

## GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

*Awardees comprise of several members of the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service Swift Water Rescue team, involved in rescue operations in the Lockyer Valley during the Queensland floods January 2011.*

**Mr Nathan Cole CHADWICK**  
**Mr Geoffrey Mervyn DIXON**  
**Mr Mark Andrew MEIER**  
**Mr Philip Karl PAFF**  
**Mr Mark STEPHENSON**  
**Mr Kerry John WEIR**

On the afternoon of 10 January 2011, several members of the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service Swift Water Rescue team deployed to the vicinity of Murphy's Creek following major flooding that inundated the Lockyer Valley. They deployed as teams and conducted search and rescue operations for missing and trapped people as they negotiated the floodwater. During operations, several members narrowly escaped being engulfed by floodwaters as they drove across a bridge which was hit by a wall of water and debris several metres high which crashed into it before they were able to reverse off the bridge. During separate incidents, other team members nearly drowned or were swept away. In horrendous conditions and in darkness, they searched damaged houses, properties, vehicles, waterways and creeks where they located and rescued men, women and children, some of whom had been stripped of their clothing by the force of the water. Using swift water rescue techniques they conducted rescues on foot, wading through waist high mud and water, and by inflatable rescue boat. The team also located deceased persons and advised the police. As they continued to sweep the area, they also released many animals and livestock who were trapped in flooded paddocks. The team performed numerous rescues in the Murphy's Creek, Grantham and Leichhardt areas until early on 12 January 2011.

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

**Mr Nathan Cole CHADWICK**  
Anstead Qld 4070

**Mr Geoffrey Mervyn DIXON**  
Gatton Qld 4343

**Mr Mark Andrew MEIER**  
Willowbank Qld 4306

**Mr Philip Karl PAFF**  
Ipswich Qld 4305

**Mr Mark STEPHENSON**  
Queensland

**Mr Kerry John WEIR**  
Karalee Qld 4306

## GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

*Awardees comprise of the helicopter crew 'Firebird 460' who supported rescue operations during the Queensland Floods in the Lockyer Valley on 10 January 2011.*

**Mr John Andrew McDERMOTT**  
**Mr Simon John McDERMOTT**  
**Mr Benjamin James SUTHERLAND**

On the afternoon of 10 January 2011, the flight crew of Firebird 460 responded as part of the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) response during the Queensland flood events in the Lockyer Valley. Over two days they conducted rescue operations in strong gusting winds, torrential rain and poor visibility. They conducted reconnaissance flights through the Lockyer Valley, flying grids, and plotting the location of numerous people who required rescuing. This vital information was provided to the crew of Helitack 220. Throughout the two days of operations, the two helicopter crews conducted 47 rescues, including one rescue where 12 people were evacuated from a roof top by hover emplane.

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

**Mr John Andrew McDERMOTT**  
Cooroy Qld 4563

**Mr Simon John McDERMOTT**  
28 Dornoch Way  
Peregian Springs Qld 4573

**Mr Benjamin James SUTHERLAND**  
33 Oceanis Drive  
Oxenford Qld 4210

## GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

*Awardees comprise of the helicopter crew 'Helitak 220' who rescued several people during the Queensland Floods in the Lockyer Valley on 10 January 2011.*

**Mr Kris LARKIN**  
**Mr Edward LEE**  
**Mr Matthew O'BRIEN**  
**Mr Kendall Rurri THOMPSON**

On the afternoon of 10 January 2011, the flight crew of Helitak 220 responded as part the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) response during the Queensland flood events in the Lockyer Valley. Assisted by the helicopter Firebird 460 to locate trapped persons, over two days they conducted rescue operations in strong gusting winds, torrential rain and poor visibility. After identifying several buildings in the floodwaters with people inside or on the roof, the crew performed rescues using winch rescue techniques. At Grantham, Helitak 220 went to a two story house surrounded by water in the middle of the flood stream. They rescued a man and teenage boy in separate sorties, before they were relocated to safety. Also at Grantham, when a family of three was swept into the water from atop their submerged vehicle, Helitak 220 transported a woman, who was rescued by QFRS personnel onto an island, to the nearby highway. When they searched the area further they found her son downstream on a hay bailer, surrounded by swift flowing water. Using a two person winch they rescued the boy, who was in shock and bleeding profusely on his legs, and reunited him with his mother. Ten minutes later, Helitak 220 responded to a call that a house had been swept 300 metres downstream containing an elderly couple in chest deep water. The rescue crewman was lowered into the water upstream from the house. When he made his way into the house, he secured the woman where they were pulled clear and into the helicopter. He then re-entered the house and rescued the man and family dog. They were then transported to a nearby field and into the care of swift water technicians. Throughout the two days of operations, the two helicopter crews conducted 47 rescues, including one rescue where 12 people were evacuated from a roof top by hover emplane.

