



## MEDIA RELEASE

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# Gilgandra local Superintendent of the West

Gilgandra resident Geoff Kiehne is relishing his new appointment as Regional Superintendent for the Western Region of St John (NSW).

Since his appointment earlier this year he has taken the opportunity to lead St John volunteers from the Blue Mountains to Broken Hill, in their cause to be first in first aid and meeting the needs of their communities.

Geoff first joined St John in 1984 and has held volunteer positions in Divisions including Armidale, Dubbo and was a Regional Officer of the former Central Western Region.

St John has recently undergone a number of changes, dubbed "One St John" and Geoff has stepped forward to lead his volunteers as the organisation seeks to expand and continue to strive to be first in all areas of first aid.

Geoff has received a number of awards within St John, including Life Membership, the Priority Vote of Thanks and the Long Service Medal. He has also been made Serving Brother to the Order of St John and promoted to Officer Brother.

He has dedicated more than 7000 hours of first aid duty with St John and was involved in a number of major emergency operations including the 1990 flood evacuation of Nyngan, the 1994 Sydney bushfires and the 1997 Pilliga Scrub Bushfire.

In his various roles within St John has been involved in the management of many sick and injured persons.

"The highlight of my time working with the casualties brought to the attention of St John includes the introduction of automatic external defibrillators and improved pain relief methods," Geoff said.

He is honoured to take the reins in the newly created volunteer position of Regional Superintendent (Western) and said of the new role, "I am really looking forward to taking the Divisions across the Western Region forward under the new St John structure. The new structure of St John brings together all different areas of St John under one banner and now

## First in First Aid



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ensures that all sections of St John; first aid duties, training, kits and products, and Community Care programs are working together for the common good,” he said.

“I invite all members of the community interested in joining an organisation dedicated to saving lives and caring for the sick or injured to join St John, learn some new life skills and make some new friends”.

For further information about St John contact 1300 360 455 or visit [www.stjohnsw.com.au](http://www.stjohnsw.com.au).

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