



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### Local volunteer honoured by Governor

**18 May 2009.** Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC, CVO, Governor of New South Wales, officially honoured 31 St John (NSW) volunteers for their outstanding service to the community at a ceremony at Government House on Saturday 9 May, 2009.

Amongst the awardees was Mark Hutchings, resident of St Marys South. Mr Hutchings was promoted to Officer of the Order of St John.

The awards are presented for long term commitment to providing the highest quality voluntary services to the Australian community and actively contributing to the mission of helping people in sickness, distress, suffering or danger that is core for St John.

Sean Gavin, CEO of St John (NSW), described how essential volunteers are to St John and the local communities.

“They are true heroes who have made remarkable contributions to the community through their continued dedication to St John.

“Volunteers are the backbone of our organisation and we are proud to honour them,” Mr Gavin said.

In 2008, when St John Ambulance Australia celebrated 125 years of service, over 4,000 volunteers provided more than 450,000 hours of voluntary service across the state in the areas of first aid, early literacy, immunisation and ophthalmic care.

To know more about St John (NSW) or to become a volunteer, please visit [www.stjohnnsw.com.au](http://www.stjohnnsw.com.au) or call 1300 360 455.

**ENDS**

**Photos are available upon request.**

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