

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mrs Marlene AGGETT, Ballarat Vic 3350

On the afternoon of 5 March 2012, Mrs Marlene Aggett responded to cries of help from a woman during a handbag snatch. The woman was walking along Little Clyde St, Ballarat when a man and his female passenger called her over to his car to get directions. After driving away, the man soon returned and asked for more directions before he grabbed hold of her handbag and drove off. The woman did not let go, and she fell to the ground and hit her head. Local resident, Mrs Aggett heard screams and went to investigate. As she was attending to the injured woman, the man drove back and aggressively drove right up to her. Mrs Aggett placed herself between the injured woman and the 4WD as he drove towards them, nudging her with the bull bar. During this time the injured woman managed to crawl her way over to the footpath as the driver sped off.

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

Mrs Dianne ANVER, 10 Davey Road, Montmorency Vic 3094

On the afternoon of 6 January 2008, Mrs Dianne Anver assisted in the attempted rescue of a man from a dangerous section of the Murray River at Barooga. A man and a boy entered the river and soon after the man fell into the deep part of the river where the current was strong. Mrs Anver was swimming with her family when she saw a man swimming fast across the river. Realising that something was wrong Mrs Anver also swam across the river to help. Mrs Anver exited the river, spoke to the boy and learnt that his father had disappeared under the surface. She began to search along the bank before she returned to comfort the boy.

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

Mr Brendon W ASHBY, North Ipswich Qld 4305

On the morning of 11 January 2011, Firefighter Brendon Ashby and a colleague assisted in the rescue and attempted rescue of a family of four (two adults and two young boys) who were trapped on the roof of their vehicle which was submerged in flood water at the Lowood and Minden Road crossroads. In heavy rain, the vehicle was being held up by a shifting fence caused by the surging water. The officers tried to reach the vehicle but were forced back by the strength of the water. On their second attempt, they managed to reach the family and fit personal floatation devices to each of them. When the vehicle shifted, one of the boys, aged seven, fell into the water. Firefighter Ashby's colleague immediately swam after the child, grabbed him, and swam to the safety of a water eddy that was about 45 metres away. Soon after, Firefighter Ashby tethered the other boy, aged four, to himself, entered the water and desperately tried to reach the eddy. His colleague threw him a rope, however, as they were being pulled towards the eddy, the tether untied and the child was swept from Firefighter Ashby's grip. Firefighter Ashby desperately lunged for the boy but could not reach him. He was then pulled into the eddy. Sadly, the child was swept away.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Sergeant Allan Richard ASHMAN, 10B Buna Crescent, Puckapunyal Vic 3662

In the morning of 28 October 2011, Sergeant Ashman entered a burning building to search for any occupants. Sergeant Ashman was at his residence when he went to investigate a fire alarm sounding next door. When he reached the house, he saw smoke billowing from the upper and lower windows of the two-story residence. As he entered the burning house through the rear sliding door, he spoke with a neighbour, who was already inside. A large fire was emanating from the kitchen area and the smoke was intense. After realising the television in the lounge room was on, they believed the house was occupied. When Sergeant Ashman attempted to search upstairs, he was forced back by the acrid smoke. While his neighbour continued to search for occupants Sergeant Ashman made several emergency phone calls and then filled buckets of water from an outside swimming pool and poured the water onto the fire. After about ten minutes, he managed to extinguish the fire. When firefighters arrived they ensured the fire was contained and, after thoroughly searching the premises, they declared the house was unoccupied.

For his actions, Sergeant Allan Ashman is commended for brave conduct.

Mr Ronald Dale BARASSI AM, St Kilda Vic 3182

Early on 1 January 2009, Mr Ronald Barassi, confronted an offender who had assaulted a woman in Fitzroy Street, St Kilda. Mr Barassi was having dinner outside a restaurant when he saw a man punch a woman in the face before she fell down next to him. Mr Barassi immediately chased the man and caught him, grabbing him by the collar. They fell to the ground, but the offender quickly got to his feet and, along with several associates, punched and kicked Mr Barassi. Soon after, when several people converged to assist Mr Barassi, the attackers fled the scene.

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

Mr Mitchell Edwin BEARE, 99 Central Green Drive, Narangba Qld 4504

On the afternoon of 6 December 2010, Mr Mitchell Beare rescued a boy from a flooded storm water drain. As a boy tried to cross a bridge in the park near the Burpengary sporting fields, he slipped and fell in front of a storm water drain. Mr Beare heard him calling for help and ran to the flooded drain. He saw the boy was sucked up to his waist in the drain pipe, and his brother was holding onto him. After sending the brother to seek help, Mr Beare grabbed hold of the boy, who was now submerged, and put his foot against the concrete wall surrounding the drain. Using this leverage he managed to pull the boy's head above the water where he found him unconscious and not breathing. Unable to pull the boy out of the drain, Mr Beare moved his grip to his chest and attempted CPR compressions. The victim soon regained consciousness and, with assistance, Mr Beare managed to wrench the boy free.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Ian Frederick BLAND, 4 Bunya Street, Moggill Qld 4070

