

GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

Sergeant Duncan Robert ABERNETHY BM, NSW Police Force
Detective Senior Constable Stephen Wayne DODD, NSW Police Force
Detective Chief Inspector Robert Andrew DUNCAN, NSW Police Force
Sergeant Mark Haddon JOHNSTON, NSW Police Force
Dr Sandy NADAZDY, NSW

In the early morning of 19 February 2001, five members of New South Wales police restrained an armed man in Greenacre, New South Wales.

At 3:00am, three police officers attended a home unit in Greenacre in relation to a situation involving a man who was behaving in an aggressive manner and making nuisance 000 emergency calls.

On arrival, the officers observed the offender outside the house armed with a pair of scissors and a long screwdriver. After verbally threatening and then attempting to slash and stab the officers, the offender threw his weapons towards them and moved inside the house.

Soon after, the offender reappeared brandishing a garden tool and continued his threatening behaviour. Officers placed themselves between the offender and paramedics as he advanced towards them. The offender ignored requests from the officers and re-entered the house.

At this point, another officer arrived and together, with two officers already on scene, they moved to the front door of the premises. They heard the offender loading a gun so moved to find cover.

The offender reappeared, continued to yell verbal threats and continued to load the pistol which he was holding. After a short time, the offender returned inside the premises.

Two other officers then arrived on scene. The offender came outside and continued to threaten and taunt the officers. Believing the offender was still armed, three of the officers ran from their place of safety towards the offender and tackled him to the ground.

Two other officers quickly went to the assistance of their colleagues to disarm and restrain the offender.

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

GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

Mr David AFELE, NSW

Senior Constable Wayne Gregory BOLITHO, NSW Police Force

Senior Constable Michael Darren HARTAS, NSW Police Force

Mr Garry David McKEAHNIE, Cooma NSW 2630

Mr Daniel MARSDEN, NSW

Mr Kevin John MARTIN, Cooma NSW 2630

Mr Paul THOMPSON, Cooma NSW 2630

In the early hours of 2 August 2010, two State Emergency Service volunteers, three New South Wales Police Officers and two New South Wales paramedics went to the rescue of two people trapped in a blizzard in Kosciuszko National Park, New South Wales.

At about 1am, the team of seven members was tasked with searching for two cross country skiers who were in difficulties in a blizzard near Blue Lake. The skiers, who were experienced, had managed to use a mobile phone to make an emergency call to police. Nearly a metre of snow had fallen in the previous 36 hours and wind gusts at the time were over 100kph.

The rescue team set out to search for the skiers in an over-snow ambulance, making their way to the western side of the Snowy River. While two members of the team stayed with the vehicle, the other five members set out on foot in very difficult weather conditions. Temperatures at this stage were -10 degrees Celsius.

After searching in the dark for a lengthy period of time, the missing skiers were located partially buried in the snow. They were suffering hypothermia and the team quickly helped the skiers down a steep slope to the safety of the rescue vehicle, which was then navigated through the deteriorating blizzard conditions, reaching Charlotte Pass over four hours later.

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

GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

Senior Constable Luke Philip ANDREW, QLD Police Service
Constable Michael Laurie CRAWFORD, QLD Police Service
Senior Constable Jason Mark McINNES, QLD Police Service
Sergeant Troy Kieron McLACHLAN, QLD Police Service

In the early hours of 31 March 2017, two members of the Queensland Police Force and two members of Queensland Water Police rescued several people from flood waters in Tallebudgera, Queensland.

At about 1:30am, two police officers performing patrols during the Cyclone Debbie weather event on Guineas Creek Road in Tallebudgera observed lights bobbing in the flood waters. They exited their vehicle and discovered a small aluminium boat stranded in the fast flowing water. The boat, with an inoperable outboard motor, contained four adults, a young child, a baby and four dogs.

Two officers from Water Police arrived at the scene and a local resident was able to provide life jackets and rope and tools. Two of the officers entered the fast flowing, chest deep water and made their way to the boat. They encountered a locked gate and barbed wire fence that had to be cut through in order to reach the boat.

The distressed children were passed from the boat to the officers, who then handed them over to the other two officers. These officers assisted the children to the police vehicle.

Shortly after Swift Water Rescue personnel arrived and together with the four police officers, worked to remove the remaining adults and four dogs to safety.

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

GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

Mr Benjamin Jeremiah CLUNE, WA
Mr David Allan GEQWIN, WA
Mr Damien Lyle GILBERT, Bluff Point WA 6530
Mr William Patrick GILLESPIE HARP, WA
Mr Matthew Jay MERRITT, Geraldton WA 6530
Mr Jay Matthew O'SULLIVAN, Geraldton WA 6530
Mr David John PARKIN, Geraldton WA 6530
Ms Jessica Claire VARNEY, Waggrakine WA 6530
Mr Justin Leigh WILSON, Wonthella WA 6530
Mr Christopher WORTHINGTON, Beresford WA 6530

On the afternoon of 4 May 2016, three school teachers and seven members of the Geraldton Fire and Rescue Service were involved in the rescue of a young student caught in rocks in Champion Bay, Western Australia.

Three teachers from Geraldton Senior College were undertaking an outdoor education excursion with students from the college when one of the students, who was body boarding in the water, was swept against the rock wall trapping his arm below the water line.

The tide was coming in, the swell was rising and waves were crashing down on the student, who was struggling to breathe.

One teacher provided direction from the shore while the other two teachers entered the water and made their way to the student. One teacher acted as a buffer from the incoming waves and held the student's head above water, while the other teacher repeatedly dove under the water and attempted to move the large rocks that were trapping the student's arm.

