

Volunteers' \$90,000 donation

Community's newest charity established to support Base hospital

By **MELISSA WOODS**

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THEY are the quiet achievers who give their time freely, raising money through book sales, selling cakes and putting a smile on the face of hospital patients.

Yesterday, the volunteers of the Mackay Base Hospital gave \$90,000 to officially launch the Mackay Hospital Foundation.

The new foundation is an independent, non-profit, community driven charity that provides fundraising support to the Base hospital and all other public hospitals in the district.

The role of the foundation is to purchase those additional extras that fall outside government funding.

The 11 board members of the Mackay Hospital Foundation yesterday thanked the volunteers for their generous donation.

Mackay Hospital Foundation acting manager Mayte Sanchez said the foundation could help purchase everything from toasters, books

and televisions to medical equipment and training and education for staff.

"We are a local charity and all the donations and raised funds for our district hospitals stay in our community," Ms Sanchez said.

"One hundred per cent of all donations and raised funds are given to the area or hospital chosen by the donor and we will not use any portion for administrative expenses."

The foundation will help cover operational costs by managing and operating the new kiosk at Mackay Base Hospital.

There are about 80 volunteers who will now work under the umbrella of the Mackay Hospital Foundation.

Ms Sanchez said volunteers had been working within the hospital for more than 38 years.

"They contribute significantly by running the information desk, providing a ward trolley and mobile library service, operating the takeaway kiosk on site



NEW FOUNDATION: Celebrating with Mackay Health Service District chief executive officer Kerry McGovern, third from right, at the launch of the Mackay Hospital Foundation are, from left, volunteers Ray Hansen, Dawn Meier, Bill Thomas, Lavern White and Beryl Joyce Metcalfe.

PHOTO: PETER HOLT

and organising fundraising activities," she said.

The foundation has also developed a 'Wishlist' of medical equipment and other patient staff support

services that will have the biggest impact for people.

This Wishlist will be published on the foundation's website www.mackay-hospitalfoundation.com.au

(this website will go live at the end of this month).

Individuals, community groups and business can donate money towards their chosen wish as their benef-

iciary for fundraising events.

To donate, contact Ms Sanchez on 4885 6777 or email info@mackayhospitalfoundation.com.au.