On the morning of 11 January 2011, Station Officer Bland and a colleague assisted in the rescue and attempted rescue of a family of four (two adults and two young boys) who were trapped on the roof of their vehicle which was submerged in flood water at the Lowood and Minden Road crossroads. In heavy rain, the vehicle was being held up by a shifting fence caused by the surging water. The officers tried to reach the vehicle but were forced back by the strength of the water. On their second attempt, they managed to reach the family and fit personal floatation devices to each of them. When the vehicle shifted, one of the boys, aged seven, fell into the water. Station Officer Bland immediately swam after the child, grabbed him, and swam to the safety of a water eddy that was about 45 metres away. Soon after, his colleague tethered the other boy, aged four, to himself, entered the water and desperately tried to reach the eddy. Station Officer Bland threw him a rope, however, as they were being pulled towards the eddy, the tether untied and the child was swept from his colleague's grip. His colleague desperately lunged for the boy but could not reach him. He was then pulled into the eddy. Once there, Station Officer Bland ran downstream, dived into the water in an attempt to reach the boy. Sadly, the child was swept away.

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

Mr Jason BRAY, 12 Midway Close, Gladstone Park Vic 3043

On the afternoon of 6 January 2008, Mr Jason Bray assisted in the attempted rescue of a man from a dangerous section of the Murray River at Barooga. Mr Bray was camping on the other side of the river when he saw a man and a boy enter the river. Soon after, the man fell into the deep part of the river where the current was strong. Mr Bray immediately alerted his friends and they ran to their ski boat. When the boat would not start, Mr Bray dived into the water and swam approximately 150 metres across the river to assist the man. As he neared the man, the man disappeared under the surface. Mr Bray could not locate the man under the water so he and his friends then used their boat to search the area, but were unable to locate the man.

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

Mr Craig John BROWNLOW, Kiara WA 6054

On the afternoon of 17 September 2009, Mr Craig Brownlow rescued a man from a crane and trailer which was rolling down an incline. Mr Brownlow, who was part of a work crew installing a swimming pool at a residence in Woodlands, was walking up the driveway when he saw a crane and trailer rolling down an incline, dragging men with it. Mr Brownlow saw the crane driver hanging onto the vehicle between the crane and trailer. He grabbed the man's collar and pulled him off the tow bar away from the moving crane and trailer. Mr Brownlow then tripped over and the trailer wheel ran over both of his legs and he was pinned under the trailer which caused him serious injuries.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Tristan James BURNETT, Conondale Qld 4552

In the early hours of 17 December 2009, Mr Tristan Burnett intervened when a man was being assaulted at the Carlton Hotel in Goulburn. Mr Burnett witnessed a man grab a bar stool and hit one of his work colleagues, striking him again as he lay on the ground. When Mr Burnett moved to assist his colleague, the offender struck him on the head with the stool and punched him several times. Despite a large amount of blood on the floor, Mr Burnett continued to assist his colleague.

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

Captain Ian Michael CARTER, Puckapunyal Vic 3662

In the morning of 28 October 2011, Captain (then Lieutenant) Carter entered a burning building to search for any occupants. Lieutenant Carter heard a fire alarm sounding in his neighbour's property and immediately went to investigate. When he reached the house, he saw smoke billowing from the upper and lower windows of the two-story residence. He opened the back door and entered to search for any occupants. After a short time he was met by another neighbour. Moving further into the house they saw a large fire emanating from the kitchen area and the smoke was intense. After realising the television in the lounge room was on, they believed the house was occupied. Lieutenant Carter made several trips upstairs on his hands and knees and attempted to search individual rooms before the heavy smoke forced him downstairs. Meanwhile his neighbour filled buckets of water from an outside swimming pool and poured the water onto the fire. After about ten minutes, his neighbour managed to extinguish the fire. When firefighters arrived they ensured the fire was contained and after thoroughly searching the premises, they declared the house was unoccupied.

For his actions, Captain Carter is commended for brave conduct.

Mr Paul Denzil CLACKETT, PO Box 66, Wurtulla Qld 4575

On the evening of 16 March 2011, Mr Paul Clackett assisted in restraining a violent offender during a domestic violence incident. Queensland Ambulance Service Officers Paul Clackett and his colleague responded to a domestic violence incident at Freshwater Point, Sarina where a man had been stabbed. As they travelled to the incident, the officers came across a vehicle carrying the injured man and others. The officers treated the injured man by the road side and while attempting to put him into the ambulance, the offender arrived in another vehicle, reversed his vehicle about 200 metres away and then accelerated at high speed towards the two vehicles. Mr Clackett instantly yelled to people to move away and grabbed hold of an elderly woman. He pulled her from the path of the speeding vehicle and threw himself onto her as they lay on the ground nearby. Meanwhile, his colleague grabbed the stretcher with the injured man on it and moved it to the side of the road before they fell about 1.5 metres over an embankment. Moments later the speeding vehicle crashed into the ambulance and the other vehicle. The offender exited his vehicle and attempted to punch Mr Clackett. Mr Clackett and his colleague struggled with the offender and restrained him on the ground until the police arrived.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Senior Constable Steven James CLAIR, Queensland Police

On the evening of 11 January 2011, Senior Constable (then Constable) Steven Clair rescued several people from flood water during the Queensland floods at Goodna. Constable Clair and a colleague were coordinating evacuations and rescues at Mill Street, Goodna, when they heard faint screaming coming from near the Ipswich Motorway. Although it was dark, he spotted five people in the water near a vehicle that was sinking. Constable Clair and his colleague accessed a boat and used torch light to spot three adults and two children, aged seven and five, in the water. When their boat neared the group, Constable Clair jumped into the eight-metre deep water and swam to a child who was barely holding onto a pole. Meanwhile, his colleague also jumped into the contaminated water and swam to the second child. After putting life jackets onto the children, despite the strong undercurrent, the officers managed to push the children into the boat. They then assisted the three adults into the boat.

