

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Ryan Andrew BARRETT**, Caringbah South NSW 2229

**Mr Bailey Campbell COOPER**, Caringbah NSW 2229

Late in the evening of 11 June 2016, Mr Ryan Barrett and Mr Bailey Cooper went to the assistance of a man being assaulted at Woollooware in New South Wales.

Mr Barrett and Mr Cooper were inside a service station in Woollooware, New South Wales when they saw a taxi stop in the forecourt. A male passenger exited the taxi and opened the driver's door and began to assault the driver. A female passenger moved from the rear seat to the front passenger seat and also began to assault the driver.

The driver got out of the taxi and attempted to run from the offenders but he was struck on the head and fell to the ground. The male passenger continued to assault the driver who began to lose consciousness.

Without hesitation, and without regard for their safety, Mr Barrett and Mr Cooper quickly left the service station and rushed to the injured man. Initially the two offenders ran off and Mr Barrett and Mr Cooper were able to begin first aid on the injured driver.

However, the offenders turned around and ran back towards Mr Barrett and Mr Cooper and began to attack them. Mr Barrett positioned himself between the offenders and the victim, and was assaulted several times by the female passenger.

As the offenders began to flee again, Mr Cooper called out to them. This caused the offenders to chase after him and into the view of the petrol station's CCTV cameras. The offenders ran off again and got into another taxi and fled the scene as emergency services were called.

For their actions, Mr Barrett and Mr Cooper are commended for brave conduct.

## **COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT**

### **Detective Senior Sergeant Cameron John BURKE, Queensland Police Service**

On the evening of 19 September 1994, Detective Senior Sergeant (then Plain Clothes Constable) Cameron Burke was involved in an incident with an armed offender at Newstead in Queensland.

Constable Burke and a female colleague attended an armed hostage situation at a property in Newstead. As the officers were putting on their bulletproof vests a number of shots were fired by the gunman and another officer in attendance.

Constable Burke was at the side of the vehicle when the gunman suddenly burst out from some bushes and appeared at the rear of the car. The offender crouched and pointed his sawn-off shotgun directly at the female officer, who was standing near the driver's side rear wheel, and pulled the trigger of his weapon several times.

When the firearm failed to discharge Constable Burke moved around the car to his colleague. He simultaneously pulled his colleague out of the line of fire and moved towards the front of the car.

Both officers drew their guns and instructed the gunman to drop his weapon. As the offender began to flee he turned and again pointed his weapon directly at Constable Burke and his colleague. The offender ignored the repeated warnings and was fired upon by the officers.

For his actions, Detective Senior Sergeant Burke is commended for brave conduct.

### **Mr Kenneth John BYRNE, Wahgunyah Vic 3687**

In the late evening of 9 August 2014, Mr Kenneth Byrne went to the assistance of a man grappling with an armed offender at Kerang in Victoria.

Mr Byrne's neighbour and his wife were at their home in Kerang with their six children when the ex-partner of the man's wife arrived carrying a shotgun. A verbal altercation occurred before the offender discharged two shots through the front door, injuring both husband and wife.

Mr Byrne's neighbour then grabbed the barrel of the shotgun and the two men began to struggle with the shotgun on the front lawn.

On hearing the gunshots and commotion that followed, and without consideration for his own safety, Mr Byrne immediately ran to the house and approached the two men who were continuing to struggle. He quickly grabbed the offender by the shoulders, dragging him off his neighbour.

The offender got to his feet and bolted across the lawn to his vehicle and drove away. A short time later, the offender took his own life.

For his actions, Mr Byrne is commended for brave conduct.

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mrs Patricia Joan COMERFORD**, Beerwah Qld 4519

**Mr Robert John COOK**, Bli Bli Qld 4560

**Mr Karl DUNBAR**, Alexandra Headland Qld 4572

**Mr Nicholas Brett RAWLIN**, Currimundi Qld 4551

On the afternoon of 30 June 2014, Mrs Patricia Comerford, Mr Robert Cook, Mr Karl Dunbar and Mr Nicholas Rawlin were involved in an incident with an armed offender at a supermarket in Maroochydore, Queensland.

