

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Rohan James AIRD, WA

Mr Lindsay William HAWKE, Thornlie WA 6108

In the afternoon of 14 January 2018, Mr Rohan Aird and Mr Lindsay Hawke rescued a man from an approaching fire front in Beelu National Park, Western Australia.

Mr Aird, an Air Attack Observer, and Mr Hawke, a helicopter pilot, were aboard a helicopter flying over the Beelu National Park observing damage caused by a bushfire.

They observed an approaching fire front moving quickly in the direction of a public campsite. Mr Hawke spotted a person below and after Mr Aird confirmed the location of man, they devised a plan to rescue him.

Despite the extremely hot and windy conditions, Mr Hawke flew the helicopter on a low and slow approach onto a rocky and sloping outcrop on the eastern edge of the campsite, directly in the path of the approaching fire front. However, due to the strong hot winds and updraughts, it was difficult to hold the aircraft in position, as there was little room to rest the helicopter on the rock. With flames still present, Mr Hawke noticed another small clearing towards the east. He manoeuvred the helicopter to the clearing and despite the conditions, was able to hold the aircraft on top of the inclining slate rock face.

Mr Aird quickly departed the helicopter and proceeded in the direction of the fire, where it was advancing from behind the camp site. Smoke was billowing close by as Mr Aird disappeared through the vegetation. He managed to locate the trapped man and led him back to the helicopter.

Mr Hawke was able to take off and fly the helicopter inside the path of the fire towards safety.

For their actions, Mr Aird and Mr Hawke are commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Jamie Allan ALEXANDER, Bray Park QLD 4500

On the afternoon of 25 March 2015, Mr Jamie Alexander was involved in the rescue of a man from a submerged vehicle at Mount Samson, Queensland.

Mr Alexander was working at a property at Mount Samson when he heard a car engine revving loudly at an adjoining property and immediately went to investigate.

A man had driven his utility into a dam and Mr Alexander saw that the front of the vehicle had sunk into three metre deep, murky water.

Without hesitation, Mr Alexander entered the dam, dived under the surface and made his way to the driver's door. The window was down and the driver was inside with his seatbelt on. He then attempted to release the man.

Meanwhile emergency services were called. With the assistance of others, Mr Alexander managed to release the man and bring him to the surface.

Paramedics arrived on the scene and commenced treatment of the driver. Sadly he was not able to be revived.

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

Mr Michael Jeffrey BAIN, Henley Brook WA 6055

On the afternoon of 6 April 2008, Mr Michael Bain went to the rescue of a man caught in a rip at Eagles Nest near Denmark, Western Australia.

A young man was snorkelling at Eagles Nest beach when he realised he had been caught in a rip. As he was pulled over 100 metres from shore, he initially remained calm. However, as the speed with which he was being dragged out to sea increased and the undertow began to pull him underwater, he started to frantically signal for help.

Mr Bain noticed the swimmer in difficulty in the rip. Without consideration for his own safety, he immediately ran to get a boogie board and flippers from his car. He entered the surf and made his way out to the swimmer, who was fast tiring and beginning to sink below the surface of the water.

On reaching the young man, he was able to grab hold of his arm and with difficulty, lift him up onto the boogie board. Mr Bain then began kicking towards the beach and after around 15 minutes of battling the heavy sea conditions, they reached the safety of the shore.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Ms Katherine Anne BROCK, QLD

On the morning of 5 July 2017, Ms Katherine Brock intervened to stop a runaway vehicle on the Gold Coast, Queensland.

Ms Brock was working on a movie set on the Gold Coast when she witnessed a small, heavy vehicle rolling towards a donkey and its handler.

The vehicle was driverless and was rolling backwards downhill, picking up speed, and heading towards the female animal handler and the donkey that was tied off to a tree. The donkey was being used in the making of a film and could not be moved.

Realising the imminent danger of the situation and without concern for her own safety, Ms Brock ran into the path of the oncoming vehicle. She blocked the progress of the vehicle and used her body to push against it; thereby preventing it from hitting the woman and animal.

