



# Children's Cancer Centre



## Report from the Children's Cancer Centre - May 2007

December 2006 saw the staff and families of the CCC experience their first Christmas in their new patient care area. They would like to thank everyone who made it possible to have the new area ready for Christmas 2006.

Unfortunately work wise it was a very busy Christmas. The patients and families who were in hospital over the festive season had many extra visitors to help them pass the time. Thanks to Goldman Sacks JBWere for their lovely morning tea early in December. Thanks to John Dimitropoulos and his team at HESTA Call Centre for distributing gifts to patients in the ward and Out Patients on the Thursday before Christmas.

The patients in the day chemotherapy room were pleased to receive portable DVD's in the week leading up to Christmas from staff at both Threes a Crowd in West Melbourne and the staff from AMCOR Australia.

Christmas day saw Santa and his merry band of helpers visit every child in the ward. There was so much joy and excitement. The patients in the ward also received gifts from Challenge supporting kids with cancer. Later in the day parents were pleased to be able to sit in the parent facilities and have Christmas dinner with some of their friends who visited them on the day.

The move to our new environment has seen us expand to a 24 bed in patient unit and a new 12 bed Day Oncology Unit. This has obviously meant we have welcomed many new staff to our team. Over the last 6 months we have recruited approximately 18 new nurses, needless to say this has been a busy time but we are finding our feet and enjoying the opportunities that this new environment has presented. The recent expansion of our nursing team has resulted in a change to our current skill mix. Meeting the increased knowledge, education and support needs for staff is a priority which we are addressing.

Senior staff from the CCC help a Strategic Planning day in late February. Thanks to Goldman Sacks JBWere for donating their premises for the day. It was a very fruitful day and some strategic plans for the future were decided upon.

Jeanette Channin and her family held their annual cricket day at the end of February in memory of Leigh, raising over \$2,000 for the CCC. Thanks to all who supported this day.

Easter has been busy at the Centre. The annual Murray to Moyne Relay Bike Ride was held on the last weekend of March. This year the team consisted of Dr. Waters and Downie along with three nurses from the ward Annette, Laura and Corinne. Also riding was Laura one of the Lab staff and Lisa one of our administrative staff. The support crew consisted of Lea, Annemarie and Meridy along with Donna from the RCH Foundation Office. Six of our Dads and two of our Mums also took part in the ride. Well done and thanks to everyone who sponsored them riding to raise funds for the CCC Foundation.

Many of the Philanthropic groups and Auxiliaries supporting the CCC are busy preparing for their annual fundraising events; please see Dairy Dates below.

### Diary Dates

**June 17th**

LARCH Luncheon at Lindenderry

**August 18th**

CIKA Dinner Dance and Auction at The Hilton Hotel

**September 1st**

MY ROOM Ball at Crown Palladium

**October 13th**

CBTA dinner and auction at The Power House.

*All the above events are run to raise funds for the CCC.*

*If you are interested in attending any of these functions or interested in volunteering at any of these functions please contact Mary McGowan on 9345 4855 or [mary.mcgowan@rch.org.au](mailto:mary.mcgowan@rch.org.au)*



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CBTA  
CHILDREN'S BRAIN TUMOUR ASSOCIATION



L.A.R.C.H.

Leukaemia Auxiliary Royal Childrens Hospital



my room



Murdoch Childrens  
Research Institute





# L.A.R.C.H. NEWS

Leukaemia Auxiliary Royal Children's Hospital

## President's Message

Welcome to another edition of the LARCH news and to a new and exciting year of fundraising for the Children's Cancer Centre.

This year sees a number of changes at LARCH; a new President and Secretary, a number of young and enthusiastic members, and a couple of retirements from office.

Mervyll Reid held the position of President for over five years with another five prior to that as Treasurer. LARCH is indebted to Merv for his leadership over that period of time and we thank both Merv and his family for their invaluable contribution. Mervyll and his wife Susan remain valued LARCH members and will this year hold the bi-annual Lindenderry Luncheon on June 17.

We also say farewell to Noelene Hammond as LARCH Stalls Co-ordinator. After five years running the hospital stalls and countless others running stalls at regional markets for LARCH, Noelene is retiring with her husband to Northern Victoria. Noelene has dedicated almost all of her time over many years to raising funds for LARCH and promoting our auxiliary in regional Victoria. She has recruited a talented and willing band of helpers who together have raised thousands of dollars a year to support research into Childhood Cancer. Noelene will remain an active LARCH member and no doubt will continue to support LARCH from her new address. We thank Noelene for her years of dedicated service and wish her all the very best for a well deserved retirement.

