

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Todd Michael ANDREWS, Bassendean WA 6054

On the evening of 4 February 2014, Mr Todd Andrews assisted in the rescue of two people from a burning house at Bassendean in Western Australia.

Mr Andrews, an off-duty firefighter, and his colleague were returning home when they noticed flames coming from a house. They were waved down by a man who told them a woman remained inside the house which was well alight. The man, who was extremely agitated, attempted to climb inside the front window of the house but Mr Andrews and his colleague held him back.

While his colleague continued to restrain the man from re-entering the house, Mr Andrews went to the rear of the house and heard a woman's voice coming from behind a toilet door. He crawled inside the dark smoke filled house but was unable to get to the woman so he returned to the front of the house.

Mr Andrews and his colleague quickly moved to the rear of the house. They entered the house and crawling along the floor they managed to locate the toilet door despite choking smoke. The female occupant was extremely weak and lying on the floor of the toilet, blocking the door.

Due to the intense smoke Mr Andrews and his colleague had to run in and out of the house several times to regain their breath. On the fourth attempt Mr Andrews and his colleague were able to drag the woman out of the toilet and move her to safety. Mr Andrews and his colleague then commenced first aid on the woman and supplied her with oxygen while fire station officers attended to the fire.

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

Master Oscar Bailey ARROWSMITH, Cockatoo Vic 3781

In the late evening of 26 March 2012, Master Oscar Arrowsmith, who was 10 years old at the time, rescued his mother who was being attacked by a dog in Cockatoo, Victoria.

Oscar was in the lounge room of his home and his mother was in a bedroom at the other end of the house with the two family dogs, a German shepherd and a Staffordshire cross. The two dogs began to fight and Oscar's mother attempted to intervene when the German Shepherd became very aggressive towards her and started to attack her leg from thigh to calf.

Upon hearing the commotion, Oscar went to the bedroom and saw the dog attacking his mother. He instantly began to distract the dog and after a number of attempts was able to drag the animal away and secure it in the laundry. He then assisted his mother to the lounge room where he applied some first-aid and called 000.

For his actions, Master Arrowsmith is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Mark Alexander BARNES, 29 Joanne Crescent, Thornlands Qld 4164

On the evening of 2 March 2013, Mr Mark Barnes assisted in the rescue of a man who was clinging to a capsized kayak in rough conditions off Barrenjoey Headland at Broken Bay in New South Wales.

Mr Barnes and another fisherman were in Smiths Creek participating in a local fishing competition when they received a distress call. They immediately made their way to the Barrenjoey area and were advised that a kayaker had capsized off the headland and was struggling to stay afloat.

Despite the rough conditions, Mr Barnes and the other fisherman headed out in the driving rain and large waves to the area where the kayaker was last seen clinging to his upturned kayak, but were unable to locate him. While the other fisherman placed the vessel into neutral and used his boating experience to assess the surface currents to allow it to drift in the same direction as the kayaker, Mr Barnes began to bail sea water from their vessel.

Using floodlights they spotted the kayaker who was about three kilometres out to sea. The other fisherman navigated the vessel towards the distressed kayaker and on reaching him Mr Barnes threw a rope to him and he was dragged aboard before returning to shore.

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

Mr Shane Matthew BARROW, Caringbah NSW 2229

In the early afternoon of 3 April 2015, Mr Shane Barrow assisted in the rescue of several people after a boat capsized at the Narooma Bar in Narooma, New South Wales.

Mr Barrow and four friends were surfing at South Bar Beach, Narooma and witnessed a small fishing boat attempting to cross the Narooma Bar. A wave coming from behind the vessel swamped it, causing it to capsize and throw all five passengers overboard. The surfers quickly located one of the passengers in the water and he was taken to shore.

Whilst two surfers attempted to rescue a young female who was trapped in an air pocket under the boat, Mr Barrow and two friends located a passenger clinging to the front of the capsized boat and noticed two other men in the surf nearby.

Mr Barrow and two of his friends then guided the three victims back to shore and with the help of other bystanders they supported the passengers until emergency services arrived.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Christopher Kevin BESTON, Cairns Qld 4870

Early on the morning of 6 January 2012, Mr Christopher Beston disarmed a patient who had threatened him with a knife at a hospital in Queensland.

Mr Beston was on duty as a hospital Security Officer when he was informed that a man had climbed a tree and was threatening self-harm. Mr Beston and three colleagues responded to the scene where they located and observed the man, who was visibly distressed, speaking to the 000 operator on his mobile phone.

The officers spoke to the man for a few minutes before they managed to talk him down from the tree. They escorted the man, who was extremely agitated and abusive, to the triage emergency department where, soon after, he threatened to kill a nurse and then himself.

Mr Beston attempted to again calm the man who had become extremely aggressive and removed a knife from his bag and pointed it at Mr Beston's face.

Mr Beston grabbed hold of the offender's right wrist and arm. The man began to thrash about and Mr Beston managed to force the offender to release the knife before it was taken from the area. The offender was then placed into a secure mental health area for treatment.

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

The late Mr Harold Leslie BINGHAM OAM BEM, Late of Western Australia

On the afternoon of 22 March 1975, Mr Harry Bingham removed and detonated explosives from a Roadhouse in Nanutarra, Western Australia.

Mr Bingham, an ex-Royal Australian Navy Clearance Diver and explosives expert, was called to the Nanutarra Roadhouse in the remote Pilbara region of Western Australia by a local policeman to investigate a box of approximately 50 sticks of gelignite that had earlier been discovered by the Roadhouse Manager.

