

## Heart starters for football clubs

By Liv Gaunt Sept. 19, 2012, midnight



SHANE Tobin, Michael Harding and Roger Parsons familiarise themselves with the new defibrillators.

A LOCAL business has provided each Esperance football club with an automatic defibrillator through the Defib Your Club For Life initiative.

The program enables clubs to purchase defibrillators through sponsorship or fundraising.

Esperance Freight Lines (EFL) owner Michael Harding has purchased four automated defibrillators through the program and given one to each club.

"I think the automated defibrillators are great and something that clubs sometimes have difficulty obtaining," Mr Harding said.

"Sponsoring sport means money often goes towards trophies but being able to provide these defibrillators, which really benefit the community, through sponsorship is fantastic.

"The community has been pretty good to EFL over the years so we are happy to be able to give something back."

The defibrillators will be kept at local football grounds Ports Oval, Esperance Oval, Newtown Oval and at the Star Oval in Gibson and will benefit the whole community.

"With an increased number of older people being involved in sports these days the machines will benefit lots of people, not just the football players," Mr Harding said.

The machines will be available to people playing any sports on the ovals, at any time of year, as well as people attending functions at the club rooms.

"Even if only one life is saved in the next 25 years on account of having these defibrillators they will have been worth their weight in gold," Mr Harding said.

Esperance Football Club player Roger Parsons said everyone in football supported the introduction of the machines.

"The defibrillators are a great piece of kit to have just in case something happens," Mr Parsons said.

"It will be reassuring to know they are in the cupboard if needed."

Shire of Esperance and Ravensthorpe club development officer Shane Tobin said the defibrillators are a fantastic addition to Esperance's sporting facilities.

"Providing defibrillators is a unique and awesome form of sponsorship," Mr Tobin said.

"They could save a life and are things that it is great to have but that you hope never to need."

For further information or to enquire about taking a defibrillator to an event contact Shane Tobin on 0418 557 397.

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