



## MEDIA RELEASE

**11 February 2008**

### Gilgandra St John volunteers preparing for World Youth Day

The World Youth Cross was in town last week, but that wasn't the only World Youth Day activity occurring in Gilgandra. Geoff Kiehne, Regional Superintendent for the St John Western Region, has been busy preparing for the St John first aid coverage of World Youth Day 2008.

Mr Kiehne was selected as the Commander for St John at Randwick during World Youth Day, where he will oversee over 220 volunteers over a 24 hour period. St John will be providing medical coverage at World Youth Day events, along with the NSW Ambulance Service and NSW Health.

As part of his role, Mr Kiehne has been attending regular meetings and planning sessions in Sydney. His main role so far has been developing operations plans for St John, but will soon begin briefing volunteers on specific duties, and on the day, managing all members.

Mr Kiehne comments:

"In 2008 St John will be part of one of the largest events Australia has ever seen. 500,000 people are expected to attend the Final Mass at Randwick alone.

"I am very excited to be involved in an event of this scale and St John is getting ready to be as prepared as possible."

St John Regional Officer Barbara Bignell, also of Gilgandra, will be working as part of the St John Advanced Casualty Management Team during World Youth Day 2008.

The 2008 World Youth Day activities will be taking place from 15-20 July with the highlight of the program being the Final Mass celebrated by His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI at Randwick Racecourse.

With over half a million people expected to attend the week long event St John will be deploying over 250 volunteers to help look after this massive crowd.

To find out more about getting involved with St John visit [www.stjohnnsw.com.au](http://www.stjohnnsw.com.au) or contact Geoff Kiehne on 0427 676 072.

**ENDS**

**Media contact:**

Bethany Hoskin

Communications Coordinator

St John (NSW)

P: 02 9219 6856

E: [bethany\\_hoskin@stjohnnsw.com.au](mailto:bethany_hoskin@stjohnnsw.com.au)