

## **GROUP BRAVERY CITATION**

The following recipient is added to the Group Bravery Citation gazetted on 17 August 2016.

**Awardees are members of the public and Queensland Police, Fire and Ambulance Services who assisted in the rescue of a driver from a chemical laden truck which had crashed at Angellala Creek, Charleville. Queensland on 5 September 2014**

### **Mr Adam John PEARSON**

On the evening of 5 September 2014 members of the Queensland Fire and Emergency Service (QFES), Queensland Police Service (QPS), Queensland Ambulance service (QAS) and two members of the public assisted in the rescue of a severely injured truck driver 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.

Despite the considerable risk of a major explosion, two members of the public and four members of the QFES assisted the injured driver. Not long after, the truck exploded, sending debris and toxic fumes into the air. A second major explosion quickly followed, causing significant damage to the highway and surrounding area. Though suffering multiple injuries, one member of the public and the four QFES members managed to support each other and walk out from the crash site. The injured men were assisted to safety by QPS officers and given initial treatment by attending QAS paramedics before being conveyed to hospital.

Despite the hazardous environment and possibility of further explosions, several QPS officers and a member of the QFES made their way to the crash site where they encountered the second member of the public still assisting the injured driver, who was in a critical condition. A QAS paramedic was called to the scene and began initial treatment of the two injured men.

With minor fires breaking out and toxic fumes in the air the injured men were quickly evacuated from the scene, aided by the QAS and QPS members, and subsequently transported to hospital for treatment of their injuries.

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

## **GROUP BRAVERY CITATION**

**Awardees are members of the Australian Defence Force Clearance Dive Team Four who assisted in locating and removing an underwater explosive device at Australind, Western Australia on 31 October 2013.**

**Leading Seaman Scott Heath CALDWELL  
Able Seaman Jeremy Peter COFFEY  
Leading Seaman Euan James HOLDEN  
Mr Daniel Robert RYAN  
Petty Officer Simon Trevor SCOTT  
Warrant Officer William Ashley TAYLOR  
Able Seaman Wyman Cannon VINCENT**

On the morning of 31 October 2013 seven members of the Australian Defence Force Clearance Dive Team Four were involved in the location and removal of a potential Underwater Improvised Explosive Device (UWIED) near Bunbury in Western Australia.

The ADF members were deployed to assist the Western Australian Police in the disposal of a potential UWIED and also search for further UWIEDs in the vicinity of the Australind Jetty. Despite the dangerous situation and threat of explosion, the team commenced high risk searches of the jetty and located three other unknown sonar contacts. They were then instructed to leave the water due to a potential security threat.

The search recommenced the next morning with the three unknown sonar contacts described as no threat to the team, and no further devices being found. A plan was then approved to remotely move the UWIED and render it safe in a location distant from the jetty.

The device was then towed to a shallow sandbar that was approximately 60 metres from the jetty where it was successfully detonated. A wider search of the area was then undertaken.

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

## **GROUP BRAVERY CITATION**

**Awardees are members of the Queensland Police Service and the Australian Defence Force who attempted to evacuate an elderly man from a burning house at Mitchelton, Queensland on 9 April 2015.**

**Sergeant Stephane Alain FRICOTTÉ  
Major Scott Leighton HILL**

**Acting Senior Sergeant Robert Anthony COLTHORPE  
Constable Connor Neil CUNNEEN  
Detective Senior Constable Martin PAYNE  
Constable Stephen Leslie PELZER**

In the early afternoon of 9 April 2015, members of the Queensland Police Service and the Australian Defence Force attempted to evacuate an elderly man from a burning house at Mitchelton in Queensland.

A police officer and two members of the Australian Defence Force were driving in a police vehicle when they noticed dark coloured smoke coming from a nearby residence. They stopped the vehicle and were informed that an elderly man resided in the house. They noted that all doors and windows were shut and secured from the inside. The two Defence Force members attempted to gain access via a back door with the fire continuing to intensify.

A person could be heard yelling from inside the residence. Three other police officers then arrived and, using sledge hammers and axes, gained entry to the house. The four officers went inside, with one officer using a garden hose. They were quickly overcome by smoke and heat and had to exit the house.

