

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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Petersham Rugby Club fundraises for Camperdown Oval Defibrillator

Petersham Rugby are wearing their hearts on their sleeves as they pledge to fundraise and install a defibrillator at their home ground, Camperdown Oval, in Sydney's Inner West.

The club's fundraising efforts come following Marrickville Council's \$1M commitment to upgrade Camperdown Oval's sports facilities.

Petersham Rugby's Club President, Darren Barlow, said that the club's aim is to really give back to the local community and to follow on from the work that the council are doing with the upgrade by fundraising for the defibrillator and making the sports ground a safer place for the many teams and community members that train, play and spend time there.

In addition to fundraising to have a defibrillator installed, Petersham Rugby aims to raise awareness of The Michael Hughes Foundation and the need to have defibrillators installed at all sports fields across Australia.

The club will dedicate funds raised at their 2016 Ladies' and Old Boys Event on April 16 to the purchase and installation of a defibrillator at Camperdown Oval.

\$2800 will enable the club to have a defibrillator permanently installed at Camperdown Oval for sports teams, community members and the club to use, while \$5000 will enable a second, portable defibrillator to be purchased and to travel with the team to all away games.

"The local initiative, driven by Petersham Rugby, also hopes to raise awareness of sudden cardiac arrest and overall heart health; provide education on the use of a defibrillator and CPR techniques; encourage involvement from our local Inner West community, sporting organisations and businesses and honour the memories of a number of fellow Sydney rugby players who have passed away from sudden cardiac arrest in the past few years", said PRUFC President, Darren Barlow

On the day of the event, The Michael Hughes Foundation will host a stall to showcase a range of defibrillators, demonstrate CPR techniques, provide information on Sudden Cardiac Arrest and answer general questions from community members and event attendees. Professor Chris Semsarian of the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital has kindly donated his time to be involved on the day and share his knowledge and expertise. Professor Semisarian is an internationally recognised cardiologist with a specialty in Sudden Cardiac Arrest in the young, particularly while playing sports.

Founder and Director of The Michael Hughes Foundation, Julie Hughes, expressed her delight at Petersham Rugby's decision to promote awareness of sudden cardiac arrest and to raise funds to install its own defibrillator at its home ground.

"I'm proud of PRUFC's fund-raising efforts, and I'm really looking forward to the Ladies and Old Boys event. We hope that our stall will add to the carnival atmosphere, make a positive contribution to the day", she said.

Julie also commented on the event as a great example of the Foundation's "Heart of the Community" model in action.

Petersham Rugby welcomes donations to assist them to reach their goal, please visit www.mycause.com.au and search for 'Petersham Rugby' or go to <http://www.bitly.com/camperdowndefib>

Petersham Rugby would like to thank the following sponsors and local businesses for their ongoing support and for making the 2016 Event & Fundraiser possible: The Toxeth Hotel, Dragon Group, Wests Ashfield Leagues Club and Fita Sportswear.

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About Petersham Rugby:

- Established in 1883, Petersham Rugby is Australia's longest standing suburban rugby club and is based at Camperdown Oval in Sydney's Inner West
- Following the passing of fellow rugby players from sudden cardiac arrest, Petersham Rugby has committed to raising the funds to purchase a defibrillator for their home ground at Camperdown Oval. The defibrillator will be available to all sporting teams who play, train, and utilise the shared grounds.