

# NECKSAFE PATRON: PAUL FEATHERSTONE

Paul Featherstone is a unique individual. Paul has spent the last 30 years perfecting skills in the recovery and care of people in life threatening situations.

Joining the NSW Ambulance Service in 1972, Paul pioneered the Ambulance Service's acclaimed Paramedic system in 1976. He conceived and developed the Special Casualty Access Team (SCAT) in 1986, and has since been a team leader in developing patient access methods and high levels of care under hostile environments.

Twice the recipient of the Ambulance Service's highest award for bravery, the Distinguished Service Medal, the Australian Bravery Medal, the Humane Society's bronze, silver and gold medals, Prince Phillip Helicopter Rescue Award and the Ambulance Service Medal as part of the 2007 Queen's Birthday Honour List. Paul has also been honoured as 2007 Sutherland Shire Citizen of the Year and Australia Day Ambassador.



Paul's experience positions him as a specialist in situations where lives may be at stake. Situations where perfect planning, quick assessment and responses are critical for the prevention of further injury.

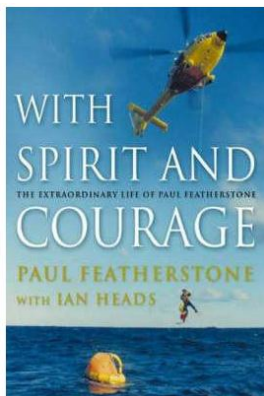
From heart attacks in domestic environments to severe multiple victim industrial accidents, Paul has been at the forefront of literally thousands of emergency situations.

Paul is an expert in his field, a leading instructor and exponent. Paul conceived and implemented the NSW Ambulance Special Casualty Access Team (SCAT). He is an associate lecturer at Charles Sturt University and he continually updates his knowledge and expertise, including from outside the Ambulance Service

Paul is well recognised for pioneering the development of his unique training methods in high-risk areas based on "real world" experience, with emphasis on self-motivation and teamwork.

Now in the latter years of his career, Paul has been a crucial figure in some of the country's most notable rescues, from the Granville train disaster to major bushfires and floods to his remarkable life-saving endeavours under the rubble of the Thredbo landslide disaster with Stuart Diver.

Yet what he remembers most are the private tragedies. Of all the dramas that he has tried to salve, the domestic shootings, heart attacks, industrial accidents, car crashes, even being attacked by someone wielding a knife, it's the very old and the very young whose impact has proven to be most enduring.



Paul's extraordinary life and achievements have been chronicled in his book "*With Spirit and Courage*", which has sold thousands of copies internationally, and is a highly sought-after motivational and educational speaker.

In addition to Paul's outstanding career with the NSW Ambulance Service, in recent years he has been in demand to provide specialised services to individuals and corporations. Paul has been personally selected by some of Australia's most high profile individuals and corporations to provide VIP Clinical Management, Close Personal Protection, Clinical Support at major sporting functions, Safety Officer services for major events, Team Building and Leadership courses, and Adventure Training and Survival Courses including Medical Support Team for the Discovery Channels International Multisport event: "Eco Challenge".

Whether at Thredbo, or with Pat Portlock, pinned by the leg for 10 hours under a teetering crane, crawling through the rubble at the horrendous Granville train disaster of 1977, or in boiling seas off Malabar Beach miraculously plucking a fisherman to safety, everything he does is based on intensive and expert training of many years, and on experience which has grown in him an invaluable sixth sense.

Paul talks of such things as the mix of mind, body, spirit and the state of "empty mind" which allows him such extraordinary achievements.

***Paul has been associated with NeckSafe since its inception and we are delighted to have him as one of our Patrons.***