The vehicle collided with Ms Brock, dragging her some distance before pinning her underneath. Several people were required to lift the vehicle off her and she sustained serious, non-life threatening, injuries.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Miss Stephanie Maree CORTES, NSW

Mr Ian James SANDERSON, Belmont NSW 2280

In the early afternoon of 12 December 2017, Miss Stephanie Cortes and Mr Ian Sanderson were involved in the rescue of swimmers caught in a rip at Frazer Beach, New South Wales.

Miss Cortes was swimming with a group of friends at the unpatrolled Frazer Beach when a larger set of waves separated the group. Miss Cortes and one of her friends were pulled out to deeper water by a rip.

Miss Cortes encouraged her friend to tread water and remain calm. At times she attempted to swim to shore, with her friend holding onto her shoulders. After a period of time, her friend kept hold of Miss Cortes as they both became tired.

The young women were pulled away from each other by the current. With her friend trying to conserve energy, Miss Cortes began to swim for help. Other members of the group were able to make their way closer to the shore and signal for help, catching the attention of Mr Sanderson.

Mr Sanderson entered the water and paddled on his surfboard to the first person, who was making their way to shore. He helped the young man onto the board and paddled him to knee deep water before paddling back into the rip. He then made his way to another member of the group and quickly delivered the second swimmer to safety.

Beginning to tire himself but realising that no other help was coming, Mr Sanderson returned to deeper water for a third time. He reached Miss Cortes, who insisted he continue towards her fast tiring friend. The girl was going under the water line as Mr Sanderson reached for her. He quickly pulled her onto the board and paddled towards shore.

At this time, another man entered the water and reached Miss Cortes. The pair continued to tread water until Mr Sanderson was able to again return to the deeper water. With Miss Cortes on his board, Mr Sanderson and the other man all returned safely to shore.

For their actions, Miss Cortes and Mr Sanderson are commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

The late Mr Teddy Jangala EGAN, Late of NT

On 16 August 1967, Mr Teddy Jangala Egan tracked and apprehended an armed offender near Harts Range, Northern Territory.

On the 5th of August 1967 a man fatally shot a person and on the following day, subsequently ambushed, shot and wounded two Northern Territory Police Officers.

Mr Egan, an Indigenous Police Tracker, formed part of the search party looking for the armed offender in the Harts Range area.

The extensive search was mainly carried out on foot; however, officers also used aircraft and horses to continually track the offender over the course of 14 days. The search parties travelled along creek beds, over rugged hills and through scrub looking for the offender.

Mr Egan, accompanied by police officers, utilised his tracking skills and followed the offender, his wife and their dog. During this time, Mr Egan began to follow the dog's footprints as the offender had disguised the human tracks. He located the offender, his wife and their dog in a remote area.

Despite being in the company of police officers, Mr Egan selflessly volunteered to approach the armed offender. He spoke to the threatening armed man in an Indigenous language, calmly persuading the offender to give up his weapon and surrender.

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

Mr Bryce ELLIS, Yamba NSW 2464

In the late afternoon of 4 March 2018, Mr Bryce Ellis rescued several people caught in a rip at Main Beach at Yamba, New South Wales.

Mr Ellis was walking along the northern end of Main Beach when he heard screaming and yelling coming from a group of swimmers in waist deep water. The group of four females and one male had been caught in a rip and were panicking in the water.

Mr Ellis ran back along the beach, entered the water, and swam through the strong rip to reach the swimmers. He quickly assessed the situation and grabbed hold of two of the distressed females, pulling them to the safety of the rocks. This process was made difficult as the panicked male had tried to hold onto Mr Ellis, dragging him underwater.

He then returned to the male and guided him towards the rocks before assisting the remaining two females, who had floating devices, to a safe area. He remained with the two females until they had recovered sufficiently to make their way to the beach.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Laurence Sebastian FLETCHER, QLD

On the morning of 12 October 2012, Mr Laurence Fletcher was involved in a fire burnover event at Black Cat Creek, Western Australia.

The Black Cat Creek fire ignited around 9.00am and the firefighting effort was concentrated in two sectors. A change in wind direction to the south-west caused the fire to escalate dramatically and burn over the top of a group of firefighters, who were parked in the bush for a briefing.

The fire intensified so quickly that two trucks were unable to escape, and were completely engulfed. A number of the firefighters sustained burns, two seriously.

Mr Fletcher was using a bulldozer to clear vegetation when the fire escalated. As the fire approached the area where he was working, a fire truck that was alight also made its way into the area.

