

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT (CBC)

Mr Tony Anatole BONDARENKO, Omeo Vic 3898

On the evening of 23 January 2008, Mr Tony Bondarenko assisted in the attempted rescue of a child from a burning house at Cloverdale, Western Australia.

Mr Bondarenko was driving to the local shops when he saw smoke coming from an adjoining street. As he drove around the corner he saw a woman screaming that her little boy was in the burning house. He stopped his car and ran into the house. When he reached the room where the fire was coming from, he encountered the woman's neighbour who was also trying to get into the room. Both men were forced back by burning embers falling from the ceiling and thick smoke. Mr Bondarenko went outside and fetched a garden hose and re-entered the burning house. The boy's distressed father and the neighbour then smashed the bedroom window and pulled the lifeless boy outside. Mr Bondarenko then directed the father to give mouth to mouth whilst he performed CPR on the boy, which they did until the fire and emergency services arrived. Sadly, the little boy was unable to be revived.

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

Mr Bruce David BOREHAM, 1 Darwin Drive, Lapstone NSW 2773

On the night of 26 October 1972, Mr Bruce Boreham rescued several occupants who were trapped in a burning vehicle at St Peters, New South Wales.

A driver, who was travelling at high speed along Canal Road in St Peters, New South Wales, lost control of his vehicle and collided with a power pole before careering into another vehicle, and then striking a second power pole. Mr Boreham witnessed the accident and saw a fire starting in the wrecked vehicle. Without consideration for his own safety, he ran to the car which had damaged live power lines resting on its roof. He reached inside the burning vehicle and managed to drag a young woman out and away from the fire. He then made a second approach to the burning vehicle and was able to grab the leg of a young male passenger and remove him from the burning wreck. Mr Boreham then approached the vehicle for a third time and, with the assistance of another man, he removed a third occupant from the car. The vehicle was then engulfed in flames.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT (CBC)

Mr Derek Lawrence BOWERS, 2 Dryandra Crescent, Darlington WA 6070

On the afternoon of 23 August 2012, Mr Derek Bowers assisted in the rescue of a man from a burning motorcycle at Henley Brook, Western Australia.

A motorcycle was travelling on West Swan Road at Henley Brook when it collided with a Hyundai SUV. The motorcycle exploded into a ball of flame before it came to rest on the roadway, with the seriously injured driver lying on his back near the burning bike. Mr Bowers was travelling along the same road and when he saw the accident pulled his car to the side. He, assisted by another passer-by, rushed to the motorcyclist who was being engulfed in flames. Without considering their own safety, both men grabbed hold of the victim's legs and dragged him out of the fire. Mr Bowers then managed to extinguish the burning clothes and helmet of the victim and call 000. He stayed with the unconscious man until assistance arrived. The rider was critically injured and required treatment in hospital for approximately three months.

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

Mr Jonathan CAWOOD, 9A Kerrie Crescent, Eltham Vic 3095

On 29 January 2014, Mr Jonathan Cawood assisted in the rescue of a man who slipped and fell into a narrow crevasse at Maruia Falls, near Murchison in New Zealand.

Mr Cawood and his friend were preparing to Kayak over Maruia Falls when another tourist slipped and fell head first into a narrow crevasse next to the falls. The injured man was lying unconscious on a small ledge about 4 metres below the top of the crevasse. Water was flowing into the crevasse and the man's face was submerged. Mr Cawood and his friend immediately set about rescuing the man. A rope anchor was tied to a rock at the top of the crevasse and then Mr Cawood used the bridging technique to climb down to the injured man, where he immediately pulled his face out of the water. A webbing loop was tied onto a rope and lowered to Mr Cawood who was then able to fashion a makeshift sling for the injured man and attach him to the webbing loop. With the assistance of other tourists, Mr Cawood's friend was able to raise the man to the surface. After Mr Cawood was pulled out from the crevasse he assessed the man's condition and immobilised him due to suspected spinal injuries. Another tourist was dispatched to summon emergency services and the injured man was subsequently airlifted to hospital.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT (CBC)

Leading Senior Constable Colin Richard COOPER, Victoria Police

On 2 November 2011, Leading Senior Constable Colin Cooper assisted in the attempted rescue of a man at Wongarra, Victoria.

