

# 21 ambassadors baying for blood

TWENTY-ONE high school students from Manning Valley have joined a national youth initiative aimed at saving lives through blood donation.

The Youth Ambassador Program encourages community contribution and is a fun, educational way for schools to introduce blood donation to students.

Schools participating in the challenge are Wingham High, Taree High, St Clares, Manning Valley Anglican College and Chatham High and this week they gathered at Taree Visitors Information Centre to learn about the program.

Blood Service spokesman Greg French said students were encouraged to donate as a group with their friends, and many students found this an excellent way to overcome any nerves surrounding donating, especially for the first time.

Students can start to donate blood at 16-years-of-age and the Red Cross Blood Service.

Greg said student donors were an inspiring example to commu-



**Simon McMillan of the Red Cross Blood Service teaches a new generation of donors the facts about blood and plasma donation. The high school students are encouraged to donate annually and to promote and encourage donation in their schools and wider community.**

nity members of all ages.

"These young donors are only young but their generosity and community spirit make a life-saving difference to blood recipients from all over the country," Greg explained.

"The Youth Ambassadors provide great support to the Blood

Service throughout the year. The Schools Blood Challenge helps to encourage and educate our youth about Australia's need for blood and how as students, they can save lives.

"They are our new generation of blood donors, and the future of our blood supply."