01
A CELEBRATION OF LIFE
ABOUT US

A Celebration of Life was created in 2002 by parents Chris and Sophie Clarke.

Their daughter, Madeleine, was born with a severe case of Strep B and given only a 1% chance of survival when admitted to the Neonatal Unit (NNU) at The Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne. Maddie defied the odds, thanks to the skill and dedication of the Neonatal Medical Team and is now a beautiful and happy big sister to brother James.

In honour of their gratitude to the NNU, A Celebration of Life was created by Chris and Sophie to assist specifically with the fundraising requirements of the NNU and hopefully make possible the equipment, resources and research that helps to make it one of the premier NNU's in Australia, if not the world.

The major fundraising event for the NNU is the Annual Celebration of Life Gala Ball. Now in its fifth year, this event has helped to raise thousands of life saving dollars for the NNU.

A Celebration of Life is recognised as a fundraising entity for the NNU at The Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne and is coordinated by the RCH Foundation and a Management Comittee comprising NNU & RCH staff, parents and supporters. The NNU is deeply grateful to the Clarke Family for their commitment, dedication and invaluable support.

A Celebration of Life is more than just a namesake – it is a statement of truth shared by the NNU team and all those it exists to support today and in the future.

HOW WE ARE DIFFERENT FROM OTHER NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE UNITS

The Royal Children's Hospital Neonatal Unit provides highly specialised care to the sickest newborn infants from all over Australia and the Pacific Islands.

It supports and treats a UNIQUE group of babies with UNIQUE needs and is the only Unit of its kind that can assist babies who require treatments not available at other Neonatal Units in Victoria and in some cases, Australia.

Each year

- Over 600 babies are transferred to the NNU by the Newborn Emergency Transport Service (NETS).
- Over 40% of the babies undergo major surgery.
- Over 300 babies receive artificial ventilation via mechanical respirators.
- Most of the babies are seen by specialist doctors from the many medical disciplines available only at The Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne.
- The highly complex paediatric investigative services including MRI, CT scans, digital angiography, fluoroscopy, endoscopy, electroencephalography, metabolic and laboratory tests, echocardiography and cardiac catheter are not available at other hospitals.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

In the last decade there have been many achievements in the care given to babies in the Royal Children's Hospital Neonatal Unit.

Some of the highlights are:

High frequency oscillatory ventilation (HFOV) is a highly sophisticated form of artificial respiration in which very sick babies are ventilated at breathing rates of up to 900 breaths per minute. The Neonatal Unit was the first Intensive Care Unit in Australia to introduce this technology in 1992 and this was the result of a careful and strategic research and training program. We now run training courses for other intensive care units around the country.

We are the only intensive care unit in the country that employs High Frequency Jet Ventilation. This technology is a life saver for babies with the most severe forms of lung disease.

Together with our colleagues at the Royal Melbourne Hospital we have led the way in the management of a rare form of cerebral aneurysm (an abnormality of arteries and veins in and surrounding the brain) by interventional radiology thus providing both survival and favourable outcomes to many babies who in other centres would have died.

Our craniofacial surgeons have pioneered a form of jaw lengthening operations for babies born with facial abnormalities such as Pierre Robin Sequence. This surgery has produced stunningly successful outcomes and revolutionized the care of these conditions.

Together with our Neurology colleagues we are investigating ways to improve the outcomes for the sickest babies including those with Post Haemorphragic Ventricular Dilation (commonly occurring in very premature babies) and have pioneered the use of MRI technology and bedside EEG monitoring in a Neonatal environment.

We provide the best outcomes in the country for a condition called Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia. This is where a baby is born with a large hole in the diaphragm resulting in the intestines being present in the chest thus compressing the lungs. The condition requires the combined skills of neonatologists, nurses, cardiologists and surgeons. Our outcomes for this previously lethal condition are second to none in the world. Survival of this condition provides a normal life for these babies.

Our nursing staff has pioneered the management and prevention of pain in sick babies and has led the way in surgical wound care. The nursing staff is continuing to provide the best care to sick infants round the clock every day of the year.

We have recently appointed the first Professor of Neonatal Nursing Research in Australia. Our Music Therapist is looking at ways to improve the quality of life on the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit for the sick babies. We provide a home apnea monitoring service for babies who are at risk of and for their parents who are worried

about Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.
Most of the advances over the years have been made possible by the very strong commitment to research and education by all members of the Neonatal Unit. The best care of the sickest infants cannot occur without the valuable achievements provided through research and education.

ROYAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL NEONATAL UNIT VISION

The Neonatal Unit will become the benchmark of world's best practice for the care of the sickest newborn babies and their families.

ROYAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL NEONATAL UNIT MISSION

The Neonatal Unit will improve the health outcomes for newborn babies by:

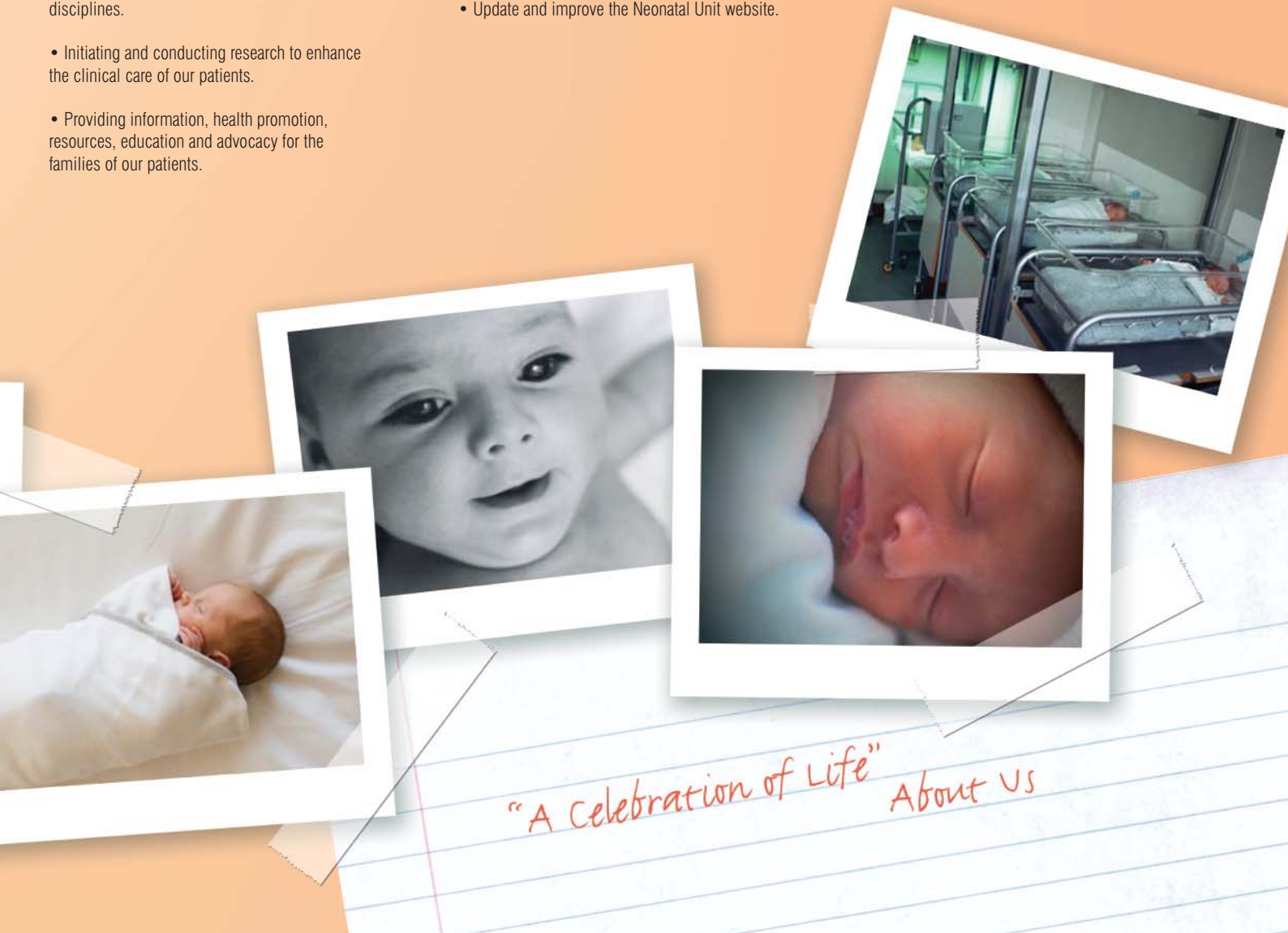
- Providing the best and full range of tertiary and quaternary specialist care for the sickest babies in Australia and internationally.
- Providing undergraduate and postgraduate education in medical, nursing and allied health disciplines.
- Initiating and conducting research to enhance the clinical care of our patients.
- Providing information, health promotion, resources, education and advocacy for the families of our patients.

In order to maintain our mission and achieve our vision we need to:

- Attract and retain the best medical nursing and allied health professional staff.
- Establish world's best practice medical and nursing care of sick newborn infants.
- Acquire and maintain essential and cutting edge equipment.
- Improve access to and availability of newborn intensive care beds.
- Improve the space and the environment in the clinical areas.
- Improve the facilities for the families of the babies.
- Improve and maintain the infrastructure and facilities for research.
- Improve and maintain the infrastructure and facilities for education.
- Update and improve the Neonatal Unit website.

