

## noticeboard

### CHILDREN'S INTENSIVE CARE UNIT'S NEW YEAR'S EVE BALL

Where: ANA Harbour Grande Hotel  
 Time: 7.00pm - 1.30am  
 Cost: \$150.00  
 Tables: Of 12  
 RSVP: Friday, 20th December 2002  
 Dress: Black Tie  
 Contact: Mary Lou Morrirt telephone (02) 9382 1499 or e-mail [morrirtm@sesahs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:morrirtm@sesahs.nsw.gov.au)  
 Fax contact: (02) 9314 6195

### INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON PAEDIATRIC PAIN (ISPP)

The Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick's Pain Service/Research Unit is hosting the International Symposium on Paediatric Pain (ISPP) - "Pain in Childhood: The Big Questions"

When: 15-19 June 2003  
 Where: The Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre

Poster abstracts deadline: 15 December 2002

Registration brochures are available for both the Education Day 15th June and the main Conference 15-19th June from either Tiina Piira, Pain Research Unit C2N, telephone contact number 9382 1585 or Marita McInerney CNC Pain, telephone contact number 9382 1625. Tiina and Marita are located in C2N.

More information about guest speakers and the symposium can be found at the website <http://www.dconferences.com.au/ISPP2003.html>

### YOUNG INVESTIGATOR SEMINAR SERIES 2002

You are invited to attend the next round of seminars of this series for 2002 presenting research from the School of Women's and Children's Health and Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick. It is a forum for our postgraduate students to present their ongoing research (presentation once a year will be compulsory) as well as being a platform for Registrars and Fellows involved with research. Allied Health and Nursing staff are included in the series. All postgraduate supervisors and other academics and senior staff are invited to attend and participate.

The seminars are held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of every month. They consist of two speakers, each presenting a 20-minute seminar followed by 10 minutes of question time.

LOCATION: SCH Lecture Theatre, Level 1  
 ENQUIRIES: Veronica Hammond, telephone number (02) 9382 6777 or email [hammondv@sesahs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hammondv@sesahs.nsw.gov.au)

### Employee Assistance Program ?

The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provides free, confidential, professional counseling 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 Way Forward Deadline Dates for 2003

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

DECEMBER 2002

## Party Hearty



Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick recently celebrated International Children's Day by reflecting the theme of sport throughout the wards and having staff dress up as their favourite sporting person or team. Sporting themes on the day included disco bowling, extreme sports, a day at the races, rugby union, Wimbledon, beach sports, water sports, nautical/sailing, Athens Olympics and many more.

Rugby followers got a taste of the action with a visit from some of the Waratah rugby union players. Humphrey B Bear was also on site to put smiles on the faces of some of the Hospital's younger patients. Celebrations continued with a test cricket match in the Hospital's School courtyard between officers from the NSW Police Service and players from the NSW Speed Blitz Blues

team. Their efforts were rewarded with a delicious BBQ in the sunny courtyard, supported by Young & Rubicam advertising agency.

Children at the Hospital also had their faces painted by artists from 3 Arts Makeup and Glamour Makeup Technicians; ate pop corn courtesy of Popsy Popcorn; enjoyed generous serves of ice cream from Serendipity Ice-cream; ate fresh buns at the sausage sizzle from Tip Top Bakeries; used Big Red tomato sauce from Heinz on the sausages; ate delicious muffins from Nothing Naughty Muffins; and drank soft drinks from Coca Cola.

Thank you to everyone who kindly donated their time and goods to the children on their special day and to everyone for joining in and making it such a fun day.



### what's inside

Employee of the month	2
Volunteer update	2
Message from Professor White	3
Nursing Matters	4
Movers and shakers	5
Public Affairs news	5
General Information	6
Foundation news	7
Noticeboard	8

### 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!



CHILDRENS INTENSIVE CARE UNIT  
**NYE BALL 02**

ANA HARROUR GRANDE HOTEL  
 7PM - 1:30 AM LIVE BAND: PEPPERMINT JAM  
 CONTACT: MAY OUT MORRITT P. 93821499 E. [morrirtm@sesahs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:morrirtm@sesahs.nsw.gov.au)

## employee of the month

## message from Professor White



**Mary Ellen Harrod, Research Officer, Nursing Professorial Unit has been chosen as our Employee of the Month for November 2002. Congratulations!**

Alice Harvey, A/CNC Centre for Children's Cancer and Blood Disorders nominated Mary Ellen for her outstanding contribution to assisting nursing staff with initiating and implementing research. Alice says that Mary Ellen is always there to help and get things done and never takes credit for any of it - she always ensures the nursing staff get the rewards. Her unselfish attitude and support of others often goes unrecognised.

