

## STAR OF COURAGE

### **MISS TIANI MICHELLE CHILLEMI, Moranbah Qld.**

On the morning of 24 October 1992 at Moranbah Miss Chillemi fought with an armed man to save one of her parents' employees from further injury. The man had entered the Moranbah Hot Bread Shop, walked to the rear of the premises, produced a knife and proceeded to stab his estranged wife. The woman, wounded and in danger of being killed, called to Miss Chillemi who, disregarding her own safety, ran to the man and held his right wrist. The attacker then turned his attention to Miss Chillemi and having released his arm made several swinging motions with the knife towards her body before returning to his original victim. Miss Chillemi returned to the encounter and although driven off by the man's superior weight distracted him for long enough to allow the victim to escape to a place of comparative safety. The attacker was then overpowered and disarmed by a male customer.

By her actions Miss Chillemi displayed conspicuous courage.

### **FIRST CLASS CONSTABLE MICHAEL PAUL COLE, South Australian Police Department**

In conditions of considerable danger Constable Cole repeatedly placed his own safety in jeopardy to rescue two children from a burning house at Prospect early in the morning of 20 March 1993. Constable Cole had gone to the fire to provide assistance when he was told that the two children were in separate rooms, one at each end of the house. Without hesitation Constable Cole entered the burning building where, guided only by her cries, he found a small girl and carried her to safety. Despite increasing heat and thickening smoke Constable Cole re-entered the house and searched for the other child. Constable Cole was driven out of the blazing building four times by the effects of smoke inhalation but continued in his efforts to locate the other child until the imminent collapse of the roof forced him to withdraw.

By his actions Constable Cole displayed conspicuous courage.

### **MR DARREN LEIGH NEIL, Creswick Vic.**

In a situation fraught with potential danger Mr Neil placed his own safety in jeopardy to assist in preventing a gunman from shooting bystanders and a Police Officer at Creswick on the evening of 5 December 1992. Mr Neil was driving past the incident site when he saw the assailant holding a Police Officer at gunpoint. Making a deliberate decision to lend assistance Mr Neil turned his car around and was approaching the site when he heard gunshots and sent his two young sons to safety. Although now fully aware of the extremely dangerous nature of the situation Mr Neil, placing the safety of others above the risk to himself, walked to the gunman and endeavoured to persuade him to desist. Following the further discharge of shots he ran to his car and despite further shooting drove towards the gunman. Mr Neil's action enabled the assailant to be disarmed and prevented serious harm to people in the vicinity.

By his actions Mr Neil displayed conspicuous courage.

## BRAVERY MEDAL

### **FIRST CLASS CONSTABLE KEVIN NEIL BROWN, South Australian Police Department**

Early on the morning of 20 March 1993 Constable Brown risked his personal safety in the attempted rescue of a child trapped in a burning house at Prospect. Constable Brown had gone to the fire to provide assistance when he was informed that a child was in the house. Constable Brown accompanied by another police officer, immediately entered the burning house where the intensity of the heat and the density of the smoke forced them to proceed on hands and knees. In conditions of increasing hazard, Constable Brown searched for the child with his companion until they were forced out of the house by the smoke. Constable Brown re-entered the blazing building and continued his search until forced to withdraw by the imminent collapse of the roof.

By his actions Constable Brown displayed considerable bravery.

### **MISS GAIL BUCKLEY, Kenwick WA**

On 28 January 1992 Miss Buckley participated in the attempted rescue of a friend who was being attacked by her knife-bearing husband at Forrestfield. On hearing screams Miss Buckley, unarmed and disregarding her own safety, went to a neighbouring house where she saw the offender standing over his seriously injured wife with a knife in his hand. Another woman put her arms around the offender and Miss Buckley grabbed his wrist in an attempt to disarm him but was not successful until a further two or three wounds had been inflicted on his wife. Miss Buckley then ran from the house with the knife and the children who had witnessed the attack, and called for police assistance.

By her actions Miss Buckley displayed considerable bravery.

### **MR STEPHEN JOHN COSSINS, Weymouth Tas**

On the evening of 6 April 1993 Mr Cossins assisted in the rescue of a girl from the sea off Weymouth Beach. Mr Cossins was at home when he was asked to take his boat out to rescue a girl in distress. Unable to launch his boat Mr Cossins ran along the beach and in total darkness swam out to the girl who was lying exhausted on a surf board being supported by her father. For 30 minutes Mr Cossins and the girl's father tried to swim the board to shore across a deep channel with a fast flowing current. Nearing exhaustion Mr Cossins decided to go for more help but with his strength failing he was forced to return to the board to rest. Shortly afterwards the two men renewed their efforts until Mr Cossins felt a sandbar beneath his feet enabling him to tow the surf board by its leg rope.

By his actions Mr Cossins displayed considerable bravery.

