

# NEWS RELEASE



**The Hon. Graham West MP**  
Minister for Juvenile Justice  
Minister for Youth  
Minister for Volunteering  
Minister Assisting the Premier  
on Veterans' Affairs

**Friday 27 February 2009**

## **Volunteer Ambulance Paramedic awarded for 50 years of service**

Minister for Volunteering, Graham West, will today present a specially developed ribbon drop to Volunteer Ambulance Paramedic Mathias Faff, from Lake Cargellico.

Mr Faff's award comes as a result of 50 years of voluntary service to the Ambulance Service of NSW; making him the longest serving volunteer member in the history of the Ambulance.

Mr Faff, like many migrants, came to Australia to start a new life. Originally from Romania, he arrived on our shores in 1952 and by 1959 he had joined the Ambulance Service of NSW as a Volunteer Ambulance Paramedic.

Mr West said Mr Faff has spent the biggest part of his life devoted to helping those in need.

"I would like to thank Mr Faff for his remarkable contribution to the Ambulance Service of NSW," Mr West said.

"It is very fitting for this award to be presented on NSW Health's Volunteer Appreciation Day.

"Australia has a great history of volunteering and Mr Faff's story in particular reveals that volunteers are the backbone of our country.

"In his fifty years of service, Mr Faff has provided assistance to the town of Lake Cargellico.

On some occasions, when the town's Ambulance resource was called to do an inter-hospital transfer, Mr Faff has been Lake Cargellico's sole Volunteer Ambulance Paramedic.

When asked about his experiences Mr Faff recalled one callout when the Indian Pacific train hit a truck and the truck driver was thrown from his cab. He attended the scene with his wife, who is a nurse, and they both took the unconscious truck driver to Condoblin Hospital.

Once at hospital the patient required blood urgently but no A Positive blood was available. Mr Faff told the doctor that he was A Positive and after some tests, the doctor took a pint of his blood for the patient.

Volunteering runs in the family, Mr Faff said, with his son, Matt Faff Jnr also a Volunteer Ambulance Paramedic at Lake Cargellico station from 1969 until his retirement in 2000. Between them both, they have provided some 81 years of service to the Ambulance Service NSW and Lake Cargellico community.

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