

MEDIA RELEASE

Our Ref: T15:0032

11 December 2012

Attention: News Editor

Ambulance volunteers celebrated

Four long-serving St John Ambulance volunteers were honoured at the opening of a major upgrade of the organisation's Mt Barker centre on Saturday 1 December.

Daphne and David Stewart, Elsa Drage and Neil Crofts share an impressive 184 years of dedicated community service between them; Mr and Mrs Stewart have each contributed 50 years as volunteers for St John Ambulance.

All four were honoured with certificates of appreciation at a cake-cutting ceremony after the formal opening of the extended and upgraded centre.

Wagin MLA Terry Waldron opened the extension and lauded the volunteers who serve their community and help to save lives throughout the region.

St John Ambulance Mt Barker received \$65,000 of Royalties for Regions funding through the Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC) to support the fit-out of the centre, including an upgraded kitchen, car parking, storage areas, training room, office, staff facilities and communal areas.

The fit-out was the third and final stage of a \$450,000 project, largely funded by St John Ambulance, that transformed the 1970s-built centre into a modern and functional emergency services and community facility that the organisation expects will meet its needs for the next 20 years.

GSDC Board Chairperson Peter Rundle praised the dedication of all the volunteers, saying they were a pivotal part of keeping regional emergency services functioning.

"This upgrade will provide comfortable and practical facilities for Mt Barker and surrounding communities for years to come," Mr Rundle said.

"St John Ambulance Australia's commitment to upgrading regional facilities enables communities to continually improve their response to emergencies, and provides an environment that will attract a new generation of volunteers.

"Donations of time, materials and labour from community members boosted the project and bear testament to the strong community spirit and appreciation of the service St John Ambulance provides," Mr Rundle said.



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Ambulance officers now have space to debrief and socialise, and the venue is better equipped for first aid training.

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