Mr Mustafa Ruhi AKKAN, Sydney NSW 2000

In the early hours of 3 October 2013, Mr Mustafa Akkan assisted in the apprehension of a man who had violently stabbed three backpackers at a hostel in Pitt Street, Sydney.

The offender, a resident of a hotel located in Pitt Street Sydney, went to the next door backpackers hostel and violently stabbed three tourists, two men and a woman, on the front entrance steps. After the two male victims retreated inside the hostel, the offender menacingly stood over the injured woman. A man walking home witnessed the attack and immediately yelled at, and punched the offender on the side of the head. After fending off the attacker the man managed to keep him away from the injured woman who took refuge inside the hostel. The offender then began to run along the street and when he ran past Mr Akkan, who had also witnessed the assaults, he attacked him. Without thought for his own safety, Mr Akkan tackled the offender to the ground and overpowered him. Mr Akkan and the other man then restrained the offender and called 000 before the police attended the scene.

By his actions, Mr Akkan displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Murray Charles BARNEWALL, Port Campbell Vic 3269

On the afternoon of 19 April 2014, Mr Murray Barnewall rescued a young girl who was swept out to sea at Port Campbell in Victoria.

A family was visiting the Port Campbell pier when a huge wave crashed over the upper deck, causing a ten year old girl to fall into the sea. The girl was swept under the pier and then about thirty metres out to sea. Mr Barnewall was walking near the jetty and saw the girl fall into the rough churning water. Despite being fully clothed, he immediately dived into the water and was swept under the pier to the girl where he supported her to stay afloat. He held her and rode the swell back underneath the pier before they were swept out again. As he continued to support the girl, they again rode the swell back under the pier towards the rocks where he managed to push her onto the rock shelf while her father helped her to safety. Despite being exhausted, Mr Barnewall managed to cling onto the rocks and exit the water.

By his actions, Mr Barnewall displayed considerable bravery.

Senior Constable Benjamin Douglas BJARNESEN, Queensland Police

On the afternoon of 28 October 2012, Senior Constable Benjamin Bjarnesen, together with two colleagues, and a security officer, entered a block of burning timber home units on Arthur Street in Roma, Queensland to search for a man.

When Senior Constable Bjarnesen and his colleagues arrived at the units, a security officer informed them that a person possibly remained inside one of the burning units. Despite observing that the unit where the man was allegedly located was well affected by fire and smoke, Senior Constable Bjarnesen led his two colleagues and the security guard into the burning residence to conduct a search for the occupant. When Senior Constable Bjarnesen made his way through the front room towards a second room he saw that the fire had engulfed most of the furniture, forcing him and the others to retreat due to the smoke. When a voice was heard from the rear of the units, his colleagues followed the sound and located the resident who, along with other residents, was then moved to a safe area. Meanwhile Senior Constable Bjarnesen re-entered the burning unit to continue the search, only leaving when he was alerted that the residents were safe.

By his actions, Senior Constable Bjarnesen displayed considerable bravery.

Ms Elissa Marie CLARKE, Adelaide SA 5000

On the afternoon of 5 November 2014, Ms Elissa Clarke attempted to stop a man from assaulting a woman in Adelaide.

Ms Clarke was travelling to the centre of Adelaide on a bus when a man and a woman boarded and began to yell at each other. After the man shoved the woman several times, and continued to abuse her, Ms Clarke intervened and suggested the woman sit next to her. The man then punched and struck Ms Clarke's forearm. When the bus stopped, Ms Clarke exited the bus after she saw that the woman had alighted and was being followed by the offender. When the offender hit the woman, Ms Clarke stood between them and was hit as she defended herself. The woman ran to a nearby hotel, however the offender caught up with her and the assault continued. Ms Clarke again attempted to stop the attack. Meanwhile a man inside the hotel witnessed the assault and immediately went to assist. The man managed to grab hold of the offender and move him away from Ms Clarke and the assaulted woman and watched him until police arrived.

By her actions, Ms Clarke displayed considerable bravery.

Assistant Commissioner Michael James CONDON APM, Queensland Police

In the early afternoon of 2 November 1998, Assistant Commissioner (then Detective Senior Sergeant) Michael Condon rendered safe a suspected explosive device from an offender at Logan in Queensland.