Funds raised are used by The Royal Children's Hospital Neonatal Unit to:

1. Purchase and maintain essential and cutting edge equipment in order to provide the best possible care for the babies.
2. Improve the bed availability in the Neonatal Unit by providing and equipping additional intensive care cots.
3. Assist in building a brand new Neonatal Unit which will provide world's best facilities and environment for the sickest babies and their families.
4. Support ongoing research and education in the Neonatal Unit.



03 UNIT MANAGER'S REPORT

SHERI WALDRON

It's midway through April and the 3rd Floor redevelopment is moving into its final stages.

As you can see by the photographs there is still some work to be done!

Staff, who are feeling appropriately anxious about moving from our current home on the 2nd Floor, to our new home on the 3rd Floor, have recently "walked through" the new facility in order to get a sense of the new space and a better understanding of how things will work there.

The design of each bed space will incorporate a) parent space (with seating and their own lighting); b) baby's space with defined clinical and nursing zones. This design is very different from what nurses and parents have been used to in the past but one of the advantages will be a definite increase of intimate space for parents and their baby and also better storage for toys, coats and bags etc. Due to the reduced number of infants allocated per room, we are hoping that these spaces will also be quieter and therefore more conducive to the developmental care needs of infants.

At present, we are aiming to move in by mid May if all goes to plan! It will be interesting to see what the parents that move with us from the 2nd Floor to the new NNU will think of the ward area and how they will perceive the benefits. Hopefully we will be able to describe their comments in the next newsletter.

This move symbolizes an exciting new era for the Staff and Families of the Neonatal Unit. Whilst we remain fully committed to providing the best care that we can for the sickest infants in Victoria and their families, we still need to rely on the goodwill and commitment of the public to support us with our vision through dedicated fundraising activities or donations. It is vital that we purchase another 13 new MP50 monitors for our new facility, (we are currently trialing new ventilators), if we are to improve ventilation techniques for smaller newborn infants.

My special thanks to Ms. Debbie Jenkins, whose son Luke spent some time in the Neonatal Unit in 2005. In 2006, Debbie nominated the NNU for a Telstra Kids Fund Grant to purchase some equipment for the new unit. This generous donation has made it possible for us to purchase a syringe stacker (pictured) - a docking station for syringe pumps. These administer medications such as morphine for pain or sedation for infants requiring intensive care. I would also like to thank the staff at Telstra – particularly Beverley Rayner for her support and to all those that made this donation possible.

I would also like to thank the Mohr Family (baby Joshua) for their generous donation which has also made it possible for us to purchase another syringe stacker. The funds made possible by our NNU parents, friends and supporters makes the purchase of these valuable items of equipment possible and aids the smooth operation and efficiency of care in the NNU – we are SO grateful for this support.

Finally, the Annual "Celebration of Life" Gala Ball (now in its 5th year) will be held on 6th September at the Palladium Ballroom, Crown. We invite you to attend this important and special event which forms the major fundraising activity for the NNU. Our special guest entertainer this year is Kate Ceberano, who will perform a fantastic show in support of our patients and their families. If you are interested in fundraising, making a donation to the Neonatal Equipment Fund or attending this year's Gala Ball please contact Donna Aranyi - Donor Development Manager at the RCH Foundation on (03) 9345 4510. Hope to see you there!

Syringe Stacker

This project has been supported by the Telstra Foundation
www.telstrafoundation.com

DIRECTOR'S REPORT
DR PETER MCDOUGALL

This is a very exciting stage in the history of the Neonatal Unit. The 3rd Floor development is almost completed and we expect to move into the Unit in mid May. Once we have settled in, we will be having a Grand Opening. A Celebration of Life has raised a considerable amount of money which has made a substantial contribution to the building of the new ward and the parent facility. Funds raised by the last four A Celebration of Life Gala Balls has ensured that the excellence of care will be able to be further enhanced in the future.

I am pleased to report that Dr Denise Harrison and Dr Rod Hunt have each recently been awarded a PhD. Denise, who has been a Senior Nurse in our department for many years and has led Australia in pain management, undertook her work in the use of sucrose for management of pain in neonates undergoing minor procedures. Rod Hunt is a Senior Neonatologist whose work on his PhD has furthered the knowledge of the developing infant brain. Congratulations to both Denise and Rod for their outstanding efforts and achievements.

Research has been an important part of the Neonatal Unit over the years. Due to our research programs, we have been able to introduce many technologies and have changed procedures in neonatal care over the last decade. Fundraising has enabled many of our research workers to contribute to the body of knowledge in the care of newborn infants. Research is integral to the provision of excellent clinical care to very sick newborn infants.

