

## GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

*Awardees comprise of members of the public who, on 2 May 2007, were involved in a hostage situation in Maryborough Queensland.*

**Mr Darren Evans**  
**Mr Darren John SIMPSON**  
**Mr Mark Anthony STEFFEN**  
**Mr Adrian Michael WILLIAMS**

On the morning of 2 May 2007, a group of citizens and a police officer were involved in trying to defuse a hostage situation at Maryborough, Queensland.

A man armed with a knife entered a grocery store and threatened the life of a male shop assistant. As a hostage situation unfolded, a shopper walked in to see the victim desperately pleading for his life. The visitor tried to calm the offender but he refused to cooperate, demanding that police be called. The man left the store to do so and was later coaxed back inside the shop. The store manager appeared and also attempted to defuse the situation. The offender demanded that the manager and shopper link arms and form a human shield to enable him to manoeuvre the hostage towards an exit. Two other men arrived and were compelled into the group by the offender. Later, yet another two men were coerced into the group. Police had arrived and an officer tried to placate the offender, without success. Without provocation he repeatedly stabbed the hostage, prompting the group of six men to break rank and disburse. The attacker turned his attention to the police officer and moved forward, threatening to kill him. A single shot was discharged and the offender was fatally wounded. The young shop assistant later recovered from his wounds.

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

**Mr Darren Evans**  
DUNDOWRAN BEACH QLD 4655

**Mr Darren John SIMPSON**  
TINANA QLD 4650

**Mr Mark Anthony STEFFEN**  
MARYBOROUGH QLD 4650

**Mr Adrian Michael WILLIAMS**  
Queensland

## GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

*Awardees comprise ten members of the Department of Sustainability and Environment Victoria who, on 7 February 2009 during the Victorian bushfires, went to the rescue of campers in the Murrindindi Reserve.*

**Mr Andrew Mitchell COLLARD**  
**Mr Michael LAUDER**  
**Mr Jarrod Hayden LOGUE**  
**Mr Bradley Russell SEXTON**  
**Mr Graham Peter WATT**

**Mr Brian EARL**  
**Mr Brian Vincent LAWRY**  
**Mr Raymond Ralph MACKEY**  
**Mr Jarrod Lawrence SMITH**  
**Mr Timothy Lee WINTER**

On 7 February 2009, Department of Sustainability and Environment staff provided assistance to campers trapped during the 'Black Saturday' bushfires at Murrindindi Scenic Reserve, Victoria.

Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) crews became aware that approximately nineteen campers were in trouble at the Murrindindi Scenic Reserve campsite. They took several vehicles, including a tanker and a bulldozer, to the Reserve to assist the group. The Reserve was surrounded by two fire fronts and the campers were unable to leave by vehicle. The DSE staff moved the campers in vehicle convoy to the Murrindindi River car park. DSE vehicles and crews then cleared a path through barriers and small tea trees to enable the campers and crew to proceed on foot to the river. Pumping water from the river, the group hosed the vehicles and nearby vegetation and attempted to clear surrounding trees with chainsaws. On the other side of the fire line, a crewmember tried to create an exit route for the trapped group but was pushed back by flames. After nearly two hours when the conditions improved, crews were able to help the group to safety.

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

**Mr Andrew Mitchell COLLARD**  
YARRA GLEN VIC 3775

**Mr Brian EARL**  
15 Malbar Street  
HEALESVILLE VIC 3777

**Mr Michael LAUDER**  
Western Australia

**Mr Brian Vincent LAWRY**  
152 Wallace Parade  
HEALESVILLE VIC 3777

**Mr Jarrod Hayden LOGUE**  
BADGER CREEK VIC 3777

**Mr Raymond Ralph MACKEY**  
CHUM CREEK VIC 3777

**Mr Bradley Russell SEXTON**  
Victoria

**Mr Jarrod Lawrence SMITH**  
HEALESVILLE VIC 3777

**Mr Graham Peter WATT**  
58 Lyell Street  
MARYSVILLE VIC 3779

**Mr Timothy Lee WINTER**  
HEALESVILLE VIC 3777

## GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

*Awardees comprise five members of staff at St Laurence's College, Brisbane, who on 28 July 2008, went to the assistance of students who were being challenged by armed assailants on the grounds of the college.*

**Mr Andrew Ross KENDALL**  
**Mr Christopher Jon OAKES**  
**Mr Anthony Damian SAMIOS**  
**Mr Michael Paul SHARKEY**  
**Mr Edward Allen WALLACE**

On the afternoon of 28 July 2008, teachers from the St Laurence's College assisted students threatened by a group of armed youths in Brisbane, Queensland.

