

The circus hits SCH for Party Day

ANOTHER year, another Party Day and what a success it was.

International Children's Day was again celebrated in style, with a party of circus proportions.

The joy and excitement of Party Day was again clearly evident, with all at SCH getting into 'party mode' by dressing up in costume, decorating their respective wards or departments and joining in the day's festivities.

This year's "Under the Big Top" theme was certainly well received, with special guests Circus Extravaganza and face painters bringing the colour of the circus to the Hospital.

A guest list of celebrities and children's entertainers including Fuzzy from Network Ten's Video Hits, Corey Payne and John Skandalis from the West Tigers and even Shrek stopped by the wards to visit patients, families and hospital staff on Wednesday 22 October.

Professor Les White, Executive Director of SCH said this year's celebrations succeeded in bringing joy and play to the hospital experience.

A great deal of work was undertaken by some very generous corporate volunteers from Bunnings Belrose, Fairfax, Paramount Australia, Tower Australia and UBS volunteers.

Thanks as always to the Party Day Committee and the Public Affairs team, who worked tirelessly to make this year's celebrations a success:

- Andrea Veen
- Jenni Corbett
- Bernadine O'Donovan
- Kerry Crannis
- Sarah Mulvey
- Jill and Yvonne (Hospital School)
- Averil Yeo (Starlight Express Room Manager)
- Roxanne Fea (SCH Foundation)



Above L to R: Fuzzy has some fun with Sarah Etteridge; Shrek and Jacob are all smiles on Party Day; Hala Katf, Louis Cheung and Helen Said get into the spirit of things.

"It makes sense to save cents for the kids: this newsletter has been produced at low cost to maximise expenditure on children's health"

This month....

Clinical Trials Centre3

Vale Liz Perks and Sally Gilles.....5

Volunteer Update.....8

Editor's Notes

IN the second last edition of *The Way Forward* for 2008, we outline the success of this year's circus themed Party Day - an annual event marking International Children's Day and bringing joy and a sense of fun to the Hospital experience for our young patients.

We welcome our new Rehabilitation Case Manager, Julie Antonios and pay our respects to two of our colleagues Liz Perks and Sally Gilles who sadly passed away in October.

Details of this year's Carer's Week and Infection Control Week celebrations are featured as are details on the new Clinical Trials Centre opening at SCH.

While all of us are beginning to get into Christmas mode, don't forget to email through your story ideas, for possible inclusion in the December issue of *The Way Forward*.

Jessica Jaramillo

Deadline

THE deadline for contributions for the December 2008 issue is Friday 28 November 2008. Please forward articles and photos to:

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Email:

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SCH website: www.sch.edu.au

The new look *Way Forward*

AS one of the ways the Hospital is saving money on items not related to patient care, *The Way Forward* will now be printed in black and white only, with the full colour version only available on line via the SCH intranet and web site.

"It makes sense to save cents for the kids: this newsletter has been produced at low cost to maximise expenditure on children's health"

From the Executive

DEAR Colleagues,

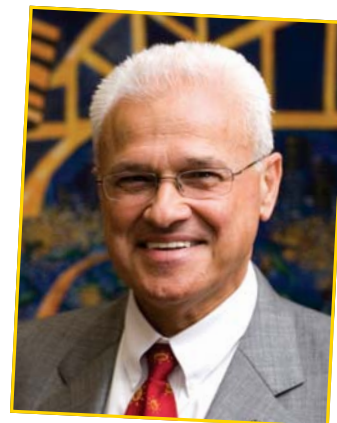
The Sydney Children's Hospital statements of Vision and Purpose both recognise the importance of research - laboratory, translational and clinical - as a key domain of our commitment. Several recent developments highlight our achievements in research and indicate important opportunities for continuing progress in that domain.

The list of publications linked with both Sydney Children's Hospital and the Discipline of Paediatrics within the School of Women's and Children's Health, University of New South Wales (UNSW) have shown sustained growth reaching a peak of over 50 for calendar year 2007. This number only represents the subset that are the peer reviewed journal publications and academic book chapters.