A man, who appeared to be affected by alcohol, entered the Logan Central Police Station regarding a personal matter. When police checked their records they found he was wanted under warrant. As an officer approached the man about the matter he became extremely agitated, pulled a home-made explosive device from his briefcase, and threatened to 'take out' as many as he could. Other police officers immediately lunged at the offender and a struggle ensued. As the officers wrestled with the offender, one managed to grab hold of the device with both hands, pulled it away, and ran with it to a nearby park. Detective Senior Constable Condon and members of the Bomb Squad soon arrived and the officer holding the device was fitted with protective body armour and kept hold of the device until Detective Senior Constable Condon examined the device and established that it would not detonate.

By his actions, Assistant Commissioner Condon displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Ashley Ryan COSTER, Cloverlea Vic 3822

On the afternoon of 27 November 2013, Mr Ashley Coster went to the rescue of his father who was overcome by fumes in a cattle feed tank on a farm in Cloverlea, Victoria.

Mr Coster's father was attempting to empty a tank of cattle feed when he was overcome by toxic ammonia fumes, causing him to become unconscious and slip into the syrup mixture. Realising that their father was in trouble, Mr Coster and his brother immediately climbed into the feed tank to rescue him. Both were overcome by fumes and became unconscious, slipping into the syrup mixture. A farm employee witnessed the event and, after alerting other people on the property, also climbed into the tank to assist, however became unconscious from the fumes. Other members of the farmer's family called 000 and two family members located an angle grinder and cut an opening in the side of the plastic tank. Police officers arrived at the scene and entered the tank through the newly cut opening. Both were forced back due to the fumes. However, eventually the police officers, with the assistance of family members, were able to move the victims outside to safety.

By his actions, Mr Coster displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Timothy Shaun COSTER, Cloverlea Vic 3822

On the afternoon of 27 November 2013, Mr Timothy Coster went to the rescue of his father who was overcome by fumes in a cattle feed tank on a farm in Cloverlea, Victoria.

Mr Coster's father was attempting to empty a tank of cattle feed when he was overcome by toxic ammonia fumes, causing him to become unconscious and slip into the syrup mixture. Realising that their father was in trouble, Mr Coster and his brother immediately climbed into the feed tank to rescue him. Both were overcome by fumes and became unconscious, slipping into the syrup mixture. A farm employee witnessed the event and, after alerting other people on the property, also climbed into the tank to assist, however became unconscious from the fumes. Other members of the farmer's family called 000 and two family members located an angle grinder and cut an opening in the side of the plastic tank. Police officers arrived at the scene and entered the tank through the newly cut opening. Both were forced back due to the fumes. However, eventually the police officers, with the assistance of family members, were able to move the victims outside to safety.

By his actions, Mr Coster displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Jackson Douglas HILLIER, 3/29 Broadway, Bonbeach Vic 3196

On the evening of 8 February 2014, Mr Jackson Hillier assisted in the rescue of a woman at Frankston Beach in Victoria.

Mr Hillier, (then aged 15 years), arrived at Frankston Beach for a late night swim when he was alerted by several bystanders that a woman was struggling in the surf. Mr Hillier dived into the water and swam out about 250 metres to the woman. He was joined by another bystander who had swum out to assist. Mr Hillier and the other man managed to take hold of the woman and keep her afloat and conscious for almost an hour as they drifted in the sea. After arriving at the scene, a police officer swam out to reach Mr Hillier, the woman, and the other rescuer and helped them to swim back to shore. The woman, who had remained uncooperative during the ordeal, ingested sea water and lost consciousness. The police officer managed to revive her. By this stage Mr Hillier and the other man were weak from exhaustion and were directed by the police officer to swim to shore. The police officer continued to help the woman onto the beach where ambulance officers were waiting.

By his actions, Mr Hillier displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Soichi KAWABATA, Victoria

In the late evening of 16 December 2012, Mr Soichi Kawabata assisted in the rescue of a man from a burning vehicle following a single-car collision on Malvern Road in Toorak.

