



MEDIA RELEASE

Deputy Chief Commissioner of St John Ambulance to visit local volunteers

20 October 2009. Kieran Brown, Deputy Chief Commissioner of St John Ambulance Australia will visit the Bega Division of St John (NSW) on Monday 26 October during a trip from Tasmania to NSW.

Second-in-charge of the volunteer arm of St John Ambulance Australia, Mr Brown first got involved with St John in Tasmania in 1976 as a first aid volunteer. Since then, he has held numerous volunteer positions before being appointed Deputy Chief Commissioner in 2008.

He said he always tries to meet local divisions of volunteers when traveling.

“No matter what state you are in, St John volunteers are there, caring for the community. I make sure that when I am traveling, I visit the local divisions to meet some of the people who make of St John Ambulance one of the most respected organisations in Australia.

“Bega division has given many thousand of hours of first aid to the local community. They are also pivotal during disasters such as the Victorian Bushfires, where many volunteers were on call ready to assist in case they were needed,” Mr Brown said.

Local volunteers provide first aid in Bega and surrounding areas, attending events such as local shows, Speedway, Motorbike race days, concerts and sporting events.

St John volunteers are highly trained with nationally recognised qualifications. The Bega Division meets every Monday at the Bega Hospital’s Education Centre at 7pm.

There are over 40 St John volunteers in Bega, providing over 1500 hours of volunteer service treating approximately 300 casualties annually.

Don Walker, Divisional Superintendent, believes the work of volunteers is essential for St John.

“These dedicated volunteers are the backbone of St John and we encourage more people to join this wonderful cause and give back to the community.”

“While some members use St John as a stepping stone to a career in health services many others find it has application in their work as the skills are universal. There is not a time of life when first aid isn’t needed at some point”, Mr Walker said.

To know more about St John visit www.stjohnnsw.com.au. To become a volunteer in the Bega area call 1300 360 455.

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