

Community Connections

Windsor RSL: Strengthening the Heart of the Hawkesbury Community

When it comes to looking after the Hawkesbury, Windsor RSL doesn't just roll up its sleeves—it brings the whole community along for the ride. With a cheeky grin, a helping hand, and a heart as big as the region itself, this much-loved club continues to show that true community spirit starts with action—and maybe just a little bit of yellow.

One of Windsor RSL's latest life-saving moves (literally!) is the installation of four bright and bold Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) across the local area. Thanks to a powerful partnership with Heart of the Nation, Hawkesbury City Council, and the Club GRANTS program, these electric little heroes now stand proudly in high-traffic public spots, ready to jump into action.

Each AED sits inside a striking yellow beacon—impossible to miss and even harder to ignore. Whether you're out for a jog, cheering at the footy, or enjoying a family picnic, help is now never more than a few steps away. These devices aren't just high-tech boxes; they're potential lifesavers. In cases of sudden cardiac arrest, every minute matters—and these AEDs are ready

24/7 to give someone that critical second chance.

And while no one wants to need an AED, knowing they're nearby? That's real peace of mind. Windsor RSL hopes these beacons of safety will not only be there in an emergency but also spark important conversations—around awareness, training, and turning ordinary locals into everyday lifesavers.

"This is about building confidence in our community," said Community Engagement Manager Yasmine Chalmers. "It's not just about installing equipment, it's about starting conversations, breaking down fear, and giving people the knowledge to act."

Because at the end of the day, the only thing better than saving lives is preventing the panic in the first place—and Windsor RSL is here to make sure the Hawkesbury is ready, willing, and able.

Of course, keeping the community healthy isn't just about what's pumping on the inside—it's also about nurturing the soul. That's why Windsor RSL is also throwing its arms (and resources) around The Bunker—a brand new space in the Heart of Windsor that's more

than just a roof over someone's head.

From the Jeremiah Project, The Bunker is a safe, healing space for those doing it tough. But don't think of it as just a shelter. Think of it as a warm, welcoming home-cooked meal for the soul.

"The Bunker is not just a building; it's a sanctuary," says founder Jacky Turano with the kind of passion that makes your heart do a little flip. "It's a place where the broken-hearted can begin to heal, and where those who feel unseen finally feel seen. At the heart of it all is a table—a symbol of belonging, where all are welcomed, loved, and respected."

That's not just a vision—it's a promise. Backed by over 60 incredible volunteers, The Bunker is already serving up more than just meals. It's serving dignity, purpose, and a strong sense of "you matter."



Chris Whiteley (Windsor RSL CEO), **Jacky Turano** (Jeremiah Project Founder) and **David Ingram** (Windsor RSL Club President).

Jacky continues: "We want to be a light of love and compassion for those who have often been forgotten. We're not just offering a meal—we're offering a future. A fresh start. A hand to hold and a seat at the table."

From flashing yellow beacons to steaming bowls of soup, Windsor RSL is proving—again and again—that community is more than just

a postcode. It's about showing up, lending a hand, and making sure no one gets left behind.

This is a club that's not just part of the Hawkesbury—it's in the DNA. Whether it's saving lives in the park or changing lives around the table, Windsor RSL is giving us all a reason to believe in the power of community, connection, and a shared sense of purpose.

And let's be honest: it's nice to know that if your heart ever skips a beat, your community won't.



McQuade Park



Peel Park



Richmond Oval



Turnbull Oval



The Home of the Hawkesbury

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