



EQUIPMENT SET-UP: (l to r) James Cooper, Col Radcliffe and Ken Corby receive training in the set up of the 'Vortex' equipment from Bill Proctor. FILE

Rescue squad trains with new equipment

By DON MAHONEY

Members of the Mudjee Volunteer Rescue Squad (VRA) spent the past weekend training to use of the Vortex rescue system.

VRA spokesperson Errol Grieve said the Vortex Multipod system was the most up-to-date rescue equipment available and would make difficult rescues easier.

"The 'Vortex system can be hung over cliffs, mines, dangerous slopes or unstable ground," Mr Grieve said.

"It makes access to these difficult places easier for rescue operators and getting equipment to the scene of a difficult rescue.

"Then using pulleys, ropes and winches the retrieval of the injured on stretchers is much easier."

The Vortex system makes rescues quick and safe and is easily erected for stretcher hauls even over very steep terrain.

The equipment was acquired from Safety Access and Rescue Organisation and their principal, Bill Proctor came to Mudjee to train local members in operating the Vortex.

"The system is the proven choice of many rescue organisations in the United States of America," Mr Proctor said.

"It is now the benchmark equipment for use in rescues from difficult situations and I am pleased that many Australian emergency services are embracing this equipment.

"It is lightweight, strong and adaptable to many different situations."

Mudjee Squad President Geoff Hawes said that Mr Proctor had given informative instruction that would be of great benefit to the squad and the people of Mudjee.

"I would also like to thank the local community, individuals and organisations, who are so generous with their support,



PATIENT RETRIEVAL: James Cooper (left), Col Radcliffe (centre) being coached by Bill Proctor in lifting an injured patient, Phillip Blackman, using the 'Vortex' retrieval equipment.

which enables us to fund the latest equipment and allows our members to maintain their operational efficiency.

Mr Grieve said that with the new equipment, VRA members learnt new roping and knotting techniques.

Mudjee VRA was able to obtain the Vortex retrieval system

because of the continued generous support of fundraising events by the people of Mudjee and a grant from the Volunteer Rescue Association.

In addition to rescue operations, the Vortex also has applications in bridge and dam inspections, rope access, construction, military and movie industries.