

# 2023 COMMENDATION AWARDS CEREMONY

PRESENTED BY  
**Her Excellency**  
**The Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC**  
Governor of New South Wales

GOVERNMENT HOUSE SYDNEY  
FRIDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 2023



**ROYAL LIFE SAVING**  
NEW SOUTH WALES



“  
**Quemcunque  
Miserum Videris  
Hominem Scias.**”

(Whomsoever you see in distress,  
recognise in him a fellow human being).

Royal Life Saving Society – Australia motto adapted from a quotation from  
'Seneca', a Roman philosopher who lived between 4BC to 65AD

# COMMENDATION AWARDS CEREMONY

## WELCOME TO THE 2023 COMMENDATIONS CEREMONY

Each year the Royal Life Saving Society – Australia (New South Wales Branch) presents Commendation Awards to those people who have displayed outstanding initiative, expertise and empathy towards their fellow human beings by applying lifesaving skills in emergency situations and sometimes at risk to themselves.

Today Certificates of Commendation will be presented to members of the general public and NSW Police Awards to officers of the New South Wales Police Force.

We acknowledge that we are gathering on the traditional lands of the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation and pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

We are extremely honoured that our Patron, Her Excellency The Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC Governor of New South Wales has graciously agreed to host the Ceremony here at Government House Sydney.

Thank you for joining us in recognising the outstanding efforts of these fine Australians.



**James Whiteside**  
President, Royal Life Saving NSW



**ROYAL LIFE SAVING**  
NEW SOUTH WALES

## CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION

PRESENTED TO

### **Michael Lendrum, Peter Lendrum, Tim Lendrum and Mathew Savage**

**On Sunday 2 December 2018, Peter, Michael and Tim Lendrum were attending a family reunion at Bilarong Reserve, Narrabeen. Nearby, Mathew Savage was having a picnic with his family. Both groups noticed someone calling for help and a child struggling in the water nearby.**

The child was face-down, struggling and splashing on the water surface. Michael Lendrum ran into the water and brought the child to the shore. He then contacted Triple Zero for Ambulance assistance.

Another person in the group was still calling for help. Realising there was another child missing in the water, approximately 30 people ran into the water to look for the missing child. The search continued while Michael Lendrum remained on the phone providing updates to NSW Ambulance. Multiple ambulances and the Careflight Rescue Helicopter were dispatched.

After about five minutes Peter Lendrum looked in the deeper water of the lagoon and found the child about 20 metres from the shore, at the bottom of the lagoon, approximately two metres deep. He recovered the girl and while racing the girl to shore, performed a couple of rescue breaths and tried to keep her face-down to clear the water from her mouth. Peter Lendrum placed the girl on the ground where Tim Lendrum began CPR.

Mathew Savage, drawing on his life-saving background, quickly stepped in to perform the compressions while Tim Lendrum continued the breaths and monitoring for signs of life.

## CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION

The girl ejected a lot of water through the compressions. After about five minutes, the girl's colour began to change and Tim detected a faint pulse. He placed the child in the recovery position, continuing to support her neck and monitor pulse and breathing. Shortly afterwards the Ambulance arrived and took over, taking care of both children who were involved.

Careflight arrived at the scene and the Careflight doctor intubated and ventilated the girl onsite. Both children were transported by road

Ambulance with a police escort to the Royal Children's Hospital Randwick. After being woken from an induced coma and transferred to Westmead Children's Hospital both children recovered with no signs of permanent damage.

High Commendations are awarded to Michael Lendrum, Peter Lendrum, Tim Lendrum and Mathew Savage. Their actions and swift response to rescue these two children in water with poor visibility and perform CPR saved two children from losing their lives to drowning.

# CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION

PRESENTED TO

**Tate Dee**

**On 6 December 2020, 12-year-old Tate Dee was attending a Christmas Pool Party and observed a boy in the water who was silently floating while other children around him played.**

It was a large gathering with around 20 children in the pool. Adults were watching the group of children but none had noticed the boy go quiet. Tate swam over to check on him and noticed he was unconscious.

