



# **Celebrating St John Ambulance Australia's Glebe Division, New South Wales**



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Charles Maytum  
Terence Prendergast  
Raymond Coleman  
Kevin Ward  
Colin Jackson  
Robert Poole  
John Ward.

# Introduction

In recognition of the formation of the St John Ambulance Glebe Division in New South Wales in March 1903, an 'early' Centenary Celebration was held on 8 April 2001.

On that day, several Glebe Division members gathered at St John Hall in Australia Street, Camperdown, to have their experiences recorded. Those members were:

Charles Douglas Maytum, Member 1939–1959

Terence Patrick Prendergast, Member 1942–1976

Raymond Joseph Coleman, Member 1946–1991

Kevin James Ward, Member 1951–1993

Colin Alexander Jackson, Member 1955–1995

Robert James Poole, Member 1976–1991

John George Ward, Member 1984–current.

This document was produced to capture and share the memories and experiences of past and present Glebe Division members. St John NSW Archives is proud to record and preserve our St John NSW memories for the next centenary.

Please enjoy the following pages that share these members stories.

**Brian Hewlett**

Divisional Superintendent

Glebe Division, St John Ambulance NSW

August 2001

# A short history of Glebe Division

The St John Ambulance Glebe Division was the first Overseas District to be established in Australia, in March 1903. It held 19 original members under the superintendence of Mr WJ Harris (member, 1903–1919). They met in St John's School Hall in Glebe. Drill and stretcher practice was performed outside the hall.

Mr John Henry Barnes who had joined Glebe Division in 1906, succeeded Mr Harris as Divisional Superintendent on 4 June 1920 and held this position until his retirement in 1950. During Mr Barnes time, first aid rooms were established at Audley, Garie Beach, Wattamolla National Park, Parsley Bay, Watson's Bay, Yarra Bay, Jubilee Park and Wentworth Park.

The Ladies Auxiliary was formed in 1926 with Mrs R Heaton as its first president. She held that position until 1935, when another foundation member, Mrs E Goodrick, succeeded her.

The Ladies Auxiliary ran a stall at Wentworth Park each week. As well, they held raffles, annual concerts, social evenings, garden parties and moonlight harbour excursions. Admission to these functions was a silver coin.

Early in 1917 the Division transferred to the Forest Lodge Public School, and they continued to meet there until 1982.

Mrs Elizabeth Goodrick paved the way for the Glebe Division to own their own hall. The Glebe Division Hall at 90 Australia Street in



John Henry Barnes (member, 1906–1950). Competition winner of Sinclair Cup, 1927.



Elizabeth Goodrick, Auxiliary member, 1926–1977.

Camperdown, is the product of endless years of fundraising by the Ladies Auxiliary, and the dedication of many. The Glebe Hall at Camperdown was bought in 1982.

Due to Glebe's dedication and hard work in 1933 by request of the Australian Legion of Ex Servicemen and Women and with the approval of Brigade Headquarters, Glebe members were made responsible for duty throughout the night and Dawn Service on Anzac Day every year.

Glebe was responsible for the first casualty room at Yarra Bay. On Easter Monday, 13 April 1914 this casualty room at La Perouse was officially opened by the Deputy Commissioner Dr T Storie Dixson. Duties had been conducted at Yarra Bay since 1st January 1914. Between 1st January and the official opening, 77 casualties were treated.



Official opening of the Yarra Bay Casualty Room, 1914. (Opening of first aid room Wentworth Park 1970)

The original Yarra Bay casualty room was replaced in 1933 when a second station was opened on December 4. The Howe family of Yarra Bay donated both stations.

Yarra Bay casualty Room was manned each Saturday and Sunday, all public holidays and a continuous one or two week period over Christmas and New Year.

At the Glebe Divisional Annual General Meeting, on 1st February 1956, the difficulty in manning the Yarra Bay Room and the decline of public attendance at Yarra Bay was discussed. It was resolved the matter be resolved with the Trustees of Yarra Bay. The matter was solved, however, the Yarra Bay Casualty Room was destroyed by a fire in November 1957.

