

What's On!

Randwick Campus Public Hospitals – Mandatory Education

ANNUAL mandatory education for all staff for 2007 will be held on the following dates in the RHW Lecture Theatre.

Wednesday, 21 February	10.00am-11.45am or 1.30pm-3.15pm
Thursday, 22 March	10.00am-11.45am or 1.30pm-3.15pm
Thursday, 19 April	10.00am-11.45am or 1.30pm-3.15pm

Topics to be covered include occupational health & safety management, employee preventative health and infection control, and security/personal safety and fire and emergency training.

SCH Aggression Minimisation Program

January to June 2007

THIS training is mandatory for all staff to attend once. All staff must do Module 1 and only staff in high-risk areas must do Module 2. It is mandatory for managers to attend the Managing Bullying in the workplace workshops.

All staff must book into these workshops by contacting Allison Boyle via e-mail. Please inform Allison, in advance, of any cancellations. All workshops held at SCH.

21 March	0900-1600	CBPU	High Risk Module 2
22 March	0900-1300	CR 1	Core Module 1
16 April	0900-1230	ED	Tut Room Managing Bullying
19 April	0900-1300	CR 3	Core Module 1
24 May	0900-1300	CR 2	Core Module 1
21 June	0900-1300	CR 6	Core Module 1
26 June	0900-1230	CBPU	Managing Bullying (CBPU – Care by Parent Unit, Level 3 SCH)

Patient services activity comparison

	Dec-06	Dec-05
Admissions	1,127	1,000
Discharges	1,167	1,022
Day only cases	518	421
Hospital Average Length of Stay, days	3.0 days	3.0 days
Hospital Average Length of Stay (excl Day Only)	3.9 days	4.7 days
Occupancy	92.30%	93.30%
Non admitted patients	23,090	19,578

Meditation for all Staff

FEELING stressed? Need a break from work? Then come along and experience meditation, learn to relax and go with the flow.

When: From Wednesday, 31 January 2007 (regular weekly class)
Time: 7.30am – 9.00am
Where: Seminar Room 2, Royal Hospital for Women

For more details telephone Christine Sellman on 0431662605 or 96615727.

Free Parenting Workshop

Positive parenting of 4-8 year olds

When: Tuesday, 27 March 2007
Where: Catholic Education Office
33 Banks Avenue, Daceyville

Time: 9.30am-12.00pm
Facilitator: Janet Harris, Clinical Nurse
Specialist School Health, SESIAHS

RSVP: Tuesday, 20 March 2007

EMAIL your interest to grainne.norton@ceo.syd.catholic.edu.au including your name, telephone number, child's class and child's school.

Pilates Mat Classes for Staff

SUITABLE for all fitness levels – beginners welcome. Improve your strength and core stability. Target your abdominals. Run by an experienced physiotherapist. All equipment provided. All staff welcome.

Where: Sydney Children's Hospital/Physiotherapy Gym, Level 0
When: Every Tuesday and Thursday
5.15pm – 6.15pm

Cost: \$10 per session or \$90 for 10 sessions in any 3-month period

Contact: Sue Sims on 0418 667 153 or email suesims216@hotmail.com

Employee Assistance Program

THE Employee Assistance Program provides free, confidential, professional counselling for any personal or work-related concerns.

For a free brochure or to make an appointment phone (02) 9382 3681 or (02) 9382 6616.

Grand Rounds

CONVENED by A/Prof John Ziegler
The John Beveridge Lecture Theatre, Level 1, SCH
1.00pm every Wednesday

14.2.2007

Title: "CCAMs here, CCAMs there - but what to?"

Speaker: Adam Jaffe

Co-ordinator: Adam Jaffe

Chairman: Matthew O'Meara

21.2.2007

Title: "Vitamin D deficiency"

Speakers: Helen Woodhead and Charles Verge

Co-ordinator: Charles Verge

Chairman: Charles Verge

28.2.2007

Title: "Abusive Intra-abdominal injury"

Speakers: Jamie Carter and Kieran Moran

Co-ordinator: Kieran Moran

Chairman: Les White

Movers & Shakers

GRAINNE Dunne has been appointed to the position of CNC Apheresis/Haematology until 11th December 2007.

