



news updates

PAEDIATRIC SYMPOSIUM FOR GENERAL PRACTITIONERS

Date: Saturday and Sunday, 26 and 27th January 2002

Venue: John Beveridge Lecture Theatre,
Sydney Children's Hospital,
Randwick,
Level 1

Enquiries: Belinda Rose, Health Education Officer,
Sydney Children's Hospital,
Randwick,
telephone number (02) 9382 1855
or e-mail
roseb@sesahs.nsw.gov.au

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CLINICAL STUDIES TARGETED GRANTS

NICS is undertaking its first targeted grants round for projects of between \$10,000 and \$100,000 in specific areas. Submissions from health professionals, health care groups and consumer groups are welcome.

More information can be obtained from www.nicsl.com.au

ANNUAL COURSE IN PAEDIATRICS

Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick will be holding its 19th Annual Course in Paediatrics from Thursday, 21st March 2002 to Saturday, 23rd March 2002.

Enquiries: Laurie Beer,
telephone number (02) 9382 1515
or Dr Christopher Webber, Emergency Department,
telephone number (02) 9382 1962.

PERTUSSIS IS ON THE INCREASE AGAIN - A GENERAL REMINDER TO STAFF

Please remember about the need to identify at risk children prior to discharge, take the opportunity to catch up on lapsed childhood vaccinations. Ethically if we know an outbreak is a real possibility and miss an opportunity to catch up on vaccinations we really are performing poorly in our duty of care. It is also worth considering when Healthcare Workers (HCW) have long standing coughs remember in the last outbreak a number of HCW were infected with Pertussis within these facilities.

HOME EQUIPMENT LENDING POOL (HELP)

The HELP centre is an organised system providing supplies and equipment to children on discharge from hospital or to children who attend outpatient services.

Location: High Street Entrance
of Sydney Children's
Hospital, Randwick

Hours: 9.45am - 1.00pm
2.00pm - 4.00pm

Enquiries: Julie Kemp on
telephone number
(02) 9382 1985

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provides free, confidential, professional counselling for any personal or work related concerns.

To obtain a brochure or to make an appointment phone (02) 9382 3681 or (02) 9382 8236.

THE FINAL WAY FORWARD DEADLINE DATE FOR 2001 IS:

11 December

THE DEADLINE DATES FOR 2002 ARE:

12 February,
12 March,
16 April,
14 May,
11 June,
16 July,
13 August,
17 September,
15 October,
12 November
and 10 December.

the way forward

Internal Newsletter of Sydney Children's Hospital

December 2001

Recipients of Staff Recognition Awards at Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick



Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick recently held its annual Staff Recognition Awards. The awards are held every year to formally acknowledge and honour staff members who have served 10, 20 or 30 years at SCH,R. Thank you to Ina McDonald, Sue Wright, Glenn Marshall, Cordelia Rowswell and John Stephen for telling their stories about working at SCH,R. Their experiences provided for a very entertaining and informative evening. Also, thank you to Barry Shepherd, Deputy CEO, South East Area Health for his continued support of this very special event.

Staff honoured this year include:

30 years service - Georgina (Ina) McDonald, John Stephen, and Sue Wright.

20 years service - Warren Bridge, Jane Christie, Maria Cosentino, Hazel Gauld, Susan Hancock and Paula McShane.

10 years service - Grant Betts, Julie Anne Borg, Rachael Budge, Annie Bye, Anne-Marie Dunne, Clare Godfrey, Irene Goodwin, Janet Harris, Christine Jones, Jann Kingston, Fiona Maguire, Margaret Manson, Glenn Marshall, Ian Morrison, Susan Mulveney, Matthew O'Meara, Cordelia Rowswell, Susan Russell, Jennifer Smith, Lap Chee Too, Harriet Violakis, Jan Walker, Lynette Walker, Christopher Webber and Michael Williams.

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**festive and
holiday season**

As another year draws to a close, we would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season. We look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year. If you are taking time off, enjoy, and take care during all the festivities!

employee of the month

Liz Mady, Patient Services Assistant - C3West, has been chosen as our Employee of the Month for November. Congratulations Liz!

Kidest Nadew (A/NUM) and staff at C3West, nominated Liz for her commitment to C3West. Liz completes her duties to the highest standard and has a broad knowledge of hospital practice. She is involved in guiding new nursing, clerical and PSA staff members.