### **MR WAYNE ALLAN DAVIS, Casino NSW**

At Casino on the night of 16 April 1993 Mr Davis placed his own safety at risk to locate a child trapped in a burning house. Mr Davis was at home when he became aware that a neighbour's house was on fire. Running to give assistance, he was told that a small boy was inside the blazing building. Mr Davis entered the house through a front window, but was forced out by the intense heat and dense smoke. Recovering slightly, he made a second entry through the window but was again driven out. Mr Davis now moved to the rear of the house and made three further sorties into the burning, smoke filled rooms, searching for the trapped boy until forced back into the yard. On his final attempt, with the situation becoming more dangerous, Mr Davis located the unconscious boy who was then removed by a Fire Brigade Officer. Mr Davis was taken to hospital and treated for the effects of smoke inhalation.

By his actions Mr Davis displayed considerable bravery.

## BRAVERY MEDAL

**MR EDWARD CHARLES DORLING, Thorpdale Vic**

On the evening of 15 September 1992 Mr Dorling placed his own safety at considerable risk to disarm a hijacker on a northbound coach out of Brisbane. Mr Dorling was a passenger on the coach when the hijacker, armed with a hunting knife, threatened the driver and menaced the passengers. Concerned for the safety of his wife and the other passengers Mr Dorling arranged with the driver, while the armed man was distracted by passengers at the back of the coach, for the coach to be manoeuvred to stop violently in order to throw the hijacker off balance. When this was accomplished Mr Dorling leapt upon the armed man and wrested the knife from his grasp. With the help of another passenger the disarmed man was restrained and held under control until he was taken into police custody.

By his actions Mr Dorling displayed considerable bravery.

**MR DENNIS DANIEL HILLYARD (Posthumous Award)**  
Late of ANGLE PARK SA

Mr Hillyard gave his life to save his younger son from a burning house at Angle Park on the morning of 23 May 1993. Mr Hillyard was still in bed when one of his children alerted him to a fire in the boys' bedroom. Although only lightly clothed, Mr Hillyard ran immediately to the fire where he found his younger son trapped in the bedroom. With regard only for his son's safety Mr Hillyard ran through the flames and gathered the boy in his arms. With the fire rapidly increasing in intensity he shielded the boy with his own body and carried him back through the flames and clear of the house to safety. Mr Hillyard was severely burned and died from his injuries shortly afterwards.

By his actions Mr Hillyard displayed considerable bravery thereby losing his life.

**MR DAVID HUGH HOWIE, Mt Kuring-gai NSW**

Mr Howie placed his own life at risk attempting to save a stranger at Mt Kuring-gai railway station on the morning of 7 December 1992. Mr Howie was waiting for his regular morning train when he noticed another traveller jump from the platform onto the railway tracks, apparently with the intention of crossing to an egress gate. At that moment Mr Howie also became aware of an approaching XPT. Seeing the man on the tracks freeze in the path of the oncoming train, Mr Howie ran to the edge of the platform and endeavoured to haul him to safety. When this could not be done Mr Howie, although well aware of the danger to himself, held the man against the side of the platform as the first few carriages of the train passed through. Unfortunately the man was struck by part of the train and pulled from Mr Howie's grip. Mr Howie's unselfish action in attempting to save a fellow human being entailed a considerable risk to his own well-being.

By his actions Mr Howie displayed considerable bravery.

**CAPTAIN ALAN ANTHONY KEANE, Mandurah WA**

During the morning of 21 May 1988 Captain Keane, the duty Harbour Master and Pilot at Carnarvon, placed his own safety in jeopardy to assist in the evacuation of the ship's company of a grounded bulk carrier breaking up on rocks near Cape Cuvier. The ship, which had been driven onto the rocks by force 10 winds and 8 metre seas, was pounding badly and had suffered grievous damage. Continuing winds at force 9 and a strong swell made seaborne or helicopter evacuation of the crew impossible, while the imminent breaking-up of the vessel made the evacuation imperative. Despite the obvious perils of the situation, Captain Keane leapt from the rocks to a rope ladder and climbed aboard the stricken vessel. In difficult conditions and aware of the approaching break-up of the ship Captain Keane organised the connection of a flying fox to the shore, at one stage climbing 3 metres up a samson post to rig the shipboard tackle. He then arranged for the crew to be pulled to safety, remaining on board with the Captain until all other hands were safely clear.

## BRAVERY MEDAL

**MR TONY MCKENZIE, Hughenden Qld**

In the early hours of 3 October 1992 Mr McKenzie rescued a Hughenden man from a burning house which was subsequently totally destroyed. Mr McKenzie was passing the house when he saw an orange glow from the rear section and sparks and embers shooting into the air. He ran to the rear of the building, kicked in the door and entered the house which was full of smoke, and with burning debris falling from the ceiling. Mr McKenzie without thought for his own safety entered deeper into the residence, shouting a warning for any occupants. Hearing a groan he located a semiconscious, disorientated man trying to smash a window. Mr McKenzie broke the glass louvres with his fist, climbed out and dragged the man, who was considerably heavier than himself, through the window and out to the footpath. As they reached the fresh air the rescued man became fully conscious and attempted repeatedly to return inside the building, however, he was physically restrained by Mr McKenzie until the arrival of the police.

