

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

### **Mr Timothy Alfred ARNOLD, Camden NSW 2570**

Mid-afternoon on 28 February 2007, Mr Arnold assisted several motorists caught in flash flooding in Menangle Park, New South Wales.

Following a heavy rain burst, major flash flooding occurred at Menangle Park. As the water rose, one vehicle from the car park was pushed into a culvert, effectively plugging the escape route for the rushing water. As the water continued to rise quickly, more than thirty vehicles began to submerge in the turbulent water and float towards the stormwater drain. Concerned that people were trapped in their vehicles, Mr Arnold and others entered the fast flowing water to check for people in the moving vehicles. The water was now more than two metres deep. Seeing that a man was in difficulty in the torrent, Mr Arnold linked arms with another rescuer and went to assist, however they were swept over the school fence onto the raised roadway to safety.

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

### **Mr Anthony Robert AYRES, Buderim Qld 4556**

In the mid-morning of 10 September 2009, Mr Ayres assisted the occupants of a capsized boat at Point Cartwright, Queensland.

Mr Ayres was working nearby when he became aware that a fishing boat had capsized in a moderate to rough swell near Mooloolaba. He observed several men struggling in the surf and ran down to assist. Seeing a man lying face down in the water, he immediately entered the water and swam towards him. Battling the incoming waves, he managed to reach the man, roll him over and attempt to resuscitate him. Mr Ayres continued to struggle, and was eventually provided with assistance as he approached the shore. Unfortunately the man was unable to be revived.

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

### **Mr Shane BROWN, 24 Whimbrel Crescent, Carrum Downs Vic 3201**

On 5 September 2009, Mr Brown rescued a man from drowning in the Goulburn River, Thornton, Victoria.

Whilst fishing at the Goulburn River a man slipped on rocks and fell into the fast moving freezing water. As he struggled to swim back to the riverbank, his boots filled with water and the weight of his clothes forced him to sink below the surface. Fishing nearby, Mr Brown saw the man struggling and immediately removed some of his clothing and entered the water. When Mr Brown reached the man, he was floating face down. Another man also jumped into the water and the men then pulled the unconscious man back to the river bank. Despite having been in the freezing water for a considerable period of time, Mr Brown immediately began to resuscitate the man until he was relieved by ambulance officers a short time later.

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

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

### **Senior Constable Cameron Scott CAINE**, Victoria Police

On 7 February 2009, Senior Constable Caine provided ongoing assistance to stranded residents and motorists during the 'Black Saturday' bushfires at Kinglake and surrounding areas, Victoria.

Senior Constable Caine was on duty with a colleague when they became aware of a fast advancing firestorm. They were driving into Pheasant's Creek when they came upon about 40 cars at the local store, containing frightened members of the public. Surrounded by pine forest and with the store containing fuel bowsers, the group had begun to panic. Senior Constable Caine received word to evacuate to the Kinglake West Country Fire Authority (CFA). As it became black as midnight, Senior Constable Caine gave orders for the vehicle convoy to leave Pheasants Creek and was one of the last to leave the area before the store was destroyed by the firestorm. As he drove towards Kinglake West, Senior Constable Caine stopped frequently to advise members of the public to evacuate to the CFA. After receiving advice that 15 children were trapped at Kinglake West Primary School both officers ran to the school to investigate, however no children were found. In difficult conditions, Senior Constable Caine and his colleague continued to patrol through the night and at one stage transported an injured woman to Whittlesea for medical attention. They continued to provide comfort and support to many distressed survivors until the following day.

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

### **Mr Dan William CAMPBELL**, 22 Cawdor Farm Road, Camden NSW 2570

During the early evening of 25 March 2009, Mr Campbell rescued a woman and her young daughter from their submerged vehicle during a flash flood at Hinchinbrook, New South Wales.

During a sudden electrical storm, flash flooding occurred on Cowpasture Road, Hinchinbrook where road works were being carried out. As several vehicles crossed the flooded area a vehicle became submerged up to the door. Mr Campbell witnessed this and heard a female driver screaming for help. He immediately stopped his vehicle and entered the fast flowing waist-deep water. Reaching the vehicle, he saw a woman and her young daughter trapped inside. Unable to open the door, they wound down a window which allowed Mr Campbell to grab hold of the girl and carry her out of the water. He then returned and helped the woman out of the car and with the help of the police, who had just arrived, moved her to safety.