Jennie Studdert has been appointed to the position of CNS Immunology and Infectious Diseases on a full-time basis until 18th December 2009.

Donna Jelley, Nursing & Allied Health Education Officer – Practice & Educational Development Services (PaEDS), part-time hours have been extended until 22nd January 2008. Alisha Baker has been appointed to cover the remaining part-time hours until 22nd January 2008.

Jennifer Irvine has been appointed to the position of CNE – C1 South 28th August 2007.

Irene Goodwin has been appointed to the part-time position of Nurse Educator – Enrolled Nurses until 22nd July 2007.

Laughter Can Make Us Healthier and Happier

SYDNEY Children's Hospital (SCH) and the Humour Foundation recently celebrated the 10th Anniversary of the creation of Clown Doctors™ in Australia with an official event and children's party.

Clown Doctors™ is the core program of the Humour Foundation, a national charity. SCH was the first hospital in Australia to host Clown Doctors™, from their conception in January 1997.

Dr Michael Brydon, SCH Acting Executive Director, says the contribution made by Clown Doctors over the past 10 years has been tremendous. "They are very much an integral part of the hospital system and can be a powerful tool in helping children recover from

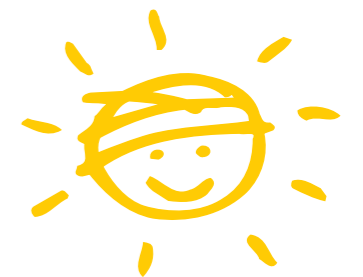
illness," he said.

"Clown Doctors can also be a welcome relief for families and visitors who are unfamiliar with the hospital system – helping them to see hospitals as a welcoming and child-friendly place during often difficult periods of illness and recovery," Dr Brydon added.

"We are very pleased to have been the first hospital in Australia to support the Humour Foundation with the Clown Doctor program and we look forward to continuing our dedicated commitment to their cause," Dr Brydon said.

The Clown Doctors visit SCH three days a week conducting their rounds through all wards including intensive care, oncology and emergency. They work in

partnership with health professionals, diverting children's attention during painful procedures. They also help calm distressed children in emergency, and encourage children in physiotherapy, or just brighten their day.



Dr Peter Spitzer, Dr Michael Brydon and Jean-Paul Bell celebrate 10 years of Clown Doctors at SCH



The Clown Doctors with Paul McLeay MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Health



Dr Sniggles, Paul McLeay MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Health, Dr Nutcase and Dr Michael Brydon

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Editor's Notes

WELCOME to the first issue of The Way Forward for 2007.

Our first feature article for this year is Sydney Children's Hospital (SCH), in conjunction with the Humour Foundation, celebrating 10 years of the creation of the Clown Doctors™ program at SCH. As part of the celebrations, a children's party was held in the school courtyard where Clown Doctors™ and Freddo the Frog entertained everyone. It was a magical day and we look forward to a continued long and happy association with the Humour Foundation.

In this month's newsletter we are very pleased to acknowledge physiotherapist Deborah Daley's outstanding achievement in successfully gaining the title of Australian Physiotherapy Association (APA) Paediatric Physiotherapist. Deborah is only the second physiotherapist in Australia to be awarded this title. Congratulations Deborah.

We also feature in the newsletter our second graduation ceremony, which was held on 1 December 2006 with eight long-term patients participating in the event and who would soon be transitioning to adult services. The ceremony recognised and celebrated the achievements of the patients and their families, and their team of doctors, nurses and allied health professionals.

Deadline

THE deadline for contributions to the next issue is 19 February 2007 (March issue). Please forward articles and photos to:

Editor: Jenni Corbett
Phone: (02) 9382 1983
Fax: (02) 9382 3577
Email:

Jenni.corbett@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au

SCH website: www.sch.edu.au

The Way Forward deadline dates for 2007 are:

APRIL	19 MARCH
MAY	16 APRIL
JUNE	21 MAY
JULY	18 JUNE
AUGUST	16 JULY
SEPTEMBER	20 AUGUST
OCTOBER	17 SEPTEMBER
NOVEMBER	22 OCTOBER
DECEMBER	19 NOVEMBER

We want your input

Ideal publishing length is 250 words. By contributing to The Way Forward you agree that your article may be edited for space, readability or other reasonable reasons.

