

>> Hospital to get new machine that monitors person's heart activity

Donation from heart

By Scott Tibballs*

Kyabram Heart Group has donated more than \$13 000 to the Kyabram District Health Service for a vital piece of modern technology.

The service will use the money to buy a new electrocardiograph (ECG), which allows doctors to monitor a patient's heart activity.

The Kyabram Hospital will use the new ECG.

The heart group collected the money in part through its annual tomato fundraiser drive, where it sells tomatoes local farmers donate.

The group's president Bill Norman said they had raised \$3000 more than last year, despite hailstorms that damaged crops in January and forced the fundraiser to be set back by a month.

An additional donation of \$5000 from the Kyabram Club allowed the heart group to cover the cost of an ECG, which costs about \$13 000.

The new ECG, which replaces an older unit that was also bought with money the heart group donated many years earli-

er, is Wi-Fi enabled, which allows doctors to review information immediately on their own computers.

KDHS chief executive Peter Abraham said an ECG was an essential piece of equipment for any hospital and were used many times a day.

"We continue to get fantastic support from this group that tirelessly works in the community to get money to support our needs," he said.

Mr Norman said that while the new ECG allowed the heart group to tick an item off its agenda, there was still more fundraising and donations to come, with Heart Week coming up from May 3 to 9.

He said Kyabram's continued support for the heart group would allow them to "keep the work up and our hospital here".

The heart group will be selling raffle tickets in front of IGA supermarket on Albion St during Heart Week, with first prize a first aid kit worth \$150.

— Scott Tibballs is an intern from Melbourne University.



KDHS nursing unit manager Susan Ryan tests the hospital's newest ECG machine with patient Merle Ayres, while Kyabram Heart Group president Bill Norman and secretary Susan Moody watch on.