The round of applications for the SCH Foundation Annual Research Grants has once again identified a range of worthy projects which are currently under consideration by the Scientific Review Committee of the Foundation. Success with external, peer reviewed granting procedures also continues to increase and it is encouraging to note the breadth of interests across medical, nursing and allied health disciplines. The newly constituted Health Research Ethics Committee of the Northern Hospital Network, supported by the SCH Clinical Research Scientific Subcommittee are receiving increased numbers and spectrum of applications from SCH researchers.

Last month we announced the formal launch of our Sydney Children's Clinical Trials Centre (SCCTC) and the appointment of several part time support staff, funded through the generosity of the Foundation. This will ensure expert support to a range of teams conducting clinical trials across SCH, avoiding wasteful duplication and ensuring efficiency at a time of global financial restraint. In particular, access to statistician and study design expertise is available by calling my office and making appropriate appointments. Particular thanks go to Katrina Williams and the Steering Group chaired by Glenn Marshall, as well as the continuing research oversight and coordination provided by our Director of Research, Anne Cunningham.

In collaboration with the entire Randwick Hospitals Campus and the Northern Hospital Network Research Office we have undertaken an audit of current research activity at SCH. Early indications suggest a robust range of teams and disciplines engaged in various research commitments.



Further analysis and documentation will catalogue the scope of grants, publications, prizes and research students generated by each group. Special tribute must go to the CCCBD team which have been outstanding in their research output over many years and who are reaching new heights in their productivity and their international stature.

The SCH Foundation with their very substantial investments in research at the Hospital have offered external facilitation for the continuing development of our research strategy. The offer has been embraced by the Research Committee and the program of structured interviews have commenced. This exercise will update our Strategic Plan for Research and stimulate further discussion across stakeholders both internally and externally.

As flagged in previous editorials, the Area Executive have agreed to a proposal that a temporary home for clinical and translational research be found in the current CCIA building, expected to be vacated by early 2010 with the establishment of the Lowy Centre at UNSW. The proposal for the SCH research groups includes collocation with researchers from the adult facilities on the Randwick Hospitals Campus. However, we recognise the importance of specific cohorting of the paediatric enterprise as well as an enhanced visibility of the child health spectrum, ranging from population health to the most complex and highly sub-specialised trials of therapeutic interventions.

With all the challenges of the current world economic climate and the importance of our service commitments we must ensure a highly efficient and relevant research focus. Our recent developments in this domain exemplify that commitment and ensure optimal engagement with colleagues internally as well as with external stakeholders.

Best wishes

Les White (Prof)

Welcome... Julie Antonios

SCH warmly welcomes Julie Antonios, Rehabilitation Case Manager for SCH and the Royal Hospital for Women (RHW).

Julie has only recently joined the SCH team, after spending two years in a similar role at Bankstown Hospital.

A qualified Occupational Therapist, Julie is entrusted to assist staff who are injured in the workplace, implementing programs to help ease them back into the workplace.

"Once an injury is lodged as a Workers Compensation claim I become involved early on in the process, liaising with the employee, manager, treating practitioners and the insurer to facilitate a safe, timely and durable return to work," said Julie.

"I also work with staff who have non-work related health conditions by developing rehabilitation programs for them.

"Workplace injuries are never pleasant, however I believe that supportive rehabilitation programs can make the process of returning to work just that little bit easier."

For Julie, her time at SCH has been nothing but positive.

"I just love it at SCH. I really enjoy working with SCH colleagues and seeing the patients and their parents walking through the corridors.

"The Hospital's family oriented environment is not only refreshing, but makes it a really special place to work in."

In her spare time, Julie is busily planning her wedding, after only recently becoming engaged.

Welcome Julie, and congratulations on the upcoming nuptials!