We also welcome two new members to the LARCH Committee.

Emma Bridgeman, whose son Will has only recently finished treatment, has generously taken on the role of Secretary. Emma brings an impressive array of office skills to the role and will no doubt make an invaluable contribution to our auxiliary.

Christine Boulter, also a parent of the CCC, has enthusiastically embraced the role of Stalls Coordinator after the retirement of Noelene Hammond. Christine is also heading up a regular LARCH social lunch, the first two of these were held in February and April. Stay tuned for the next date

for our social luncheon and feel free to join us and meet the new team over a delicious meal & lively conversation.

We thank Christine McRae for continuing on with the role of Treasurer and Mario Lopreiato for continuing his service to LARCH as Vice-President.

My election as President comes after a five year period as LARCH Secretary. It is almost ten years since our daughter began treatment for cancer and our family was introduced to the world of the Children's Cancer Centre. As for many other families this has been an, at times traumatic, but rewarding journey and my husband, Mario Lopreiato, and myself are proud to have held membership of LARCH for the last eight years.

As LARCH President I am excited about the coming year and particularly about the involvement of new and enthusiastic members. My hope is that this year we can further increase awareness amongst parents about the importance of supporting LARCH.

Much has yet to be achieved in the treatment of children with cancer. The Children's Cancer Centre relies heavily on the support of auxiliaries such as LARCH for the funding of research. As parents of children with cancer we believe we have a responsibility to support the research that will one day lead to less toxic and more effective treatments for all children diagnosed with cancer.

We appeal to parents whose children have finished or are nearing completion of their treatment to join LARCH and continue to work towards a world free of childhood cancer.

LARCH holds quarterly meetings at which we discuss current and proposed fundraising events, decide on which research or patient support programs we can help fund, learn about the current knowledge in childhood cancer and meet and socialise with other parents of children with cancer. Please make note of our meeting dates and join us to learn more about how you can become involved.

**Claudia McCarthy**  
President

## LARCH Meeting Dates

The next LARCH Meeting including the AGM will be held on Tuesday 21st August, 2007.

This meeting will commence at 6.00 pm and will be held in the meeting room at Ronald McDonald House, 22 Gatehouse Street, Parkville (opposite the hospital). Parking is available on Gatehouse Street, Flemington Road and the two side streets either side of Ronald McDonald House.

Please join us at our next meeting to be part of a positive future that sees LARCH continue raising funds for vital research.

## LARCH Social Lunch

Christine Boulter organised a very enjoyable lunch in February and April for LARCH members. These lunches were such a success that we've decided to get together quarterly. We meet at the Kingdom Chinese Restaurant, Tooronga Village, East Hawthorn. Please let Christine know on 9827 0072 or 0402 848 535 or email [chrisie@charlyblue.com](mailto:chrisie@charlyblue.com), if you are able to join us. Please feel free to bring a friend or two! The more the merrier. The cost is \$20, payable on arrival to Chrissie, with \$5 per head going back to LARCH. The cost includes entrée and three mains (buffet style), rice, tea and water.

**LARCH would like to acknowledge the generosity of the following individuals & organisations for their support.**

- Yering Station Gallery • Knot Just Wooden Toys, Garfield • Pretty Mermaids Boutique
- Town & Country Gallery Yarragon
- Family and Friends of Emilia Lofaro
- Friends of LARCH • S Richey • B West
- S McGregor • J Hudson • Una Thompson
- J & N Briscoe • Mirboo North Homestyle
- Dragonfly Beads • Nar Nar Goon Bingo
- Lal and Rene of Mirboo North

## The Originals LARCH Committee Luncheon

Mary McGowan recently organised a luncheon and tour of the wards, the laboratory and the cord blood bank for some of the 'original' LARCH committee members (who formed LARCH in 1973). Keith and Hazel Thomas, Graham and Carol Blight, Ian and Shirley Livingstone, Ed and Dianne Cherry, John and Phyll Hopper, Bev and Rob Gosbell and Margot Lord attended.