Leading Senior Constable Cooper was off duty and at his home when he was alerted by the Apollo Bay Surf Lifesaving Club that a man was attempting to drown himself in the ocean at Wongarra. He was advised that the man was considered violent. He arrived at the Club and, with a member of the Apollo Bay Surf Club, took an Inflatable Rescue Boat (IRB) out to sea. The two men manoeuvred the IRB through the rough sea and large waves which were breaking onto the coastline. When they neared the man, who, at this stage, had been in the water for nearly two and half hours, he responded aggressively to Leading Senior Constable Cooper and asked to be left alone. The rough seas near the coastline meant they were only able to stay near the man for short periods before they were forced to go out to deeper water for safety. On several occasions when they navigated back to the man, even though he was getting weaker, he continued to refuse all rescue attempts. Leading Senior Constable Cooper requested air rescue be deployed whilst he and the other man in the IRB remained at the scene. They endured the capsizing of their IRB on two occasions, eventually resulting in them having to swim to shore. Sadly, the man was later found deceased.

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

Sergeant David Thomas COOPER, Victoria Police

On 9 March 2013, Sergeant David Cooper assisted with the rescue of a boy caught in a rip at St George River Beach near Lorne, Victoria.

Sergeant Cooper was driving along the Great Ocean Road when a 000 call came in on his radio that there were people caught in a rip at St George River Beach. He immediately went to the area, assessed the situation, gave his police radio to a beach goer to monitor and, after removing his uniform down to his underwear, grabbed a surfboard and headed into the rough and unpredictable surf. Sergeant Cooper paddled out to where a boy was being kept afloat by a man who had gone to his assistance. They placed the boy on the surfboard and began to head towards the beach. Despite being dumped by the pounding surf, they returned safely to the beach. After receiving CPR the boy was able to be revived. It then became apparent that the boy's father was still in the water so Sergeant Cooper and the man returned to the surf to attempt to rescue him. When a lifesaving vessel arrived the three men were pulled out of the water but sadly the boy's father was unable to be revived.

For his actions, Sergeant Cooper is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT (CBC)

Mr Benjamin Terrence DINGLE, Lowmead Qld 4676

On the morning of 26 January 2013, Mr Benjamin Dingle assisted in the rescue of two elderly people who became trapped on their property by rapidly rising flood waters at Lowmead, Queensland.

In the early hours of the morning the concerned couple contacted the State Emergency Service who subsequently contacted the father of Mr Benjamin Dingle, the couple's neighbour, to see if he could provide assistance. Mr Dingle helped his father to ready their small boat and launched it into the flood waters. In extremely high wind and torrential rain, Mr Dingle and his father navigated their way to the stranded couple's property, using torchlight to avoid floating debris and downed power lines. Mr Dingle and his father were able to retrieve the couple and their dog and through treacherous conditions returned to their neighbouring property. The couple's home, farm shed and a large proportion of their acreage ended up being submerged by over five metres of storm water.

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

Mr Gary Reginald DINGLE, Lowmead Qld 4676

On the morning of 26 January 2013, Mr Gary Dingle assisted in the rescue of two elderly people who became trapped on their property by rapidly rising flood waters at Lowmead, Queensland.

In the early hours of the morning the concerned couple contacted the State Emergency Service who subsequently contacted Mr Gary Dingle, the couple's neighbour, to see if he could provide assistance. Mr Dingle, assisted by his son, readied their small boat and launched it into the floodwaters. In extremely high wind and torrential rain, Mr Dingle and his son navigated their way to the stranded couple's property, using torchlight to avoid floating debris and downed power lines. Mr Dingle and his son were able to retrieve the couple and their dog and through treacherous conditions returned to their neighbouring property. The couple's home, shed and a large proportion of their acreage ended up being submerged by over five metres of storm water.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT (CBC)

Mr Joel Michael DONKIN, 138 Old Soldiers Road, Rainbow Flat NSW 2430

On the morning of 28 October 2009, Mr Joel Donkin attempted to assist UN personnel following an attack by Taliban militants in Kabul, Afghanistan.

In an attempt to disrupt the Afghan presidential elections, Taliban suicide bombers stormed the Bakhar Guesthouse at Kabul, Afghanistan. Over a two-hour battle, twelve people were killed including six United Nations (UN) employees, before the insurgents detonated suicide vests. Mr Donkin, a UN paramedic, together with another colleague, arrived at the site soon after the attack commenced. They were initially forced to take cover from gunfire and were then held at gunpoint by a nervous Afghan soldier until they proved they were unarmed. After they entered the guesthouse, amid the mayhem as shots continued to be fired, Mr Donkin and his colleague secured, protected and treated with dignity the deceased bodies of their UN colleagues until the police arrived and the violent attack ceased. In the aftermath of the attack, Mr Donkin and his colleague discovered that another colleague's body had been taken to a military hospital. They located the victim and drove the body through the city in an unprotected vehicle to a more suitable and secure facility.