Tate pulled the boy from the water and while carrying him from the pool, Tate screamed for help.

The six-year-old boy was frothing from the mouth and fitting.

He remained unconscious for a several minutes and coughed up lots of water before being taken via ambulance to hospital.

High Commendation is awarded to Tate Dee for his extraordinary instinct and swift action to retrieve the boy and alert others for help. His response undoubtedly saved this boy's life and was particularly impressive from somebody so young.

## CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION

PRESENTED TO

**Jude Hayman  
and Rita McIver**

**On Wednesday 21 July 2021, Primary School Teacher Kellie Kelly became unwell on the bus following the school's athletics carnival. Her colleague Rita McIver observed Kellie's deteriorating health and sent a student to seek further assistance from a fellow teacher, Jude Hayman.**

Rita and Jude swiftly placed Kellie on the floor of the bus and moved the students to the back while the bus driver called Triple Zero. They commenced CPR and continued in the narrow aisle of the bus, while monitoring the students and keeping them calm.

Jude and Rita interchanged, providing these lifesaving measures for approximately seven minutes until paramedics arrived.

Paramedics identified that Kellie had suffered cardiac arrest. She was taken to the local hospital via Ambulance for treatment and has since made a full recovery.

High Commendations are awarded to Jude Hayman and Rita McIver for their quick response, utilising their learned skills from their annual resuscitation training and resilience during a highly stressful situation and challenging location, to save the life of their colleague.

# CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION

PRESENTED TO

**Julian Linquest Pye**

**On 1 March 2020, Julian Linquest Pye observed a man in a disorientated state struggling to cross the road at Bondi Junction. The man fell to the ground on the opposite side and lay on his back, dazed and unable to recover.**

Julian raced over to assist the gentleman to his feet, however the man was unable to recover. He asked a bystander to help position the victim upright in order to monitor and stabilize him while assessing the man's cognitive state.

The man was unresponsive to questions, had limited movements, appeared weak with shallow breathing, was sweating profusely and had turned bright red.

Julian made repeated requests to the 30-40 onlookers for assistance in calling Triple Zero, however no one rendered assistance. Julian made

the call himself whilst monitoring and responding to the worsening condition of the victim who was convulsing, vomiting and then eventually stopped breathing.

Julian commenced CPR for around six to eight minutes before Paramedics arrived, and he remained to assist the paramedic team.

High Commendation is awarded to Julian Linquest Pye who quickly assessed the situation and did not hesitate to provide lifesaving support, which ensured the best possible chance of survival for the victim.



## CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION

PRESENTED TO

**Adrian Rossi, Jerome Golledge, Hamish Wilson, Craig Felstein and Jaime Valencour**

**At approximately 4.30pm on Sunday 15 May 2022, staff at Blacktown Leisure Centre, Stanhope were called to an emergency in the indoor stadium. A customer had collapsed and suffered a cardiac arrest while playing basketball. The patron was unconscious, unresponsive and not breathing when staff arrived.**

The team immediately contacted emergency services and began performing CPR. They administered emergency oxygen equipment and attached a defibrillator to the patron's chest. They continued performing CPR for approximately 10-15 minutes until the Paramedics arrived.

When the Paramedics took over, the gentleman was still unconscious but was now breathing. Shortly afterwards, the patron was taken by ambulance to Blacktown Hospital.

The team was later advised that the patron was showing positive signs and was sitting up and talking. The attending Paramedic was effusive in

his praise for the staff involved and commended the Blacktown Leisure Centre team on their efforts.

He said there was no doubt in his mind "that the actions of the team on that evening saved this man's life".

High Commendations are awarded to Adrian Rossi, Jerome Golledge, Hamish Wilson, Craig Felstein and Jaime Valencour for the way the team handled this major emergency.

They demonstrated professionalism, determination, precise actions and employed their Royal Life Saving Lifeguard training, resulting in the victim making a full recovery.

