

What's On!

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.

Unigym – University of NSW

UNIGYM has renewed arrangements offering student discounts to SCH staff members. If you want to take advantage of this offer, please show your staff ID when you next visit the gym.

Free gym trial and discounted membership

All Sydney Children's Hospital staff are invited to enjoy a free 7 day trial and discounted membership at Bondi's Elix'r Health Club. An open week is being planned for September, so keep an eye on our notice boards for the dates.

Patient services activity comparison

	Jul-07	Jul-06
Admissions	1,303	1,268
Discharges	1,299	1,253
Day only cases	574	549
Hospital Average Length of Stay, days	3.2 days	3.1 days
Hospital Average Length of Stay (excl Day Only)	4.8 days	4.8 days
Occupancy	95.9%	93.5%
Non admitted patients	28,452	26,563

Email michaelb@elixr.com.au if you would like to attend. Elix'r Health Club: Level 2, 9 Bronte Road, Bondi Junction.

Grand Rounds

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

Free parenting course

Janet Harris, clinical nurse specialist at SCH will be holding two interactive parenting courses at the Bowen Library in Randwick.

Dealing with tantrums

Tuesday 2 October – 10am – 12:15am
(Parents of children aged 18 months to 4 years of age)

Tween Times

Thursday 4 October 10am to 12:15pm
(Parents of children 10-12 years of age)

Vonnie Young Auditorium

Bowen Library
669 – 673 Anzac Parade
Maroubra (corner of Gale Road)

Bookings are essential on 9399 0823 or email Avril.Jeans@randwick.nsw.gov.au

Movers & Shakers

We warmly welcome Dr David Ziegler to the haematology/oncology team and Dr Thomas Campbell to the endocrinology team. Dr Campbell is replacing Kris Neville while on maternity leave. The Chief Resident Medical Officer for 2008 is Louis Chong and the new Patient Flow Nurse Manager is Helen Said – Congratulations!

Kirsten Adnum is currently the clinical nurse educator for C2 West.

Please note: Interviews to find a replacement for Maria Kyriagis (up to 12 months) will be announced shortly. Positions in General Surgery, ICU, Cardiology, Neurosurgery, Gastroenterology are being advertised in the second half of 2007.

The Institute of Medical Training appointments are:

Edwin Kirk - SCH/Network DPT
Hala Katf - State General Paeds/Community
Paul Cravan (JHCH) - State Neonates
Deb Lewis (CHW) – State Subspecialty
Jason Hort (CHW/Nepean)– State Critical Care

Sadly, we recently farewelled the Hospitals Public Affairs Manager, Kylie Rafferty. Kylie will soon commence a new role in the Department of Health's media unit. She will be missed.



UNBELIEVABLE!

Congratulations to the Sydney Children's Hospital team

OVER the winter months the entire hospital has done an extraordinary effort managing a very busy caseload of sick and complex children.

For instance, our Emergency Department, despite such a massive increase in activity in the last twelve months (at times 30 percent more patients per month than previously) amazingly reached all its benchmarks set by the State in the last quarter.

This was the only major hospital in New South Wales and the only hospital in Sydney to reach these very high standardswhat a team!

Whilst we have been re-directing some staffing resources to help them with their phenomenal workload, it has been

very difficult to help them with their space problems. Hopefully, in the next few months, we can at least help them temporarily, but major refurbishments are definitely in the planning priorities in the next few years.

This Unit is clearly one of Australia's best performers in so many ways. In particular, it is great to see so many of the team take such an active and positive approach to quality care. To single out any individuals would be unfair on the many who deserve those accolades.

Well done everyone. As a measure of our appreciation, the Sydney Children's Hospital Management Committee has asked the Sydney



Children's Hospital Foundation to support some additional educational opportunities for the Emergency Department and other staff in recognition of these outstanding results. I am sure they will use it well to continue to lead the way in clinical care for New South Wales children.

Rocktober needs your support!

