

### STAR OF COURAGE

**Mr Garry Michael BICHLER**, 7 Syndal Street, Fawkner Vic 3060

On the morning of 5 December 1994 Mr Bichler put himself in grave danger by warning potential victims of indiscriminate shooting by a disturbed man at Fawkner. Mr Bichler was driving to work when a man standing at the roadside holding a rifle fired a bullet into the car. He looked in his rear view mirror and saw the man take aim and fire at him again. Seeing a woman coming out of her house he stopped and warned her, even though he was still within firing range. Mr Bichler then turned into a side street which formed a tee intersection with the street the armed man was in, stopped the car, and proceeded to warn approaching pedestrians and drivers of vehicles. When the armed man disappeared into some bushes, Mr Bichler once again brought his car into the full view of the man and sounded the horn in an attempt to hold his attention until the arrival of the Police. The man re-appeared and fired more bullets into Mr Bichler's car. Another vehicle approached the armed man from the rear and he fired at it and killed the driver causing the car to strike an electricity pole. Mr Bichler could see a baby capsule in the back seat of the crashed vehicle and tried to go to investigate but the man prevented this by constant rifle fire. Shortly after the Police arrived and took control of the situation.

By his actions Mr Bichler displayed conspicuous courage.

**Mr Vernon Gregory HILL**, PO Box 480, Merredin WA 6415

On the night of 13 January 1996 Mr Hill rescued a man and attempted the rescue of the driver and a boy from a burning locomotive at Hines Hill. The incident occurred when a National Rail freight train collided with the rear of a Westrail train carrying a number of diesel fuel tankers. Immediately after the collision the wagons carrying diesel fuel exploded and a number of fires broke out sending flames 40 metres in the air. The locomotive had left the track and landed on its side trapping the driver, the co-driver and a boy who was a passenger. When he heard of the accident on a two-way radio Mr Hill drove to the site to help. He saw a man attempting to climb out and assisted him. Learning that there were others trapped inside he went back to the burning locomotive to look for an entrance. At this stage 500 metres of train was engulfed in flames, the surrounding bush was burning and the area was filled with black smoke. On his first attempt Mr Hill was forced back by the heat. Using a towel for protection, and despite the danger to himself, he approached the locomotive again and tried to gain entry but it was too hot to touch. A third unsuccessful attempt was made by Mr Hill. He was later treated for burns.

By his actions Mr Hill displayed conspicuous courage.

BRAVERY MEDAL

**Constable Philip John BARRETT**, Tasmania Police

On 21 October 1995 Constable Barrett participated in rescuing a wounded Police Officer from a shooting incident and the apprehension of an armed man at Prospect Vale. Constable Barrett was on patrol when he was called to the scene where an armed man was at large and firing at the Police. Constable Barrett took up a defensive position with other Police Officers behind a fence while they tried to locate the armed man who was moving about in a nearby reserve. A number of shots were fired by the man before another Police Officer who had been calling to the offender fell to the ground having been shot in the leg. Constable Barrett immediately left the cover of the fence, ran to the wounded Officer and with shots being fired over his head, dragged him behind the fence where his bleeding could be controlled. When an ambulance arrived to evacuate the wounded Officer Constable Barrett again left his cover to help drag the patient towards the Ambulance Officers. Constable Barrett then took up a surveillance position, communicating his observations to other Police Officers at the scene until the gunman surrendered.

By his actions Constable Barrett displayed considerable bravery.

**Mr Jamie Peter BRIODY**, 8 Farnell Road, Woy Woy NSW 2256

On the night of 26 September 1995 Mr Briody disarmed and apprehended an offender at South Townsville. Mr Briody was in a restaurant when he looked out the window and saw a man with a gun in his right hand and a woman lying on the ground. As Mr Briody ran from the restaurant towards the armed man he saw that the gun was pointed at another man. Mr Briody called to the offender who immediately pointed the gun at him and cocked it stating his intention of killing him. The gunman walked towards Mr Briody who lunged at him, grabbed the arm with which he held the weapon and pushed him to the ground. The offender got up and started to escape but Mr Briody once again tackled him, this time taking possession of the gun, and held him until the arrival of the Police.

By his actions Mr Briody displayed considerable bravery.

**Senior Constable Edward EMERSON**, New South Wales Police Service

On 5 March 1996 Senior Constable Emerson received serious injuries while attempting to apprehend armed offenders at Casula Mall. Constable Emerson was off duty when he learned that an armed robbery was taking place at a bank nearby. He looked through the window and saw a man threatening staff with a gun and requested his wife to seek assistance. As two armed men emerged from the bank Constable Emerson tackled the one carrying bank security bags. Constable Emerson struggled with the man as the gun discharged and shot him through the arm and chest. He placed his left hand over the chamber to prevent the gun being fired again and despite his injury Constable Emerson managed to disarm the man and take the bank bags while being struck on the head and back. Realising that his strength was failing Constable Emerson called for help but continued to hold the robber until he collapsed and the man escaped. Constable Emerson successfully underwent emergency surgery for his injuries.

