



MEDIA RELEASE

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Canterbury's own Pride of Australia

St John Ambulance (NSW) would like to congratulate St John Western Suburbs Cadet, Shevera Gunasekera on receiving her Pride of Australia Medal. Shevera won the Young Aussie category which honours Australians 17 years or younger who have demonstrated outstanding resolve, mature judgement and moral character beyond their years.

Shevera, 15, is a fantastic example of determination and willpower. She has battled against a speech impediment and went on to represent her school, Canterbury Girls' High at the Rostrum public speaking competition in 2005 and 2006.

She has overcome impaired motor co-ordination to be chosen as a dancer by the National Children's Dance Theatre.

Since 2000 Shevera has been teaching dancing and generally assisting the children with disabilities at Canterbury Public School.

Shevera also donates her time and energy to a Breakfast Club, where she is project director, that organises fundraisers to provide Australian families with food and gifts at Christmas. Shevera also raises funds for World Vision, Mission Australia, Legacy and Salvation Army.

On top of this, she is a cadet in the Western Suburbs Division, providing hours of volunteer first aid service at community events.

"It is great to hear Shevera has been recognised in the Young Australian category. It is well-deserved and I am very proud of her. She is an inspiration for our cadet division." Said Officer-In-Charge Peter Dixon

For more information on St John Ambulance Australia (NSW) or to become a volunteer please call 1300 360 455.

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For further information or to organise a photo of Shevera contact:

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