At approximately 4pm a male customer entered the supermarket and approached the cashier. As she opened the cash register drawer the man, armed with a pair of scissors, lunged over the counter and grabbed bank notes from the till.

Mrs Comerford, an employee of the supermarket, noticed this occurring and quickly pushed the cashier away and grabbed hold of the offender's wrist. The offender threatened Mrs Comerford with the scissors who then yelled for assistance.

Mr Cook, the store manager, approached from the other side of the counter and assisted in holding the struggling offender who was making verbal threats about stabbing them with a syringe. Mrs Comerford momentarily let go of the offender and moved around to the same side of the counter to assist Mr Cook.

The struggle continued and the offender violently bit Mr Cook and Mrs Comerford suffered cuts to her hand. As Mrs Comerford and Mr Cook continued to wrestle the offender they fell to the ground.

Mr Dunbar and Mr Rawlin entered the supermarket and saw what was happening. They assisted in pinning the offender to the floor and, despite the man's continued threats, they maintained their hold on him until police officers arrived.

For their actions, Mrs Comerford, Mr Cook, Mr Dunbar and Mr Rawlin are commended for brave conduct.

## **COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT**

### **Senior Constable Brett Andrew FORTE, Queensland Police Service**

On the afternoon of 29 May 2017, the late Senior Constable Brett Forte was involved in an incident with an armed offender at Ringwood, Queensland.

Senior Constable Forte, together with several other Queensland Police Officers, was in pursuit of a known offender whose vehicle had turned onto a rough dirt track. The three Tactical Crime Squad vehicles (TCS) involved in the pursuit followed the offender's vehicle. Senior Constable Forte, and another officer, was in the lead vehicle.

The offender, armed with a fully automatic weapon, stopped his vehicle where he had a vantage point of the approaching police vehicles and fired a number of shots at Senior Constable Forte's vehicle, injuring him. As he reversed the vehicle down the rough track to remove himself and his colleague out of danger, the vehicle rolled onto the driver's side trapping him inside.

His colleague immediately returned fire and called for backup. She managed to exit the vehicle and, realising that she couldn't move Senior Constable Forte, returned inside the vehicle and provided information to other police officers by radio.

Subsequently other police officers made their way on foot to their location. They were able to break the windscreen, remove Senior Constable Forte from the vehicle and commence first aid procedures. He was then placed in another police vehicle and driven away from the scene. Unfortunately Senior Constable Forte did not survive his injuries.

For his actions, Senior Constable Forte is commended for brave conduct.

## **COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT**

**Senior Constable Wade John FULLER**, New South Wales Police Force  
**Senior Constable Craig Michael HANSEN**, New South Wales Police Force

In the late afternoon of 29 September 2016, Senior Constables Wade Fuller and Craig Hansen were involved in the rescue of four people caught in a rip at Caves Beach in New South Wales.

Three children were swimming at Caves Beach when the father of two of the children saw that they had been caught in a rip and were struggling to return to shore. He quickly entered the water and began making his way towards them when he too became caught in the rip and was dragged out to sea.

A bystander called triple 0 and Senior Constables Fuller and Hansen arrived. They immediately commandeered body boards and entered the sea. Approximately 70 metres out Senior Constable Hansen reached the man and one of the children. He placed the child on the board and, together with the male swimmer, headed for shore.

Meanwhile Senior Constable Fuller was approximately 90 metres out when he reached the two other children, both of whom were suffering from exhaustion. He placed them on the body board and towed them back to the safety of the shore where they were assessed by ambulance officers.

For their actions, Senior Constables Fuller and Hansen are commended for brave conduct.

**Mr Grant William GAITER**, Saratoga NSW 2251

On the morning of 20 December 2016, Mr Grant Gaiter rescued a man from a burning vehicle near Tumblong, New South Wales.

Mr Gaiter was travelling in his B-double truck on the Hume Highway near Tumblong when he saw a utility swerve and roll several times before coming to a stop in long grass adjacent to the road.

He immediately stopped his truck and ran towards the utility. He could see smoke coming from the bonnet and flames from the engine so returned to his truck to retrieve a fire extinguisher.