Mr Kawabata was waiting at traffic lights when he saw a car flash through the intersection before he heard a loud crash. He proceeded around the corner and saw that the vehicle had ploughed through a wooden fence and power pole before ramming into a brick fence, and was on fire. The vehicle had brought down the overhead power lines, which were arcing on the road nearby. Without regard for his own safety, Mr Kawabata ran to the burning vehicle and tried to open the driver's door to get to the driver. He was then joined by two other people and the three men tried to open the car's doors. Mr Kawabata grabbed hold of a fence paling and attempted to break open a window while another man managed to smash the front passenger window. Assisted by the other man, Mr Kawabata was able to grab the driver and pull him out and away to safety from the vehicle which was engulfed in flames.

By his actions, Mr Kawabata displayed considerable bravery.

Senior Sergeant Peter Gerhard LIEBIG, Queensland Police

In the early afternoon of 2 November 1998, Senior Sergeant (then Sergeant) Peter Liebig assisted in the removal of a suspected explosive device from an offender at Logan in Queensland.

A man, who appeared to be affected by alcohol, entered the Logan Central Police Station regarding a personal matter. When police checked their records they found he was wanted under warrant. As an officer approached the man about the matter he became extremely agitated, pulled a home-made explosive device from his briefcase, and threatened to 'take out' as many as he could. Sergeant Liebig and other officers immediately lunged at the offender and a struggle ensued. An officer, who had managed to wrest the device from the offender, ran with it to a nearby park. When Bomb Squad experts arrived, the officer holding the device was fitted with protective body armour and kept hold of the device until it was established that it would not detonate.

By his actions, Senior Sergeant Liebig displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Brendan LYS, Queensland

On 12 December 1997, Mr (former Constable) Brendan Lys was involved in the arrest of an armed offender at Rocklea in Queensland.

During a multi-jurisdiction police operation, three high profile criminals were detained as they committed an armed robbery at a business in Rocklea. Meanwhile a plain clothes police officer saw a fourth offender, who was armed with a revolver, escape through the rear of the building. He drove towards the man, ordering him to stop. The offender then ran towards the officer and fired several shots at him from close range. The officer immediately returned fire over the roof of his vehicle and, during the volley of shots, was hit and knocked to the ground. Despite his injury he managed to indicate the offender's escape route to a police colleague who had arrived to assist. When Constable Lys arrived on the scene he drew his firearm and advanced towards the offender. He identified himself and called on the man to surrender. The offender then surrendered and several officers moved forward and arrested him.

By his actions, Mr Lys displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Jai McKNEIL, 4 Wilga Street, Gladstone, Qld 4680

In the early hours of 1 September 2013, Mr Jai McKneil rescued a man from a burning unit in Gladstone, Queensland.

Mr McKneil was at his residence at a unit complex in Gladstone when he was woken by screams coming from a neighbour's unit and he got up to investigate. When he heard the sound of glass breaking and observed smoke billowing out of a bedroom window, he yelled to the complex manager to call the Fire Brigade. Mr McKneil opened the front door of the unit and went to the bedroom where he saw that the room was engulfed by fire. Mr McKneil, unable to reach the man inside, stayed at the door, calling the man to follow his voice. The injured man crawled towards Mr McKneil who led him outside and to safety. Mr McKneil then located extinguishers and assisted to suppress the fire until the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service arrived and extinguished the blaze.

By his actions, Mr McKneil displayed considerable bravery.

Senior Sergeant Sean Christopher MASKELL, Queensland Police

On 12 December 1997, Senior Sergeant (then Senior Constable) Sean Maskell was involved in the pursuit of an armed offender at Rocklea in Queensland.

During a multi-jurisdiction police operation, three high profile criminals were detained as they committed an armed robbery at a business in Rocklea. Meanwhile, Senior Constable Maskell was outside the business when he saw a fourth offender, who was armed with a revolver, escape through the rear of the building. He drove towards the man, ordering him to stop. The offender then ran towards the officer and fired several shots at him from close range. Senior Constable Maskell immediately returned fire over the roof of his vehicle at the offender and, during the volley of shots, was hit and knocked to the ground. Despite his injury he managed to indicate the offender's escape route to a colleague who had arrived to assist. Another officer arrived, drew his firearm and, after identifying himself, called on the man to surrender. The offender then surrendered and several officers moved forward and arrested him.

