

# MEDIA RELEASE



## St John keeps Trailwalkers on track

**4 September 2009.** Over 150 St John Ambulance volunteers contributed with more than 1,200 hours of first aid along the route of the 48 hour, 100 kilometre Oxfam Sydney Trailwalker event last weekend.

“Our volunteers were spread throughout 10 first aid posts. We treated over 800 casualties, mainly for blisters and soft tissue injuries”, said Ilan Lowbeer, Event Planning Officer for St John (NSW).

“The Oxfam Trailwalker is one of the biggest events St John covers. Our partnership with Oxfam Australia has been going for many years and we hope to continue that way”.

The endurance event run by Oxfam Australia is widely regarded as one of Australia’s toughest charity challenges with the 2,000 Sydney Trailwalker participants already having raised close to two and a half million dollars to support the international aid agency’s work fighting poverty and injustice.

According to the Commissioner of St John (NSW), Warren Glenny, there is no price tag on the work of St John volunteers.

“The Trailwalker is a significant event for St John and a big task for our volunteers who selflessly give up their time to ensure the safety of others”, Mr Glenny said.

Leigh Stewart, from Oxfam Australia, said the help of St John volunteers is an essential part of what makes the event so successful.

“In a 100 km endurance event you can expect some participants will have a few blisters and injuries and it’s always reassuring to have St John staff close at hand when you need them.

“Events like ours would be harder to stage if it wasn’t for St John volunteers. We are very grateful for the work they do and we know the walkers are too,” Ms Stewart said.

In 2008, when St John Ambulance celebrated its 125 years of service 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 or to become a volunteer visit [www.stjohnnsw.com.au](http://www.stjohnnsw.com.au) or call 1300 455 130.

**ENDS**

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