IT is time to transform those long-standing problems into long-term solutions! Rocktober, a management initiative that aims to tackle some of those tasks that have been on the Hospital TO DO list for some time, will soon be kicking into action.

This quality initiative aims to promote a hospital wide month of change. October will be the month where SCH's old 'rocks' will be shifted in order to alleviate workloads, benefit SCH operationally and promote safety initiatives.

The foundations of this initiative have already commenced by a project working party led by Ingrid Wilson, and supported by four full time NHS management trainees and other key SCH staff.

Some of the areas to be addressed include:

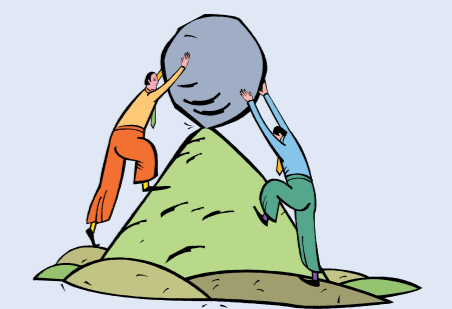
- Review of Outpatient services;
- Discharge communication strategy;
- Review of the patient consent process;
- Follow up of pathology results;
- Patient flow processes, and;
- Chronic care initiatives

While Sydney Children's Hospital is a centre of excellence that prides itself on quality of care, expert services and multidisciplinary approach, there is always room to grow and provide an even better service. Rocktober aims to work towards this goal.

In order to facilitate this important time of change, we ask that all staff support the members of the working party, particularly

our international management trainees who will no doubt need your help while they get to know the hospital and its processes.

For more information on this important project, please do not hesitate to contact Ingrid Wilson via hospital email, extension 20394 or page 26794.



This month....

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Editor's Notes

IN the September/October edition of The Way Forward we congratulate the team of extraordinary staff in the Emergency Department, who despite such a massive increase in activity in the last twelve months, reached all benchmarks set by the State in the last quarter – an amazing result.

Rocktober is fast approaching! A very catchy name, spawned by our Director of Clinical Operations, Dr Michael Brydon – read on for details on this fantastic initiative.

We welcome on board the new Chief Executive of South Eastern Sydney Illawarra Health, Terry Clout, who will be starting his new position in October.

We also introduce Dr Christoph Camphausen, who recently joined the cardiology team on a 12-month contract.

This edition also focuses on the important initiatives undertaken by our staff, these include the recent opening of the hospital's refugee clinic, PNG heart trip, child protection week forum and new research/projects set to commence.

We also take the opportunity to recognise two very important people – Kerrie Martin, our employee of the month, and Fabian Heaton, an inspirational member of the community who was a Southern Courier Father of the Year nominee.

Deadline

THE deadline for contributions to the next issue is 22 October (November issue). Please forward articles and photos to:

Editor: Jessica Jaramillo
Phone: (02) 9382 3578
Fax: (02) 9382 3577
Email: jessica.jaramillo@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au
SCH website: www.sch.edu.au
The Way Forward deadline dates for 2007 are:

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 Jane Jennings, our Human Resources Senior Consultant, to share with you her perspective on current issues.

Best wishes,

*Les White (Prof)
Executive Director*

I would like to begin by taking this opportunity to update you all on the changes that have occurred in Human Resources (HR) over the past 12 months.

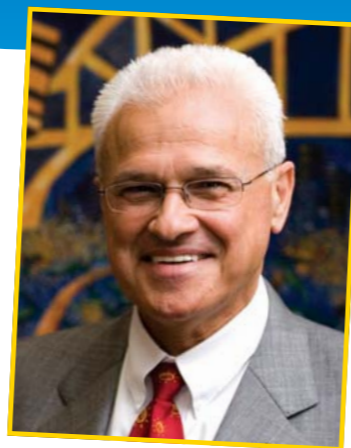
As you may know our HR department and team have been through a number of changes, the most significant has been due to the recent implementation of hospital networks across our Area Health Service. The outcome is that we now have a single HR department providing HR services for the Royal Hospital for Women, Prince of Wales Hospital, Sydney/Sydney Eye Hospitals, South Eastern Area Laboratory Services and Sydney Children's Hospital as well as a number of other Area Business Units located on Randwick Campus.

