

Fundraising campaign launched



Launched: Nurse Katrina Edgar at the campaign launch.

A FUNDRAISING campaign to purchase new equipment for Latrobe Regional Hospital's operating theatres is underway.

'Operation LRH' was launched yesterday and aims to raise \$500,000 for five new pieces of equipment.

The first, and most expensive item is a new image intensifier, worth about \$200,000.

It allows surgeons to see real time images on a monitor during surgical procedures and will replace the current machine, which is 10 years-old.

LRH also hopes to buy an anaesthetic machine, colonoscope, urology instruments and a blanket warming cabinet.

The equipment will service the hospital's four operating theatres, which are used for orthopaedic,

gynaecology, obstetrics, specialist and general surgery.

Orthopaedic surgeon Peter Rehfish said a new image intensifier would be valuable, as LRH was the region's major referral hospital for orthopaedic surgery.

"More than 1900 orthopaedic operations were carried out here last year," he said.

The hospital's CEO Peter Craighead, was confident the \$500,000 target would be reached within the two year period.

"It is ambitious, but we have a good group of people who want to get behind it and I think we have always had strong support locally for the hospital," he said. LRH Board of Directors chair Barry Dunstan said there would be a shift in fundraising from the Gippsland Cancer Care Centre to Operation LRH.