By his actions Senior Constable Emerson displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

**Rescue Paramedic Roland HOLTON**, Tasmanian Ambulance Service, 450 Wellington Street, Launceston Tas 7250

On 21 September 1995 Mr Holton participated in the evacuation of a wounded Police Officer from a shooting incident at Prospect Vale. Mr Holton and another Rescue Paramedic had been directed to attend the scene having been told that two Police Officers had been shot by a disturbed gunman and that their condition was unknown. They were advised to exercise extreme caution as the armed man was still at large. On arrival they could see several Police Officers taking cover behind a fence with one lying motionless beside them. Believing that the injured Police Officer was in a critical condition Mr Holton and the other Rescue Paramedic left the relative safety of the vehicle and ran approximately 30 metres to the wounded man. As they approached, two Police Officers began to drag the patient towards them. Mr Holton returned to the Ambulance and drove it between the injured man and the perceived location of the armed man. As the patient's bleeding had been controlled the Rescue Paramedics decided to remove him without further treatment. During the evacuation shots were being fired by the gunman and became more frequent as the Rescue Paramedics loaded the patient into the vehicle and left the scene. Subsequent examination of the Ambulance revealed the impact of several bullets.

By his actions Rescue Paramedic Holton displayed considerable bravery.

**Senior Constable David Gordon HOOPER**, New South Wales Police Service

On 16 January 1996 Senior Constable Hooper participated in the attempted rescue of a child from a burning house at Minto. Constable Hooper was driving in the area when he was directed to attend a house fire. On arrival he entered the hall of the burning building with other Police Officers in an attempt to rescue a child believed to be in an upper storey bedroom. The ceiling was on fire and falling in on Constable Hooper who was forced to crawl along the floor because of thick smoke. He reached the kitchen but the heat and smoke was so intense he retreated. After verifying that the child was inside, Constable Hooper, with other Police Officers re-entered the building. At that stage fire was snaking along the walls and floor. Thick black smoke prevented visibility and pieces of melting aluminium were falling on top of the rescuers. Constable Hooper was again forced from the building when the hallway was totally enveloped by flames. Constable Hooper made a third entry to the rear of the house with another Police Officer, using a garden hose in an attempt to provide access to the kitchen and lounge area where the stairs were located. The hose had little effect and they were again driven back. A short time later Constable Hooper, while being hosed down, made a further unsuccessful search of the rear of the building. As a result of his attempts to rescue the child Constable Hooper was taken to hospital and treated for smoke inhalation.

By his actions Senior Constable Hooper displayed considerable bravery.

**BRAVERY MEDAL**

**Rescue Paramedic Graeme Robert JONES**, Tasmanian Ambulance Service, 450 Wellington Street, Launceston Tas 7250

On 21 September 1995 Mr Jones participated in the evacuation of a wounded Police Officer from a shooting incident at Prospect Vale. Mr Jones and another Rescue Paramedic had been directed to attend the scene having been told that two Police Officers had been shot by a disturbed gunman and that their condition was unknown. They were advised to exercise extreme caution as the armed man was still at large. On arrival they could see several Police Officers taking cover behind a fence with one lying motionless beside them. Believing that the injured Police Officer was in a critical condition Mr Jones and the other Rescue Paramedic left the relative safety of the vehicle and ran approximately 30 metres to the wounded man. As they approached, two Police Officers began to drag the patient towards them. When Mr Jones could examine the man behind the cover of the Ambulance he found that the bleeding had been controlled so he decided to remove him without further treatment. During the evacuation shots were being fired by the gunman and became more frequent as the Rescue Paramedics loaded the patient into the vehicle and left the scene. Subsequent examination of the Ambulance revealed the impact of several bullets.

By his actions Rescue Paramedic Jones displayed considerable bravery.

**Mr Mark Andrew JONGKIND**, 13 Ives Avenue, Liverpool NSW 2170

On 16 January 1996 Mr Jongkind participated in the attempted rescue of a child from a burning house at Minto. Mr Jongkind was driving in the area when he saw smoke and went to investigate. When he found that the source of the smoke was a burning house and that a child was believed to be in the upper storey he ran into the house armed with a fire extinguisher. The kitchen, lounge room and stairway were well alight and, crouching because of the smoke, he tried unsuccessfully to quell the flames. When he was forced back by the smoke Mr Jongkind disconnected the electricity supply. He then attempted entry to the upper storey by means of a ladder placed against the outside wall. After breaking a window he climbed down, took the fire extinguisher and climbed to another window which he broke. Thick toxic smoke poured out as Mr Jongkind called the child's name and used the remaining contents of the fire extinguisher. Forced to the ground by the smoke, Mr Jongkind recovered slightly then again ascended the ladder with a garden hose but by this time the flames and heat were so intense he could not remain on the ladder. Mr Jongkind continued to hose the house from the ground and shortly after when the Police arrived he directed the water onto them as they attempted a rescue. Mr Jongkind then re-entered the house and searched the laundry area without success.