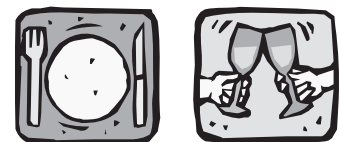
They were all so pleased to see each other and were amazed at the progress and difference in all these areas. It was such a pleasure to meet these people, who are now variously retired, enjoying their grand children and touring Australia, but clearly forever bonded by their time together on the LARCH committee and their experiences at RCH. Several of these lovely women still help out on the LARCH stall regularly.

The staff members were their usual charming and informative selves and we thank them for their time and patience with we 'lay people'. Dr Tiedeman (Cord Blood Bank) and Di Tucker conducted the tours of these areas. The Cord Blood Bank has recently been accredited which makes it the only one in Australia with these credentials.

Retired Dr Ekert, and his wife Barbara, along with Dr Matthews were particularly pleased and interested to see much of the research developments now being implemented which they had witnessed the beginnings of years ago.

Present staff members Dr Karin Tiedeman, Dr Keith Waters, Dr Libby Smibert, Merridy Justice, Jacqui Williams (NUM) and David Sutton also attended the luncheon and amazingly remembered the 'originals' and their children. These people who have helped us all with our families are truly remarkable.

## LARCH Lindenderry Luncheon 2007



**LARCH is holding our bi-annual luncheon at Lindenderry Winery Red Hill on June 17 2007.**

**Tickets \$100 per head.**

**Join us for a sumptuous meal, wine and silent auction.**

**If you would like to order tickets or donate an item for the silent auction please email Mervyll Reid on [larch@iprimus.com.au](mailto:larch@iprimus.com.au)**

## LARCH ART

# YERING *Station* GALLERY

Yering Station Gallery,  
38 Melba Highway, Yarra Glen

Mel ref. 275,B6



Yering Station is proud to host an exhibition by one of our City's most talented and respected artists, **Sue Jarvis**. In this latest body of work Sue moves beyond her profound interest in observation and documentation, to a thought provoking body of images making social comment on cities and the people who live in them.

Depicting construction sites and working docks she reminds us that cities were not built in a day, but develop over time. Sue Jarvis identifies unique individual sites that make up the city of Melbourne, challenging the thought that our city is one homogenous, fast metropolis.

Sue Jarvis's photographs show another dimension of this accomplished artist on perhaps a more voyeuristic approach. In this work people and buildings are also caught unaware but the nature of the medium suggests an intimate glance rather than direct documentation. Sue Jarvis's subjects, both alive and man made create a tableau that reflects her impression of Melbourne, the essence of which is both comic and considered.

*All works exhibited are for sale.*

Admission is free and all commission from sales will be donated to LARCH.

### Exhibition Dates:

April 14 to 29 May 2007

Telephone: 9730 0100.

### Opening hours:

10.00 am - 5.00 pm weekdays

10.00 am - 6.00 pm

weekends and public holidays.

LARCH again wishes to acknowledge the generous support of Yering Station through their donation of all commissions on artworks sold during their exhibitions.

## Shaker Tins

**W**e now have LARCH shaker tins available to place in your local club, workplace or just at home to collect your spare change. Please contact Chris McRae on 93312373, if you would like a tin.

## LARCH Markets and Stalls Update

Noelene Hammond

**A**fter running the LARCH stalls at the RCH for the past five years and at regional markets for many more I have decided to retire. My husband Robin and I are retiring to Murrabit where I will have a stall at the Murrabit market, held the first Saturday of every month. If you're ever up that way on market day, drop by and say hi. I would like to thank everyone for helping me during my period of running the stalls and markets.

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to Christine Boulter onto our stalls team. She has taken over running the RCH Foyer Stalls from me. Lillian Denholm will take over the Rokeby Market (September to May, in the hall on the 2nd Saturday of the month). I will no longer be able to do the Tooradin Sunday Market. I will miss all the friendly faces there.

Lillian's magnificent wire bracelets and purses are available from our stalls and also at Town and Country Gallery and The Pink Fly, both located in Yarragon.

Some special thank you's to some special people for their ongoing support of the LARCH stalls - Jack Russell, Lillian Denholme, May Groves and Susie Reid. An extra special thank you to the Koorooman Wool Group for their cheque of \$100 and Anne Hopwood for her cheque for \$105.