Liz has contributed much to C3West and has made many suggestions that have been implemented in the ward. For example, Liz suggested that the storerooms on C3West be locked when unattended, which has resulted in reduced ordering of nappies and household items. Liz also uses the bartering system to borrow/lend/exchange items with other wards, but at the same time ensures no ward is disadvantaged.

Liz is a role model to staff on C3West because of her perseverance in maintaining high standards and work ethics by performing tasks outside the scope of her normal duties.



Position: Patient Services Assistant

Best part of your job? Working with a good team.

Worst part of your job? There isn't any.

When you were young what did you want to do when you grew up? A good wife and mother.

First full-time job? Dressmaker.

How long have you been at SCH? Eight years.

Strangest thing you've ever had to do on the job? Too strange to talk about.

Your mentor or greatest inspiration? My mother and my family.

Where will you be in 10 years? Retired and spending time with my grandchildren.

Job you most admire? Nursing.

Liz will enjoy a complimentary meal for two at Mama Teresa's, Kingsford and a bouquet of flowers compliments of Clementine Florist, Randwick. Metro Parking will also throw in a cheque for \$100. ENJOY!!!

volunteer update

Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick is holding its Christmas party on Friday, 7 December 2001 from 5.00pm in the School Courtyard and all volunteers are invited to attend.

We have 10 new volunteers working in C3South (our adolescent ward) and welcome them to SCH,R.

Should you need a volunteer, please contact our daily volunteer manager on telephone extension 21526 so that arrangements can be made for a volunteer from our relief pool to assist you. As our volunteers are very busy people with other commitments outside the Hospital, it would be appreciated if you would contact the daily volunteer manager several days prior to when you need volunteer assistance, especially for activities that are relatively predictable.

If a patient would like to be added to the Hospital's Event Database, please contact Mary Byrne on extension 23570 for more information.

editor's notes

The Way Forward is the SCH,R internal newsletter.

Should you want to submit to The Way Forward please do so before the following dates.

THE LAST DEADLINE DATE FOR 2001 IS:

11 December (THIS IS FOR A COMBINED JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2002 ISSUE)

THE DEADLINE DATES FOR 2002 ARE:

12 February, 12 March, 16 April, 14 May, 11 June, 16 July, 13 August, 17 September, 15 October, 12 November and 10 December.

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message from **Professor White**



Dear Colleagues,

As we approach the end of 2001, a recent series of reminders have served to highlight our achievements and the varied contributions we all make to the team that is Sydney Children's Hospital.

On the 13th of November we celebrated the 4th Annual Staff Recognition Awards. The remarks of the recipients (some of whom have been with us for over 30 years) reinforced my view that our individual capacity to identify with organisational values and purpose has been a source of resilience and support in the face of some difficult periods. On the night I acknowledged "that it may be corny"; but if you scratch the surface, most of us care deeply about the difference we make (directly or indirectly) in the lives of children and their families. We all know there is something special about a children's hospital and it is appropriate to take pride in the environment we have created here.

// there is something special about a children's hospital and it is appropriate to take pride in the environment we have created //

The next day we participated in the Periodic Review by the Australian Council of Healthcare Standards. It was a productive and rewarding day, brilliantly coordinated by Jackie Ludher. The survey feedback confirmed the progress of our continuing organisational development and the targets we have identified as further milestones along the way.

Our next workshop on the 30th of November, entitled, "How do we continue to improve our performance" will seek to clarify our individual roles, from team member to senior manager, in a range of domains including: clinical risk management, education / training/ professional development, evidence based practice and performance management. A critical conversation for the day concerns the options of how to optimise and share the organisation's resources and expertise in supporting individuals and teams in these quests. The following Monday, December 3rd, we will feedback and discuss our findings with the hospital wide Staff Forum.

The central theme of this editorial is the crucial recognition that we all contribute in our individual and varied roles. Equally, we are often the ultimate experts in identifying opportunities to further improve the performance of ourselves and our teams.

It is interesting to note how the families who are the recipients of our services express their appreciation in the frequent letters, e-mails and calls I receive on the subject. They identify the individuals, from the most junior to the most senior, whose caring and dedication has touched their lives. They then go on to describe the impact of these individual roles coming together into an effective team. Other external feedback and community support consistently acknowledges our team spirit and shared commitment.