By his actions Mr Jongkind displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

**Miss Naomi Louise LENNOX, Perth WA 6000**

On the night of 9 February 1996 Miss Lennox protected a doorman under attack at a Perth nightclub. Miss Lennox was in the nightclub with a friend when a group of about 25 bikie types armed with baseball bats and iron bars burst in and started violently assaulting the doormen. After trying unsuccessfully to find a telephone she saw that one doorman was being viciously beaten by a group of four or five of the group. Blood was spurting from the victim's head and Miss Lennox, fearing that he may be killed, stepped between him and his attackers. Disregarding her own safety she stayed and protected the injured man pleading with them to stop. She was struck on the arm and a baseball bat was placed under her chin, but she stood her ground until the men left. Miss Lennox assisted the injured man into the ladies toilet and hid him in a cubicle until it was safe to go to the office to await the arrival of an Ambulance.

By her actions Miss Lennox displayed considerable bravery.

**Senior Constable Martin Joseph McLEAN, New South Wales Police Service**

On 16 January 1996 Senior Constable McLean participated in the attempted rescue of a child from a burning house at Minto. Constable McLean was driving in the area when he was directed to attend a house fire. On arrival he entered the hall of the burning building with other Police Officers in an attempt to rescue a child believed to be in an upper storey bedroom. The ceiling was on fire and falling in on Constable McLean who was forced to crawl along the floor because of thick smoke. He reached the kitchen but the heat and smoke was so intense he retreated. After verifying that the child was inside, Constable McLean, with other Police Officers re-entered the building. At that stage fire was snaking along the walls and floor. Thick black smoke prevented visibility and pieces of melting aluminium were falling on top of the rescuers. Constable McLean was again forced from the building when the hallway was totally enveloped by flames. Constable McLean made a third entry to the rear of the house with another Police Officer who was using a garden hose in an attempt to provide access to the kitchen and lounge area where the stairs were located. The hose had little effect and they were again driven back. A short time later Constable McLean while being hosed down made a further unsuccessful search of the rear of the building. As a result of his attempts to rescue the child Constable McLean was taken to hospital and treated for smoke inhalation.

By his actions Senior Constable McLean displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

**Senior Constable John Robert POTTER**, South Australia Police

On 4 August 1996 Senior Constable Potter participated in the rescue of a ten-year-old boy from the flooded Sturt River in Adelaide. Constable Potter, hearing that the boy had fallen into water, drove to the River and descended a ladder fixed to the steep concrete covered banks. As the child approached Constable Potter was unable to reach him, so without safety lines he jumped into the extremely cold water, thereby placing himself in danger in the swiftly flowing river. Constable Potter reached the boy and holding on to him guided him towards the bank where another Police Officer waited on a ladder to assist them. When the second Police Officer took hold of the boy he lost his grip and fell into the River. Both officers and the boy were swept downstream a distance of about two kilometres before being washed against a "trash rack" in the centre of the River. They caught the boy as he passed and lifted him onto Constable Potter's back to reduce the likelihood of him being swept away again. Police Officers on the bank then threw a line to Constable Potter who attached it to the boy and he was hauled to safety. Constable Potter was then pulled to shore after 40 minutes immersion in the River.

By his actions Senior Constable Potter displayed considerable bravery.

**Mr John Gordon WRIGHT**, Frenches Creek Road, Boonah Qld 4310

In the early hours of 8 August 1993 Mr Wright rescued an unconscious man from a burning car near Peak Crossing. Mr Wright stopped his vehicle at the site of a recent single car accident and ran to help. The car had collided with a rock wall and flames were issuing from the passenger side to a height of three metres. Mr Wright saw an unconscious man lying half way out of the drivers front window with his legs on fire inside the cabin. Despite the extreme heat and the sound of an explosion coming from the car, Mr Wright crouched down, ran to the vehicle, pulled the man out, and dragged him approximately four metres to the safety of a drain. During this time a second explosion occurred. Mr Wright extinguished the fire around the man's legs with dew dampened grass and after stopping another vehicle and asking the driver to seek help he waited with the rescued man until the arrival of an Ambulance.

