



18 December 2009

Have you got your sneakers ready?

Bathurst boy, Joel Casey is the first to enter the inaugural St John (NSW) Walk&Talk, an event dedicated to celebrating the work St John does in the community. The 22 old volunteer is about to receive the coveted number 1 bib.

He is excited about participating in the first ever event at Parramatta Park on Sunday March 14 2010.

Joel said he can't wait to be part of the explosion of enthusiasm showcasing the difference St John makes in the lives of others.

From first aid to early literacy and immunisation, St John volunteers give up their time willingly and regularly to provide a service they believe in.

The '**walk**' is a walkathon open to St John volunteers, staff, customers, suppliers and sponsors who work closely with us, and will be held at Parramatta Park. The '**talk**' is about encouraging St John volunteers to share with others the motivations that drive their willingness to give so freely of themselves to the community through the organisation.

The event will see over 800 people walking a circuit of 3km (or 6km for those looking for a challenge) followed by an afternoon picnic with BBQ and entertainment. St John (NSW) aims to raise an ambitious \$180,000 to purchase a fully equipped Communication Bus, which will be used by our First Aid Services volunteers during major events like the City2Surf or New Years Eve, as well as community emergencies such as bushfires and floods.

In turn, we are asking for others to show their support by sponsoring walkers on the day. Thank your local volunteers by visiting www.stjohnwalkandtalk.com.au to support St John (NSW) and contribute towards the Communication Bus.

Joel says joining St John three years ago as a volunteer was one of the best things he ever did.

"I owe a lot to St John over the past three years. I have met some really good mates and my volunteering has led me to pursue a career in nursing and my training as a paramedic. "I have also met some really great people in St John and this is a wonderful opportunity to catch up with friends from across the state who I haven't seen in ages.

"Although we do major events like New Years Eve, we are working to help the general public and don't get chance to catch up between ourselves" he said.

The Walk&Talk also coincides with Joel's three year anniversary at St John (NSW).

ENDS

Notes to editor:

People can donate to the Walk&Talk by visiting www.stjohnwalkandtalk.com.au

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