

Group Bravery Citation

Mr Edward Michael Blight, Bondi Junction NSW 2022

Mr Henry John Weir, SA

Mr Henry Murray Sever, Dernancourt SA 5075

The recipients are recognised with the award of the Group Bravery Citation for their actions rescuing multiple people from a rip at Petrel Cove Beach in Encounter Bay, South Australia on 27 January 2023.

In the afternoon, two men and a child were caught in a rip at Petrel Cove Beach, South Australia. An onlooker swam out to the group who had all been swept around the point. The rescuer saw the child had climbed onto the back of one of the men, pushing him under the water. The rescuer tried to grab the child, but was also pushed under the water. The rescuer eventually managed to grab the child, which relieved the drowning man, and then attempted to swim the child to safety.

Another onlooker used a boogie board to swim out to them, and assisted the first rescuer to place the child onto the board. They swam to a nearby rocky outcrop as they were unable to swim against the rip and through the waves. They then assisted the boy out of the water onto the rocky outcrop.

A third person, already in the water with fins and a boogie board, saw one of the men being swept around the point and paddled toward him. On the way, the third rescuer found another man struggling in the water and pulled him towards the other two men in the water near rocks.

The third rescuer gave his board to one of the men to hold onto, while holding another man afloat. The water pushed them against the rocks for a few minutes until the rescuer got the man up onto the rocks and out of the water. The rescued man took a minute to recover, and then helped the third rescuer get the man on the board out of the water.

The third rescuer then trod water while holding onto the other man for a few minutes, until paddling toward two surfers who assisted him bring the last man to shore.

The third rescuer then observed the other two rescuers were still on the rocky outcrop with the child, so he used his fins and boogie board to paddle to them. They placed the child onto the board and swam to a less steep section of the rocks and removed the boy from the water.

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This recipient is added to the Group Bravery Citation gazetted on 31 March 2020.

Senior Constable Kevin Alva Mayo, Queensland Police Service

The recipients are recognised with the award of the Group Bravery Citation for their actions during the rescue of a man from a burning vehicle at Gympie in Queensland.

On the morning of 6 June 2018, two officers of the Queensland Police Force attended the scene of a vehicle which had rolled over and trapped the driver inside. A member of the public also saw the damaged vehicle and, together with other passers-by, stopped to assess the situation. He saw smoke coming from the engine area and an elderly man trapped inside. The two officers arrived at the scene and used their batons to smash the vehicle's windows. Smoke continued to fill the interior of the vehicle as the officers and the civilian used their bare hands to remove the smashed windscreen. The officers and the civilian then worked together to evacuate the trapped driver and move him away from the burning vehicle.