



## MEDIA RELEASE

22 March 2005

### **St John and local community groups saving lives**

St John (NSW) Taree Division, the Rotary Club of Taree North and the Blackhead Surf Life Saving Club are coming together to potentially save the lives of Hallidays Point community members and visitors.

St John has facilitated the donation of a defibrillator to the Surf Life Saving Club following a grant received by the Rotary Club of Taree North from the Coastline Credit Union.

The official handover of the life-saving piece of equipment will take place at the Coastline Credit Union at 4pm on Tuesday 29 March. A Community Awareness night will be held on 3 May at 7.30pm the Blackhead Surf Life Saving Club to demonstrate the machine and showcase to the local community and surf club members. All members of the community are encouraged to attend.

The defibrillator will be located at the Blackhead Surf Life Saving Club to be used by the life savers in case of a sudden cardiac arrest at the beach or within the nearby community.

St John (NSW) Taree Cadet Divisional Superintendent, states that defibrillation is the only real chance people have of surviving a sudden cardiac arrest.

“The current survival rate from sudden cardiac arrest outside a hospital is less than 5%. Unfortunately, CPR alone is often just not enough,” said Mr Buxton.

“If someone receives defibrillation within the first 3 minutes of having a sudden cardiac arrest, their chance of survival improves dramatically, well over 50%. It really does make a significant difference.”

“Automated defibrillators really are the safest and most effective way to save the lives of members of the public who suffer from sudden cardiac arrest. They are a critical step in the ‘chain of survival’ for a sudden cardiac arrest victim,”

“I would like to thank all the local groups involved in making this community a safer place,” Mr Buxton said.

St John (NSW) encourages all community organisations, groups and business to consider including a defibrillator as a part of their first aid equipment.  
For further information contact St John (NSW) on 1300 360 455.

**ENDS**

**Photo opportunities and interviews are available at:**

**Official handover**

Coastline Credit Union  
45 Albert Street Taree  
4pm on Tuesday 29 March

**and/or**

**Public Awareness Session**

Blackhead Surf Life Saving Club  
Tuesday 3 May at Hallidays Point at 7.30pm

**Media enquiries:**

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