By his actions Mr Wright displayed considerable bravery.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Henry Oswin BAILY**, 146 Whale Beach Road, Whale Beach NSW 2107

On 15 January 1996 Mr Baily participated in the rescue of a man and a woman from the surf at North Palm Beach. Mr Baily, then 77 years old, was walking near the beach when he became aware that two people were caught in a very strong rip and unable to return to shore. He removed some of his clothing and swam to the man who was now about 150 metres out. Mr Baily rolled the distressed man onto his back and placing his left arm over his shoulders sidestroked with his right arm and leg in a diagonal direction until they were clear of the rip. When they reached a sandbank Mr Baily was able to stand and wait for an approaching surfboard rider. Together Mr Baily and the other rescuer lifted the exhausted man onto the surfboard and swam, pushing the board, to shore. The woman was rescued by another person.

For his actions Mr Baily is commended for brave conduct.

**Constable John Patrick BALDWIN**, South Australia Police

On 4 August 1996 Constable Baldwin participated in the rescue of a ten-year-old boy from the flooded Sturt River in Adelaide. Constable Baldwin, hearing that the boy had fallen into the water, drove to the River. He descended a ladder fixed to the steep concrete covered banks downstream from where another Police Officer was attempting a rescue. The other Officer had grasped the child and was passing him to Constable Baldwin who lost his grip and fell into the extremely cold and fast flowing water. He grabbed the boy but became tangled in a rope thrown in by rescuers and had to release his grip as he became submerged before he could disentangle himself. Both officers and the boy were swept downstream a distance of about two kilometres before being washed against a "trash rack" in the centre of the River. They caught the boy as he passed and lifted him onto the other Officer's back to reduce the likelihood of him being swept away again. Police Officers on the bank then threw them a line which they attached to the boy who was hauled to safety. Constable Baldwin was then pulled to shore after 30 minutes immersion in the River.

For his actions Constable Baldwin is commended for brave conduct.

**Ambulance Officer Craig Roy BLICK**, 59 Flinders Parade, Barwon Heads Vic 3227

In the early hours of 6 April 1996 Mr Blick, an off-duty Ambulance Officer, rescued a woman from the Werribee River at Werribee. Mr Blick was approaching the Werribee River Bridge when he saw a vehicle ahead of him leave the road, slide down a grass embankment and disappear out of sight. He immediately stopped his vehicle and fought his way through blackberry bushes to gain access to the river where he saw the car submerged to the roof line and still sinking. The woman driver was screaming and having difficulties getting out of her car. Mr Blick undressed and swam to the car which was in the middle of the 10 metre wide river. In the dark he was unaware of the depth of the freezing water, the current or any underwater snags. Mr Blick removed the woman from her car and took her to the bank where he rendered assistance until further help arrived a short time later.

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

**COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT**

**Sergeant Patricia BOURKE**, New South Wales Police Service

On 16 January 1996 Sergeant Bourke participated in the attempted rescue of a child from a burning house at Minto. Sergeant Bourke was driving in the area when she was directed to attend a house fire. On arrival she entered the hall of the burning building with other Police Officers in an attempt to rescue a child believed to be in an upper storey bedroom. The ceiling was on fire and falling in on Sergeant Bourke who was forced to crawl along the floor because of thick smoke. She reached the kitchen but the heat and smoke was so intense she retreated. After verifying that the child was inside, Sergeant Bourke, with other Police Officers again entered the building. At that stage the fire was snaking along the walls and floor. Thick black smoke prevented visibility and pieces of melting aluminium were falling on top of the rescuers. Sergeant Bourke was again forced from the building when the hallway was totally enveloped by flames. As a result of her attempts to rescue the child Sergeant Bourke was taken to hospital and treated for smoke inhalation.

For her actions Sergeant Bourke is commended for brave conduct.

**Mr Keith Richard BURNEY**, 76 Ashworth Avenue, Belrose NSW 2085

On 15 January 1996 Mr Burney participated in the rescue of a man and a woman from the surf at North Palm Beach. Mr Burney was in the vicinity of the beach when he became aware that two people were caught in a very strong rip and were unable to return to shore. Despite the fact that he had been diagnosed with severe heart disease, Mr Burney ran to the beach and swam to the woman who was now about 150 metres out. He towed her to a sandbank where he tried to encourage her to stand so that he could return to the man and assist in his rescue. The woman, however, was almost hysterical and pleaded to be taken to shore. After Mr Burney assisted the woman to shore he returned and helped the other rescuer to bring the man the last few metres to the beach.

For his actions Mr Burney is commended for brave conduct.

