

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Senior Constable Teresa Elizabeth ANDERSON, Queensland Police

On the morning of 28 April 2014, Senior Constable Teresa Anderson assisted in the rescue of a woman and young boy from a submerged vehicle at Springfield Lakes in Brisbane.

In wet weather conditions a vehicle skidded off Springfield Lakes Boulevard, ploughed into an urban lake, and was sinking front end first. An off-duty police officer was first on the scene and he immediately entered the water and swam 25 metres out to the vehicle where he saw a woman and a young boy in the cabin. Senior Constable Anderson, who was also off duty, came upon the scene and swam out to the vehicle. The other police officer, with the assistance of another man, managed to free the young boy from the car and swim him to the lake edge. Senior Constable Anderson removed the rear parcel tray in an attempt to get the woman out of the back of the vehicle. At this point the vehicle went below the surface. Senior Constable Anderson felt the woman beneath her in the water, pulled her to the surface, and swam her back to the lake shore.

For her actions, Senior Constable Anderson is commended for brave conduct.

Senior Constable Shane Grey ASHTON, Queensland Police

In the late evening of 20 March 2011, Senior Constable (then Constable) Shane Ashton retrieved a man who was submerged in the swollen Coles Creek in Nambour, Queensland.

Constable Ashton and his colleague drove to a neighbourhood park off Gardenvale Drive, Nambour, following reports a man was behaving irrationally. On arrival, the officers approached a group of people who indicated that the man may have gone into the swollen creek. Constable Ashton and his colleague searched the creek and soon observed a body under the surface. Constable Ashton entered the fast flowing water, made his way to the man and pulled him to the surface. He swam the unconscious man to the bank, dragged him out of the water and provided CPR until ambulance officers arrived. Sadly, the man was deceased.

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

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Constable Megan Jane BRUNTON, Queensland Police

In the early hours of 14 December 2013, Constable Megan Brunton assisted in the apprehension of a man who had stabbed a police officer in Townsville, Queensland.

Constable Brunton, accompanied by three police officers, was conducting inspections within a licensed establishment during the conduct of police operations pertaining to the Townsville Drink Safe Precinct. As the officers left the venue down a narrow staircase a patron suddenly stabbed the last officer before leaving the knife in the officer's neck. The offender then held another knife against the officer's throat. The wounded officer managed to push the knife away and call out to his colleagues. Constable Brunton, and the two other officers, immediately moved towards the offender and one of the officers separated him from their wounded colleague. A struggle then ensued. Constable Brunton drew her taser, while the other officer drew his firearm, and they ordered the offender to desist. The officer, deciding that it was unsafe to use his firearm, used his taser on the offender while Constable Brunton radioed for assistance and went to treat her wounded colleague. The offender dropped the knife and was arrested.

For her actions, Constable Brunton is commended for brave conduct.

Mr Mario CASA, South Oakleigh Vic 3167

On the morning of 16 July 2014, Mr Mario Casa assisted in the rescue of an elderly woman from a burning house in Bentleigh, Victoria.

Mr Casa and a colleague were undertaking concreting work at a house in Atkinson Street, Bentleigh, when they heard a loud bang at the back. Mr Casa and his colleague went to investigate and saw smoke and flames emanating from the house. Aware an elderly woman was inside, they banged on the deadlocked front door and windows to alert her. On receiving no response they returned to the rear of the house and yelled and banged on the rear door. The elderly woman opened the door and Mr Casa and his colleague then grabbed a nearby garden hose, entered the kitchen area, and attempted to douse the flames but were forced to retreat by the smoke. They then removed the woman to safety.

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

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Mr Daniel Luke COSTER, Cloverlea Vic 3822

On the afternoon of 27 November 2013, Mr Daniel Coster assisted in the rescue of several people overcome by fumes in a cattle feed tank on a farm in Cloverlea, Victoria.

Mr Coster's father was attempting to empty a tank of cattle feed when he was overcome by toxic ammonia fumes, causing him to become unconscious and slip into the syrup mixture. Realising that their father was in trouble, two of Mr Coster's brothers immediately climbed into the feed tank to assist and both were overcome by fumes, however became unconscious. A farm employee witnessed the event and also climbed into the tank to assist, however became unconscious. Mr Coster and his brother quickly located an angle grinder and cut an opening in the side of the plastic tank. Police officers arrived at the scene and entered the tank through the newly cut opening. Both were forced back due to the fumes. However, eventually the police officers, with the assistance of family members, were able to move the victims outside to safety.

