



MEDIA RELEASE

Wagga Wagga volunteers awarded for saving life

11 June 2009. St John Ambulance volunteers Faye Rutledge and Helen Marshall have several reasons to smile.

Both volunteers from the Wagga Wagga division of St John (NSW) will be awarded for saving the life of a Vintage speed car driver, who suffered a cardiac arrest during the Wagga Wagga Show in 2008. The ceremony will take place on Saturday 13 June at 1pm at the Wagga Wagga RSL Club.

Ms Rutledge, who is also Divisional Superintendent, said the incident with the driver demonstrated how important it is for the community to have the skills to help someone.

“We are at events providing first aid to the community, but often accidents happen on the streets where anyone could be the first on the scene. That’s why First Aid is so important”, said Ms Rutledge.

On 2 October 2008 at Wagga Wagga showground, a Vintage speed car driver suffered a cardiac arrest and crashed into a three-metre high jump stand. Ms Rutledge and Ms Marshall were quickly on the scene.

The driver was not breathing and had no signs of life. Both volunteers started CPR immediately and used a defibrillator on the victim. Following the third shock, the driver was brought back to life and regained pulse. He was then transported to Wagga Wagga Hospital by the Ambulance Service.

The driver, Graham Campbell, who recovered, said he was fortunate that St John volunteers were on the scene very quickly.

“Those minutes before professional help arrives can be the difference between life and death and in my case, it was life.

“I thank all St John volunteers who are out there providing first aid at events, and I am encouraging my family and friends to do a first aid course with St John and become volunteers”, said Mr Campbell.

If you would like to know more about St John, book a First Aid Course or become a volunteer in the Wagga Wagga area, please visit www.stjohnnsw.com.au or call 1300 360 455.

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