### **Glebe Ambulance Superintendents**

1903–1918	William Harris
1919–1950	John Henry Barnes
1951–1959	George Goodrick
1960–1962	Mervyn Wilkins
1963–1969	Douglas Hewitt
1970–1977	Leslie Taylor
1978–1982	Sven Nilsson

### **Glebe Superintendents**

1982–1985	Sven Nilsson
1986–1987	Brian Hewlett
1988–1988	Sven Nilsson
1989–1992	Ron McRobbie
1993–1996	Warren Haddock
1997–2000	Brian Hewlett

Glebe celebrated their 50th Anniversary in 1953, their 75th in 1978, and will celebrate their 100th Anniversary in 2003 as the first Division registered in Australia.

# **Member memories**

## Charles Douglas Maytum

### Member 1939–1959

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Divisional photo,  
1955

From a very young age, Douglas (as he was known), was a welcome helper to his mother and the members of the Ladies Auxiliary, including Mrs Goodrick, Mrs Heaton and Mrs Allan, conducting a kiosk at the Wentworth Park Dog Races. He sold bags of peanuts to members of the public from a tray and was paid 2 shillings and 6 pence (45 cents).

He attended a First Aid class held at the Divisional meeting venue at Forest Lodge public school. The lecturer was Dr RP Melville and the examiner Dr Gordon Young. Dr Young was an Intern at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and regularly examined classes for St John at Glebe, Epping and other areas. (Dr Young, of course, is well-known having been the Chief Commissioner from December 1979 to June 1984.) The examination was held 2 August 1939. He found the first aid course very interesting and instructive. Douglas joined the Glebe Division 8 November 1939. His Superintendent was Mr John Barnes (member, 24 September 1906–31 December 1950) and the Officer Mr George Goodrick (member, 10 May 1916–31 December 1973).

Douglas did further courses gaining his Voucher on 14 August 1940, Home Nursing certificate on 9 April 1941, Medallion (number A2074) on 4 December 1940, and Label on 28 July 1943. He also attended a School of Instruction to be promoted to the rank of Corporal on 2 May 1948. He was awarded his Service Medal (number 7761) for 12 years efficient service on 31 December 1954.

Before retiring from St John in 1959 Douglas had been very active doing public duties at venues such as Wentworth Park where

speedway bikes, midget cars, football, cricket and dog races were held. Wentworth Park was used for accommodating American servicemen during World War 2 and dog-racing events didn't resume until after the War. Football games at Jubilee Park, Federal Park, Harold Park, Leichhardt, Birchgrove and University ovals. The duty at the Anzac Dawn Service at Martin Place, Sydney was a divisional duty for Glebe. Douglas was responsible for transporting the stretchers back to the Forest Lodge School. Beach duties included Wattamolla and Garie and the picnic grounds at Audley National Park and Parsley Bay.

Douglas recounts a memory of an unusual first aid case ...

5 May 1958 was the opening of the First Aid Post at Watamolla beach. On arrival at the site Douglas and another member (plus their wives who had assisted in the preparation of the First Aid Post) were met by a Rover Scout waiting to inform them that one of his troop had fallen over the cliff wedged between rocks and the tide was coming in. As there wasn't a telephone in the area, a Rover Scout was sent on his motorbike, with a written note, to Audley to telephone for an ambulance. Before reaching Audley the Rover Scout saw a Policeman, gave him the note, and he forwarded the message to the Ambulance Station at Sutherland. In the meantime Douglas and his fellow member had rescued, treated and prepared the scout ready for transport to hospital.

Randwick Race meetings involved St John members on duty. The members received payment for this duty from the Race Club. This duty was given to members who were unemployed to assist them.

A sad duty was at Jubilee Oval when a footballer received a spinal injury. Douglas ran onto the field to examine the player. He had to prevent the player being moved as he had complete loss of all feeling in his legs and arms. The game had to stop as the ambulance drove onto the oval. The Ambulance Service and Football Club praised Douglas for his work.

Amusing times involved watching the expression on the face of a policeman when some ten members from Glebe all alighted from a 1924 red Buick, with stretchers fastened on the foot-boards, one ANZAC morning. A fellow member owned the car. The car was known as the 'red ten-or'.

Douglas has great admiration for the work of the members of the Ladies Auxiliary. Their wonderful efforts in raising funds for the Division enabling the purchase of the building in Australia Street, Camperdown.

Social evenings held in the Glebe Town Hall gave the members and their families an opportunity to form long-standing friendships. A photograph taken at the wedding of one of George Goodrick's sons shows the wives of members who were also members of the Ladies Auxiliary.

Douglas said he enjoyed his time as a member of St John as he was able to help people.

He retired in 1959 due to family and business interests.