From the Executive

DEAR colleagues

ON this occasion I have asked Dr Michael Brydon, Acting Executive Director, to share with you his perspective on current issues.

Best wishes

Les White (Prof)

Executive Director

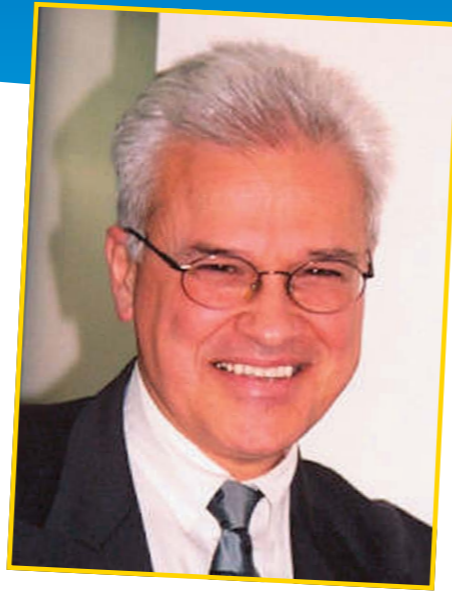
Welcome to 2007 and I hope some of you had a chance to have a bit of a breather over the Christmas and New Year period. Some of the highlights of our activity and finances in this financial year so far have been:

- Total separations and bed days in the first half of the finance year continue to be slightly up for the same period last year even though we've had a quieter Christmas and New Year period.
- Patients waiting for more than 12 months for elective surgery continue to be very low or zero as do our urgent surgical cases. However slightly more patients are still waiting for longer periods than expected in other categories of urgency.
- Emergency Department activity is still dramatically up in the six-month period compared to other years.
- Expenditure is now more accurately reflecting our true financial position in the new accounting system and as expected we are spending well over what we have been allocated by the Department of Health. Urgent attention to this is required.

I'm also pleased to announce several new senior medical appointments:

- Dr David Zeigler has been offered an oncologist position as staff specialist in CCC&BD. It is likely that he will commence in mid 2007.
- Dr Brynn Wainstein has commenced as a part-time immunology staff specialist.
- Interviews for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Infectious Diseases have been held recently. The successful applicants will hopefully be announced shortly.
- Funding for a new Fellow in Paediatric Renal Medicine for 12 months has been approved and we welcome the return of Dr Sean Kennedy, the Chief RMO of 2003, back to the hospital.

The SCH Management review undertaken by Karen Edwards has been received and has highlighted some excellent opportunities for



us to improve our efficiency and structure. Most notably, there will be some streamlining of our resources to manage some of the very complex patient flow matters, a push to further develop the third community directorate model and a greater role for the Director of Clinic Operations managing the hospital and its executive operationally.

Recently we bid a sad farewell to Annette Burgess from the School of Women's and Children's Health, UNSW who has taken up a position at Sydney University. After more than a decade in the job, Annette's knowledge, expertise and organisational skills will be greatly missed. Unfortunately Mr Vanderwaal, a relatively recent recruit to her team, is also leaving and this will leave the school administratively very depleted as we begin the new year. There are ongoing and major discussions with the University to ensure the organisation of teaching of the next generation of young doctors is well maintained.

A special farewell was also held for Lesley Rosenberg, the hospital's art's coordinator, for an outstanding job making the corridors, offices and meeting rooms so beautifully presented with art works since we refurbished the facility almost 10 years ago. Her dedication and exquisite taste will be greatly missed. January is also the last month at work for Ian Stubbin, our much loved and dedicated librarian. Where will we ever get an individual with such outstanding librarian skills and enthusiasm? Also our very best to Jenny McIntyre who has taken a year off to work and travel in the UK. After 20 plus years heading up our great team of "speechies" she will undoubtedly show our English colleagues that we are not only great at cricket.

As you start another New Year, may I wish you all the very best and I hope it is rewarding both professionally and personally.

Dr Michael Brydon

Acting Executive Director

Supporters Thanked

A FUNCTION was recently held at the Sydney Cord Blood Bank (SCBB), which is located at Sydney Children's Hospital, where 50 Inner Wheel and Rotary members were congratulated and thanked for their support of the cord blood collection program.