## NEW SOUTH WALES POLICE AWARD

PRESENTED TO

### **Sergeant Michael McClafferty, Senior Constable Peter Heginbotham and Leading Senior Constable Victor Suarez**

**On Saturday 18 July 2020, Police Officers Sergeant Michael McClafferty, Leading Senior Constable Victor Suarez and Senior Constable Peter Heginbotham responded to a call from a distressed family who had pulled two young children from the backyard pool.**

The two children were unconscious when they arrived. Sergeant McClafferty arrived first and performed CPR on one of the children unassisted for 10 minutes until paramedics arrived.

Under their instruction, he continued CPR for a further six minutes while the Paramedics prepared the child to be intubated. It was at this time that the child regained a pulse and Paramedics took over the care of the child. Sergeant McClafferty then organised a green light corridor for the Paramedics

to transport the child before driving the parents to Liverpool Hospital.

Leading Senior Constable Victor Suarez and Senior Constable Peter Heginbotham had commenced CPR on the other child, and continued for approximately 17 minutes while alternating roles. They continued CPR under the Paramedics' instruction until a faint heartbeat was detected. Senior Constable Heginbotham drove the Ambulance to Westmead Children's Hospital to allow the Paramedics to

continue to work on the child. Senior Constable Heginbotham and Sergeant McClafferty remained at the hospital for several hours and provided comfort and support to the parents and extended families at both locations.

CCTV footage of the incident revealed that both children had been submerged in the pool for approximately 13 minutes. Despite a grim prognosis, both children recovered completely from the ordeal

with neither child suffering brain injuries. Medical professionals at the hospitals described it as nothing short of a miracle, crediting their survival to the quick thinking actions of the three officers.

High Commendations are awarded to Sergeant Michael McClafferty, Senior Constable Peter Heginbotham and Leading Senior Constable Victor Suarez for their extraordinary efforts to save these children's lives.

## PRESENTED TO

## **Senior Constable Rhys Pershouse, Senior Constable Todd Mackay, Senior Constable Andrew Couch and Mr Lyle Walker**

**On Wednesday 18 January 2017, two motor vehicles were involved in a head on collision on Cabramatta Road. All five people involved sustained injuries and were unable to escape their vehicles.**

Senior Constable Rhys Pershouse, Senior Constable Todd Mackay and Senior Constable Andrew Couch arrived at the incident almost immediately after the collision. They saw vehicles alight and fuel leaking over the roadway. While they worked to ensure the safety of the public, Senior Constable Andrew Couch radioed for further emergency support and then extinguished the flames coming from the engine bay of one of the vehicles.

Senior Constable Todd Mackay approached the second vehicle and found an unconscious elderly female in the back seat, an elderly male passenger in the front seat and a female driver. Despite the leaking fuel and smoke coming from the

vehicle, Senior Constable Mackay put his own welfare at risk to render first aid to the occupants.

He was able to remove the elderly female passenger from the rear seat to the side of the road. She did not have a pulse and Senior Constable Pershouse commenced CPR on the elderly woman with the assistance of a bystander, Lyle Walker. Senior Constable Pershouse continued for five minutes until Senior Constable Couch took over. Mr Walker continued mouth-to-mouth throughout the incident and they continued CPR until Ambulance arrived. Whilst this was happening, Senior Constable Mackay attended to a male driver with serious leg injuries

in the other vehicle. Despite these injuries, the male driver attempted to light a cigarette in the fuel-soaked environment of his wrecked vehicle.

Senior Constable Mackay intervened and extinguished the cigarette, preventing the fuel from igniting. Senior Constable Mackay returned to the first vehicle where again he risked his safety by entering the rear of the vehicle and stabilised the head of the semi-conscious female driver. Senior Constable Pershouse rendered assistance and both officers stayed in the vehicle, despite the dangers, for approximately 20 minutes until Fire and Rescue and Ambulance services arrived and extricated the occupants. Senior Constable Couch continued

to provide assistance in Police Control at the scene for the safety of the public and to provide a clear working environment for emergency services. He then conducted a hand-over to Local Police from Cabramatta Local Area Command.

High Commendations are awarded to Senior Constable Rhys Pershouse, Senior Constable Todd Mackay, Senior Constable Andrew Couch and Mr Lyle Walker for their incredible composure and professionalism during this incident and for their life preserving attempts in the face of personal danger.

