

## First in First Aid



### MEDIA RELEASE

31 August 2005

## St John celebrates 100 years in Wollongong

St John (NSW) is celebrating 100 years of St John first aid training and volunteers in the Wollongong area this Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September at the Wollongong Branch, 30 Kenny Street at 2.00pm.

St John first became involved in Wollongong when the first coal mine opened in the Illawarra region in 1849 and the Division was officially registered on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1905.

“St John has a long history in Australia and we are proud of our 100 years in Wollongong,” said Ms Rhonda Bignell, Chief Executive Officer, St John (NSW).

“Each and every volunteer member is vital to St John. As St John has grown and developed within the area we recognise every effort these individuals dedicate to first aid training for the community, attending public first aid duties and helping students with literacy problems,” she said.

“St John provides total first aid solutions for the Wollongong community and we are dedicated to working with the local community to meet community needs,” Ms Bignell said.

To find out more about St John (NSW) telephone 1300 360 455 or visit [www.stjohnnsw.com.au](http://www.stjohnnsw.com.au).

#### **INVITATION:**

To thank you for your continued support over the years, members of the media are invited to join St John volunteers, staff and local community representatives for afternoon tea to celebrate the Centenary of St John in Wollongong.

**When:** Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2005, 2.00pm

**Where:** Wollongong Branch office, 30 Kenny St, Wollongong

**RSVP:** Sarah Jauncey, 9219 6856 or 0410 220 872.

**Interview and photo opportunities will be available.**

ENDS- Fact sheet to follow

**Media Contact:** Sarah Jauncey, Communications Coordinator, St John (NSW),  
T: 9219 6856 or 0410 220 872.



## MEDIA RELEASE

### Fact Sheet- St John in Wollongong Today:

#### **Wollongong Division**

The St John Wollongong Division, under the direction of Superintendent Maria Lemme, is very active in the local community with 26 volunteers contributing approximately 2000 hours of service each year with more than 120 casualties treated in 2004.

Regular duties include sporting events, fetes, New Years Eve celebrations, festivals, the Sydney to Wollongong Bike ride, concerts and ANZAC Day Marches.

#### **Wollongong Training Area**

The Wollongong Training Area volunteers provide first aid training, predominantly to community groups at discounted prices.

Len Smith, Chairman of the Wollongong Training Area currently has 24 volunteer trainers working with him. Last year they taught 76 community members first aid.

#### **Community Care**

Ninety seven volunteers in the Wollongong area dedicate an hour each week to helping primary school students learn to read with the Program to Aid Literacy (PALs™).

Thirty three schools in the Wollongong Area currently benefit from PALs™, which is currently celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Wollongong.

#### **Wollongong Branch Office**

The Wollongong Branch office has been operating since 1981 and provides first aid training, kit and product sales and first aid risk assessments to the greater community.

Regional Development Manager, Connie Tonkin and her staff last year delivered first aid training to more than 4200 community members in close to 300 classes.

In addition to this they have provided first aid kits and products to individuals and businesses throughout the region.

#### **Contact St John (NSW) in Wollongong**

Drop into the Branch Office at 30 Kenny St, Wollongong, telephone 1300 360 455 or visit [www.stjohnnsw.com.au](http://www.stjohnnsw.com.au) to find out more about volunteering with St John, learning first aid or for first aid kits and products.