By his actions, Senior Sergeant Maskell displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Ryan Alexander NALLY, Queensland

On the afternoon of 9 March 2013, Mr Ryan Nally apprehended a man armed with a rifle in Wooloowin, Queensland.

Mr Nally and his brother were completing some maintenance at a house in Wooloowin when a man exited a house across the street carrying a bolt action rifle. When Mr Nally saw the man approaching him, he told his brother to retreat into the house. As the man neared Mr Nally and pointed the rifle at him, he threatened that he was going to take 'pot shots' at families and children playing in nearby Mercer Park. When the man pointed the rifle towards the park, Mr Nally walked up to him, grabbed hold of the rifle barrel and pulled it towards the ground. A struggle ensued, the man fell to the ground, and despite the weapon pointing directly at him, Mr Nally managed to pull the rifle away. He then restrained the man and called for assistance. A group of people came from the park and detained the man while Mr Nally made safe the rifle and secured it until police arrived.

By his actions, Mr Nally displayed considerable bravery.

Senior Constable Nigel Ross O'KEEFE, Queensland Police

In the early hours of 14 December 2013, Senior Constable (then Constable) Nigel O'Keefe assisted in the apprehension of a man who had stabbed a police officer in Townsville, Queensland.

Constable O'Keefe, accompanied by three police officers, was conducting inspections within a licensed establishment during the conduct of police operations pertaining to the Townsville Drink Safe Precinct. As the officers left the venue down a narrow staircase a patron suddenly stabbed the last officer before leaving the knife in the officer's neck. The offender then held another knife against the officer's throat. The wounded officer managed to push the knife away and call out to his colleagues. Constable O'Keefe and the two other police officers immediately moved towards the offender and one of the officers managed to separate him from their wounded colleague. A struggle then ensued. Constable O'Keefe drew his firearm and ordered the offender to desist and, as the struggle continued, the offender refused his commands to drop his knife and attempted to stab the police officer he was struggling with. Constable O'Keefe then drew his taser and used it on the offender who dropped the knife and was arrested.

By his actions, Senior Constable O'Keefe displayed considerable bravery.

Senior Sergeant Michael James PEARSON APM, Queensland Police

In the early afternoon of 2 November 1998, Senior Sergeant Michael Pearson assisted in the removal of a suspected explosive device from an offender at Logan in Queensland.

A man, who appeared to be affected by alcohol, entered the Logan Central Police Station regarding a personal matter. When police checked their records they found he was wanted under warrant. As Senior Sergeant Pearson approached the man about the matter he became extremely agitated, pulled a home-made explosive device from his briefcase, and threatened to 'take out' as many as he could. Senior Sergeant Pearson and other officers immediately lunged at the offender and a struggle ensued. As he and the officers wrestled with the offender, he managed to grab hold of the device. Whilst other officers apprehended the offender, Senior Sergeant Pearson ran with the device to a nearby park and when Bomb Squad experts arrived, he was fitted with protective body armour and continued to hold the device until it was established that it would not detonate.

By his actions, Senior Sergeant Pearson displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Nattapat PENPANUSSAK, 125 Johnston Street, Annandale NSW 2038

In the early hours of 3 October 2013, Mr Nattapat Penpanussak assisted in the apprehension of a man who had violently stabbed three backpackers at a hostel in Pitt Street, Sydney.

The offender, a resident of a hotel located in Pitt Street Sydney, went to the next door backpackers hostel and violently stabbed three tourists, two men and a woman, on the front entrance steps. After the two male victims retreated inside the hostel, the offender menacingly stood over the injured woman. Mr Penpanussak was walking home and, witnessing the attack, immediately yelled at and punched the offender on the side of the head. He then grabbed hold of the offender who cut him across the chest, arms and hand. After fending off the attacker, Mr Penpanussak managed to keep him away from the injured woman who took refuge inside the hostel. The offender then began to run along the street and when he ran past a security guard, who had also witnessed the assaults, he attacked him. The security guard tackled the offender to the ground and overpowered him. Mr Penpanussak and the security guard then restrained the offender and called 000 before the police attended the scene.