Mr Fletcher, realising the gravity of the situation, quickly began to use the bulldozer to enlarge the clearing and to offer some protection for when the fire reached them.

Another bushfire truck, that was also alight, then arrived at the clearing Mr Fletcher had created. At this point the intense fire front reached the clearing and Mr Fletcher stayed inside the cab of the bulldozer. Once the intensity of the fire had diminished somewhat, crews from the bushfire vehicle returned to the fire ground to render further assistance and Mr Fletcher got out of the bulldozer to check that it wasn't damaged, in case it needed to be used again.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Gianfelice FONTE, Docklands VIC 3008

Mr Muhammad USMAN, Roxburgh Park VIC 3064

On the evening of 15 May 2016, Mr Gianfelice Fonte and Mr Muhammad Usman rescued a woman who has hanging from a balcony of a building in Southbank, Melbourne.

Mr Fonte had returned to his apartment after finishing work for the evening when he heard screams for help. As he went to investigate, he was joined by Mr Usman, a security guard, who had also heard the screams.

They both went to investigate and discovered that a woman was hanging off a balcony on the 22nd floor.

Acting quickly, Mr Fonte and Mr Usman attempted to gain access to the woman's apartment by kicking at the locked entry door. When this was unsuccessful, they sourced a fire extinguisher, which they used to create an opening in the plasterboard wall next to the entry door to the apartment.

Mr Usman climbed through this opening and unlocked the apartment door. He and Mr Fonte cautiously approached the woman who had her legs over the balcony ledge. Without concern for their own safety, Mr Fonte and Mr Usman hung their bodies over the balcony and were able to drag the woman back to safety.

For their actions, Mr Fonte and Mr Usman are commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Constable Jeremy David FORSTER, Western Australia Police Force
First Class Constable Kurt McKAIN, Western Australia Police Force

On the evening of 3 January 2016, Constables Jeremy Forster and Kurt McKain from Western Australia Police Force rescued a woman from Koombana Bay, Western Australia.

At about 9.00pm, Constables Forster and McKain attended a beach area of the Bunbury inner harbour, after a woman was reported missing when she failed to return from a swim.

On hearing the woman screaming and in a distressed state, the officers were able to locate her position in the water.

Constable McKain obtained a boogie board and began to swim towards the woman. Constable Forster also entered the water. By this time, the woman was approximately 250m from shore and had become unconscious and submerged.

On reaching the woman, Constable McKain quickly dove underwater and pulled her to the surface. The officers placed her on the boogie board and headed for the shore.

Constable Forster then immediately commenced resuscitation procedures on the unconscious woman until the paramedics arrived.

The woman was transferred to hospital and later released.

For their actions, Constables Forster and McKain are commended for brave conduct.

Mr Christopher Alan GANLEY, Wantirna VIC 3152

On the evening of 18 April 2016, Mr Christopher Ganley went to the assistance of people during an armed robbery at a pharmacy in Nunawading, Victoria.

Mr Ganley was at work in his business when he became aware of a commotion occurring in the pharmacy next door.

He immediately went to investigate and on entering the pharmacy he saw a man assaulting the pharmacist near the service counter.

The armed offender had initially entered the store holding an iron bar. He had approached the pharmacy assistant, grabbed her and made demands for drugs. He dragged her behind the dispensary counter to where the pharmacist was working.

Upon seeing the offender, the pharmacist began to head for the front door. The offender continued to make demands as he chased and grabbed her. He then dragged the pharmacist back inside by her clothing and hair towards the service counter.

Mr Ganley immediately approached the offender, who was continuing to threaten the staff with the iron bar. He tackled the offender onto the floor and held him until police arrived.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mrs Deslie Carol GREEN, Katherine NT 0850

In the early hours of 15 March 2016, Mrs Deslie Green went to the assistance of a woman during a domestic dispute in Katherine, Northern Territory.

Shortly after midnight, Mrs Green heard shouting and yelling coming from a property opposite her home. Mrs Green and her husband went to her front door and witnessed a physical altercation between a man and a woman.

Mrs Green's husband tried to calm the situation, while the woman relaying information to the police over the phone. Meanwhile, Mrs Green had come outside and saw the offender lunge towards the woman attempting to snatch the phone from her. Mrs Green took the phone and continued to relay information to the police.