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

Mr Brian Patrick DELL, 9 Lillipilli Place, Lennox Head NSW 2478

On the morning of 4 July 2010, Mr Brian Dell rescued two people who had been swept off the rocks at Lennox Head. A man and his two sons were rock fishing below Lennox Head Point, when the man and one of his sons, aged ten, were swept off the rocks into the sea. They quickly began to struggle in the cold and rough surf. Mr Dell was paddling a surf ski when he saw the two people in the water. Leaving his ski behind, he entered the water, swam to the boy and assisted him back to the rocks. He then attempted to get the man to the rocks but was unsuccessful, due to the weight of the man and his wet clothes. Mr Dell then swam the man about 100 metres back to the ski, but was unable to manoeuvre it back to shore because he had lost his paddle. Mr Dell left the man holding onto the ski and swam to a nearby small fishing boat to raise the alarm. The boat crew quickly rescued the stricken man from the water.

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

Mr Shane Ross DEVLIN, 1 Jane Street, Gympie Qld 4570

In the morning of 27 November 2009, Mr Devlin assisted in the apprehension of an armed youth who had stabbed a man in Gympie. Mr Devlin was inside a shopping centre when he noticed a man being chased by another man in a car park. Noticing the pursuer was carrying a bayonet, Mr Devlin ran toward them and began to distract the armed man. Turning to face Mr Devlin, the armed man was restrained by the other man and dropped the bayonet. Mr Devlin took the bayonet while the offender was held until police arrived at the scene.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr David Andrew DONALDSON, Lowood Qld 4311

On the afternoon of 11 January 2011, Mr David Donaldson assisted in the rescue of several people from flood waters at Lockyer Creek, Lowood. Following torrential rain which caused major flooding, Lowood locals, Mr Donaldson and a friend, went to rescue a family whose house was inundated. The men deployed a five-metre aluminium boat into the Lockyer Creek and attempted to reach the family. However, the boat hit power lines, flipped over, and both men were thrown into the water. As they travelled downstream, the boat sank, but they were able to grab a wire which traversed the swollen creek. They were soon rescued and taken to the riverbank.

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

Mr Peter Raymond FENTON, deceased

Early 13 January 2011, during the Queensland floods, Brisbane tugboat operator Mr Peter Fenton and his colleague used their tugboat to manoeuvre floating debris safely along the Brisbane River. Mr Fenton and his colleague arrived early for work, when they heard that a large section of the floating riverwalk had torn loose from the bank at New Farm, and was travelling down the flooded Brisbane River. Concerned that the moving 200 metre by 300 tonne concrete riverwalk was a major risk to life and property, Mr Fenton and his colleague immediately ventured into the raging river on the tug boat Mavis. When they reached the boardwalk, they steered the Mavis and manoeuvred the riverwalk down the river. They guided the riverwalk between the pylons of the Gateway Bridge and avoided the Bulwer Island oil pipeline, before reaching the safety of Moreton Bay.

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

Mr Shane Ronald FLEXMAN, Guildford NSW 2161

On the afternoon of 14 January 2009, Mr Shane Flexman disarmed an offender at Winston Hills. Sheriff Officer Mr Flexman and his colleague attended a house at Winston Hills to execute legal papers and remove the occupants from the residence. The door opened and a woman, who was bleeding heavily, told the officers that her husband had stabbed her and was attempting to kill himself in the lounge room. The officers moved into the lounge room where they saw the man sitting down, leaning forward holding a large knife against his stomach. Both officers then moved towards the man and Mr Flexman grabbed the man's wrist and pushed him forward. The man released the knife to cushion his fall and Mr Flexman grabbed it. After securing the knife and restraining the man, the officers gave first aid to both people.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Constable Stuart Adam GREENWELL, Queensland Police

On the evening of 11 January 2011, Constable Stuart Greenwell rescued several people from flood water during the Queensland floods at Goodna. Constable Greenwell and a colleague were coordinating evacuations and rescues at Mill Street, Goodna, when they heard faint screaming coming from near the Ipswich Motorway. Although it was dark, he spotted five people in the water near a vehicle that was sinking. Constable Greenwell and his colleague accessed a boat and used torch light to spot three adults and two children, aged seven and five, in the water. When their boat neared the group, Constable Greenwell jumped into the eight-metre deep water and swam to a child who was struggling in the water. Meanwhile, his colleague also jumped into the contaminated water and swam to another child who was barely holding onto a pole. After putting life jackets onto the children, despite the strong undercurrent, the officers managed to push the children into the boat. They then assisted the three adults into the boat.