Alice continues to say that Mary Ellen's commitment to projects, and her enthusiasm and encouragement of individual nurses, has seen a positive development of research in nursing at SCH, Randwick.

**Position:** Research Officer, Nursing Professorial Unit.

**Best part of your job?**

Working with people who are so enthusiastic about their jobs - the feeling of teamwork that does not happen in other workplaces.

**Worst part of your job?** Keeping track of paperwork and finding journal articles.

**When you were young what did you want to do when you grew up?** Astronaut.

**First full-time job?** Strand Books, New York City - I worked in the mail order department.

**How long have you been at SCH, Randwick?** Twenty-two months.

**Strangest thing you've ever had to do on the job?** Getting used to seeing children that are seriously ill and assisting with the incredible variety of central line projects that needs doing.

**Your mentor or greatest inspiration?** My mother, Emma Harrod, who combined a career in medicine with four children and was always enthusiastic, committed and visionary. Also my two incredible sons.

**Where will you be in 10 years?** That depends on whether I win Powerball or not.

**Job you most admire?** Child care workers - the team that look after my five-year old are incredibly enthusiastic and hard working for very little financial reward.

Mary Ellen will enjoy a complimentary meal for two at Mamma Theresa's at Kingsford and a bouquet of flowers compliments of Clementine Flowers, Randwick. Metro Parking will also throw in a cheque for \$100. ENJOY!!!

Dear Colleagues,

As the calendar year draws to a close it is appropriate to review our evolving roles in the health system as well as the broader community.

Our roles and responsibilities can be seen at different levels. Firstly, in the same way as a number of district (level 4) paediatric services, we look after a local community for all matters relating to child health, including a range of community services. This catchment is referred to as the northern sector of South East Health (SEH) and is equivalent to what once was the Eastern Sydney Area Health Service.

We also have a lead agency role within all of SEH and this is being implemented at both hospital-based and community related child health domains. There is now a formalised Child and Youth Network for SEH with appropriate sub-committees and a clear commitment to the health and well being of that population. It includes a strengthened relationship with child and adolescent mental health as well as a range of other government and non-government agencies, which impact on children.

Our most important and resource consuming role has always been that of a tertiary statewide centre. We have a long history of networking, outreach and statewide involvement in services, education and support. We have developed the highest proportion of Resident Medical Officer rotations as well as of rural outreach services and referrals of any paediatric centre. We have increasingly sought joint appointments of visiting medical officers and of staff specialists with metropolitan hospital

partners. Recently we have started to expand these networking and support mechanisms into non-medical disciplines.

I believe we have developed the correct philosophy of balancing the need for a centralised multidisciplinary team with adequate expertise and experience versus issues of local access and minimalisation of family disruption. Our philosophy is now the explicit agenda of NSW Health Department. It is also acknowledged and supported by families and consumer groups.

The Statewide Paediatric Networking Steering Group, chaired by the Director-General, governs a recently formalised system of three major networks linked with each of the three tertiary paediatric centres. Our Greater Eastern and Southern Child Health Network (GESCHN) includes Illawarra, Southern, Macquarie, and Greater Murray Area Health Services, as well as proportions of Northern, Central, and South Western Area Health Services, along with SEH. It also includes the ACT, given our historic relationship with clinical services there and this interaction is being further developed.

One piece of evidence demonstrating the effectiveness of our approach has been the increasing complexity of the caseload being managed within SCH, Randwick. It is also acknowledged there are financial implications to this commitment and that the workload for many of us has increased in both volume and complexity. There are opportunities to address this issue and to



progress towards an appropriate funding formula for our tertiary services and statewide role.

Beyond these responsibilities we have both clinical and organisational relationships nationally and internationally. We are a lead agent in Children's Hospitals and Paediatrics Units Australasia (CHA) with major commitments to benchmarking, advocacy and broader networking throughout Australia, New Zealand and beyond. We have a significant and increasing flow of overseas clinical referrals and we have some exemplary outreach to South East Asia and the Pacific.