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

**Mr Kris LARKIN**  
Camden NSW 2570

**Mr Edward LEE**  
14 Rangitane Street  
Palmerston North  
New Zealand

**Mr Matthew O'BRIEN**  
Freshwater NSW 2096

**Mr Kendall Rurri THOMPSON**  
Moonbi NSW 2452

## GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

*Awardees comprise of members of the Queensland Police Public Safety Response Team who conducted rescue operations during the Queensland Floods in the Lockyer Valley January 2011.*

Senior Constable Kim Edward BEVIS  
Constable Andrew Charles CHEE  
Senior Sergeant David Richard EDDEN  
Senior Constable Summer NORTON  
Senior Sergeant Timothy Allan PARTRIGE  
Senior Constable Jamie VEA VEA  
Senior Constable Peter Chee WONG

Senior Constable Jason Michael BUTLER  
Inspector Stephen John DABINETT  
Senior Constable Dean William GEORGE  
Senior Constable Paul Andrew ROWLAND  
Sergeant Tony Del VECCHIO  
Senior Constable Shane Francis WRIGHT

On the evening of 10 January 2011, thirteen members of the Police Public Safety Response Team were deployed to assist with the significant flooding event in the Lockyer Valley. In darkness, and in major storm conditions, they negotiated damaged bridges and flooded roads, where they encountered large piles of debris, downed trees and powerlines. As they approached Grantham, they were held back by a vast expanse of high flood water. Assisted by a council driver with a front end loader, some of the officers climbed into the bucket while others held onto the outside of the vehicle as it was driven into the water. They got out of the loader to search damaged houses and submerged vehicles for any missing or trapped people. After the officers completed their search of Grantham, at about 5:00am on 11 January, they redeployed to Murphy's Creek and later to Postman's Ridge where they continued to search for people along creeks and rivers. Despite a severe weather warning that further major flash flooding was likely, the officers continued their operations and located several people. At Postman's Ridge, the officers conducted door-to-door checks and advised the community about the latest severe weather warning. The team worked continuously for 24 hours.

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

Senior Constable Kim Edward BEVIS

Senior Constable Jason Michael BUTLER

Constable Andrew Charles CHEE

Inspector Stephen John DABINETT

Sergeant Tony Del VECCHIO

Senior Sergeant David Richard EDDEN

Senior Constable Dean William GEORGE

Senior Constable Summer NORTON

Senior Sergeant Timothy Allan PARTRIGE

Senior Constable Paul Andrew ROWLAND

Senior Constable Jamie VEA VEA

Senior Constable Peter Chee WONG

Senior Constable Shane Francis WRIGHT

## GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

*Awardees comprise of members of the public who secured moving vessels on the flooded Burnett River at Bundaberg during the Queensland floods on 30 December 2010.*

**Mr John SCHOTT**  
**Mr Ian WILLETT**

In the early hours on 30 December 2010, following several days of rain the Burnett River experienced major flooding at Bundaberg. The owners of a catamaran were attempting to evacuate when a large tree floated under the vessel and took hold of the anchor and chain. They were unable to manoeuvre their vessel as it travelled backwards in the strong current. When the stricken vessel passed Paddy's Island, two men motored a 5hp dinghy into the swift current to reach it. When one of the men boarded the vessel the other man used the dinghy to push and steer the catamaran from side to side to avoid it hitting other boats. When anchor equipment from the rescue dinghy failed, the owner of the catamaran was forced to cut its anchor chain free from the attached tree. After gaining control, the vessel was able to set another anchor about 40 seconds prior to reaching the dangerous Ferry Crossing area. Prior to this, during daylight hours, the two men had taken rescue boats along the swollen river where many vessels had broken loose of their moorings. They re-anchored to them to stop them from rushing down the river.