During the lunch break, two groups of armed youths entered the St Laurence's College school grounds. A group of four youths, armed with a meat cleaver and a metal pole approached students on the playground. As teachers verbally challenged the youths, one of the youths quickly pulled out the meat cleaver, swung it wildly and hit a student in the face. The students began to run away, however the attacker was able to stab another student in the back. Two teachers chased the attackers through the school and off the school grounds, while another teacher stayed to protect the students. A second group of armed youths who also made their way through the school grounds were challenged by two other teachers. The second group fled, with the teachers in pursuit. This enabled them to direct police to the youth's location.

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

**Mr Andrew Ross KENDALL**  
KENMORE QLD 4069

**Mr Christopher Jon OAKES**  
GREENSLOPES QLD 4120

**Mr Anthony Damian SAMIOS**  
14 Warenda Street  
CARINA HEIGHTS QLD 4152

**Mr Michael Paul SHARKEY**  
SHAILER PARK QLD 4128

**Mr Edward Allen WALLACE**  
Queensland

## GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

***Awardees comprise of members of the Australian Defence Force who, on 16 April 2009, were involved in the rescue of people following an explosion on a suspected illegal entry vessel near Ashmore Island.***

**Corporal Bradley Joseph BENDEICH  
Able Seaman Quinton Royston BOORMAN  
Leading Seaman Kirsty-Lee BROWN  
Petty Officer Thomas Raphael DAWE  
Chief Petty Officer Dean Andrew FAUNT  
Able Seaman Tomas David GALLANT  
Petty Officer Paul Christopher HETHERINGTON  
Sergeant Sharon Louise JAGER  
Leading Seaman Matthew Thomas KEOGH  
Able Seaman Jason Cordell LIST  
Able Seaman Michael Alexander LORDAN  
Chief Petty Officer Shane Gregory McCALLUM  
Leading Seaman Maria Therese MATHEWS  
Leading Seaman Adrian Carl MEDBURY  
Leading Aircraftman Thomas Stephen NORTON  
Able Seaman Mathew Ross PIERCE  
Leading Seaman Daniel Anthony RYAN  
Mr Christopher Alexander SAVILLE**

On the morning of 16 April 2009, a number of Australian Defence Force personnel assisted occupants of a burning vessel in the waters near Ashmore Island, Western Australia.

Patrol boats HMAS *Childers* and HMAS *Albany* were escorting a Suspected Irregular Entry Vessel (SIEV) that held forty-nine civilians and Australian Defence Force personnel, when the situation onboard deteriorated. Four personnel from the escort vessels immediately volunteered to form an augmented security team to board the SIEV. Within two minutes of arriving onboard, the vessel caught fire and exploded, causing most people to be thrown into the water. In response to this hazardous situation Australian Defence Force personnel, both on the escort vessels and the SIEV reacted swiftly and professionally. The escort vessels continually manoeuvred their crafts and rescued as many survivors as possible. Ultimately, all nine Defence Force personnel onboard the SIEV at the time, and forty-four passengers and crew of the vessel were recovered. Sadly, dozens of casualties occurred sustaining horrific injuries and five people died.

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

Any enquiries regarding the above awards should be directed to  
Defence Media Liaison on (02)6265 3343 or 0408 498 664

## GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

*Awardees comprise of members of the Victoria Police and Victoria Ambulance Service who assisted members of the public during the Victorian Bushfires on 7 February 2009.*

**Mr David Robert ALLEWAY**  
**Mr Denis Mackay BROWN**  
**Senior Constable Peter Lee COLLYER**  
**Leading Senior Constable Kenneth James DWIGHT BM**  
**Leading Senior Constable Ian Graham HAMILL**  
**Mrs Ann Meredith HUNTER**  
**Sergeant Andrew WALKER**  
**Mr Andrew WOLLARD**

On 7 February 2009, Police and Ambulance personnel provided ongoing assistance during the 'Black Saturday' bushfires, Victoria.

As the fire storm descended during the Black Saturday bushfires, police and ambulance officers responded to a number of incidents. Police officers provided guidance and assistance to approximately 200 anxious people seeking shelter from the firestorm on a local oval, before instructing them to evacuate to Alexandra. As trees around the park border started to burst into flames and with the air almost impossible to breathe, the crowd tried to remain calm as they followed the police instructions. Leaving Marysville in convoy, the police officers continued to warn those they came across to evacuate the town, including another 30 people taking shelter at the local golf club. Meanwhile, ambulance officers responded to an emergency situation where a large tree had fallen on top of a vehicle in Marysville, trapping the occupant. The ambulance personnel assisted in the release of the woman from her vehicle. Throughout the night the officers continued to advise and assist residents to safety and managed the traffic to ensure unauthorised people did not enter fire-affected zone.