The offender, now brandishing a knife, made repeated attempts to stab both the woman and Mrs Green's husband. A struggle ensued and the offender was immobilised. Mrs Green was handed the knife, ran inside her home and hid the knife before returning outside.

Mrs Green took the woman inside their home and provided assistance to her until Emergency Services arrived.

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

Mr Wayne Lesley HARRIS, Kuranda QLD 4881

On the afternoon of 1 February 1972, Mr Wayne Harris rescued a young boy from a burning house in Broken Hill, New South Wales.

Mr Harris, then aged 14 years, was at the family home in Broken Hill when he became aware that the house was on fire.

He immediately raced outside and placed a garden hose through the front window of the house in an effort to extinguish the flames, which were taking hold of the dwelling. At that point, he became aware that his younger brother was still inside.

He quickly entered through the front door and was forced to his hands and knees due to the thick smoke. He began to make his way towards the centre of the home from where he could hear someone crying. Following the sounds, he was able to locate his younger brother who was in a smoke filled room. Mr Harris picked up the boy and managed to throw him out of a nearby window to a waiting neighbour. He then was able to find his way back out of the house to safety.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Paul Francis JONES, Kambah ACT 2902

In the afternoon of 2 January 2013, Mr Paul Jones was involved in rescuing a man trapped in a burning car in Kambah, Australian Capital Territory.

At around 5:45pm, a stolen vehicle sped through a give way sign and crashed into another vehicle. The driver of the stolen vehicle abandoned the vehicle and ran away from the scene.

Grass had caught fire around the other vehicle and the driver, who had sustained leg injuries, was trapped inside. A witness to the accident had stopped his car and was attempting to free the trapped driver.

Mr Jones, who was walking on the other side of Sulwood Drive at the time of the accident, immediately crossed the road and despite the threat of the grass fire and leaking petrol, went to render assistance. He approached the driver's door and observed the man's head slumped down, with evidence of blood on his chest and arms.

Together with other motorists, Mr Jones attempted to free the man from the vehicle; however, the driver's door was jammed. Another person got into the back seat of the car and supported the head and neck of the trapped driver.

Meanwhile, as attempts were made by others to extinguish the fire, Mr Jones entered the car without hesitation and sat in the passenger seat. He continued to reassure the man until the fire brigade arrived and extinguished the flames and extracted the driver, who was conveyed to hospital in a critical condition.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr William John KELLY, WA

On the afternoon of 16 January 2017, Mr William Kelly went to the assistance of two women who were being attacked by a man in Western Australia.

William, then aged 12 years, was playing on the trampoline in the backyard of his home, while his mother and a friend were sitting on the home's front deck. His mother became aware of an unknown man in the front yard. She called out to the man telling him to leave, but he continued to stay in the yard.

William's mother then went into the garage where the man charged at her and began assaulting her. Ms Kelly's friend ran to her and attempted to pull the offender off, but the offender grabbed both women and began to drag them down the gravel driveway. He grabbed a rock and struck the woman, before continuing to assault Ms Kelly.

Concerned for the safety of his mother and her friend, William quickly jumped on the man to try and stop the attack. He then grabbed a small branch and struck the offender on the head. Diverted from the assault, the offender began chasing William around a car while shouting threats.

Using a mobile phone, William called police and stayed on the line for over 30 minutes, providing details of the offender and the assault. With the offender distracted, William's mother and her friend managed to make it to the safety of the house and William joined them a short while later.

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

Miss Daisy Elizabeth KIRCHNER, Esperance WA 6450 **Miss Sadie Barbara WHEELER, Esperance WA 6450**

On 31 January 2017, Miss Daisy Kirchner and Miss Sadie Wheeler rescued two people from a rip at West Beach at Esperance, Western Australia.

Miss Kirchner and Miss Wheeler, both aged 13 at the time, noticed two international tourists who were unable to swim caught in a rip at West Beach. The sea was rough and there was no one else on the beach at the time. The people caught in the rip were calling out in distress.

Without hesitation, Miss Kirchner ran to a friend's house and called the police, while Miss Wheeler stayed on the beach and observed the position of the pair in the water.

