

**Baby Chelsea takes it easy during her treatment in one of the Special Care Nursery's incubators.**



## The future's so bright, I gotta wear shades!

At just a few weeks old, Chelsea looks like she is enjoying a lazy day in the sun but she is really receiving an important treatment at Latrobe Regional Hospital's Special Care Nursery. Chelsea is being treated for a condition sometimes found in newborn babies - jaundice.

Some babies are born with jaundice - a condition that causes a yellowing discolouration of the skin and the whites of the eyes.

To recover from this, many babies require simple treatment through extra feeding and exposure to sunlight. Other babies are admitted to the Special Care Nursery to receive light treatment called 'Phototherapy' for the jaundice.

Tested by a simple heel prick, jaundice is commonly seen in the first week of life and is due to an increase in the level of bile pigments called bilirubin in the blood and body tissues.

Prior to the birth, the mothers liver

removes the bilirubin. Following the birth, the baby's liver takes a few days to take over the role and as a consequence the baby's body may have difficulty coping with the increased bilirubin level.

Phototherapy is the usual treatment for a baby with jaundice if blood tests show the bilirubin reaching certain levels. Phototherapy involves the baby being placed in an incubator under fluorescent lights.

This treatment helps break down the bile in the baby's blood, which he or she is then able to excrete in their stools or urine.

Phototherapy usually takes around 48 hours and as you can see, to protect the baby's eyes during treatment, they gotta wear shades.

**Page 3 - Special Care Nursery Feature**



# Message to the community

The New Year always comes around more quickly than expected and 2004 will bring continued growth and significant achievement for Latrobe Regional Hospital.

The Gippsland Cancer Care Centre 'wheels' are beginning to turn with some speed and determination. We are currently revising the final design and completing documentation prior to commencing the tender process.

We will continue to provide regular updates to the community and the May edition of The Latrobe Way will contain more detailed information. Our aim is to commence construction before the end of this financial year so that we can treat our first patients by August 2005.

While our main focus will be on the development of the Gippsland Cancer Care Centre, we will continue to ensure that our services are sustainable and meet the needs of the regional and local community in a timely and accessible manner while providing high quality care within available resources.

To assist LRH in the challenging way forward, we recently welcomed two new board members to our Leadership Group - Keith Hamilton from Churchill and Mark Biggs from Warragul. Our new members are part of a Board of eight dedicated individuals who govern the Hospital.

I am grateful to the Board and the Executive for their willingness to work together and share the responsibility of leadership between them.

Latrobe Regional Hospital is as viable and successful as our community. My thanks to our staff and volunteers for their hard work and commitment and for the goodwill shown to us by patients, clients, family, friends and our local and wider Gippsland community. We are very grateful and humbled by your encouragement to continue the good work we do here.

Thankyou for your continued support.

**Felix Pintado, Chief Executive**

## WHO'S WHO on your hospital board



### Paul Burns

**Occupation:** Manager  
**Position on the Board:** Board Member  
**Why did you nominate to become a member of the LRH Board?**

Having originally been invited to take up a position on the first Board following the Hospital's return to public ownership, I decided to re-nominate for a further term because I believe I still have something to offer the Hospital and the community it serves.

There are still transitional issues that need satisfactory conclusion and I believe I can add to the Hospital's good governance. My job is to provide the Hospital's Executive and their staff the support and appropriate governance required so that they can continue to excel in service provision.

**What challenges does LRH face for the future?**

The challenges are to set the Hospital, and ensure it continues to operate, on a sound financial footing. This is so that it can continue to deliver quality health services to the Gippsland community. Other challenges are to ensure the satisfactory completion of the Gippsland Cancer Care Centre, to provide adequate infrastructure for the delivery of quality Mental Health Services and to attract and retain quality and committed staff.



### Keryn Coghill

**Occupation:** Pharmacist  
**Position on the Board:** Board Member  
**Community Interests:**

Aged care, non-profit support, charity groups and sporting clubs  
**Why did you nominate to become a member of the LRH Board?**

Having a background in the public hospital pharmacy arena as well as in private pharmacy practice, I feel that I have the skills to understand and improve paramedical

workflows. I have also many years of experience in the aged care sector and have developed and implemented systems and structures that have enhanced medication delivery in these areas. With this work, I have had exposure to hospital discharge practices and often see the transition from community to institutional care.

My passion is to improve systems to provide better outcomes for all. The Hospital is a vital part of our community and I believe needs far more recognition and ownership by the community. My desire is to help develop the vision of Latrobe Regional Hospital and embrace the community in endeavours to develop flagship health.

**What challenges does LRH face for the future?**

The biggest challenge I can see is dealing with funding from the government. More work is needed by our State and Federal health departments to deliver rational financial solutions to our community, understanding that preventative health dollars must be included to alter outcomes. Health is paramount to everyone's quality of life and needs the appropriate priority.

**In the last issue of The Latrobe Way we profiled two of our eight Board members, Barry Dunstan and Margaret Peters. In this issue we profile two more of our Board members - Paul Burns and Keryn Coghill.**

**Other members of the LRH Board are:**  
**Barry Dunstan - President**  
**Margaret Peters - Vice President**

**Greg Hade**  
**Lorraine Bartling**  
**Keith Hamilton**  
**Mark Biggs**



est. 1988

## Gippsland

PATHOLOGY SERVICE

*Proud to support*



Telephone 5174 0800  
[www.gippspath.com.au](http://www.gippspath.com.au)










## GMS REHABILITATION

SUPPLIERS OF HOME HEALTH & REHABILITATION EQUIPMENT

Established in Gippsland for 11 years offering a wide range of Rehabilitation products including sales and service

**SALES AND HIRE**

Melbourne:  
 Shop 5, 6a Klauer Street,  
 Seaford, 3198  
 Phone: 9776 4688  
 Fax: 9776 4622  
 Email: [showroom@gmsrehab.com.au](mailto:showroom@gmsrehab.com.au)

Gippsland:  
 154 Princes Highway  
 Traralgon, 3844  
 Phone: 1800 060 919  
 Fax: 03 5176 2589  
 Email: [sales@gmsrehab.com.au](mailto:sales@gmsrehab.com.au)