Two officers then went to assist the Defence Force members at the rear of the house. After several attempts they managed to force open a door and the Defence Force members attempted to go inside but were forced to withdraw due to the thick smoke and heat. A police officer then attempted to enter the burning house but was also forced to withdraw.

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

## **GROUP BRAVERY CITATION**

**Awardees are members of the Queensland Police Service who assisted in the rescue of four people from a burning vehicle at Bracken Ridge, Queensland on 12 June 2014.**

**Senior Constable Matthew John GRACE  
Senior Constable Michael John McGAHAN  
Senior Constable Paul James McNAMARA  
Sergeant Brett Anthony MARTIN  
Sergeant Ashley PURVEY**

On the evening of 12 June 2014 five members of the Queensland Police Service were involved in extracting four people from a burning vehicle at Bracken Ridge in Queensland.

A road pursuit was initiated at Bracken Ridge when a stolen vehicle was identified travelling on the Bruce Highway. The vehicle left the sealed road and became bogged in long grass.

Three police officers used their vehicles to prevent the stolen car leaving the area and approached the car with firearms drawn.

The stolen vehicle then burst into flames with thick black smoke emanating from the front of the car and, quickly after, an explosion followed. The occupants refused to exit the car as the driver continued to use the vehicle's accelerator in order to free the car from its stuck position.

One officer broke the vehicle's windscreen and removed the ignition keys. The driver then opened his door and began to reach under the seat. With the assistance of three officers and a police dog the driver was pulled from the burning vehicle and restrained while other officers entered the smoke filled vehicle and evacuated the remaining occupants.

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

## **GROUP BRAVERY CITATION**

**Awardees are members of the Queensland Police Service who responded to an armed robbery incident at Pacific Pines, Queensland on 29 May 2011.**

**Senior Constable Wayne ALGIE  
Constable Kelly Nicole GEPHART  
Constable Melanie Kathleen GODFREY  
Sergeant Nicole Anne JACKSON  
The late Detective Senior Constable Damian LEEDING  
Senior Sergeant Brett Raymond MacGIBBON  
Senior Constable Veit VOSSHAGE**

In the late evening of 29 May 2011 seven members of the Queensland Police Service responded to an armed robbery incident at a tavern in Queensland.

Two police officers parked their vehicle outside the Pacific Pines Tavern and, despite the dangerousness of the situation, proceeded on foot with weapons drawn. When two armed offenders were located, one of them shot at the officers wounding one of them before fleeing on foot. Urgent medical assistance was called for with a police officer performing CPR on the wounded officer.

Knowing that one of their colleagues had been shot, other officers quickly arrived at the scene. One of the offenders was then seen running away and was tackled to the ground and detained.

The second offender was believed to be in nearby bushland and two officers, one of whom was a dog handler, quickly headed along a track in search of the offender. A police dog was released and, after a short search, the second offender was located and detained. Sadly the officer who had been shot died as a result of the wounds sustained.

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

## **GROUP BRAVERY CITATION**

**Awardees are crew members of Westpac Rescue Assisted Helicopter – Lifesaver 21 who rescued man from dangerous water in Mount Garie Royal National Park, New South Wales on 28 February 2016.**

**Mr Keith Warren McREYNOLDS  
Mr John Alexander MOLNAR  
Mr Richard Roy WALDEN**

In the early evening of 28 February 2016, the crew of Westpac Rescue Helicopter - Lifesaver 21 rescued a man in dangerous water conditions at Mount Garie Royal National Park in New South Wales.

The helicopter crew responded to reports that people had been washed off rocks into the surf at North Garie. On arrival the crew observed two people on the rocks. Despite strong winds buffeting the helicopter, a crew member was immediately winched down to assist.

When it was discovered that a third person was missing, the helicopter repositioned and lowered a crew member into the water, but due to the dangerous conditions the crew member was extracted.

The injured third man was then sighted and a crew member was again inserted into the water. After being struck by numerous waves, the unconscious man was reached and then winched into the aircraft.

The crew then provided the injured man with resuscitation until he was handed over to ambulance personnel.

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