After receiving an emergency call, seven members of the Geraldton Fire and Rescue Service rushed to the scene. They entered the water and placed a breathing apparatus on the student. The team were constantly battered onto the rocks and into the water.

A crow bar was sourced and the team were able to lever the rock up and free the student's arm. He was then transported to hospital.

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

GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

Mr Jack Michael COX, WA
Mr Jesse LIDDON, South Fremantle WA 6162
Mr Sam LIDDON, WA

On the afternoon of 29 April 2017, three crew members of a fishing boat went to the assistance of five people from an upturned vessel near the Abrolhos Islands off the coast of Western Australia.

A small fishing boat was approximately 30 nautical miles from the mainland when it encountered a series of king waves. When the first wave hit the vessel, it began to take on water and the impact knocked one of the people on-board unconscious. When the fourth wave hit, the vessel was overturned throwing the divers into the water.

After almost two hours in the dangerous water conditions, the divers managed to attract the attention of a cray fishing boat. This second boat had also suffered significant damage from the king waves and was continuing to battle five metre waves.

Without hesitation, and despite the dangerous conditions, the skipper of the boat managed to navigate his vessel through the massive swell and after 30 minutes, was able to reach the injured divers in the water.

On reaching the divers, two crew members carefully lifted the two most seriously injured divers onto the vessel and the three other divers were then pulled aboard.

The cray vessel returned the men to the safety of a large boat and the unconscious diver was subsequently airlifted to a mainland hospital.

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

GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

The following recipient is added to the Group Bravery Citation gazetted on 29 March 2018.

Mr Timothy J B HINE, Woolloomooloo NSW 2011

On the afternoon of 7 October 2015, three people went to the assistance of a woman being attacked in Woolloomooloo, New South Wales.

A woman was standing behind a reception desk at a business in Woolloomooloo when a man entered the office and approached her. He was armed with a 13cm serrated kitchen knife.

The armed offender walked around the desk, kicked chairs towards the woman and proceeded to make stabbing motions close to her face. The woman raised her hands in a non-threatening manner and told the offender to calm down.

The man then placed the woman in a headlock hold from behind and proceeded to wound her on the cheek, before trying to cut her across the throat. She was able to fight and resist the attacker by placing her hand over the blade and pushing the knife away, causing severe lacerations to her hand.

At this point, three people inside the office came to the woman's aid. One grabbed the offender and with the assistance of a second person, managed to remove the knife and subdue the man until emergency services arrived. The third person quickly got hold of the woman and pulled her away from the offender.

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

GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

Mr Christopher Ian JOHNS ESM, Collingwood Heights WA 6330
Mr Jason Troy SHEPHERD, Lower King WA 6330
Mr Timothy Robert WILKINSON, McKail WA 6330

On the night of 29 October 2015, three members of the Albany Volunteer Marine Rescue were involved in the rescue of a woman who had jumped into the water near the Blowholes, near Albany, Western Australia.

At about 8pm, the Albany Sea Rescue members were deployed at the request of Western Australia Police to search for a person who had been reported missing and believed to have jumped into the water.

Weather conditions were challenging with strong easterly winds, rough seas and almost complete darkness as they made the 45 minute trip to the area.

They managed to locate the woman and the rescue vessel was carefully manoeuvred alongside her. All three crew members lifted the seriously injured woman onto the boat and immediately performed first aid treatment.

Despite significant injuries and hypothermia, the woman quickly became highly agitated and became physical and determined in her refusal of treatment.

As the situation became more complicated and time critical, the crew battled the difficult conditions to return the injured woman to shore.

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

GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

The following recipient is added to the Group Bravery Citation gazetted on 13 September 2017.

Ms Melisa KEESING, St Clair NSW 2759

In the late evening of 12 January 2016, members of New South Wales Police, hospital security guards, a hospital employee and paramedics responded to an armed hostage situation at a hospital in Penrith, New South Wales.

A police officer went to the emergency department of the hospital to investigate an armed disturbance. On arrival, he saw a male offender holding a female around the neck, with a pair of surgical scissors pressed against her throat. The officer approached the agitated man and began negotiations. The offender became increasingly aggressive as hospital security guards and other police officers arrived on the scene.

Oleoresin capsicum spray was deployed towards the offender and officers rushed to subdue him. During the struggle, the offender removed one of the police officers' firearms and fired a round, which hit another officer.

A security guard, with the help of a hospital employee, was then able to grab the female hostage and pull her away from the scene before dragging the wounded police officer away. The security guard and two paramedics commenced first aid procedures. Another security guard stepped forward and held onto the armed offender.

As the offender was being subdued, he fired the weapon a second time. While he continued to resist restraining efforts, three other police officers arrived and assisted in removing the firearm and containing him.

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

GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

The following recipient is added to the Group Bravery Citation gazetted on 18 August 2014.

Dr Dominic Paul MORGAN ASM, Rozelle NSW 2039

On the night of 25 April 2006, several people worked as a low-intensity explosive mine rescue team during the Beaconsfield mine rescue, Tasmania.

On the night of 25 April 2006, a substantial rock fall incident occurred underground at the Beaconsfield Gold Mine where seventeen miners were working. Three of the miners were unaccounted for. Within 24 hours, rescuers were able to make contact with two men who were trapped almost a kilometre below the surface. Several paramedics volunteered to support the mine rescue efforts of the trapped miners. When it was confirmed one miner was deceased but two remained alive the paramedics worked shifts in teams of two for eight days at levels of up to 925 metres underground. They focussed on the psychological wellbeing, health, and safety of the two trapped miners. The paramedics also managed the expectations of the rescue team during an intense and complex situation until the miners were rescued on 9 May 2006.

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