At this time of year and with the approaching Festive Season it is also timely to acknowledge the wonderful work done by my colleagues throughout SCH, Randwick. It has been a very busy and demanding year with record attendances during the winter months. Earlier editorials made specific reference to pressure points and our exemplary capacity to cope with increasing volume, stress and complexity. However, these things can never be stated and thanked enough. You have performed admirably under often difficult circumstances and I thank you most sincerely.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!  
Les White  
Executive Director

## quality improvement matters

### RISK MANAGEMENT AT SYDNEY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, RANDWICK

Risk Management is an integral part of good management practice. It identifies, analyses, evaluates, treats, monitors, and communicates risks associated with any activity, function or process in a way that will minimise risk and maximise opportunity for improvement.

Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick is committed to providing a safe environment for staff, patients, visitors and other stakeholders. The Hospital aims to ensure safety from harm, whether by omission, commission or environmental (internal or external) factors, by removing or minimising risk (AS/ NZ 4360:1999). Legal compliance is an important component of risk management. Staff must demonstrate 'due diligence' in meeting statutory requirements.

Objectives of the risk management program:

- To eliminate unacceptable risk and to prevent harm.
- To effectively manage acceptable risk.
- To continuously improve organisational performance.
- To have systems in place that support the above.

There are four main principles in dealing with risk:

- Identifying any hazards or risks to health and safety.
- Deciding how significant the risk is.
- Implementing strategies to remove or lessen the risk.
- Making sure the solutions work (evaluate).

All staff must:

- Be familiar with the Risk Management policies and procedures.
- Take appropriate steps to minimise the risk of harm to self and/or others.
- Report actual or potential risk to the appropriate line manager.
- Demonstrate due diligence in meeting relevant statutory requirements.

Risk Management can be divided into two broad categories - Corporate Risk and Clinical Risk. Structure and processes that assess, monitor and evaluate Corporate Risk include Credentialling Committees, Performance Review Processes, Financial Audits and Surveys/Inspections.

Clinical Risk Management is concerned with the prevention of clinical incidents and identification, monitoring and management of clinical risk, linking safety with quality within the organisation.

SCH, Randwick Risk Management policy is in final draft and will be placed in the Reference Manual in the near future.

## volunteerupdate



Esme Kreller with Dr Michael Brydon, Clinical Services Co-ordinator

### VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to Esme Kreller who is our volunteer of the month. Esme volunteers every Thursday in C1North and is a valuable member of our volunteer programme.

### VALE BERT

It is with much sadness that we report the recent passing of Bert Vadas. Bert was a volunteer at the Hospital for a number of years and helped out regularly in the School. He was also known as the Pom Pom man because of his ability to make wonderful pom poms for patients and their families. We send our deepest sympathy to Mrs Vadas and family and will not forget Bert's tremendous commitment and contribution to our volunteer programme.

### MEET AND GREET VOLUNTEERS

The meet and greet volunteer program is up and going and we currently have five volunteers helping out with more to start over the next few weeks.

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Representatives of the SCH, Randwick Adolescent Working Party

## general information

### ADOLESCENT WORKING PARTY

Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick (SCH) recently established a working party to review adolescent services being offered. The mission of the working party is to ensure optimal health care delivery for adolescents accessing SCH, Randwick and its community services. This review will occur over a twelve-month period and recommendations will be presented to the management group of SCH, Randwick.

An interesting component of the working party has been the recruitment and integration of four adolescent consumer representatives to assist with this process. Their input to date has proven to be insightful and invaluable and staff in the working party look forward to continuing this relationship. Of note was the extremely high calibre of applications from young people making the selection process extremely difficult. Future plans include forming a focus group with all applicants as their enthusiasm and insight will prove to be invaluable. The standard of applications makes these young people a credit to their families and community.

Initial reviews will occur in the Outpatients and Emergency Departments before proceeding to other areas of the Hospital and community services. The group looks forward to working with all staff; as the working party are sure all staff will be able to make a valuable contribution to this review process and its recommendations. Any questions can be directed to Dr Chris Webber, Emergency Department (telephone number (02) 9382 1962 or Belinda Rose, Health Education, (telephone number (02) 9382 1855).

### EASY GUIDE TO CLINICAL PRACTICE IMPROVEMENT

The "Easy guide to Clinical Practice Improvement" is now available on the Hospital's Intranet under the manual section. This newly released document compliments the "Clinician's Toolkit", which was previously circulated and contains information on the CPI methodology as well as Root Cause Analysis.