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

Sergeant Glen John GUNTHORPE, Queensland Police

On the night of 13 January 2011, during the height of the flooding, Brisbane Water Police Sergeant Gunthorpe assisted in the apprehension of a person in the Brisbane River. Sergeant Gunthorpe was alerted to a small dinghy moving alongside a sailing boat at the Port Facility. When they intercepted the dinghy, Sergeant Gunthorpe saw two people onboard and items of property that were suspected to have been taken from other unmanned vessels. When the police challenged the driver about the suspicious items, he confessed and became aggressive towards the officers. At that time, Sergeant Gunthorpe became aware of a third person, concealed under a raincoat. Sergeant Gunthorpe moved the driver into the police boat and left two people in the dinghy as the police took it under tow to the Brisbane Water Police Complex at Lytton. Without warning, the second man jumped into the fast flowing swollen river. When the man refused help, Sergeant Gunthorpe dived into the river and swam to the man, but the man attempted to evade him. Sergeant Gunthorpe became entangled with underwater debris and was pulled under the surface. After the police recovered Sergeant Gunthorpe back to their vessel, and following several failed rescue attempts, police eventually pulled the man from the water. Soon after the man lost consciousness before the police resuscitated him.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Warren HABAK,

Parramatta Sheriff's Office, Cnr George and Marsden Streets, Parramatta NSW 2150

On the afternoon of 14 January 2009, Mr Warren Habak disarmed an offender at Winston Hills. Sheriff Officer Mr Habak and his colleague attended a house at Winston Hills to execute legal papers and remove the occupants from the residence. The door opened and a woman, who was bleeding heavily, told the officers that her husband had stabbed her and was attempting to kill himself in the lounge room. The officers moved into the lounge room where they saw the man sitting down, leaning forward holding a large knife against his stomach. Both officers then moved towards the man and Mr Habak's colleague grabbed the man's wrist and pushed him forward. The man released the knife to cushion his fall and it was secured before the officers restrained the man and then gave first aid to both people.

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

Mr Bryce Lewis HERTSLET, Shelly Beach Qld 4551

During the morning of 22 August 2003, Mr Bryce Hertslet assisted in the capture of an offender after a colleague was fatally shot by a man armed with a high powered rifle. Earlier, Mr (then Constable) Hertslet and several colleagues went to The Weir, Wallace Street North, Caboolture, responding to a report that a man had stashed a high-powered rifle in the bushland. The officers were unsure if the man remained in the area and continued to search the location to ensure the area was safe. One of the officers approached a concrete pit where the man armed with his rifle lay in wait. The offender shot the officer and then fired several shots at Constable Hertslet and a colleague. They retreated about 30 metres away and waited for reinforcements to arrive. Another colleague arrived and made his way towards their wounded colleague. Constable Hertslet and his colleague moved towards them and saw their colleague was deceased and that the offender had fatally shot himself.

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

Mr Douglas Glen HISLOP, 8 Dane Court, Manly West Qld 4179

Early 13 January 2011, during the Queensland floods, Brisbane tugboat operator Mr Douglas Hislop and his colleague used their tugboat to manoeuvre floating debris safely along the Brisbane River. Mr Hislop and his colleague arrived early for work, when they heard that a large section of the floating riverwalk had torn loose from the bank at New Farm, and was travelling down the flooded Brisbane River. Concerned that the moving 200 metre by 300 tonne concrete riverwalk was a major risk to life and property, Mr Hislop and his colleague immediately ventured into the raging river on the tug boat Mavis. When they reached the boardwalk, they steered the Mavis and manoeuvred the riverwalk down the river. They guided the riverwalk between the pylons of the Gateway Bridge and avoided the Bulwer Island oil pipeline, before reaching the safety of Moreton Bay.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Kevin James HUGHES, PO Box 668, Buderim Qld 4556

On 4 April 1993, Mr Kevin Hughes, while flying parachuting sorties at the Toogoolawah Drop Zone, rescued a woman who was caught by her jumpsuit mid air against the plane. After reaching the required altitude, four jumpers climbed outside the aeroplane to position themselves for exit. One of the skydivers caught her jumpsuit bootie on the aircraft step, and was hanging upside down, out of control. Mr Hughes immediately left the pilot's seat and moved to the open door. As the plane travelled at 90 mph, he climbed half a body length outside the plane and reached down in an attempt to cut the jumpsuit free of the step. Between several attempts, Mr Hughes returned to regain control of the aircraft before he cut the woman free. The woman fell away, opened her parachute and landed safely.

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

Mr Paul Manuel INACIO, deceased, late of Beeliam WA 6164

On the afternoon of 25 April 2011, Mr Paul Inacio assisted his friend after a boating accident off the coast at Windmills Beach. They were fishing approximately 500 metres off the coast at Windmills Beach when their aluminium runabout capsized. Both men were thrown into the water about three metres away from the upturned boat, and they managed to swim back to the vessel. Realising his friend was a poor swimmer who was having difficulty hanging onto the vessel; Mr Inacio dived under the vessel several times and surfaced with one lifejacket. He assisted the man to put on the lifejacket and told him to stand on the hull and wave for help. Mr Inacio told his friend he had to retrieve flares and another lifejacket. When he dived under the surface a wave lifted the boat and dropped it down into the water causing the remaining man to fall into the water again. He began to make his way to shore, but Mr Inacio did not surface. When a rescue vessel arrived, the stricken man was assisted out of the water before they reached the upturned hull. Sadly, it was confirmed that Mr Inacio was deceased and trapped under the upturned boat.

