

GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

Awardees comprise of several officers from the Victorian Police Service.

Sergeant Richard James CLAYTON
Constable Jim Imre COLE-SURJAN
Senior Constable Daniel Todd GATHERCOLE
Senior Constable Christian James SAVAGE

In the early hours of the morning of 11 December 2008, members of the Victoria Police, Dandenong, rescued two children held captive in a burning house.

Police had received reports of an alleged domestic violence incident and attended a house to interview a man and to check on the safety of his two young boys. The man was particularly uncooperative and refused to allow the officers to enter the building. Police were concerned that most of the windows were secured by strong metal shutters operated internally. As they attempted to negotiate the safety of the children, officers could smell fuel as smoke began billowing from the eaves. The police tried to smash their way through some of the windows to gain entry but the openings were too high and their access was barred by the intense heat and flames. The offender had grabbed his children and could be seen inside a barricaded bedroom holding them under his arms. The man refused all pleas by police to release the young boys. Working together the four officers prised open a window enabling two of them to enter the burning house. Inside, the police apprehended the offender and grabbed the children, passing them through the window to safety. The children did not suffer any physical injuries, and were later reunited with their mother.

For their actions, the officers of the Victoria Police are recognised by the award of the Group Citation for Bravery.

Sergeant Richard James CLAYTON
Victoria Police

Constable Jim Imre COLE-SURJAN
Victoria Police

**Senior Constable Daniel Todd
GATHERCOLE**
Victoria Police

**Senior Constable Christian James
SAVAGE**
Victoria Police

GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

Awardees comprise of two members from the Australian Navy Cadets and one member from the Royal Australian Navy.

Mr Adam Charles ANDERSON (then a Navy Cadet)
Leading Seaman David Anthony GRAY (then Able Seaman)
Able Seaman Peter Raymond NYBERG (then a Navy Cadet)

On the afternoon of 30 March 2002, Australian Navy Cadets and a Royal Australian Navy Able Seaman rescued three people from an upturned boat at Toukley, New South Wales.

Australian Navy Cadets Anderson and Nyberg, and Able Seaman Gray were visiting Toukley for the New South Wales Corsair Sailing Championships. Forty knot winds and rough, two to three metre swells had developed, causing the competition to be cancelled. As the young men made their way back to camp, the alarm was raised for three boys, two aged fifteen and a child of six years, in distress on board a dinghy, one kilometre from shore. Realising that rescue authorities were at least one hour away, Anderson, Nyberg and Gray fuelled and readied an inflatable craft and an aluminium rescue boat, gathered spare lifejackets and began a systematic search for the victims, fanning out to cover a radius from close to shore stretching out to sea. As a result of their search efforts, the three young boys were located, desperately clinging to an upturned boat drifting out to sea. None had lifejackets and all were barely able to hold on. They were suffering hypothermia, and the six year old child had turned blue. In the blustery and difficult conditions, the victims were safely put aboard the inflatable craft and brought back to shore while the aluminium rescue boat was deployed to tow the boys' dinghy back to land.

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

Mr Adam Charles ANDERSON
3/58 Dora Street
HURSTVILLE NSW 2220

Leading Seaman David Anthony GRAY
HMAS Parramatta

Able Seaman Peter Raymond NYBERG
45 Newmarket Grove
PORT MACQUARIE NSW 2444