The box was located in cupboard in a power station shed behind the Roadhouse and Mr Bingham observed fluid leaking from the crystallised gelignite along with the presence of safety fuses and detonators in the same box and he removed the gelignite from the shed. The area was cleared and he began taking the dangerous box and other contents out of the cupboard. Once the items had been removed, he then dismantled the cupboard and placed it with the explosives about 300 metres from the Roadhouse. Mr Bingham then detonated the gelignite and the area was made safe.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mrs Meleesa Ann BIRT, Magill SA 5072

On the morning of 27 March 2013, Mrs Meleesa Birt rescued a child from an oncoming vehicle at Eastwood in South Australia.

Mrs Birt was inside a shop located on Glen Osmond Road in Eastwood, and as she was waiting to be served, noticed a small child standing on the road. The young girl, who had previously been inside the store, had wandered away from her father and out onto the busy thoroughfare.

Mrs Birt immediately ran from the shop and threw herself over the child. Moments later, a truck came to a screeching halt only managing to stop about a metre from Mrs Birt and the child.

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

Mr Brenden Conan BUCKLEY, Ridleyton SA 5008

On the evening of 28 January 2015, Mr Brenden Buckley restrained a man who had stabbed a neighbour at Ridleyton in South Australia.

Mr Buckley was at his home when he heard neighbours shouting behind his rear fence. Shortly afterwards he heard another scream and immediately ran out of his unit and down the driveway. He momentarily stopped when he saw his neighbour holding a large knife then stab a female neighbour in the left shoulder.

When the offender raised the knife again, Mr Buckley yelled at him to stop. Mr Buckley moved towards the offender and pinned him against the front of the house. He grabbed the offender's right wrist and told him to put the knife down. Soon after, the offender dropped the knife.

Mr Buckley continued to observe the victim and the offender until the police and ambulance services arrived.

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

Mr Mitchell Lee BURGE, Stonehaven Road, Mount Colah NSW 2079

On the evening of 2 March 2013, Mr Mitchell Burge assisted in the rescue of a man who was clinging to a capsized kayak in rough conditions off Barrenjoey Headland at Broken Bay in New South Wales.

Mr Burge and another fisherman were in Smiths Creek participating in a local fishing competition when they received a distress call. Mr Burge navigated the vessel to the Barrenjoey area and was advised that a kayaker had capsized off the headland and was struggling to stay afloat.

Despite the rough conditions, Mr Burge and the other fisherman headed out in the driving rain and large waves to the area where the kayaker was last seen clinging to his upturned kayak, but were unable to locate him. Mr Burge placed the vessel into neutral and used his boating experience to assess the surface currents to allow it to drift in the same direction as the kayaker, while the other fisherman began to bail sea water from their vessel.

Using floodlights they spotted a glimpse of the kayaker who was about three kilometres out to sea. Mr Burge then navigated the vessel towards the distressed kayaker and on reaching him the other fisherman threw the kayaker a rope and he was dragged aboard before returning to shore.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Craig Andrew CASH, 4 Sauvignon Court, Molendinar Qld 4214

In the early morning of 4 January 2013, Mr Craig Cash assisted in the rescue of two women who were caught in a rip at Surfers Paradise in Queensland.

Mr Cash was walking home when he noticed police going into the surf at the Esplanade and went to the water's edge. He saw a police officer carrying a girl from the water and saw another girl in trouble in a rip with another police officer trying to reach her.

Mr Cash entered the surf and swam out to the two in the water. Mr Cash and the police officer each grabbed hold of the victim and began to swim to shore. As the police officer assisted, Mr Cash dragged the woman in a 'lifeguard grip' until they reached safer water. The woman was then carried to shore where she was provided with medical assistance.

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

Mr David Ian CLARKE, Tasmania

In January 1985, Mr David Clarke rescued a man who was trapped in rapids on the Franklin River in Tasmania.

Mr Clarke was rafting in The Great Ravine on the Franklin River when his party came upon a group of seven kayakers who were in the process of navigating their way down the Thunderush Rapids which are classified as unpaddleable.

As his party observed the kayakers it became obvious to Mr Clarke that the last kayaker to descend the rapids had been trapped in his kayak, under the water, and was having difficulty resurfacing. He quickly raised the alarm and launched himself into the river and made his way to a large rock that was in between the shore and the trapped man.

The kayaker was able to resurface for short periods before being pulled back underneath the surging water. As the man resurfaced again he threw himself towards Mr Clarke who grabbed the shoulder of the man's life jacket and hauled him out of the water, up onto the rock to safety.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Constable Logan Tristan De COSTA, Queensland Police

On the evening of 5 September 2014, Constable Logan De Costa assisted in the rescue of people after a truck accident near Charleville in south western Queensland

At about 9pm a B-double truck carrying over 52 tonnes of the highly explosive chemical, Ammonium Nitrate, crashed off the Angellala Creek Bridge on the Mitchell Highway and burst into flames. The driver, who was severely injured, managed to get out of the truck's cabin and crawl up onto the bridge.

Two passing truck drivers arrived on the scene and noticed that the cabin of the overturned truck was well alight and beginning to melt. Minor explosions were occurring, as black smoke and 10 metre high flames were visible. They attended to the injured truck driver, administering first aid and providing comfort.

As Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) firefighters from the Charleville Station arrived to assist the injured driver, the burning truck exploded, sending debris into the air. A second explosion and shockwave quickly followed, causing extensive damage to surrounding area. The men at the site sustained significant injuries as they were only 30 metres from the exploding vehicle.

The QFES firefighters and one of the truck drivers supported each other on foot from the scene. They met a Queensland police officer and QFES inspector and advised them that two people were still at the site of the accident. The injured men were then transported to hospital and two QPS officers, a paramedic and the inspector attended the crash site.

Arriving later to the crash site Constable De Costa encountered the second motorist still assisting the truck driver. Constable De Costa provided assistance to the injured driver. When a cloud of toxic smoke rising from a damaged bag was observed, the injured men were evacuated and Constable De Costa and the other first responders quickly left the scene.

For his actions, Constable De Costa is commended for brave conduct.