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

Mr Robert Edward COSTER, Cloverlea Vic 3822

On the afternoon of 27 November 2013, Mr Robert Coster assisted in the rescue of four people overcome by fumes in a cattle feed tank on a farm in Cloverlea, Victoria.

Mr Coster's father was attempting to empty a tank of cattle feed when he was overcome by toxic ammonia fumes, causing him to become unconscious and slip into the syrup mixture. Realising that their father was in trouble, two of Mr Coster's brothers immediately climbed into the feed tank to assist and both were overcome by fumes and became unconscious. A farm employee witnessed the event and also climbed into the tank to assist, however became unconscious. Mr Coster and his brother quickly located an angle grinder and cut an opening in the side of the plastic tank. Police officers arrived at the scene and entered the tank through the newly cut opening. Both were forced back due to the fumes. However, eventually the police officers, with the assistance of family members, were able to move the victims outside to safety.

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

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Mr William Edward DENNY, 2 Ian Place, Rostrevor SA 5073

On the afternoon of 5 November 2014, Mr William Denny was involved in stopping two women from being assaulted in Adelaide.

A woman travelling on a bus to the centre of Adelaide came to the assistance of a woman who was being abused by her male partner. When the bus stopped all three people disembarked. The man punched and struck his partner and then assaulted the second woman who had come to his partner's aid. His partner ran towards a nearby hotel for help but the offender caught up with her and the assault continued. Mr Denny, who was inside the hotel, witnessed the attack and immediately went to assist. He yelled at the offender to stop and, despite being told the offender had a knife, he grabbed hold of him, moved him away from both women and restrained the offender until police arrived.

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

Mr Robin Jeffrey EVERNDEN, 96 Sabina Drive, Molloy Island WA 6290

On the morning of 27 August 2014, Mr Robin Evernden rescued a man and his pet dog from a submerged vehicle at Molloy Island in Western Australia.

An elderly man attempted to park his vehicle on the Molloy Island ferry when he accidentally pressed the accelerator causing the car to crash through barrier gates and plunge into the Blackwood River. Mr Evernden, noticing that the vehicle immediately began to sink, threw a life buoy towards the elderly driver inside the car as it began to fill with water. Despite being unable to swim, Mr Evernden entered the water, made his way to the vehicle and on being unable to open the doors, made his way back to the ferry, grabbed a hammer and entered the water again. Mr Evernden smashed the rear passenger window and pulled the driver outside and back to the ferry. He then made his way back to the vehicle to rescue the elderly man's dog.

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

Lieutenant Colonel Graham Malcolm GOODWIN, SA

On the afternoon of 18 March 2012, while deployed as part of a United Nations mission in Timor-Leste, Lieutenant Colonel Graham Goodwin assisted the riders of two motorcycles involved in a collision near Baucau in Eastern Timor Leste.

Lieutenant Colonel Goodwin was conducting mobile unarmed security patrols when he witnessed two motorcycles collide head on. He went to assist the motorcyclists as petrol pooled around the injured riders and traffic continued to pass nearby on the narrow road. Both riders were unconscious, had life threatening injuries and were suffering significant blood loss. Lieutenant Colonel Goodwin placed both the motorcyclists into the recovery position and stayed with them until an ambulance arrived. Both motorcyclists were subsequently taken to Dili Hospital for treatment.

For his actions, Lieutenant Colonel Goodwin is commended for brave conduct.

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Mr Dylan Reece HODGE, Rockhampton Qld 4700

In the early afternoon of 20 October 2013, Mr Dylan Hodge assisted two people from a burning house in North Rockhampton, Queensland.

Mr Hodge was working on a house in North Rockhampton when he heard a woman call out 'fire' from a nearby residence. He immediately ran to the property to provide assistance. Upon entering the house he was confronted with thick smoke and flames. Mr Hodge went to the kitchen and saw an elderly man using a blanket in an attempt to smother the flames coming from a portable gas stove. Mr Hodge assisted the man and woman outside to safety before returning with a garden hose and extinguishing the fire. Mr Hodge and the two elderly residents were all treated for smoke inhalation.

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

Mr Michael William JONES, New South Wales

Details not available at the request of Mr Jones

Mr Jeffrey Edward JORGENSEN, Springfield Lakes Qld 4300

On the morning of 28 April 2014, Mr Jeffrey Jorgensen assisted in the rescue of a woman and young boy from a submerged vehicle at Springfield Lakes in Brisbane.