### SCHOOL TOURS AT SYDNEY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, RANDWICK

On Tuesday, 3 December 2002, Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick hosted a class of year one students to pilot a school tour. We hope to conduct tours weekly during school terms of 2003 to introduce children to the Hospital and promote health by integrating the visits within the school curriculum. Please help to make these children welcome. They will not be visiting individual wards; however, you may see them passing through the corridors in small groups. Feel free to contact Tristan Jones, School Liaison Officer on (02) 9382 1188 if you would like further information.

## casemix information

	OCTOBER 2002	OCTOBER 2001
<b>Admissions -</b>	1,165	1,190
<b>Discharges -</b>	1,159	1,181
<b>Day only cases -</b>	521	484
<b>Hospital Average Length of Stay -</b>	2.8 DAYS	3.0 DAYS
<b>Hospital Average Length of Stay (excl Day Only)</b>	4.2 DAYS	4.4 DAYS
<b>Occupancy -</b>	87.27%	87.38%
<b>Non admitted patients -</b>	23,360	16,360

## pat on the back

### HEALTH EDUCATION TRAVELS TO WAGGA WAGGA

A very big thank you to Dr Fiona Mackie and Dr Chris Webber who recently travelled to Wagga Wagga to present at the Annual Paediatric Day for General Practitioners in the local area. Their presentations were well received and feedback from both the GPs and staff at Riverina Division of General Practice has been extremely positive. Both Fiona and Chris make a huge contribution to SCH, Randwick's Educational Programs including the Course in Paediatrics and the Australia Day Weekend Symposium for GPs. The additional time they have taken to update rural GPs is very much appreciated.

### PRAISE FOR CATHY CLARKSON

Dear Charlotte (Charlotte Lyons, Clinical Director, Nursing (Procedural Directorate)

Had to put pen to paper to tell you that we recently met a wonderful staff member of Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick. My daughter visited SCH for a 24-hour probe and on arrival we were made very welcome and sent to the Care by Parent ward where we met Cath Clarkson. She made my daughter and I feel at ease from the word go. Cath explained everything that she was going to do and was honest with my daughter and that it was OK to really dislike her (for a while anyway). There was nothing to dislike about Cath; she was so lovely, so easy to talk to and very apologetic about any delays. Cath told me a time that something was going to happen, she was there exactly on time. Nothing was a hassle, she is so good in that job, and it suits her to the ground. Again you are so lucky to have her in your employment as she made my daughter's 24-hour stay easier and less stressful, and actually I enjoyed her company as well.

Yours sincerely, Kerry.

### THANKS FOR UNIFORMS AND BOOKS

Thank you to everyone who donated uniforms and books for the Fistula Clinic in Ethiopia.

Regards, Kidest (Kidest Nadew, A/CNC HIV/AIDS).

## column 8 1/2

### EATING HABITS

A large Technical Services Group recently hired several cannibals.

"You're all part of our team now," said the General Manager during the welcoming briefing. "You will get all of the usual

benefits and can go to the kitchen for something to eat, but please do not eat any of the other employees". The cannibals promised.

Four weeks later the General Manager remarked, "you're all working very well and I am

very satisfied with you. However, one of our secretaries has gone missing. Do any of you know what happened to her?" The cannibals all shook their heads. When the General Manager left, the cannibal's leader said, "Which one of you idiots

ate the secretary?" A hand raised hesitantly. The cannibal leader exploded, "You fool! For four weeks we've been eating managers and no one has noticed, then you have to go and eat a secretary!"

## welcome to foundation news



Silver Committee Representatives

### SECOND ANNUAL SILVER PARTY

On Thursday, 24 October 2002, the Sydney Children's Hospital Foundation's second annual Silver Party, was held at the 180 Degrees Marquee, Northern Broadwalk (yes broadwalk not boardwalk!), Sydney Opera House. In its second year, the Silver Party 2002 (sponsored by Winten Property Group) was a huge success, raising a phenomenal \$93,000 for the Brain Tumour Service at the Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick.

The Silver Party 2002 Committee comprising: Sally Ryan (chair), Stacey Allen, Sophie Baker, Kirsten Bookallil, Sanchia Brahimi, Marian Creagh, Shauna Laverty, Penny McCarthy, Louise Medley, Marco Meneguzzi, Angus Murray, Rachael Ruddick, Tracey Schofield, Kate Smith, Sally Tilley, Tiffany Tilley and Samantha Wagner ensured the Silver Party 2002 was a complete sell out, with 500 guests attending. Expenses were kept to an absolute minimum, thanks to the enormous support from many companies who donated prizes, goods and services.