**Miss Natalie Anne CHADWICK**, 6 Reeves Place, Swan View WA 6056

On 1 October 1995, Miss Natalie Chadwick, then aged 12 years, participated in the rescue of a girl at Nanarup Beach near Albany. Natalie was with her sister and a friend in waist deep water when they were caught in a rip and carried 200 metres out into deeper water. Natalie and her sister were reasonably good swimmers but their friend was not and started to panic and push them under the water. After being swept out a further 25 metres it was agreed that Natalie should support their friend while her sister swam to shore for help. Although she was exhausted by assisting her sister and friend Natalie managed to calm the girl and kept her afloat in turbulent water for 15 minutes until help arrived.

For her actions Miss Chadwick is commended for brave conduct.



COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Alfred Bryan COPPING**, PO Box 115, Brookton WA 6306

On 28 December 1992 Mr Copping placed himself in hazardous circumstances to rescue a fellow fire fighter at Brookton. Mr Copping and a young woman were travelling on the back of a fire fighting vehicle hosing burning grass on both sides of the road. The vehicle lurched and stalled dislodging the woman and throwing her into the fire. Suffering from severe burns she ran to a fence and climbed through to an area clear of the fire. Mr Copping heard her screams and although he was suffering from burns himself searched through the stifling smoke in zero visibility until he found her. He guided her back through the fence, took her to a nearby farm and arranged for first aid and her removal to hospital.

For his actions Mr Copping is commended for brave conduct.

**Miss Marisa DAL ZOTTO**, 11 Anzac Parade, Newcastle NSW 2300

On 2 May 1996 Miss Dal Zotto participated in the disarming and apprehension of a youth at Raymond Terrace High School. Miss Dal Zotto, the Acting Deputy Principal, had been informed that a student, after an altercation with another youth, had gone home, armed himself with a cook's knife and was on his way back to school. Miss Dal Zotto met the armed youth at the school gate and with another teacher tried to reason with him to no avail. The youth walked across the quadrangle until he saw his victim, then pulling the knife from his school bag ran after him. Miss Dal Zotto and another teacher caught him and held him against a verandah rail to restrain him. He struggled violently and they were unable to take the knife from him and hold him at the same time. During the struggle Miss Dal Zotto hit her head on the verandah rail but continued to maintain her grasp on the boy. Eventually another staff member was able to prise the knife from his hand and he was then subdued and placed in a safe place until the arrival of the Police.

For her actions Miss Dal Zotto is commended for brave conduct.

**Mr Raymond Eric DEAN**, 43 Morven Street, Guildford NSW 2161

On the morning of 7 December 1994, Mr Dean apprehended an armed offender at Yennora TAB. Mr Dean was a customer in the TAB when he saw an armed man demanding money from one of the tellers. As the robber started to leave the premises Mr Dean, risking his own safety, grabbed him from behind and wrestled him to the floor causing him to drop the gun which was then removed by the female teller. Mr Dean held the man in a bear hug against a wall until he was assisted by another customer entering the TAB. They continued to restrain the robber until the arrival of the Police.

For his actions Mr Dean is commended for brave conduct.

**COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT**

**Mr Jamie Bruce FARNHAM**, Lot 1 Gap Road, Stroud NSW 2425

On 24 December 1995 Mr Farnham participated in disarming an offender at Stroud. Mr Farnham stopped his vehicle on a deserted road when he saw a Police Officer struggling with an armed man on the ground. The Officer had detained the man but could not hold him and at the same time prevent him from discharging the gun. Mr Farnham went to the assistance of the Police Officer. He held the man's head and right arm enabling the Officer to prise the man's fingers open and remove the gun, although another shot was fired in the process. After the offender had been handcuffed Mr Farnham waited to assist and directed additional Police to the scene.

For his actions Mr Farnham is commended for brave conduct.

**Mr Stephen Brett FLETCHER**, 192 Sylvania Road, Miranda NSW 2228

On 15 October 1995 Mr Fletcher participated in the rescue of an unconscious elderly man from the harbour at Taronga Park Zoo Wharf in Sydney. Mr Fletcher was the duty deckhand on the Sydney Ferries vessel "ALEXANDER" when it was discharging passengers at the wharf. One passenger, an elderly man, missed his footing on the gangway and fell between the wharf and the vessel, striking his head on some hard object as he fell. Mr Fletcher immediately jumped into the water and with the assistance of another man supported the unconscious passenger while they were being pushed towards the bow by the water from the ferry propellers. After about five minutes the man regained consciousness and Mr Fletcher and his fellow rescuer assisted him in climbing a rope ladder to the wharf where he received medical attention.

For his actions Mr Fletcher is commended for brave conduct.