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

**Mr John SCHOTT**  
Queensland

**Mr Ian WILLETT**  
Whitsunday Sailing Club  
Airlie Beach Qld 4802

## GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

*Awardees comprise of members of Queensland Police who rescued several people in Grantham during the Queensland floods on 10 January 2011.*

**Senior Constable Brett Michael DUKE  
Senior Constable Matthew Anthony GROOM  
Senior Constable Brett William HAMPSON  
Senior Constable Jonathon Arrow LARMORE  
Sergeant Justin Edward MALLORY  
Senior Constable James WORTHINGTON  
Inspector Bradley John WRIGHT  
Senior Constable Nathan Andrew WRIGHT BM**

On the evening of 10 January 2011, the Police Specialist Emergency Response Team was deployed to Grantham, where the majority of the township was inundated by floodwaters; houses were ripped from their footings and people swept away. Over several hours, the Response Group operated in areas that had large amounts of debris which included vehicles, houses, sheds and downed power lines. The team split into two groups, with one group using a front-end loader to assist with rescue operations. In heavy rain, they made their way to a group of twenty people stranded on a roof that was in danger of collapse, retrieving the stranded people through the fast flowing water. They continued to use the front-end loader to rescue another forty people from the surrounding area. The second team rescued people trapped in damaged houses, wading through waist high mud and water in the dark to reach stranded people, and carrying or assisting the people to inflatable boats to transport them to the evacuation centre. Later, several of the officers assisted with evacuations by helicopter at the Grantham School, while the others deployed to Helidon to coordinate the transport of evacuees to Gatton.

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

<b>Senior Constable Brett Michael DUKE</b>	<b>Senior Constable Matthew Anthony GROOM</b>
<b>Senior Constable Brett William HAMPSON</b>	<b>Senior Constable Jonathon Arrow LARMORE</b>
<b>Sergeant Justin Edward MALLORY</b>	<b>Senior Constable James WORTHINGTON</b>
<b>Inspector Bradley John WRIGHT</b>	<b>Senior Constable Nathan Andrew WRIGHT BM</b>

## GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

*Awardees comprise of members of the public who rescued several people in Grantham during the Queensland floods on 10 January 2011.*

**Mr Christopher John FORDEN**  
**Mr Iain Scott GRAY**  
**Mr Allan James PAYNE**  
**Mr Peter Paul Van Den ELSEN**

On the night of 10 January 2011, as a Police Special Emergency Response Team (SERT) attempted to deploy to Grantham following a flash flood, they saw quarry workers operating a 40-tonne front-end loader moving debris off the road to allow expected rescue workers through. The quarry workers worked with the SERT team to facilitate immediate rescue operations for people trapped in severely damaged houses, driving the loader across a road and bridge that was under water. They then positioned rescued people in the bucket, with the SERT officers standing on the lip of the bucket while it was moving to ensure that people remained secure. More than 60 people were rescued using this mode. The loader team went to a house where up to twenty people were trapped on a roof that was in danger of collapse, removing the people and pets through the flowing water to safety. As the water level rose, the men retreated to Helidon and rescued two more families in isolated houses using their loader. Following a short period of rest, they returned to Grantham and used their quarry equipment to support the recovery effort for several weeks.

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

**Mr Christopher John FORDEN**  
33 Laidley Street  
Helidon Qld 4344

**Mr Iain Scott GRAY**  
Queensland

**Mr Allan James PAYNE**  
Queensland

**Mr Peter Paul Van Den ELSEN**  
Helidon Qld 4344

## GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

*Awardees comprise of members of Training Ship (TS) Ipswich Naval Cadet Unit and one member of Queensland Police who as volunteer boat crews, rescued several people from Ipswich and Goodna during the Queensland floods on 12 January 2011.*

**Ms Cassandra Louise BROADFOOT**  
**Mr Andrew D’Arcy KELLY**  
**Constable Jonathon Edward KIRKMAN**  
**Mr Jonathan Andrew KLAEBE**  
**Mr Frank Kerswell MARTIN**  
**Mr Justin Luke MARTIN**  
**Mr James Richard RUNHAM SC AFSM OAM**  
**Mr Andrew Phillip SHORTLAND**  
**Mr Brendon David WEBER**