Whilst we are still developing procedures and systems to streamline our core services we continue to face challenges in the way in which HR services are provided and that more changes are on the horizon. The SCH Senior Human Resources Consultant portfolio within this system also continues to be part of the SCH Management Group.

Plans for the wider responsibilities of this position, Senior Human Resources Consultant - Child and Adolescent Health Services Stream incorporate many aspects of workforce planning across the Stream as we progress into working as partners in Child Health Networks with John Hunter Children's Hospital & Children's Hospital Westmead. The Senior HR consultant role that I fill has a professional accountability to the Human Resources Manager, Northern Network, but also a day-to-day accountability to the Executive Director and management team of Sydney Children's Hospital. There is also access to and participation in the Area HR senior team.

Many of you have been very patient whilst we implement our new structure and it is appreciated. We look forward to continuing to improve the service we provide.

In the midst of change many HR issues arise and staff turnover is inevitable. This particular issue has been challenging for the



HR department of recent times but I know we are not alone. The increasingly transient nature of the health workforce is only one of many workforce challenges hospitals face. A number of others I consider to be of increasing importance are:

- managing the increasing flexibility of workforce needs i.e. recent increases in maternity leave entitlements, increases in the number of staff accessing these maternity leave entitlements and carers' responsibilities all have an impact on the way in which we are able to staff our departments and hence deliver our services;
- workforce skills shortages and we have a number of professions where this is having a very real impact on the way in which we provide services now, and plan for workforce needs in the future;
- generational differences - generation Y who are those born from 1980 currently make up nearly a fifth of the Australian workforce and that is predicted to double in the next five years. The way in which Generation Y's work is well researched and documented. Generation Y's want increased flexibility, good work/life balance, are outcome oriented and technologically savvy. This creates a whole new way of thinking in managing these future staff.

Unfortunately many of these are not issues within our control. We must remain aware of the issues, the impact on our health workforce and manage them to the best of our ability.

I would like to acknowledge all the staff of SCH, there certainly is a spirit here that I have not experienced in any other work environment.

I know that the management group of Sydney Children's Hospital is committed to providing an environment in which staff are encouraged and supported to learn and grow in their careers and fostering a workplace climate of mutual respect and collegiality.

*Jane Jennings
Human Resources*

Introducing Dr Christoph Camphausen

IN this edition of the Way Forward we warmly welcome the Hospital's new cardiology staff specialist, Dr Christoph Camphausen.

Born and raised in Berlin, Christoph trained in 'the heart' of Germany - at the Heart and Diabetes Centre North Rhine-Westphalia. This Hospital undertakes 5000 heart operations and up to 1000 heart transplantations a year.

Married to an Australian born pianist, Christoph left Germany for Australia in 2004 with his wife and two children, a move that Christoph and his family had been planning for quite some time.

After close to three years in various roles at Brisbane's The Prince Charles Hospital and the QLD state retrieval team at the Royal Children's Hospital, Christoph joins the SCH team with a wealth of knowledge and eagerness to contribute to the cardiology services we provide. His areas of interest for SCH cardiology include improving non-invasive diagnostics.

With his family still residing in Brisbane, Christoph hopes they can permanently relocate to the eastern suburbs of Sydney in the not so distant future – in the meantime, he is one of Virgin Blue's most frequent customers!

Welcome Christoph, we are delighted to have you on the SCH team!



Dr Christoph Camphausen

New Chief Executive appointed

THE Director-General of Health, Professor Debora Picone AM recently announced the appointment of a new Chief Executive of the South Eastern Sydney Illawarra Area Health Service.

Professor Picone said the new Chief Executive, Mr Terry Clout would take up the position in early October.