By his actions Mr McKenzie displayed considerable bravery.

**MR GARRY DANIEL MARTIN, Bellingen NSW**

During the night of 5-6 February 1993 Mr Martin, as a member of the State Emergency Service, operated in extremely hazardous conditions to rescue an injured man trapped 260 metres below the road on Dorrigo Mountain. Working in total darkness, fog and rain Mr Martin carried a box of hydraulic cutting equipment and a heavy line down the mountain to where the injured man was trapped in a wrecked car. The already demanding nature of the descent was made more dangerous by the ropes becoming entangled in lantana and other bushes. At the site, Mr Martin with another SES member freed the man and then assisted in preparing the patient for moving in a Stokes Litter. During these operations Mr Martin repeatedly used his body to shelter the patient from falling rocks.

By his actions Mr Martin displayed considerable bravery.

**MRS ROBYNE LYNNE PETRICEVIC, Forrestfield WA**

On 28 January 1992 Mrs Petricevic participated in the attempted rescue of a friend who was being attacked by her knife-bearing husband at Forrestfield. On hearing screams Mrs Petricevic, unarmed and disregarding her own safety, went to a neighbouring house where she saw the offender standing over his seriously injured wife with a knife in his hand. Mrs Petricevic put her arms around the offender to pinion his arms and attempted to pacify him, at the same time calling to the critically injured woman and her children to move away. As the offender appeared to relax another woman snatched the knife from him and ran to summon the police. Mrs Petricevic remained with the man still restraining him and moving towards the front door. As she relaxed her grip on the man he pushed her outside. The injured woman later died of her injuries.

By her actions Mrs Petricevic displayed considerable bravery.

**FIRST CLASS CONSTABLE IAN RICHARD ROWE, South Australian Police Department**

Early in the morning of 20 March 1993 Constable Rowe risked his personal safety in the attempted rescue of a child trapped in a burning house at Prospect. Constable Rowe had gone to the fire to provide assistance when he was informed that a child was in the house. Constable Rowe accompanied by another police officer, immediately entered the burning house where the intensity of the heat and the density of the smoke forced them to proceed on hands and knees. In conditions of increasing hazard, Constable Rowe searched for the child with his companion until they were forced out of the house by the smoke. Constable Rowe re-entered the blazing building and continued his search until forced to withdraw by the imminent collapse of the roof.

By his actions Constable Rowe displayed considerable bravery.

## BRAVERY MEDAL

### **MRS BERYL ELLEN SMITH, East Melbourne Vic**

On the morning of 12 November 1992 Mrs Smith was shot in the leg while attempting to persuade an armed and deranged man to leave business premises in East Melbourne. Mrs Smith had been informed of a disturbance in the reception area of the premises where she was employed as Business Manager, in which capacity she saw the matter as part of her responsibilities. Mrs Smith confronted the armed man who informed her that he had already shot one staff member and intended to find and kill another. Early in the confrontation Mrs Smith was shot in the leg. Despite the pain she experienced from the wound and her anxiety concerning her safety Mrs Smith remained standing and in control of herself in order to protect her fellow workers, who were in close proximity, from exposure to harm from the deranged gunman.

By her actions Mrs Smith displayed considerable bravery.

### **MR PETER EDWIN SMITH, Tathra NSW**

On 9 June 1991 Mr Smith rescued a rock fisherman from dangerous seas off Tathra. In daunting conditions and with the knowledge that assistance from a helicopter would be several hours away, Mr Smith took a rescue tube and unhesitatingly entered the storm-driven waves. Despite sustaining injuries from being driven onto the rocks Mr Smith continued his efforts until after a difficult search in heavy seas he located the distressed fisherman and fitted him with the rescue tube. Mr Smith then guided the man to calmer water giving him comfort and reassurance until other help arrived.

By his actions Mr Smith displayed considerable bravery.

### **MR PETER MICHAEL TARRAN, North Dorrigo NSW**

During the night of 5-6 February 1993 Mr Tarran, as a member of the Dorrigo State Emergency Service, operated in extremely hazardous conditions to rescue an injured man trapped 260 metres below the road on Dorrigo Mountain. Working in total darkness, fog and rain Mr Tarran abseiled down treacherous slopes to locate the injured man, who was trapped in a wrecked car. After receiving a Stokes Litter and hydraulic cutting equipment Mr Tarran, working in a precarious position, cut open the vehicle and assisted an Ambulance Officer to place the man in the litter. With the Ambulance Officer, Mr Tarran then escorted the Stokes Litter back up to the road, protecting the patient from falling stones, forcing the Stokes Litter out from the rockface and clearing snarled hauling lines.

By his actions Mr Tarran displayed considerable bravery.