With the utility now catching alight, Mr Gaiter went to assist the driver of the utility who was unconscious. Despite debris surrounding the vehicle as a result of the rollover, Mr Gaiter was able to reach through the window and undo the man's seatbelt. He then managed to get the driver's door open as flames began to enter the cabin around the driver's feet. He removed the driver from the vehicle and dragged him away to safety.

For his actions, Mr Gaiter is commended for brave conduct.

## **COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT**

**Senior Constable Brad Lee GREENWOOD**, New South Wales Police Force  
**Senior Constable Timothy Craig THUMPSTON**, New South Wales Police Force

In the early hours of 4 May 2013, Senior Constables Brad Greenwood and Timothy Thumpston went to the assistance of people at a house fire in Forster, New South Wales.

Senior Constables Greenwood and Thumpston responded to a domestic incident at a residence on Godwin Street. As they approached the residence they could see smoke coming from the house as well as large flames coming out from the garage.

After alerting fire services they noticed a woman attempting to douse the flames with a garden hose and a man banging on an outside front window. The officers were told that the house was occupied. Without hesitation, both officers approached the front door and they managed to gain entry.

They entered the smoke engulfed house and moved down a hallway before locating a male victim. The officers managed to move the man towards the open door and to the safety of outside.

Believing there may be other occupants, Senior Constable Greenwood continued searching through the front area of the house before succumbing to the smoke. Meanwhile, Senior Constable Thumpston went to the rear of the house but was unable to enter due to flames going up the walls and the fire spreading quickly. They began to extinguish the fire with garden hoses until emergency services arrived.

For their actions, Senior Constables Greenwood and Thumpston are commended for brave conduct.

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Craig Martin HARTLEY**, Castle Hill NSW 2154  
**Mr Francis Leo MAHONY**, Mannering Park NSW 2259

On the afternoon of 14 May 2010, Mr Craig Hartley and Mr Francis Mahony went to the assistance of a couple who had been assaulted by an armed assailant in their home at Castle Hill in New South Wales.

At 3:30pm neighbours of Mr Hartley and Mr Mahony were in their home when the offender, a former neighbour, knocked at the door seeking assistance with his broken down vehicle. The young man was invited inside and soon after assaulted both of the occupants with a folding blade knife.

As their neighbour struggled with the offender, his wife managed to run out of the house and yell for help. Mr Hartley and his wife immediately came to the woman's aid and they were soon joined by other neighbours.

Aware of the situation inside the house, and not knowing the location of the offender, Mr Hartley and Mr Mahony entered the house. They located the home owner, who was badly injured, in the kitchen with the offender.

Mr Mahony took hold of the offender, located and removed his knife, placing it on the kitchen sink while Mr Hartley tended to the wounds of the home owner. Mr Hartley then subdued the assailant until police arrived.

For their actions, Mr Hartley and Mr Mahony are commended for brave conduct.

**Mr John Michael HEAD**, Cairns Qld 4870  
**Mr Darren Craig TAYLOR**, Kanimbla Qld 4870

On 21 March 2014, Mr John Head and Mr Darren Taylor rescued two elderly people from floodwaters at Kumerunga, Queensland.

Mr Head and Mr Taylor were driving near Kumergunga when they noticed a car floating in the rising water of a causeway. There was an elderly couple inside. The vehicle was quickly filling with water and was being pushed off the causeway by the fast flowing floodwater.

Mr Taylor immediately called emergency services. Mr Taylor and Mr Head then entered the fast flowing water and were able to pull the elderly woman through the car window, before tying a rope around her waist and carrying her to safety.

They re-entered the water, which had risen quickly, and made their way towards the elderly man who had managed to get himself out of the vehicle. He was pinned up against the vehicle by the force of the rushing water.

Mr Head and Mr Taylor were able to get the elderly man to safety and a short time later the vehicle was pushed off the road by the fast flowing water.

For their actions, Mr Head and Mr Taylor are commended for brave conduct.

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

### **Ms Shayne Elise HUNT, Gerroa NSW 2534**

On the afternoon of 19 February 2016, Ms Shayne Hunt went to the assistance of an elderly man after a robbery at Nowra in New South Wales.