"I wish to congratulate Terry on his appointment and know that his experience in the NSW health system and his ability as a senior manager will be invaluable in his new role," Professor Picone said.

Mr Clout is to be succeeded in his current position by Matthew Daly who has been appointed as the new Chief Executive of Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service.

We congratulate both Terry Clout and Matthew Daly on their new appointments.

Inspiring father of the year nominee

CONGRATULATIONS to one of our senior project coordinators, Fabian Heaton, who was named a father of the year finalist in the 2007 Southern Courier Community Father of the Year awards.

Fabian sadly lost a daughter to a rare brain disorder lissencephaly, a defect which his 10-year-old son Tristan also has. Father also to 13-year-old Danica and husband to Maria, Fabian is a much loved member of the community, who has inspired us all with his positivity and never failing commitment to his family, despite the adversity they have faced.

Aside from his family and work commitments, Fabian is also actively involved with the St Vincent De Paul Society in Botany and ran in this year's City to Surf.

"I was so pleased to hear about Fabian's well deserved father of the year nomination," said Prof Les White.

"His never failing love for his children, positive outlook, and ability to balance his family life with his many other charitable commitments, is an inspiration to us all," he said.

Congratulations Fabian on a well deserved nomination.



Pat on the Back

TO whom it may concern at the Sydney Children's Hospital Randwick,

Our daughter was a patient at the hospital for a simple adenoids/tonsillectomy on 3rd July and also on 9th and 10th of July for an unexpected visit due to complications.

What we need to say is how wonderful our journey was there. We used the online virtual tour before our first visit and the stigma and a lot of the fear was removed before entering the hospital. Admission was simple as was the pre-ward area, kind nurses and doctors all around. Then the 'wonderful Fiona' play and music therapist visited, offering more understanding of the op with fun to go with it. The post op was caring as she woke. The procedure went well and then to the ward. C2 South ward gave a tour and we settled in for the afternoon and night. Quality care was given even though the ward was full. The play therapist even came back for an afternoon follow up visit. My daughter loved this.

We left the next morning, impressed by our experience and happy to go home, all had gone to plan. Unfortunately the following Sunday my daughter had a bleed. We rushed to emergency at midnight on Sunday we were whisked straight in with no wait time, my partner and I were fearful, of imminent surgery to stop the bleed. We knew we were in the right place. We were admitted early next morning back in C2 south where we stayed for two days. The doctors and nurses were once again great. Her doctors came regularly to help us, with great empathy for our fears. To keep Sunnai busy we had the opportunity to play musical instruments with the 'wonderful Fiona' and other kids. We did painting and games down at the school, visited the great Starlight Room and used the fabulous Starlight machines. She was such a busy 'sick kid' she didn't have time to dwell on what could happen, perfect diversion technique!

I slept by her bedside to give emotional care though your staff offered what I could not. Thank you. Please don't 'cut back' anywhere, the balance for this family at the Kids hospital is spot on...

*Sincerely thanking all,
Leone Cohen, Lisa Gridley and Sunnai Cohen.*

City2Surf – A race to remember

Well done to all who participated in the Sun-Herald City2Surf on 12 August and who helped raise funds for the Centre for Children's Cancer and Blood Disorders (CCC&BD). More than 500 participants raised funds for the Hospital – so far the tally is at more than \$50,000. Donations closed on 30 August so we will keep you updated on the total amount raised for the Hospital.

We were overwhelmed with the commitment of staff and other Hospital supporters who came from far and wide to compete in the race and support SCH! We look forward to your support again in 2008.



One of the fundraising groups, Team Stretcher at the finish line, flying the SCH flag!

The AJC and Peter Wilson visit SCH

On 8 August, Gobi Desert runner and SCH fundraiser Peter Wilson, and his colleagues from the Australian Jockey Club, visited SCH for an official Hospital presentation and tour, in recognition of Peter's Gobi Desert March, which raised \$60,000. Peter has committed to continue to raise funds for SCH through his 'Trifecta of Hope' in 2008, where he will endeavour to compete in three extreme challenge races. Two of the races will be held in Australia, one in Chile and all in a seven-week period. We wish him the best of luck and thank Peter and the AJC for their continued support.