I salute your achievements and wish you my best for the festive season!

Les White, Executive Director

**quality
improvement
matters**

RESPONSIBILITIES OF A RISK MANAGER



There was a stunning view from the edge of a cliff, and the closer to the edge you got, the better the view. People came from far and wide to see the view, and because they wanted to get the best view, many went to the very edge. Unfortunately this meant that some people fell off the edge of the cliff. So the locals thought about what they could do. They could stick big notices up away from the edges, declaring how dangerous it was to go to the edge. They could build a fence to prevent people from going near the edge, but which would not enable them to get as good a view. Or, they could provide an ambulance at the bottom to pick up the pieces. Which should they do?

In fact, risk management includes all three.

WELCOME TO CH3WEST



C3West nursing staff with a patient

In this month's column, we are pleased to be able to provide you with a brief introduction to our General Medicine Ward (with Isolation facilities), which is also known as C3West.

Staff on C3West wish to provide the best possible care and service for their patients and their families. The ward is a 24-bed general medical unit with isolation facilities for children 0-15 years of age. An isolation facility helps prevent the spread of infection amongst ill children.

C3West has single rooms (not private rooms), two-bedded rooms and four-bedded rooms. Children are accommodated according to their clinical needs. There is also a parents' retreat and children's playroom. C3West is also very fortunate and grateful that the Play Therapy Department has a play therapist who provides support and meaningful entertainment for patients and family members.

The ward treats many infections including chicken pox, whooping cough, dermatitis and bronchitis, just to name a few. In many cases, the infections treated are more often than not common childhood illnesses. The staff on C3West is dedicated to ensuring all patients on the ward are given expert care during their stay. They are also committed to ensuring patients and their families are educated about how to prevent infection.

If you would like to visit C3west to see what they do best please contact the ward's NUM on extension 21945.

Four researchers from the School were successful in the most recent round of funding from the National Health and Medical Research Council. Annie Bye has received three-year funding for a project entitled "Health related quality of life in intractable paediatric epilepsy: using a new measure to improve management". Glenn Marshall is funded for \$335,000 to look at transcriptional regulation of the tumour suppressor gene retinoic acid receptor beta. Murray Norris from the Children's Cancer Institute Australia has a \$315,000 grant to study the use of minimal residual disease detection to improve treatment outcome in childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia and Michelle Haber, the director of the Children's Cancer Institute received, \$145,000 to look at down regulation of N-myc oncogene expression as a therapeutic strategy for childhood neuroblastoma.

Congratulations to all. It remains extremely difficult to obtain NHMRC funding. Naturally there are some disappointed researchers within our School as well. We are looking to work more effectively as a School to maximise our chances of success in funding applications. The nature of the funding cycle means that anyone looking to obtain funding in next year's round needs to be working hard on their applications before Christmas. The Sydney Children's Hospital Foundation Research grants are critical in this strategy to help obtain external funding. They provide support to enable preliminary research to be done, which then forms the basis for definitive applications to external bodies.

Both Dr Anthula Karunanayaka and Dr Kingsley Storer, who are currently enrolled in PhDs and are working in Dr Marcus Stoodley's team in the SCH Research Facility, have been awarded research awards by the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, which will provide funding for their stipends and maintenance in 2002. Dr Ralph Mobbs, who is currently an advanced trainee in surgery, was awarded a scholarship to allow him to undertake a Master of Surgery with Dr Stoodley in 2002. This is a credit to them and an excellent sign of increasing activity in research by surgical trainees on our campus.

Dr Melinda Nolan, who is currently the Fellow in Neurology and is completing her Masters by Research in studies of paediatric epilepsy, has been offered the Clinical Epilepsy Fellowship at the Hospital for Sick Children, University of Toronto. She will take up this position in October 2002. Well done Melinda.

Each year students undertaking their paediatric rotation vote on the best teacher selected from the junior medical staff. This year's winners are Dr Yvonne Belessis and Dr Frances Conner. Both have won the award previously. Congratulations to them both. Thank you to all those who have contributed to the teaching effort in 2001. The students value the learning environment both at Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick and at the peripheral hospitals.

grand rounds

John Beveridge Lecture Theatre,
Level 1, Sydney Children's Hospital,
Randwick

1700 every Wednesday -
Refreshments 16:45.
Convened by A/Prof John Ziegler.