On her way back to the beach, Miss Kirchner obtained two boogie boards and on reaching Miss Wheeler, they directed the pair to make their way out of the rip.

Miss Kirchner and Miss Wheeler then quickly entered the water and made their way out to the distressed couple, before towing the exhausted pair to shore.

For their actions, Miss Kirchner and Miss Wheeler are commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Ethan LAVIN, Hawthorne QLD 4171

Mr Jake Orion SLATTERY, Fortitude Valley QLD 4006

In the early afternoon of 29 December 2016, Mr Ethan Lavin and Mr Jake Slattery went to the assistance of a woman who was being assaulted in an apartment in Brisbane, Queensland.

Mr Lavin was at home in his apartment in Upper Mount Gravatt when he heard a woman screaming for help. He went onto his balcony and witnessed a woman being pushed up against the flyscreen of a window in an opposite apartment. He immediately called for emergency services.

Mr Slattery also heard the woman's screams and went out onto his balcony, where he saw the woman being assaulted.

Messrs Lavin and Slattery quickly left their apartments and approached the apartment where the distressed woman was located. They began to bash and kick against the door. A man opened the door and Mr Lavin and Mr Slattery moved past him, climbing up stairs to the room where the woman was.

On entering, they saw the injured woman hunched over and holding her abdomen. She had sustained significant blood loss. Messrs Lavin and Slattery used a towel to try to stem the bleeding. At that point, Mr Slattery noticed the offender standing in the corner of the room and a long kitchen knife beside him on the floor. The men quickly ushered the injured woman out of the room and closed the door.

They helped the woman out of the apartment and to the main front entrance. Police and ambulance officers arrived on the scene to treat the injured woman and apprehend the offender.

For their actions, Mr Lavin and Mr Slattery are commended for brave conduct.

Dr Craig Steven LAWRENCE, Churchlands WA 6018

In the evening of 14 June 2017, Dr Craig Lawrence rescued a woman from a burning vehicle near Pemberton, Western Australia.

Dr Lawrence was driving along the Forrest Highway when he noticed that a car had left the road. The driver of the car had swerved to avoid a kangaroo and had lost control, hitting a tree. Flames were already beginning to come from under the bonnet of the damaged vehicle.

He quickly pulled over and went to the car. When he shone his torch in the driver's side window, he could see a young woman slumped over the steering wheel. Realising the woman was trapped, and despite the flames and warnings from onlookers, Dr Lawrence managed to pull the woman from the car and move her away from the burning vehicle.

He then returned to his own car to obtain a first aid kit and treated the woman's injuries until emergency services arrived.

For his actions, Dr Lawrence is commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Ian Alan McCALLUM, Darlington WA 6070
Mr Mark David McDERMOTT, Beeliam WA 6164

In the early hours of 2 April 2004, Mr Ian McCallum and Mr Mark McDermott (then a Senior Constable with Western Australia Police Force), were involved in the rescue of a woman from Hancock Gorge in Karijini National Park, Western Australia.

In darkness and light rain, an injured female tourist was being readied as part of a twelve-hour winch rescue from the Plunge Pool at Hancock Gorge.

The woman was strapped into a rescue stretcher which was floating on inflatable tyres, waiting to be attached to ropes that were near the entry of the waterfall from Kermit's Pool above. Mr McCallum, Mr McDermott and one other were supporting the stretcher as another person was preparing ropes nearby. Suddenly, rescuers above yelled that flash flooding waters were rushing down the gorge. The water shot over the edge of the waterfall into the Plunge Pool, making it hard to hang onto the stretcher.

As the water level rose dramatically in seconds, Mr McCallum, Mr McDermott and one other rescuer attempted to hang onto the stretcher as they were swept by the force of the water over the pool ledge and further down the gorge.

Mr McCallum and Mr McDermott were swept towards a ledge before a drop into a pool below. The woman in the stretcher and another rescuer were carried over the ledge and into the pool below.

As daylight approached, Mr McDermott heard the rescuer below calling out and he and the other man moved downstream to where the woman was in the stretcher.

Sometime later, SES volunteers arrived and were able to get the rescuers and the woman in the stretcher to medical attention.