# Terence Patrick Prendergast

## Member, 1942–1976

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Divisional photo,  
1955

Terence Patrick 'Pat' Prendergast joined Glebe Division on 20 May 1942 and remained a member until 1976.

Pat's brother, John, was already a member of Glebe Division and Pat was called upon to assist John and another member to convert a council hut into a First Aid room at Jubilee Oval, Glebe Point. This was a Saturday morning task. Timber was purchased from Hoadleys hardware shop, near Harris Street in Broadway, and the three young men carried the sheets of timber two kilometers from there to Jubilee Oval so that transport costs were avoided. John Prendergast joined the Australian Army in 1940 serving in Singapore and Malaya before being captured in Singapore in 1942. He unfortunately died along with some 2,500 other prisoners of war.

Pat gained his First Aid certificate in 1942 having been taught by George Goodrick (member, Glebe 1916–1973) and examined by Oscar Potten (member, Glebe 1917–1955). During World War 2 most members of the Division were also members of the Glebe National Emergency Service stretcher and first aid parties.

Mrs Goodrick from the Ladies Auxiliary conducted a Comforts Fund during the War and gave each member a parcel of gifts before departure and regularly sent parcels to the members while they were overseas. Pat still has the wallet he received in his parcel from Mrs. Goodrick. The Goodrick family also assisted the families of members when their husbands/brothers/fathers were serving overseas.

In 1942 Pat joined the RAAP and was called up in 1943 and appointed to the medical section where he served until discharge in 1946. On

discharge he rejoined the Division and again became a very busy member, attending duties and lectures given by the Divisional Surgeons and Sister Ring from the Royal Alexandra Children's Hospital.

His first appointment was assistant storekeeper followed by storekeeper then, as treasurer in 1950 and he remained treasurer until his resignation in 1976. (John Barnes had been the Superintendent and Treasurer of the Division from 1920 to his retirement in 1950). From an investment interest in 1939 of \$163, the next 25 years showed growth to \$33,000. Pat was determined to have the Division on a sound financial footing so that the division could purchase their own property.

Pat did his share of public duties at the football grounds, picnic areas, cricket grounds, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital as well as traveling to Canberra with other St John members in 1954 for the Queens visit. A memory of one duty follows:

At a duty at Jubilee Oval the key to the first aid room wasn't available and a footballer sustained a compound fracture. Fence posts were obtained and the patient was ready when the ambulance arrived. The ambulance officers didn't want to transport the casualty with the fence posts and asked for splints to be used. After some discussion, the ambulance officers gave in and transported the casualty to hospital secured with the fence posts.

Ray Ross (member, Glebe 1945–1972) worked at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and was able to arrange medical treatment for members of the division as well as their families in the days before Medicare. He also arranged for members of the medical staff to give lectures to the division.

St John members sometimes cause difficulties with organisers of events. One such member arrived to do duty where admission charges were being made. The member was accompanied by his three children and was asked for 90 cents for the children's admission. He refused to pay and threatened to not do the duty. The organisers of the event gave in but wrote a letter of complaint saying that the profits from the day were reduced by the action of this member.

Pat's wife, Una, joined the Ladies Auxiliary and assisted at the kiosk at Wentworth Park as well as attending and participating in all the activities of the Auxiliary.

Pat received Service medal (number 7545) in 1953 for 12 years efficient service, followed by service medal bars 1, 2, 3, and bar 4 in 1973. He was appointed an Instructor of First Aid and received a Priory Vote of Thanks in 1961. Pat attended the School of Instruction and qualified as Corporal and Sergeant.

Pat was unable to attend the 'talkfest' at Glebe Hall to share his memories with the other members, but participated by recording his memories on tape.

Pat died two days before Christmas on 23 December 2010.

Notice from the funeral directors in North Ryde:

PRENDERGAST, Terence Patrick (Pat), NX196285

28.2.1925 • 23.12.2010

Late of North Ryde. Loving husband of Una for 60 years. Dearly loved father and father-in-law of John and Carol, Mary, Patricia and Mark, James and Anne, Margaret and Ross. Adored Poppa to his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Dear brother of Margaret, Geoff (deceased) and John (deceased).

Aged 85 years.

Family and friends are invited to attend a Requiem Mass for the repose of Pat's soul to be offered on Tuesday January 4, 2011 at Holy Spirit Catholic Parish North Ryde at 10 a.m.

