

press clip



Helpers have own final goals

WERRIBEE'S Jo-Anne Grenenger and Rachel Crennan will be among the crowd at the MCG on Saturday afternoon, but their focus won't be on the game.

Instead they will be helping provide first aid to AFL grand final fans as St John Ambulance volunteers.

This year's grand final will be Ms Grenenger's 10th, while her niece Ms Crennan will be helping out for the second time.

Also providing first aid to fans will be Ms Crennan's grandfather John, who has been a St John volunteer for more than 50 years.

Ms Grenenger said she kept putting her name forward to work at

the grand final because she loved to know she was helping to keep people safe.

"I love the feeling of being there in case someone needs help.

"I like knowing I've helped someone get to hospital safely or that I have been able to keep them alive that little bit longer."

Ms Grenenger first volunteered for St John Ambulance when she was eight and over the years has attended many football matches and concerts.

"There is always something going on. It can be quite a long day especially when things can happen at the end of the day."

Most people she treated on

grand final day became caught up in the excitement and needed treatment for minor injuries, such as sprained ankles, often after falling over.

Another important part of the big day for her will be teaching Ms Crennan new skills.

Ms Crennan has been a St John volunteer for 2½ years and is keen to follow in the footsteps of her aunt and grandfather. "I get to teach her how to look after people and watch her develop new skills. It is nice to see her developing those qualities of looking after people," Ms Grenenger said.

— Laura Little



Taking care: Rachel Crennan and Jo-Anne Grenenger practise their first aid skills on Rachel's dad John ahead of the grand final.

Picture: Cathy Jackson