For his actions, Mr Donkin displayed considerable bravery.

Mr David James FERRIS, 80 Mary River Road, Cooroy Qld 4563

Early on the morning of 31 July 2010, Mr David Ferris rescued a man from a burning vehicle on the Cooroy-Noosa Road at Mount Tinbeerwah, Queensland.

After he witnessed a two vehicle motor accident, Mr Ferris pulled over and ran to the vehicles which had caught on fire. He assisted a passenger who had climbed out through an open window of one of the vehicles and moved him to safety. Mr Ferris questioned the man and became aware that the driver remained inside the vehicle. He then returned to the vehicle and discovered that all the doors were jammed shut. He told the driver to lean over and, despite the engine bay being alight and with small explosions happening, he managed to drag him out of the smashed window and move him to safety. A second motorist went to the other wrecked vehicle where he saw a teenage driver unconscious behind the wheel. After unsuccessfully trying to remove the driver, he went to his own vehicle, retrieved a knife, cut the young man's seatbelt and dragged him from the car. Both vehicles then exploded blowing the doors off the first vehicle. Unfortunately the young man in the second car was unable to be resuscitated.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT (CBC)

Mr Murray John FREAN, PO Box 2006, Ellenbrook WA 6069

On 21 March 2004, Mr Murray Frean apprehended a man who was being chased by police in Gresham Street, Victoria Park, Western Australia.

Mr Frean was at home with his family when he heard the sound of screeching tyres and a loud bang. He immediately went outside to investigate and saw two police officers climbing over a fence. Mr Frean re-entered his house, locked the doors and, concerned that an intruder may be present, searched the premises. When he ascertained that his home was safe, he went out to the front porch of the house where he saw a man running down the street. Mr Frean immediately gave chase and tackled the offender to the ground. Despite being threatened, Mr Frean wrestled with the man before managing to restrain him. He then held the offender until the police returned and arrested him.

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

Mr Rodney Mervyn FREE, 46 Spry's Road, Mundubbera Qld 4626

On the afternoon of 27 January 2013, Mr Rodney Free rescued three people who were trapped in floodwaters at Mundubbera, Queensland.

As a result of Tropical Cyclone Oswald, extremely heavy rain was experienced in the Central and North Burnett shires at the end of January 2013. The Burnett river rose swiftly and on the 27th of January it isolated a property near Mundubbera. As two of the property's owners attempted to negotiate the floodwaters they were swept 100 metres downstream before managing to cling to a power pole. The son of one of the men then waded into the water to assist, and he too was swept off his feet before managing to cling onto a eucalyptus tree. As access to the property had been cut, local man, Mr Rodney Free, was contacted and he quickly got to the property and launched his small boat into the torrent of water. When the steering cable broke, Mr Free physically held onto the engine and manually navigated the boat to the first man who climbed aboard. Mr Free then motored the boat through the fast flowing water to the two men on the power pole and pulled them into the boat. Mr Free then navigated the boat back to safe ground.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT (CBC)

Mr Brock Ashley GRAZOTIS, Tewantin Qld 4565

Early on the morning of 31 July 2010, Mr Brock Grazotis rescued a man from a burning vehicle on the Cooroy-Noosa Road at Mount Tinbeerwah, Queensland.

After he witnessed a two vehicle motor accident, Mr Grazotis pulled over and ran to the vehicles, which had caught on fire. Another motorist was assisting a passenger who had climbed out through an open window of one of the vehicles and was moving him to safety. Mr Grazotis went to the other vehicle and saw a teenage driver unconscious at the wheel. He attempted to free him but was unable to remove the seatbelt from the young man. Mr Grazotis went to his car and returned with a sharp knife. He cut the seatbelt and dragged the unconscious driver from the car. Both cars then exploded, blowing the doors off one of the vehicles. Mr Grazotis performed CPR on the driver until the ambulance arrived. Unfortunately the young man was unable to be resuscitated.

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

Mr Leslie John GREEN, NT

In the early hours of 9 January 2010, Mr Leslie Green assisted in the rescue of a woman who was trapped in the fast rising floodwaters of Charles Creek, Northern Territory.