In wet weather conditions a vehicle skidded off Springfield Lakes Boulevard, ploughed into an urban lake, and was sinking front end first. An off-duty police officer was first on the scene and he immediately entered the water, and swam 25 metres out to the vehicle where he saw a woman and a young boy in the cabin. Mr Jorgensen, and another off-duty police officer, also came upon the scene and swam out to the vehicle. Mr Jorgensen assisted the first police officer to free the young boy from the car and swim him to the lake edge. As the vehicle went below the surface, the second police officer located the female driver in the water, pulled her to the surface, and both swam back to the safety of the lake shore.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Jeremy Adrian LINTON, 312 Sheffield Road, Montrose Vic 3765

On the morning of 4 May 2014, Mr Jeremy Linton assisted two men to escape from under a capsized vessel off Portland in Victoria.

Mr Linton accompanied his father and two others on a fishing trip off Portland when their fishing vessel capsized in rough sea. Mr Linton, the boat's skipper and another man were sucked into the front cabin which had a large air pocket. Mr Linton was able to swim out from the cabin and establish an escape route before returning to the other men and explaining how to swim out. He directed one man out of the cabin and to the surface and then explained to the boat's skipper how to escape. Mr Linton then swam out and climbed on top of the vessel's hull and was joined there by the skipper. The men were rescued about an hour later by a passing fishing boat.

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

Mr Andrew James LOCK OAM, Canberra ACT 2600

On 16 May 2004, Mr Andrew Lock rescued three oxygen-starved mountain climbers on Mount Everest in Nepal.

Mr Lock climbed to the summit of Mount Everest in May 2004 taking with him three bottles of oxygen needed to survive an 18 hour return trip to the summit. On his descent he encountered a British, a Mexican and a Canadian who were all semi-comatose and suffering from various stages of altitude sickness. Mr Lock gave two of the men his own oxygen bottles and sourced another oxygen bottle. He arranged for the Canadian climber to make the descent accompanied by a Sherpa. After delivering the Mexican climber safely to camp, and with his own oxygen running out, Mr Lock was beginning to feel the effects of hypoxia. Undeterred, he made his way back up to the British climber, connected a fresh oxygen bottle to the man's mask, and escorted him safely back to camp.

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

Mr Mark Anthony McARTHUR, Collie WA 6225

On the morning of 17 February 2014, Mr Mark McCarthy apprehended an armed bank robber in Collie, Western Australia.

Mr McCarthy was outside a building in Collie when a woman exited a credit union yelling that it had just been robbed. The woman then pointed towards a man who was running towards the town centre. As Mr McCarthy gave chase the woman told him that the offender was carrying a weapon. Mr McCarthy saw the offender enter another bank and he immediately went into a nearby office and had the receptionist call the police and advise them that a second bank robbery was under way. He then returned to the street and, as he moved towards the bank, the offender exited the building. As the offender was fleeing, Mr McCarthy tackled him to the ground and restrained him until police arrived.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Alan Robert MILNER, PO Box 683, Strathfieldsaye Vic 3551

On the afternoon of 25 March 2014, Mr Alan Milner assisted in the rescue of a man from a prime mover near Ensay in Victoria.

Mr Milner and another man were riding their motorcycles along the Great Ocean Road at Ensay when they witnessed a fully loaded Kenworth log truck lose control and tip over. The log truck had come to rest driver's side down, and despite smoke rising from the wreck and oil pumping out of a ruptured hose from the running engine, Mr Milner and the other motorcycle rider approached the cabin of the truck. They saw the driver was injured and unable to get out. Mr Milner organised for a bystander to call 000, whilst his fellow motorcycle rider kicked in the windscreen and climbed into the smoky cabin. Mr Milner then assisted in extracting the dazed and confused driver out of the cabin and to safety.

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

Senior Constable Leonard Joseph MORONEY, Queensland Police

On the morning of 28 April 2014, Senior Constable Leonard Moroney assisted in the rescue of a woman and young boy from a submerged vehicle at Springfield Lakes in Brisbane.

In wet weather conditions a vehicle skidded off Springfield Lakes Boulevard, ploughed into an urban lake, and was sinking front end first. Senior Constable Moroney, who was off-duty at the time, was first on the scene and he immediately entered the water, and swam 25 metres out to the vehicle where he saw a woman and a young boy in the cabin. He was joined by two other people who had come to assist. Senior Constable Moroney, with the assistance of another man, managed to free the young boy from the car and swim him to the safety of the lake edge. As the vehicle went beneath the water, the other rescuer felt the female driver beneath her in the water, pulled her to the surface, and swam her back to the lake shore.

