

GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

The following recipient is added to the Group Bravery Citation gazetted on 13 September 2017.

Awardees are members of New South Wales Police and the public who rendered safe a suspected explosive device which was attached to a woman at Mosman, New South Wales on 3 August 2011.

Mr Matthew Bruce WARWICK

On the afternoon of 3 August 2011, several current and former officers of the New South Wales Police Force, and a young woman, were involved in a collar bomb incident at a residence in Mosman, New South Wales.

New South Wales Police Officers arrived at a residence in Mosman in response to a hostage situation. On entering the house a young woman was located sitting at the end of a long corridor with a gun safe style metal box chained around her neck.

The young woman informed the officers that the collar was a bomb and that the offender had requested 'no police'. A Police Officer went to assist the young woman and interacted with her to keep her calm and to ascertain details of the situation.

Members of the Rescue and Bomb Disposal Unit and Bomb Detection Dogs later arrived along with police negotiators. Over the course of the next few hours, officers examined the device around the young woman's neck and, following a thorough inspection of it, a decision was made to cut the wires and release the victim.

For their actions, the recipients are recognised by the award of the Group Bravery Citation.

GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

The following recipient is added to the Group Bravery Citation gazetted on 13 September 2017.

Awardees are members of Fire and Rescue New South Wales and the public who protected property and lives during a bushfire at Yellow Rock, New South Wales on 17 October 2013.

Miss Christie Anne PEARSON

On the afternoon of 17 October 2013, four firefighters from the St Marys Station of Fire and Rescue New South Wales, and a civilian, went to the assistance of people caught in a bush fire at Yellow Rock.

As a bushfire raged in bushland around Yellow Rock more than 50 residents sought refuge at a local lookout. They had been unable to evacuate as the road to the highway had been blocked by fallen debris and thick smoke.

The firefighters went to the lookout and evacuated two women and their children to the safety of a nearby property. The owner of the property and a firefighter then returned to the lookout and directed the remaining people, together with their pets, to follow them to the property.

The evacuated residents took shelter in the home as the firefighters and property owner tackled spot fires. The fire front approached with large flames and the firefighters and property owner battled the inferno for several hours until the danger passed and those taking shelter were able to leave the safety of the house.

For their actions, the recipients are recognised by the award of the Group Bravery Citation.

GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

The following recipient is added to the Group Bravery Citation gazetted on 13 September 2017.

Awardees are members of New South Wales Police, Ambulance New South Wales and hospital security staff who attended an armed hostage situation at a hospital in Penrith, New South Wales on 12 January 2016.

Mr Warren Laurie WILLIAMS

In the late evening of 12 January 2016 members of New South Wales Police, hospital security guards and paramedics responded to an armed hostage situation at a hospital in Penrith, New South Wales.

A police officer went to the emergency department of the hospital to investigate an armed disturbance. On arrival he saw a male offender holding a female around the neck, with a pair of surgical scissors pressed against her throat. The officer approached the agitated man and began negotiations. The offender became increasingly aggressive as hospital security guards and other police officers arrived on the scene.

Oleoresin capsicum spray was deployed towards the offender and officers rushed to subdue him. During the struggle the offender removed one of the police officers' firearms and fired a round which hit another officer.

A security guard was then able to grab the female hostage and drag her away from the scene before dragging the wounded police officer away. The security guard and two paramedics commenced first aid procedures. Another security guard stepped forward and held onto the armed offender.

As the offender was being subdued he fired the weapon a second time. Whilst he continued to resist restraining efforts, three other police officers arrived and assisted in removing the firearm and containing him.

For their actions, the recipients are recognised by the award of the Group Bravery Citation.

GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

Awardee is a member of the public who was involved in the apprehension of an armed women at a home in Glenelg, South Australia on 20 April 2015.

Mr Ian Maxwell VOYSEY

On the evening of 20 April 2015, a couple were in their Glenelg home unit when a female neighbour knocked repeatedly on their door. As they let her inside the woman explained that she had been physically attacked and that the offender was still in her unit.

One of the residents quickly left the unit and alerted other neighbours of the attack. Two other neighbours went to assist and proceeded to the front of the home unit as the other resident went to the rear of the unit.

As the female offender began to flee through the garage roller door one of the neighbours grabbed her around the waist. The contents of her bag, including a knife, fell to the ground and the man kicked the weapon out of reach as he continued to hold her by the wrists and then in a head lock hold. The second neighbour managed to grab hold of her clothing in an effort to restrain the struggling offender.

One of the men then called emergency services whilst one continued to calm and restrain the offender. The other man went to check on the victim who had been assaulted.

For his actions, Mr Voysey is recognised by the award of the Group Bravery Citation.

GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

Awardees are members of the public who went to the assistance of a woman during a robbery at a pharmacy in Birrong, New South Wales on 31 May 2016.

Mrs Suzanne Jane COLLINSON

Ms Helen NICOLAOU

Mrs Eileen Christine VAN DEN NIEUWENHUIZEN

On the afternoon of 31 May 2016, a woman was working in the dispensary area of a pharmacy when a man entered the shop and approached her demanding drugs and the location of the safe. He was armed with a thick wooden skewer and held it close to the woman's chest as he continued to repeat the demands. The man grabbed her arm as she shouted for assistance.

A colleague approached the pair and yelled at the man to stop as he was pulling the woman to the ground by her hair. The man persisted to make demands as two other colleagues rushed to the rear of the pharmacy.

The three employees armed themselves with walking sticks and began to deter the man by prodding him and yelling at him to stop. A customer in the pharmacy heard the women and went to assist. He lunged towards the offender who released the woman and attempted to leave the scene.

The offender pushed past the man, knocking him to the ground, and continued to head towards the pharmacy's entrance. The man quickly regained his footing and began to chase the offender out into the street.

The offender managed to drive off in a waiting car, however he was later apprehended by police.

For their actions, the recipients are recognised by the award of the Group Bravery Citation.

GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

Awardees are members of the public who went to the assistance of a woman who was being attacked in Woolloomooloo, New South Wales on 7 October 2015.

**Mr Peter Hendrikus COXON
Mr Pavel (Paul) FRANC**

On the afternoon of 7 October 2015, a woman was standing behind a reception desk at a business in Woolloomooloo when a man entered the office and approached her. He was armed with a 13cm serrated kitchen knife.

The armed offender walked around the desk, kicked chairs towards the woman and proceeded to make stabbing motions close to her face. The woman raised her hands in a non-threatening manner and told the offender to calm down.

The man placed the woman in a headlock from behind and proceeded to wound her on the cheek before trying to cut her across the throat. She was able to fight and resist the attacker by placing her hand over the blade and pushing the knife away, causing severe lacerations to her hand.

At this point three people inside the office came to the woman's aid. One grabbed the offender and, with the assistance of a second person, managed to remove the knife and subdue the man until emergency services arrived. The third person quickly got hold of the woman and pulled her away from the offender.

For their actions, the recipients are recognised by the award of the Group Bravery Citation.