Following advice that other rescue authorities were unable to affect a rescue, Mr Green and accompanying crew drove their tanker through a causeway covered by 1.5 metre deep, swift-flowing water to reach the site. After the vehicle was anchored and the headlights shone towards the woman, Mr Green, who had not been formally trained in swift water rescue, quickly donned a life vest and rescue belt which was then tied to the tanker as an anchor point. Mr Green twice entered the water to reach the stricken woman only to be swept away by the current before being pulled back to the bank by his colleagues. On his third attempt, Mr Green managed to reach the woman, who was clinging to a large tree in the middle of the 100 metre wide swollen creek. He fitted a life vest onto the woman, attached himself and the rope to her, and began the treacherous return to the creek bank. No sooner had they taken a few steps than they were swept off their feet and dragged downstream by the torrent. Barely visible as the water swept over them Mr Green battled the current with the woman in tow as his colleagues pulled them to safety.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT (CBC)

Pilot Officer Kenrick Robert HORGAN, Canberra ACT 2600

On the afternoon of 14 June 1997 Pilot Officer (then Mr) Kenrick Horgan assisted in the rescue of a man from a burning vehicle at Gordon Victoria.

Mr Kenrick Horgan and his father were at their property near Gordon when a woman informed them that a man was trapped inside a burning vehicle. Kenrick's father quickly gathered some tools before heading to the crash site about 500 metres from their property. Despite some rain showers the crashed vehicle had set alight some surrounding trees. Kenrick and his father saw a man trapped in the driver's seat and a broken fuel line was feeding the fire in the car's engine bay. Kenrick and his father were initially unable to open any of the doors but, after a second attempt, they managed to prise open the rear passenger door. The cabin of the vehicle was fast filling with toxic smoke and the trapped driver was screaming for help. Without thinking of his own safety, Kenrick's father leaned inside the vehicle and grabbed hold of the man. Kenrick then held onto his father as his father managed to manoeuvre the driver in between the front seats and pull him out the rear passenger door and away to safety. Soon after the vehicle was engulfed by the flames.

For his actions, Pilot Officer Horgan is commended for brave conduct.

Miss Kimberley Helene KERMODE, Southport Qld 4215

On the afternoon of 18 January 2014, Ms Kimberley Kermode rescued several people who were caught in a rip at The Spit, Main Beach in Surfer's Paradise, Queensland.

Ms Kermode was walking along the ocean side of The Spit at Main Beach in Surfer's Paradise when four people became caught in a strong rip current. An older couple and two teenage boys attracted her attention and indicated that a group of people were in distress offshore, with waves breaking over them. Ms Kermode immediately dialled 000 but was unable to reach the lifeguard service. Knowing that assistance was not on the way, without hesitation she made her way out to the back of the waves and signalled for the group to swim parallel to the beach towards her. One by one those in the water managed to do this as Ms Kermode struggled to maintain her footing due to large waves crashing over her. Ms Kermode carried the exhausted first swimmer towards the shore and called for the two teenage boys to assist. She returned twice for two more of the swimmers, all of whom were exhausted and with one losing consciousness. She placed them in the recovery position on the sand. The fourth swimmer managed to make it to shore under her own steam. All the swimmers were taken to hospital for observation.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT (CBC)

Mr Peter John KROGH, Gin Gin Qld 4671

On the evening of 2 March 2011, Mr Peter Krogh assisted in the rescue of a co-worker from drowning after he was dragged into the mouth of a drain pipe in a flooded creek at Marlborough, Queensland.

Mr Krogh and a colleague were returning to Marlborough, Queensland when they stopped at a flooded creek crossing. As they waited for other colleagues to arrive, Mr Krogh's co-worker waded about three metres into the water to check the water level to see if it was safe for vehicles to cross. The force of the water caused the man to lose his footing and he was dragged into the mouth of a pipe where the water was up to his chest. Mr Krogh grabbed hold of the man and, when he was unable to pull him out, he held onto him to stop him from drowning. After about fifteen minutes, Mr Krogh's colleagues arrived at the scene and immediately assisted in rescuing the man.

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

Mr James LAUGHTON, 183 Shepherds Hill Road, Eden Hills SA 5050

On the afternoon of 15 December 2013, Mr James Laughton assisted his father following a barbecue explosion at Eden Hills, South Australia.