## NEW SOUTH WALES POLICE AWARD

PRESENTED TO

### Senior Constable David Coyle

**In the early hours of Thursday 28 June 2018, a Triple Zero call was received by NSW Ambulance from a male person who was experiencing suicidal thoughts in Tea Gardens, requesting police in the Port Stephens-Hunter district to respond.**

Knowing the travel distance for his duty police from Raymond Terrace, Sergeant Mark O'Donnell took the action to immediately call the Tea Gardens Lock Up Keeper, Senior Constable David Coyle (who was off duty and asleep at the time). He explained the circumstances and requested the officer attend immediately to the nearby address.

Senior Constable Coyle arrived only seven minutes after the initial broadcast and spoke to the partner of the person threatening self-harm. Senior Constable Coyle searched

the house and found a man who was unconscious. He attempted to lift the man to the ground, radioed for urgent ambulance assistance and checked for vital signs. The patient was unresponsive and Senior Constable Coyle began CPR by both heart compressions and mouth-to-mouth resuscitation using a Laerdal mask.

Throughout his resuscitation attempts Senior Constable Coyle sustained multiple puncture wounds to his legs, back and upper buttocks from the family dog, a Great Dane,

which continued attacking him as he performed CPR on his owner. While fearing greatly for his own safety, Senior Constable Coyle persevered with CPR whilst fighting off the dog alone for approximately 25 minutes.

NSW Fire Brigade officers arrived to relieve an exhausted Senior Constable Coyle and apprehend the dog. Soon afterwards, Ambulance Officers and Raymond Terrace Police officers arrived.

The patient was transported via Westpac helicopter in a critical

condition. Despite the initial medical prognosis, the patient was released seven days later with no long-term physical injuries. Senior Constable Coyle has continued to check on the patient following his recovery to enquire on his health and arrange mental health care and assistance.

High Commendation is awarded to Senior Constable David Coyle for the immediate action, courage and bravery he displayed to preserve the life of another person, while facing a threat to his own safety.

## NEW SOUTH WALES POLICE AWARD

PRESENTED TO

### **Chief Inspector William McKenna, Leading Senior Constable Simon Alexander and Senior Constable Thomas Knight**

**In the early evening of Wednesday 2 September 2020, Police received a call from a concerned husband advising that his wife had not returned home from babysitting her brother's children and was not responding to calls or texts.**

Police arranged a triangulation of the missing woman's mobile phone, which indicated the phone was in the West Ballina area. While crossing a bridge to the area, Leading Senior Constable Simon Alexander and Senior Constable Thomas Knight noticed two people standing near a boat ramp. Bystanders had reported a car in the water.

The vehicle was approximately 15 metres from the bank, mostly submerged with only the rear above

the water line. Leading Senior Constable Simon Alexander and Senior Constable Thomas Knight immediately removed their appointment belts, vest, shoes and shirts and swam towards the vehicle. Leading Senior Constable Simon Alexander dived down and attempted to open the rear hatch of the vehicle however, he discovered it was locked. Chief Inspector William McKenna arrived on the scene and entered the water to assist. All three Officers took turns diving down and attempting to gain entry to the vehicle to no avail.



With the use of a long police baton, Leading Senior Constable Simon Alexander managed to smash the rear window and, again, all three Officers took turns diving into the car in an attempt to pull the victim out. Eventually, Leading Senior Constable Simon Alexander was able bring her to the surface.

All Officers assisted in swimming the victim back to the bank where they continued resuscitation until Ambulance and Fire Brigade personnel arrived to take over.

High Commendations are awarded to Chief Inspector William McKenna, Leading Senior Constable Simon Alexander, and Senior Constable Thomas Knight for their exemplary courage and composure in their pursuit to preserve life.

All three Officers were in the murky water for approximately 15-20 minutes at night, in winter conditions, with poor visibility, whilst battling a strong current.



“

**I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear.”**

**Nelson Mandela**



**ROYAL LIFE SAVING**  
NEW SOUTH WALES

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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