For their actions, Mr McCallum and Mr McDermott are commended for brave conduct.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Lieutenant Anthony Robert MARTIN, ACT

On the afternoon of 7 October 1984, Lieutenant Anthony Martin (then Able Seanman) rescued a young boy who had fallen over Gibraltar Falls, Australian Capital Territory.

Lieutenant Martin was picnicking with family and friends at Gibraltar Falls near Canberra when he witnessed a five year old boy topple over the edge of the falls, tumbling down 8 metres.

The boy was lying face down in a pool of water about 50 metres from the base of the falls. He was motionless and fast flowing water was pouring onto him, putting in danger of being washed over the falls.

Lieutenant Martin quickly scaled a safety fence and approached the boy, grabbing him by the foot and dragging him out of the water. The boy wasn't breathing so Lieutenant Martin slapped him on the back, causing him to cough and begin to cry.

He then picked the boy up and carried him back towards the safety of the viewing platform, where he was assisted by another person to carry out first aid procedures. The young boy was then taken to hospital for treatment.

For his actions, Lieutenant Martin is commended for brave conduct.

Phone Nos: Not available

Miss Samantha Jane RUSSELL, Dalyellup WA 6230

On the morning of 8 July 2015, Miss Samantha Russell went to the assistance of two people caught in a rip at Dalyellup Beach near Bunbury, Western Australia.

Miss Russell, then 15 years of age, was collecting sand samples for a school project at Dalyellup Beach when she heard cries for help coming from a woman and a 10 year old boy. The pair were caught in a rip and being dragged out by the rough seas.

Without hesitation, she entered the water, swam out about 15 metres and managed to pull the woman to the side of the rip. She then swam back to get the boy, who she placed on her shoulders.

Miss Russell made her way back to the woman, who held onto her arm, and together they were able to swim to the safety of the shore.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr John Francis SAWTELL, Findon Creek NSW 2474

In the evening of 18 May 2018, Mr John Sawtell went to the assistance of a man following a motor vehicle accident at Wiangaree, New South Wales.

Mr Sawtell was travelling along Summerland Way near Wiangaree when he came upon a motorhome that had left the road, driven down into a hollow and had come to rest on railway tracks.

He immediately stopped his vehicle and approached the motorhome. He noticed an older male driver had already self-evacuated and was trying to open the vehicle's side door to find his dog.

At this time, Mr Sawtell heard a train approaching the scene. He urged the driver to immediately leave but despite his pleas, the driver refused. Mr Sawtell forcefully explained the impending arrival of the train, as its head lights could be seen and the whistle heard. They both began to move away from the vehicle and the oncoming train.

Moments later, the train, travelling at 70km/h and unable to stop in time, collided forcefully with the motorhome, sending debris into the air and dragging parts of the vehicle some 150 metres before being able to come to a complete stop.

In the urgency of the situation, Mr Sawtell had become separated from the driver so he rushed back to his vehicle in order to shine his lights on the debris field in search of the man. He managed to locate the driver and remained with him until emergency services arrived.

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

Mr Patrick SERGENT, Villeneuve-Loubet, France

On the evening of 14 July 2016, Mr Patrick Sergent went to the assistance of a young Australian who had been injured during the Bastille Day attack in Nice, France.

Mr Sergent was enjoying Bastille Day celebration events in Nice, when a cargo truck was intentionally driven through the assembled crowds. 86 people were killed and 458 injured.

The truck missed Mr Sergent; however, in spite of the on-going threat and ensuing chaos, he remained in the immediate area and went to the assistance of survivors. He noticed a severely injured young Australian woman lying on the asphalt. He approached her and shielded her view of the devastating scene with his body.

Despite police gunfire occurring only 70m away, Mr Sergent stayed with the young woman. She clung to his hand tightly as he provided comfort and support to her until paramedics arrived and transported her to the local hospital.

Mr Sergent then went to the hospital and located the young woman. He again stayed with her to provide comfort and reassurance, and continued to visit her daily until her family could travel from Australia to be with her.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr William James SLATTERIE, Cobram VIC 3644

In the afternoon of 18 January 2018, Mr William Slatterie rescued four people from the water at Thompson's Beach near Cobram, Victoria.

Mr Slatterie, aged 13 years at the time, was swimming at Thompson's Beach riverbank with a group of younger friends. Suddenly they heard faint screams coming from a woman and three children, who had gotten into difficulties in the water. None of them were able to swim and the conditions in the river were dangerous, with a strong current pushing swimmers away from the beach area.

