



MEDIA RELEASE

Western Region volunteers honoured by Minister

10 June 2009. St John Ambulance Australia (NSW) has awarded over 30 people during their Annual General Meeting, held at the Masonic Centre in Sydney on Thursday 21 May.

Amongst the recipients were Nicholas Baker and Bernadette Farr, residents of Winston Hills and Kings Park respectively. They both received a Priory Vote of Thanks for continued outstanding service to the local community through their volunteer work with St John Ambulance.

Blacktown volunteers Robert and Annette Smart were also awarded with a Special Plaque in recognition of extraordinary life sustaining first aid provided to members of the community.

Special guests included The Honourable Steve Whan MP, Minister for Emergency Services, who presented many of the awards.

Mr Whan demonstrated a high level of confidence in St John Volunteers and thanked them for the work they put into the community.

“As early as two weeks ago, St John volunteers were on the ground, working hard at the evacuation centres on the North Coast, giving comfort and aid at Lismore, Brunswick Heads, Grafton and Ballina as flood waters encroached on various towns.

“They are there to support public events, conduct volunteer training courses, assist the Department of Health in schools as part of the immunisation program and assist children with their literacy in our schools. These tasks are invaluable and integral to our community”, Mr Whan said.

Members of the public as well as members of the Emergency Services including The NSW Police Service and Fire Brigade were also awarded for using their first aid skills to help save someone's life.

The Annual General Meeting reviewed 2008 activities, including the celebration of 125 years of St John in Australia. 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 or call 1300 360 455.

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Photos are available upon request.

For further information, please contact:

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