Between the 11<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> January 2011, members of the Training Ship (TS) Ipswich Naval Cadet Unit volunteered as boat crews in support of police rescue operations for the Queensland flood emergency. These personnel, operating three aluminium runabouts, travelled continuously along the Bremer and Brisbane Rivers in the Ipswich and Goodna flood zones. On the afternoon of 12<sup>th</sup> January as the flood closed in, a woman attempted to evacuate her home at Goodna when she collapsed with a severe angina attack. Whilst conducting the rescue of a disabled man, the TS Ipswich crews became aware of the woman’s plight. They went to assist, locating her and carrying her to the runabout. As darkness fell, they made their way to the Kruger Parade Control Point where the woman and the disabled man were evacuated. Throughout the emergency, the crews made numerous perilous trips along the flooded rivers, successfully completing 56 rescue evacuations and medical emergency rescues. The crews had to avoid floating shipping containers, vehicles, debris, hidden fences, and powerlines.

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

**Ms Cassandra Louise BROADFOOT**  
8/33 Card Street  
Berserker Qld 4701

**Mr Andrew D’Arcy KELLY**  
PO Box 5477  
Red Hill Qld 4701

**Senior Constable Jonathon KIRKMAN**  
Queensland Police

**Mr Jonathan Andrew KLAEBE**  
Flinders View Qld 4305

**Mr Frank Kerswell MARTIN**  
Ipswich Qld 4305

**Mr Justin Luke MARTIN**  
Ipswich Qld 4305

**Mr James Richard RUNHAM SC AFSM OAM**  
114 Willowtree Drive  
Flinders View Qld 4305

**Mr Andrew Phillip SHORTLAND**  
2 Griffith Road  
Eastern Heights Qld 4305

**Mr Brendon David WEBER**  
4 Nuala Street  
Yamanto Qld 4305

## GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

*Awardees comprise of a crew of an Emergency Management Queensland rescue helicopter in the Lockyer Valley during the Queensland floods on 10 January 2011.*

**Mr Mark Mcknight KEMPTON**  
**Mr Daren William PARSONS**  
**Dr Glenn RYAN**  
**Mr Illya Jon SELMES**  
**Mr Mark Donald TURNER**

On the afternoon of 10 January 2011, Emergency Management Queensland Helicopter Rescue Archerfield Base responded to assist the community of Grantham, following massive flash flooding which inundated the area. Helicopter Rescue 500 flew to Grantham and began operations, despite strong gusting winds, torrential rain and poor visibility. The crew identified numerous residents perched on the roof of their house or car, or clinging on to trees and debris. Over the next few hours, they searched from house to house, winching out 28 people, and, as the aircraft became full, setting down the survivors on safe ground. Helicopter Rescue 510 also responded to Grantham, landing on a small paddock behind Rescue 500, which was disembarking their last group of people due to being low on fuel. The Rescue 500 crew briefed their Rescue 510 colleagues, who took over winch rescue operations.

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

**Mr Mark McKnight KEMPTON**  
PO Box 907  
Archerfield Qld 4108

**Mr Daren William PARSONS**  
1/2 Prichard Place  
Cudgen NSW 2487

**Dr Glenn Edward RYAN**  
Bridgeman Downs Qld 4035

**Mr Illya Jon SELMES**  
Sinnamon Park Qld 4073

**Mr Mark Donald TURNER**  
1/22 Kamala Crescent  
Casuarina NSW 2487

## GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

*Awardees comprise of a crew of an Emergency Management Queensland rescue helicopter in the Lockyer Valley during the Queensland floods on 10 January 2011.*

**Mr Brett Terence KNOWLES**

**Mr Peter Richard ROW**

**Mr David TURNBULL**

**Mr Stuart John WARK**

On the afternoon of 10 January 2011, Emergency Management Queensland Helicopter Rescue Archerfield Base responded to assist the community of Grantham, following massive flash flooding which inundated the area. Helicopter Rescue 510 landed on a small paddock behind Rescue 500, which was disembarking their last group of people due to being low on fuel. The Rescue 500 crew briefed their colleagues, who then took over winch rescue operations. Rescue 510 rescued 15 survivors. Around 7:30pm they retrieved the last person from a roof, and returned to base as they were low on fuel and daylight was fading rapidly. During one last sweep of the area, using the tracker light, they spotted a man clinging to a tree, surrounded by fast flowing water. The crew rescued him before they departed.