We look forward to the next A Celebration of Life Ball to be held on September 6th, 2007 at the Crown Palladium Ballroom. This is a very important fundraising event for the Neonatal Unit and we look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible. It is always a great night and the profits raised go a long way to continuing to provide us with the facilities that we need to give excellent care to sick newborn infants.

Dr Peter McDougall MBBS FRACP MBA
Chief of Medicine
Director, Department of Neonatology

FUNDRAISING MANAGER'S REPORT

DONNA ARANYI

Welcome to the third edition of NNU News.

Thank you to all those that have made a contribution to the newsletters we have produced over the last year or so. Without content (and our good friends at DNA Artworks & Eagle Print) there would be NO newsletter, so please feel free to send your stories, photographs, news items, feedback and suggestions to me at anytime – we'd love to hear from any of our sponsors, donors and families that might have announcements, good news or information to share with our NNU community.

Much has happened since our last edition. We are blessed to have the support of so many amazing individuals and companies that work so hard to help our cause. In this edition you will read about a wonderful woman – Sue Falzon – who made it her quest to raise funds for the NNU through an event that originally began as a party for friends and family; we congratulate one of our major sponsor's "Aromababy" on the occasion of their 10th Birthday celebrations; read about Colonial First State Property Management's excellent Xmas fundraising efforts for the NNU; share in The Jester's "Celebrating Good Friendships" Dinner held in support of the NNU and read about everybody's favourite "Dancing With the Star's champion – Anthony Koutoufides' recent visit to the Neonatal Unit.

Fundraising remains an important goal of the NNU and the Annual "A Celebration of Life" Gala Ball forms the major fundraising event for the Unit. You can read more about this event in the coming pages but I urge you to get involved, make a donation and help in any way you can so that we can maximize the fundraising potential for our NNU. This event provides an opportunity for us to ask ALL NNU families and supporters to do what they can to help ensure the success of this important event. You may not think you have anything to offer but this is not often the case – supporters can purchase tickets to the event, donate suitable items for our Main or Silent Auction or simply make a donation to the NNU to be added to the overall fundraising efforts on the night. Every single cent adds up and makes a difference so please support us if you can. Last year, just over $100,000 was raised at the event which was a tribute to the efforts and generosity of many hundreds of dedicated supporters who made the event possible.

With the move to the new NNU, we need to raise in excess of this amount this year, so a big effort from everyone would be greatly appreciated. Hope to see you there! Further information can be found on the NNU website – www.rch.org.au/celebrationoflife

A special mention of new sponsors – Chefs On The Run – who have nominated the NNU as their chosen charity over the next 12 month period. We feel extremely fortunate to have this support and look forward to working with Chefs On the Run and their network of influential business and sporting affiliates and creating some excellent fundraising outcomes for the NNU.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of NNU News and look forward to meeting more of you, hearing from many of you and welcoming many new donors and sponsors to our NNU family. Please do not hesitate to contact me for further information regarding the fundraising needs of the NNU and how you can support or get involved. We need you!

Finally, keep healthy and warm this Winter Season.

Contact Details
T (03) 9345 4510 E donna.aranyi@rch.org.au

Chefs on the Run

05
COLONIAL FIRST STATE PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
2006 Christmas charity event

For the past two years, Colonial First State Property Management has held a Christmas Charity Fundraising Event to raise money for charities within our community. In 2006 the Shopping Centre Department had the enjoyable task of coordinating this event and through the generosity of our staff, retailers, contractors and suppliers we were able to raise a staggering $12,000 for our chosen charity, the Neonatal Unit at the Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne.

Friday 22 December 2006 started with the "Three Bad Santas" greeting staff arriving at Head Office at Chadstone Shopping Centre. For a small donation staff were entertained by the boys' guitar abilities, provided with Krispy Kreme donuts and allowed to enter the office! Throughout the morning staff were entertained with hourly "radio" updates on the day's proceedings via the PA system. Other department members were kept busy preparing and selling strawberry champagne cocktails. The formalities then began with the winners of the on line auction, raffle, Christmas decoration competition and Champagne Bar draw being announced followed by a Management Team auction.

A cheque for $12,000 was presented to a very excited and grateful Dr Paul Ekert from the NNU who advised that Colonial First State Property Management's donation will make a real difference to many babies and their parents over the coming years. The money will be used to purchase a PHILIPS MP 50 Intelliview Monitor which will greatly enhance the unit's ability to care for very sick babies by providing real time measurements allowing doctors to adjust their intensive care therapy accordingly.

This event was a resounding success and exceeded our initial target of $10,000. From everyone who assisted in organising the event, to those who participated in the various fundraising activities, we hope that this donation will be the first of many the NNU receives throughout 2007.