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

Senior Sergeant Perry James IRWIN, deceased, late of Queensland

During the morning of 22 August 2003, Senior Sergeant Irwin was fatally wounded whilst trying to apprehend an offender armed with a high powered rifle. Earlier, Senior Sergeant Irwin and several colleagues went to The Weir, Wallace Street North, Caboolture, responding to a report that a man had stashed a high-powered rifle in the bushland. The officers were unsure if the man remained in the area and continued to search the location to ensure the area was safe. Senior Sergeant Irwin approached a concrete pit where the armed man lay in wait. The offender shot the officer and then fired several shots at his colleagues. Senior Sergeant Irwin's colleagues retreated about 30 metres away and waited for reinforcements to arrive. Several other officers arrived near the scene and were informed that Senior Sergeant Irwin had been shot and was laying in open ground within the bushland. Concerned for his colleague, one of the officers moved through the dense bushland to Senior Sergeant Irwin and saw that he was deceased. He then saw that the offender, who was in the pit, had fatally shot himself.

For his actions, Senior Sergeant Irwin is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Sergeant William Kendall JOHNSON, Queensland Police

In the morning of 16 January 2010, Sergeant Johnson apprehended a man armed with a compound bow and knife at a house at Clinton, near Gladstone. Sergeant Johnson saw the offender leave the rear of the house, close to his colleagues, with an armed compound bow and arrow. He immediately drove his vehicle towards the man to obstruct his firing opportunities. When his colleagues took evasive action, Sergeant Johnson drove alongside the offender, and drove away just as the man fired at him. The offender returned to his house, reloaded his bow and continued to abuse the police from his front verandah. A nearby resident inadvertently walked into the danger zone, so Sergeant Johnson drove his vehicle between the woman and the offender, directing her away from the scene. Concerned for the woman's safety, Sergeant Johnson exited his vehicle and approached the front fence. He warned the offender to drop the knife or he would taser him. When the offender ignored the warning, Sergeant Johnson fired his taser and apprehended him.

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

Mr David William KLAASSEN, Lynchs Creek NSW 2474

On the evening of 10 January 2011, after Grantham was struck by flash floods, Mr David Klaassen and his brother assisted in the rescue of a number of residents. Mr Klaassen and his brother arrived at a house where they located an elderly woman who needed assistance. They helped the woman gather her medication and then evacuated her to safety. Despite their own house being destroyed, the men continued to search for others in the dark. They rescued a boy and his father in two trees about 50 metres apart. Later, they located a ladder and rescued several people who had taken refuge on a house roof.

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

Constable Peter Kevin LAMBERT, Queensland Police

On the evening of 11 January 2011, Constable Peter Lambert rescued a woman from flood water during the Queensland floods at Basin Pocket. Constable Lambert and a colleague were deployed to patrol and evacuate the Basin Pocket and East Ipswich areas, due to major flooding of the Bremer River. After being advised that an elderly couple remained trapped in their home in McLeod Street, the officers went to assist. As water began to reach the property, they attempted to make contact with the occupants when they heard a knocking noise coming from inside the house. Constable Lambert and his colleague forced entry into the house and found two dogs and heard a female calling for help. Despite the darkness, the officers saw a female trapped inside a rapidly submerging vehicle which was being swept away. As the woman desperately climbed out of the window, the officers entered the shoulder deep rushing water and swam out to the vehicle. They assisted the woman from the window ledge and carried her and her cat back to safety.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mrs Tammee Lee LYNN, Willagee WA 6156

On the evening of 20 June 2012, Mrs Tammee Lynn put her personal safety at risk to assist a colleague who was being robbed in Phuket, Thailand. Following a travel agents hotel inspection and dinner, an Australian tour group decided to take a walk in the area. When the group decided to stop for a massage, Mrs Lynn and a colleague decided to retire to their hotel for the evening. As the two women walked along the road towards their hotel, a man on a motorbike attempted to grab Mrs Lynn's colleague's handbag. Mrs Lynn saw her colleague struggling with two men on the motorbike and quickly moved to provide assistance by wrestling with the men. The men soon sped away from the scene, empty handed. As the women hurriedly walked back to their hotel, each woman realised that they had been stabbed. Mrs Lynn saw that she had suffered a large deep stab wound through her right upper arm and that her colleague had been stabbed in her chest. After calling for help, Mrs Lynn grabbed some material and applied pressure to her colleague's chest, before assisting her back to their hotel. The woman collapsed, and Mrs Lynn attempted to resuscitate her but sadly, she died.