Julie can be contacted on extension 26461 or via email:

julie.antonios@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au

Below: Julie Antonios



Clinical Trials Centre opens at SCH

WE are delighted to announce the opening of the SCH Clinical Trials Centre, supported by the Sydney Children's Hospital Foundation (SCHF).

The aim of the Centre is to increase collaboration between disciplines and departments at SCH, to create trials that will improve child health outcomes, to increase the number and quality of investigator driven clinical trials, to increase the funding stream from clinical trials to support infrastructure enhancements for future clinical research and to create opportunities for phase one and two trials.

Dr Katrina Williams will be coordinating the activities of the Centre in her role as Coordinator of Clinical Research, with the help of the Trials Centre Working Group (chaired by Professor Glenn Marshall) and the SCH Research Committee.

Susan Smith has been appointed Research Nurse, Jenny Peat as Statistician and Katherine White and Diane Davies are able to provide Pharmacist expertise.

Clinicians and researchers based at SCH who are undertaking or planning clinical trials are encouraged to discuss their plans with the team, who are on hand to provide assistance in all aspects of clinical trials, including:

- Study design, data storage, sample size estimates and statistical advice
- Protocol, ethics and grant application development
- Requirements for baseline, outcome and adverse event measurements and assessments
- Randomisation, blinding and recruitment
- Drug preparation, storage, handling and administration

At present the team can be contacted via internal email or by phone on the following numbers:

Katrina Williams – extension 28189

Susan Smith – extension 20512/ pager 45215/ 0410 341 114

Katherine White – extension 22333 / pager 43009

Jenny Peat - appointments to be made by contacting Tracy Opperman in the Executive Unit on extension 21761

Pat on the back

“ DEAR Sydney Children's Hospital,
Thank you so much to all the staff of Sydney Children's Hospital for making my stay at the hospital nice and welcoming and thank you for making my leg all better so now I can be in less pain.

Thank you for letting me use your machines that have the movies on it. Thank you especially to the staff on ward c3 south and c2 south for my stay and a very special thank you to the people who did surgery on me. But i give the biggest thank you to the physiotherapists for helping me walk on my crutches.

I am just saying that i am very grateful for what you guys at Sydney Children's Hospital have done for me so... Thank you so much!

Bryce ”



For the diary – SCH Christmas Party

THE Senior Medical Staff would like to invite SCH staff, volunteers and their families to this year's Christmas celebrations.

When: 12 December

Where: Courtyard, in front of the Edmund Blackett Building

Time: 4pm-7pm

- The famous jukebox will again be pumping out some Christmas tunes
- Lori the Clown will be entertaining all between 4:30pm and 5:30pm
- Fun games and balloon sculptures

Of course Santa will be stopping by at 5:30pm, so parents, please remember to assist Santa by making sure your child's gift is labelled with their full name.

Presents should be dropped off either on the day or before hand to 'Santa's helpers' Cordelia Roswell or Chris Webber in the new Emergency Offices, located opposite the John Beveridge Lecture Theatre (former Public Affairs offices).

Finger food and drinks will be served, so come along, join your colleagues and celebrate with some Christmas fun!



Welcome New Staff

THE Foundation warmly welcomes our new colleagues:

- Ally Garrad – Direct Marketing Manager
- Louise Claridge – Sponsor Partnerships Coordinator
- Louise Sommer – has moved from the Big Pond Star Café Supervisor to manage the SCHF Shop

Farewell Adrienne

AFTER more than 11 years of service with the SCHF, we wish Fundraising Manager, Adrienne O'Brien, a fond farewell. Adrienne started with the SCHF as Database Manager and as a trusted member of the team progressed through to the role of Fundraising Manager. SCHF thanks Adrienne for her commitment and service, and wishes her the best of luck in her new role with the Benevolent Society.

Coogee Dolphins Sportsman's Lunch

A total of three hundred guests attended the Coogee Dolphins Sportsman's Lunch on 15 August, raising a fantastic total of \$7,700 for SCH. Thank you to our long term supporters, the Coogee Dolphins, who have generously raised more than \$100,000 for SCH over the past eight years.