Cassie McDonald - Project Coordinator

Prizes Donated By

Airmaster

Anton Jewellery – Chadstone

Australian Native Landscapes

Budget Rent a Car

CFSPM Management Team

Clean Domain

Forty Winks

Kate Parker

Krispy Kreme

Langham Hotel

Melbourne Football Club

Monster Technologies

Razor

ACP Magazines

Australian Traffic Network

St Kilda Road Parkview Hotel

Stream Solutions

Zoos Victoria

Colonial First State
Property Management

Kouta
The Heart of a Champion

There was nothing "blue" about Anthony Koutoufides' recent visit to the NNU.

Who could forget Kouta's winning performance on Ch 7's popular television program "Dancing With the Stars"? The Carlton Football Club champion nominated The Royal Children's Hospital as his chosen charity for the series and with dance partner Natalie Lowe, went on to WIN, raising $25,000 for the Neonatal Unit at the RCH.

Kouta and his dance partner Natalie received a perfect final round score of 40 in the glitzy grand final showdown in Series 5. Kouta scored a combined 108 points across the three rounds, receiving a score of 96 from the judges.

The Seven Network's viewing public agreed with the judges, voting the Carlton player Series 5 winner. "This has been the greatest experience of my life," Kouta said.

Following his exciting win, Kouta visited the NNU at the RCH and met with Director – Dr Peter McDougall, who proudly showed him the new Phillips Intelliview Monitors, which his outstanding donation had made possible for the Unit. These monitors will provide life saving data about our sickest babies and are an invaluable asset to the NNU.

Our special thanks to Kouta for his efforts to raise funds and awareness of the life saving work of the NNU. We are indebted to him for his generosity and know that his kindness will have a long term impact on many hundreds of baby's lives presently and in the future. Thanks Kouta – you are a true champion in every sense of the word.

06
Just Horsin' Around for the NNU

What started out as a small gathering for family, friends and workmates soon became a fundraising event for the Neonatal Unit (NNU) at The Royal Children's Hospital.

Flemington Racecourse employee, Sue Falzon, not only wanted to organize something special for her loved one and peers but felt that the event could also serve as a fundraiser to help a worthy cause - the RCH.

On Saturday 2nd December, over seventy guests arrived at The Canterbury Stables in Flemington to participate in Sue's event, which had a Barn Dance theme. Guests, including many young children and their families, arrived wearing straw hats, overalls, flannel shirts and cowboy boots - great fun!
The Bush Brother's Band kept everyone entertained, playing some boot scooting classics and barn dance favourites and The BBQ Bloke kindly provided fair dinkum Aussie tucker, which everyone also enjoyed.

Fundraising activities on the night included a Raffle and Charity Auction where an amazing range of prizes were on offer. These prizes were generously donated by Des O'Keefe (signed racing silks), Andrew Symonds (signed cricket bat), Greg Childs (signed riding boot), Mick Martin (signed AFL jumpers) Gai Waterhouse (Ladies Racing hat) and racing legend Kerrin McEvoy (racing memorabilia) to name a few. A heartfelt thanks to all those that made these prizes possible.

The night was a great success with over $12,000 being raised for the NNU - congratulations to Sue on this an outstanding result!

Events such as these are often inspired by one or more dedicated organizers who feel that the celebration of their own good and fortunate lives should be shared in support of those less fortunate and for this, a VERY special "thank you" must go to Sue Falzon. Sue is a great example of what ONE person can achieve if they really put their mind to something. Endless hours of planning, chasing up guests, organizing prizes, booking the venue, caterer and band. All these aspects Sue managed mostly on her own. On her motivation for planning such an event, Sue explained "I just felt that if I was going to go to the trouble of planning something FUN for my friends & family that we might as well try to help the kids at the RCH at the same time. I am lucky to have a healthy daughter and it makes me feel great to know that my friends and family fully supported me in this venture. I thank them and all those that donated to it and believed in me".

Special thanks to all those that attended this event, donated goods and services and supported Sue in her efforts to make a difference in real people's lives. All monies raised have been proudly donated to the NNU to assist with the redevelopment of the new Unit - a very worthy cause.

Rumour has it that Sue is already thinking about another event this year, wonder what she'll "whip up"! We'll keep you posted..

After the verb "to love"' "to help" is the most beautiful verb in the world... Bertha Von Suttner

07
JESTERS

The Jesters is a group of friends and extended friends who get together once a year to 'Celebrate good friendships whilst helping those less fortunate'.

The aim of the Jesters is to raise money for worthy children's charities and this year we had nominated The Royal Children's Hospital – an extremely worthy cause!

On Saturday 24th February 2007 the Jesters held their annual fundraising cocktail party at the Sandringham Yacht Club. It was a fantastic event with guests enjoying all that was on offer. To help guests appreciate the wonderful work of the RCH, two parents – Kevin Jaspers and Anna McKay – both gave personal accounts of their own experiences at the hospital when their children were treated there. It was a moving and emotional presentation and everyone agreed that the RCH was most deserving of support.

