press clip

slice
CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

Clarence Valley Orchestra director Greg Butcher gets checked out in a familiar orchestral pose by Intensive care paramedic Peter Clement. The orchestra donated money for the new monitor for the Grafton ambulance.   PHOTO: ADAM HOURIGAN

Beeping is music to their ears

Jarrard Potter
Jarrard.Potter@
dailyexaminer.com.au

THE beeping of a heart rate monitor might not sound as nice as his orchestra, but to Greg Butcher it's music to his ears.

The Clarence Valley Orchestra conductor recently made a donation of a new monitoring device to the NSW Ambulance Grafton station, bought with funds raised from the Afternoon at The Proms concert held during this year's Jacaranda Festival.

The monitoring system tracks patients' vital signs during transport, and NSW Ambulance Grafton paramedic Peter Clement said it was an essential piece of equipment.

"The machine takes blood pressures, pulses and measures oxygen saturations, and it can do that continuously, while we are moving on the road.

"Usually to get those measurements we have to stop the ambulance and take them, and that can cause precious time to be lost, so to be able to monitor patients without stopping the vehicle and getting continuous blood pressure and oxygen measurements is a great benefit.

"What we've found with this unit over the past couple of years is that it's been invaluable in looking after patients."

Mr Butcher said he was delighted in the response from the local audiences and their attendance at the performances of the orchestra, which is now in its second year.

Since its inception in 2014, the Clarence Valley Orchestra has played five major concerts and raised more than $30,000 for local charities.

More money was raised by a Rotary Midday Grafton raffle during this year's Proms concert and went to Social Futures Connecting Home Grafton last week.