These members provide a volunteer courier service transporting cord blood to the SCBB, which has been collected from the placenta of new-born babies from the maternity unit at St George Private Hospital. This cord blood, which has provided nutrition to and kept the baby alive while in the womb, would otherwise be thrown away at birth. It can be collected and re-used as part of a unique recycling program.

Once received at the SCBB, the cord blood is concentrated and frozen. It is later used to perform a cord blood transplant and provides life long cures for leukaemia patients.

The Rotary/Inner Wheel cord blood courier service, the only one of its kind in Australia and probably the world, was established almost five years ago by the members of the Kogarah Rotary Club and members and friends of the Port Hacking and Sutherland Inner Wheel Clubs. It ensures that cord blood is transported safely, securely, promptly and at a safe temperature five days a week in peak hour traffic – a feat in itself.

The function also marked the opening of an extension of the program to include transport from the maternity unit at the Royal Prince Alfred Women's and Babies Hospital by members and friends of the Inner Wheel Club of Balmain.

The program transports 20 donations per week to the cord bank, which now has 10,000 donations stored, and has collected more than one million mls of cord blood since June 1995 when the bank opened. One hundred and fifty donations have been sent to transplant centres



Representatives from Inner Wheel and Rotary

in Australia and around the world for life saving transplants. A cord blood donation is now being released for transplant every week.

Deborah Daley's Outstanding Achievement

CONGRATULATIONS to Deborah Daley who was successful in her application for title of Australian Physiotherapy Association (APA) Paediatric Physiotherapist on the 18 May 2006.

Deborah is the second physiotherapist in Australia to be awarded the title since the APA Paediatric Physiotherapist Program was introduced in 2003. The program aims to promote the highest possible academic standards in Australia by encouraging and facilitating postgraduate study and the process of specialisation in paediatric physiotherapy

Successful applicants are assessed and evaluated by the National APA Paediatric Group Management Committee and its Academic and Clinical Standards Committee throughout a three-stage process.

Assessment includes APA members meeting the minimum criteria for clinical paediatric physiotherapy experience and a commitment to professional development, successfully completing an open book written evaluation of clinical competency and submission of a video-based clinical case presentation and self evaluation.



Pam Hennessey congratulating Deborah Daley on her outstanding achievement

SCH Benefits from Toy Drive

CHILD'S Play is a charity, founded by the authors of the popular webcomic Penny Arcade video games, that organises worldwide toy drives to children's hospitals. This year was the first time the drive was launched in Australia and Sydney Children's Hospital benefited by receiving \$6,000 worth of video games and consoles, toys, books and DVDs in time for Christmas!

dStore Australia has organised for all proceeds from the sale of Penny Arcade video games to be used to set up a toy library fund for SCH so more equipment can be purchased in 2007, as it is needed.

Amazing Miracles

CHANNEL 10 will start screening a new half-hour series, *Saving Babies*, from 15 February at 8.00pm.

Saving Babies will be screened for eight weeks with each episode following the stories of premature and critically ill newborns. The series also features the amazing work undertaken by Sydney Children's Hospital's paediatric surgeons, anaesthetists, nursing staff and other specialists.

The series has been entirely filmed at Randwick Campus.

Australia Day Awards

Congratulations to Dr Michael McGlynn, Professor Michelle Haber (CCIA) and Professor Richard Henry (UNSW) who received Australia Day Awards recognising their many decades of selfless toil and inspiring leadership in improving child health services here and abroad.

Others on the list that may be well known to some Sydney Children's Hospital staff included Professor Graham Vimpani (John Hunter Children's Hospital), Dr Carolyn West (Children's Hospital at Westmead, Spina Bifida Clinic) and James Birch (former president of Children's Hospitals Australia).

Safety First Helps SCH!

REPRESENTATIVES from plastics and rubber company, Qenos, and its specialist maintenance support company ABB generously presented to the hospital a \$12,000 cheque on 7 November 2006.

The donation represents the company's excellent safety record during their latest 'shut down' procedure. As part of Qenos' workplace safety program, every six years one part of the plant is shut down for special maintenance and repairs. The most recent shut down lasted for five weeks and during this time 15,000 hours of work was completed by the workmen. As an extra incentive for the workers to keep their safety standards, Qenos pledged a \$2,000 donation to Sydney Children's Hospital (SCH) for each week that there were no major accidents. At the end of the five weeks, no major accidents had been reported and combined with ABB's donation the total raised was \$12,000.

