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# News Geelong

## Way to young hearts

Samantha Landy | July 27th, 2012

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### LEOPOLD Primary School has become one of the first public primary schools in the Geelong region to receive a defibrillator.

The life-saving device was donated by the local Lions Club in response to the tragic deaths of two schoolboys this year.

It was purchased with the support of the Daniel Reddie Foundation, a Geelong organisation that raises funds for heart-related charities.

Leopold Primary principal Jan Rollinson said she was pleased to have the "peace of mind" that came with having a defibrillator on site.

"Just to know we've got it there is amazing," she said.

"Of course we hope we never have to use it."

The Lions Club's Bev McCrohan, who kick-started the donation, said the April deaths of Corio boy Dylan Foster, 11, and Saint Ignatius College student David Markov, 14, inspired her.

Their deaths from asthma-induced respiratory failure sparked a call from Dylan's mother for defibrillators to be installed in Geelong schools.

"I wanted to make something good out of something horrific," Ms McCrohan said.

The wider Leopold community would also have access to the device, she said.

Sofie Reddie, of the Daniel Reddie Foundation, agreed the club had "done a great thing" to protect the community and primary school.

Ms Reddie, whose brother-in-law died from an undetected heart defect, was confident defibrillators would soon be common in schools.

Defib Your Club, For Life! director Sue Buckman hoped Leopold Primary would set the benchmark for other Geelong schools.

"Cardiac arrest isn't just for the older generations," she said. "It can hit anyone at any age. Defibrillators are the difference between life and death."

She said the best time to use a defibrillator was in the first five minutes of an attack., making units an integral part of modern day first aid kits.

St John Ambulance Victoria's Martin Wells said the sooner defibrillators could be applied the better, noting every second counts.



LIFE-SAVING DEVICE: Leopold Primary School students Darcy Engel and Macy Lockyer with the school's new defibrillator. Photo: REG RYAN

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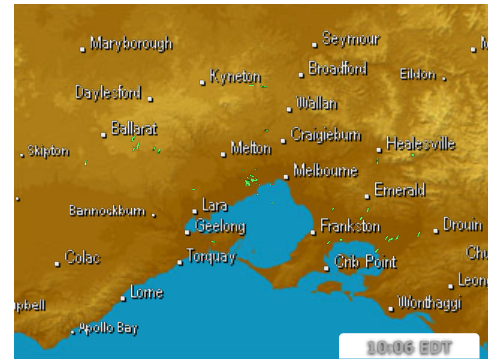
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