This year we raised approximately $17,000 for the Neonatal Unit at the RCH! The funds raised will assist the hospital to purchase a new Philips MP 50 Intelliview Monitor which will greatly assist doctors and nurses caring for sick babies. As we witnessed first hand on a recent visit to the NNU – this equipment is invaluable and it gives us great pleasure to be able to make a difference to the lives of babies in need and their families.

It's very easy for people to do nothing - so we would love to thank all of those who support the Jesters by coming along, by donating gifts to the silent auction and by lending their financial support. It is always a GREAT night with GREAT results.

Geoff & Leanne Quirk

AROMABABY celebrates 10th Birthday!

Aromababy - Pure, natural and organic skincare for the entire family - celebrates its 10th Birthday!

Congratulations to Director – Catherine Arfi and her team at Aromababy, who recently celebrated 10 years of supplying exceptional skincare products to mothers and babies.

Aromababy has proudly supported selected hospitals and charities around the world for more than a decade and the NNU at the RCH is no exception.

Aromababy's 10th Birthday celebrations were held at Riva (St Kilda Marina) on the 29th November. All guests received a gorgeous Aromababy Gift Bag on arrival and were spoilt with relaxation hand massages, where Aromababy products were showcased throughout the night. Parents, babies, toddlers, clients and celebrities alike enjoyed the exceptional hospitality. Event host, Good Morning Australia's Leah Hudson, invited Catherine Arfi to the stage to share some of the highlights of her successful career in business.

A part of Catherine's personal life philosophy is to always make an effort to offer support and help to those that need it and she believes that much of her success has been the result of her willingness to share her success with those less fortunate or in need. To highlight this point, Catherine then made a very special announcement – Aromababy would donate $5000 to the NNU at the RCH in celebration of their 10th Birthday! Director of the NNU – Dr Peter McDougall, NNU Unit Manager – Sheri Waldron and RCH Foundation Donor Development Manager – Donna Aranyi were all on hand to show their appreciation for Aromababy's ongoing & generous support.

Special thanks to Catherine Arfi for this outstanding donation and to Shereen Kiddle for her amazing support as well. These funds have been used to purchase a new Oxygen Saturation Monitor for use in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit – our deepest thanks to Aromababy for making it possible.

Aromababy products are now available for purchase at the RCH Gift Shop located on Level 1 Main Entry Building.

Try Aromababy's luxurious range of pure, natural, organic-rich skincare for yourself. Fragrance-free for sensitive skin or beautiful, all-natural aromas – the choice is yours. You're sure to find something to suit your every need right here, from shower gel to body cream, natural healing balm to refreshing botanical sprays! Further information can be found at www.aromababy.com

AROMABABY®

Pure. Gentle. Organic

"A Celebration of Life" Gala Ball 2007
Dancing For Our Stars of The Future

The date for this year's Gala Ball is Thursday 6th September 2006, The Palladium – Crown Entertainment Complex.

This event forms the major fundraising effort for the NNU – it is an elegant affair where fine food, wines, glittering entertainment and a stunning array of prizes are offered for guest's enjoyment. Plus we have a few "surprises" in store for the night which will definitely be worth seeing.

We are thrilled to announce that this year's entertainment will be presented by Kate Ceberano and her band, performing tracks from her latest album "Nine Lime Avenue" which features a selection of Kate's favourite 80's classic tracks – a performance not to be missed!

Tickets strictly limited so if you are interested in attending please contact Donna to reserve your tables/tickets ASAP to avoid disappointment. We need YOUR help!

Apart from attending the event, we would welcome any assistance from those in a position to donate suitable prizes for our Main and Silent Auctions on the night. Generally speaking, items with a value up to $1000 are suitable for the Silent Auction. Main Auction items tend to have a higher value and we would welcome any offers from corporate sponsors or those in a position to donate something priceless or that "money can't buy"!

As a guide, here are a few suggestions of items that often attract good bidding at charity auctions:-

Silent Auction Items

Dining Vouchers, Accommodation Vouchers, Vouchers of any kind (skydiving, massage, beauty, hairdressing, personal training etc) , Homewares, Jewellery, Wine, Artworks, Fragrance & Cosmetics, Fashion Items, Hats, Sporting Memorabilia, CD's & DVD's, Fine Food Hampers, Sporting Goods, Plants, Gardening Equipment, Tools, Electrical Appliances, Furniture, Linen etc…

Main Auction Items

Cars, Holidays, Artwork, Boats, Diamonds, Sporting Memorabilia, Garden Landscaping, Money Can't Buy Experiences i.e. fast laps in a Ferrari etc.., Large Scale Dining Packages (10+ guests), Big Boys Toys i.e. Jet Ski etc…

ALL ITEMS MUST BE NEW AND IN MINT CONDITION.