Mr Mark DENNE, 170 Hermitage Road, Kurrajong Hills NSW 2758

On the morning of 5 February 2011, Mr Mark Denne entered a burning house to rescue its occupants at Whalan in New South Wales.

Mr Denne was at his residence when he became aware of smoke coming from his next door neighbour's property. He also observed a mushroom cloud about six metres in the air and could hear popping noises and a bang. He jumped the fence separating the two properties and went to the back of the house where he could see that the garage was well alight and flames were beginning to reach the house.

Mr Denne went in the back door and saw flames coming through the kitchen window. As he made his way through the house looking for occupants, he saw a man walking out of one of the rooms and together they went to assist a female occupant to exit the front of the house.

Once outside, he was informed that there was still someone inside. He ran back into the house where he found a male occupant attempting to fight the flames with a garden hose. The man didn't respond to commands to leave the house so Mr Denne was forced to carry, drag and push the man outside to safety.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Daniel EFRAEMSON, 404 Old Highway, Narooma NSW 2546

In the early afternoon of 3 April 2015, Mr Daniel Efraemson assisted in the rescue of several people after a boat capsized at the Narooma Bar in Narooma, New South Wales.

Mr Efraemson and four friends were surfing at South Bar Beach, Narooma and witnessed a small fishing boat attempting to cross the Narooma Bar. A wave coming from behind the vessel swamped it, causing it to capsize and throw all five passengers overboard. Mr Efraemson and two of his friends quickly located one of the passengers in the water and he took the man to shore before returning to provide further assistance.

Whilst two surfers attempted to rescue a young female who was trapped in an air pocket under the boat, Mr Efraemson and two friends located a passenger clinging to the front of the capsized boat and noticed two other men in the surf nearby.

Mr Efraemson and two of his friends then guided the three victims back to shore and with the help of other bystanders they supported the passengers until emergency services arrived.

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

Constable Dennis James GERAGHTY, South Australia Police

On the afternoon of 4 May 2013, Constable Dennis Geraghty and a colleague rescued a man from a burning vehicle at Smithfield in South Australia.

Constable Geraghty and his colleague came across a sedan which had collided with a steel and concrete power pole. The officers could see a substantial amount of smoke coming from the car.

Constable Geraghty ran towards the vehicle and instructed his colleague to bring a fire extinguisher. As he reached the burning car, he could hear the victim yelling in pain. He checked for other passengers before returning to the driver's door where he saw the driver was trapped by the steering wheel. His colleague handed the fire extinguisher to him and he sprayed the entire contents into the flames. Once the extinguisher was empty, his colleague managed to get a second extinguisher. Constable Geraghty and his colleague then took turns to fight the fire inside the vehicle.

With the flames increasing in intensity, Constable Geraghty and his colleague managed to cut the drivers' seatbelt, remove the injured man from the burning vehicle and carry him to safety.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr John Norman GILBERT, 10-12 First Avenue, Injune Qld 4454

On the evening of 5 September 2014, Mr John Gilbert assisted in the rescue of people after a truck accident near Charleville in south western Queensland.

At about 9pm a B-double truck carrying over 52 tonnes of a highly explosive chemical crashed off the Angellala Creek Bridge on the Mitchell Highway and burst into flames. The driver, who was severely injured, managed to get out of the truck's cabin and crawl up onto the bridge.

Two passing truck drivers arrived on the scene and noticed that the cabin of the overturned truck was well alight and beginning to melt. Minor explosions were occurring, as black smoke and 10 metre high flames were visible. They attended to the injured truck driver, administering first aid and providing comfort.

As Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) firefighters from the Charleville Station arrived to assist the injured driver, the burning truck exploded, sending debris into the air. A second explosion and shockwave quickly followed, causing extensive damage to surrounding area. The men at the site sustained significant injuries as they were only 30 metres from the exploding vehicle.

Mr Gilbert and two other Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) paramedics and a QFES inspector arrived on the scene. When the four QFES firefighters and one of the truck drivers emerged from the scene with multiple injuries and in shock, Mr Gilbert and his colleague triaged the men, provided vital initial treatment to the injured and then transported them to Charleville Hospital. They restocked their vehicle and returned to the scene to treat those still in the area.

When the second truck driver was evacuated from the site Mr Gilbert and his colleague took him to hospital.

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

Senior Constable Steven Adrian GOODALL, Queensland Police

On the evening of 14 March 2015, Senior Constable Steven Goodall and a colleague rescued a man who was threatening to set himself on fire at Carina Heights in Queensland.

Senior Constable Goodall and his colleague became aware of a siege situation at a residence in Carina Heights. Upon arrival they were instructed to relieve colleagues on the inner cordon in the yard of the house. The dwelling was in darkness due to the electricity being shut off. Negotiations were in progress with the offender through a side window.

After negotiations failed, the officers observed large flames and a bright orange glow coming from inside the dwelling. The odour of fuel was coming from the residence as Senior Constable Goodall and his colleague entered the dwelling. They observed the drenched offender holding a metal fuel can, with flames coming from it. The offender immediately ran towards the officers as he was swinging the fuel can at them. The can hit Senior Constable Goodall on the right forearm.

Both officers engaged in a brief struggle with the offender, forcing him to another area of the house which then enabled a member of the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service to aim a stream of water from a fire hose at the offender, knocking him to the ground and allowing Senior Constable Goodall and his colleague to restrain him.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Mark Ivan HADDRILL, Australind WA 6233

On the morning of 30 March 2015, Mr Mark Haddrill went to the assistance of a bus driver who was being attacked at Australind in Western Australia.

A local bus was stopped near the Australind Medical Centre when a young boy getting off the bus produced a large machete-looking knife which he pointed at the bus driver who was still in her seat. The boy attempted to attack the driver with the knife and she put her arms up to stop him and they both struggled over the knife.