### **SERGEANT PHILLIP JAMES TUNCHON, New South Wales Police Service**

On the afternoon of 18 March 1993 Sergeant Tunchon placed his life at risk to prevent an attempted suicide at Echo Point, Katoomba. Katoomba Rescue Squad Leader Sergeant Tunchon, together with other police, attended a call to Echo Point where a young woman had taken up a hazardous position on a ledge close to the edge of an 80 metre cliff. For over two hours in conditions of strong winds and intermittent rain Sergeant Tunchon co-ordinated the rescue program and assisted in the attempt to persuade the woman to move to safety; during this time he made a hazardous climb to and from the ledge without safety equipment. When it became necessary to rush the would-be-suicide Sergeant Tunchon, fully aware of the perils he faced, made a rapid and dangerous climb down wet rocks, finishing with a direct jump onto the narrow ledge, again without safety equipment. On the ledge he assisted another Rescue Squad member to grapple with the woman. Following a hazardous and rigorous struggle at the cliff edge Sergeant Tunchon and his colleague were able to restrain the woman and have her taken to safety.

By his actions Sergeant Tunchon displayed considerable bravery.

## BRAVERY MEDAL

### **STATION OFFICER GRADE ONE NEIL ANDREW WALKER, Dorrigo NSW**

During the night of 5-6 February 1993 Station Officer Walker operated in extremely hazardous conditions to rescue an injured man trapped 260 metres below the road on Dorrigo Mountain. Working in total darkness, fog and rain Station Officer Walker abseiled down the mountain face through lantana and over loose stones to reach the injured driver trapped in a wrecked car perched on a ledge. With the assistance of State Emergency Service members Station Officer Walker freed the patient, rendered immediate aid and loaded him in a Stokes Litter for ascent to the roadway. During the long and dangerous ascent Station Officer Walker repeatedly used his body to shelter the patient from falling rocks, manoeuvred the litter clear of obstructions and cleared snarled hauling lines.

By his actions Station Officer Walker displayed considerable bravery.

### **MR ERROL DESMOND WINKLER, Dorrigo NSW**

Through the night of 5-6 February 1993 Mr Winkler, as a member of the Dorrigo State Emergency Service, operated in extremely hazardous conditions to rescue an injured man trapped 260 metres below the road on Dorrigo Mountain. Working in total darkness, fog and rain Mr Winkler made two abseiling journeys to locate and recover the injured man, taking a Stokes Litter with him on the second descent. During these manoeuvres Mr Winkler sheltered the patient with his body from showers of falling debris dislodged by the heavy rain and movement of the hauling lines.

By his actions Mr Winkler displayed considerable bravery.

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**MR ROSS JAMES ALLEN, Ascot Park SA**

On the evening of 11 January 1993 Mr Allen removed the escape vehicle of an armed offender who was in the process of robbing a supermarket at Ascot Park. Mr Allen had gone to the supermarket just on closing time and found one entrance locked. As he approached another entrance he encountered an armed man who pointed a gun at him, warning him off, kicked the door open and ran inside firing the gun towards the ceiling. Mr Allen hesitated briefly then ran to the robber's car which had been left with the engine running and drove off. When he had travelled a safe distance Mr Allen parked the car and notified the police.

For his actions Mr Allen is commended for brave conduct.

**MR IAN BAINES, Cudlee Creek SA**

On the morning of Sunday 30 August 1992 Mr Baines placed his safety at risk to go to the aid of three people trapped in the flooded Torrens River. As a member of the Cudlee Creek Country Fire Service Mr Baines had answered a call to undertake flood security operations when he was informed that three campers were cut off by the rising floodwaters and were in danger of being swept from the trees into which they had climbed. Despite the dangers of the rapidly flowing torrent and flood-borne debris, Mr Baines entered the water and made repeated attempts to swim a rescue line to the most endangered person. When a change in circumstances switched the greatest need to another person Mr Baines immediately swam to his assistance and helped to bring him to safety. Although he had now been in these physically demanding and dangerous conditions for some time, Mr Baines continued his rescue attempts until all hope for the other two people was lost.

For his actions Mr Baines is commended for brave conduct.

**MR VICTOR ROBERT BOREHAM, Samson SA**

On the night of 10 July 1992 Mr Boreham went to the aid of a bus driver who was being harassed by a gang of youths at Willagee. The group of seven youths entered the bus and moved to the rear shouting abuse, ringing the bell and using obscene language. As the driver went to the group to question one of them who had not paid his fare he saw that the bus shelter was on fire. The driver, accusing the group of being responsible for this, turned to report the fire on his radio. When the youths followed the driver shouting abuse and making threats Mr Boreham, a passenger, disregarding his own safety, intervened believing the driver to be in danger of attack. The gang turned on Mr Boreham, punching and kicking him repeatedly causing numerous lacerations and head injuries until realizing that the driver had called for help, they left the bus.

For his actions Mr Boreham is commended for brave conduct.