So, if you have employers, friends or family members that may be in a position to donate something suitable for our Auctions or would like to attend this year's event, please start "spreading the word"!

Booking and Tickets Payments MUST be received by 6th August at the very latest.

Invitation, Ticket Booking Form & Official Pledge Forms for Charity Auctions are available to download at www.rch.org.au/celebrationoflife or from Donna at the office – please call 9345 4510 or email donna.aranyi@rch.org.au to have some posted or emailed to you.

A Celebration of Life

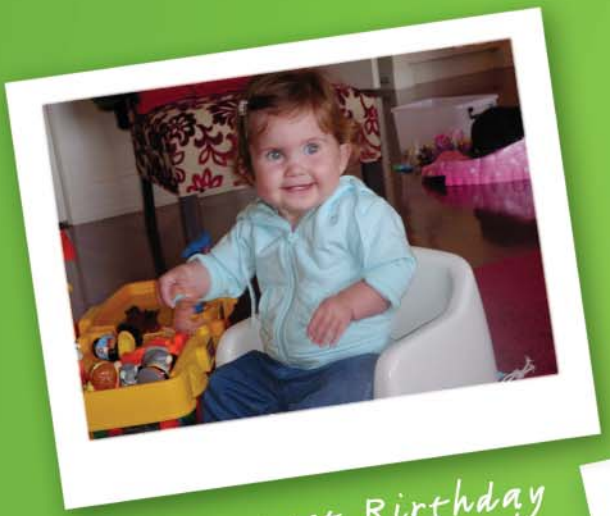
HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Thank you
for celebrating
your special
occasion by donating
funds to the
neo natal unit
in lieu of gifts

XXXOOO

neonatalnews
the royal children's hospital, melbourne

Happy 1st Birthday
Zoe Carson



Happy 1st Birthday
Chelsey Rubeli

CONGRATULATIONS SHERI!

Sheri Waldron
Chairman's Medal 2006

Sheri joined the RCH in 1990 as a registered nurse. She returned to her home country England before coming back to the RCH in 1995, firstly as a casual nurse, then Associate Unit Manager. She became the neo natal unit's Nurse Unit Manager in 2000.

Her passion and enthusiasm for the unit and the wider hospital community is inspiring, always handling difficult situations with understanding, confidentiality and humour.

Sheri has always worked to promote a team approach, where all staff members play a vital role and have a voice. Her forward thinking means she always looks for creative ways to ensure the continuing improvement of all areas of neonatal care.

She ensures the unit is a welcoming place to all members of the hospital community, resulting in excellent multidisciplinary care of patients and families.

Through her leadership, the unit has consistently been the highest scorer in the Press-Gainey parent satisfaction survey.

Sheri is extremely supportive and tireless in ensuring sufficient staff numbers. She even interviews prospective nursing staff while in England on holidays and has worked many clinical shifts when there have been shortages. She is even prepared to don a costume and pen a few songs to help out at the hospital revue and Christmas party!

Sheri maintains a close contact with many of the families and children who have been treated in the unit, plays a lead role in fundraising for the unit and is involved in a variety of committees dealing with statewide neonatal management

Her willingness to look outside the unit to support nursing throughout the hospital is well known and her love of chocolate is legendary within the unit.

A true leader, Sheri's experience and wisdom is invaluable. Her passion for the unit and the hospital is evident to all who have worked with her, making her an excellent recipient for the Chairman's Medal.

Citation read by Dr Peter McDougall, Chief of Medicine, Director Neonatal Services.

YOU'RE INVITED

Looking for something to do on Grand Final Day that the WHOLE family can enjoy?

Don't miss the Elise Sneddon Foundation "AFL Grand Final Family Fun Day" 2007

29th September from 1pm onwards at Bren's Oval, Parkville Melways 2B Ref 1A

- MASSIVE Superscreen televising the AFL Grand Final
- Arts, Crafts & Sports Activities
- Interactive Kid's Show
- Roving Performers, Jumping Castles & Animal Farm
- LIVE Music & BBQ
- GREAT Family Entertainment

Pack a picnic rug, grab the dog and bring the whole family down to enjoy everything on offer at this fantastic fundraising event held in support of the Neonatal Unit at the RCH.

Help us beat our fundraising target of $40,000 raised at last year's event

ALL profits donated to the NNU to purchase vital medical equipment.

For further information regarding sponsorship, bookings or for general inquiries please contact Rob or Kerryn Sneddon: Phone (03) 9038 8322
Email: elisefoundation@optusnet.com.au
Web www.elisefoundation.org.au

11
PATIENT PROFILE
Jamaya's Story

Our precious gift and fourth daughter – Jemaya - was born on September 7th 2006.