Manly Sea Eagles Sponsorship Donated

YOU may have noticed the SCH logo on the back of the Sea Eagles jerseys during the NRL Grand Finals Series. This opportunity was kindly donated by Adrian Peters and Michael Blackman. Thanks also to the Manly Sea Eagles, CEO Grant Mayer and club legend Steve Menzies, who have been ongoing supporters of the Hospital.



The Polar Double

HAVING previously raised more than \$160,000 for the Emergency Department, ultra-marathon runner Peter Wilson is set to take on a new fundraising challenge.

The Polar Double will see Peter journey to both ends of the globe to compete in 'The Last Desert', which is held across the harsh terrain of the Antarctic from 27 November - 4 December, and 'The Rock & Ice Diamond Ultra', held across the Northwest Canadian Territories from 21 - 26 March, 2009. The Polar Double has already raised more than \$75,000, thanks to the support of Peter's sponsors BetChoice, the AJC, Powerade and NG Farah.



Above: Peter Wilson - Photo Credit James Elsby

The Emergency Bag Project

THANKS to generous donations from Australian Geographic, the online Two Dollar Shop, Glintech, BIG W, Austar, Colgate and News Magazines, 7000 bags have been filled with a variety of goodies, to be given to children admitted to Emergency. The bags have made patient's admissions to Emergency a little more enjoyable, with one child overheard saying "it's just like Christmas!"

Diary Date: Trees for Children 2008

PROMINENT Australian artists and personalities have come together to create an exhibition of tree sculptures for SCHF's 'Trees for Children' exhibition. These magnificent sculptures will be on display from 20 November - 3 December in Customs House Square, 31 Alfred St, Circular Quay. An invitation only cocktail party will also be held to launch the exhibition, with fantastic prize packages to be auctioned to raise money for the Hospital.

Mount Sinai College, Maroubra

MOUNT Sinai College's Year 6 Charity Committee and two of their Year 3 students, Mikaela Goldring and Chantale Symonds, have raised \$915 for SCH's Play Therapy Department. The funds will purchase much needed portable DVD players.

World Aids Day – 1 December

WEAR a red t-shirt to work for World Aids Day, and donate a gold coin to show your support for Camp Goodtime, the annual camp for families affected by HIV. The camp is co-ordinated by the Paediatric HIV Service at SCH, who will collect the donations. The next camp will be in March 2009. If you would like to volunteer for a wonderful weekend, please contact the Paediatric HIV Service Social Worker on 9382 1851.

Arts news

Walking Together – Art Space 1, Level 1

'Walking Together' is the second annual partnership project between the Art Program and the Sydney Children's Hospital School. This exciting project introduced emerging Koori artist Darren Bloomfield to students from the Hospital School, Matraville Soldiers Settlements Public School and La Perouse Primary School.

In a series of workshops, the students painted beach thongs telling their own "dreamings" through journeys and stories. The resulting exhibition features each personal story highlighted by the brightly painted thongs and Darren's own artworks, currently on display on Level 1.



Above: Darren Bloomfield with Allyssyca and Lillian holding a workshop at SCH

New work by National Art School artists

THE Mayor of Randwick, Councillor Bruce Notley-Smith, opened the last National Art School rotation for the year on Wednesday 8 October in the BigPond Star Café. New work by Michelle Donald, Marion Wait and Mark Tedeschi can be seen on display in Artspace 0 and 1 until 1 December.



Vale Liz Perks and Sally Gilles

IN October we farewelled two of our dear friends and colleagues, Liz Perks, Director of the Pharmacy Department at Prince of Wales (POW) and SCH and Sally Gilles, former SCH Senior Physiotherapist.

Both Liz and Sally passed away peacefully following illness.

Liz was well known to all, having spent 18 years at POW and SCH. Prior to that she held the post of Director of Pharmacy at Prince Henry Hospital.

Between 2001 and 2002, Sally worked closely with the Allied Health, Intensive Care and Cystic Fibrosis teams.