By his actions, Mr Penpanussak displayed considerable bravery.

The late Senior Constable David James RIXON,

New South Wales Police

On the morning of 2 March 2012, Senior Constable David Rixon apprehended an offender, while seriously wounded, in Tamworth, New South Wales.

Senior Constable Rixon observed a man, who he believed was a disqualified driver, and followed him through Tamworth until the offender stopped his vehicle. Senior Constable Rixon got out of his police vehicle, approached the man and briefly engaged him in conversation. Soon after, and without any warning, the offender produced a handgun and fired one shot which struck Senior Constable Rixon to the body. Despite being wounded he returned fire, critically wounding the offender. Senior Constable Rixon then re-holstered his pistol and handcuffed the offender prior to collapsing unconscious. When other police and ambulance personnel arrived at the scene they provided initial treatment and conveyed the wounded officer and offender to hospital. Sadly, Senior Constable Rixon died soon afterwards.

By his actions, Senior Constable Rixon displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Thomas James SMITH, Cloverlea Vic 3822

On the afternoon of 27 November 2013, Mr Thomas Smith assisted in the rescue of several people who were overcome by fumes in a cattle feed tank on a farm in Cloverlea, Victoria.

A farmer was attempting to empty a tank of cattle feed when he was overcome by toxic ammonia fumes, causing him to become unconscious and slip into the syrup mixture. The man's two sons immediately climbed into the feed tank to assist and both were overcome by fumes and became unconscious. Mr Smith, an employee at the farm, witnessed the event and, after alerting other people on the property, also climbed into the tank to assist the three men, however became unconscious. Other members of the farmer's family called 000 and two family members located an angle grinder and cut an opening in the side of the plastic tank. Police officers arrived at the scene and entered the tank through the newly cut opening. Both were forced back due to the fumes. Police officers arrived at the scene and entered the tank through the newly cut opening. Both were forced back due to the fumes. However, eventually the police officers, with the assistance of family members, were able to move the victims outside to safety.

By his actions, Mr Smith displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Aleziah SPIERS, South Australia

On the evening of 8 February 2014, Mr Aleziah Spiers assisted in the rescue of a woman who at Frankston Beach in Victoria.

Mr Spiers and another man were at Frankston Beach when they were alerted by several bystanders that a woman struggling in the surf. Mr Spiers entered the water and swam out about 250 metres to join the other man who had reached the woman. Mr Spiers and the other man managed to take hold of the woman and keep her afloat and conscious for almost an hour as they drifted in the sea. After arriving at the scene, a police officer swam out to reach Mr Spiers, the woman, and the other rescuer and helped them to swim back to shore. The woman, who had remained un-cooperative during the ordeal, ingested sea water and lost consciousness. The police officer managed to revive her. By this stage Mr Spiers and the other man were weak from exhaustion and were directed by the police officer to swim to shore. The police officer continued to help the woman onto the beach where ambulance officers were waiting.

By his actions, Mr Spiers displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Jamie Alan STRONG, Berry NSW 2535

On the afternoon of 7 February 2014, Mr Jamie Strong attempted to rescue two people who were trapped in a burning house in Gerringong, New South Wales.

Mr Strong and another man were working at a building site in Gerringong when they saw thick smoke emanating from a nearby residence and immediately drove their vehicles to the burning house. They saw an elderly man and woman trapped on a balcony of the two story residence. Despite the upper part of the house being well alight, Mr Strong climbed up to the balcony and attempted to pull the frail man to safety over the balcony, but he fell to the ground. He immediately regained his footing and climbed back up, grabbed hold of the man and assisted him to climb over the balcony railing. Mr Strong, with the other man's assistance, then caught the elderly man when he jumped from the balcony. Mr Strong attempted to climb up to the balcony again to rescue the woman but was restrained by the other man as burning debris began to fall from the house. They then moved the elderly man away from the house and to safety. Sadly, the woman perished in the fire and the man died in hospital the following day.

By his actions, Mr Strong displayed considerable bravery.

Senior Constable Cameron WALLACE, Victoria Police

On the evening of 8 February 2014, Senior Constable (then Constable) Cameron Wallace assisted in the rescue of a woman at Frankston Beach in Victoria.