Mr Laughton was standing near his father as he attempted to light the barbecue when it flared up, setting his clothes alight. Mr Laughton immediately began to push his father towards a shower to douse the flames, but the man collapsed onto the ground. Mr Laughton grabbed hold of a towel and using it, as well as his body, managed to smother the flames on his father. During the incident the family dog had also been accidentally set on fire. Once the flames had been extinguished on his father, both men turned their attention to helping the family dog. Mr Laughton then placed his father in the shower, turned the water on, and told him not to move. He then ran to put out three spot fires in the backyard to prevent them from taking hold and threatening the house. Mr Laughton's father was treated for his injuries at the Burns Unit in the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT (CBC)

Mr Gavin Lloyd LAWRENCE, Wollongong NSW 2500

On the evening of 28 March 2010, Mr Gavin Lawrence (then Senior Constable) apprehended an armed offender who was concealed in bushland at Oak Flats, New South Wales.

A man wearing camouflage clothing and armed with a range of weapons fired an arrow at an elderly woman at her residence. The arrow narrowly missed the woman and her son went to investigate. He tackled the armed offender who stabbed him before fleeing the scene. Senior Constable Lawrence and his Police Dog 'Odie' attended the location and began to track the offender. When reports of the offender were received that he was sighted elsewhere, several police moved to that location as Senior Constable Lawrence and 'Odie' continued in the dark to search a track which led to an industrial area. Despite being fearful of walking into an ambush, Senior Constable Lawrence continued along the track when 'Odie' indicated the offender, who was secreted in lantana near the creek line. He ordered the offender, who was surrounded with his weapons, to show his hands and, when he refused, Senior Constable Lawrence directed 'Odie' to take hold of the man who then submitted. Other police then arrived and arrested the offender.

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

Mr Brett Anthony LEACH, 979 Mariju-Yakapari Road, Yakapari, Mackay Qld 4740

On the evening of 3 March 2013 Mr Brett Leach went to the assistance of a woman who was trapped on a vehicle submerged in floodwater at Dumbleton, Queensland.

Mr Leach, accompanied by his son, drove to Nebia Creek at Dumbleton, west of Mackay, to check on water levels and any flooding following torrential rains. When he stopped on the roadway near the overflowing creek he noticed two red lights bobbing in the water some distance from him and he realised that they were the tail lights of a vehicle. He immediately entered the water and made his way towards the submerged vehicle. As he got closer he saw a young woman sitting on the roof of the vehicle. The vehicle had snagged on the top of a barbed wire fence which was preventing it from being washed downstream in the torrent. As the rushing water reached a level where he was unable to move closer to the vehicle he called for the woman to swim to him. The woman then managed to jump from the roof into the water and swim to him. They then battled the current with Mr Leach assisting her out of the water and to safety.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT (CBC)

Mr Christopher James LEACH, Malua Bay NSW 2536

On the afternoon of 1 April 2007, Mr Christopher Leach rescued a woman from drowning in rough surf at Malua Bay, New South Wales.

A female tourist was fishing at Malua Bay Beach when she was swept off the rocks and into the sea. Mr Leach was at the beach when he saw a female tourist shouting on the shoreline and another fully clothed female struggling to stay afloat in the water. The woman was near rocks at the northern end of the beach when she fell beneath the surface of the waves several times and then disappeared. Mr Leach entered the water and used his body board to quickly reach the woman's location. He dived down and pulled the barely conscious woman to the surface. As Mr Leach attempted to check her condition she pulled him from his body board due to her distressed state and disorientation. Mr Leach persisted and despite the woman vomiting on him several times, he managed to swim her back to the beach whilst avoiding the rocks. When the lifeguards arrived they administered CPR and oxygen before the woman received further treatment in hospital.

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

Mr Quinn James MATTHEWS, Apollo Bay Vic 3233

On 2 November 2011, Mr Quinn Matthews assisted in the attempted rescue of a man at Wongarra, Victoria.

Mr Matthews from the Apollo Bay Surf Lifesaving Club received a request from Lifesaving Victoria for assistance to retrieve a man who was attempting to drown himself in the ocean at Wongarra. Mr Matthews arrived at the Club and with an off duty police officer took the Club's Inflatable Rescue Boat (IRB) out to sea. With Mr Matthews taking charge of the IRB they manoeuvred it through the rough sea and large waves. When they neared the man, who, at this stage, had been in the water for nearly two and half hours, he responded aggressively and asked to be left alone. The rough sea near the coastline meant they were only able to stay near the man for short periods before being forced out to deeper water for safety. On several occasions when they navigated back to the man, even though he was getting weaker, he continued to refuse all rescue attempts. A request was made for air rescue to be deployed whilst Mr Matthews and the police officer remained at the scene. They endured the capsizing of their IRB on two occasions, eventually resulting in them having to swim to shore. Sadly, the man was later found deceased.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT (CBC)

Sergeant Jason Joseph MERCER, Western Australia Police

In the early hours of the morning of 23 January 2005, off-duty police officer Sergeant Jason Mercer, (then Detective Senior Constable), intervened during a confrontation between rival gangs at a nightclub in Subiaco, Perth.