Ms Hunt was in the centre of Nowra when she heard a man yell for help. She saw a younger man standing very close to a distressed older man who had just left a bank with an elderly woman. The younger man had put the older man in a headlock in an attempt to rob him.

The older man continued to yell for help and, at that point, the younger man let go and began to run away from the scene. Ms Hunt heard pleas to 'stop that man' and saw other people attempting to grab him. The offender dodged on-lookers and continued running down the footpath.

Without hesitation, Ms Hunt ran across the road towards the younger man. She rugby tackled him and the impact of her tackle forced the offender up against a shop front window. She then was able to sandwich the offender against the glass until they both fell to the ground.

Bystanders quickly approached and continued to hold the offender down until police arrived.

For her actions, Ms Hunt is commended for brave conduct.

### **Mr Brian Frederick LEMKE, Currimundi Qld 4551**

In the early hours of the morning of 6 February 2015, Mr Brian Lemke went to the assistance of a woman at North Lakes, Queensland.

Mr Lemke, a Station Officer with Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, and his crew, attended an incident at a North Lakes shopping complex where a young woman was attempting self-harm.

The woman was sitting at the edge of the roof of the two storey building with her back facing outward. A short time later she turned around on the 20cm wide ledge and dangled her legs over the side. Through her actions it was evident that she was contemplating jumping.

Upon arrival Mr Lemke spoke with other emergency service personnel and, as the young woman was reluctant to speak with police officers, he volunteered to approach her. After conversing with the woman she agreed to come down.

A ladder was placed against the wall and Mr Lemke climbed up onto the roof and slowly approached the woman. He was alongside her and offered to help her down when she suddenly refused his requests and began to lean forward and attempt to fall off the roof.

Without hesitation, and despite the risk of him falling, he grabbed her and pulled her back onto the roof. He continued to hold onto her until other emergency service personnel were able to climb the ladder and assist in moving her away from the edge.

Mr Lemke stayed with the woman until she could be safely removed from the roof.

For his actions, Mr Lemke is commended for brave conduct.

## **COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT**

**Sergeant Nicholas Glenn LEONARD**, New South Wales Police Force  
**Senior Constable Matthew Graeme PHILLIS**, New South Wales Police Force

On 13 February 2013, Sergeant (then Senior Constable) Nicholas Leonard and Senior Constable (then Constable) Matthew Phillis were involved in assisting fire crews and residents during a bushfire at Wambelong, New South Wales.

Senior Constable Leonard and Constable Phillis were recalled to duty due to a bushfire that had been burning for a number of days in the Warrumbungle National Park.

With the increasing threat of the fire front heading in the direction of their town, they worked with members of the Coonabarabran Voluntary Rescue Squad to inform and evacuate residents from their homes. On a number of occasions, and despite thick black smoke and falling ash from the approaching fire wall, Senior Constable Leonard and Constable Phillis had to retrace their steps to assist in evacuating residents who had not left their homes.

At one point they were returning to Wambelong when they were informed that a strong wind change had occurred which would put a crew from Fire and Rescue New South Wales in direct danger. They immediately turned around and proceeded to the danger zone fearing the crew would not have received the message due to having no radio.

When they arrived they saw the crew running towards their fire truck. With the fire front 100 metres away, the officers escorted the fire crew towards safety despite the fire spreading at a rate of 80km/h and keeping up with their movements.

For their actions, Sergeant Leonard and Senior Constable Phillis are commended for brave conduct.

## **COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT**

### **Senior Constable Kevin John MAGEEAN, Queensland Police Service**

On the morning of 19 August 2013, Senior Constable (then Constable) Kevin Mageean intercepted an armed offender after an aggravated robbery at Kingscliff, New South Wales.

Two employees of the Kingscliff Beach Hotel were attacked and robbed by two males who then attempted to run off with a backpack containing money. The victims chased one offender and were able to tackle him to the ground and restrain him.

The second offender fled the scene before returning and producing a 25cm carving knife. He threatened the employees and began demanding that they release his accomplice.

At this time, Constable Mageean, who was off duty at the time, went to the assistance of the two victims. He was informed of the robbery and was alerted to the second offender who was fleeing the scene.

Without hesitation, he chased the absconding man through a vacant block of land and, as he neared the man, he announced that he was a police officer and challenged the offender to stop.

