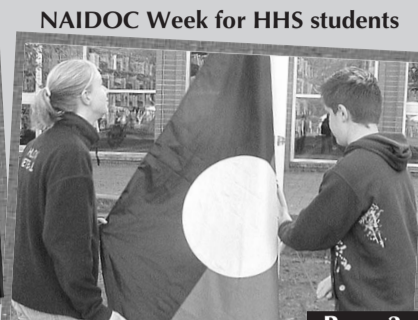


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New portable defibrillator

Community members who have attended - or supported in any way - the past two Forest Festivals held at Geeveston have helped provide very important life-saving equipment.

After the first Forest Festival two years ago, a donation was made to the Royal Hobart Hospital to purchase equipment.

The Festival held earlier this year was also successful - and, last Thursday, on behalf of the Tasmanian Forest Festival 2005 organizers and the Geeveston Branch of the Lions Club of Huon, a portable defibrillator and resuscitator bag was presented to Huon Valley Council's Mayor, Councillor Robert Armstrong.

The presentation function was held in the upstairs meeting room at the Forest and Heritage Centre in Geeveston.

The equipment will be based at the Geeveston Police Station.

Snr. Constable Andrew McKenzie, who is based at the Geeveston Police Station, thanked all concerned for provision of the equipment. He said that, on many occasions, for instance vehicle accidents, Police Officers arrived before Ambulance Paramedics. He said the equipment would be kept at Geeveston - if he was away it would be accessible for locally trained residents to access.

A training course is to be held in the near future for interested members of the community.

Ms Kay Errington (Chairperson of the Geeveston Branch of the Lions Club of Huon) and Mr Roger Browne (Chairman of the Tasmanian Forest Festival Committee) both said they were extremely pleased to be able to make the equipment available.

Mayor Armstrong quipped, "We hope it (equipment) doesn't have to be used - but

we know it will."

Huon Valley Council's Deputy Mayor, Councillor Laurie Dillon, welcomed all present - including members of both the Lions Club of Huon and the Geeveston Branch of the Lions Club of Huon, Mr Bill Glassell (Zone Chairman of the International Association of Lions Clubs), Mr Steve Davis (representing Forestry Tasmania), and Lions Club of Huon Past Presidents Barbara Cordwell, Tas Cordwell and John Gillham.

The Geeveston Branch of the Lions Club of Huon was formed in late 2003 and since that time the Branch has become heavily involved with the local community of Geeveston and the State as a whole.

Last year, in partnership with the Tasmanian Forest Festival 2004, \$4000 was donated to the Royal Hobart Hospital for purchase of specialized wheelchairs for the children's department.

In December 2004, the Geeveston Branch of the Lions Club of Huon co-ordinated the organization of the Geeveston Christmas Parade - and are in the process of organizing the Parade to be held this coming December.

The presentation of the equipment on Thursday once again showed what can be achieved when everyone works together in our local communities.

Let's hope that the next Tasmanian Forest Festival will be given the same support as the first two events have - thus giving the organizers the opportunity to once again make another "donation" to help the local community.



Pictured were - Back: Jonathon Price, Roger Browne, Mayor Robert Armstrong, Deputy Mayor Laurie Dillon and Snr. Sgt. Andrew McKenzie. Front: Steve Davis and Debbie Browne.



Pictured with the equipment were - Back: Snr Constable Andrew McKenzie, Ron Murphy (member Geeveston Branch of Lions), Debbie Browne (Geeveston Lions), Laurie Dillon (Deputy Mayor of Huon Valley Council), Robert Armstrong (Mayor of Huon Valley Council), Bill Glassell (Lions Zone Chairman), Tas and Barbara Cordwell (Lions Club of Huonville) and George van Liessum (who will train local people to use the equipment). Front: Lions members Heather Murphy, Dennis Hill, Kay Errington, John Gillham and Jillian O'Brien (John is a member of the Lions Club of Huon, the others being members of the Geeveston

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