

MEDIA RELEASE

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St John Fairfield Cadets make Minister Chris Bowen remember the good old days

Local Federal MP Chris Bowen honoured heroes from St John (NSW) Fairfield Cadet Division for their outstanding achievements at a ceremony held on last Wednesday, 10 December in Fairfield.

The night was special not only for the cadets awarded but also for the minister himself, who was part of the division during his youth and was awarded 'Cadet Of The Year' a couple of times in the past.

"Many years have passed since I was inside this very same hall learning valuable first aid training, volunteering at events and making friends.

"A lot of things have changed such as uniforms, but I'm very pleased to see that the commitment of St John and these young heroes to giving back to the community hasn't changed a single bit," Mr Bowen told friends, families and cadets.

Cadets Jessica and Derrick Robson were awarded 'Cadets Of The Year'. Jessica was voted by other cadets and Derrick by the senior volunteers. The award recognises young heroes for their outstanding contribution to the local community.

They also received, along with John Walden, the Grand Prior award, for completing several difficult tasks and training. This award takes at least 3 years to concur, and cadets are allowed to wear this badge when they become an adult volunteer.

St John Cadets are part of a national youth organisation, for those aged 11 to 18, who develop extensive first aid, life, communication and leadership skills. Once trained, they are able to provide first aid at events under adult supervision. They also attend various excursions and camps during the year.

The cadets presented Mr Bowen with a St John tie as a token of appreciation of his support and service to the Fairfield Division.

Divisional Superintendent, Cleone Robson, says Mr Bowen has always been a strong advocate of the voluntary work that St John does in and around the local area.

"Many people may not be aware that he is also the President of the Fairfield Cadet Division. He is very supportive of our work to provide the highest calibre voluntary service in the local community."

Mr Bowen also mentioned the importance of recognizing these young heroes.

"Each and every St John Cadet is a valuable asset to our community and deserves to be recognized for their selfless contribution."

"It's an honor to have had such a long involvement with St Johns Fairfield. It is remarkable that amidst their studies, family, work and other commitments; they still find time to do this extraordinary work," Mr Bowen said.

ENDS

Notes to editor

Photos are available upon request.

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