SCH would like to extend its condolences to the Perks and Gilles families during this understandably difficult time.

They will be missed.

Thank you to the Sydney Kids Committee

OUR friends, the Sydney Kids Committee recently presented SCH with a cheque for \$50,000 dollars – the proceeds of their annual fundraiser, The Winter Rainbow Ball.

The Committee has had a long standing partnership with SCH, and is solely dedicated to raising funds for the Hospital.

This year's amazing donation will be used to help treat children requiring treatment by the cleft palate team.

SCH would like to especially thank Committee Chairperson Pip Margan, patron Amanda Keller, committee board members, and key sponsors including Snap Printing in Bondi Junction.

The committee's ongoing support is sincerely appreciated by all at SCH.

Below: Sydney Kids Committee members present Dr Michael Brydon and Verity Luckey with a cheque for \$50,000.



Important role of carers acknowledged

CARERS at SCH were acknowledged during this year's Carer's Week celebrations.

Thanks to the Caring for Carer's Committee, carers on the wards received gift bags filled with beauty care products, relaxing massages thanks to the Australian College of Natural Therapies, a barbeque lunch thanks to the support of WHK Horwath and a special performance by pop idol Damien Leith.

With many patients spending extended periods of time at SCH, it is important that we remember the parents and carers, many of whom juggle their child's hospital stay with work and the needs of the rest of their family.

Thank you again to the Committee, and to our sponsors and supporters for helping make our carers time at SCH just that little bit special.

For those who missed Damien Leith's special performance, the video can be viewed on the Southern Courier website: www.southerncourier.com.au

Below: Damien Leith at SCH; Carers receive their pamper pack.



SCH green corner

TO remind you to switch off your computer and lights at the end of each work day, the following cut-out is available to all readers of The Way Forward.

Place it on your computer screen or near your office light switches as a reminder and join SCH in 'switching off' for the environment!

Do you have a 'green' idea, plan or suggestion? Please email:

Jessica Jaramillo, SCH Public Affairs
jessica.jaramillo@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au



Employee of the Month



CONGRATULATIONS to the November Employee of the Month, Cathy Clarkson, CNC, Gastroenterology.

Nominated by Sandra Wales, Cathy is a dedicated and passionate member of the SCH team, recognised for her strong work ethic and commitment to patients and their families.

"Cathy exemplifies all the qualities needed by a clinical nurse consultant," said Sandra.

"She is an expert in her field, an educator, consultant and researcher, but most of all she puts her heart and soul and lots of goodwill into her work.

"Her mantra is 'if something is not done, it's the children who miss out.'"

Cathy has been instrumental in developing and refining the comprehensive home Total Parental Nutrition (TPN) Program and the Home Enteral Feeding Program. Albeit intensive for parents, the programs have given patients the opportunity to leave hospital, and enjoy a better quality of life.

Of late, Cathy has been the driving force behind the gastroenterology seminar held for health professionals from around the state (see full coverage on page 7).

A team player who is well respected by her peers, Cathy is to be commended on her invaluable contribution to children's health.

Congratulations Cathy and thank you.

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

SCH receives some special visitors

IT has been a particularly busy couple of months for the Public Affairs team, with some very special visitors stopping by the wards...

Sailors from the United States naval ships the USS Shoup and USS Pelileu stopped by SCH when recently in Sydney.

Ventriloquist David Strassman and his partner Teddy entertained families in the wards while in Sydney on their Farewell Teddy tour.

Melissa Doyle and Nelson Aspen from Channel Seven's Sunrise program toured the Children's Cancer Institute of Australia (CCIA) laboratories, meeting some of C2 West's young patients and their families.

The Great Britain Police Rugby League

team and their mascot 'Alfie' took time out of training for their upcoming world tour to stop by SCH, before heading off to Brisbane and Cairns.

The Sydney Flames Basketball team 'bounced' through the wards, kindly handing out giveaways to patients and siblings.

