

## Hospital goods Uruguay bound



● Uruguyan United volunteer co-ordinator Julio Pereira and public relations and IT manager Maurice Novoa survey some of the goods purchased from the hospital auction which are bound for South America.

MILDURA this week forged a special connection with the South American country of Uruguay after a charity organisation purchased thousands of dollars worth of goods for the country in the old Mildura Base Hospital auction.

The Sydney-based Uruguyan United organisation spent just over \$30,000 in the auction, buying a range of items including beds, ultrasound, cots, incubators, sterilisers and defibrillators.

Volunteer co-ordinator of the group and Uruguyan-born Julio Pereira said the organisation assisted hospitals and public clinics in Uruguay by fundraising in Australia to attend sales such as the Base Hospital auction to buy useful hospital and other equipment.

"We have a committee in Uruguay which gives us a good overview of what is needed over there," he said.

"We have many, many requests and we try to assist as many as we possibly can by raising money through festivals, raffles, membership fees and donations."

He said a major fundraiser

was held each August in Sydney to celebrate Uruguay Independence Day.

"We get between 10,000 and 12,000 people and raise about \$40,000 on average each year," he said.

"We also choose one hospital in Sydney to help each year and sometimes assist schools in Uruguay as well."

The organisation has had four representatives in Mildura since Monday - first viewing the auction lots, then bidding and finally packing the goods to be sent to Sydney.

Mr Pereira said the items were being sent to Sydney by truck last night and would be sorted before being shipped to Uruguay.

"Everything was set to leave this afternoon and arrive in Sydney at 7.30am tomorrow where we have 30 members waiting to receive the goods along with two forklifts and a warehouse," he said.

"Most of the work is voluntary so we need to fit it in between working hours."

Mr Pereira said the organisation eventually hoped to co-ordinate Uruguyan-born people worldwide to set up similar organisations to help their home country.

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