



MEDIA RELEASE

16th March 2009

St John thanks its unsung heroes of the Victorian Bushfires

With the devastating Victorian bushfires now receding, St John (NSW) wishes to thank the volunteers who answered the call for help.

In Victoria's time of need, St John showed that it is an integral part of the emergency services. St John Victoria provided around 200 volunteers, supported by 40 members from South Australia and more than 75 members from NSW.

During the Victorian crisis, St John volunteers were active in 23 different locations, and since the beginning of the Churchill fires, have treated over 1100 casualties.

State Superintendent, Belinda Leonard was overwhelmed with volunteers wanting to give up their time and help.

"When the call was broadcasted, I was inundated with volunteers requesting to be deployed and to help their Victorian counterparts" Ms Leonard said.

St John Commissioner Warren Glenny believes the spirit of St John to help those in need was evident when volunteers were placed on standby.

"Our members' dedication to community service was demonstrated by the great response to the calls to provide additional support to our colleagues in Victoria as part of the Bush Fire Relief efforts."

"I want to thank those who stood to be counted as well as those who were deployed" Mr Glenny said.

Volunteers from Hornsby, Macarthur, Western Suburbs, St Marys, Bankstown, Granville, Wagga Wagga, Albury Cadets, Bulli, Shoalhaven, Wollongong Cadets, Kiama, Penrith, Glebe, Parramatta,

Manly, Sutherland, Hills District, Upper Blue Mountains and Holroyd Cadets were deployed to Victoria on weekly rotation over three weeks.

ENDS

Note to editor:

Please contact Ellen Ward if you wish to talk to any volunteers about their personal experiences in Victoria.

Images of some volunteers are available on request.

For further information please contact:

Ellen Ward

Marketing Partner, Commercial

St John Ambulance Australia (NSW)

T: 9219 6865 / M: 0400 934 755 / E: ellen_ward@stjohnnsw.com.au