The Melbourne Cup was paraded through the hospital by retired winning jockey, and post race interviewer John Letts. Patients and their families were thrilled to be given the opportunity to be photographed alongside the famous Cup.

Celebrated British artist **Mackenzie Thorpe**, recently hosted an interactive arts workshop at the Hospital School. In an exciting twist, several of the children's paintings were included in Mackenzie's exhibition, and are being exhibited by the Hospital alongside some significant pieces from Mackenzie's exhibition. Thank you to all our special guests for taking the time out to visit the Hospital's patients and their families.



Above: The Great Britain Police Rugby League team stop by SCH with their mascot 'Alfie'

Infection control on the agenda at SCH

SCH marked International Infection Prevention and Control Week with a day of events on Friday 24 October.

Displays and trade demonstrations in front of the SCH Lecture Theatre promoted the upcoming national 5 Moments of Hand Hygiene campaign, educated staff on sharps safety, use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and stethoscope cleaning and maintenance.

Nurse Unit Managers were presented with a Numerical Profile Evidence Pack which included a sharps bin audit report, hand and glove safe operating procedures, hand hygiene audit reports, hand hygiene facility audit reports and safety posters.

Staff participated in a survey on professional infection control regulations with six lucky staff winning prizes for participating. Thanks to Laura Sheridan, Acting Clinical Nurse Educator (CNE), C3 West and Pamela Palasanthiran, Infectious Diseases Staff Specialist for their help.

Robyn Donnellan, Clinical Nurse Consultant (CNC) Infection Surveillance



In the News

SCH profiled in the media

October edition

- SCH Paediatrician Dr Anthony Epstein profiled in *Studio Bambini* as part of a feature on males in the workplace.
- PlayTherapy as an empowering therapeutic tool featured in *Off the Press Newsletter: International Progress of Psych Social Health Research*.

1 October

- Story on patient Erdem Dur's discharge from SCH after six years of care featured in the *Bankstown and Canterbury Torch*.

6 & 7 October

- Story of SCH patient undergoing surgery to remove half her brain featured in *The Daily Telegraph* and *Herald Sun*.

8 October

- *That's Life* magazine featured a story on SCH patient Charlie Steven's fall from a bunk bed.

9 October

- Visit by Melissa Doyle and Nelson Aspen to SCH featured by AAP Newswire and Channel Seven's *Sunrise* program.

11 October

- Story in the *Daily Telegraph* on SCH Epidermolysis Bullosa patient's fight to have bandages subsidised by the government.

14 October

- Story on new SCH Emergency Department Activity Bags featured in the *Southern Courier*.
- Story on Imaducation visit to SCH featured in the *Southern Courier*.

15 October

- British artist Mackenzie Thorpe's visit to SCH featured in the *Daily Telegraph*.
- Details of the new CALD study featured in the *Bankstown and Canterbury Torch*.

17 October

- Respiratory Department's new Fitness to Fly study featured in *The Daily Telegraph*. Associate Professor Adam Jaffe quoted.

22 October

- SCH tick paralysis patient featured in *That's Life* magazine.

22 & 26 October

- Dr Elizabeth Cotterell interviewed by ABC 702 Radio, the *Sydney Morning Herald* and Radio 2UE regarding the increasing number of children admitted to SCH after crushing their fingers in doors.

23 & 28 October

- Family of SCH Aicardi Syndrome patient develops a Foundation to help others in similar situations. Published in the *St George and Sutherland Shire Leader*.

24 October

- Dr Jonny Taitz interviewed by Ten News on SCH drug dosage guidelines for obese children.

25 October

- Neurology patient's recovery following numerous operations featured in *New Idea*.

28 October

- SCH patient's recovery following a kidney transplant featured in the *Newcastle Herald*.
- Damien Leith's visit to SCH as part of Carer's Week celebrations featured in the *Southern Courier*.

28 & 29 October

- Story on two inspiring SCH patients, raising money for a PET scanner featured in the *Southern Courier and Riverine Grazier*.