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

Mr Bernard William McCaffery, 13 Grandview Street, East Ballina NSW 2478

On the afternoon of 27 November 2008, Mr Bernard McCaffery assisted in the rescue of a woman from a rip at Tallows Beach, Byron Bay. Mr McCaffery was alerted that a woman and a man, who had already gone in to assist the woman, were in distress out past the breakers. Three other men had also entered the water to assist. One of the men had to return to the beach due to feeling unwell. Mr McCaffery grabbed a surfboard and made his way to the group. He dragged the exhausted woman onto the board and then pulled one of the men onto the board. Mr McCaffery managed to get the pair to shore, while the other two men made their way back to shore, after being in the water for almost forty minutes.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Peter James McCARRON, 29 Paddington Court, Toowoomba Qld 4350

On the afternoon of 10 January 2011, Station Officer Peter McCarron responded to a situation where two women were trapped on a vehicle in fast flowing floodwater in the middle of Toowoomba Central Business District. When he arrived, he saw one woman on top of a submerged vehicle and another in the water, holding onto a rope that had been thrown by several bystanders. When another vehicle floated downstream and collided with the women's vehicle, Station Officer McCarron immediately entered the water and pulled himself along the rope. When another vehicle moved, Station Officer McCarron was hit by the full force of the water and swept away from the women. Soon after, both women were also swept downstream but one managed to reach Station Officer McCarron before they lost their grip on each other. Station Officer McCarron was caught in the turbulent waters but managed to make his way to an elevated carpark. After he was no longer able to see the women, he continued to search the area for some time. He was later advised that both women were safe.

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

Mr Luke Matthew McCORMACK, Melbourne Vic 3000

On the afternoon of 21 March 2006, Mr Luke McCormack restrained a man who was attempting to jump from a cliff on Christmas Island. Mr McCormack was working as a psychologist with a group of West Papuan asylum seekers on Christmas Island. Following a discussion with a man and his wife in Territory Park, the man threatened suicide. He ran and threw himself over a protective fence at the cliff edge lookout. He landed on a small slippery rocky ledge, above a 200 metre drop. Mr McCormack immediately jumped over the fence. As he held onto it with his left arm, and in heavy rain, he restrained the man across his chest and neck. After consoling the man, Mr McCormack assisted him to climb back over the fence to safety.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Bradley Peter MILLS, Tivoli Qld 4305

On the afternoon of 10 January 2011, Station Officer Bradley Mills rescued a woman caught in floodwaters during the Queensland floods near Withcott. Station Officer Mills and a colleague responded to a call about people sitting on the roof of a vehicle, surrounded by flowing water and large amounts of debris. When the officers arrived they saw three people sitting on their floating vehicle about 150 metres away. The officers contacted a colleague aboard a helicopter to seek assistance. When the helicopter arrived, the officers were able to direct the pilot to where they had last seen the car. At that location they found a woman had fallen off the vehicle and was clinging to a tree inside the flood zone. Station Officer Mills and his colleague were dropped by helicopter onto an island downstream from the woman. Despite the strong current and debris, the officers managed to swim to the woman where they put a life jacket on her. Later the water had receded enough for the helicopter to land on higher ground near the group. The woman was then transported back to the Lockyer Creek Bridge. Station Officer Mills and his colleague continued searching the dangerous waterways in the dark until the early hours of the morning. They escorted numerous people from separate houses to safety.

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

Mr Andrew Eglinton MITCHELL, 66 Belair Road, Hawthorn SA 5062

On 20 June 1976, Mr Andrew Mitchell rescued a man from electrocution after his glider crashed into high tension wires at Lady Bay. Following a power failure, Mr Mitchell went outside and saw that a glider had crashed and the pilot was suspended by his harness. The pilot had become electrocuted when his feet touched the ground, and was initially unconscious. Mr Mitchell observed that each time the pilot became conscious, his feet touched the ground and he received more electric shocks. Despite warnings by onlookers, Mr Mitchell ran to the site and placed wood under the pilot's feet. After standing on the wood, he unsuccessfully attempted to cut the pilot free from his harness. Mr Mitchell grabbed a piece of wood and struck at the harness release mechanism several times until he managed to free the pilot, who fell to the ground. Onlookers provided CPR until ambulance personnel arrived.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Wayne David MURPHY, 107 Ventons Road, Sarina Qld 4737

On the evening of 16 March 2011, Mr Wayne Murphy assisted in restraining a violent offender during a domestic violence incident. Queensland Ambulance Service Officer Wayne Murphy and his colleague responded to a domestic violence incident at Freshwater Point, Sarina where a man had been stabbed. As they travelled to the incident, the officers came across a vehicle carrying the injured man and others. The officers treated the injured man by the road side and while attempting to put him into the ambulance, the offender arrived in another vehicle, reversed his vehicle about 200 metres away and then accelerated at high speed towards the two vehicles. As Mr Murphy's colleague yelled to people to move away and grabbed hold of an elderly woman and pulled her from the path of the speeding vehicle Mr Murphy grabbed the stretcher with the injured man on it and moved it to the side of the road before they fell about 1.5 metres over an embankment. Moments later the speeding vehicle crashed into the ambulance and the other vehicle. The offender exited his vehicle and attempted to punch Mr Murphy's colleague. Mr Murphy and his colleague struggled with the offender and restrained him on the ground until the police arrived.