Dizey's Day Helps the Hospital

Thanks to the organisers of Dizey's Day who held a ladies day at the Temora Rugby Union Club, raising more than \$7,300 for SCH. One hundred and fifty ladies supported the Hospital and enjoyed watching the football match, socialising and bidding in the fundraising auctions. Thank you for your support.

Lions Club Cronulla has the New Eye Clinic in its Sight

On 2 August, representatives from the Cronulla Lions Club and their supporters visited SCH, making a special presentation of \$80,000 to the paediatric eye clinic. The Lions Club aims to raise \$1 million to help the Hospital build and equip a new clinic. They are getting close to their target, with 85 percent raised so far! The group made a presentation to Prof Les White and Dr Michael Brydon before touring the Eye Clinic with Dr Ian Kennedy and Dr Kim Tan. Thank you Lions Club District 201N5 for helping make the new facility possible.



Dr Kim Tan and Dr Ian Kennedy with the Lions Club representatives at the eye clinic.

Sydney Water Safety Funds Nursing Scholarship

On 3 August, representatives from Sydney Water toured the emergency department and presented the Hospital with a cheque for \$7,000, which was raised through their safety program. Sydney Water and their contractors acknowledge employees who maintain safety standards, by donating funds to chosen charities. The donation will fund a nursing scholarship in the emergency department. Thank you to Sydney Water and all their safety-conscious employees for this generous donation.



Sydney Water makes their presentation

Coles Generosity

We were delighted to welcome Coles representatives from the Chatswood area and

NSW Human Resources office to SCH on 9 August. The group toured C2W and C2N and made a special presentation of \$125,146 on behalf of the Coles Group to CCC&BD. A heartfelt thanks to the Coles Group for their hard work and continued commitment to raising vital funds for CCC&BD.



Representatives from Coles and Prof Glenn Marshall.

Thanks City of Sydney RSL!

The City of Sydney RSL recently donated \$30,000 to the child protection unit, to support the health-screening clinic for another consecutive year. Our sincere thanks for their continued support of the child protection unit.

Diary Date

Trees for Children
25 October
6.30pm - 9.30pm

On 25 October, the arrivals hall at the Overseas Passenger Terminal will host over 500 special guests for a stunning cocktail party - Trees for Children.

The night will feature the auction of designed and creatively themed Trees which will be decorated with, or accompanied by luxurious prizes valued at more than \$5,000. Leading companies such as Myer, Accoutrement and Kiwi Collections donated the prizes. There will also be approximately 30-miniature trees on sale, valued between \$1,500 and \$4,000 each. Canapés will be created by a group of leading Sydney chefs, coordinated by Luke Mangan of Glass Brassiere.

Tickets for this magical night cost \$110 per person (incl gst), and are available from the Foundation on 9382 1188.

Refugee clinic

SYDNEY Children's Hospital commenced its first refugee health clinic in August, with its first three young patients from African descent.

The refugee clinic has been in the planning stages for some time and was established after research was undertaken by a collaborative team of experts from the Hospitals Community Child Health team, South Eastern Sydney and Illawarra Health's (SESIH) Multicultural Health Unit, NSW Refugee Health Service and Wollongong Hospital.

A project officer based in the Department of Community Child Health and funded by the Hospital Foundation, SESIH's Multicultural Health Unit and the University of New South Wales has been instrumental in setting up the clinic. The clinic is part of a collaboration with GPs to optimise the health and wellbeing of refugee children and young people settling within SESIH by ensuring a comprehensive health screen is conducted by GPs shortly after arrival, full immunisation is achieved within 12 months and families are engaged with local GPs for ongoing care.

