



# GRAND PRIX

## St. John Responds To The Call

St. John Ambulance mounted a major First Aid services operation at the Grand Prix to look after race-goers, drivers and circuit staff.

Fourteen First Aid Posts were set up within the 4 race sectors around the circuit. Nearly 300 St. John Ambulance Brigade Volunteers and St. John paid staff were needed each day of the 5 race days to look after the public and any race mishaps.

Thirty paid and volunteer officers underwent intensive training to form the emergency teams in 11 special First and Second Intervention Vehicles. These were the first-on-the-scene medical emergency crews consisting of a CAMS qualified racing driver, medical officer and ambulance officer. The vehicles used were St. John Clinic station wagons which also carried extensive trauma kits and fire equipment.

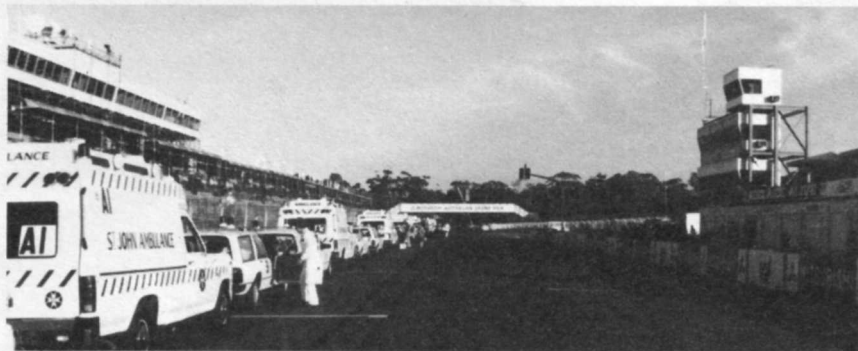
All St. John Ambulance track staff were exhaustively trained in the unique form of emergency First Aid they would need to administer to a crashed Grand Prix driver.

St. John Operations Manager Brig. McGreevy said there were some very different elements to be considered. "If a driver has a crash the results in a fire, for example, we haven't much time to get him out. We can count on the fire crew to take only seconds to douse the fire, then we have to get compressed air to the driver in a hurry. The drivers were all wearing the latest development in helmets which delivers 90 seconds of compressed air after external supply is cut off. It didn't give us and the fire crew much time to fix the problem," McGreevy pointed out.

CAMS officials were very pleased that St. John provided an Ambulance Officer as well as a Medical Officer as part of the all-important First Intervention Vehicle Crew. Not many other Grand Prix venues in the world can provide this extra safety measure.

"We're only too well aware that managing the results of a crash at 330 km/h means our First Aid and medical response had to be quicker than immediate and better than spot-on," McGreevy said.

All St. John Track Staff were issued with distinctive white overalls and



*St. John in convoy - an impressive sight through Adelaide streets early every Grand Prix morning.*



*Paid and volunteer crews of the FIV's get an early morning briefing from Brig. McGreevy.*



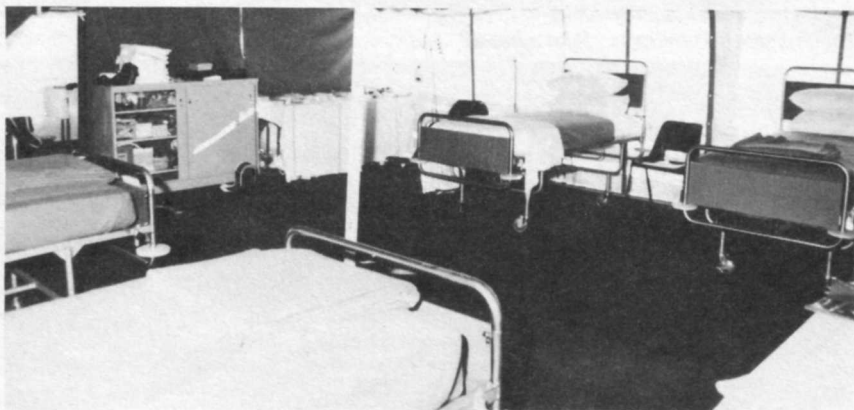
*Mick Gates and Peter Gill in charge of our Race Headquarters.*