Fundraising on the night was achieved via the sale of Lucky Envelopes (containing prizes valued at \$100 and \$50 each); silent auction items, which included a signed 2002 Premiership winning Sydney Roosters Jersey; a soccer ball signed by Pele, world renowned soccer player; and a Raffle.

### COOGEE FAMILY FUN DAY

On Saturday, 7 December 2002, Coogee Family Fun Day will hit Coogee Beach again for the eighth year in a row to help raise much needed funds for the Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick.

With an aim of raising \$10,000 for SCH, Randwick Coogee Family Fun Day, running from 9.00am - 6.00pm at Goldstein Reserve, Coogee, is a great day out for all the family.

The fun day will feature over 60 market stalls, including Mexican, African and Indian Crafts, kids clothes, old time photographs, furniture, jewellery and temporary tattoos, hand spun clothing, giftware, old wares, toys, towels, sunglasses and bags.

Face painting, the infamous dunking machine, children's rides and an all day concert will also add more excitement for fun-goers - so why not come down and see for yourself. Entry is free.

### FIT KIDS 4 SICK KIDS CAMPAIGN

In May 2003, the Sydney Children's Hospital Foundation Schools Program will launch its inaugural health promotion campaign Fit Kids 4 Sick Kids - which aims to obtain the support of all NSW schools. An initiative with strong educational values to benefit students and teachers, the campaign aims to not only help fundraise for the Hospital, but also help students understand more about their health by participating in a programme that combines physical activity and a healthy diet.

Running for a month (four weeks), students will be asked to pay a minimal entry fee, which will benefit our patients.

Information packs will be available to all NSW schools in February 2003, which will outline full details of the campaign.

For further information regarding the Schools Program, and to find out how you can become involved, please contact Tristan Jones at the SCHF on telephone number (02) 9382 1188.

### 'WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS...'

From all the staff at the Sydney Children's Hospital Foundation, we wish you a happy and safe Christmas and look forward to working with you again in the New Year!

### CHRISTMAS CLOSURES

- The Foundation will be closed from Wednesday, 25 December, re-opening on Wednesday, 8 January 2003.
- The Star Café and the SCH Gift Shop (Barker St entrance) will be closed from Wednesday, 25 December 2002, reopening on 13 January 2003.

## editor's notes & important dates

The Way Forward is the SCH, Randwick internal newsletter.

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

THE REMAINING DEADLINE DATE FOR 2002 IS:

10 December (January/February issue).

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH NOMINATION DEADLINE

10 December 2002 (January/February issue)

DEADLINE DATES FOR 2003 ARE:

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

Phone: (02) 9382 1983

Fax: (02) 9382 3577

E-mail: corbettj@sesahs.nsw.gov.au

The website address for Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick is www.sch.edu.au

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

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

**20 NOVEMBER 2002 DIAGNOSIS & MANAGEMENT OF VELOCARDIOFACIAL SYNDROME**

SPEAKER: Ken Maclean

CO-ORDINATOR: Anne Turner

CHAIRPERSON: Barry Duffy

**27 NOVEMBER 2002 INFANT BRAIN TUMOURS - SCH EXPERIENCE**

SPEAKER: Helen Young, Neurology Registrar

CO-ORDINATOR: Heather Johnston

CHAIRPERSON: Susan Adams

**4 DECEMBER 2002 EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT DEAFNESS**

SPEAKERS: Monica Wilkinson, Audiologist SCH: "Diagnosis, especially screening", David Starte, Senior Staff Specialist: "Medical Aspects of Deafness", Anne Fulcher, Shepherd Centre: "Habilitation", Phillip Chang, ENT VMO SCH: "Cochlear Implants".

CO-ORDINATOR: Henley Harrison

CHAIRPERSON: Phillip Emdor

**11 DECEMBER 2002 FAMOUS SLEEPERS AND SNORERS - A BRIEF HISTORY**

SPEAKER: A/Professor Ron Grunstein

CO-ORDINATOR: Arthur Teng

CHAIRPERSON: Tim Bohane

The Tow Research Meeting was characterized by a steady stream of higher degree students from the School of Women's and Children's Health presenting their research. Among the highlights were Emma Best winning the competition for case presentation, Kristen Neville winning the clinical division of the Tow Research Prize and Loen Hansford from the Children's Cancer Institute Australia winning the senior open boatman division prize. Congratulations to the winners but also to all the individuals from Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick who presented posters and gave oral presentations.