31 October

- *Goulbourn Post* featured a story on SCH patient's recovery post transplantation.

Green coffee at SCH



TURN a shade of green with the new SCH branded thermal mugs, available for purchase at the Big Pond Star Café and the SCH Foundation gift shop (located at the Barker Street entrance). Available in two sizes, regular (\$10) and large

(\$12), the mugs can be used in lieu of a paper cup – a brilliant green idea! To make sure you don't get your mug confused with a colleagues, a labeler will be available at the café. All profits from the mugs will go directly to the Hospital Foundation. Be green and support the Hospital Foundation's excellent new initiative.

Above: Foundation Chief Executive Adam Check and Dr Michael Brydon enjoy their coffee from the new SCH thermal mugs

Thank you Byron

TEN-YEAR-OLD Byron Luckey, the son of SCH Clinical Director for Surgery, Verity Luckey, has been inspired to help those less fortunate, supporting a village in Vietnam and donating items to SCH's international aid endeavours. Byron writes:

“ When I was in Vietnam last year with my sister Zara, Mum, Dad and friends the Irwin family, we visited a village called the 'Chicken Village'. We were all so affected by the poor living conditions that I decided to do something about it when I returned to Australia.

As soon as I got home I emailed Linda Burn who runs the Children's Education Foundation that funds various villages including the Chicken Village. She told me that it costs \$1,060 US for the hospital in the Chicken Village to run for one year. So with the help of my friend Liam Irwin, we organised a mufti day at our school, Claremont College. The school principal, Mr Thomas, allowed Liam and me to stand up and show some of our slides of the Chicken Village to the school and promote the mufti day. As a result of the mufti day we raised \$1,250 (\$1,060 US). Linda Burn's husband, Graeme Burn came to our school so we could present him with the cheque. Graeme Burn explained to our school how much this meant to the Chicken Village.

I also asked the students and their families to donate any bandages and medical supplies that hospitals in need may require. I am very happy that I have been able to donate these to both Margaret Bresnahan and Libbi Lumb who are now taking them to New Guinea and Vanuatu.

It is amazing that the small collections that I organised at our school are making such a difference in other countries that are not as lucky as us. It's a good feeling to know that what I've done is helping people.

Thanks, Byron Luckey

Well done Byron and thank you.

Below: Byron with Libbi Lumb



Seminar a success

ON 25 September, more than 120 nurses, dietitians and speech pathologists from Sydney and rural NSW participated in a Multidisciplinary Paediatric Enteral Feeding Education Seminar, held at SCH.

The day included presentations on enteral nutrition, appropriate feeds for tube fed children, care and management of nasogastric and gastrostomy devices and surgical insertion of gastrostomy devices. Presentations were also held on administering drugs through tubes and tube to oral feeds.

The speakers for the day included:

- Dr Usha Krishnan - Paediatric Gastroenterology SCH.
- Tamarah Katz and Leah VanderVliet - Paediatric Dietitians SCH.
- Rachel Messenger - Clinical Nurse Specialist Gastroenterology SCH.
- Kate Chellev - Clinical Nurse Specialist C1South, SCH.
- Dr Vincent Varjavandi - Paediatric Surgeon.
- Julie Arena - Pharmacist SCH.
- Colleen Links - Speech Pathologist SCH.
- Glen Pang - Network Manager from the Greater Metropolitan Clinical Taskforce - HEN network, who presented the Home Enteral Nutrition Program.

Cathy Clarkson, CNC, Paediatric Gastroenterology reports the feedback from attendees has been nothing but positive and it is hoped the seminar will become an annual event.

Thanks must go to the speakers, GMCT for sponsoring the food and to all who contributed to making the day possible.

Move to the sticks

AUDIO Visual Officer Melissa Dax's amazing sculpture, *Where They Fell*, has taken pride of place in the Vineyard's of the Wollombi Valley.