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

Mr Deane William MURRELL, Queensland

During the morning of 22 August 2003, Mr Dean Murrell assisted in the capture of an offender after a colleague was fatally shot by a man armed with a high powered rifle. Earlier, Mr (then Senior Constable) Dean Murrell and several colleagues went to The Weir, Caboolture, responding to a report that a man had stashed a high-powered rifle in the bushland. The officers were unsure if the man remained in the area and continued to search the location to ensure the area was safe. One of the officers approached a concrete pit where the man armed with his rifle lay in wait. The offender shot the officer and then fired several shots at Senior Constable Murrell and a colleague. They retreated about 30 metres away and waited for reinforcements to arrive. Another colleague arrived and made his way towards their wounded colleague. Senior Constable Murrell and his colleague moved towards them and saw their colleague was deceased and that the offender had fatally shot himself.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Andrew Kenneth NEIL, Kawana Island Qld 4575

On the afternoon of 10 January 2011, Firefighter Andrew Neil rescued a woman caught in floodwaters during the Queensland floods near Withcott. Firefighter Neil and a colleague responded to a call about people sitting on the roof of a vehicle, surrounded by flowing water and large amounts of debris. When the officers arrived they saw three people sitting on their floating vehicle about 150 metres away. The officers contacted a colleague aboard a helicopter to seek assistance. When the helicopter arrived, the officers were able to direct the pilot to where they had last seen the car. At that location they found a woman had fallen off the vehicle and was clinging to a tree inside the flood zone. Firefighter Neil and his colleague were dropped by helicopter onto an island downstream from the woman. Despite the strong current and debris, the officers managed to swim to the woman where they put a life jacket on her. Later the water had receded enough for the helicopter to land on higher ground near the group. The woman was then transported back to the Lockyer Creek Bridge. Firefighter Neil and his colleague continued searching the dangerous waterways in the dark until the early hours of the morning. They escorted numerous people from separate houses to safety.

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

Ms Supreeda PHENGCHAEM, Thornlands Qld 4164

On the afternoon of 12 August 2011, Ms Supreeda Phengchaem pulled her friend from under a moving truck. Supreeda, then aged eleven, was walking home from school with her friend. As they waited at the intersection of Bloomfield and South Streets in Thornlands, Supreeda's friend inadvertently stepped out in front of a slow turning council truck. Supreeda saw the front left wheel of the truck knock her friend to the ground, and immediately moved forward and grabbed hold of her. She pulled her friend's head and torso away from the path of the rear wheel before the vehicle continued to move forward and run over her friend's leg. Supreeda's friend was later treated for a broken arm and leg.

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

Mr Raymond ROBINSON, Coomba Park NSW 2428

On the evening of 10 August 2010, Mr Raymond Robinson rescued two people trapped in floods at Horse Arm Creek. The Boggabri SES Team responded to a call about a family trapped in floodwaters at Maules Creek. They came upon a police vehicle that was trapped about thirty metres away, in the middle of Horse Arm Creek. The SES team saw two police officers sitting on the roof of their submerged vehicle. Mr Robinson stripped down to his underwear, grabbed a winch cable and entered the water. As he attempted to make his way to the vehicle the winch cable was caught up with debris, and he was forced to retreat. A second attempt to reach the vehicle was unsuccessful. As water rose to the windows of the vehicle, on a third attempt, Mr Robinson swam out and managed to reach the rear of the vehicle. After diving under the surface several times, he tied the winch cable to an anchor point on the vehicle. The officers pulled Mr Robinson onto the roof before the vehicle was winched out of the water by his SES colleagues.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Steven Ronald RULE, 96 Fraser Crescent, Wantirna South Vic 3152

On the evening of 29 December 2011, Mr Steven Rule rescued a family from a burning vehicle at Sassafras, Victoria. Mr Rule was travelling along the Mountain Highway towards Sassafras in the Dandenong Ranges when he saw several vehicles pulled over. Stopping to investigate, he saw several people looking down a steep embankment at a Honda sedan, which had crashed into a large gum tree. The vehicle was about ten metres from the roadway with smoke coming from under the bonnet. Nearby leaves were beginning to burn. Mr Rule slid down the embankment and, assisted by others, opened the driver's door. He saw two adults and two children who were suffering shock and displaying various injuries. As attempts were made to extinguish the fire, he leant inside the burning smoke filled vehicle and pulled the occupants outside.

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

Mr John Matthew SACCHETTI, Windsor NSW 2756

On the morning of 25 June 2010, Mr John Sacchetti rescued a man from a burning vehicle after a two vehicle motor accident occurred at the intersection of Woodville Road and Louis Street, Granville. A ute had turned into the path of an oncoming Kenworth tipper truck with an attached dog trailer, driven by Mr Sacchetti. When the vehicles collided, the ute slammed into a light pole, which ignited the fuel tank. Realising the driver remained inside the burning ute, Mr Sacchetti immediately went to the driver's door, opened it and pulled the elderly man out of the vehicle. He assisted the injured man to safety before the ute was engulfed in flames.