Thank you to all those who have donated goods and materials for sale on the market stalls. LARCH receives a great deal of support from a number of highly skilled and talented people who, behind the scenes, spend much of their time manufacturing the beautiful items for sale on the market stalls.

## Donate to LARCH

LARCH is committed to raising funds specifically for the Children's Cancer Centre. 100% of donations are directed toward research and care of children with cancer and their families at the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne. All donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible.

Donations to LARCH can be made by sending a cheque, money order or credit card details using our form downloaded from the LARCH website and sent by mail to:

L.A.R.C.H.  
C/o Auxiliaries Office  
Royal Children's Hospital  
Flemington Road  
Parkville Vic 3052

## LARCH on eBay

**S**ome very exciting news! Paula Lienert is setting up an online shop to sell pre-loved designer children's clothing on eBay. We are looking for pre-loved designer (only) label kids clothes (Fredbare, OshKosh, Esprit, Gumboots, Scooter, etc) that are clean and in good condition that we can sell on eBay - all proceeds to LARCH.

If you can help out with donations of clothing please contact Paula on 0411 106 948.

## Milk for LARCH Pauls Collect-a-cap fundraiser

Pauls Collect-a-cap fundraiser ran very successfully, but has now been wound up by Pauls. We have collected over \$2000 from Pauls Milk. Many thanks to all our enthusiastic collectors - we appreciated your wonderful collecting work over the past few years.

## LARCH Stall Talk

LARCH will continue to hold stalls in the foyer of RCH during 2007 on the following dates:

**Thursday 30 August - Fathers Day**

**Friday 26 October - Cup Day**

**Friday 21 December - Last Minute Christmas Gifts**

**A special stall will be held this year on St Andrews Day - 29 November.**

Our recent RCH stalls run by Noelene Hammond together with her wonderful group of volunteers have raised over \$2,500. Congratulations and many thanks to all who support and volunteer at the stalls. LARCH stalls sell a range of donated hand-made goods with all proceeds going to LARCH.

The LARCH stall is adding good quality, clean second hand children's clothing and children's books to our 'product' list. We have found that our knitted baby wear (0-1 year) is the best seller of our knitted range, so if you are one of our kind knitters we would love to receive knitted matinee jackets, cardigans, leggings, bootees or long sox for babies. If you would like to knit for us and need us to supply the wool please let us know.

Donations for these stalls of good quality second hand children's clothing or children's books would be really appreciated and always sell well at the hospital with so many parents and children present. Anyone who can spare some time to help out on the stalls would also be welcome to join us.

For pick up or delivery of your donations or any queries you may have regarding our stalls or if you would like to assist on any of the above dates please contact Christine Boulter - 9827 0072 or mobile 0402 848 535, email - [chris@charlyblue.com](mailto:chris@charlyblue.com).

## Contact Us

### President

Claudia McCarthy

### Treasurer

Christine McRae

### Vice President

Mario Lopreiato

### Secretary

Emma Bridgeman

### Stalls Coordinator

Christine Boulter

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## Nursing Model of Care Study Update

A very big thank you goes out to the parents who were involved in a focus group last August that explored the way that nursing care is delivered at the Children's Cancer Centre (CCC) to children and families admitted as in-patients. Their time, experiences and opinions were greatly valued and the discussion provided information that has been essential in developing a new nursing model of care. This report provides a summary of the findings from the study and how these findings have affected the way that nursing care is delivered.

The study was conducted in response to the structural changes that have resulted from the re-development of the Children's Cancer Centre (CCC), issues raised by the literature review in regard to nursing models of care and a commitment to family centred care and the consequent need for a collaborative model of nursing care. As well as parents, nurses and other care providers such as physiotherapists, play therapists, social workers and dieticians also took part in focus groups.

The discussion from all of the focus groups resulted in a lot of important information that has helped us understand what parents, nurses and other care providers' value in a nurse and nursing care as well as the role of families. The information obtained from the focus groups underwent analysis looking for similar themes and ideas. Central to the study results was the suggestion that the prior nursing model of care, nurse allocation, was inadequate for the needs of parents and nurses in the new environment of the CCC. Parents and nurses expressed the lack of visibility presented by the mostly single room composition of the new environment and the difficulty that nurse allocation in this environment presents for communication between nurses, other health professionals and parents. Issues surrounding isolation in the single rooms were also of concern for parents. Key elements for an ideal nursing model of care included communication, rapport, quality staff, models that promote progression and mentoring, teamwork, nurse availability and quick response, enthusiasm, peer/staff support, documentation and acknowledgement. An alternative model of team nursing was discussed in the nurse and multidisciplinary focus groups. The expressed advantages of a team nursing model were reflective of the key elements identified for an ideal model of nursing care. The parent focus group discussed similar ideal elements of nursing care but was not strongly in favor of any one model as long as their needs were met.