A young passenger moved from her seat, grabbed hold of the boy's arm and, using her free hand, grabbed the knife's handle. The pair struggled briefly before the young girl was able to force the knife into a slot near the door. The offender continued to attempt to lift the knife towards the bus driver and the young girl.

Meanwhile, a witness ran into the nearby Medical Centre and called for assistance. Mr Haddrill immediately left the building and ran towards the bus. He signalled for the door to be opened, entered the bus, and approached the offender and young girl, who were both still holding the knife. He grabbed the knife's handle and the young girl was then able to slide her hands away from the weapon.

Mr Haddrill repeatedly asked the boy to let the knife go. The boy suddenly released his grip which allowed Mr Haddrill to fully grasp the knife's handle and enabled him to throw it out of the boy's reach.

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

Senior Constable Ammon Smiler HAPI, Queensland Police

In the early morning of 4 January 2013, Senior Constable (then Constable) Ammon Hapi assisted in the rescue of two women who were caught in a rip at Surfers Paradise in Queensland.

Constable Hapi and a colleague were patrolling the foreshore esplanade when they observed a small group of people walking towards the sand. Concerned for their welfare, as the officers believed they had been drinking, the officers parked their vehicle and approached the group. They then saw one of the group frantically waving his arms at them and they sprinted down to the water's edge. Constable Hapi was told that two women had entered the dangerous surf and he and the other officer immediately entered the water.

While his colleague went to rescue one woman, Constable Hapi swam out past the breakers to reach the other woman who was caught in the strong current. When a member of the public also swam out to assist, they grabbed the woman and began to swim to shore.

Constable Hapi felt himself being dragged by the rip but continued to push the woman, with the assistance of the another swimmer, towards safer water. On reaching safer water the woman was then carried to shore where she was provided with medical assistance.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Senior Constable First Class Lucas James HERBERT, South Australia Police

In the early hours of 27 July 2012, Senior Constable Lucas Herbert rescued a woman from a burning house at Plympton in South Australia.

Senior Constable Herbert and a colleague were conducting night patrol duties when they saw a house engulfed in smoke and flames. Bystanders informed him that a woman was trapped in the rear court yard.

He ran through a neighbouring property to gain access to the court yard area. Senior Constable Herbert looked over a tall corrugated iron fence and saw a woman lying on the ground near the verandah which was ablaze and about to collapse. He quickly climbed the fence and made his way towards the woman, but was forced to retreat by the intense heat and smoke.

After several attempts he managed to reach the elderly woman, who had suffered burns, and picked her up. He carried her to the fence and passed her over it to his colleague.

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

Mr Samuel Elijah HIRVI, Upper Mount Gravatt Qld 4122

In the late afternoon of 2 May 2015, Mr Samuel Hirvi assisted in the rescue of a man trapped in a burning house at Upper Mount Gravatt in Queensland.

An off-duty policeman was driving through Upper Mt Gravatt, when he noticed smoke and flames coming from a house. He immediately stopped to render assistance and quickly instructed bystanders to call for emergency services. He observed billowing smoke and flames coming out of a window on the bottom level of the two story house and saw that the window flyscreens appeared to be riveted closed. Bystanders were yelling that there was someone inside the home.

At this point, Mr Hirvi arrived and, together with the off-duty policeman, ran to the rear of the house to see if they could get inside. They reached the back door and managed to force it open. As the door opened, Mr Hirvi and the off-duty policeman entered the burning home but they had to quickly retreat due to the amount of smoke.

Undeterred Mr Hirvi and the off-duty policeman then ran to the front of the building where they were joined by three other men. The group was, after several attempts, able to force open a flyscreen and smash a window. The trapped man was then able to be pulled out of the window and away to safety.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Alex McKenzie KUHNE, Inverloch Vic 3996

On the evening of 16 December 2011, Mr Alex Kuhne assisted in the rescue of a man from a burning house at Dumbalk in Victoria.

Two women were driving when they came upon a group of people gathered outside a house on Farmers Road. They stopped their car, got out, and made their way to the group. The women saw smoke coming from the house and became aware the occupant may still be inside the house. They went to the open front door but found the security screen door was locked.

At this point Mr Kuhne arrived to assist, and one of the women broke a small window next to the door which allowed him to lean inside and unlock the security screen. Mr Kuhne and the two women then entered the hallway but the smoke from the fire greatly hindered visibility. One of the women immediately went to retrieve a torch and when she returned Mr Kuhne and the two women re-entered the house to look for the occupant.

They quickly located an unresponsive man on a couch. At this point another neighbour arrived to assist and he also entered the smoke filled house. Mr Kuhne and the other man then managed to remove the unconscious occupant outside to safety as the two women also made their way out through the smoke.

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

Mr Chandana KURUPPU, 14 Jake Court, Middle Ridge Qld 4350

On the evening of 12 February 2015, Mr Chandana Kuruppu rescued a driver from a burning vehicle at Toowoomba in Queensland.

Mr Kuruppu was at his home when he was alerted to a motor vehicle accident. He was the first person to arrive at the scene where a car had crashed into a hedge on the footpath outside a residence. The vehicle and hedge were engulfed with flames and Mr Kuruppu could see a man slumped over the steering wheel. The driver still had his foot on the accelerator and the wheels were spinning.

Mr Kuruppu opened the driver's door and attempted to rouse the driver who was unresponsive. With smoke and flames coming out from the engine bay, Mr Kuruppu unbuckled the driver's seatbelt and managed to remove the man from the car, dragging him to safety.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Constable Hayden Stuart LEA, Queensland Police

On the evening of 14 March 2015, Constable Hayden Lea and a colleague rescued a man who was threatening to set himself on fire at Carina Heights in Queensland.

Constable Lea and his colleague became aware of a siege situation at a residence in Carina Heights. Upon arrival they were instructed to relieve colleagues on the inner cordon in the yard of the house. The dwelling was in darkness due to the electricity being shut off. Negotiations were in progress with the offender through a side window.