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

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

### **Mr Benjamin Luke CARROLL, Camp Hill Qld 4152**

On the morning of 26 January 2010, Mr Carroll assisted in the rescue of a man from the Brisbane River, Queensland.

Police and ambulance units attended the William Jolly Bridge, Brisbane River, South Brisbane in response to a man who had jumped into the river. One of the police officers jumped into the river and swam about 75 metres to the distressed man, who refused assistance. Another police officer and Mr Carroll, an ambulance officer, also arrived and assessed the situation. They removed their uniforms, entered the water and went to assist. All three men managed to drag the aggressive man back to safety. At the river bank the intoxicated man continued to abuse the officers and resisted all efforts of assistance. The man had to be heavily sedated prior to being transported to hospital for assessment.

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

### **Mr Glen James DAMRO, PO Box 4084, Forest Lake Qld 4078**

On the afternoon of 28 June 2000, Mr Damro (then Sergeant) apprehended an armed offender in bushland near Childers, Queensland.

After tracking an alleged offender for several days, Sergeant Damro and a colleague closed in on the man through dense bushland. The man was responsible for a fire that occurred five days earlier at the Childers Palace Backpackers hostel. Approaching him in thick scrub, they saw that he had a large knife. The offender refused to drop his knife as requested, choosing to lunge at Sergeant Damro instead. Sergeant Damro immediately released the tracking dog who tried to apprehend the offender. A struggle took place, and the dog was attacked with the knife as he took hold of the offender's arm. Sergeant Damro called the dog away and continued to order the offender to drop the weapon, without success. A short while later, the dog again attacked the man and brought the offender to the ground, before Sergeant Damro quickly moved forward to disarm him. During a struggle the man stabbed Sergeant Damro in the jaw before being rolled onto his side. His colleague fired at the offender, who dropped the knife and was apprehended.

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

### **Mr Frank William ENGELS, 106 Teesdale/Lethbridge Road, Teesdale Vic 3328**

On the morning of 15 June 2009, Mr Engels assisted in the rescue of a man from an attack by two dogs at Corio, Victoria.

Mr Engels was walking along Purnell Road, Corio when he saw a man under attack from two aggressive dogs. He went to investigate and saw that the dogs had mauled the back of his head causing major injuries to his scalp as well as serious leg and arm injuries. As another man struggled to hold the dog that was savagely attacking the victim, Mr Engels provided assistance by immediately grabbing the second dog and managed to subdue it for several minutes until police officers arrived. The man spent nine days in hospital and has had ongoing treatment for his injuries.

By his actions, Mr Engels is commended for brave conduct.

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Ricky Walter FRENCH**, 16 Cox Avenue, New Norfolk Tas 7140

On the morning of 9 May 2006, Mr French provided assistance at the scene of a shooting at Mangalore, Tasmania.

Mr French and a friend were travelling on the Midland Highway at Mangalore, Tasmania, when they saw a police vehicle and another vehicle stopped. They noticed a police officer lying on the ground and immediately stopped their vehicle and went to assist. The men saw that the officer had been shot. As Mr French and his friend were moving away from immediate danger, they warned two other motorists, who had also stopped to assist, that a man was armed with a gun. Mr French remained in close proximity to the scene while one of the other motorists attempted to negotiate with the offender. During this time, Mr French directed traffic away from the scene to prevent further people being injured.

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

**Mr Steven Noel GATENBY**, Blackbutt Qld 4306

On 7 February 2009, Mr Gatenby used his body to protect his great uncle during the 'Black Saturday' bushfires at Strathewen, Victoria.

Mr Gatenby was staying with his 94 year old great uncle in Strathewen on the afternoon of the Black Saturday bushfires. Mr Gatenby was trying to put out spot fires when he became aware that the fire alarms in the house had been activated. He and his great uncle sheltered beside the burning house until, overcome by choking fumes, they sought refuge in a nearby burnt-out paddock. Taking his great uncle by the hand, Mr Gatenby laid him on the ground and lay on top to protect him from radiant heat and flying embers. After lying in that position for half an hour, they were discovered by neighbours and took refuge overnight in their vehicle. Both men sustained burns as a result of their ordeal.