Two men were at Frankston Beach when they were alerted by several bystanders that a woman was struggling in the surf. They entered the water and swam out about 250 metres, in the darkness, to where the woman was. The men managed to take hold of the woman, who continued to struggle against them, and keep her afloat and conscious for almost an hour as they drifted in the sea. After responding to the scene, Constable Wallace swam out to the group. He directed the men to link arms and then he helped them to swim back towards shore. About 50 metres from shore the woman, who had remained un-cooperative during the ordeal, ingested sea water and lost consciousness. Constable Wallace gave her three quick breaths causing her to be ill and also breathe again. By this stage the other two men were weak from exhaustion and Constable Wallace directed them to swim to shore. He continued to help the woman to swim to shore and, when she lost consciousness again, performed CPR until she began to breathe. He then brought the woman onto the beach where ambulance officers were waiting.

By his actions, Senior Constable Wallace displayed considerable bravery.

Senior Constable Joel Michael WHITTRED, Queensland Police

In the early hours of 14 December 2013, Senior Constable (then Constable) Joel Whittred assisted in the apprehension of a man who had stabbed a police officer in Townsville, Queensland.

Constable Whittred, accompanied by three police officers, was conducting inspections within a licensed establishment during the conduct of police operations pertaining to the Townsville Drink Safe Precinct. As the officers left the venue down a narrow staircase a patron suddenly stabbed the last officer before leaving the knife in the officer's neck. The offender then held another knife against the officer's throat. The wounded officer managed to push the knife away and call out to his colleagues. Constable Whittred and the two other police officers immediately moved towards the offender and managed to separate him from their wounded colleague. He then struggled with the offender who attempted to stab him several times. Constable Whittred tried to grab the knife but injured his hand and let go. The offender was then tasered by another officer, dropped his knife, and was arrested.

By his actions, Senior Constable Whittred displayed considerable bravery.

Leading Senior Constable Jenny Ann WILTSHIRE, Victoria Police

On the afternoon of 27 November 2013, Leading Senior Constable Jenny Wiltshire assisted in the rescue of several men who had been overcome by fumes in a cattle feed tank on a farm in Cloverlea, Victoria.

A man was attempting to empty a tank of cattle feed when he was overcome by toxic ammonia fumes, causing him to become unconscious and slip into the syrup mixture. The man's two sons immediately climbed into the feed tank to assist and both were overcome by fumes and became unconscious. A farm employee, who witnessed the event, alerted other people on the property telling them to call 000. He also climbed into the tank to assist, however became unconscious. Leading Senior Constable Wiltshire and her colleague arrived at the scene, looked into the tank, and saw several people who were partly submerged in the syrup mixture. Despite the smell of the fumes being overwhelming Leading Senior Constable Wiltshire, together with her colleague, entered the tank through a hole that had been cut in the side. They waded into the near knee deep mixture before being forced outside due to the fumes. Leading Senior Constable Wiltshire and her colleague then re-entered the tank on several occasions before, with the assistance of family members, the victims were able to be moved outside to safety.

By her actions, Leading Senior Constable Wiltshire displayed considerable bravery.

Mr Joseph ZAGHINI, Severnlea Qld 4380

In the early afternoon of 2 November 1998, Mr (then Detective Sergeant) Joseph Zaghini assisted in the removal of a suspected explosive device from an offender at Logan in Queensland.

A man, who was affected by alcohol, entered the Logan Central Police Station regarding a personal matter. When police checked their records they found he was wanted under warrant. As an officer approached the man about the matter he became extremely agitated, pulled a home-made explosive device from his briefcase, and threatened to 'take out' as many as he could. Other police officers immediately lunged at the offender and a struggle ensued. Detective Sergeant Zaghini went to assist and, despite being warned that explosives were present, he helped to restrain the offender. One of the officers managed to grab hold of the device with both hands, pulled it away, and ran with it to a nearby park. The Bomb Squad soon arrived and the officer holding the device was fitted with protective body armour and kept hold of the device until it was established that it would not detonate.

By his actions, Mr Zaghini displayed considerable bravery.