After a period, negotiations failed and the officers observed large flames and a bright orange glow coming from inside the dwelling. The odour of fuel was coming from the residence as Constable Lea and his colleague entered the dwelling. They observed the drenched offender holding a metal fuel can, with flames coming from it. The offender immediately ran towards the officers as he was swinging the fuel can at them. The can hit Constable Lea's colleague on the right forearm.

Both officers engaged in a brief struggle with the offender, forcing him to another area of the house which then enabled a member of the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service to aim a stream of water from a fire hose at the offender, knocking him to the ground and allowing Constable Lea and his colleague to restrain him.

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

Constable Chance Whetukairangi LIMA, Queensland Police

In the early morning of 4 January 2013, Constable Chance Lima assisted during the rescue of two women who were caught in a rip at Surfers Paradise in Queensland.

Constable Lima and a colleague were patrolling the foreshore esplanade when they observed a small group of people walking towards the sand. Concerned for their welfare, as the officers believed they had been drinking, the officers parked their vehicle and approached the group. They saw one of the group frantically waving his arms at them and they sprinted down to the water's edge. Constable Lima was told that two women had entered the dangerous surf and he and the other officer immediately entered the water.

While his colleague went to rescue the other woman, Constable Lima entered the water fully clothed and met one of the group who was in waist-deep water struggling to hold onto the unresponsive woman. Constable Lima took hold of the woman, dragged her to shore and placed her in the recovery position.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Miss Alexandra LLOYD, Dumbalk North Vic 3956

On the evening of 16 December 2011, Miss Alexandra Lloyd assisted in the rescue of a man from a burning house at Dumbalk in Victoria.

Miss Lloyd and her mother were driving when they came upon a group of people gathered outside a house on Farmers Road. They stopped their car, got out, and made their way to the group. Her mother was on crutches as she was recovering from recent leg surgery.

Miss Lloyd and her mother saw smoke coming from the house and became aware the occupant may still be inside. They went to the open front door but found the security screen door was locked. A neighbour also arrived to assist and Ms Lloyd's mother broke a small window next to the door which allowed the neighbour to lean inside and unlock the security screen.

Miss Lloyd and her mother then entered the hallway but the smoke from the fire greatly hindered visibility. Miss Lloyd immediately went to retrieve a torch and when she returned the three people re-entered the house to look for the occupant. They quickly located an unresponsive man on a couch. At this point another neighbour arrived to assist and he also entered the smoke filled house. The men then managed to remove the unconscious occupant outside to safety. Miss Lloyd and her mother also made their way out through the smoke.

For her actions, Miss Lloyd is commended for brave conduct.

Ms Riley Heather LYE, Dayboro Qld 4521

On the evening of 9 September 2013, Ms Riley Lye assisted in the rescue of a man who was trapped in an overturned truck at Bald Hills in Queensland.

A prime mover truck and trailer was travelling along the Gateway Motorway at Bald Hills when the driver lost control and the truck crashed through the overpass railing of the Gympie Arterial Road. The truck overturned as it fell onto the gravel road below. In complete darkness, and while diesel spilled from the fuel tanks, the driver managed to free himself from the crushed cabin. A male passenger remained trapped in the cabin.

Ms Lye was travelling along the motorway with a friend when they saw the accident. Her friend immediately pulled over and Ms Lye called 000, while her friend made his way to the overturned truck on the embankment. Her friend was advised by the truck driver that his passenger remained inside the crushed cabin. Disregarding leaking fuel and oil, Ms Lye's friend entered the wreckage, found the trapped injured man and attempted to reassure him.

Other members of the public began to arrive at the scene, with another man crawling into the wreckage to assist Ms Lye's friend. While her friend applied a tourniquet to the man's leg, and the other man reassured the injured passenger, Ms Lye also crawled under the trailer to comfort the injured man despite the threat of fire from the leaking fuel and oil.

Soon after Queensland Police Officers arrived at the scene to assist. They crawled under the trailer, attended to the injured passenger and relieved Ms Lye and the two other people. A short time later the injured man was dragged free of the wreckage and moved to safety.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Colin Robert McEWEN, 1/227 Albury Street, Murrumburrah NSW 2587

On the afternoon of 26 May 2013, Mr Collin McEwen assisted in the rescue of a man who was being attacked by dogs at Ashcroft in New South Wales.

A man was jogging when he was savagely attacked by three Staffordshire terrier dogs. Mr McEwen and another man heard the jogger yelling and saw the dogs attacking him. Whilst the second man attempted to draw one of the dogs away from the injured jogger, Mr McEwen moved between the dogs and the victim and was bitten on the hands and pulled to the ground.

When the second man returned to the footpath he hit the dogs several times before they released Mr McEwen and the injured jogger. The dogs then ran from the scene.

The dogs soon returned and attempted to attack a person who had just gotten off a bus. The second man chased the dogs away again, and they took off into nearby properties before later being apprehended by dog control authorities.

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

Senior Constable Dean MAGARRY, Queensland Police

On the evening of 4 January 2010, Senior Constable Dean Magarry assisted in the rescue of a driver of an overturned semi-trailer at Rockhampton in Queensland.

Senior Constable Magarry and his partner, who were both off-duty at the time, were driving their vehicle near an intersection in Rockhampton when they saw a semi-trailer begin to tip over as it rounded a corner. As the vehicle continued to tip, it knocked down power lines before it came to rest passenger side down.

Senior Constable Magarry, and his partner, immediately went to assist the driver. A downed power line lay under the cabin and diesel fuel had spilled onto the road from the truck's ruptured fuel tanks. As smoke emitted from the rear of the truck and the fuel spread towards the driver's cabin, they rushed to the driver and saw that he had head injuries and was semi-conscious.

