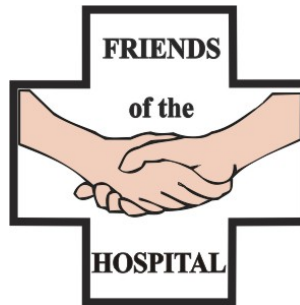


# MEDIA RELEASE



## **Friends of the Hospital Christmas Cheer** **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2008**

The Christmas Spirit is alive and well amongst members of the Friends of the Hospital Auxiliary. Their annual Christmas Plum Pudding and Hamper project is in full swing with their final cake stall for the year to be held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December in the staff cafeteria at Northeast Health Wangaratta. Hundreds of staff, patients and members of the community are expected to attend when the stall starts at 9am.

Northeast Health Wangaratta Community Relations Manager Tanya Tatuschwili says "The Friends Christmas Plum Pudding and Hamper project is the major fundraising activity for the group, and takes months of planning and preparation, as the puddings, fruit cakes, mince pies, shortbread are all traditionally hand made with the finest ingredients. The Christmas goodies can be enjoyed by everyone and make wonderful gifts".

Last financial year the Friends of the Hospital contributed more than \$31,800 to Northeast Health Wangaratta raised through a number of activities including their famous monthly cake stalls at the Hospital.

Friends President Eileen Dinning says "We are currently raising funds to purchase a Senital Node Biopsy Probe that will be used in the Operating Theatre and Radiology Department. The probe will benefit a large number of local men and women in testing for breast cancer as well as melanoma patients. Currently you would need to travel to Melbourne or Albury to have a probe done. The Friends are aiming to raise the \$17,990 required by the end of the year".

Please show your support by purchasing a traditional home-made Christmas plum pudding, hamper or other Christmas goodies from the hospital coffee shop open 9:30am to 6pm, 7 days or at the Friends Christmas Cake Stall on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December in the Hospital cafeteria. For further enquiries please contact NHW Community Relations Department on (03) 5722 0448.

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