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

**Mr John William GRANGER**, 12 Willow Crescent, Marcoola Qld 4564

On the evening of 25 December 2010, Mr Granger went to the aid of a man who was trapped in his vehicle after an accident on the Bruce Highway, Queensland.

A utility was being driven in a northerly direction along the Bruce Highway at Burpengary, when the driver lost control of the vehicle. It careered over a traffic island, rolled three times towards oncoming traffic and came to rest on its roof. The passenger pulled himself clear of the upturned vehicle and stood nearby. Driving in the southbound lane, Mr Granger saw the accident and immediately stopped his vehicle. He crawled into the upturned cabin to help the distressed driver as other vehicles swerved to avoid hitting the crashed vehicle. Despite getting fuel and glass in his eyes, Mr Granger stayed with the driver for about fifteen minutes until emergency services personnel arrived and took over.

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

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

### **Mr Nicholas John GREGORSKI**, Balmoral Qld 4171

In the early afternoon of 12 April 2010, Mr Gregorski attempted the rescue of a man who had gone to the assistance of another swimmer at New Brighton Beach, Queensland.

Mr Gregorski was at New Brighton Beach when he noticed a man struggling in the water. A young girl was also in the water, and it became obvious that the man was trying to assist her. Seconds later a large wave hit the swimmers and they indicated they were in trouble. Mr Gregorski immediately entered the water to provide assistance. The young girl was pushed to the safety of the shallows, so Mr Gregorski swam towards the man, who continued to struggle in the water. When he reached the man he discovered he was unconscious. Mr Gregorski grabbed hold of him and floated in the water for about five minutes until he became exhausted. Another man paddled out on a surfboard and between them they managed to return the victim back to shore where CPR was administered. Sadly, the man was unable to be revived.

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

### **Mr Robert James GRIMSON**, 16 Lorenzo Crescent, Rose Meadow NSW 2560

Mid-afternoon on 28 February 2007, Mr Grimson assisted several motorists caught in flash flooding in Menangle Park, New South Wales.

Following a heavy rain burst, major flash flooding occurred at Menangle Park. As the water rose, one vehicle from the car park was pushed into a culvert, effectively plugging the escape route for the rushing water. As the water continued to rise quickly, more than thirty vehicles began to submerge in the turbulent water and float towards the stormwater drain. Concerned that people were trapped in their vehicles, Mr Grimson and others entered the fast flowing water to check for people in the moving vehicles. The water was now more than two metres deep. Mr Grimson and another rescuer found three children inside one vehicle. Against the torrent, they managed to open the door and Mr Grimson climbed inside. He unstrapped a baby and carried it to safety as the other occupants were assisted by the other man.

For his actions, Mr Grimson is commended for brave conduct

### **Mr Scott Matthew HAHNE**, Eimeo Qld 4740

On the morning of 30 July 2009, Mr Hahne assisted at the scene of a serious single vehicle accident at Edmonton, Queensland.

Mr Hahne was travelling on the Bruce Highway when he witnessed a massive cloud of dust and a vehicle somersaulting in the air. It landed on the opposite side of the highway to its original direction of travel and burst into flames. Mr Hahne immediately drove to the scene to offer assistance. Fire extinguishers were used to contain the flames while Mr Hahne and another man tried to prise open the driver's side door. Still trapped inside, the young driver was barely conscious, with his vital signs erratic. Mr Hahne continued to assist but was concerned that the victim not be moved as the nature and extent of his injuries were unknown. Emergency services arrived to manage the accident scene, but sadly, the driver succumbed to his serious injuries and later died in hospital.

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

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

### **Mr John Arthur HARRIS**, New South Wales

On the afternoon of 24 July 2007, Mr Harris rescued his son from a burning caravan at Austral, New South Wales.

Mr Harris was tending a horse in a paddock when he suddenly detected the smell of smoke. He approached his son's nearby caravan, opened the door and found the interior inundated by smoke. His son was on his bed, his quilt on fire. Mr Harris immediately dragged the covering outside, burning himself in the process before quickly removing a bar heater which was also on fire, again burning himself. Battling thick smoke Mr Harris crouched on the floor and moved towards his son who then suddenly revived and lurched forward, falling to the ground. Mr Harris quickly pulled his seriously burnt son from the caravan and sprayed him down with water using a garden hose until medical help arrived.