Whilst his partner called 000, Senior Constable Magarry climbed up to the driver's door and turned the engine off. He then climbed inside the cabin and, after several attempts, managed to kick out the windscreen. With the assistance of a bystander they moved the driver away to safety.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Kane George MOOD, 16 Balfour Avenue, Caringbah NSW 2229

In the early afternoon of 3 April 2015, Mr Kane Mood assisted in the rescue of several people after a boat capsized at the Narooma Bar in Narooma, New South Wales.

Mr Mood and four friends were surfing at South Bar Beach, Narooma and witnessed a small fishing boat attempting to cross the Narooma Bar. A wave coming from behind the vessel swamped it, causing it to capsize and throw all five passengers overboard. The surfers quickly located one of the passengers in the water and he was taken to shore.

Whilst two surfers attempted to rescue a young female who was trapped in an air pocket under the boat, Mr Mood and two friends located a passenger clinging to the front of the capsized boat and noticed two other men in the surf nearby.

Mr Mood and two of his friends then guided the three victims back to shore and with the help of other bystanders they supported the passengers until emergency services arrived.

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

Mr Toby Lee PAUL, Dumbalk Vic 3956

On the evening of 16 December 2011, Mr Toby Paul assisted in the rescue of a man from a burning house in Dumbalk, Victoria.

Two women were driving when they came upon a group of people gathered outside a house on Farmers Road. They stopped their car, got out, and made their way to the group. The women saw smoke coming from the house and became aware the occupant may still be inside the house. They went to the open front door but found the security screen door was locked.

When a neighbour arrived to assist, one of the women broke a small window next to the door which allowed the man to lean inside and unlock the security screen door. The three people then entered the hallway but the smoke from the fire greatly hindered visibility. One of the women immediately went to retrieve a torch and when she returned the three people re-entered the house to look for the occupant. They quickly located an unresponsive man on a couch.

At this point Mr Paul arrived at the smoke-filled house and immediately went inside to assist. He and the other man then managed to remove the unconscious occupant outside to safety as the two women also made their way out through the smoke.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Sergeant Deryn Caroline RICARDO APM, Victoria Police

On the evening of 16 December 2011, Sergeant Deryn Ricardo assisted in the rescue of a man from a burning house at Dumbalk in Victoria.

Sergeant Ricardo, who was off-duty at the time, and her daughter were driving when they came upon a group of people gathered outside a house on Farmers Road. They stopped their car, got out, and made their way to the group. Sergeant Ricardo was on crutches as she was recovering from recent leg surgery.

Sergeant Ricardo and her daughter saw smoke coming from the house and became aware the occupant may still be inside. They went to the open front door but found the security screen door was locked. A neighbour also arrived to assist and Sergeant Ricardo broke a small window next to the door which allowed the neighbour to lean inside and unlock the security screen.

Sergeant Ricardo and her daughter then entered the hallway but the smoke from the fire greatly hindered visibility. Her daughter immediately went to retrieve a torch and when she returned the three people re-entered the house to look for the occupant.

They quickly located an unresponsive man on a couch. At this point another neighbour arrived to assist and he also entered the smoke filled house. The men then managed to remove the unconscious occupant outside to safety. Sergeant Ricardo and her daughter also made their way out through the smoke.

For her actions, Sergeant Ricardo is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Senior Sergeant Adrian Paul RIECK, Queensland Police

On the evening of 5 September 2014, Senior Sergeant Adrian Rieck assisted in the rescue of people after a truck accident near Charleville in south western Queensland.

At about 9pm a B-double truck carrying over 52 tonnes of the highly explosive chemical, Ammonium Nitrate, crashed off the Angellala Creek Bridge on the Mitchell Highway and burst into flames. The driver, who was severely injured, managed to get out of the truck's cabin and crawl up onto the bridge.

Two passing truck drivers arrived on the scene and noticed that the cabin of the over turned truck was well alight and beginning to melt. Minor explosions were occurring, as black smoke and 10 metre high flames were visible. They attended to the injured truck driver, administering first aid and providing comfort.

As Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) firefighters from the Charleville Station arrived to assist the injured driver, the burning truck exploded, sending debris into the air. A second explosion and shockwave quickly followed, causing extensive damage to surrounding area. The men at the site sustained significant injuries as they were only 30 metres from the exploding vehicle.

The QFES firefighters and one of the truck drivers supported each other on foot from the scene. They met a Queensland police officer and QFES inspector and advised them two people were still at the site of the accident. The injured men were then transported to hospital. The injured men were then transported to hospital and two QPS officers, a paramedic and the inspector attended the crash site.

Arriving later at the crash site Senior Sergeant Rieck then joined his QPS colleagues and the QFES inspector and encountered the second motorist still assisting the truck driver. Senior Sergeant Rieck provided assistance to the injured driver. When a cloud of toxic smoke rising from a damaged bag was observed, the injured men were evacuated and Senior Sergeant Rieck and the other first responders quickly left the scene.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Matthew SHALES, South Perth WA 6151

In the late evening of 23 June 2015, Mr Matthew Shales rescued two people from a burning vehicle at South Perth in Western Australia.

Mr Shales was sitting outside his home when a vehicle, which was travelling at high speed along the Canning Highway, collided with another vehicle before crashing into a power pole and brick fence. On impact, the vehicle caught fire.

He immediately went to the scene and noticed the driver was in the back seat of the crashed vehicle without a seatbelt on. He reached into the car and pulled him out. The driver was moaning and was dragged further away from the car by a police officer. By this time the car was on fire at both the front and the back. Mr Shales then managed to pull another occupant out of his seat through the front passenger window to safety.

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

Mr Allan John SPARKES CV, Sydney NSW 2000

On the afternoon of 27 April 2014, Mr Allan Sparkes rescued a man who had fallen onto train tracks at Redfern Station in New South Wales.

Mr Sparkes and his daughter were waiting for a train at Redfern Station when he became aware of a situation occurring on the next platform. He immediately went over to the platform and saw a man who had fallen onto the tracks below, struggling to get up.