*Trackside teams ready for any action at Gate 2.*



*Chase Car VI gets set to follow the Cordias.*



*Inside the 6-bed Medical Centre 1 behind the Grand Prix Club.*



*Inside the fully transportable Field Hospital set up by the Army near Race HQ.*



*A First-Intervention-Vehicle (FIV) and an interstate Fire Truck on alert at the start of the main straight.*

green caps. All staff were under strict instructions to learn the meanings of all the various race flags, and to regard the Race Marshalls as their immediate authorities on or near the track.

"Nobody moved until the Marshalls gave the go-ahead," Brig. McGreevy said. "And we warned all our people that if they were out on the track that they had to keep their wits about them. A split-second's inattention could result in a tragedy when you're dealing with Grand Prix speeds."

Just as important was the St. John Ambulance Brigade response to the call for public First Aid care. Each of the 5 Grand Prix days required 264 volunteers in attendance at the 14 Medical Centres around the circuit. These included 14 radio operators and 14 nursing sisters.

The younger volunteer Members of St. John were not left out — 70 Cadet boys and girls attended to help their seniors look after public First Aid needs. They formed part of the 70 3-person First Aid teams that operated out of the Medical Centres amongst the race spectators around the circuit.

Brigade Commissioner Dr. Glyn Davies commented, "All Members were reminded that we were on show to the whole world for 5 days, so there was no room for error in our skills or our image."

"Some of our Members were selected for the specialised job of crewing the First Intervention Vehicles, but most of us were behind the barriers making sure we were there if the public need us," Dr. Davies said.

The greatest medical drama came on the last day when we almost delivered a baby in our Medical Centre II on Bartells Road. Some of our St. John doctors were really looking forward to a little off-course excitement," but we made a quick trip to the R.A.H. instead, who did the honours.

Mostly people needed St. John attention for sunburn and blisters — about 80% of the cases we handled were heat and sun-related minor problems.

St. John doctors said how amazed they were that some people on regular medication still turned up to an exciting event like this and didn't bring their pills with them. They even had to help people with heart problems who had left their Anginene tablets at home!

**(Cont. on next page)**



## St. John at the Grand Prix

St. John made another important contribution to the success of the Grand Prix by providing communications for the control of the whole race and circuit.

The Grand Prix circuit radio network relied heavily on St. John radio equipment fitted to all emergency services vehicles and control points.

From their mobile Field Command Unit stationed near the Pits, St. John Radio Operators monitored all Race networks throughout each day.

Had a major communication breakdown occurred at Race Headquarters, all radio networks could operate from the St. John Field Command Unit.

Many of the 70 St. John Ambulance Brigade First Aid teams patrolling the public areas were issued with a hand-held two-way radio to maintain constant contact with the St. John Command Unit.

All St. John ambulances were able to talk directly to any major hospital while in transit with a patient.

#####



*They've stopped racing ... take a break!*



*Who said this is the pile of foreign bodies we took out of sore eyes at the Race?*



### THE AUSTRALIAN FORMULA ONE GRAND PRIX BOARD AND THE STAFF OF THE GRAND PRIX OFFICE THANK AND CONGRATULATE

*All St. John Personnel who were a part of the fantastic effort that went into making our Grand Prix so successful that Keke Rosberg was inclined to say; "On behalf of the drivers, Adelaide has done the best job in the world. It's as simple as that."*

## The Brigade at the Grand Prix



*A Brigade Grand Prix briefing for Seniors and Cadets.*



*Medical Centre 2 near Bartels Road open for business.*



*Chief of Medical Centre One, Dr. Bob Edwards (R), and Dr. Stuart Martin.*



*It was a long day for these three foot patrols.*



*A 4-person Brigade Foot Patrol leaves Medical Centre 1 to begin a tour of first aid duty.*



*Collapses from heat exhaustion kept Brigade foot patrols busy on the Race Day.*