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

### **Mr Peter John HOCKING**, 44 Marshall Street, Ashmont NSW 2650

On the afternoon of 21 February 2010, Mr Hocking went to the assistance of an elderly woman who was being attacked by an armed offender at Wagga Wagga, New South Wales.

A man wearing a balaclava and armed with a steak knife approached an elderly woman as she got into her car at the Tolland Shopping Centre. The man grabbed the woman from behind and demanded her wallet and car keys. She resisted, and a struggle ensued. Onlookers shouted at the man to stop, and the offender eventually fled the scene and removed his balaclava. Mr Hocking and another man saw the assault and immediately went to the aid of the woman. Ensuring she was safe, they chased the man through several streets and cornered him in the front yard of a residence. The men demanded the offender drop his knife and he eventually complied. After retrieving the knife, the men took the offender back to the shopping centre as police arrived and arrested him.

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

### **Mr Darren George HORNE**, 42 Rothacker Rise, Doreen Vic 3754

On 7 February 2009, Mr Horne rescued his parents from their property during the 'Black Saturday' bushfires at Strathewen, Victoria.

In Strathewen during the Black Saturday bushfires, Mr Horne and his family went to his elderly parents' property to provide support. As a raging fire bore down on their house, Mr Horne instructed his wife to take their two boys to the dam and to jump in. Despite his mother's protests, Mr Horne was able to assist her into the all terrain vehicle (ATV) as well as his father onto the back platform of the ATV. As he drove to the dam, they encountered a horizontal ember attack. His parents dropped to the ground and were unable to be moved. Mr Horne grabbed a hose and wet his parents and himself down for approximately thirty minutes as the blazing fire front passed. During this time, Mr Horne saw his parents' home burn. When he was able, Mr Horne began to search for his own family. He found them safe, with their heads just above the waterline in another dam.

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

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Senior Constable Kerri Joan JOHNSON**, Queensland Police  
**Mr Warren Winston JOHNSON**, Ashgrove Qld 4060  
**Sergeant Shane Anthony THOW**, Queensland Police

On 31 July 2009, Senior Constable Johnson, Mr Johnson and Sergeant Thow attempted to rescue a man from a rip at Patong Beach, Thailand.

Whilst on holiday in Thailand, Senior Constable Johnson, Mr Johnson and Sergeant Thow were on the beach when they saw a man floating face down in hazardous surf. They immediately entered the water in treacherous conditions and swam out to assist the man who was caught in a rip. Senior Constable Johnson reached the man first, so she grabbed the man's arm and swam towards Sergeant Thow and Mr Johnson. Two lifeguards then assisted the group to bring the man to shore. Senior Constable Johnson and Sergeant Thow assisted with CPR until ambulance personnel arrived. Sadly, despite their efforts, the man died later in hospital.

For their actions, Senior Constable Johnson, Mr Johnson and Sergeant Thow are commended for brave conduct.

**Senior Constable Daniel JONES**, Victoria Police

On the evening of 27 October 2007, Senior Constable Jones (then Constable) helped rescue an elderly woman from a burning house in Preston, Victoria.

Whilst travelling home, Constable Jones noticed an orange glow from a house and stopped to investigate. He discovered two houses well alight and saw two of the neighbours trying to enter one of the burning homes to rescue an elderly woman. Constable Jones and the neighbours entered the dark, smoke-filled house and found the woman asleep in her bed. They woke the woman who was disorientated and refused to leave. As the smoke became overwhelming, Constable Jones grabbed the woman and took her to safety outside.

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

**Mr Enes KAYA**, Perth WA 6000

In the afternoon of 3 May 2010, Mr Kaya rescued a man who had fallen onto train tracks at Oat Street Station, Perth, Western Australia.

Mr Enes Kaya, a high school student, was about to board a train at Oat Street Station, Perth, when he saw a visually impaired man fall between two train carriages onto the track below. Realising that the man was in imminent danger, Mr Kaya immediately moved forward, leaned over and grabbed hold of the man's arms. He managed to pull him up onto the platform before the train departed. Mr Kaya then helped the man onto the train and offered to walk him back to his home to ensure he got home safely.