Thank you Qenos and ABB for your commitment to safety, which has also helped to benefit the patients at SCH. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.



Qenos and ABB make their special presentation

Thank you Tenix

THE Foundation is delighted to announce that Tenix has again committed to funding an Emergency Fellowship in 2007. Tenix has been a great supporter of the Emergency Department and has sponsored an Emergency Fellowship since 2001.

New Arts Committee Chair

THE Foundation is pleased to announce the appointment of Desmond Freeman to the Chair of the Arts Committee. Desmond is a prominent interior and interpretive designer and the Director of design company Ormsby, Kerrins Freeman Pty Ltd (OKF). OKF is currently consulting to The National Museum of Australia,

The National Trust of NSW and the State Library of Queensland. Desmond has been on the Arts Committee for the past two years and we warmly welcome him to his new role.

Dear Children at the Hospital...

NINE-YEAR-OLD Sarah Anderson wrote this delightful letter, who with the help of little sisters Rebecca and Lucy raised \$25. They presented the cheque on Thursday 11 January. Well done!

"Dear Children at the Hospital,

I have a small donation for you. I have raised it by selling lucky dips, smoothies, juices and I made up a club, which has helped me, by making donations, buying the lucky dips, smoothies and juices. I have had so much fun raising this money that I have decided to raise more money next year for you. Being sick in Hospital is not fun and I feel like you deserve for people to make donations to you. Merry Xmas and you will hopefully get better next year.

All the best from Sarah Anderson"



Sarah, Rebecca and Lucy Anderson with their big cheque

Kogarah Fundraiser Generously Helps Neuroblastoma Research

KERRIE and Kevin Stainer with their sons Michael and Ryan have been on a fundraising mission for a cause extremely close to their hearts – cancer research at Sydney Children's Hospital (SCH), Randwick.

The family organised a dinner dance, featuring a sports memorabilia auction, at Kogarah RSL, which attracted 100 guests and successfully raised a tremendous total of \$15,192 for neuroblastoma research at SCH.

Their two-year old nephew and cousin from Canberra, Tyler Gray-Thompson, motivated the Stainer family. Tyler was diagnosed in August

this year and is currently being treated for neuroblastoma. The Stainers wanted the event to raise awareness and funds for research to give Tyler and other children suffering from neuroblastoma the chance for a healthier future.

Well done and many thanks to the Stainer family for their amazing fundraising efforts.



The Stainer family presents the cheque to Dr Toby Trahair.

Thanks Coles Randwick!

REPRESENTATIVES from Coles Randwick toured C2West and C2North on 7 December 2006 and very generously made a special donation of a DVD player and many other gifts for the children for Christmas. Thank you Coles Randwick for helping make Christmas brighter for our patients and for your continued support throughout the year.

Upcoming Events

1 March 2007
The Silver Party

6 March
Sponsor Thank you Drinks



Employee of the Month

CONGRATULATIONS to Fiona Berry, Play Therapist, who is our Employee of the Month for January/February.



Fiona Berry

Staff on C2 North nominated Fiona for the award. Michelle Driver, Manager of the Department of Play Therapy and Recreation, Sydney Children's Hospital (SCH), supports Fiona's nomination.

According to C2North staff Fiona plays a big part in the management of newly diagnosed patients on C2North.

"Fiona helps to alleviate the patient's anxiety by distracting them when they come in for treatment and offers coping mechanisms to make their stay more pleasant.

"For one of our patients, Fiona put together a book with pictures outlining step by step what needs to happen when he comes in for treatment. This made his stay so much easier and also helped the family cope with his admission.

"Fiona's enthusiasm is great, the children love her and she brings smiles to the patients' faces," C2North staff said.

The Employee of the Month wins dinner at Mamma Theresa's Restaurant, a bouquet of flowers from Clementine's Florist and \$100 from Metro Parking.

Gingerbread House Lights Up

EMMA Inglis of C2South felt right at home with a giant gingerbread house in the week leading up to Christmas. The house, measuring one metre high and complete with its own lighting, was made by Strawberry Cream at Darlinghurst. The Day of Difference Foundation and Charles and Christa Billich of Billich Gallery kindly donated it to the hospital.