Detective Senior Constable Mercer was informed that a man armed with a gun was inside the nightclub. He entered the nightclub and saw a confrontation occurring between two rival motorcycle gangs. Detective Senior Constable noticed one gang member was armed with a pistol, and asked him to put it down. He refused and then fired a shot into the ceiling before fleeing outside, throwing the weapon into a rubbish bin. Detective Senior Constable Mercer followed the man and retrieved the pistol as a vital piece of evidence. He was then attacked by another gang member, receiving a number of blows to his head. Detective Senior Constable Mercer struggled with the attacker, who attempted to grab hold of the weapon, and managed to fend him off.

For his actions, Sergeant Mercer is commended for brave conduct.

Mr Benjamin Alan NELSON, 47 Boolungal Way, Karana Downs Qld 4306

On the morning of 28 October 2009, Mr Benjamin Nelson attempted to assist UN personnel following an attack by Taliban militants in Kabul, Afghanistan.

In an attempt to disrupt the Afghan presidential elections, Taliban suicide bombers stormed the Bakhar Guesthouse at Kabul, Afghanistan. Over a two-hour battle, twelve people were killed including six United Nations (UN) employees, before the insurgents detonated suicide vests. Mr Nelson, a UN paramedic, together with another colleague, arrived at the site soon after the attack commenced. They were initially forced to take cover from gunfire and were then held at gunpoint by a nervous Afghan soldier until they proved they were unarmed. After they entered the guesthouse, amid the mayhem as shots continued to be fired, Mr Nelson and his colleague secured, protected and treated with dignity the deceased bodies of their UN colleagues until the police arrived and the violent attack ceased. In the aftermath of the attack, Mr Nelson and his colleague discovered that another colleague's body had been taken to a military hospital. They located the victim and drove the body through the city in an unprotected vehicle to a more suitable and secure facility.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT (CBC)

Mr Terrence William O'BRIEN OAM RFD, 10 Norfolk Street, Red Hill ACT 2603

On the afternoon of 18 January 2009, Mr Terrence O'Brien provided assistance to three people who were trapped following a single vehicle accident at Moss Vale, New South Wales.

A utility with four people on board lost control, collided with a tree, and ended upside down. As Mr O'Brien rounded a bend on Berrima Road, he saw the upturned vehicle, with its wheels still spinning, in a paddock adjacent to the roadway. He stopped his car and ran to the vehicle where he discovered the driver had been thrown clear, but three boys were still inside the overturned cabin. Despite fuel leaking freely he judged that one boy appeared to have suffered spinal injuries and was not able to be moved. Mr O'Brien saw that another boy had suffered major trauma to his left arm and, in order to apply emergency first aid, he dragged him out of the vehicle. He applied a compression and tourniquet to the boy's limb and left him in the care of a bystander before crawling back inside the vehicle. Mr O'Brien saw that the third boy had a large piece of timber over his legs so he crawled out and made his way around to the other side where he managed to remove the timber off the boy. He then remained at the vehicle and supported the boys until emergency services arrived.

For his actions, Mr O'Brien is commended for brave conduct.

Mr Lyle John OPPERMAN, PO Box 4168, Tinana Qld 4650

On the evening of 19 February 2014, Mr Lyle Oppermann, Queensland Ambulance Service Paramedic, rescued three people from a burning house in Kawungan, Queensland.

Mr Oppermann and a colleague responded to reports that a house was on fire at Ian Avenue, Kawungan. On arrival, he observed smoke coming from the house and heard smoke alarms. When a neighbour advised the paramedics that a young family was still inside the house, they went to a front window, looked inside the darkened room and saw two children. When they were unable to wake them, they broke the window with a torch. Mr Oppermann climbed into the room, sustaining a minor injury to his arm. He picked up the children and passed them outside to his colleague. He then made his way through the smoke filled house and managed to open the front door to let Queensland Fire and Emergency Services personnel inside. Mr Oppermann assisted with a thorough search of the house resulting in the locating of an unresponsive woman who was carried outside. Mr Oppermann was subsequently treated for his injuries and also smoke inhalation.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT (CBC)

Mr Rhys William ROCCAMANTE, 81 Randall Road, Wynnum West Qld 4178

On the evening of 28 August 2013, Mr Rhys Roccamante rescued a man from a burning vehicle near the Wynnum Shopping Plaza at Wynnum West.

