

# The Magpie



## Temuka Community News

### New Defibrillator Offers Vital Support in Emergencies



On Left Chris McAuslin, Compliance Manager with General Manager, Chris van der Werff with the defibrillator

NZ Insulators have recently purchased a defibrillator for their staff, and are pleased to also make it available to the wider community by installing it outside their front door. It's a St John defibrillator, meaning it can be accessed by phoning 111 for assistance.

A defibrillator is a life-saving device designed to help someone experiencing sudden cardiac arrest—a condition where the heart unexpectedly stops beating effectively. When this happens, blood flow to the brain and other vital organs is cut off, and without quick treatment, it can be fatal within minutes.

The defibrillator works by delivering a controlled electric shock to the heart. While this might sound dramatic, the goal isn't to "restart" the heart in the way it's often shown in movies. Instead, the shock briefly stops the heart's abnormal electrical activity, giving it a chance to reset and return to a normal rhythm.

Most public defibrillators, known as Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs), are designed for use by everyday people, not just medical professionals. They are straightforward to operate and provide clear, step-by-step voice instructions. After turning the device on, pads are placed on the person's chest, and the machine checks the heart's rhythm. It will only deliver a shock if it is needed, making it safe for anyone to use.

Acting quickly in a cardiac emergency is critical. Using a defibrillator alongside CPR can significantly increase a person's chance of survival. Every minute without help reduces those chances, which is why having accessible defibrillators in our community is so important.

By making this device publicly available, NZ Insulators hopes to play a small but vital role in keeping our community safe—because in an emergency, every second counts.

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