Peer-reviewed funding from external bodies remains extremely difficult to obtain. In the round of NHMRC Project Grants to commence in 2003 announced recently, Anne Cunningham was co-investigator on a successful Project Grant with Professor Elspeth McLachlan entitled 'Immune-Mediated Inflammation in Sensory Ganglia as The Basis For

Chronic Pain and Nerve Cell Loss After Injuries'. Rose Ffrench was part of A/Prof Andrew Lloyd's team of six, which was funded for 'HITS: A Prospective Cohort Study of Primary Hepatitis C In Prisoners'. Andrew Day was awarded a prestigious Sylvia and Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation Establishment Grant for Clinical Investigators entitled 'Novel Markers of Inflammation in Gastrointestinal Conditions in Children'. Finally, there was a successful grant funded through the ARC Linkage Program for researchers from CCIA, Professor Haber and Murray Norris, that will utilise functional genomic technologies in an attempt to identify genes in childhood neuroblastoma as potential candidates for molecular-targeted gene therapy. Congratulations to all successful researchers.

As part of the new procedures in research supervision within the School, a series of review panels are interviewing all higher degree research students and their supervisors between now and the end of the year. We

hope in this way to encourage the strong performances that people are making in our research environment and to maximise the likelihood that people will successfully complete their research and write up their thesis. The Research Committee of the Faculty has also decided that it will allocate some extra funds on the basis of higher degree completions. The details of this have not been clarified but my expectations are that the rewards will go to the supervisors of higher degree students to acknowledge the cost, as well as the benefits, of supervising higher degree students. As part of budget discussions with the Dean for the 2003 calendar year, the importance of maintaining a budget to support research initiatives such as statistical support for all research students and topping up competitive research scholarships has been stressed. Both of those initiatives have been encouraged and when the budget is announced hopefully we will see that these have been supported.

**PRIZE FOR KIDEST AND CASSANDRA**

Kidest Nadew, A/CNC HIV/AIDS and Cassandra Romberg, Social Worker HIV/AIDS recently won a prize for their presentation "Talking to teens: disclosure of HIV status to teenagers" at the Australian Society for HIV Medicine (ASHM) conference.

Caring for children infected with HIV and their families present many unique challenges. One such challenge is helping families make decisions around disclosure of the diagnosis to the child. With this in mind, the main idea of the presentation was to identify factors that influence parents' decisions to withhold this information from their children and to identify the consequences on the psychological wellbeing of these children. The benefits of early disclosure in comparison with the literature were also presented.

**HOSPITAL INTER-OLYMPICS**

Congratulations to C3 West nursing staff who recently competed in the inter-hospital Olympics at Dubbo. They played in the netball competition proudly wearing their SCH, Randwick T-shirts, returning without injury and a third placing. Well done everyone!

**CARERS WEEK 21-27 OCTOBER 2002**

Twenty parents and carers from Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick were recently treated to a cruise and seafood smorgasbord on Sydney Harbour to celebrate Carer's Week. The Cruise was an opportunity for the group of parents and carers to get together and talk with one another for a couple of relaxing hours.

Many parents and carers have a 24-hour job looking after their disabled or seriously ill child, partner, friend or family member. No one really plans to be a carer and the role can be emotionally, physically and financially stressful. Australia is home to over 2.3 million carers and approximately 800,000 of them live in NSW.

The Cruise sponsored by Carers NSW and hosted by Majestic Cruises was a real success and plans are already under way for next year.

**15TH ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC OF THE AUSTRALASIAN SLEEP ASSOCIATION**

The Sleep Medicine Unit, SCH, Randwick was well represented at the 15th Annual Scientific Conference of the Australasian Sleep Association recently held in Hobart. The conference was entitled "Sleep Disorders in the 21st Century: genes, teens and outcomes". The guest speaker was Professor Susan Redline of the Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital, Cleveland, Ohio.

Dr Jim Papadopoulos, Fellow in Sleep Medicine at SCH, Randwick presented two posters. One was on Sleep Disorders in Prader-Willi Syndrome co-authored by Dr Grant Betts and Dr Clare Cunningham. The other was on Gastric Reflux and Sleep Apnoea co-authored by Dr Andrew Day, Dr Ian Jacobson and Dr David Lowinger. Mr Bruce Williamson, Sleep Unit Scientist, apart from his work on the above, presented a poster on the periodic limb movement disorder in children. All posters were well received and generated a lot of interest.

