to stop him.

Dr McCabe grabbed the axe from the offender and pulled the offender away from the women. He restrained the offender until police arrived.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Lachlan James Mitchell

Mr Lachlan James Mitchell is commended for brave conduct for his actions preventing a potential suicide attempt in Morningside, Queensland on 13 September 2019.

At 3:30 pm, Mr Lachlan Mitchell, then 14 years of age, was walking along a road when he noticed a boy exhibiting unusual behaviour.

Mr Mitchell monitored the situation until the boy ran into the path of an oncoming bus. He followed the boy onto the road, pulled him away from the path of the bus and they both fell to the ground.

The boy hit Mr Mitchell and again attempted to move towards the traffic. Mr Mitchell grabbed and dragged the boy to the side of the road, where the melee continued. Mr Mitchell restrained him, called for assistance and held him until police arrived.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Darcy Ian Regan Tongala VIC 3621

Mr Darcy Regan is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the rescue of a person from a vehicle accident near Kyabram, Victoria on 20 February 2024.

At approximately 6 pm, Mr Darcy Regan and another man came across a single-vehicle accident in which a power pole had been knocked over. The live power lines started a grass fire, which then spread to the car.

The male driver of the vehicle was injured and trapped inside. Mr Regan and the man approached the scene, navigating over live power lines, where they extricated the victim. They handed him over to a bystander before leaving the scene.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Ronin Montell Rio Upper Coomera QLD 4209

Mr Ronin Rio is commended for brave conduct for his actions during a stabbing in Coomera, Queensland on 28 May 2022.

At 11:30pm, Mr Ronin Rio was at home when he heard loud voices outside. He went to investigate and heard someone yelling for help from the park across the road.

Mr Rio walked toward the voices but stopped as visibility was poor. He looked around for assistance and saw his neighbour reversing from his driveway so he flagged him down. The two men ran towards the yelling.

They saw someone on his back on the ground with another person standing over him with a 30cm knife facing downwards. The victim was resisting by holding the knife up away from his chest. The offender was threatening to kill the victim.

Mr Rio yelled at the offender to drop the knife, but he did not comply. Mr Rio and his neighbour threw rocks at the offender to distract him. The rocks hit the offender, however he continued to assault the victim.

Mr Rio and his neighbour yelled for help to attract more assistance and continued throwing rocks at the offender, who repeatedly punched the victim in the head. Mr Rio ran to nearby houses to get assistance. The other man remained near the two males, then also left to seek more assistance.

The victim removed the knife from the offender, who left the scene. The victim made his way towards Mr Rio and the other man before dropping the knife at Mr Rio's request.

Mr Rio and others rendered first aid to the victim while waiting for police and paramedics.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Todd James Sellars NSW

Mr Todd Sellars is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the attempted rescue of six people in a seaplane crash in Jerusalem Bay, Brooklyn, New South Wales on 31 December 2017.

At approximately 3 pm, Mr Todd Sellars and his three friends were on a houseboat moored on the Hawkesbury River, when a sea plane crashed 300 metres from their location.

Mr Sellars and his friends boarded two boats and rushed to the accident. The sea plane was submerged underwater with only the tail of the plane visible. Oil and aviation fuel surrounded the accident site.

Mr Sellars and two friends entered the water, swam to the aircraft, and dove to the submerged fuselage multiple times in an effort to reach the persons trapped inside. They continued their efforts for approximately three minutes, but they were unable to rescue the individuals.

They were advised by bystanders to move away from the scene due to the highly volatile situation caused by the fuel spill. With the assistance of a bystander, they attempted to tow the plane to the shoreline. When this effort was unsuccessful, they tied a buoy to the end of the rope to indicate its location for emergency services.

Commendation for Brave Conduct

Mr Kalam Waller QLD

Mr Kalam Waller is commended for brave conduct for his actions during the attempted rescue of a man from a house fire in Lowood, Queensland on 11 June 2021.

At approximately 3:25 pm, Mr Kalam Waller was at home when he was notified of a house fire across the road. He approached the burning house and was advised that a male resident was unaccounted for and there was a gas cylinder inside.

Mr Waller climbed onto a bin and jumped over the fence into the backyard. He attempted to gain access via the sliding door but was unable to due to the thick smoke.

Mr Waller went to the side of the house, used a shovel to break a window and entered the house. He crawled through the residence searching for the missing male but was unable to locate him.

The roof began to collapse so Mr Waller exited the house and went to the front to assist in hosing water through the windows. He was made aware that two external gas cylinders were connected to the house. He tried to disconnect them, however, the gas cylinder inside the house exploded, resulting in the roof collapsing.

Mr Waller came back to the front of the house and again assisted in hosing water into the house until emergency services arrived.