The offender turned towards Constable Mageean and threw a backpack in his direction. Constable Mageean then tackled the man to the ground and restrained him until further assistance arrived.

For his actions, Senior Constable Mageean is commended for brave conduct.

### **Mr Brayden Lloyd MITCHELL, Busselton WA 6280**

In the late afternoon of 17 July 2016, Mr Brayden Mitchell went to the rescue of a woman being swept out to sea at Geographe Bay, Western Australia.

Mr Mitchell was at the Vasse River Diversion Drain near Geographe Bay when he noticed a woman being swept out to sea by the strong currents as she was trying to rescue her dog.

He immediately jumped into the very cold water and made his way out to the woman who was about 50 metres out and calling for help. Mr Mitchell swam to the woman, reaching her as she was going in and out of consciousness.

He grabbed her by the hand, reassured her and despite being swamped by the waves, they helped her closer to shore. The woman became unconscious as they neared the shoreline where other onlookers came to their assistance and helped them out of the water.

For his actions, Mr Mitchell is commended for brave conduct.

## **COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT**

### **Miss Christie Anne PEARSON, Yellow Rock NSW 2777**

During the afternoon of 17 October 2013, Miss Christie Pearson provided shelter and protection to residents from a bushfire at Yellow Rock, New South Wales.

Miss Pearson was assisting her father to prepare firefighting equipment at their 40 acre property in Yellow Rock as a large bushfire was approaching.

Her mother and grandmother were relocated to a nearby lookout while she stayed at the property with her father. A short time later members of the C Platoon at St Mary's Fire Station approached the house and requested use of the home as an evacuation point for members of the public who had subsequently become stranded by the bushfire at the lookout.

Miss Pearson and two fire personnel stayed at the homestead whilst her father and another fireman made their way to the lookout and began to assist with relocating the people and variety of pets that had been stranded. Once they reached the property they took refuge inside the homestead.

Miss Pearson began dousing spot fires and hosing the home as well as moving vehicles out of the fire's path. With others she battled the fire for about four hours until the main fire front passed and further assistance was able to get to the property and evacuate the stranded people and animals.

For her actions, Miss Pearson is commended for brave conduct.

### **Senior Constable Christopher Ralph PROUDLOCK, Queensland Police Service**

On the evening of 30 December 2000, Senior Constable Christopher Proudlock removed a man from a burning house at Westbrook, Queensland.

Responding to a call, Senior Constable Proudlock arrived at a property in Westbrook and made his way to the back of the premises. He noticed damage to a rear window and was quickly confronted by an agitated man standing in the rear doorway.

After confronting the man Senior Constable Proudlock returned to his police vehicle to call for assistance. Whilst at the car he heard smashing glass and saw flames inside the house. He immediately went back to the premises where a large amount of thick, grey smoke was billowing from the broken window.

He made his way to the back door and heard coughing from inside the house. He could see the man inside approximately 15-20 feet away. Senior Constable Proudlock crouched down and entered the house. He grabbed the man's clothing and, despite the man continuing to kick and struggle, he was able to drag him outdoors, through debris to the driveway.

Although Senior Constable Proudlock was suffering the effects of smoke inhalation he continued to restrain the man until further assistance arrived.

For his actions, Senior Constable Proudlock is commended for brave conduct.

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Kenneth Lewis ROSSITER**, Golden Beach Qld 4551

**Mr Ricky Paul WALKER**, Golden Beach Qld 4551

In the early evening of 16 March 2014, Mr Kenneth Rossiter and Mr Ricky Walker provided assistance to a woman following a domestic violence incident at Golden Beach, Queensland.

Mr Rossiter was at home when a neighbour knocked on his door calling for help. The woman had been physically attacked inside her home and had sustained severe injuries to her entire body. The offender was pursuing her and, as she sought refuge inside the home, the offender managed to force his way in.

A struggle ensued as Mr Rossiter attempted to stop the offender from moving through his home after the injured woman. When the offender entered a bedroom, Mr Rossiter was able to lock the door trapping the offender inside.