Emma Inglis with Julia Parker of Day of Difference and Charles Billich of Billich Gallery.

Graduating for life!

ON Friday, 1 December 2006, Sydney Children's Hospital (SCH), Randwick, held a special graduation ceremony for eight long-term adolescent patients as they make the transition to adult services. Guest speaker on the day

was David Koch, co-presenter of Channel 7's Sunrise morning program.

The patients and their families officially farewelled the familiar team of doctors, nurses and allied health professionals who have helped care for them for most of their lives as they battled chronic long-term conditions.

Prof Les White, Executive Director of SCH said hospital staff would sorely miss the graduates.

"Many of these patients have been with us for the majority of their lives. Once they reach adulthood they need to move into adult services and the transition can be a challenging and anxious time for them and their families," Prof White said.

"The aim of the graduation is to celebrate shared achievements, to make the transition a welcoming process, and to show them how much they will be missed."

Thank you to Bendigo Bank, the main supporter of the graduation ceremony, and to Peter Swan and Libbi Lumb who represented the bank at the ceremony.



Nephrologists Gad Kainer, Andrew Rosenberg and Fiona Mackie with patients Adam Howland, Caitlin McKay and Scott O'Connor

Club Foot Surgery in Tonga

ORTHOPAEDIC surgeons Dr Andrew Leicester and Dr Leonard Kuo, orthopaedic registrar Dr Paul Jarman, unaccredited orthopaedic registrar Dr Con Glezos, anaesthetist Dr Hugh Seaton and physiotherapist Kerrie Amy visited Tonga in October last year as part of the 23rd annual clubfoot surgical trip.

The new Vaiola Hospital was recently opened having been donated by the people of Japan. One of the operating theatres at the hospital has been named after the late Ian Stratton (Ian first visited Tonga in 1978 and continued to treat Tongan children's club feet for the next 23 years). The hospital facilities are excellent. There is still a significant shortage of equipment such as plates, screws, plasters, etc. Construction is still underway of the new paediatric and medical wards and a new emergency department.

The team's ultimate aim is to incorporate the Ponseti technique of clubfoot management, which involves serial manipulation and casting, as far as possible in Tonga. This is obviously difficult due to the constraints of geography, finance and expertise.

Clubfoot surgery was performed on 17 children with talipes equinovarus. Other surgery performed included an internal fixation of displaced forearm fractures in a woman and a surgical stabilisation of a patient with recurrent shoulder instability.

Stryker, the Ian Stratton Foundation and Zimmer donated equipment for the trip. Funds from the Ian Stratton Foundation will be used to purchase additional plates and screws as well as a plaster saw for the physiotherapy department.

The team would like to thank all those involved with in making their trip to Tonga possible. Particular thanks goes to surgeon, Dr Sampson Mesol, and Dr Bill Tangi who is not only a surgeon at the hospital but also Minister for Health, Deputy Prime Minister and on the Board of the World Health Organisation. Thanks also to Sosefo Tao who keeps an eye on the babies post operatively and removes their casts. We have received sponsorship from Orthopaedic Outreach as well as the Humanitarian Committee of the AOA and one of the registrars was sponsored by the Stryker Scholarship. Trudi Beck, a medical student, who came with us to Tonga in 2005, was unable to attend this year but organised a substantial donation to the Ian Stratton Foundation from the Goulburn Rotary Club. We are planning another clubfoot visit in October 2007.

Affordable Housing Program

RANDWICK City Council's Affordable Rental Housing Program is available to low and moderate income households in employment who have a connection with the Randwick Council area of Sydney.

St George Community Housing manages the program and is a non-profit government-funded community-based housing provider.

To find out more about the program telephone St George Community Housing on 9585 1499 or email@stgeorgecommunityhousing.org.au Their website address is www.sgch.com.au



ST. GEORGE COMMUNITY HOUSING CO-OP LTD



2006 Christmas Party

SYDNEY Children's Hospital's 2006 Staff and Volunteer Christmas Party was a great success with entertainment provided by Christo the Clown and a much anticipated visit from our

favorite Santa. Here are just a few photos that show staff and their families celebrating the end of a very busy 2006!



