

## GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

Awardees comprise members of New South Wales Police and members of the public who in the early hours of the morning of 6 March 2003, assisted in attempting to rescue occupants from a burning car involved in a single vehicle accident at Beacon Hill, New South Wales.

**Inspector Paul James DEVANEY**  
**Mr Roger Louis EHRET**  
**Sergeant Graeme HALLETT**  
**Senior Constable Todd Michael HALLIDAY**  
**Constable Brian Milos LAURICH**  
**Miss Marguerite Mary McKINNON**  
**Constable Michael Jeffrey RIDGEWAY**  
**Mr Keith Walter SEWELL**  
**Mr Robert Arthur SMITH**  
**Constable Bradley David THOMPSON BM**  
**Detective Senior Constable CARA WALLS**

In the early hours of the morning of 6 March 2003, members of the New South Wales Police and members of the public assisted in attempting to rescue occupants from a burning car involved in a single vehicle accident at Beacon Hill, New South Wales.

In the early hours of the morning of 6 March 2003, police officers and civilians attended the scene of a single vehicle accident. The car was well alight and the two male occupants were trapped and on fire. Continued attempts were made to rescue the occupants but the intensity of the fire hampered the rescuers efforts. Repeatedly the rescuers tried levering open the passenger's door where one of the men was leaning half way out of the side of the cabin, his foot trapped by the collapsed console. When further police and passing motorists arrived at the scene, fire extinguishers were brought forward and more attempts were made to douse the occupants and the vehicle cabin. However, the spread and intensity of the fire inhibited their efforts and they now realised that the driver had stopped breathing. Despite the risk to their own lives, the police officers and civilians stayed with the passenger to rally his spirits and to keep him conscious. They made further desperate attempts to free the victim but his lower body remained trapped. The rescuers continued to use fire extinguishers to douse the occupant and the interior of the vehicle. With the arrival of emergency services, the fire was sufficiently extinguished to allow rescue personnel to remove the passenger from the vehicle. Sadly both occupants of the car died as a result of the accident.

**Inspector Paul James DEVANEY**  
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**Sergeant Graeme HALLETT**  
New South Wales Police

**Senior Constable Todd Michael HALLIDAY**  
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**Constable Bradley David THOMPSON BM**  
New South Wales Police

**Detective Senior Constable Cara Lyn WALLS**  
New South Wales Police

## GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

Awardees comprise members of the Volunteer Marine Rescue vessel, *Rescue One*, who on 22 April 2006 rescued sailors from an overturned fishing vessel at Thud Point, Queensland.

**Mr Peter John GRAHAM**  
**Mr Leslie George MOHOUP**  
**Mr Steven George REHN**

On 22 April 2006, the crew of the Volunteer Marine Rescue vessel, *Rescue One*, rescued sailors from an overturned fishing vessel at Thud Point, Queensland.

During the height of Tropical Cyclone Monica in the Gulf of Carpentaria, huge wind gusts and large waves overturned a small boat, throwing the two occupants into the water. The crew of *Rescue One* was alerted to the incident and headed out to attempt a rescue. The weather had deteriorated considerably, with winds increasing to in excess of thirty knots. Rain squalls made visibility nil and the prevailing swell was four to five metres with heavy rolling surf. Despite this, the crew attempted to approach the reef where the two men were clinging to the side of their upturned boat. The rescue vessel was hit by a seven metre wave over the bow, crashing on the top hatches and pouring into the cabin. All navigation and communications systems were destroyed or rendered inoperable. Although the conditions were treacherous and there was grave risk to their own lives, the crew attempted to navigate a way through the reef to the stranded pair but were unable to find a safe passage. The rescue crew was forced to return to nearby safer waters for the next few hours. With the onset of daylight, and although still being pounded by heavy seas, high winds and driving rain, the crew spent an hour manoeuvring their vessel through the reef until they were able to locate the two victims and bring them safely on board.

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