In the meantime the injured woman ran out of the house and sought refuge elsewhere. Mr Rossiter attempted to call emergency services but had to flee his home when the offender broke out of the room. As he was making his way to a neighbouring property the offender chased him and on reaching Mr Rossiter a further struggle ensued.

At this time Mr Walker became aware of the commotion and saw his older neighbour struggling with the offender. He called for his wife to contact emergency services and, without hesitation; he quickly approached the two men.

He tackled the offender to the ground and restrained him. He then held onto the aggressive offender until police officers arrived.

For their actions, Mr Rossiter and Mr Walker are commended for brave conduct.

**Mr Lincoln Patrick SHERLOCK**, Springfield Lakes Qld 4300

On the morning of 15 July 2015, Mr Lincoln Sherlock rescued a man from a vehicle in the Brisbane River, Queensland.

At 6:30am a male driver suffered a medical episode, lost control of his vehicle on Kingsford Smith Drive at Hamilton and crashed it into the Brisbane River.

Mr Sherlock was travelling to work when he witnessed the accident and immediately stopped to assist. He saw the vehicle partially submerged floating further out into the river. He quickly dived into the water and swam to the vehicle.

When he reached the driver's window he saw the driver trapped in his seat and convulsing. As the window was part way down, he reached inside and lowered the window. He spoke to the incoherent man and managed to get him to undo his seatbelt.

With the water now up to the vehicle's dashboard, he grabbed the man and pulled him out through the window. He then assisted the man towards an arriving small boat and helped him into it. The man was taken to shore for treatment by ambulance officers.

For his actions, Mr Sherlock is commended for brave conduct.

## **COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT**

### **The late Mr Glendon Eric TURNER, Late of Ogunbil NSW 2340**

On the afternoon of 29 July 2014, Mr Glendon Turner was involved in an incident with an armed offender at Croppa Creek, New South Wales.

Mr Turner and a colleague were conducting business in the Croppa Creek area when they were approached by an armed man who was known to them.

Standing about 10 metres away, the man raised a rifle and shot Mr Turner in the neck, causing him to fall to the ground. As he regained his footing, he was shot again. He stumbled towards their vehicle as his colleague pleaded with the gunman to stop shooting and allow him to seek help.

The offender continued to threaten both men and despite it becoming dark, Mr Turner, who was now at the rear of the vehicle, managed to locate and discharge an Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon.

The gunman then located Mr Turner and moved towards him and, notwithstanding his colleague's unrelenting pleas to stop, the gunman pointed his weapon and fired twice more. Mr Turner then attempted to run towards the tree line. The offender discharged his weapon again and Mr Turner fell to the ground. The offender then got into his car and left the scene. Unfortunately, in spite of his colleague's attempts at CPR, Mr Turner did not survive.

For his actions, Mr Turner is commended for brave conduct.

### **Mr Ian Maxwell VOYSEY, Glenelg SA 5045**

On the evening of 20 April 2015, Mr Ian Voysey apprehended an armed woman at a home in Glenelg, South Australia.

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.

The home owner quickly left his unit and alerted other neighbours of the attack. Mr Voysey went to assist and he proceeded to the front of the home unit. As he approached the unit, the garage roller door began to open.

A female ran out towards him and he grabbed her around the waist. The contents of her bag, including a knife, fell to the ground. Mr Voysey kicked the weapon out of reach as he continued to hold her by the wrists and then in a head lock hold. Another man managed to grab hold of her clothing in an effort to assist to restrain the struggling offender.

Whilst others called emergency services and continued to calm and restrain the offender, Mr Voysey went to check on the woman who had been assaulted.

For his actions, Mr Voysey is commended for brave conduct.

## **COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT**

**Sergeant Michael John WHITE**, New South Wales Police Force

On the morning of 19 April 2016, Sergeant Michael White rescued a woman and child from a burning building in Bathurst, New South Wales.

Sergeant White, who was off-duty at the time, was walking down a main road in Bathurst when he saw a large amount of smoke coming from the roof and front entrance of a restaurant.

He immediately approached the building and directed others to call emergency services. He observed thick smoke in the restaurant and quickly entered the building and went through to the kitchen at the back of the premises.