Grand Rounds for 2001 will finish
on Wednesday, 12 December 2001 and
will start again on Wednesday, 6th
February 2002 - same time,
same venue.

05/12/01

IS THERE A GENERALISED DEFECT OF
ACINAR CELLS IN SHWACHMAN-DIAMOND
SYNDROME

Speaker: Michael Stormon
Co-ordinator: Tim Bohane
Chairperson: Phil Emdor

12/12/01

WHO'S LOOKING AFTER OUR ADOLESCENTS??

Speaker: Christopher Webber
Co-ordinator: Christopher Webber
Chairperson: Tim Bohane



public affairs



SUCCESSFUL CARDIAC MORPHOLOGY SEMINAR

**Dr Owen Miller (centre)
with Professor Anderson
(left) and Dr Wilkinson
(right)**

Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick, The Eastern Heart Clinic and the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand recently held a successful one-day cardiac morphology seminar at SCH,R. The lecture theatre was almost full and the evaluation sheets were positive about the quality of each session.

Guest speakers on the day included Professor Robert Anderson, a pre-eminent authority on normal and abnormal cardiac morphology in both the structurally normal and congenitally malformed heart; and Dr Wilkinson, who presented clinical and echocardiographic correlates along with Dr Owen Miller.

NEWS FROM SCH,R ARTS PROGRAMME

There are new exhibitions on all levels of Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick. Level 3 has two new exhibitions, one called the 'Joy of Discovery' from the Powerhouse Museum and the other is from the Joseph Varga School. Level 2 has artworks from Camp Quality and the Diabetes Lion's Kids Camp and judging by the art presented, all of the children had a good time at the camps.

On Level 1 we are about to hang the photographs from the 'Kodak Snappers' exhibition, which was held at the Quadrivium Gallery. These photographs were taken by children of prominent Australians such as Geoffrey Rush, Kim Beazley and Kieran Perkins (to name just a few). From the 60+ photographs that we have, Margo Ward (Play Therapy Department) has selected seven to hang in the refurbished waiting rooms in Intensive Care.

On Level 0 we have two new exhibitions. The ABC's 'Gardening Australia' held a nationwide children's art competition, which was on show at their three-day show at Homebush (along with Fairy Sparkle and photos of SCH,R). They have kindly sent us the children's 'gardens' for exhibiting and have promised us other drawings to brighten the Hospital throughout the year.

Cherub Art from Maroubra is exhibiting 'Chooks', which is great fun.

Don't forget the Christmas Cards from the SCH Foundation with the children's artworks. Hope you all have a happy New Year.

AWARD FOR VIDEO

Congratulations to Randwick Hospitals Campus and Resource Productions, South East Health for receiving a Highly Commended award in the category "Best Company Wide OHS Training Program 2001" by the National Safety Council of Australia (NSCA) for The Helipad Safety Training Video.

The award was presented by Dr Ziggy Switkowski, Telstra Chief Executive Officer and Mr Eric Curtis, CEO, NSCA. Representatives at the function to receive the award, were Dr Christopher Webber, Staff Specialist SCH Emergency and Deputy Director NETS; Mrs Ros O'Sullivan, Director of Randwick Campus Corporate Services; and Mr Peter Lipscomb, Resource Productions, South East Health.

pat on the back

JUMBO JET FLIGHT A WINNER

Dear Mary (Mary Byrne, Hospital Liaison Officer and Volunteer Co-ordinator)

Thanks a lot for choosing me to go on the Jumbo Jet Flight. It was very exciting taking off and landing. My favourite part was taking off. I got the chance to go into the cockpit and talk to the pilot and co-pilot. There were a lot of great views. That was the first time I have been in an aeroplane. I had a great time!

Thanks again, Jessica

movers and shakers

2001 CHANGING OF THE GUARD IN GENERAL PAEDIATRICS

Over the last few years we've seen some youthful new faces join our general paediatrician team including Anna Dosen, Anthony Epstein, Glen Stephen, Joanne Leal, Usha Krishnan and Greg Rowell, to name just a few. Whilst we welcome them wholeheartedly, it would be greatly amiss of us not to mention some of our very senior paediatricians who have contributed so immensely for many years and who will not be actively admitting next year.