The clinic's patients are referred to SCH by their general practitioner for specific indications arising from the comprehensive health screen. This clinic assessment involves further investigating and managing infectious diseases, nutritional deficiencies and congenital abnormalities that have surfaced in the screening process.

Community paediatricians, refugee health workers, social workers, and infectious diseases experts are all involved in the running of the clinic.

The team is hoping to hold one clinic per month and already have bookings confirmed for the next few clinics.

Each year, close to 100 refugee children between the ages of 0-16 years settle in key locations within SESIH including Randwick, Hurstville, Rockdale and Wollongong. Refugee families come from many countries, including the Former Yugoslavia and Iraq, with more recent arrivals from African countries such as Sudan, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Burundi. Since the refugee program began in February this year, every refugee child and young person (on visa 200) arriving in SESIH has been seen by a GP and the Chest Clinic for an initial screen, close to 90% have had the recommended screening tests, 46% have required catch-up immunisation and many have gained access to specialist services for significant health conditions.

Newly arrived refugees are presenting to health services with a range of complex health

problems reflecting the epidemiology of their countries of origin and of refugee camps in transit countries. Refugee children have high rates of infectious diseases (Hepatitis B, latent tuberculosis and schistosomiasis), incomplete or delayed immunisation, growth and nutrition problems, poor dental health as well as psychological health problems.



Refugee clinic staff with their first patients



Papua New Guinea heart trip

On the 9th of August a team of staff from SCH made their annual trek to Papua New Guinea, as part of the life saving 'Operation Open Heart' project.

Fifty-three health care experts from across Australia, as well as one from New Zealand (a former staff member of SCH), volunteered their time to this important project.

Regular SCH volunteers include cardiothoracic surgeon Dr Graham Nunn, anaesthetist Dr Matthew Crawford and intensive care nurse Margaret Bresnahan. Dr Nunn and Dr Crawford have been making the visits to Papua New Guinea for an amazing 14 years, 2007 marks Margaret's 8th year!

New members of the team were anaesthetist Dr Chris Hughes, ICU nurse Wendy Stephen and emergency department nurse, Jessica O'Brien.

This year, 57 operations were performed on 53 patients in six days. Forty-five of the patients were children. Twenty-three of the cases involved open-heart surgery and 34 were

closed cases. Many of the closed cases were performed primarily by the local team of staff, who have been increasing their skill set year by year, no doubt as a result of the mentorship received from visiting international experts.

There were no fatalities and no emergency returns to theatre following each patient's initial surgery - an outstanding result!

For the two nurses from SCH attending for the first time, the initial experience was overwhelming, especially after seeing how little the Hospital in this third world country had.

The SCH team of volunteers would like to thank those people who assisted by donating equipment and toys for the trip - five tons of equipment and stores were taken overseas by the SCH team to enable this successful outcome.

Congratulations to the team on this outstanding result, your commitment to paediatric care is second to none.



Some of the little heart patients in PNG



Employee of the Month

CONGRATULATIONS to our employee of the month for September/October Kerrie Martin, administration officer for the department of medical genetics.

Kerrie was nominated by Patricia Commerford.

Kerrie is referred to with fondness and professional respect by a team who view her as "an important cog in the departments wheel".

Working silently and diligently, Kerrie takes little time off, is 100 percent dedicated to her work and produces a wide range of secretarial and administrative work.

A dictaphone expert, Kerrie's outstanding service is evident by the vast amount of first class typing she produces day after day. She efficiently produces urgent work (such as prenatal reports), when needed.

Kerrie displays initiative every day, especially when either of the other secretaries are absent. She is a "calm buffer to the doctors, often without them knowing the lengths she will go to to assist in their work," said Patricia.

An excellent team member, Kerrie is able to quietly support other staff and hear others with gentleness, kindness and concern.

Slipping easily into the leadership role when required, her ability to manage and adapt to the work, and with other members of staff, is commented on by most of the team.

Her professionalism as well as her kindness to others truly does make her employee of the month (or of the year!).

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.