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

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

### **Mr Aaron Edward KELL**, New South Wales

Details not released at the request of Mr Kell During the evening of 23 September 2009, Mr Kell assisted in the rescue of a young girl from a car in the Darwin Harbour.

A vehicle, with a young girl inside, was parked in a car park at Stokes Hill Wharf, Darwin when it rolled over the edge and plunged into the harbour. Walking nearby and hearing a commotion, Mr Kell and his father went to investigate. They spotted a vehicle floating in the water about ten metres from the wall with the bonnet pointing downwards and a distressed woman on the rock wall. Mr Kell and his father quickly assessed the situation and saw a girl in the back seat. They immediately climbed down the wall, entered the water and swam out to the slowly sinking vehicle. His father opened and held the rear door while Mr Kell grabbed hold of the girl and pulled her from the vehicle. They then swam her back to safety.

For his actions, Mr Kell is commended for brave conduct

### **Detective Constable Grant Andrew LUTZ**, Queensland Police

On 31 May 2004, Detective Constable Lutz (then Constable) assisted in detaining two offenders (one armed with a sawn-off rifle) at Deception Bay, Queensland.

Constable Lutz and a colleague attended a residence in Deception Bay, where they approached two men, one of which was holding a backpack. After brief questioning the men ran to the rear of the premises. Constable Lutz and his colleague pursued the two men and attempted to restrain them. Both men began to punch and knee the officers violently. One man removed a .22 calibre sawn-off rifle from the backpack and aimed it at Constable Lutz. His colleague immediately placed himself between the armed offender and Constable Lutz, and the man was eventually disarmed after a struggle with the rifle. Both offenders surrendered soon after.

For his actions, Detective Constable Lutz is commended for brave conduct.

### **Ms Samantha Erica MARSHALL**, Tamborine Qld 4270

On the morning of 16 July 2010, Ms Marshall rescued a woman from a burning vehicle after an accident near Canungra, Queensland.

Ms Marshall saw a car collide with the roadway railing near Canungra. The vehicle overturned, caught fire and the semi-conscious driver was hanging upside down suspended by her seat belt. Ms Marshall immediately rushed to the burning vehicle and opened the driver's door. She spoke to the driver and told her to release her seatbelt. Ms Marshall then lent inside, grabbed the woman's legs and pulled her outside. She was then assisted by a man to carry the driver away from the burning vehicle to safety.

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

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

### **Mr Peter Milton NEWALL, Port Sorell Tas 7307**

Early on 12 April 2007, Mr Newall assisted in the rescue and attempted rescue of two men after their dinghy capsized at Pieman Heads, Tasmania.

Mr Newall and a friend had just returned to shore when they became aware that a dinghy with two men on board had capsized in a large swell approximately 500 metres off shore. One of the men had managed to attach himself with ropes to the bow rail of the upturned boat. After navigating their way in the treacherous conditions for 30 minutes, Mr Newall and his friend manoeuvred their boat to the upturned hull of the vessel to reach the exhausted man. They were able to cut a number of ropes to release his arms and legs and managed to pull him into their vessel. They motored their way to a larger vessel nearby where initial treatment was provided to the injured man before he was winched aboard the Westpac helicopter. Sadly, after several days of searching for the second man, he was unable to be located.

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

### **Mr Carl Anthony NIKI, New South Wales**

On the afternoon of 21 February 2010, Mr Niki went to the assistance of an elderly woman who was being attacked by an armed offender at Wagga Wagga, New South Wales.

A man wearing a balaclava and armed with a steak knife approached an elderly woman as she got into her car at the Tolland Shopping Centre. The man grabbed the woman from behind and demanded her wallet and car keys. She resisted and a struggle ensued. Onlookers shouted at the man to stop, and the offender eventually fled the scene and removed his balaclava. Mr Niki and another man saw the assault and immediately went to the aid of the woman. Ensuring she was safe, they chased the man through several streets and cornered him in the front yard of a residence. The men demanded the offender drop his knife and he eventually complied. After retrieving the knife, the men took the offender back to the shopping centre as police arrived and arrested him.