Rhys and his mother were walking their dogs when they saw a flash and realised that a vehicle was on fire in the car park. They ran to the burning vehicle and saw that the car was occupied. As they got closer to the car the driver flung the door open causing the flames to intensify. With the front section of the passenger cabin ablaze, Rhys grabbed hold of the man and attempted to remove him from the burning vehicle. The driver had a tight hold of the steering wheel and was uncooperative, telling Rhys to leave him alone. By this stage the driver's clothes were on fire. Rhys persisted and forcibly removed the man from the vehicle, which was becoming engulfed by flames. He managed to roll the man on the ground to extinguish his burning clothes. The vehicle began to make hissing sounds so, with the assistance from his mother, Rhys dragged the injured man further away from the vehicle and waited until police and emergency services arrived.

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

Mr Steven SCOTT, Freemantle Road, Bathurst NSW 2795

On the morning of 17 July 2012, Mr Steven Scott rescued a woman who had fallen down an old well at Vao, The Isle of Pines, New Caledonia.

When Mr Scott heard his wife scream, he ran to what he thought was a rock garden. A woman had tripped backwards, hit her head on a rock, and then fallen head first into a disused well. She was unconscious and located about five metres from the surface. Without consideration for his own safety, Mr Scott climbed into the well and reached the woman. He pulled her head out from the water and tapped her face several times to bring her around. Bystanders placed a ladder into the well as the woman became conscious. Mr Scott was then able to assist her up the ladder and outside to safety.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT (CBC)

Mr Mitchell Bryan STEPHEN, Vic

On 29 January 2014, Mr Mitchell Stephen assisted in the rescue of a man who slipped and fell into a narrow crevasse at Maruia Falls, near Murchison in New Zealand.

Mr Stephen and his friend were preparing to kayak over Maruia Falls when another tourist slipped and fell head first into a narrow crevasse next to the falls. The injured man was lying unconscious on a small ledge about 4 metres below the top of the crevasse. Water was flowing into the crevasse and the man's face was submerged. Mr Stephen and his friend immediately set about rescuing the man. Whilst his friend climbed into the crevasse and repositioned the man's face so that he could breathe, Mr Stephen fashioned a rope anchor which was tied to a rock at the top of the crevasse. He then attached a webbing loop onto a rope which was then lowered to where the injured man was. A sling was fashioned and, with the assistance of other tourists, Mr Stephen was able to raise the man to the surface where he was immobilised due to suspected spinal injuries. Another tourist was dispatched to summon emergency services and the injured man was subsequently airlifted to hospital.

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

Mrs Alicia Aqua SUMMER

On the morning of 12 December 2012, Mrs Alicia Summer assisted a woman following a motor vehicle accident at Willunga Hill, South Australia.

When Mrs Summer came upon a car accident she stopped her car and quickly made her way to the damaged vehicle, which was balanced precariously on its side. Mrs Summer discovered the female driver trapped inside and, without thought for her own safety, she crawled into the twisted wreckage. She held the driver's neck and head immobile ensuring that her airway was kept open so that she could breathe. Despite the extremely hot weather, Mrs Summer assisted and comforted the woman for nearly two hours until emergency responders were able to cut the driver out of the twisted vehicle. When Mrs Summer later attended her workplace she collapsed and was treated in hospital for shock and dehydration.

For her actions, Mrs Summer is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT (CBC)

Mr Cody SUNDERLAND, Windaroo Qld 4207

On the morning of 8 December 2012, Mr Cody Sunderland, who was 13 years old at the time of the incident, chased after and tackled an offender who had stolen property from his family home at Waterford, Queensland.

Cody was at home when he heard a car horn sounding outside. He looked out a bedroom window and saw the offender attempting to steal a family vehicle in the driveway. Previously, and unknown to Cody, the offender, armed with a screwdriver, had broken into the residence and stolen a handbag and other items. Cody immediately exited the house and saw the offender behind a boat that was parked in the driveway. When the offender ran up the street, Cody gave chase, caught the man, and wrestled with him. During the short struggle, he managed to grab the handbag back from the offender, who then fled the scene.