Japanese first lady visits SCH during APEC summit

THE Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit brought some excitement to SCH, with the first lady of Japan, Mrs Akie Abe, making a stop by the Hospital to visit some of our youngest patients.

Patients, families and staff at C1N were fortunate enough to meet Mrs Abe, who also took some time to visit patients in the Starlight Room before returning to her APEC duties.

Jayde from C2W had the opportunity to meet Mrs Abe up close, presenting her with a bunch of flowers and a gift on behalf of the

patients, families and staff at SCH.

Mrs Abe kindly presented the Hospital with a digital camera and handed out Pokemon toys to some of the children.

It was unfortunate that Mrs Abe's visit was so short, however we are hopeful that she will return to SCH when she is next in Sydney!

Bridge Climbing Sisters!

IN support of International Nurses Day, a team of 10 lucky nurses set out for an opportunity of a lifetime. From a register of nursing employees 10 names were drawn out to climb the spectacular Sydney Harbour Bridge. They set out on grey and rainy Friday for a much-anticipated event.

One of the nurses told of her experience: "The day commenced, with trepidation on some people's part. Thoughts then strayed... Would we enjoy it? Would we be soaked in a downpour? Is my life insurance up to date?"

"A very thorough safety briefing was given, followed by the donning of very glamorous grey jumpsuits and attached garments which included gloves, cap, optional beanie, handkerchief (?), radio/headsets, and a waist clinching safety belt with a ratchet grip with which to attach ourselves to the bridge.

"Thankfully all ten staff passed the compulsory breathalyser!

"The ascent began with a near vertical ladder climb above the lanes of traffic and the Park Hyatt Hotel. Onward and upward we went, under the care of a pleasant and jovial guide. Ample breaks were provided throughout the climb for the 'less fit' amongst us. The team walked the plank then furthered towards the 'Coat-hanger' arch, on the Opera House side."

"The clouds wafted away, and an almost clear blue sky appeared. The vista of Sydney was magnificent. Photos were taken with Blinky Bill (the air traffic beacon at the peak of the bridge). The busy and breathtaking harbour provided a spectacular backdrop."

"It was then time to descend via the Luna Park side of the bridge and return the glamour wear to the BridgeClimb offices. It was back to terra firma and to Sydney Children's Hospital for some."

Many thanks to BridgeClimb for recognising and supporting International Nurses Day.



Child Protection Forum: Keeping Kids Safe, Working Together

ON Tuesday 4th September, the Child Protection Unit (CPU) and the Child Protection Counselling Services (CPCS) hosted the third annual Child Protection Forum. One hundred and thirty child protection and health experts attend the Forum.

Entitled Keeping kids safe, working together, the Forum had several guest speakers presenting on different areas of child protection, as well as local projects and services. Dr Louise Newman, Prof. of Perinatal and Infant Psychiatry, University of Newcastle was the Forum's keynote speaker and she spoke on working with transgenerational trauma.

Dr Ju Lee Oei, Consultant Neonatologist from the Royal Hospital for Women spoke on the effects of drug use in pregnancies and the Chemical Use in Pregnancy Service (CUPS). Sue Foley and Fran Tolliday, from the Children's Hospital at Westmead and Westmead Hospital spoke about their local project, Preventing Shaking Baby Syndrome.

Our last speakers were grandparents, from both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal background, sharing their experiences of being carers for their grandchildren. Colleen Cawood is an Aboriginal health care worker as well as an Aboriginal grandparent, caring for her grandchildren. She spoke about her struggles as a carer as well as her experience of co-facilitating the Aboriginal Grandparents group with Paul Morgan, CPCS counsellor. Margaret Hooper spoke about her experience as a carer and the support she receives from attending the Grandparents' group.

Information stalls run by different services were held during the breaks. The Forum was seen as a success and staff from both CPU and CPCS have started to plan next year's Forum.