# Raymond Joseph Coleman

## Member, 1946–1991

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Divisional photo,  
1955

In June 1942 World War 2 was in its fourth year when Ray (aged 16 years) gained a First Aid certificate and became a runner for the National Emergency Service.

Ray gained employment with the NSW Railways and there met a member of Glebe Division, who influenced him to join the Division on 15 May 1946. After gaining another First Aid certificate, taught by Mr George Goodrick (member, 10 May 1916–31 December 1973) and examined by Mr John Barnes (member, 24 September 1904–31 December 1950), he was issued with a uniform and started attending public duties.

Mr John Barnes was the Superintendent and Mr George Goodrick the Officer of the Division. There were 150 members in the Division and Glebe was noted as the best dressed Division in New South Wales. On ANZAC Day there would be at least 100 men attending the Dawn Service with some returning home to change out of uniform and then participate in the march. In the early days breakfast was not provided for the members on duty at the Dawn Service. It wasn't until the Division moved to their own premises at Australia Street, Camperdown, that the members were able to go to the hall, have breakfast and then return to do duty for the march.

Fifty-two years ago, Ray met the girl who was to become his wife, Marjory. This was at a picnic organised by Mrs Elizabeth Goodrick for Glebe Division at National Park. Marjory joined the Ladies Auxiliary and assisted in all the fund-raising events organised by Mrs Goodrick and the Committee.

Many and varied public duties were performed. From 1966 members doing duty at Wattamolla Beach were able to stay overnight for the weekend duty and to take their family with them. A family living in the area shared the fish they caught, with the St John members. Difficulties were experienced without radio, telephone and ambulance services. The absence of these amenities were highlighted when the floor collapsed as members arrived for one particular weekend duty.

Arrangements were made for the National Park Trust to supply a vehicle to meet the members at National Park Station and then transport them to and from their beach duties at Garie and Wattamolla beaches.

At Parsley Bay members spent many hours treating people with bluebottle stings. At Wattamolla the main treatments required involved cut feet, burns from barbecues and spider bites. At Watsons Bay there were always bee and bluebottle stings.

Ray attended football games at Jubilee oval, Federal Park and Moore Park. At Moore Park 12-14 members were on duty due to the large number of grounds being used for rugby league, rugby union and soccer games all being played at the same time.

First Aid duty at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital gave the members a lot of experience in the different types of injuries attended to in a Casualty room at a hospital. 'Siberia' was the name of the area used for the drunks. Frequently the St John men were required to assist in the removal of clothing of these difficult people so that treatment could be given.

Theatre duties at Stanmore and Annandale on Thursday and Saturday nights enabled the members to take a partner to view the films while the member was called to treat the patrons who fell down the stairs, had fits, heart attacks and cuts from bottles dropped from the balcony seats on to the patrons below.

Another duty pre-Opera House was the fireworks at the old tram depot where the Opera House now stands.

When the swimming centre opened at Victoria Park, St John members were required to include this among their duties.

The Entertainment Centre brought a new era of duties for the members. Originally members could take a partner as a seat was provided. This was eventually discontinued.

Ray admired and appreciated the work of Mrs. Goodrick and the members of the Ladies Auxiliary who worked at the Kiosk at Wentworth Park. When repairs were required two members, Bob Poole (member, 1 September 1976–31 December 1991) and Stan Peny (member, 1 July 1925–24 June 1977) did the work free-of-charge. When Patrick Prendergast was the Treasurer of the Division, he made wise investments with the funds raised at events and for duties.

He also respected the work done by Les Taylor (member, 29 January 1936–1981) at the National Park First Aid Post. Les kept the room in excellent condition and maintained good control over stores used. Oscar Potten (member, 1 October 1917–1955) was very involved in training members with improvised first aid work. This training took place at National Park.

A very sad time for the Division was when Douglas Hewitt (Superintendent 1963–1971) was accidentally electrocuted at his home. George Goodrick and Douglas Hewitt used to attend the Scouts Camps at Waterfall. Ray was working for a Funeral Director so he was able to organise six Scout Leaders to carry the coffin, the St John members to form a guard-of-honour and a police escort of 20 policemen from Kogarah to Woronora, courtesy of an ex-member of Glebe who was in the police force.

Ray received his Service Medal (number 8635) for 12 years efficient service, and bars 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 before retiring from St John on 20 January 1991. He was awarded a Priory Vote of Thanks in 1978, and admitted to the Order of St John as a Serving Brother in 1982.