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

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Mr John Arron NORTH, Kings Park Vic 3021

In the early evening of 5 November 2013, Mr John North assisted in the rescue of three people from a burning house in Kings Park, Victoria.

Mr North was at his residence when he saw a neighbour's house engulfed in smoke. A man had used petrol and set fire to the house while his wife and two children remained trapped inside. Mr North ran to the burning house which was quickly being engulfed in flames. He made his way to the rear of the house and noticed a window was broken and a woman was gasping for air but trapped behind security bars on the window. Mr North ran back to his own home, grabbed a pickaxe and returned. Despite the toxic smoke, he managed to break one of the security bars and was attempting to break a second bar when the fire brigade arrived. The fire fighters forced entry through the side of the house and rescued the woman and the two girls.

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

Mr Adrian James PRENDERGAST, PO Box 4372, Eight Mile Plains Qld 4113

In the late evening of 23 August 2014, Mr Adrian Prendergast rescued a woman from a burning house in Underwood, Queensland.

Mr Prendergast was at his home in Underwood when his neighbour knocked on his front door and requested that he call the fire brigade. Mr Prendergast noticed that the man was ill and seemed to be suffering from smoke inhalation. He raced across the road and saw the female resident carrying a garden hose into the burning house. When he reached the front door he saw that the house was filled with thick black smoke. Mr Prendergast heard the woman screaming and could see enough to determine that she had become disorientated. He rushed inside, grabbed hold of the woman and took her outside. When the woman insisted on re-entering the burning house he restrained her and waited for emergency services teams to arrive.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Salvatore RACITI, Melbourne Vic 3000

On the morning of 16 July 2014, Mr Salvatore Raciti assisted in the rescue of an elderly woman from a burning house in Bentleigh, Victoria.

Mr Raciti and a colleague were undertaking concreting work at a house in Atkinson Street, Bentleigh, when they heard a loud bang at the back. Mr Raciti and his colleague went to investigate and saw smoke and flames emanating from the house. Aware an elderly woman was inside, they banged on the deadlocked front door and windows to alert her. On receiving no response they returned to the rear of the house and yelled and banged on the rear door. The elderly woman opened the door and Mr Raciti and his colleague then grabbed a nearby garden hose, entered the kitchen area, and attempted to douse the flames but were forced to retreat by the smoke. They then removed the woman to safety.

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

Mr Robert William STARBUCK, 825 Yan Yean Road, Doreen Vic 3754

On the afternoon of 25 March 2014, Mr Robert Starbuck assisted in the rescue of a man from a prime mover near Ensay in Victoria.

Mr Starbuck and another man were riding their motorcycles along the Great Ocean Road at Ensay when they witnessed a fully loaded Kenworth log truck lose control and tip over. The log truck had come to rest driver's side down, and despite smoke rising from the wreck and oil pumping out of a ruptured hose from the running engine, Mr Starbuck and the other motorcycle rider approached the cabin of the truck. They saw the driver was injured and unable to get out. Whilst his fellow motorcycle rider organised for a bystander to call 000, Mr Starbuck kicked in the windscreen and climbed into the smoky cabin. He turned the engine off and assisted in extracting the dazed and confused driver out of the cabin and to safety.

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

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Mr Carter David TRAVIS, Queensland

In the early hours of 30 March 2014, Mr Carter Travis, who was then 15 years of age, entered a burning house to search for occupants in Albany Creek, Queensland.

Mr Travis was playing games in his bedroom in his home in Albany Creek when he became aware that his neighbour's residence was on fire. While his mother called 000, he made his way to the house. Although his mother and a neighbour advised him not to enter the burning house, he kicked open the front door and went inside believing a neighbour to be in the house. Mr Travis searched two rooms and when he was unable to locate anyone he retreated outside. Fortunately, on that particular evening the house was unoccupied when it was subsequently engulfed by fire.

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

Mr Bruce Richard WALDRON, Cooroibah Qld 4565

On the afternoon of 15 December 2012, Mr Bruce Waldron rescued a man caught in a rip at Teewah Beach in Queensland.

Mr Waldron was travelling with his family at Fresh Water near Teewah Beach in Queensland when he was flagged down by people requesting help. He learnt that five young men were caught in a rip. Three of the group had managed to make it to shore and two were still in the surf. Mr Waldron spotted one man struggling in the rip, grabbed a surfboard from his vehicle, and entered the water. He paddled out to the semi-conscious man and pulled him onto his surf board. He then fought the strong rip and managed to bring the man back to shore. Despite nearly drowning, the man recovered following medical treatment. The fifth man was later found but was unable to be revived.

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