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Defibrillator gifts heading for 1000 milestone

HEALTH 31 JUL 12 @ 05:00AM BY BARRY KENNEDY

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Sue Buckman at Rupertswood Football Club, where the tragic loss of her son led to her campaign to put defib machines into sporting clubs. One year on, the 1000th machine is to be handed out.

A REMARKABLE milestone is about to be reached for Sunbury not-for-profit group Defib Your Club For Life.

Spearheaded by Sunbury mother Sue Buckman and Gisborne paramedic Andrew White, the agency is about to deliver its 1000th defibrillator.

At \$2300 a machine, Defib Your Club for Life has given clubs and other organisations \$2.3 million in lifesaving equipment.

Ms Buckman began raising money for clubs last May after her son, Stephen, died after a cardiac arrest while training at his Rupertswood Football Club.

At his funeral in 2010 the family asked for money so the club could buy a heart-starting defibrillator unit and a campaign was born.

"This is my life and full-time job now," Ms Buckman said. "One day I was an everyday mother, then you get a phone call which changes everything."

With sports clubs of all codes across the state receiving defibrillators, she said the emphasis was shifting towards providing defibrillators to workplaces and schools and that interstate sports clubs were now also being supported.

Ms Buckman said a recent seminar where Ambulance Victoria representatives were speaking implied that up to six lives had already been saved by newly acquired defibrillators provided by the organisation.

Details: defibforlife.org.au

<http://www.wherelive.com.au>



All times AEST