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

### **Constable Bernard John NYHAN, Queensland Police**

On the morning of 26 January 2010, Constable Nyhan assisted in the rescue of a man from the Brisbane River, Queensland.

Police and ambulance units attended the William Jolly Bridge, Brisbane River, South Brisbane in response to a man who had jumped into the river. One of the police officers jumped into the river and swam about 75 metres to the distressed man, who refused assistance. Constable Nyhan and an ambulance officer also arrived and assessed the situation. They removed their uniforms, entered the water and went to assist. All three men managed to drag the aggressive man back to safety. At the river bank the intoxicated man continued to abuse the officers and resisted all efforts of assistance. The man had to be heavily sedated prior to being transported to hospital for assessment.

For his actions, Constable Nyhan is commended for brave conduct.

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

### **Mr Thomas Milgate REEVE**, Campbelltown NSW 2560

Mid-afternoon on 28 February 2007, Mr Reeve assisted several motorists caught in flash flooding in Menangle Park, New South Wales.

Following a heavy rain burst, major flash flooding occurred at Menangle Park. As the water rose, one vehicle from the car park was pushed into a culvert, effectively plugging the escape route for the rushing water. As the water continued to rise quickly, more than thirty vehicles began to submerge in the turbulent water and float towards the stormwater drain. Concerned that people were trapped in their vehicles, Mr Reeve and others entered the fast flowing water to check for people in the moving vehicles. The water was now more than two metres deep. Mr Reeve and another rescuer found three children inside one vehicle. Against the torrent, they managed to open the door. Mr Reeve assisted two of the children to safety as the other man unstrapped the baby and carried it to safety.

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

### **Master Nicholas Charles SHERRY**, New South Wales

In the early evening of 19 January 2010, Nicholas went to the aid of his mother who had been caught in a rip at South Ballina Beach, New South Wales.

Mr and Mrs Sherry and their three children were enjoying themselves at South Ballina Beach when their two youngest children became caught in a rip. Seeing the children swept out to sea, Mrs Sherry, who is a weak swimmer, entered the water but soon began to struggle in the waves and lost consciousness. Mr Sherry made the difficult decision to leave his 17 year old autistic daughter on the shore, also entered the water to help his family but found himself in difficulty. Meanwhile Nicholas, who was in the water, attempted to assist his mother by holding her above water. He tried to roll her over but was having trouble staying afloat and eventually he had to let her go. Recalling earlier advice from their uncle, the children remembered not to fight the rip and managed to make their way back to shore. Sadly, after Mr and Mrs Sherry were brought to shore by local residents and surf rescue personnel, they were unable to be revived.

For his actions, Master Sherry is commended for brave conduct.

### **Senior Constable Mark Stephen SIMPSON**, Queensland Police

On the evening of 19 September 2008, Senior Constable Simpson took action to help detain a highly agitated man who had threatened to shoot himself.

Senior Constable Simpson and a colleague went to a residence at Gleneagle where a man was armed with a gun. As they approached the house a man stood on the front porch and held what police believed was a gun to his head. The man called on the police to shoot him or he would shoot them. The officers backed away and unholstered their firearms. The offender then began to move towards them and point his gun in their direction. Just as Senior Constable Simpson's colleague managed to move behind the offender, the offender charged at Senior Constable Simpson, threatening to take his gun. As Senior Constable Simpson struggled with the offender, his colleague moved forward and grabbed the man from behind. The officers then wrestled the man and restrained him with handcuffs. After placing him in their vehicle the man then tried to cut his arm with a shard of glass. After the officers removed the glass from his grasp, they transported him to hospital where he was sedated and restrained before receiving treatment.

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

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

### **Ms Jennifer Wendy SMALL, Girraween NSW 2145**

On 8 November 2009, Ms Small assisted in the rescue of a woman from her violent partner at a motel in Narrabundah, Australian Capital Territory.

Ms Small and her partner were staying in a motel when they heard a loud argument coming from another room. Subsequently, they heard a female calling for help and went outside to investigate. They found a woman in the corridor who immediately asked if she could hide inside their room. Ms Small and her partner attempted to follow the woman back into their room when a very large, aggressive and intoxicated man attempted to push his way inside. After her partner refused entry, the offender started to attack him in the corridor. As the assault continued, Ms Small moved forward and tried to intervene, however she was pushed back into the room. The man entered the room and lunged towards the frightened woman. While Ms Small's partner grabbed hold of the man and ordered him to leave the room, Ms Small stood in front of the woman to protect her. The man eventually stopped the attack and they managed to direct him outside the room, before shutting the door and calling the police.