**Corrective Services Officer Andrew Colin FRAZER**, C/- Wyong Court House, Wyong NSW 2259

On 21 November 1995 Mr Frazer disarmed an offender in Wyong Court House. Mr Frazer was on duty at the Wyong Local Court cell complex when he heard the sound of a gun discharging in the Court Room. Although unarmed he responded immediately. As Mr Frazer entered the Court Room he saw the offender raising the gun to a firing position. Disregarding his own safety Mr Frazer tackled the offender, knocked his firearm to the floor and restrained him until another officer assisted him in applying handcuffs.

For his actions Corrective Services Officer Frazer is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Senior Constable Trevor Charles HEASLIP**, New South Wales Police Service

On 16 January 1996 Senior Constable Heaslip participated in the attempted rescue of a child from a burning house at Minto. Constable Heaslip was driving in the area when he was directed to attend a house fire. On arrival he entered the hall of the burning building with other Police Officers in an attempt to rescue a child believed to be in an upper storey bedroom. The ceiling was on fire and falling in on Constable Heaslip who was forced to crawl along the floor because of thick smoke. He reached the kitchen but the heat and smoke was so intense he retreated. After verifying that the child was inside, Constable Heaslip, with other Police Officers, again entered the building. At that stage the fire was snaking along the walls and floor. Thick black smoke prevented visibility and pieces of melting aluminium were falling on top of the rescuers. Constable Heaslip was again forced from the building when the hallway was totally enveloped by flames. As a result of his attempts to rescue the child Constable Heaslip was taken to hospital and treated for smoke inhalation.

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

**Mr Dean Alan HEPBURN**, Gold Coast Qld 4225

On 9 November 1993 Mr Hepburn pursued a man he suspected of committing a robbery at Ipswich Hospital. Mr Hepburn saw the man behaving suspiciously and decided to follow him. Although informed by another pursuer that the man had just robbed a bank and was armed Mr Hepburn continued his pursuit. Two shots were fired at Mr Hepburn and another pursuer, however, they continued to follow him until the arrival of police.

For his actions Mr Hepburn is commended for brave conduct.

**Mr Gregory Ian HORNE**, 78 Ashworth Avenue, Belrose NSW 2085

On the night of 15 May 1995 Mr Horne attempted to apprehend an armed offender who was in the process of robbing a Coles Supermarket at Warriewood. Mr Horne, a Security Guard for the shopping centre, noticed a man fitting the description of an armed robber wanted by police for a series of robberies from Coles stores approaching the office at the rear of the supermarket. When the offender left the office carrying a bag and walked towards an emergency exit Mr Horne asked staff to call the Police and followed him. Mr Horne confronted the man and told him to stop and put the bag on the ground which he did. However, as Mr Horne came closer the offender sprayed him in the face with a pressurised pepper spray. Although he was suffering extremely from the burning effects of the pepper spray he tackled the robber, struggled with him and directed pepper sprays in the robber's face. The offender broke free, struggled to his car and made his escape leaving the money behind.

For his actions Mr Horne is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Rodney James HUON, 30 Catalpa Grove, Menai NSW 2234**

On the evening of 29 August 1995 Mr Huon rescued a woman from a burning car at Kirrawee. Mr Huon was working at his place of business when he heard the sound of a car skidding, followed by a crash. He immediately ran to the front of the premises and saw that a car had crashed into the rear of a parked vehicle, rupturing its fuel tank. Flames were spreading beneath both vehicles. Seeing that a woman was still in the rear vehicle, Mr Huon attempted to pull her out, but she was caught by her seat belt. He tried again, and as he freed her and carried her to safety the fire intensified with windows and tyres exploding. Shortly after both cars were completely destroyed by fire.

For his actions Mr Huon is commended for brave conduct.

**Ambulance Paramedic Mark Edward LAMB, Melbourne Vic 3000**

On 23 August 1995 Mr Lamb was winched from a helicopter to rescue three men from a disabled trawler off Cape Patterson, Victoria. Mr Lamb was flown to the location after the crew had radioed that the trawler was breaking up in conditions of strong winds and a large swell. Mr Lamb was winched down onto the bow of the stricken vessel and attached the first man, however, the swell lifted the bow and the connection was broken. Mr Lamb was thrown against the rigging and then into the ocean where he became tangled in the anchor cable. After emerging from the water he snagged the cable again before being winched back to the helicopter. A second unsuccessful attempt was made before a decision was made for the seamen to transfer to the life raft for evacuation. In rapidly deteriorating weather conditions Mr Lamb made three more descents rescuing one crew member at a time. The survivors were flown to Wonthaggi Hospital where Mr Lamb also received medical attention for the injuries he had sustained during the rescue.

For his actions Ambulance Paramedic Lamb is commended for brave conduct.