Despite being aware a train was due to arrive at any moment, Mr Sparkes jumped down onto the tracks. He quickly assessed the man and, after picking him up into his arms, attempted a number of times to lift him onto the platform, but was unsuccessful.

After mentally preparing himself to use the gap under the platform should the train arrive whilst they were still on the tracks, he finally managed, with the assistance of bystanders, to get the man back onto the platform. Mr Sparkes was then assisted onto the platform before a train arrived soon after.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Alan James STAINES, 7 Regal Place, Kallangur Qld 4503

On the evening of 9 September 2013, Mr Alan Staines assisted in the rescue of a man who was trapped in an overturned truck at Bald Hills in Queensland.

A prime mover truck and trailer was travelling along the Gateway Motorway at Bald Hills when the driver lost control and the truck crashed through the overpass railing of the Gympie Arterial Road. The truck overturned as it fell onto the gravel road below. In complete darkness and while diesel spilled from the fuel tanks the driver managed to free himself from the crushed cabin. A male passenger remained trapped in the cabin.

Mr Staines was travelling along the motorway when he saw the accident. He immediately pulled over and made his way to the overturned truck on the embankment. He came upon the truck driver who said that his passenger remained inside the crushed cabin. Disregarding leaking fuel and oil, Mr Staines went to the cabin where he met another member of the public who was assisting the trapped injured man.

Mr Staines crawled inside the cabin and together with the other man managed to lift part a piece of the wreckage off the trapped passenger, allowing him to move slightly and for them to assess his injuries. Mr Staines then reassured the injured passenger while the other man applied a tourniquet to the man's leg. A young woman then crawled inside the cab to comfort the injured man despite the threat of fire from the leaking fuel and oil.

Soon after Queensland Police Officers arrived at the scene to assist. They crawled under the trailer, attended to the injured passenger and relieved Mr Staines and the two other people. A short time later the injured man was dragged free of the wreckage and moved to safety.

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

Mr Mario William TEPASS, 170 Bunning Road, Mount Helena WA 6082

On the evening of 4 February 2014, Mr Mario Tepass assisted in the rescue of two people from a burning house at Bassendean in Western Australia.

Mr Tepass, an off-duty firefighter, and his colleague were returning home when they noticed flames coming from a house. They were then waved down by a man who told them a woman remained inside the house which was well alight. The man, who was extremely agitated, attempted to climb inside the front window of the house but Mr Tepass and his colleague held him back.

While Mr Tepass continued to restrain the man from re-entering the house, his colleague went to the rear of the house and heard a woman's voice coming from behind a toilet door. He crawled inside the dark smoke filled house but was unable to get to the woman so he returned to the front of the house.

Mr Tepass and his colleague quickly moved to the rear of the house. They entered the house and crawled along the floor and managed to locate the toilet door despite choking smoke. The female occupant was extremely weak and lying on the floor of the toilet, blocking the door.

Due to the intense smoke Mr Tepass and his colleague had to run in and out of the house several times to regain their breath. On the fourth attempt Mr Tepass and his colleague were able to drag the woman out of the toilet and move her to safety. Mr Tepass and his colleague then commenced first aid on the woman and supplied her with oxygen while fire station officers attended to the fire.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Christopher Cain THOMPSON, 1/78 Maxwells Avenue, Ashcroft NSW 2168

On the afternoon of 26 May 2013, Mr Christopher Thompson assisted in the rescue of a man who was being attacked by dogs at Ashcroft in New South Wales.

A man was jogging when he was savagely attacked by three Staffordshire terrier dogs. Mr Thompson and another man heard the jogger yelling and saw the dogs attacking him. They went to the jogger's assistance and Mr Thompson immediately kicked one dog which caused it to chase him and he ran behind a fence. When another dog bit the victim again, Mr Thompson grabbed hold of a pot plant and threw it, hitting the dog, however it did not let go of the jogger.

Meanwhile, the second man moved between the attacking dogs and the victim and was bitten on the hands and pulled to the ground. Mr Thompson then returned to the footpath and hit the dogs several times, causing them to release both men before running from the scene.

The dogs soon returned and attempted to attack a person who had just got off a bus. Mr Thompson chased the dogs away into nearby properties where they were later apprehended by dog control authorities.

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

Leading Senior Constable Mark Ian TREGELLAS, Victoria Police

On the morning of 14 May 2012, Senior Constable (then Acting Sergeant) Mark Tregellas was involved in the rescue of two people trapped on a stricken catamaran at Wingan Inlet in Victoria.

Sergeant Tregellas responded to a phone call from the Head Ranger at Croajingolong National Park advising him that a catamaran had been grounded on a beach at Wingan Inlet. He immediately drove to the Wingan Campsite and a person camping there transported him by boat to Wingan Inlet. He then hiked over the point to locate the catamaran.

As he rounded the point, he saw the grounded catamaran being pounded by huge waves. He waded for about 100m into the surf, reached the vessel and climbed up onto the rudder. As the elderly skipper of the craft emerged from the hatch another wave struck the catamaran knocking Sergeant Tregellas off his feet. He managed to hang on to the vessel to prevent himself from falling into the surging water which was littered with cables, rigging and other debris.

As waves continued to smash the catamaran, Sergeant Tregellas was unable to convince the elderly skipper and his companion to go ashore with him. He told them he would come back and, despite being hit by the catamaran, he managed to reach the safety of the shore.

He then walked approximately 3kms, in fading daylight, to meet up with the camper who had earlier dropped him off. He contacted the Water Police and requested helicopter assistance. The elderly couple were evacuated from the catamaran and shortly afterwards the vessel broke apart and was completely destroyed by the waves.

For his actions, Acting Sergeant Tregellas is commended for brave conduct

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Senior Constable Basil Gilbert Van DONGEN, Queensland Police

In the late afternoon of 2 May 2015, Senior Constable Gilbert Van Dongen went to the rescue of a man trapped in a burning house at Upper Mount Gravatt in Queensland.

