



MEDIA RELEASE

Join St John and Learn the Skills to Save a Life

Do you wish you had the skills to save a life?

St John is continuing to provide complete first aid solutions across the Hunter and Newcastle through the work of their volunteers, selling of quality first aid kits, and the training of local people to learn the skills to save lives.

There are some 700 St John volunteers in the Northern St John region, providing over 50,000 hours of volunteer service and treating nearly 5,000 local people every year.

Many of these volunteers are on duty at large events including the New Year's Eve celebrations, but for most local residents, St John volunteers are best known for their presence at local sporting, school and community events. Local volunteers provide medical assistance at events including the Newcastle Maritime Festival, Tamworth Country Music Festival and many large concerts at Tempus Two and Bimbadgen Estate.

Adult Volunteer Divisions include Hamilton, Maitland, Singleton, and Warners Bay, with Cadet Divisions in Lake Macquarie, Mayfield and Wallsend.

St John is always looking for new volunteers to join both their adult and cadet divisions. First Aid volunteers learn and practice First Aid, family care and other subjects to enhance their life saving skills. Members can attend training courses to learn advanced First Aid and life saving skills, communications, leadership training and participate in special event training such as major incident management courses.

Cadets develop extensive First Aid skills, life skills, communication and leadership skills. Once they are trained members may attend First Aid duties under adult supervision. Juniors are aged between 8 and 11 years, and cadets are aged from 11 to 17 years.

Raelene Tate, Regional Business Development Manager, St John (NSW) Newcastle, comments:

"Many young volunteers have found St John Cadets to be a valuable stepping-stone for careers as an ambulance officer, nurse or in medicine.

"Without these dedicated volunteers St John would not exist. They are the backbone of our organisation and we encourage more people to join this wonderful cause and assist the team in providing first aid services at events.



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“Next year St John will provide medical coverage for World Youth Day, taking place in Sydney in July. With over half a million people expected to attend the week long event St John will be needing a large number of volunteers to help look after this massive crowd. This is a great opportunity to get valuable experience working on a major event.

“Next year is also the 125th anniversary of St John and it has really never been a better time to join the organisation.”

Next month (October), St John is kicking off a new campaign across Newcastle and the Hunter called ‘Save a Life’, which aims to raise awareness of first aid and increase life saving first aid skills within the community. The theme Save a Life is about being able to save lives as a St John volunteer or learning first aid to have the skills to save a life.

As part of the campaign there will be displays in shopping centres, presentations at local high schools and information available to the community on first aid training and kits.

To get involved in the campaign or become a St John volunteer please visit www.stjohnnsw.com.au or call 1300 360 455.