

# The Area News

## Griffith Post School Options buys Catholic Club Yoogali

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*The Post School Options team, with Griffith Real Estate, celebrate their new home.*

IT'S been a long time coming, but you couldn't wipe the smiles off the faces of the Griffith Post School Options team when they checked out their new premises on Wednesday.

On Tuesday night, the disability services organisation took ownership of the Catholic Club Yoogali, which was passed in at auction last month.

The purchase is a coup for the organisation, which was devastated after the federal government retracted a promised \$500,000 funding for the new premises, set to be built on Olympic Street.

This year has been a rollercoaster ride of emotions for service manager Roy Catanzariti, but he couldn't be happier with the end result.

"It's perfect," Mr Catanzariti said.

"We're over the moon, this is absolutely huge and the smiles on everyone's faces tell a thousand stories.

"We've been striving for this for a long time and finally our future is set."

The Catholic Club complex, which comprises tennis courts, a bocce court, a recreational area, barbecue area, commercial kitchen, bar and functions centre, will provide four times more space than the planned new centre.

Mr Catanzariti has been in talks with Meals and Wheels and Western Riverina Community College, who have plans to share the facility.

"We'll restructure the whole thing and we're in the process of creating a concept plan with the architects," he said.

"We have the potential for a hobby farm, dance parties, hospitality training, complete classes, income options from sub-letting - the possibilities are endless."

Mr Catanzariti said none of it would have been possible without the unwavering support from the community - including a hefty donation from the Rotary Club of Griffith.

The club's Ross Grillo called an emergency board meeting Monday night, where they decided to hand over the money.

"We feel it's very important to this town and very important to the people who are going to use it," Mr Grillo said.

"We're here to help the community and someone's got to help these kids, we weren't going to let them run short."

Tim Gumbleton from RSM Bird Cameron, who handled the insolvency, said it was overall a good result.

"The bank will be discharged and employee claims will be paid but there will be a small shortfall to creditors," Mr Gumbleton said.

"The auction day was tough and there were some long-serving employees that we were a bit concerned about but they're going to be paid so we're really happy."