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

**Mr Brett Terence KNOWLES**

Robina Qld 4226

**Mr Peter Richard ROW**

Victoria Point Qld 4165

**Mr David TURNBULL**

3 Sapwood Court  
Elanora Qld 4221

**Mr Stuart John WARK**

Cairns Qld 4870

## GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

*Awardees comprise of members of the public who rescued two people from a burning vehicle near Goulburn, New South Wales on 13 May 2011.*

**Mr Shane Michael ELLEM**  
**Mr Malcolm PEDEN**  
**Mr Justin John ROWLES**

On the afternoon of 13 May 2011, a Holden Rodeo struck a culvert along the Crookwell Road near Goulburn. The vehicle hit a tree and rolled several times before landing on its roof, with two men inside. Several motorists, who were travelling along the Crookwell Road near Goulburn, stopped their vehicles and immediately went to assist the occupants. They saw both men were trapped by their seatbelts and struggling to get out of the vehicle as a small fire began in the engine bay. The men managed to cut the seatbelt of the older man, before pulling both men away from the burning vehicle. Both men received major injuries and were transported to hospital for treatment.

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

**Mr Shane Michael ELLEM**  
1 Laggan Road  
Crookwell NSW 2583

**Mr Justin Craig ROWLES**  
New South Wales

**Mr Malcolm John PEDEN**  
Goulburn NSW 2580

## GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

*Awardees comprise of members of the public who assisted victims of a motor vehicle accident at Merton, Victoria on 3 May 2009.*

**Mr Anthony David BLACK**  
**Mr John Douglas CLAPTON**  
**Miss Ann GREEN**  
**Mr Jason Edward KNEEBONE**  
**Mr Matthew Nicholas ROBERTS**  
**Mr Geoffrey Richard STEPHENS**  
**Mr Kenneth Edward SUSSEX**

On the evening of 3 May 2009, a vehicle carrying four passengers was overtaking a semi-trailer on the Maroondah Highway at Merton when the driver lost control, spinning into the path of an oncoming vehicle. Upon impact, the first vehicle spun and stopped on the roadway, whilst the second vehicle, carrying five passengers, left the road and rolled before landing on its roof. The engine bay immediately caught fire and flames began encroaching into the car's interior. Several motorists stopped and realised that a number of people were trapped inside the burning vehicle. Two of the motorists checked the pulse of victims and believed the driver and two of the passengers were either critically injured or deceased. One of the rescuers used a towel to beat down the flames before two others used fire extinguishers to suppress the fire. Another person pulled a woman from the vehicle and laid her on the ground, whilst two other people managed to pull an injured girl from the rear middle seat to safety. After realising that a semi-conscious elderly woman was trapped in the front seat, another person stayed with her at the burning vehicle until the CFA arrived to release her. The rescuers then helped pull the woman from the wreckage. Sadly, the driver and two passengers were deceased.

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

**Mr Anthony David BLACK**  
South Warrandyte Vic 3134

**Mr John Douglas CLAPTON**  
1560 Merriang Road  
Whittlesea Vic 3757

**Miss Ann GREEN**  
1560 Merriang Road  
Whittlesea Vic 3757

**Mr Jason Edward KNEEBONE**  
18 Wilma Avenue  
Seville East Vic 3139

**Mr Matthew Nicholas ROBERTS**  
Ringwood East Vic 3135

**Mr Geoffrey Richard STEPHENS**  
26 Lauer Street  
Doncaster Vic 3108

**Mr Kenneth Edward SUSSEX**  
Mitcham Vic 3132

## GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

*Awardees comprise of members of the public who rescued a woman caught in a rip at Tallows Beach, New South Wales on 27 November 2008.*

**Mr Edward James ADCOCK**  
**Mr Zachary John BROOKER**  
**Mr Christopher Richard JARVIS**  
**Mr Bernard William McCAFFERY**  
**Mr Ross James WOODTHORPE ANDERSON**