**MR GEOFFREY NEIL BROWN, Sans Souci NSW**

On the evening of 2 January 1992 Mr Brown went through a burning building to give assistance to two fellow employees in a dangerous situation during a supermarket fire at Redfern. Mr Brown was on the ground floor of the supermarket when he became concerned for the safety of employees on the first floor. Without regard for his personal safety Mr Brown went to their aid, and despite an explosion which rocked the building, continued up the stairs through dense smoke and increasing heat. On arrival he instructed the trapped people to lie on the floor and smashed a window to reduce the intensity of the smoke. Shortly afterwards all of the group lost consciousness but were soon removed to safety by firemen.

For his actions Mr Brown is commended for brave conduct.

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**MR KENNETH GEORGE BROWN, Cudlee Creek SA**

On the morning of 30 August 1992 Mr Brown placed his safety at risk in the attempted rescue of three people from the flooded Torrens River at Cudlee Creek. Mr Brown, who lives near the river, awoke that morning to find the usually peaceful stream a raging torrent, with three campers clinging to trees in the main flow of the rapidly rising flood. Realising that the three stranded people were in danger of being swept away or submerged Mr Brown immediately went to their aid. In hazardous conditions Mr Brown attempted to swim through flood-borne debris to get a rope to the trapped campers. Frustrated and blocked by vegetation, Mr Brown re-entered the floodwaters at another point and manoeuvred a floating log to a favourable position for the rescue attempt. From here Mr Brown continued his endeavours to reach the now desperate people with a rope until additional help arrived and fatigue and extreme cold compelled him to return to the bank.

For his actions Mr Brown is commended for brave conduct.

**CONSTABLE FIRST CLASS ANDREW BARRY CAMPBELL, New South Wales Police Service**

On the night of 16 April 1993, Constable First Class Campbell entered a burning house at Casino to help locate a trapped child. When Constable Campbell arrived at the site of the fire to lend assistance he was told that a child was still within the burning building. He entered the back door where he met another rescuer severely affected by smoke inhalation and attempting to leave the building. Constable Campbell assisted the man, who was now in a state of collapse, into the fresh air. Aware of the danger to himself Constable Campbell again entered the house, this time crawling on his stomach and searched the rear portion of the house until he was so badly affected by the smoke that he had to withdraw.

For his actions Constable First Class Campbell is commended for brave conduct.

**MR BRETT JAMES DAVIS, Casino NSW**

On the night of 16 April 1993, Mr Davis entered a burning house at Casino to help locate a trapped child. After learning of the fire Mr Davis drove to the site to provide assistance. He attempted to gain entry to the building through a bedroom window but was forced to retire because of the intense heat and dense smoke. Mr Davis was hosed down and this time was successful in his attempt to enter the building. With the aid of a wet cloth over his face Mr Davis proceeded from room to room searching for the boy until told by others that he had been located.

For his actions Mr Davis is commended for brave conduct.

**MR MICHAEL ARTHUR DUNLEAVY, Portland NSW**

Mr Dunleavy remained in an area of considerable danger to assist in the rescue of workmates trapped by a roof fall in a mine at Blackmans Flat on 29 May 1991. Although well aware of the risk of further roof collapse in the area in which they had all been working, Mr Dunleavy and two fellow workers freed one of their workmates and connected a hose to supply air to others trapped by the fall. Mr Dunleavy and his co-workers then set props at the edge of the fall and remained in the area setting safety timber until recovery personnel arrived from the surface.

For his actions Mr Dunleavy is commended for brave conduct.



## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

### **MISS EMILY RAE DUNSTAN, Gladstone Qld**

On the evening of 6 April 1993 Miss Dunstan assisted in the rescue of her friend from the sea off Weymouth Beach. Miss Dunstan had just returned to the beach after surfing when she saw that one of her companions was about 100 metres off shore and signalling that she was in distress. After sending for additional help Miss Dunstan paddled her surf board to the distressed girl. Realising that the board was not sufficiently buoyant to carry two, Miss Dunstan placed her friend on it and attempted to swim her to shore, however the surf and strong current prevented them making much progress. After a short time Miss Dunstan was joined by the girl's father and together they attempted to swim the board to shore without success. With darkness approaching it was decided that Miss Dunstan would swim to the beach where she enlisted more help. The girl was safely brought to shore in complete darkness with the assistance of another man.

For her actions Miss Dunstan is commended for brave conduct.

### **MR TONY ENGLISH, Accrington, England**

Early in the morning of 22 March 1992 Mr English entered a burning house at Coogee to assist an unconscious man trapped by the fire. Mr English was an uninvolved passer-by but ran to the scene to offer help. On being informed that a man was trapped in a room near the seat of the fire Mr English forced an entry and located the man, unconscious on the floor. Driven back by the intense heat and heavy smoke Mr English, although now well aware of the risks he faced, re-entered the room several times in his unsuccessful attempt to rescue the unconscious man.

For his actions Mr English is commended for brave conduct.

