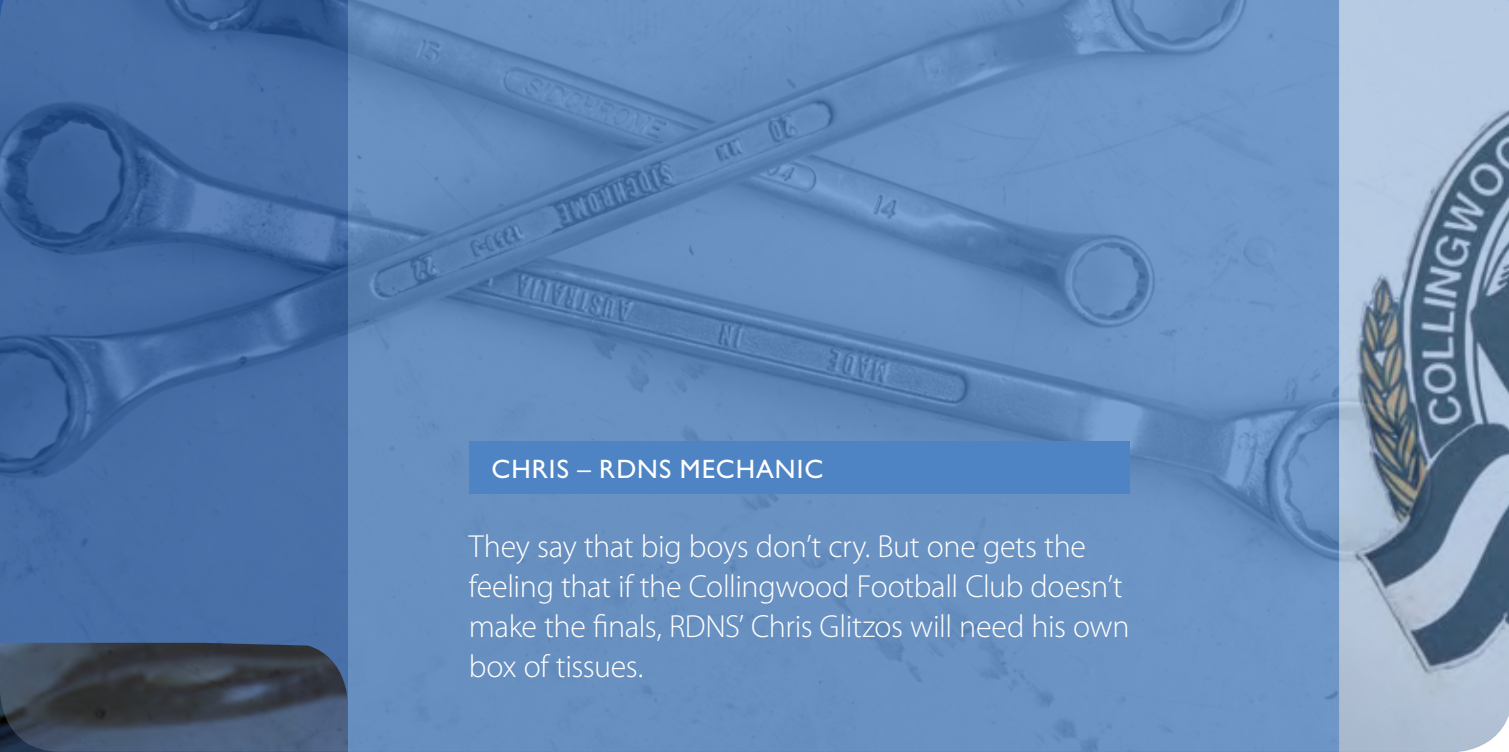


OUR STAFF: DIVERSITY AND DEDICATION

When it boils down to it, RDNS is all about providing nursing and healthcare. Naturally, nurses make up the bulk of our workforce. But it is the efforts of so many different people doing very different things that allow us to fully meet our charter.





CHRIS – RDNS MECHANIC

They say that big boys don't cry. But one gets the feeling that if the Collingwood Football Club doesn't make the finals, RDNS' Chris Glitzos will need his own box of tissues.

There is black and white blood running through the veins of this burly mechanic, his devotion to his football club evident at every turn. Whether it be the Collingwood diary that sits atop his desk, the huge logo that adorns his office wall or the fact that he is Collingwood's Team Leader in the AFL Cheer Squad League, here is a man of whom Eddie McGuire would be proud (and probably is).

It all started as a young boy who wanted to buck the trend: his mates barracked for Hawthorn, Chris wanted to be different. He bought a Collingwood jumper and hasn't taken it off since. The Pies have been a part of his life for as long as he can remember. Also a part of his life since a young age has been cars. After leaving school, the young football fanatic launched into a mechanic's apprenticeship. Soon after its completion he was working for a major rental car company. He liked the work: it was rewarding fixing cars but in time he wanted an added dimension to his vocation.

An advertisement in the local paper prompted him to apply for a job at Royal District Nursing Service. With hundreds of cars in the RDNS fleet, here was a steady stream of activity and the chance to work for an organisation that made a positive difference to the community. Chris applied and shortly afterwards began as one of three mechanics at RDNS. That was 18 years ago: he has received two long service awards since, one for 10 and one for 15 years of service; it seems likely that he will notch up his 20-year anniversary.

He's a sensitive man, clearly moved by his experiences at RDNS and the interaction he has had with nurses and clients. His main responsibility is servicing RDNS' massive fleet, which stands at almost 600 cars, but he also has a hand in car trade-ins and installs key safes at clients' homes.

He's on the road a lot of the time, visiting RDNS' 20 sites in his van and servicing vehicles as he goes. It can be lonely work he confesses wistfully, and these days he's the only full-time mechanic. But it's honest work, he says, and that's what's important. In his 18 years he estimates he's serviced almost 20,000 cars. That's a lot of grease and oil changes. He is a devoted family man, happily married for 22 years and the obviously proud father of two grown children. As a family they support their beloved Collingwood Football Club, his wife attending most games with him.

As Chris lowers the hoist and anticipates Collingwood's future challenges, it's clear that here beats a heart of black and white. It's also clear that within this hard-working RDNS employee beats a heart that is a loyal and faithful. And thank goodness: with over 5,000 square kilometres to cover every day there's a lot of nurses dependent on the work of this cheerful mechanic. And a lot of Collingwood supporters.