## **Kevin James Ward**

### **Member, 1951–1993**

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Divisional photo,  
1955

Kevin attended a First Aid course at St John House, Macquarie Place, Sydney and gained a First Aid certificate on 18 October 1951. He attended the course as the result of witnessing an accident to a young neighbour and not being able to assist. He thought the Instructor and Examiner were very friendly and helpful and was encouraged to join the Glebe Division. This he did on 7 November 1951 and remained a member until he retired in November 1993. 1993 didn't mean that Kevin was slowing down knowing that retirement was happening. He attended 46 meetings and performed 296 hours of duty in that retirement year. In 41 years Kevin totaled some 11,000 Hours of duty. His duty areas involved the picnic areas of National Park, Garie Beach, Wattamolla Beach, Watsons Bay, La Perouse, Parsley Bay, and the dog races at Wentworth Park and football at Harold Park and Jubilee Oval.

Kevin's wife, Joan and son John have encouraged and given him great support in his work in St John. George and Elizabeth Goodrick set he and his family a wonderful example in the value of St John work.

There have been many examples of humor at a duty and Kevin gave these.

There wasn't any great panic at Wentworth park dogs when, after the second race, the course announcer called for the father of a six year old to go to the first aid room. The boy was stung by an unknown insect and started to swell up. While Kevin and a policeman attended to the boy, the course announcer continued to call for his father. There was no response. The boy's temperature soared and breathing became difficult. The course announcer continued to call for the boy's

father but still there was no response. The announcer created panic in the punters when he further called for the father to; 'start running to the first aid room - your son is ill'. People gathered around the room waiting the arrival of his father. Fortunately, by race 9 the symptoms subsided and the boy was able to leave the first aid room clutching a copy of his casualty for amid cheers from the bystanders, and accompanied by the policeman . He knew where to find his father in the gambling area, tapped him on the back and held up the casualty form. The father looked warily at his son and the policeman. The son had failed to tell everyone that his father was deaf!

Again at Wentworth Park. A gentleman dined in the restaurant at Wentworth Park. He had dined rather well and on leaving the restaurant he realised his top denture was missing and thought he had swallowed the denture. He reported to the first aid room to see what Kevin could do for him. There was much discussion about how it would be difficult for him not to notice that he had swallowed the denture and how to retrieve said denture. Much to the relief of the owner of the denture (and to Kevin), he later reported that he found the denture wrapped in a handkerchief in his pocket. He remembered that the denture was causing difficulty and had removed it in the restaurant!

Kevin received his Service Medal (number 112207) in 1964 for 12 years efficient service, followed by Bars 1, 2, 3, 4, and bar 5 in 1989.

He received a Priory Vote of Thanks in 1972, admitted to the Order as a Serving Brother on 12 November 1980, and promoted to Officer on 3 December 1986.

## **Colin Alexander Jackson**

### **Member, 1955–1995**

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Investiture 1991

Colin was a member of Glebe Division from 20 July 1955 to 16 May 1995. He was inspired by his father and uncle to join St John. Colin attended his first aid class at St John House, Macquarie Place, Sydney and gained his certificate on 14 July 1955. His father, Cyril Tasman Jackson joined Glebe Division the same day as his brother, Leslie James Jackson, 1 January 1920. Cyril remained a member of Glebe until 1973, after his transfer to the Reserve in 1968. Leslie transferred to the Reserve in 1956 and to the Retired List in 1962.

Glebe Division was a very proud division with a large number of members and uniforms always had to be maintained in an excellent condition. Officers inspecting the Division always checked that the buttons were correctly placed with the lions and unicorns in the correct position. Buttons weren't sewn on the uniforms, as they had to be removed before the uniform could be dry-cleaned. The members of Glebe devised a method of attaching the buttons so that all buttons were facing the correct way!

Colin did many public duties involving most weekends. Being able to stay overnight in either the first aid room or the surf club made the weekend duties at venues such as National Park and Garie Beach very pleasant.

Casualties at National Park quite often involved St John members travelling by boat to assist in a rescue. Casualties fell over cliffs, drowned or sustained other injuries when not in the immediate area of the first aid post. Ambulance officers were always grateful for the assistance given by the St John members. This gratitude extended to

times when the St John members were given transport back to Glebe after the casualty had been admitted to hospital. On one occasion the St John members were able to retrieve their splints and bandages after the casualty had been admitted to hospital.