Mr Slatterie immediately went to their assistance. He grabbed one of the boys and swam him to shallower water, before handing him to two of his friends. He then re-entered the water, reached the second boy and swam him back to the same spot.

By this stage, the woman and little girl were further out in the river and beginning to panic. The woman had the girl on her shoulders and they were being dunked up and down in the river due to the fast flowing current.

Mr Slatterie entered the water again and determinedly made his way to the woman and girl. He grabbed the woman by the arm and managed to drag her and the little girl to the safety of the river bank.

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

Miss Cayla Alexis SWEENEY, Runaway Bay QLD 4216

On the afternoon of 12 January 2018, Miss Cayla Sweeney rescued a man after an incident on a canal on the Gold Coast, Queensland.

Miss Sweeney, who was 12 years old at the time, was kayaking with her father and brother on a canal near Lae Drive on the Gold Coast. Unexpectedly her father suffered a seizure, fell from his kayak, and began to sink underwater.

Without hesitation, Miss Sweeney dived into the canal and managed to grab hold of her father and pull him to the surface. She immediately rolled him onto his back and cleared his airway.

At the same time, she was able to calm her younger brother and then raised the alarm for help. A short time later, emergency services arrived and Mr Sweeney was transported to the hospital.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Benjamin Michael SWIFT, NSW

Just after noon on 19 December 2010, Mr Benjamin Swift extinguished flames threatening an occupied vehicle at a petrol station in New Lambton, New South Wales.

Mr Swift was waiting in a friend's car at a petrol station when he heard people yelling, running frantically and screaming 'fire' as they pointed towards a vehicle at a nearby petrol bowser.

He then noticed a large amount of black smoke coming from the vehicle, which the owner of the car was refuelling. The man dropped the handle of the fuel hose, raced towards the service station's watering can and began splashing water onto the ground.

Mr Swift immediately exited his vehicle and ran towards the nearest fire extinguisher. He activated the extinguisher and ran to the rear of the burning vehicle. Realising that the car was well alight from the underside, he lay down on the station's forecourt and began spraying the extinguisher onto the fire before it could take hold.

Becoming aware that there were three young children in the car, he directed the vehicle's owner to unstrap the two babies from their booster capsules and remove them. The mother of the children then grabbed the third child from the backseat and they all moved to a safe place.

Mr Swift continued to extinguish the flames and then encouraged bystanders to assist him to push the vehicle away from other petrol bowsers. Emergency services arrived and took control of the scene.

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

Master Leithan Arthur TILL, Fitzroy Crossing WA 6765

On 16 February 2018, Master Leithan Till rescued a young boy from a fast flowing river near Fitzroy Crossing, Western Australia.

Master Till, who was nine years old at the time, was swimming in a river in remote Western Australia while a group of family members were on the riverbank about 50 metres away.

His six year old cousin was in a tree above the water when he suddenly fell into a fast flowing section of the river, which then began to sweep him downstream.

Realising that other family members were too far away to help, Master Till immediately jumped into the water. He was able to grab hold of the young boy and pull him out of the water to safety.

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

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Dr Paolo Vincenzo TODARO, WA

On the morning of 9 October 2017, Dr Paolo Todaro went to the assistance of a woman in a hospital car park in Murdoch, Western Australia.

Just before 7am, Dr Todaro arrived at his workplace at Fiona Stanley Hospital. On exiting his vehicle in the car park, he witnessed a colleague being verbally abused by an aggressive man, who was also pounding on the woman's vehicle. As he approached, the offender temporarily moved away.

Dr Todaro went to check on the visibly upset and distressed woman. He proceeded to call for assistance before moving around the carpark in an attempt to find the offender's vehicle.

The violent man returned to the area and continued his threatening verbal assault on the woman and began to approach her car. Dr Todaro intervened in an attempt to calm the man. Without warning the man punched Dr Todaro a number of times in the side of his head. As he was carrying items, he was unable to protect himself.

The offender then left the scene and was later arrested and charged. Dr Todaro sustained multiple facial fractures that required major surgery.

For his actions, Dr Todaro is commended for brave conduct.