### **MR IVANCO FILIPOSKI, St Albans Vic**

Early on the morning of 23 September 1992 Mr Filiposki placed his safety at risk to rescue an unconscious woman and a child from a burning flat at St Albans. Mr Filiposki had gone to offer assistance when he became aware that a woman and her daughter were trapped inside. In dense smoke and intense heat Mr Filiposki made his way through the flat and with the assistance of another man dragged the unconscious woman to safety. Although aware of the hazardous conditions inside the burning flat Mr Filiposki faced the increased danger and re-entered the building. He picked up the child, who had been overcome by the heat and smoke, and carried her clear of the flat.

For his actions Mr Filiposki is commended for brave conduct.

### **MR BRADLEY JOHN HANNAFORD, Lobethal SA**

On the morning of 30 August 1992 Mr Hannaford placed himself at risk to assist in the attempted rescue of three people trapped in trees in the flooded Torrens River at Cudlee Creek. As a member of the Cudlee Creek Country Fire Service Mr Hannaford had turned out to help in flood security work when he was informed that three campers, cut off by the rapidly rising floodwaters, were now marooned in the trees they had climbed for safety. Despite the dangers of the raging stream and the constant hazard of flood-borne debris, Mr Hannaford and another rescuer made their way through the water towards the trees. For more than 30 minutes Mr Hannaford and his companion made repeated efforts to reach the stranded campers and they brought one of them safely ashore. Mr Hannaford then remained in the river continuing his endeavours until all hope of rescue of the two other people was gone.

For his actions Mr Hannaford is commended for brave conduct.

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

### MR PETER DAVID HARPER, Bentleigh VIC

Early on the morning of 21 November 1992 Mr Harper entered a burning hostel at Richmond and alerted residents, enabling them to evacuate the blazing building safely. Mr Harper had completed a singing engagement near the hostel when his attention was attracted by an intensifying glow within the building. Disregarding of his own safety Mr Harper ran to the hostel and entered the ground floor, where he spread the alarm until driven out by the intense smoke. Mr Harper again entered the hostel and fought his way upstairs through the intensifying smoke where he continued to alert the residents on the first floor until the arrival of the Fire Brigade.

For his actions Mr Harper is commended for brave conduct.

### MR WAYNE ALAN LANE, Lidsdale NSW

Mr Lane remained in an area of considerable danger to assist in the rescue of workmates trapped by a roof fall in a mine at Blackmans Flat on 29 May 1991. Although well aware of the risk of further roof collapse in the area in which they had all been working, Mr Lane and two fellow workers freed one of their workmates and connected a hose to supply air to others trapped by the fall. Mr Lane and his co-workers then set props at the edge of the fall and remained in the area setting safety timber until recovery personnel arrived from the surface.

For his actions Mr Lane is commended for brave conduct.

### MR RONALD ALFRED LESCHKE, Marsden Qld

On the evening of 15 September 1992 Mr Leschke placed his safety in jeopardy to protect his passengers from an armed man on a northbound coach out of Brisbane. Mr Leschke was the driver of a coach subjected to a hijack attempt by a man with a hunting knife. Mr Leschke was directly threatened by the hijacker but was concerned for the safety of his passengers who were being repeatedly menaced by the armed man. Despite the increased danger to himself Mr Leschke manoeuvred the coach violently to throw the hijacker off balance, enabling a passenger to engage in a struggle which resulted in the offender being disarmed.

For his actions Mr Leschke is commended for brave conduct.

### MR BRIAN LIDDEN, Mission Beach Qld

On the evening of 15 September 1992 Mr Lidden put his safety at risk to help overcome a hijacker on a northbound coach out of Brisbane. Mr Lidden was a passenger on the coach when a man armed with a hunting knife threatened the driver and began menacing the passengers. After the hijacker had been thrown off balance by the manoeuvres of the driver Mr Lidden put himself in danger by joining a fellow passenger in an attempt to overcome him. Together they disarmed the assailant and restrained him until he was taken into police custody.

For his actions Mr Lidden is commended for brave conduct.

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**MR ALLAN LESLIE LONGBOTTOM, Chichester Via Dungog NSW**

On the 14 February 1993 Mr Longbottom faced serious injury to save a Police Rescue Squad member from being swept over the Williams Falls. At the time Mr Longbottom was a volunteer civilian guide to a party of Ambulance, Police and State Emergency Service personnel traversing the difficult Upper Williams River country to recover a bushwalker who had lost his life at the Williams Falls. Following a demanding tramp through rugged country the party had started fording the rain swollen and turbulent Williams River a few metres above the 50 metre Williams Falls, when a member of the Police Rescue Squad lost his footing and was swept rapidly downstream. Without regard for his own safety Mr Longbottom immediately made his way across a steep rock ledge sloping into the river to come to the aid of the endangered man. Unable to bring him from the water at this point Mr Longbottom made a further transit of the ledge to a more accessible position and, at considerable risk of being swept over the falls, assisted the Police Officer to safety. Mr Longbottom then resumed his task as guide and conducted the recovery party through to the completion of their task.

For his actions Mr Longbottom is commended for brave conduct.