Most sadly, we regret hearing the news that Neville Don passed away recently after a battle with cancer. Neville started his paediatrics at Camperdown in 1966 and became the Department Head of at St George in January 1992. He has been a major contributor to local paediatrics in that area and was the Director of Medical Services at Tresillian Family Care Centre Petersham for many years. He published on a range of topics but was best known for his contributions on early infancy and parenting issues. Both SCH,R and St George will miss his dedication and enthusiasm.

Similarly both hospitals this year have also with regret accepted the retirement of Dr John "Joe" Campbell. Joe was acknowledged widely for his clinical acumen, wisdom and sensitivity as a paediatrician. His contribution to the battle against cot death and especially his early work in sleep studies were outstanding. There are many parents who suffered far less thanks to his kindness and support following the unexpected death of their infant. This was a challenging role for any doctor but John Campbell held the fort single-handedly for many years.

And finally, Ron Freeman will be leaving at the end of this year. Ron and Graeme Wise were the first junior medical staff employed by Professor John Beveridge in the new Paediatric "Hospital" here at Randwick in the 1960s. Conned with the promise that he would have plenty of time to study, Ron soon found himself on a 1:2, 24 hour shift arrangement in the middle of a diphtheria epidemic. In those days, the children's wards were at both Prince Henry and Prince of Wales and he claimed his car often drove itself between the two sites!

Ron was possibly the first neonatal registrar appointed in Australia when the first neonatal registrar post was established at the Royal ... how times have changed in just over 30 years! Mind you in those days drugs such as surfactant, theophyllin and indomethacin weren't in use ... a nip or two or brandy on the dummy was still written up on the drug charts.

With the departure of these three gentle men from our clinical services, over 100 years of experience, good times and camaraderie depart. Sure, "the time are a changing", but our new generation of paediatricians seem to be from similar moulds. We wish them well.

general information

AREA CHILD PROTECTION POLICY AND PROCEDURES KIT

The Area's Child Protection Policy and Procedures Kit has been distributed to all departments/units within Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick and is also available on the Child Protection Intranet site.

AUSTRALIAN MEDICINES HANDBOOK REVIEW

The Australian Medicines Handbook (AMH) has notified CIAP that they are re-designing their online version and are seeking advice and suggestions for improving the Handbook from all clinical health professionals and librarians. (The AMH link is located on the CIAP homepage.) If you have any thoughts about the design of, navigability or anything else concerning the AMH, please e-mail ciap@doh.health.nsw.gov.au

column 8^{1/2}



HOW TO SPOT THE CHRISTMAS SCROOGE

They reuse last year's Christmas cards and send them out under their own name.

They steal light bulbs from their neighbour's outdoor display to replenish their own supply.

They have dressed their dog or cat as Santa Claus, Santa's helper or Rudolph the Red-Nosed reindeer.

They make reverse charge long distance phone calls to their family on Christmas day.

At the office festivities, they hoard huge stockpiles of goodies for later consumption at home for their own holiday season parties.

After an invitation to a friend's house, they bring a commercially produced fruitcake, leftover from last year, and try to pass it off as home made.

important dates

The Way Forward Deadline:
Tuesday, 11 DECEMBER 2001.

Employee of the Month Nomination Deadline:
Tuesday, 11 DECEMBER 2001.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SAFETY -

NUMERICAL PROFILE IS COMING IN 2002.

Q. What is Numerical Profile?

An external audit of Sydney Children's Hospital's, Randwick Occupational Health & Safety [OHS] performance, which occurs biannually and takes two days. The auditors have a set timetable, but can visit other areas and can ask anyone they meet questions on OH&S. Everyone's answers can effect our final score.

Q. When will it be on?

Some time between 1 March 2002 and 30 May 2002 - we will be told before the end of this year.

Q. What do I need to know to prepare for this?

What your OH&S responsibilities are - they are different depending if you are a manager or a non-manager. You will soon be receiving the revised SCH,R OH&S Policy Statement, which summarises these responsibilities for you.

Who is on the SCH,R OH&S Committee? You should be able to name at least one member of the Committee, and know how to contact them.

Where to locate SCH,R OH&S Policies and Procedures, and your chemical register/MSDS [Material Safety Data Sheet] folder in your work area.

How to report a hazard or incident/accident which occurs at work; and what to do if you get injured at work.