On the afternoon of 27 November 2008, a man and his friend were jogging at Tallows Beach, Byron Bay, when they saw a woman caught in a rip. One of the men immediately entered the water and swam to the woman, who was quite distressed, and tried to tow her out of the rip while she fought against him. The other man ran to get help, before entering the water with other members of the public to assist with the rescue of the woman. One of the rescuers was swept out past the breakers and began to swallow water. Using a surfboard and a football for floatation the other rescuers made their way out to help the exhausted woman and the man. Both people were dragged onto the surfboard and returned to the shore. Two of the rescuers, who were in the water for nearly forty minutes, made their way back to the shore. Ambulance officers treated both victims on the beach prior to transporting them to hospital for further treatment.

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

**Mr Edward James ADCOCK**  
Leichhardt NSW 2040

**Mr Zachary John BROOKER**  
5/4 Paling Street  
Cremorne NSW 2040

**Mr Christopher Richard JARVIS**  
Croydon NSW 2132

**Mr Bernard William McCAFFERY**  
13 Grandview Street  
East Ballina NSW 2478

**Mr Ross James WOODTHORPE  
ANDERSON**  
23 Richardson Street  
Lane Cove NSW 2066

## GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

*Awardees comprise of members of the public who rescued a woman from a submerged vehicle at Maroochydore, Queensland on 24 February 2011.*

**Mr Joshua Andy MACPHERSON**

**Mrs Rebecca Anne MURRELL**

**Mr Sam Wilson TOLDI**

On the afternoon of 24 February 2011, an elderly woman accidentally drove her vehicle over an embankment and into a creek in Maroochydore. Water began to fill the cabin, preventing her from opening her door. A member of the public saw the car in the water, and after unsuccessfully trying to locate a rock to smash a window, swam to the vehicle to provide assistance. A woman also jumped into the creek and swam to the vehicle where she attempted to keep the elderly woman calm. As the vehicle began to sink bonnet first into the water, the woman climbed onto the rear of the vehicle to help keep it level. A third man ran to the scene and swam to the vehicle. He asked the elderly 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, he leaned inside and pulled the woman out through the passenger side window. He then swam her to safety, and, with the help of the other two people, managed to get the woman out of the water and up a rock wall embankment to safety.

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

**Mr Joshua Andy MACPHERSON**

'Muting Point'

Leichhardt Highway

Wandoan Qld 4419

**Mrs Rebecca Anne MURRELL**

Buderim Qld 4556

**Mr Sam Wilson TOLDI**

1053/16 Hamilton Place

Bowen Hills Qld 4006

## GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

*Awardees comprise of members of the public who rescued a family of four from a burning vehicle at Sassafras, Victoria on 29 December 2011.*

**Mr Brian Stanley CORNISH**  
**Mr Nicholas John GASCOIGNE**  
**Mr Donald MacGregor ORR**  
**Mr Steven Ronald RULE**  
**Mrs Yvonne Mary RULE**

On the early afternoon of 29 December 2011, two members of the public were travelling along the Mountain Highway towards Sassafras in the Dandenong Ranges when they saw several vehicles pulled over. After stopping they saw people looking down a steep embankment at a vehicle which had crashed into a large gum tree. The vehicle was about ten metres from the roadway with smoke coming from under the bonnet and, nearby, vegetation was beginning to burn. A number of the bystanders slid down the embankment and opened the driver's door. Inside the vehicle they found two adults and two children who were suffering from shock and displaying various injuries. As attempts were made to extinguish the fire, the rescuers leaned inside the burning smoke-filled vehicle and pulled three of the occupants outside where they were carried up to the road. As a nearby tree caught alight, the rescuers quickly carried the injured driver up to the road. Shortly after all the passengers were moved to safety the vehicle caught fully alight and was engulfed in flames.

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

**Mr Brian Stanley CORNISH**  
Scoresby Vic 3179

**Mr Nicholas John GASCOIGNE**  
Aranda ACT 2614

**Mr Donald MacGregor ORR**  
Ferry Creek Vic 3786

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

**Mrs Yvonne Mary RULE**  
96 Fraser Crescent  
Wantirna South Vic 3152