



**Drakes.**  
*ingredients for every day*



## PRESS RELEASE

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### ‘Drakes Supermarkets and St John Ambulance SA Announce Key Partnership’

St John Ambulance South Australia announces its key partnership with South Australian, family owned and operated Drakes Supermarkets. This partnership sees Managing Director Roger Drake’s involvement with St John come full circle from being a St John cadet as a young 15-year-old and allows St John to continue to provide South Australians with vital medical support.

Roger Drake first had his sights set on working in the medical profession and sought hands-on experience with St John as a means to his interest in pursuing a medical career after finishing school.

*“As a child I had aspirations of becoming a doctor, so I thought at 15 years old [a cadetship with St John] was a good opportunity to not only understand a little bit about the medical profession but also at the same time undertake something that I thought was valuable to the community.”* Roger Drake explains.

*“During my time as a St John Cadet, I attended numerous community events in South Australia as a volunteer along with my fellow St John cadets and senior St Johns representatives. I believed my work with St John was an important part of serving the community and at the same time through the skills I developed I was able to help those in need.”*

This selfless community focus Roger had in his early life has had a profound effect on shaping his personal values and has been a key focus of his business in his later life. The team at Drakes Supermarkets firmly believe in giving back to the community in many ways as the community is what contributes to his business every day.

*“My work with St John was the start of my contribution to the community and I realised very early that you cannot take out of this world unless you give back; and this has been something I have personally and professionally been passionate about since.”* Roger states.

This key partnership between Drakes and St John is *“... just another way Drakes is servicing the community.... For the benefit of those in need.”*

Mr Ray Creen, CEO of St John SA has embraced this key partnership between Drakes and St John.

*“We could not be happier to have Drakes on board as a Presenting Partner with St John. Without the support of generous sponsors like Drakes, the work of St John in the community would not be possible. We highly value having such an iconic South Australian business as Drakes supporting the wellbeing of South Australians and contributing to our mission of creating stronger communities through first aid.”* Mr Creen said.

St John relies heavily on selfless donations from the public and partnerships with likeminded South Australian brands to fund their charitable work in the South Australian community. The partnership with Drakes

Supermarkets specifically allows St John to further train additional volunteers, upgrade equipment and facilities and further their various community services.

Mr Creen explains, *“Our partnership with Drakes means that we can deliver an even higher level of service and care to the South Australian community. The support from Drakes will allow us to train and equip more volunteers to be there in times of need at events across the state, train more South Australian primary school children in lifesaving first aid for free, further the reach of our community first aid education sessions, and other charitable work in the community.”*

Along with co-branding across commercial vehicles, uniforms, CPR mannequins and other collateral, Drakes Supermarkets will also be ranging St John First Aid Kits in selected stores.

St John Ambulance SA Inc. is a not-for-profit, self-funded charity supporting the well-being of tens of thousands of South Australians each year through the delivery of first aid at events, part of the State Emergency Management Plan, providing first aid training to primary schools through a free First Aid in Schools Program, community CPR and AED education through the CPR Lab, youth development and social inclusion programs as well as first aid products and services.

Drakes Supermarkets is a family owned and operated grocery retailer of 37 stores across South Australia. Over the last 45 years they have become Australia’s largest independent grocer group with stores also in Queensland. Drakes employ over 5,500 people and remains committed to supporting local suppliers, farmers and the local community.

***Images supplied include –***

- *Roger Drake as a St John Cadet*
- *‘Drakes & St John Image 1’ From left – Roger Drake, his son John-Paul Drake and Ray Creen.*
- *‘Drakes & St John Image 2’ From left – Roger Drake (in ambulance), John-Paul Drake and Ray Creen.*

**For more information or to organise further comments, please contact –**

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