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

**Mr David Robert ALLEWAY**  
Victoria

**Mr Denis Mackay BROWN**  
MARYSVILLE VIC 3779

**Senior Constable Peter Lee COLLYER**  
Victoria Police

**Leading Senior Constable Kenneth James DWIGHT BM**  
Victoria Police

**Leading Senior Constable Ian Graham HAMILL**  
Victoria Police

**Mrs Ann Meredith HUNTER**  
70 Falls Road  
MARYSVILLE VIC 3714

**Sergeant Andrew WALKER**  
Victoria Police

**Mr Andrew WOOLLARD**  
Victoria

## GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

*Awardees comprise of men who, on the morning of 14 June 2009, rescued a woman from drowning at Lalomanu Beach, Samoa.*

**Mr Otele AMITUANAI**  
**Mr Mikaele MAIAVA**  
**Mr Michael Peter MOLLER**  
**Mr Mark Edward ROHWEDER**

On the morning of 14 June 2009, a group of men rescued a woman from drowning at Lalomanu Beach, Samoa.

A group of couples were at Lalomanu Beach when one of the men sighted a person in the sea waving for help. He grabbed a board and paddled out into the ocean to the woman who was by now some 750 metres from shore. After the local resort management was notified of the trouble, another man from the group and a local employee paddled a kayak towards the woman who was being pounded by huge waves crashing over the reef. By the time they arrived to help, the first rescuer and the woman had been washed further through the reef to the outer ocean. Another local employee entered the water and paddled out on a single kayak and reached the group. They then helped place the woman on the single kayak and pushed her back through the reef and she was able to paddle back to the safety of the shore. The rescuers were then able to return to the beach unharmed.

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

**Mr Otele AMITUANAI**  
Taulua Beach Fales  
LALOMANU SAMOA

**Mr Mikaele MAIAVA**  
Nukunonu  
TOKELAU ISLANDS APIA SAMOA

**Mr Michael Peter MOLLER**  
BRUNSWICK HEADS NSW 2483

**Mr Mark Edward ROHWEDER**  
COOLUM BEACH QLD 4573

## GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

*Awardees comprise of men who who rescued two miners following an explosion in a mine at Beaconsfield, Tasmania on 25 April 2006.*

**Mr Garth Douglas BONNEY**  
**Mr Royce George GILL**  
**Mr Heath GRAAUW**  
**Mr Donovan Kahl LIGHTFOOT**  
**Mr Dennis Robert NEWSON**  
**Mr Daniel John PISCIONERI**

The members of mining teams were involved in the rescue of two men trapped in a mine at Beaconsfield, Tasmania in April/May 2006.

On the night of 25 April 2006, a substantial rock fall incident occurred underground at the Beaconsfield Gold Mine where seventeen miners were working. Three of the miners were unaccounted for and, several days later, the body of one of the missing miners was recovered. Within 24 hours, rescuers were able to make contact with the two remaining men who were trapped almost a kilometre below the surface. The first rescue attempt through a direct route to the men was declared unsafe. Drilling a smaller hole through 14.5 metres of rock and lining it with a PVC pipe, the rescuers were able to provide the trapped men with water, food and communications equipment. Drilling of a rescue tunnel began on the night of Thursday 4 May. Substantial work was completed on the Saturday morning, enabling rescue teams to painstakingly drill, bore and blast their way to the men. In the early hours of 9 May, the trapped miners were reached through rock below them which was broken through by rescuers. The men were driven up the spiral shaft to a waiting medical team. At 5:58am, both miners walked out of the lift cage unaided.

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

**Mr Garth Douglas BONNEY**  
469 Rocky Cape Road  
ROCKY CAPE TAS 7321

**Mr Royce George GILL**  
12 Bolton Street  
BEACONSFIELD TAS 6432

**Mr Heath GRAAUW**  
Tasmania

**Mr Donovan Kahl LIGHTFOOT**  
PO Box 114  
BEACONSFIELD TAS 7270

**Mr Dennis Robert NEWSON**  
16 Markm Court  
ULVERSTONE TAS 7315

**Mr Daniel John PISCIONERI**  
772 Greens Beach Road  
CLARENCE POINT TAS 7270

## GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

***Awardees comprise of three men who, on 20 May 2009, rescued two people who were trapped in floodwaters at Kobbie Creek, Queensland.***

### **Mr Ian George WEISE**

*(added to the Group Bravery Citation awarded and gazetted on 21 March 2011)*

On the morning of 20 May 2009, three men rescued two people trapped in floodwaters at Kobbie Creek, Queensland.

