

Vignerons support high-flying charity

COONAWARRA

Vignerons Association has donated \$30,000 to help a national charity continue its valuable work providing non-emergency flights to transport needy people in remote areas to medical services.

The presentation on Friday morning to Angel Flight Australia was the organisation's largest ever single donation to a charity.

Veteran Angel Flight pilot Barrie Aarons and new recruit Ken McEachern touched down at Coonawarra's airstrip to accept the cheque on behalf of the organisation.

Mr Aarons, who has flown more than 27 missions, said "it is a great cause to support" and some of the funds would be used to help supply fuel to cover the costs of pilots, who were all volunteers.

Almost 1800 pilots donate their time and aircraft to the charity to help people in rural areas receive non-emergency medical or humanitarian help, which could other-



□ Coonawarra Cabernet Celebrations organising committee chairman Peter Weinberg (right) presents a \$30,000 cheque to Angel Flight Australia pilots Ken McEachern and Barrie Aarons following October's successful Barrel Series 11 Auction.

wise be out of reach.

The donation was provided from the net proceeds of the two highest selling barrels from the Barrel Series 11 Auction - Wynns Coonawarra Estate and Katnook Estate - during October's cabernet celebrations.

The association, consisting of 30 wineries from across the Coonawarra,

hosts several fundraising events throughout the year.

Coonawarra Cabernet Celebrations organising committee chairman Peter Weinberg said the auctions over the past seven years had led to more than \$150,000 being donated to charity.

He said past donations had gone to the Penola

War Memorial Hospital and Autism Association of South Australia.

"The auction has been going for 11 years and as it has grown we have added a charity component to it to give back to the community," he said.

This year's Coonawarra Cabernet Celebrations will be held from October 17 to 19.