Know where your Fire Exit, Fire Extinguisher/blanket/hose, evacuation assembly point and evacuation poster are.

Q. What else should I do to prepare if I am a manager?

Attend fire training every 12 months and OH&S manager training at least every two years.

Make sure your staff have had or are booked in for all OH&S training you or they identify is required, such as manual handling and infection control - ideally, at least one course should be attended per year

Ensure ALL your new staff receive formal local induction [in addition to Campus induction] using a checklist as a guide, which is signed off on completion.

Keep records of all the training your staff have attended, this should be available to the auditors, if requested.

Q. What else should I do to prepare if I'm not a manager?

Attend all training offered, and use it in your work.

Want to know more? You could contact your OH&S Coordinator Sonja Falkiner on telephone number (02) 9382 6542 now; or wait for the information sessions and more articles next year.

casemix information

	OCTOBER 2001	OCTOBER 2000
Admissions -	1,190	1,071
Discharges -	1,181	1,050
Day only cases -	484	514
Hospital Average Length of Stay -	2.9 DAYS	2.9 DAYS
Hospital Average Length of Stay (excl Day Only)	4.4 DAYS	4.6 DAYS
Non admitted patients -	12,937	11,247

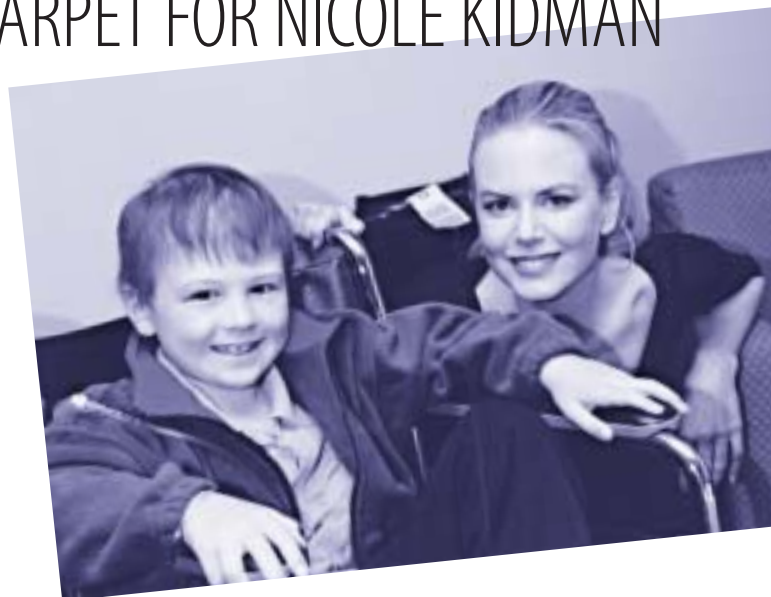


welcome to foundation news

PATIENTS ROLL OUT THE RED CARPET FOR NICOLE KIDMAN



Nicole Kidman and SCH,R patient Nicholas Powell at the Australian premiere of The Others



On Wednesday, 7 November 2001, Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick patients rolled out the red carpet for Nicole Kidman, the star of the critically acclaimed new film *The Others* as she took time out of her busy schedule to make a special visit to the Hospital.

The special visit followed the Australian charity premiere of *The Others* held on Wednesday, 31 October 2001 at Hoyts Cinemas, Fox Studios, in aid of SCH,R.

It was certainly a night seven-year-old SCH,R patient Nicholas Powell will never forget. Nicholas was given the very special role on the evening of presenting Ms Kidman with a bouquet of flowers to thank her for supporting the Hospital and then escorting Ms Kidman up the black, Halloween inspired, carpet, and the excitement didn't end there!

After the 450 odd guests had made their way up the carpet and took their seats inside the cinema, Ms Kidman announced, in her speech prior to the film commencing, that she was going to make a personal donation to the Hospital of \$100,000.

In addition, Harvey Weinstein, Head of Miramax; Cruise Wagner Productions; Sogecine and maxmedia - the producers of the film - also made significant donations.

Combined with the sale of tickets to the premiere and the raffle of a signed script of *The Others* by Nicole Kidman, a phenomenal \$250,000 was raised for SCH,R.

Ms Kidman said: "In these troubled times, I believe it is important to be positive and focus on our greatest natural resource - children - and to ensure that they have the very best medical care available to them."