**Ms Kerri LEIGH-GORDON, 68A Bruce Street, Cooks Hill NSW 2300**

On 2 May 1996 Ms Leigh-Gordon participated in the disarming and apprehension of a youth at Raymond Terrace High School. Ms Leigh-Gordon, the Acting Principal, had been informed that a student, after an altercation with another youth, had gone home, armed himself with a cook's knife and was on his way back to school. Ms Leigh-Gordon met the armed youth at the school gate and with another teacher tried to reason with him to no avail. The youth walked across the quadrangle until he saw his victim, then pulling the knife from his school bag ran after him. Ms Leigh-Gordon and another teacher caught him and held him against a verandah rail to restrain him. He struggled violently and they were unable to take the knife from him and hold him at the same time. Eventually another staff member was able to prise the knife from his grasp and he was then subdued and placed in a safe place until the arrival of the Police.

For her actions Ms Leigh-Gordon is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

**Mr Gary Robert McCONCHIE**, 45 Mitchell Place, Douglas Park NSW 2569

On 16 January 1996 Mr McConchie participated in the attempted rescue of a child from a burning house at Minto. Mr McConchie was driving in the area when he saw smoke and went to investigate. When he found that the source of the smoke was a burning house and that a child was believed to be in the upper storey he ran into the house with another man to search for the boy. The kitchen, lounge room and stairway were well alight and the whole area was filled with thick black smoke. The two men tried to quell the flames with a fire extinguisher but it had little effect and they were forced out by the heat and smoke. Mr McConchie remained close to the house and assisted his companion who unsuccessfully attempted entry to the upper floor by means of a ladder.

For his actions Mr McConchie is commended for brave conduct.

**Lieutenant Mark McGOWAN**, PO Box 88, Rockingham WA 6168

On 18 September 1995 Lieutenant McGowan rescued the unconscious driver of a crashed and burning vehicle at Upper Swan. Lieutenant McGowan arrived at the scene shortly after the accident had occurred. One of the vehicles had been hit in the rear and the back half was burning fiercely and filling the car with smoke. As he approached Lieutenant McGowan saw that the driver was unconscious and lying with his upper torso in the back seat area. After trying to gain access through the front doors, both of which were jammed, Lieutenant McGowan tried to lift the unconscious man through the rear left hand window but was unable to do so as the driver's legs were tangled in the seat belt. Without regard for his own safety Lieutenant McGowan climbed into the car through the now open passenger front door, and untangled the man's legs as the fire engulfed the whole interior of the car. With the assistance of other motorists Lieutenant McGowan lifted the driver out through the rear window and carried him to a place of safety.

For his actions Lieutenant McGowan is commended for brave conduct.

**Ambulance Officer Graeme Patrick McKIBBIN**, 14 Adams Street, Castlemaine Vic 3450

On 27 December 1994, Mr McKibbin assisted in restraining a man affected by drugs who was threatening his parents and attempting suicide at Maldon. Mr McKibbin, an ambulance officer, responded to a call for assistance for an unconscious man suffering from a drug overdose. When he arrived at the man's home he found him conscious, extremely aggressive and armed with a pair of scissors. With the help of the man's father he succeeded in taking the scissors from him but he immediately produced a knife and lunged towards Mr McKibbin. After running to the Ambulance to call for Police assistance, Mr McKibbin, concerned for the man's parents, returned to the house and found the father grappling with the man who was attempting to stab himself. The patient then broke free and still armed with the knife pursued Mr McKibbin who returned to the Ambulance. Police arrived shortly after and took the man into custody.

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

**COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT**

**Mrs Suzanne Marie MATTI**, Melbourne Vic 3000

On 8 February 1995 Mrs Matti rescued an elderly man who was being attacked by two young men at Sunshine. Mrs Matti was driving past a carpark when she saw the elderly man trying to protect himself with a piece of wood while the younger men were hitting him with fence palings. In spite of having her mother and children in the car, Mrs Matti turned into the carpark and drove as close as she could to the elderly man. As she got out of the car one of the men picked up a brick with the intention of continuing his assault on the man. Mrs Matti confronted the attackers and told them to leave the injured man alone and stated her intention of calling the Police. They left after making death threats to the man. Mrs Matti called the Police and Ambulance and remained until help arrived.. As a result of the attack the injured man required surgery and hospitalization.

For her actions Mrs Matti is commended for brave conduct.

**Mr Simon Charles PULLMAN**, 7 Yule Street, Dulwich Hill NSW 2203

On 15 October 1995 Mr Pullman participated in the rescue of an unconscious elderly man from the harbour at Taronga Park Zoo Wharf in Sydney. Mr Pullman was standing on the wharf with his family waiting for the passengers to be discharged. One passenger, an elderly man, missed his footing on the gangway and fell between the wharf and the vessel striking his head on some hard object as he fell. Mr Pullman immediately jumped into the water and with the assistance of another man supported the unconscious passenger while they were being pushed towards the bow by the water from the ferry propellers. After about five minutes the man regained consciousness and Mr Pullman and his fellow rescuer assisted him in climbing a rope ladder to the wharf where he received medical attention.