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

Sergeant David Jefferson SAMPSON, Queensland Police

In the early hours of 13 January 2011, Sergeant (then Senior Constable) David Sampson rescued a man from a swollen river at Eagleby. Senior Constable Sampson responded to a call that a person was believed to be drifting downstream in the flooded Logan River. Senior Constable Sampson went to the location and took a ten metre tracking lead from his vehicle. He began to search the river bank over a distance of about two kilometres. After hearing a faint call for help, Senior Constable Sampson spotted a man in the river, some distance away. Despite the darkness he immediately waded waist deep into the river and threw a dog lead to the man. The man managed to grab hold of the rope and held on as Senior Constable Sampson pulled him up onto the river bank to safety.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Aiden Mark SIBRAVA, 1a Nanson Place, Florey ACT 2615

On the afternoon of 8 March 2009, Mr Aiden Sibrava rescued a man from drowning at One Tree Beach, Tuross Heads. Mr Sibrava was on the beach when he heard a man calling for help. After spotting the man waving frantically about fifty metres from shore in the rough two to three metre swell, he immediately ran to the water, fully clothed, and dived in. Another man grabbed his son's body board and entered the water and made his way through the crashing waves and reached the distressed man first. He gave the man the body board to hold onto as they tried unsuccessfully to break free of the rip. When Mr Sibrava arrived both men were exhausted. He told them to hang onto the body board and let the rip take them further out, despite the waves continually crashing over them. As the rip dissipated, Mr Sibrava and the other rescuer managed to pull the man away from the rip and eventually reached a sand bar. The two men then assisted the exhausted man back to the beach, where he was treated by waiting ambulance officers.

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

Constable Matthew SLATTERY, New South Wales Police

On the afternoon of 20 January 2010, Constable Matthew Slattery rescued a teenage boy who was caught in a rip at Bateau Bay Beach. Constable Slattery was off duty at Bateau Bay Beach when he saw a teenage boy caught in a strong rip. The boy was struggling to remain afloat about 300 metres from shore in treacherous surf conditions. Constable Slattery immediately grabbed a body board from another swimmer, entered the water and paddled out to the boy. When he reached the boy, he assisted him to hold onto the board and waited in the water with the boy to be rescued.

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

Mr Sam Wilson TOLDI, 1053/16 Hamilton Place, Bowen Hills Qld 4006

On the afternoon of 24 February 2011, Mr Sam Toldi rescued an elderly woman who accidentally drove her vehicle over an embankment and into Cornmeal Creek, Maroochydore. Water began to fill the cabin of a vehicle that had driven into a creek, preventing the elderly woman from opening her door. Mr Toldi, a chef in a nearby restaurant, ran to the scene and dove into the water. After reaching the vehicle, he asked the woman to wind down her window and, as the vehicle filled up with water, he told her to take a deep breath. When the vehicle sank beneath the surface, Mr Toldi leaned inside and pulled the woman out through the passenger side window. He then swam her to safety, and with the help of two other people, managed to get her out of the water and up a rock wall embankment to safety.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Jeffrey John van-AALST, Jerrabomberra NSW 2619

On the afternoon of 8 March 2009, Mr Jeffrey van-Aalst rescued a man from drowning at One Tree Beach, Tuross Heads. Mr van-Aalst spotted a distressed man waving frantically in the water approximately 50 metres from shore. He grabbed his son's body board and entered the water and made his way through the crashing waves. Once he reached the man he gave him the body board to hold onto as they tried unsuccessfully to break free of the rip. Another man arrived to assist in the rescue. He told them to hang onto the body board and let the rip take them further out. As the rip dissipated, Mr van-Aalst and the other rescuer managed to pull the man away from the rip and eventually reached a sand bar. The two men then assisted the exhausted man back to the beach where he was treated by waiting ambulance officers.

For his actions, Mr van-Aalst is commended for brave conduct.

Mr James Edward WILKIN, Grantham Qld 4374

Mr Robert John WILKIN, Grantham Qld 4374

On the afternoon of 10 January 2011, Messrs James and Robert Wilkin rescued several people during the Queensland floods at Grantham. Robert alerted several residents to the danger of the rising floodwaters and potential disaster. He went to his brother James' house where they attached a powered 18 foot aluminium 'tinnie' onto their vehicle and drove to Railway Street. As the water rapidly rose, they saw a man attempting to walk through water towards the main road. Despite debris hitting their boat and trailer, they assisted the man into their boat and launched it. They soon saw several people in the surging water hanging onto a fence post near the railway line and went to assist. After helping the people into their boat, they avoided being hit by floating vehicles before their engine overheated. As the boat floated against the railway line, they got out of the boat and helped others to move to higher ground. They were then forced to move several times to safer locations around town, as areas became flooded.

For their actions, Messrs James and Robert Wilkin are commended for brave conduct.

Constable Steven John WILLIAMSON, Queensland Police

On the evening of 11 January 2011, Constable Steven Williamson rescued a woman from flood water during the Queensland floods at Basin Pocket. Constable Williamson and a colleague were deployed to patrol and evacuate the Basin Pocket and East Ipswich areas, due to major flooding of the Bremer River. After being advised that an elderly couple remained trapped in their home in McLeod Street, the officers went to assist. As water began to reach the property, they attempted to make contact with the occupants when they heard a knocking noise coming from inside the house. Constable Williamson and his colleague forced entry into the house and found two dogs and heard a female calling for help. Despite the darkness, the officers saw a female trapped inside a rapidly submerging vehicle which was being swept away. As the woman desperately climbed out the window, the officers entered the shoulder deep rushing water and swam out to the vehicle. They assisted the woman from the window ledge and carried her and her cat back to safety.

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