Farewell to Lesley Rosenberg

FAREWELL to Lesley Rosenberg, the hospital's Art Curator, who has resigned recently after many years of dedicated work here at the hospital. Whenever visitors are taken through the hospital they often comment about the child friendly environment in which we deliver our care. This has largely been contributed to by the beautiful artworks that adorn our corridors and meeting rooms. Not only do they often promote the artistic skills of children themselves, they add an historical, dynamic and colorful image of the warm and friendly facility we are proud to work in. Thanks Lesley for your magnificent contributions.

Inspiring Patient

THE Children's Intensive Care Unit (CICU) at Sydney Children's Hospital recently celebrated the 4th birthday of one of its long term patients, "Princess" Amber Jade Farlow. Amber awoke to a room full of balloons in her favorite colours of pink and purple.

Since birth, Amber Jade has spent most of her life in CICU. In that time she has celebrated only one birthday at home, her third, and has been home on seven visits. These visits have lasted from one week to a maximum of eight weeks, achieving a grand total of about six months.

During her time in CICU she has had 45 procedures that have required an anaesthetic. Despite this she is a bubbly, happy child, who loves to get her own way if she can. On her birthday, she kept staff and family on their toes including older brother CJ and seven of her friends from home on the central coast.

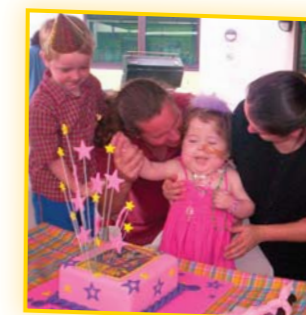


Photo caption: Amber celebrating her birthday



High School Students Cook up a Storm

DESPITE a heavy study load, a self-formed group of 19 Year 12 students from Sydney Girls' and Sydney Boys' high schools recently completed a community service project for Sydney Children's Hospital.

The 'High There' team purchased cooking equipment for the Play Therapy Department, helped play therapists run patient cooking activities during their school holidays and compiled play therapy recipes into a stunning recipe book.

Some of the students' favourite recipes from the cookbook included spicy baked apples, rice paper rolls and face crackers.

The students then went on to raise more than \$2,600 to purchase urgently needed equipment from the hospital's wish list.

Departments are invited to forward inspiring school project ideas to Raeleen Rickard, Schools Project Officer, telephone 9382 0871.



'High There' students present cooking equipment, cookbooks and a cheque to Michelle Driver and Raeleen Rickard.

IN November, we conducted an OHS consultation survey that all SCH staff were invited to complete, for the purposes of assessing whether staff are happy with the OHS consultation arrangements at SCH, and determining what staff thought we were doing well OHS-wise and in what areas we could improve.

We received a total of 210 responses and the results are summarised below:

- As per previous surveys, 95% of respondents were happy with the way they are consulted and informed on OHS issues; and 90% of respondents felt OHS issues were adequately actioned in their area of work.
- Respondents thought a wide range of initiatives should be rewarded, particularly improvements made to workstations, the purchase of manual handling equipment, and improved security and infection control management.
- Respondents cited lack of storage and clinical space as being the most important outstanding OHS issue which created a range of OHS hazards from inability to easily navigate some corridors when pushing beds between areas, to manual handling risks when having to reach/bend/twist to access things in overcrowded /tight spaces, to stress from having lack of clinical space in which to properly assess or interview patients, to risks created when preparing medications in too small a space, to potential risks created during an evacuation. The next most cited OHS hazard related to security risks in the entire facility and for staff working off site, with security in ED being the security concern raised most often. Equipment risks were cited next; followed by design concerns, again particularly in ED; then staffing and hours of work concerns; desired actions being delayed by lack of money; infection control and clinical issues; with 'occupational hygiene' issues such as smoking hazards being last.

What happens to the results?

The results have been used to revise the SCH OHS Consultation Statement, which is available on the SCH Intranet and will soon be placed on OHS noticeboards.

Issues, which can be effected at Department level, e.g. a particular piece of equipment not working well, have been raised with individual managers.

Issues, which require action from an organisational level, such as lack of space, have been referred to the SCH Management Group for a response.

Sonja Falkiner
OT, OHS Coordinator