For his actions Mr Pullman is commended for brave conduct.

**Constable Terrence Allan REANEY**, Tasmania Police

On 21 October 1995 Constable Reaney attended a shooting incident at Prospect Vale. Constable Reaney arrived at the scene after a resident complained of being assaulted by a man armed with a rifle. Constable Reaney searched the area, gaining a useful description of the armed man, and radioed for urgent support. Shortly after other Police Officers arrived. Constable Reaney was reporting the results of his earlier surveillance to the Senior Officer when he was shot in the thigh and fell to the ground. Constable Reaney was dragged to cover where the bleeding was controlled and he was later removed by Ambulance Officers.

For his actions Constable Reaney is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Sergeant John Alfred SHEA, Tasmania Police

On 21 October 1995 Sergeant Shea participated in the apprehension of an armed man after a shooting incident at Prospect Vale. Sergeant Shea attended the scene where a man was shooting indiscriminately at Police from the cover of a reserve. He was assessing the situation when another Police Officer with whom he was speaking was shot in the leg. Sergeant Shea went to his assistance and was wounded in the lower left arm. The injured Officer was dragged to cover while Sergeant Shea exchanged shots with the armed man who had now opened fire on an occupied Police vehicle. Despite his injury Sergeant Shea maintained his surveillance and controlled the incident for approximately three hours until the gunman entered a Police vehicle and using the radio stated that he wished to surrender. Sergeant Shea participated in the negotiations until the offender left the vehicle and was arrested.

For his actions Sergeant Shea is commended for brave conduct.

GROUP CITATION FOR BRAVERY

Mr Edward Ross BLEWITT  
Senior Constable Lawrence William HOFFMAN  
Miss Tania Beth MORRIS

Tenterfield State Emergency Service

On 27 September 1992 three members of the Tenterfield State Emergency Service were called out to Boonoo Boonoo Falls where seven inexperienced climbers were stranded on the northern cliff face. The climbers had reached small ledges approximately 140 metres from the top of the gorge and 190 metres from the bottom and could not climb back to the top or continue down. One of the climbers on a small ledge on her own was experiencing cramps so a decision was made to lift her out by helicopter. This was done with difficulty as the wind strengthened and the light was failing. The three rescuers assisted the remaining climbers by lowering them to the floor of the gorge using a rope and a sling in darkness relieved only by a 100 watt spotlight and three hand held torches. Totally disregarding their own safety the Tenterfield State Emergency Service team worked for a total of eight hours in conditions of strong winds, continuous spray from the waterfall and for the last three hours in almost complete darkness.



GROUP CITATION FOR BRAVERY

Members of the Victoria State Emergency Service - Bruthen Unit

Trevor Jeff DADD  
 Christopher David GREENWOOD  
 Graeme John MANLY  
 Daniel MILLER  
 Justin Vittorio SAULLE  
 Brian Robert WHINFIELD  
 Bruce Richard WILSON

Members of the Victoria State Emergency Service - Buchan Unit

Peter George BRADFORD  
 Ean Shane FREE  
 Miss Sabina Frances FREE  
 Miss Katerine Adele HODGE  
 John van DYK  
 Joshua Mark van DYK  
 Mrs Kim Maree van DYK

Members of the Victorian Speleological Association

Peter ACKROYD  
 Eric Barry LENSER  
 Roger TAYLOR

Local Caver

Simon KIERS

On Tuesday 5 December 1995 the rescue teams were informed of a caving accident north of Buchan in East Gippsland. An 18-year-old student had fallen several metres down a vertical drop in "Hades Cave" and his condition was reported as being serious. At approximately 7.45 pm the first rescuer entered the cave. Torrential rain had caused local flooding and water at a rate of two litres per second entered the cave in the form of a waterfall, creating very hazardous conditions for the rescuers. When the rescuers reached the youth it was discovered that he had landed on his head, cracking the safety helmet he was wearing and it was suspected that he had a fractured skull. As he was lapsing in and out of consciousness, essential first aid was administered and the decision was made to move him out of the increasingly wet area. Throughout the rescue, many of the rescuers emerged from underground in various stages of hypothermia. They were warmed and given a change of clothes but despite their discomfort and fatigue after short breaks re-entered the cave to continue with the rescue. Much of the extraction was undertaken with the stretcher vertical rather than horizontal. The student was finally brought to surface at 9.20 am, after approximately 14 hours, and during the last 4½ hours the rescue team was standing in a waterfall. The 18 members of the cave rescue team were in the cave for times ranging from one hour to 12 hours and some members had five trips underground.