With flames visible and the fire growing bigger he saw a woman and a young boy in the kitchen. He was escorting them outside when the woman re-entered the building. He quickly followed her inside and again directed her to leave. At this stage the fire was well established and making visibility and breathing difficult.

Once the woman and child were safely outside he went down the lane-way at the side of the building and advised other residents to evacuate.

Sergeant White returned to the rear of the building where he noticed a man, who was very distressed, standing on a balcony above the restaurant. He quickly encouraged the man to evacuate, however, believing the man did not understand his instructions, he entered the burning building. He searched for and then assisted the man and other residents to evacuate.

For his actions, Sergeant White is commended for brave conduct.

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Adam John WILLIAMS**, Cabbage Tree Point Qld 4207

On the afternoon of 10 October 2015, Mr Adam Williams was involved in a rescue at Fingal Head, New South Wales.

A woman and three young children were playing in an area known as Echidna Rock at Fingal Headland. The children were two metres from the water line when a large wave crashed onto the headland and caused one of the children, a nine year old boy, to lose his footing, fall onto the rocks and into the water. The remaining two children also lost their balance, but did not enter the water.

The woman immediately jumped into the water and swam to the boy and, on reaching him, held his head above the water. Another man quickly entered the water and made his way towards the woman who was struggling in the difficult conditions. He got hold of the boy and swam him back to shore.

Mr Williams became aware of the situation and entered the water and swam to the woman. In difficult conditions, he struggled to keep her calm as she was swallowing water and panicking. After a lengthy period of time the woman became unconscious. Mr Williams was then joined by another swimmer on a surfboard. Despite the strong currents and several attempts, they managed to get the woman onto the surfboard and commenced CPR.

Mr Williams and the man were making their way back to shore with the woman when a rescue boat arrived and took them back to shore. Sadly the woman did not survive the incident.

For his actions, Mr Williams is commended for brave conduct.

**Mr Matthew Jack WILLOWS**, Manly Vale NSW 2093

On the afternoon of 24th November 2015, Mr Matthew Willows retrieved a fisherman from treacherous seas at South Curl Curl Beach, New South Wales.

Mr Willows, a lifeguard, was on duty at South Curl Curl Surf Life Saving Club where the beach was closed due to treacherous surf conditions. He was packing up for the day when he was approached by a man and informed there was a fisherman in trouble in the water around the back of the rocks.

He immediately ran up to the headland and saw the body of a male floating face down in the water approximately 10 metres off the rocks. He contacted his colleagues via radio for assistance and saw two police officers moving across the rocks.

He shouted at the officers to stay out of the water before diving into the dangerous surf and swimming to the man. On reaching him he rolled him over to check for signs of life however the man appeared lifeless. As he was towing the unconscious man around the rocks, a colleague reached him with a stand up paddle board. They placed the man on the board however they were unable to keep him on it.

Despite being exhausted, Mr Willows swam the unconscious man back towards the shore. On reaching the shore he ran to the lifeguard room to retrieve a defibrillator and oxygen. Emergency services then arrived but unfortunately the fisherman was unable to be revived.

For his actions, Mr Willows is commended for brave conduct.

## **COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT**

**Mr Adam Davis WILSON**, New South Wales

On 3 August 1990, Mr Adam Wilson was involved in the rescue of several people from rising flood waters at Eugowra, New South Wales.

At that time Mr Wilson was an assistant cameraman accompanying a News crew in a small helicopter heading towards Dubbo to report on the floods in western New South Wales. As the helicopter was nearing its destination a call for help was received by the pilot.

Responding to the request, the pilot flew the helicopter to Eugowra where several people, who were trapped in major floods which had swamped the town, were observed. The pilot immediately landed the helicopter in a safe zone and deployed two members of the news crew onto the ground.

With no rescue equipment available, the pilot concluded that the only way a rescue could be conducted was to hover close to the stranded people and have them physically lifted into the aircraft and fly them one by one to safety. With the helicopter's skids touching the water Mr Wilson was able to lift and drag the trapped people into the aircraft and flown to safe ground.

Mr Wilson and the pilot then conducted several further rescues of people who were either on roof tops of buildings or trapped in the rising waters.

For his actions, Mr Wilson is commended for brave conduct.