

COMMUNITY LEADERS FORM NEW FOUNDATION

The Latrobe Regional Hospital (LRH) Foundation has been established to nurture philanthropic partnerships between the community and the hospital.

The LRH Foundation was launched today along with the Operation LRH campaign, which aims to raise \$500,000 over two years to buy new equipment for operating theatres.

The work of the LRH Foundation will assist Latrobe Regional Hospital in the provision of high quality patient care and services to the people of the Latrobe Valley and the wider Gippsland region.

The LRH Foundation will work with the hospital's fundraising unit to further develop a donor base, create fundraising opportunities and engage the community in fundraising endeavours.

LRH board or directors, chair Barry Dunstan has welcomed the new foundation board.

"These are credible, respected members of the community. They are business and community leaders who bring a broad range of skills and experience to our fundraising efforts," he said.

"Seven high profile and trusted members of the community have accepted an invitation to sit on the foundation board along with two members of the hospital board, a representative of the chief executive and the fundraising department."

"It is prudent to have a committee that oversees the hospital's fundraising efforts. We are fortunate to have a dedicated team of people who are willing to volunteer their time to a worthwhile cause.

The foundation board will be chaired by Lorraine Bartling OAM, a director of the LRH board.

Mrs Bartling is a former mayor and has extensive experience and knowledge of community work. She has been a tireless supporter of the hospital's fundraising efforts.

Another of the LRH Foundation board member announced today was Anthony Van Breugel, sole owner of GPG Mobil.

"Having built my personal situation up from nothing, I believe I have a obligation to do what I can to help the community" he said.

"I see the foundation as a way to help the hospital and the community," he said.

CEO of i-GAIN Jenny Hammett said her decision to join the foundation board was influenced by personal experience.

"After seeing someone very close to me spend the last two years of their life in the care of LRH, I decided to make a commitment to help the hospital in this way," she said.

"It is my belief that the health services of regional communities should provide the highest standards of care and I will make it my responsibility to ensure that it continues to happen at Latrobe Regional Hospital."

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