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

### **Senior Constable Ian Richard THOMPSON, Victoria Police**

On 7 February 2009, Senior Constable (then Acting Sergeant) Thompson assisted in the evacuation of residents and provided ongoing assistance during the 'Black Saturday' bushfires in the Marysville region, Victoria.

Acting Sergeant Thompson was on duty when he became aware of nearby fires at Kilmore, Murrindindi and Narbethong, and decided to establish several Traffic Management Points near Marysville. Relieved by a colleague, Acting Sergeant Thompson immediately drove towards Marysville and began to warn the residents to evacuate. He then attended the Country Fire Authority shed to coordinate an evacuation but was forced to take shelter in the shed when the firestorm directly impacted the town. As the fire burned outside, he maintained a professional and calming presence to the people who were sheltering inside. When the fire passed his location, Acting Sergeant Thompson went to check for his family and found his house destroyed. Throughout the night, he provided assistance to those at the oval and the community as he drove through Marysville to search for survivors.

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

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

### **Senior Constable Adrian Luke VENZ**, Queensland Police

On the evening of 19 September 2008, Senior Constable Venz took action to help detain a highly agitated man who had threatened to shoot himself.

Senior Constable Venz and a colleague went to a residence at Gleneagle where a man was armed with a gun. As they approached the house a man stood on the front porch and held what police believed was a gun to his head. The man called on the police to shoot him or he would shoot them. The officers backed away and unholstered their firearms. The offender then began to move towards them and point his gun in their direction. Just as Senior Constable Venz managed to move behind the offender, the offender charged at his colleague, threatening to take his gun. As the two struggled, Senior Constable Venz moved forward and grabbed the man from behind. The officers then wrestled the man and restrained him with handcuffs. After placing him in their vehicle the man then tried to cut his arm with a shard of glass. After the officers removed the glass from his grasp, they transported him to hospital where he was sedated and restrained before receiving treatment.

For his actions Senior Constable Venz is commended for brave conduct.

### **Leading Senior Constable Roger Leonard WOOD**, Victoria Police

On 7 February 2009, Leading Senior Constable Wood provided ongoing assistance to stranded residents and motorists during the 'Black Saturday' bushfires at Kinglake and surrounding areas, Victoria.

Senior Constable Wood was on duty with a colleague when they became aware of a fast advancing firestorm. Senior Constable Wood and his colleague were driving into Pheasant's Creek when they came upon about 40 cars at the local store, containing frightened members of the public. Surrounded by pine forest and with the store containing fuel bowsers, the group had begun to panic. Leading Senior Constable Wood immediately drove to Kinglake West Country Fire Authority to ascertain if the group could evacuate by road convoy. He advised his colleague to begin evacuating, and soon after the group had left, the store was destroyed by the firestorm. After receiving advice that 15 children were trapped at Kinglake West Primary School both officers ran to the school to investigate, however no children were found. In difficult conditions, Senior Constable Wood and his colleague continued to patrol through the night and at one stage transported an injured woman to Whittlesea for medical attention. They continued to provide comfort and support to many distressed survivors until the following day.

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

### **Miss Slavica ZDRAVKOVIC**, Naree Warren Vic 3805

On the evening of 27 October 2007 Miss Zdravkovic helped rescue an elderly woman from a burning house in Preston, Victoria.

Miss Zdravkovic was visiting her parents at their home when she was alerted to a fire in neighbouring semi-detached houses. Being aware that an elderly woman was possibly inside one of the houses, Miss Zdravkovic ran outside and rang 000 before frantically banging and kicking on the door with another neighbour. Just as the door opened, an off-duty police officer who was passing by joined them to provide assistance. They all entered the dark, smoke filled house and eventually found the woman asleep in her bed. After they woke the woman, who was disorientated and refused to leave, she was taken outside to safety. Miss Zdravkovic, who was overcome by smoke, was assisted outside by her neighbour.

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