

**Give a gift to LRH this Christmas**

Surgical instruments used to detect certain types of cancer and a new anaesthetic machine make up the Latrobe Regional Hospital's Christmas wish list.

Proceeds from this year's Christmas Appeal will be directed towards the hospital's current campaign Operation LRH, which seeks to deliver new equipment to the operating theatres.

Fundraising Manager Kate Lancaster said the hospital has increased the level of service to the community this year by carrying out an additional 780 operations more than the previous year.

"The state government does fund new equipment on a regular basis, however fundraising increases the hospital's capacity to deliver services and improves health outcomes," Ms Lancaster said.

"We need a new colonoscope and urology instruments used in the detection of bowel and prostate cancer.

"Research has shown that if detected early enough these types of cancer can be treated successfully.

"The new equipment could eliminate the need for some patients to travel to Melbourne for testing."

The hospital also needs a new anaesthetic machine to provide vital support to patients during surgical procedures.

"The new machine has advanced gas delivery and ventilation and is more easily adapted for use on children and patients with lung conditions," Ms Lancaster said.

"The purchase of this specialised equipment will enable us to continue to provide high quality patient care and services to our community," she said.

"Operation LRH has raised \$180,000 to date, which is sufficient funds to purchase an image intensifier and a blanket warming cabinet.

"Please help us to help you and think of Latrobe Regional Hospital when making your donation to charity this Christmas."

The Christmas Appeal includes a mail-out of 25,000 brochures to homes and businesses across the Latrobe Valley and ads in the local press and television.

**To donate to the Christmas Appeal complete and return a Christmas Appeal brochure or call the Hospital's Fundraising Department on 5173 8577.**

**Receipts and thank-you letters are issued to donors who provide their name and contact details. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.**

**-ends-**

**For more information contact Kate Lancaster, Fundraising and Public Relations, Latrobe Regional Hospital on 5173 8589.**

