



media release



Friday 1 September 2017

Prestigious NSW Ambulance Commendation For Courage Awarded To Four Year Old Child

NSW Ambulance today presented one of its most rare and prestigious awards for courage to four-year-old Georgia Ritter as part of its 2017 NSW Ambulance Appreciation Day celebrations.

Georgia is the youngest person in NSW Ambulance's 122 year history to receive the Commendation for Courage (Community) Award and Drop Ribbon Medal, bestowed for her remarkable bravery and actions to save the life of her mother following a serious farm accident on the family property at Bundook earlier this year.

NSW Ambulance Commissioner Dominic Morgan said Georgia's maturity, bravery and determination to get help for her seriously injured mum was outstanding, especially for a child so young.

"Georgia showed an amazing amount of courage when faced with a situation which would have daunted even the most experienced adults," Commissioner Morgan said.

"Georgia is proof, that you are never too young to be a Triple Zero (000) hero. Acts of bravery come in all shapes and sizes and so to do the very people who perform them and I am exceedingly proud to be able to award Georgia with the distinguished Commendation for Courage today."

The brave youngster was singled out for the award due to her actions on May 3, 2017, when her mum Natalie Ritter became trapped and seriously injured under an All-Terrain Vehicle on their 200ha cattle farm at Bundook, near Taree.

The four-year-old, who witnessed the accident, not only scaled a 75-degree slope to check on her mum and her injuries, but ran for nearly a kilometre to reach their home in order to call Triple Zero (000) for assistance.

"Despite her distress, Georgia managed to remain calm enough to tell our Triple Zero (000) call taker what had happened, where she was and her name, effectively ensuring an emergency response to the property," Mr Morgan said.

NSW Ambulance & Westpac Rescue Helicopter Pilot Rob Fisher and Aircrew Member Graham Nickisson were among the first responders on the scene alongside NSW Ambulance helicopter paramedics and road crews.

"Georgia's ability to provide critical information to our helicopter crew, ground paramedics and the clinicians on board when we arrived was nothing short of amazing," Mr Nickisson said.

"Her clear instructions, information and maturity in handling what was a very difficult and challenging incident, all contributed to ensuring her mum received the urgent care she needed."

Georgia was one of more than 60 children and adults who received awards today for displaying exceptional bravery and performing life-saving acts during a range of medical emergencies at the 2017 NSW Ambulance Appreciation Day at Naremburn Ambulance station.

The 2017 NSW Ambulance Appreciation Day allows NSW Ambulance to acknowledge the brave actions of community members and staff while also giving former patients the opportunity to meet with the paramedics who assisted them in their emergency.

Georgia's mum Natalie Ritter said she would be forever grateful for her daughter's courageous actions that day.

"She's our brave little girl and we're very proud of her," she said.

"We're incredibly thankful for how things turned out that day and it's wonderful to see her actions acknowledged in this way."

**** Audio of the Triple Zero (000) call, photos from today's presentation and vision from the scene of the incident courtesy of Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service available via the following Dropbox link <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/keval1gbff3xhnx/AAC7sIfG2nzQcumZEKhTxD1Ua?dl=0>**



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NSW AMBULANCE APPRECIATION DAY HONOURS & AWARDS BACKGROUND

Georgia and her Mum Natalie will speak with media at the NSW Ambulance Appreciation Day Event.

Triple Zero (000) Audio of Georgia's Call and photographs of the award presentation will be provided to media not able to attend Appreciation Day after the event.

What: NSW Ambulance Appreciation Day
When: Friday 1 September 2017
Time: 10-11.30am
Where: Naremburn Ambulance Station, 14 – 16 Slade St

Georgia Ritter – Bundook Commendation for Courage - Community Ribbon Drop

On 2 May 2017, four-year-old Georgia Witter was travelling in an ATV with her mother on a private road on their property. Georgia's mother asked her to stand out of the vehicle while she turned it around. Her mother lost control of the ATV and rolled 100 metres down a steep embankment. Georgia witnessed the accident and went to her mother's aid.