Senior Constable Van Dongen was off duty and driving through Upper Mt Gravatt when he noticed smoke and flames coming from a house. He immediately stopped to render assistance and quickly instructed bystanders to call for emergency services.

He saw billowing smoke and flames coming out of a window on the bottom level of the two story house and saw that the window flyscreens appeared to be riveted closed. He ran to the side of the house and saw that the garage doors were shut and the side gate was locked. He returned to the front of the house as bystanders were yelling that there was someone inside the home.

Together with another man, who was a neighbour, they ran to the rear of the house to see if they could get inside. They reached the back door and managed to force it open. As the door opened, Senior Constable Van Dongen and the other man entered the burning home but had to retreat due to the amount of smoke.

Undeterred he and the other man ran around to the front of the building where they were joined by three other men. The group was, after several attempts, able to force a flyscreen open and smash a downstairs window. The trapped man moved towards the open window where he was able to be pulled out of the house and away to safety.

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

Mr Liam Colin WALSH, Charleville Qld 4470

On the evening of 5 September 2014, Mr Liam Walsh assisted in the rescue of people after a truck accident near Charleville in south western Queensland.

At about 9pm a B-double truck carrying over 52 tonnes of a highly explosive chemical crashed off the Angellala Creek Bridge on the Mitchell Highway and burst into flames. The driver, who was severely injured, managed to get out of the truck's cabin and crawl up onto the bridge.

Two passing truck drivers arrived on the scene and noticed that the cabin of the overturned truck was well alight and beginning to melt. Minor explosions were occurring, as black smoke and 10 metre high flames were visible. They attended to the injured truck driver, administering first aid and providing comfort.

As Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) firefighters from the Charleville Station arrived to assist the injured driver, the burning truck exploded, sending debris into the air. A second explosion and shockwave quickly followed, causing extensive damage to surrounding area. The men at the site sustained significant injuries as they were only 30 metres from the exploding vehicle.

Mr Walsh and two other Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) paramedics and a QFES inspector arrived on the scene. When the QFES firefighters and one of the truck drivers emerged from the scene with multiple injuries and in shock, Mr Walsh and his colleague triaged the men, provided vital initial treatment to the injured and then transported them to Charleville Hospital. They restocked their vehicle and returned to the scene to treat those still in the area.

When the second truck driver was evacuated from the site Mr Walsh and his colleague took him to hospital.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Constable Nicole Ann WATERSON, South Australia Police

On the afternoon of 4 May 2013, Constable Nicole Waterson and a colleague rescued a man from a burning vehicle at Smithfield in South Australia.

Constable Waterson and her colleague came across a sedan which had collided with a steel and concrete power pole. The officers could see a substantial amount of smoke coming from the car.

Constable Waterson immediately radioed Police Communications requesting urgent assistance while her colleague ran towards the smoking vehicle. As her colleague reached the burning car, he could hear the victim yelling in pain. He checked for other passengers before returning to the driver's door where he saw the driver was trapped by the steering wheel.

Meanwhile Constable Waterson arrived at the car with a fire extinguisher and while her colleague sprayed the entire contents into the flames she shone a torch into the interior to assist with where to direct the extinguisher. Once the extinguisher was empty, Constable Waterson managed to get a second extinguisher and returned to the car where she and her colleague took turns to fight the fire inside the vehicle.

With the flames increasing in intensity, Constable Waterson and her colleague managed to cut the drivers' seatbelt, remove the injured man from the burning vehicle and carry him to safety.

For her actions, Constable Waterson is commended for brave conduct

Mr Steven Warwick WHITE,

c/- Port Macquarie Police Station, 2 Hay Street, Port Macquarie NSW 2444

On 21 January 1996, Mr Steven White, a NSW Correctional Officer, prevented an inmate from taking a nurse hostage at a hospital in Randwick, New South Wales.

Mr White and another Correctional Officer were escorting an inmate who was scheduled to have an x-ray. Once in the x-ray room, the attending doctor requested the handcuffs be removed.

Whilst the x-ray was underway, Mr White saw the offender reach into the pocket of his pants and take out a knife-like object. Mr White immediately pushed a nurse out of the direct line of the knife and instructed her and other staff to go behind a protective glass wall. The inmate then lunged towards Mr White who lost his footing whilst attempting to un-holster his service revolver. The inmate then stood over Mr White, demanding that he hand over his weapon.

Mr White managed to get to his feet, removed his gun from its holster, and requested the inmate to drop the knife. The inmate refused, picked up a bottle of liquid chemical and doused himself with it before throwing the bottle towards Mr White. Mr White maintained his position, pointing his revolver at the inmate for approximately three hours until NSW Police State Protection Group Officers were able to enter the room and overpower the inmate.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Mark WILSON

On the morning of 15 March 2014, Mr Mark Wilson assisted in the rescue of several people following a vehicle accident near Lower Light in South Australia.

Mr Wilson was travelling along Port Wakefield Road at Lower Light when he came upon a vehicle which had caught on fire. He saw a passenger van at the bottom of an embankment lying driver's side down. The vehicle contained a female driver, a female passenger, and four children.

Mr Wilson raced down to the burning van and moved three of the children, who had managed to get out of the vehicle, a safe distance away. Returning to the vehicle he looked inside and saw a woman calling for help as she was trying to free a small child who was trapped. He also saw another female, who was unresponsive and strapped into her seat.

Mr Wilson managed to smash the passenger side windows before moving to the rear of the vehicle where he was forced back by thick smoke. Despite the flames being more intense he attempted to lift off the vehicle's roof to help the female driver who was attempting to prise the fourth child free.

The fire then intensified and he had to abandon the van. He made his way to the three children and was comforting them until emergency personnel arrived.

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