

MEDIA RELEASE



Our Fabulous Friends – Celebrating 30 Years Tuesday 16th September 2008

The Friends of the Hospital Auxiliary have for almost 30 years contributed to the well being of our patients, clients and residents through the purchase of equipment and support for activities here at Northeast Health Wangaratta (NHW). The 2007/2008 year was no different with the Friends raising and donating \$31,880.00 to purchase much needed clinical medical equipment for the organisation.

Currently consisting of 39 members, the Auxiliary has conducted a range of activities over the past year included their famous monthly cake stalls, Christmas hamper and plum pudding project, pie drive, various raffles, event catering and a garage sale.

Equipment purchased from Friends of the Hospital contributions to NHW in 2007/2008:

\$ 4,500.00	3 x Ripple Mattresses – Thomas Hogan Centre
\$ 2,500.00	30 degree 4mm Telescope – Operating Theatre
\$ 16,880.00	40 x Static Pressure Mattresses – Across the Hospital
\$ 8,000.00	Towards Senital Node Biopsy Probe – Operating Theatre
<u>\$ 31,880.00</u>	TOTAL

3 x Ripple Mattresses – Thomas Hogan Centre

A ripple mattress helps prevention, treatment and management of pressure sores. To prevent and treat pressure sores a ripple mattress is used beneath the patient to relieve the pressure on the tissue and allow blood flow in the tissue. A ripple mattress consists of an alternating pressure pump and a special air-mattress. The mattress consists of groups of cells which can be pressurised and depressurised in turn.

30 degree 4mm Telescope – Operating Theatre

This scope is a medical instrument used in surgical Endoscopy, Urology & Cystoscopy cases for examination of the bladder & uterus.

40 x Static Pressure Mattresses – Across the Hospital

These Static Pressure Reduction Foam Mattresses are used right across the acute hospital on beds for patients. These special mattresses are made from a pressure relieving foam designed to reduce the risk of patients obtaining bed sores.

Senital Node Biopsy Probe – Operating Theatre & Radiology

The probe will benefit a large number of local 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 \$17,990 price includes the actual probe device as well as the small PC

touch screen tablet. The Friends have already contributed \$8,000 towards the probe and pledged to donate the balance of funds by the end of 2008.

NHW Community Relations Manager Ms Tanya Tatalaschwili said "The Friends display of selfless commitment is truly inspiring and greatly benefits furthering work to the hospital through their fundraising activities and voluntary service. It has been a pleasure to work alongside such a dedicated and passionate group of people. We sincerely thank the Friends of the Hospital for their generosity and extend our appreciation for their wonderful support of their local community and health service".

During the Friends Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 3rd September, NHW Board of Management President, Mr Allan Wills and NHW CEO Ms Lis Wilson presented each member of the Friends of the Hospital Auxiliary with a specially engraved wine glass to recognise their fantastic efforts and thanked them for their on-going support to their local health service.

Guest speaker for the evening was Mr Greg Meyland, NHW Allied Health Assistant and Gym Instructor who provided a very informative presentation titled "Does splinting with wetsuit material assist management of chronic upper limb spasticity as a result of stroke in Rural Health Care?"

The evening also served as a special celebration commemorating 30 years since the formation and fundraising efforts of the Base Birds and Friends of the Hospital commenced.

The Executive Committee elected for the Friends of the Hospital in 2008/2009 are:

President:	Eileen Dinning
Vice-President:	Doug Minett
Secretary:	Maureen Ilott
Treasurer:	Lesley Hawkins

Friends of the Hospital meetings are held on the 1st Wednesday of the month in the Staff Cafeteria from 7:30pm and the Friends famous monthly cake stalls are held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month in the Staff Cafeteria from 9am to 11am. All Welcome. For more details phone (03) 5722 0448.

For further information, please contact Community Relations Manager, Tanya Tatalaschwili, Northeast Health Wangaratta,
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