Last year, Melissa's sculpture was installed on Tamarama Beach as part of the *Sculpture by the Sea* exhibition. It has recently found a new home, on show until January 18, 2009 in the Wollombi Valley's Stonehurst Cedar Creek Vineyard, as part of *Sculpture in the Vineyards*. The exhibition runs over five boutique vineyards and features 60 large-scale outdoor and site-specifics works by local, regional and city-based artists.

The Wollombi Valley is approximately two and a half hours from Sydney. With a star colleague's work on display, it is well worth the drive!

What's On!

Unigym – University of NSW

UNIGYM is now offering student discounts to all SCH staff. If you would like to take advantage of this offer, please show your staff ID when you next visit the gym.

Pilates mat classes for staff

Where: Sydney Children's Hospital Physiotherapy Gym, Level 0

When: Every Tuesday and Thursday from 5.15pm – 6.15pm

Cost: \$10 per session

Contact: Sue Sims on 9382 1594, 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**.

SCH Grand Rounds

CONVENED by Associate Professor John Ziegler

Where: The John Beveridge Lecture Theatre, Level 1, SCH

When: 1.00pm every Wednesday

Justice of the Peace contacts at SCH

If you are an SCH employee and require the services of a Justice of the Peace (JP), the following SCH staff members are accredited JP's:

- Harriet Violakis: Administration, Allied Health - Extension 21297
- Pamela Leighton: Ward Clerk, C3 West - Extension 21325
- Vicki Weir: Emergency Department - Extension 21033

Please contact Harriet, Pamela or Vicki to arrange an appointment.

Movers and Shakers

- **Megan James** has been appointed to the full-time position of CNE Haematology/Oncology Outpatients (C2 North) on a temporary basis effective from Monday 27 October, 2008 to Sunday 25 January, 2009.
- **Erin Beavis** has been appointed to the part-time position of CNC Epilepsy on a temporary basis effective from Monday 20 October 2008 to 18 April 2010.
- **Betina Altavilla** has been appointed to the part-time position of Clinical Coordinator – Emergency Department on a temporary basis effective from Monday 20th October 2007 up until 25th January 2009.
- **Janelle Black** has been appointed to the full-time position CNS Endocrinology Service on a temporary basis effective from Monday 20th October 2008 up until 26th May 2010.

EQUP update

THE next EQUP event will be the Periodic Review, which will be conducted towards the end of May 2009.

This is an on site inspection, where the ACHS surveyors will again visit SCH to verify our progress since they were last here in 2007, during the Organisational Wide Survey.

Planning is currently in progress and further details will be outlined in the upcoming editions of The Way Forward and via email.

Patient services activity comparison

	September 08	September 07
Admissions	1,334	1,152
Discharges	1,354	1,156
Day only cases	585	424
Hospital Average Length of Stay, days	3.1 days	3.1 days
Hospital Average Length of Stay (excl Day Only)	4.6 days	4.5 days
Occupancy	95.5%	93.6%
Non admitted patients	28,590	29,110

Volunteer update

OUR dedicated volunteers have certainly been busy over the past couple of months...

Syd's Mobile library – Volunteer Syd has opened a mobile library, offering a range of pre-loved books for purchase, at a very affordable price – just a \$2.00 donation. With all monies raised going towards the purchase of equipment for patients, make sure you pay Syd a visit at the SCH enquiries counter between 11am-2pm daily (except Wednesday).

Generous donation - SCH recently received a generous donation of portable DVD players and children's DVD's from the Galanos family and Debbie Roberston of Gladesville Joinery. A few of our volunteers were instrumental in securing this donation and are sincerely thanked for their efforts.

Above: SCH volunteer Helen Poulos with Tracey Galanos

New Volunteer aprons – Thanks to the initiative of SCH volunteer Maureen McGee, SCH volunteers now have access to newly designed and improved volunteer aprons. With plenty of pocket space and velcro straps for comfort, the aprons are certainly a welcome addition! Special thanks to Jim Baba for donating the aprons and to Babylon Clothing for donating the SCH embroidered logo.

Above: Janice and Joan modelling the new look aprons