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

Detective Sergeant Anissa Maree TERRY, Queensland Police Detective Senior Sergeant Glenn Victor TERRY, Queensland Police

On the morning of 13 January 2013, off duty police officers Detective Sergeant Anissa Terry and Detective Senior Sergeant Glenn Terry assisted in the apprehension of an armed offender at Sunnybank, Queensland.

At the intersection of Mains Road and Carnaby Street, Detective Sergeant Terry and Detective Senior Sergeant Terry saw a conspicuously dressed man jogging. The man was wearing a black wig, straw hat, surgical face mask, gloves and was carrying a duffel bag. The officers believed the man had just committed a robbery and was likely to be armed. When they saw a security guard stealthily following the offender they drove slowly and found the man getting changed behind a water tank. The offender became aware of their presence so the officers immediately pulled over and exited their vehicle. They ran about 15 metres across the street towards the offender who was kneeling down and searching through his bag. They identified themselves as police officers and ordered the offender to lie on the ground; however he continued to search frantically in his bag. Whilst Detective Senior Sergeant Terry grabbed hold of the man, Detective Sergeant Terry moved the bag away from him. The offender continued to struggle as the officers restrained the offender until further police arrived. A search of the offender's duffel bag later found that its contents included a pistol and a taser.

For their actions, Detective Sergeant Anissa Terry and Detective Senior Sergeant Glenn Terry are commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT (CBC)

Mr Luke Anthony WALTERS, Queensland

On the morning of 3 October 2007, Mr Luke Walters and another cattle-hand rescued a man from a burning helicopter after it had crashed on a property near Marlborough, Queensland.

The owner of Tartrus Station was yarding cattle after mustering in an R44 helicopter when its tail rotor struck the upper branches of a nearby tree. The helicopter spun out of control before crashing violently and bursting into flames in the cattle yards. The pilot was badly injured and his seat belt was jammed. Mr Walters arrived on the scene soon after the crash and found another cattle-hand had managed to free the pilot from his seat. Mr Walters and his colleague then began to carry the injured man from the burning wreckage. They were only metres away from the helicopter when it exploded, propelling shrapnel and debris in all directions. The injured man was placed in the recovery position and his condition assessed before the alarm was raised and medical assistance summoned.

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

Mr Gary John WASSON, Helidon Qld 4344

On the afternoon of 10 September 2013, Mr Garry Wasson assisted a man who was trapped in a vehicle after an accident on the Leichardt Highway at Gurulmindi, Queensland.

A dual cab utility veered across the highway and collided with a prime mover road train which was travelling in the opposite direction. The road train immediately overturned and ended up blocking the highway. Following the initial impact with the prime mover, the utility then collided with a vehicle towing a box trailer. When all three vehicles came to rest the two drivers from the initial collision remained trapped inside their crushed vehicles. Mr Wasson was travelling along the highway when he saw the accident. He went straight to the prime mover and, amongst the wreckage, saw the driver was hanging by his legs upside down. Mr Wasson crawled into the debris, wedged himself under the driver, and used his body weight to support the man to maintain an airway. A police officer, who had also arrived at the scene, crawled into the sleeper cab and held the driver's head. Mr Wasson and the police officer then supported the driver for a lengthy period of time which assisted the rescue team to successfully cut the driver free from the wreckage.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT (CBC)

The late Mr John Herman WINDSHUTTLE, New South Wales

On the afternoon of 4 September 1972 Mr John Windshuttle went to the rescue of two children who were involved in the rescue of two children from a submerged vehicle in the Numeralla River, near Cooma, New South Wales.

A woman was driving along the Monaro Highway near Cooma when she lost control of her vehicle and crashed through a bridge railing, landing in nearly 3.5 metres of water in the Numeralla River. As the icy water reached the rear door windows the driver managed to escape while other passengers remained trapped inside. Mr Windshuttle drove upon the scene, entered the icy water and dived down to the vehicle. Despite the poor visibility he managed to open the driver's door, enter the vehicle, and find a small lifeless boy under the dashboard. He swam him to the bank and organised for the boy to be given CPR. He dived down to the vehicle again, this time locating a woman but as he attempted to pull her out of the vehicle she became stuck. He dived down several times before he was able to pull her out and bring her to the bank. Sadly, the woman and boy were deceased.

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