



2 April 2009

Bungendore schoolgirl praised for raising emergency alarm for dad

Bungendore Public School student 8 yr old Ava Merriman will be recognised by the Ambulance Service of NSW for her role in raising the alarm when her father was involved in a serious accident last month.

On Monday 2nd March, Ambulance was called to a male patient who had been crushed by a boulder on his Bungendore property.

The accident was witnessed by his eight year old daughter Ava who saw her dad fall approximately 20metres down a steep embankment. After falling he was then pinned by a large 200kg boulder that crushed his foot and trapped him by his stomach.

Young Ava was unable to reach her father but attempted to raise the alarm by running back to the property to locate her mother. Unable to locate her mother, Ava then chose to run to the next property to locate an adult who could help. She burst into the home of Thomas Hoare, a property over a km away over steep terrain.

Unable to see the father from his property, Thomas and Ava jumped in the car and Ava directed him to her dads location at the bottom of a gully. Ava then stayed with her dad whilst Thomas moved to higher ground for mobile reception. He called Triple Zero and spoke to the Ambulance Operations Centre who arranged for paramedic units from Queanbeyan to attend.

On arrival of paramedics Ava's father was found to have serious injuries and in substantial pain. Following extrication from his location, he was taken to The Canberra Hospital.

The Ambulance Service of New South Wales commends the bravery shown by young people such as Ava when faced with a difficult medical situation. In recognition of her actions, Ava will be presented with a "Triple Zero " Star Award at her school by Queanbeyan Intensive Care Paramedic Daniel O'Sullivan, the paramedic who treated her father. This is only the second award presented in NSW this year to a school aged child.

The Ambulance Service has introduced an education program to all schools in NSW called "Be an Ambulance Hero: Dial Zero Zero Zero" educating young children about what to do if you need to call an ambulance. Ambulance encourages anyone, regardless of their age in a medical emergency to dial Zero Zero Zero and ask for Ambulance. The caller should stay on the line so that all information is gathered whilst Paramedics are dispatched to an address.

WHERE: Bungendore Public School, Bungendore

WHEN: Thursday 2nd April 2009 at 1pm

Contact: Ambulance – Penelope Little 0434 323 472 / 9320 7796

Media Unit

Ambulance Service of New South Wales

Tel: 02 9320 7796

Fax: 02 9320 7804

Email: media@ambulance.nsw.gov.au

Web: www.ambulance.nsw.gov.au