The results from the focus groups suggested that team nursing could be an alternative nursing model of care. Consequently, the results of this study have been used to inform and drive a change in practice regarding the nursing model of care at the CCC. Following the conduct of the focus groups and analysis, team nursing was trialled on the unit with teams of 2-3 nurses caring for a group of children compared to one nurse caring for 3-4 children. Following this trial period the unit is now using a combination of team nursing and nurse allocation depending on patient needs and staff availability. Shifting to an adapted team nursing model is a significant change to the unit's dynamics, offering many advantages for mentorship, visibility for nurses and families, a team approach to patient care and nursing support. As with any change in practice we are about to enter an evaluation stage and will continue to aim to further develop our nursing model of care in order to provide the best nursing care based upon current needs and resources. One final aspect of the focus group results that we wish to develop further was the importance of working with families when providing nursing care. This aspect of the results will help us develop a new patient care plan in which families will be an integral part of planning daily care.

**Anyone seeking further information is welcome to contact Sharon De Graves at [sharon.degraves@rch.org.au](mailto:sharon.degraves@rch.org.au)**

## Emilia's Big Night Out



*Emilia Lofaro presents cheque to LARCH President Claudia McCarthy. From left to right: Emma Lopreiato, Claudia McCarthy, Emilia Lofaro, Lorena Lofaro (Emilia's mum) and Sandro Lofaro (Emilia's uncle and one of the organizer's of Emilia's Big Night Out)*

On Saturday 21st October 2006, the family of friends of Emilia Lofaro, held a surprise fundraiser in honour of the 6 year old who is currently undergoing treatment for leukaemia at the Children's Cancer Centre.

Sandro Lofaro, one of the event organizers and Emilia's Uncle, said "...the evening provided Emilia's family and friends with a meaningful outlet through which we could demonstrate our love and support for them (the Lofaro family) in a united fashion during this difficult period."

By all accounts this was an enjoyable and inspiring evening that boosted the spirits of the Lofaro family, especially Emilia. It was undoubtedly a success on every level.

The proceeds of the event were equally divided between LARCH and the Leukaemia foundation and we are pleased and grateful to report that LARCH received a massive donation of \$6,685.50.

LARCH would like to sincerely thank the family and friends of Emilia Lofaro for their support and generosity.

All funds donated to LARCH are directed toward research into childhood cancer and to the support of current patients and their families.

If you would like to make a donation to LARCH or hold a community fundraiser, please do not hesitate to contact us or attend one of our meetings.

The CBTA held its first family BBQ for the year on Sunday 25th March. It was great to see old and new families attend. The BBQ's are a great way for families to get together in a relaxed atmosphere outdoors enjoying the day and knowing that there is support around them. The children were enjoying the playground and kicking the footy while the parents were sharing their feelings, concerns and challenges.

I would like to thank Margaret Whitehead and all the committee members who helped with the organizing.

The CBTA is in the process of organizing its annual fundraising dinner which will be held on Saturday 13th October at the Powerhouse. So keep this date free. It promises to be an enjoyable, fun and entertaining evening.



## BrainChild news

CHILDREN'S BRAIN TUMOUR ASSOCIATION

If there is anyone who feels that they could help, please feel free to contact me Rosemary on 0412 216 443.

Over the past two years the fundraising dinner has been held at Box Hill Tafe, Fountains Restaurant and I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for the wonderful support that they gave to the CBTA, they helped us raise approx \$40,000.

We have also had the opportunity to run a gift wrapping stall for Mothers Day outside Angus & Robertson - Greensborough. We had our first stall at Christmas time which helped raise over \$600.00. Thank you to Kellie Miller and her very helpful sisters who organized it. A big thank you also to all the volunteers who helped during the weekends. It was amazing how generous people were and the the interest that they showed towards the CBTA. Thank you to everyone.