Paul Morgan, CPCS Counsellor and Colleen Cawood, Aboriginal Health Worker and grandparent

The Clown Doctors and SCH make the White Pages front cover

JEAN-PAUL Bell and Dr Peter Spitzer from Clown Doctors feature on the 2007/08 cover of the Sydney Residential directory - standing proudly at the High Street entrance of Sydney Children's Hospital!

Jean-Paul and Peter are shining examples of this year's cover theme 'Champions of our Community' and were humbled to learn of their selection to feature on the front cover, having been nominated by members of the community.

Congratulations to Jean Paul and Peter, who started the Clown Doctors program at SCH more than 10 years ago.

They are very deserving of this community wide recognition of their work.



Jean Paul Bell and Dr Peter Spritzer on the cover

TV series name revealed!

IT has taken some time, however we can now announce the winner of the SCH TV series name competition.

Helen Woodhead is the lucky winner, with the name SAVING KIDS selected as the official name of the series. Congratulations Helen!

The search for a name for the SCH television series brought in an enormous number of entries - 291 to be exact!

Network Ten and the production company Quail TV were stunned with the Hospital's obvious enthusiasm and support of the series.

The level of commitment, expertise and specialist care provided must be recognised and applauded. We are always working towards the goal of 'Saving Kids'.

Dr Philip Chang operates on a patient featured in the upcoming series



National Carers Week is almost upon us

NATIONAL Carers Week runs from 15th -19th October. A 'carer' is a person (family member, friend, or acquaintance) who regularly assists in the day-to-day tasks of people with a disability or chronic illness or someone. Carers Week acknowledges the hard work and dedication of carers across the country.

Throughout Carers Week, SCH will be celebrating the enormous commitment undertaken by parents and carers here at the hospital. These planned activities are a small gesture of appreciation and acknowledgement of the vital role parents & carers play in assisting staff to care for their children.

Activities include Information Pamper Packs, Massage Therapy and hopefully an evening event where parents & carers can enjoy the company of other adults, and for a short time, try to take their mind off the enormous stress they deal with on a day to day basis.

Brain tumour grant

CONGRATULATIONS to Catherine McKersie, Sara Burrett, Danielle Beston and Dr Richard Cohn who were awarded a research grant from Brain Tumour Australia. The research is entitled The stories of others: using narratives to support families coping with a paediatric brain tumour, and will look at developing and evaluating this tool's effectiveness in assisting families to cope with their child's brain tumour diagnosis.



Sara Burrett, Danielle Beston, and Catherine McKersie

2007 James Wolfe and Michael Dalton Travelling Fellowship awarded to SCH scientist

BLAINE Allen, a post graduate scientist in the Developmental Neuroscience Program at SCH, has been awarded \$5,000 to allow him to travel to the United States to spend time, either at the Mayo Clinic or the university of Utah, learning new staining/labeling techniques to trace axons and their sheaths. These skills will then be utilised in 2008 in the SCH research laboratory. Congratulations!

Grant available through AusAID

A grant is available through AusAID to members of the health care profession interested in working in Vietnam.

If any nursing, medical or allied health staff at SCH are interested in applying, please visit www.ayad.com.au for further information.

Dr Kate Armstrong - Founder & Director of CAH Living As Neighbours CLAN)- has worked in Vietnam and would be happy to share her experiences or answer any questions. Kate can be contacted via email- kate@cahclan.org.

Volunteers Wanted!

THE respiratory department is conducting a lung function study and is looking for volunteers aged 3 years or over. Participants are required to undertake fun and simple blowing tests, and if required, an allergy test. Your help and participation for this medical research would be greatly appreciated.

For more information, please call the respiratory department on 9382 1475

Cordz Joke Corner

A man and a friend are playing golf one day at their local golf course. One of the guys is about to chip onto the green when he sees a long funeral procession on the road next to the course. He stops in mid-swing, takes off his golf cap, closes his eyes, and bows down in prayer. His friend says, "Wow - that is the most thoughtful and touching thing I have ever seen. You truly are a kind man." The man then replies - "Yeah, well we WERE married 35 years."