The original first aid post at Wentworth Park was shared with the speedway bike riders. The bikes had to be removed from the room before being set up as a kiosk and returned to the room at the end of the duty. The Ladies Auxiliary sold soft drinks, cigarettes, lollies, peanuts, jellies and chocolates every time the Dog races were held.

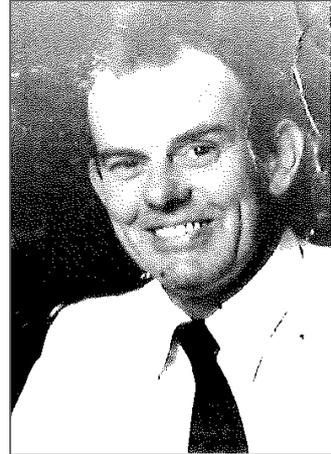
First Aid duty at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital had both amusing and sad events. St John members looked forward to their duty at the Hospital as it provided excellent training in emergency and trauma medicine.

Colin received his Service Medal (number 113949) in 1966 for 12 years efficient service, bars 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5th bar in 1995 before his retirement. He received a Priority Vote of Thanks in 1968, and was admitted to the Order of St John as a Serving Brother on 12 November 1980, and promoted to Officer on 4 December 1991.

## **Robert James Poole**

### **Member, 1976–1991**

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Robert joined Glebe Division on 1 September 1976 and retired in 1991 due to ill health. During his years of membership he was the Secretary from 1979; then the Treasurer from 1985 to his retirement.

Robert received both the Service Medal (number A2611) for 12 years efficient service, and a Priory Vote of Thanks in 1988.

Being on public duty each weekend was the normal routine for Robert. Wentworth Park, Wattamolla Beach and Royal Prince Alfred Hospital were his favourite duties. He appreciated being accepted as 'more than a first-aider' at the Hospital. Among the amusing incidents at the Hospital was the night when a casualty arrived with his dog. When it was obvious that the dog needed a toilet break, Robert was given the task of taking the dog out of the casualty room. The dog must have decided that he was bored with waiting for his master and for being assigned to a person unknown to him so he led Robert to the furthest tree before he was ready to return to casualty.

Every Friday and Saturday night the same drunk would arrive at casualty and would be placed in the room (known as 'Siberia') set aside for these people. He knew that the local police would then transport him to a hostel for the night!

One of the St John members loved playing the poker machines after being on duty. The story goes that one night he and the other members who had been on duty with him watched in horror as 2 cent coins were placed in the 10 cent machine instead of 10 cent coins. This was the last time the members visited this club.

Robert is still involved in the work of St John as his daughters, Marcia and Leonie, are the officers of the Central Coast Cadet Division.

## **John George Ward**

### **Member, 1984-2010**

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Annual Review

John joined the Glebe Cadet Division in 1984 as a St John Junior. He became a Cadet on 18 April 1986 after gaining his Preliminary First Aid Certificate. He followed this with the Preliminary Patient Care Certificate on 10 December 1986.

He was promoted to Cadet Corporal, Cadet Sergeant and by 1992 to Cadet Leader. Like his father, Kevin Ward, he did many hours of public duty, and received the 200, 500, 800, 1000, 1200, 1500, 1800, 2000 and 2500 hours Special Service Awards while a Cadet. John was awarded the Grand Prior's Badge on 13 May 1990.

In 1990 John gained his adult First Aid Certificate and Patient Care Certificate followed by the advanced First Aid in 1991. This all led to Advanced Resuscitation, Analgesic Gas Administration, Semi-Automatic Defibrillation, Advanced Life Support and Occupational First Aid certificates.

As well as all of the above courses, John became very interested in the St John Communications and completed the required courses. He was appointed the State Communications Officer in 2000.

As a member of Glebe Division John did duty at Wentworth Park and the Entertainment Centre. In 15 years, John has accumulated 9,165 hours of duty. In the Olympic year of 2000, he did 1,375 hours of duty.

John says that many people have influenced him in his work in St John. His parents and Senior Officers have encouraged him and supported his efforts.

He also said there have been many memorable moments from trips to attend National Championships and to New South Wales country areas such as Coffs Harbour to participate in competition events.

John received a Certificate of Merit 1993, and Honorary Life Membership in 1996 from St John in New South Wales, and the Priory Vote of Thanks 1998.

As a result of his exceptional work for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, John was admitted to the Order of St John as an Officer on 9 March 2001.