A man and a woman were travelling across a bridge covered by water when their four-wheel drive vehicle stalled. Moments later a wall of water pushed the vehicle from the bridge into a fast flowing creek where it became jammed against a tree. The woman helped her friend to safety as they scrambled onto a tree and waited for help. Some ninety minutes later, Mr Ian Weise and his son, Brendan spotted the couple in their isolation as floodwaters surged around the tree. Unable to reach them, Mr Weise phoned a neighbour, Mr Glen Lake who arrived with an excavator and positioned it close to the water's edge. Mr Ian Weise climbed into the machine's up-turned bucket as his son gave directions where best to position the articulated arm and bucket from the creek bank. Mr Ian Weise threw two nylon lift belts over to the tree. One was attached to the stranded driver enabling Mr Lake to haul him across the water and lower him safely onto the creek bank. Shortly afterwards a similar manoeuvre was used to rescue the woman. The couple was taken back to Mr Weise's home where they gratefully accepted hot showers, dry clothing, food and drink.

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

Mr Ian George WEISE  
171 Dales Road  
KOBBLIE CREEK QLD 4520

## GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

***Awardees comprise of members of the Melbourne Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services.***

*(added to the Group Bravery Citation awarded and gazetted on 21 March 2011)*

### **Mr Russell Douglas JOHNSON**

On the morning of 12 October 2007, crews from the Spotswood, Newport and Footscray fire stations helped rescue a colleague trapped in a fierce fire at a furniture factory at Yarraville, Victoria.

Fire fighters were informed that a small fire was underway at a furniture factory in Yarraville. Wearing protective equipment and breathing apparatus, the first investigating crew was not able to locate flames or a heat source. A second and third crew joined to assist the search and provide rescue backup respectively. The officers thoroughly scoured the building, and within moments of being ready to report their findings, a chemical reaction occurred as a result of the build up of spontaneous combustible substances. The resulting toxic explosion ignited a flash fire of such magnitude that it forced the officers to quickly retreat the scene. Fire raced through the building, immediately engulfing it and trapping one of the officers. Despite the inferno and the risk to their own lives, fire fighters from the three stations, some of whom had already sustained burns, returned to rescue their unconscious colleague who was not breathing. The victim was able to be carried to safety and revived while other fire fighters contained the fire at the site, protecting surrounding residential and business properties.

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

Mr Russell Douglas JOHNSON  
Victoria

## GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

***Awardees comprise of a group of young people who helped pull a boy from the flooded Rapid Creek, Northern Territory.***

*(added to the Group Bravery Citation awarded and gazetted on 21 March 2011)*

### **Mr Daniel Johanis GIBSON**

On the afternoon of 16 February 2009, a group of young people helped rescue a boy from the flooded Rapid Creek, Northern Territory.

Late on a summer's afternoon, groups of young people were swimming in Rapid Creek. Recent rainfall had created a fast flowing, swollen water course. A teenage boy had become entangled in a rope attached to a tree and was unable to struggle against the force of the water or remove the rope. He was being pulled under the surface as a number of boys swam out to help him. However they were overpowered by the volume of water and were forced downstream. Another teenager jumped into the creek and tried to remove the rope but he was repeatedly pushed under the surface. Other boys tried to help but were unable to resist the current. They swam out of the creek further on and hurried back to the victim. Two of them were able to reach the young boy and also assist the other rescuer still in the water. A teenager untied the rope from the tree while others held the victim above water. The boy was swum to the bank where preliminary CPR was administered. Emergency services were called and advice was relayed by phone about CPR methods until police and ambulance arrived. The young teenager was taken to hospital but sadly, as a result of the accident, died several hours later.

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

Mr Daniel Johanis GIBSON  
45 Rosella Crescent  
WULAGI NT 0812

## GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

***Awardees comprise of a group of citizens and a police officer who helped contain a fire and assisted victims following an explosion at the Territory Insurance Office, Darwin.***

*(added to the Group Bravery Citation awarded and gazetted on 21 March 2011)*

### **Mr Michael HEWETT**

On the morning on 3 February 2010, a group of citizens and a police officer helped contain a fire and assisted victims find their way through smoke and debris following an explosion at the Territory Insurance Office, Darwin.

A number of shoppers and workers at a retail centre in Darwin heard repeated explosions in the complex and ran to the Territory Insurance Office (TIO) which was engulfed in flames and thick smoke. A man was able to make his way out of the TIO and assisted another injured person escape to safety. Despite sustaining burns and other injuries the man remained at the front of the office with a group of civilians and a police officer, using fire extinguishers and a fire hose to try to contain the fire. Four men and the officer attempted to enter the burning office to check for other victims but were forced to retreat from the heat and smoke. Without any breathing apparatus and confronted by extremely limited visibility, they and other men called out repeatedly to people inside while torches were shone through the thick smoke, helping guide a group of victims out of the building. One of the men prevented a female worker from re-entering the burning office, ensuring that she was kept safe and uninjured. Confirming there were no people unaccounted for, the group continued to hose down the fire and provide first aid and comfort to the victims until emergency services arrived at the scene.

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

Mr Michael HEWETT  
Northern Territory