**MR ANTHONY JOHN MCCABE, Mogareeka NSW**

On the morning of 9 June 1991 Mr McCabe participated in the rescue of a rock fisherman who had been swept offshore by heavy seas at Tathra. In cold and windy conditions Mr McCabe swam 300 metres through turbulent seas to give assistance to the endangered fisherman, who was being kept afloat by another rescuer and remained with them until other help arrived.

For his actions Mr McCabe is commended for brave conduct.

**STATION OFFICER GRADE ONE STEVEN JAMES MCMAHON, Lightning Ridge NSW**

On 25 March 1993 Ambulance Officer McMahon put himself at great personal risk to rescue an injured miner from a shaft near Lightning Ridge. The miner had been descending a recently drilled mine shaft 15 metres deep and 1 metre in diameter when his ladder broke causing him to fall 7 metres with the ladder landing on top of him inflicting spinal and leg injuries. Although faced with a limited area in which to work, stale air, poor light and the ever present danger of falling earth and rock, Ambulance Officer McMahon unhesitatingly entered the shaft to administer first aid and secure the patient prior to extrication. Ambulance Officer McMahon used his initiative to devise a suitable means of releasing the man from under the ladder and lifting him from the hole while maintaining spinal immobilisation so as not to exacerbate his injuries. During the patient's removal Ambulance Officer McMahon was showered with falling rocks and earth.

For his actions Ambulance Officer McMahon is commended for brave conduct.

**SENIOR SERGEANT WAYNE PETER MORGAN, Victoria Police Force**

Early in the morning of 23 September 1992 Senior Sergeant Morgan placed his safety at risk to rescue an unconscious woman from a burning flat at St Albans. Sergeant Morgan had gone to the fire to provide assistance when he was informed by neighbours that a resident was in the flat. Aware of the dangers of the situation Sergeant Morgan entered the flat and searched in dense smoke and intense heat for the trapped woman. Initially driven out by the severity of the conditions Sergeant Morgan re-entered the flat and with the assistance of another rescuer brought the unconscious woman to safety.

For his actions Senior Sergeant Morgan is commended for brave conduct.

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

### **MR ARTHUR JAMES MORRIS, Bardon Qld**

On the afternoon of 29 July 1991 Mr Morris put his personal safety at risk to save a woman from serious assault at the hands of a group of persons. Mr Morris responded to a call for help from the woman who was undergoing physical and verbal harassment from the group of three in Upper Edward Street, Brisbane. Despite the obvious personal danger to which he was committing himself, Mr Morris unhesitatingly went to her aid. Mr Morris was seriously injured in the encounter, however, he succeeded in getting the victim into his car and safely away from her attackers without her suffering further molestation.

For his actions Mr Morris is commended for brave conduct.

### **MR MICHAEL ANDREW NELSON, Inglewood SA**

On the morning of 30 August 1992 Mr Nelson placed his own safety in jeopardy to go to the aid of three people endangered by the flooded Torrens River at Cudlee Creek. As a Senior Fireman with the Paracombe Country Fire Service he had attended to undertake flood security operations when he responded to a call for volunteers to assist in the rescue of three campers cut off by the rapidly rising floodwaters. The campers had climbed two trees in the stream and were now in imminent danger of submersion or being swept away. Despite the hazards of the fast flowing water and flood-borne debris Mr Nelson entered the flooded river and swam to a rope caught in branches near the stranded campers. Working in constant danger Mr Nelson and the other volunteers endeavoured to get a rescue line to the stranded people, at the same time giving them comfort and reassurance. Their efforts were rewarded with the rescue of one of the campers, but despite the continuing endeavours of the rescue party the two other people were carried away by the force of the water.

For his actions Mr Nelson is commended for brave conduct.

### **SERGEANT WILLIAM DAVID PEARCE, New South Wales Police Service**

On the afternoon of 18 March 1993 the then Senior Constable Pearce placed his personal safety at risk to prevent a suicide attempt at Echo Point, Katoomba. As a member of Katoomba Rescue Squad Constable Pearce was part of a team which attended a call to Echo Point where a young woman had taken up a hazardous position on a ledge close to the edge of an 80 metre cliff. Constable Pearce immediately went to the narrow ledge where the woman was crouched, and for over two hours in conditions made more dangerous by strong winds and intermittent rain, he negotiated with the would-be-suicide. When it eventually became necessary to rush the woman Constable Pearce, despite the physical hazards of the situation and the stresses he had undergone for a prolonged period, ran along the ledge and grappling with the woman, restrained her until other help arrived. She was then safely evacuated.

For his actions Senior Constable Pearce is commended for brave conduct.

### **SENIOR CONSTABLE CLINTON McINTOSH POTTER, Victoria Police Service**

Early in the morning of 23 September 1992 Senior Constable Potter placed his safety at risk to rescue an unconscious woman from a burning flat at St Albans. Constable Potter had gone to the fire to provide assistance when he was informed by neighbours that a resident was in the flat. Aware of the dangers of the situation Constable Potter entered the flat and searched in dense smoke and intense heat for the trapped woman. Forced by the deteriorating conditions to proceed on hands and knees, Constable Potter located the unconscious woman and passed her to other rescuers who carried her to safety.