Dr Laurel Teoh, Respiratory Fellow, gave an oral presentation in the Respiratory Section of the meeting on medical staff's knowledge of pulse oximetry. This was highly acclaimed with much praise from some very senior conferees. There were only a handful of oral presentations at the conference, chosen on merit and interest - so this was a great honour for SCH, Randwick and the Sleep Unit in particular. All the papers reflected close cooperation and group effort from different disciplines within SCH, Randwick. Abstracts will be published in the Journal of Internal Medicine.

Dr Arthur Teng was given the honour of being elected as National Secretary of the Australasian Sleep Association (ASA). This two-year honorary position brings recognition to the Sleep Unit of SCH, Randwick. The ASA is the representative organisation for clinicians, scientists, students and psychologists involved with sleep and related disorders and issues in Australia and New Zealand, with membership from South East Asia and Japan as well.



Staff Recognition Awards' recipients

**STAFF RECOGNITION AWARDS**

Staff at the Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick recently raised glasses to their longest-serving colleagues. Now in its fifth year, the Staff Recognition Awards celebrate and acknowledge service to Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick. This year's ceremony awarded doctors, nurses, allied health and administrative staff for service ranging from 10 to 40 years.

Special mention goes to Visiting Medical Officers, Dr Robert Farnsworth and Dr Michael Harris, who were honoured for their 40 years of service. Congratulations also to Dr Eli Kleiner, Dr Michael McGlynn, Dr Peter Eisman and Dr John McGill for their 30 years of service. Other staff members recognised included Jane Farrell, Paul Chay, Phillip Emdor, Julie Hollingsworth, Suzanne Milne, Kieran Moran for 20 years of service; Cathy Clarkson, Diana Eulalia, Anthony Epstein, Maria Heaton, Soon Koi How, Mary Jane Howlett, Sean Lawless, Kuik Seong Lee, Sandra Miller, Jayne Murdoch, Lin Ngui, Pamela Palasanthiran, Melissa Parkin, Ruby Rogers, Nicole Rankin, Jane Farrell, Katy Sterling Levis, Charles Verge, Liane Willis, Annette Burgess for their 10 years of service.

A highlight of this year's ceremony took the shape of a special award for excellence. This was presented to Clinical Services Co-ordinator, Dr Michael Brydon in recognition of his outstanding commitment, passion and contribution to the health and well-being of the children of Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick over the past 20 years.

**SAD NEWS**

Former head of the social work department, Gay Pincus passed away on Friday, 15th November 2002. Our thoughts are with her family and friends.

**moversandshakers**

Welcome back to Kathy Litchfield who has recently returned part-time to the role of Diversity Health Co-ordinator at SCH, Randwick. Beverly Yin-Lo, who was seconded to Kathy's position during her absence, will be moving to RHW as the Diversity Health Co-ordinator.

Kelly Wilson (Registered Nurse, C1South) and Rowena Nelson (Registered Nurse, C2West) have recently been seconded to the Nursing Professorial Unit to work on research projects. Kelly is working on validating a survey to measure adherence to treatment in adolescents with diabetes and asthma while Rowena is working on developing a measure of treatment of adherence in school aged children. The aim of these studies is to increase the understanding of the difficult issue of treatment adherence in young people by examining their perspective. Both of these studies have been developed in collaboration with Dr Helvi Kyngas from Oulu University in Finland. Both Kelly and Rowena will be working in the Unit for 12 weeks.

Congratulations to Nicole Harvey in Physiotherapy who recently gave birth to a baby girl, Genevieve. Nicole was spied a week after the birth in the library working on her Masters in Physiotherapy!

As mentioned in Nursing Matters, Kidest Nadew, A/CNC HIV/AIDS and Cassandra Romberg, Social Worker HIV/AIDS recently won a prize for their presentation "Talking to teens: disclosure of HIV status to teenagers" at the Australian Society for HIV Medicine (ASHM) conference. Angel (Bill) Jaramillo, Julia Warning and John Ziegler gave other oral presentations from SCH, Randwick.

Congratulations to the Eastgardens Early Childhood Health Centre which recently received a 'Highly Commended' award from the Botany Business Excellence Awards held by the City of Botany.

**nursingmatters**



Members of the C3West netball team