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Lifesaving boost in Hobsons Bay

LOCAL NEWS 17 JAN 12 @ 07:00AM BY ANDRE AWADALLA

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Barrie Muschialli from the Altona Football Club, Anne Lisci from the Altona Junior Football Club, Nuran Umit from the Altona Community Bank, Darren McConville from the Altona Cricket Club and Denis Shanahan from the Altona Community Bank with one of the defibrillators. Picture: DAVID SMITH

LIFESAVING defibrillators will be placed at dozens of sites throughout Hobsons Bay and Wyndham to help provide vital assistance to those having a cardiac arrest.

The Altona, Laverton/Altona Meadows and Point Cook Community Bank branches have earmarked about \$250,000 to pay for at least 88 machines across the two municipalities.

Fifteen of the machines, which each cost about \$2300, were due to be placed last week at various clubs and businesses - including the Altona Surf Life Saving Club, the Altona Cricket Club, Williamstown beach and the Hobsons Bay Sport and Game Fishing Club.

The bank is working with the Defib Your Club For Life program, established by paramedic Andrew White.

The Laverton Community Centre is acting as the community partner.

Mr White was spurred to begin the program after the death of 19-year-old footballer Stephen Buckman in 2010. With no access to a defibrillator, an off-duty Mr White was unable to revive Mr Buckman.

Community Bank's Sarah Stapleton said the machines were "completely automated" and were each registered with

the 000 emergency call centre.

In this way, Ms Stapleton said, callers could be advised of their nearest defibrillator location and help to provide essential first aid before an ambulance arrived.

Altona, Laverton/Altona Meadows and Point Cook Community Bank branch director Michael Boyd said phase one of the rollout of the machines focused on sites that had significant crowds during summer.

He asked that community groups, clubs and businesses to register their interest in having a machine so that future sites for defibrillators could be “selected strategically”.

Mr Boyd said the goal was to ensure that most people were within a three to four-minute drive away from a defibrillator.

He said the bank got involved with the Defib Your Club For Life program because it wanted a project “that would touch everyone in the community”.

“We figure it will make a difference to the community (and) it will make us a little bit safer,” he said.

Details: defibforlife.org.au/the-program

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



All times AEST