For his actions Senior Constable Potter is commended for brave conduct.

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

### MR TREVOR ROSS SCHLEIN, Cudlee Creek SA

On the morning of 30 August 1992 Mr Schlein placed his own safety at risk to go to the aid of three people stranded in the flooded Torrens River at Cudlee Creek. As a Lieutenant of the Cudlee Creek Country Fire Service Mr Schlein was attending to flood security matters in the area when he was informed that three campers who had taken refuge in the forks of two trees were cut off by the rising floodwaters and were in danger of being completely submerged or swept away by the force of the torrent. Mr Schlein immediately organised the provision of what rescue equipment was available and led a Country Fire Service team to a strategic position. Swimming out to a log, Mr Schlein operated in a precarious position in a current in excess of 15 knots and heavy, flood-borne debris directing rescue work and giving comfort and encouragement to one of the trapped people and directly participating in the rescue of another. Throughout this operation Mr Schlein was at considerable risk, performing duties in which he had neither training nor experience in hazardous circumstances unusual in this district.

For his actions Mr Schlein is commended for brave conduct.

### MR RONALD MARK SHAW, Tathra NSW

On the morning of 9 June 1991 Mr Shaw participated in the rescue of a rock fisherman who had been swept offshore in heavy seas at Tathra. In hazardous conditions Mr Shaw paddled a surf board through turbulent waves to the endangered fisherman, who was being kept afloat by another rescuer and, placing him on the board, kept him in relative safety until further help arrived.

For his actions Mr Shaw is commended for brave conduct.

### SENIOR DETECTIVE BRUCE STRATING, Victoria Police Service

Early in the morning of 23 September 1992 the then Senior Constable Strating placed his safety at risk to help in the search for an unconscious child from a burning flat at St Albans. Constable Strating had gone to the fire to give assistance when he was informed that a four-year-old girl was trapped in a bedroom. Aware of the dangers of the situation Constable Strating entered the bedroom through a window and searched in dense smoke and intense heat for the endangered child. Eventually locating the unconscious girl, Constable Strating was able to direct another rescuer to her before the accumulating effects of smoke inhalation forced him to leave the flat.

For his actions Senior Constable Strating is commended for brave conduct.

### MR GRAHAM MAURICE THOMAS, Forrestfield WA

On 6 April 1993 Mr Thomas jumped into the ocean at Kwinana to rescue a semi conscious workmate who had previously fallen into the water. Mr Thomas had been working with another spray painter from a suspended stage about 30 metres above the ocean when, without warning, the stage suddenly dropped and swung downwards throwing his workmate into the water. Mr Thomas managed to hang on and rode the stage downwards until it smashed into the base of a concrete column just above the water line. As a result of the impact Mr Thomas suffered two fractured ribs and cuts and abrasions. However, on seeing his friend floating in a semi conscious condition, Mr Thomas, disregarding his own safety and in spite of the extreme pain he was suffering, jumped into the water and supported his fellow worker for 20 minutes until help arrived.

For his actions Mr Thomas is commended for brave conduct.

## COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

### MR DAMIEN GERARD THORNTON, Rivett ACT

Early on the morning of 5 December 1992 Mr Thornton placed his safety at risk to rescue an unconscious woman from a burning house at Rivett. Mr Thornton, who lived nearby, saw the fire and ran to help. After being informed that the house was occupied Mr Thornton went to the locked back door and with assistance kicked a hole in it enabling him to reach the key. After two unsuccessful attempts Mr Thornton entered the building and searched in dense smoke until he located an unconscious woman. Working in difficult and hazardous conditions, Mr Thornton dragged the woman towards the door where he was joined by another rescuer who assisted in carrying her outside.

For his actions Mr Thornton is commended for brave conduct.

### MR PETRO KAREL VAN DER VELDEN, Wallerawang NSW

Mr Van Der Velden remained in an area of considerable danger to assist in the rescue of workmates trapped by a roof fall in a mine at Blackmans Flat on 29 May 1991. Although well aware of the risk of further roof collapse in the area in which they had all been working, Mr Van Der Velden and two fellow workers freed one of their workmates and connected a hose to supply air to others trapped by the fall. Mr Van Der Velden and his co-workers then set props at the edge of the fall and remained in the area setting safety timber until recovery personnel arrived from the surface.

For his actions Mr Van Der Velden is commended for brave conduct.

### MR ANDREW PAUL WINTERS, Windsor Gardens SA

On the night of 26 September 1992 Mr Winters apprehended an offender who had escaped from the Adelaide Remand Centre. Mr Winters was driving his car through Adelaide when he saw two men, wearing the clothes issued by the Adelaide Remand Centre, running in the opposite direction. Mr Winters stopped his car, chased and tackled one of the escapees and still restraining him dragged him into the car. With his wife driving Mr Winters continued to restrain the escapee until he was handed over to police.

For his actions Mr Winters is commended for brave conduct.