Only we understood the fight Jemaya had already undertaken up until the time of her arrival and her determination to "celebrate life", a term that really sums up the heart and soul of the Neonatal Unit at The Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne.

Back in January 2006, my wife Jodie was rushed from our home in Colac to The Royal Melbourne Hospital for life-saving surgery as a result of a brain aneurism. The staff of the Emergency Department asked whether there was a chance of Jodie being pregnant, which at that point we didn't think was possible!

On returning home from Melbourne after successful surgery and a full recovery, we were getting back to our normal family routine with our three young daughters, Emmesyn, Taylah and Aaliyah, when we were surprised to discover that we were expecting another child.

Panic and fear were our immediate reaction. We were concerned for the health of the baby due to the scans, surgery and medications that Jodie had received during her illness. A number of phone calls between our GP and the specialists calmed these fears and we soon felt that familiar excitement that the knowledge of a new baby on its way brings, once again.

As the date for our routine Ultrasound drew near, our biggest issue was whether or not we would find out the gender of our baby. Little did we know that we would have much bigger issues to worry about. During the Ultrasound everything was going as it had with our three other daughter's even to the point when the gender of our child was revealed - another little girl! The excitement on Jodie's face was priceless. Then everything came to a halt when the Sonographer indicated that there was a problem with the baby's diaphragm. At this point we thought the worst for our daughter and began questioning everything. Why us? What next?

We regrouped with support from family and friends and began a very remarkable journey. We initially commenced regular visits to The Royal Women's Hospital (RWH) Fetal Management Unit. Our baby was diagnosed with a Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia and would require corrective surgery. Our research indicated about a 50/50 survival rate, but we were given more hope after discussions with Paediatric Surgeon Joe Crameri, who explained the process that would take place after her birth and the details of the surgery she would need. Over the next few months we had many discussions, scans and questions answered by many amazing people including Paediatrian, David Tingay.

The time had arrived for us to move to Melbourne to be near the hospital for the birth as Jodie had a history of quick deliveries and the risk was far too great to be at home. On Monday 4th September we moved to Melbourne, leaving behind our three daughters with family, for the next challenge in our lives.

In the first few days we attended appointments and visited The Royal Children's Hospital (RCH) for a tour of the Neonatal Unit (NNU), where we met Robyn Smith who was to manage Jemaya's care throughout her stay. We also caught up with the NETS team and toured the Special Care Nursery at The Royal Women's Hospital. On Thursday 7th September, after routine monitoring of our baby, our lives were about to change. The baby was showing signs of distress and after an unsuccessful induction we were told to prepare for the birth of our daughter through an emergency caesarean.

After being present at the birth of our other children nothing could have prepared me for what I was about to experience. I walked into the operating theatre to see a team of Medical staff of about twenty for the delivery of Jemaya Aspen Hassett.

Jemaya was immediately intubated and placed in oxygen, stabilised and transferred to the ICU. The next 24 hours were the most difficult of my life, not knowing what to do, where to go or who to be with - my wife was at The Royal Women's, our three daughters were in Colac and our newborn daughter was about to be transferred to the NNU at the RCH by NETs.

I went across to the RCH when Jemaya was transferred and was immediately put at ease. I found my way to the NNU and was met by Neil Patel, who was fantastic. He explained what was happening and took me to see Jemaya. I spent a few hours there with her and was assured that everything was OK before leaving to get back to see Jodie.

The following morning I picked Jodie up from the RWH and we went over to see our precious daughter. Jemaya had got through the night but there were signs of complications and later that day the medical team decided to bring her surgery forward and she was operated on at 4pm, just 24 hours old.

The surgery was performed by Tom Clarnette in Room 3 Intensive Care NNU as Jemaya was too sick to be taken out of the Unit. The surgery went well and the surgeons were able to repair the diaphragm, but during the operation they discovered she had a malrotation of

NNU MOTTO "Giving our sickest babies the *best* chance, *first* chance at life"...

the bowel, which required the removal of 10cm of bowel. We were told that the next 48 hours were crucial. Jemaya fought hard as she began her journey of recovery.

The days turned into weeks as we settled into the routine of the NNU, spending each day at her side watching and listening as the team of nurses and doctors cared for her, noting as each IV line was removed or one of the many drugs were discontinued … all steps towards moving out of Room 3.

A momentous occasion was being able to hold Jemaya for the first time, when she was 4 weeks old. The care, patience and thoughtfulness of the nursing staff, who ensured that we were all able to be involved in Jemaya's care and share special moments with her, made a huge impact on us.

As Jemaya became stronger she was able to come off the ventilator and later begin small feeds (1ml per hour initially). She spent the first five weeks of her life in Room 3 before she moved along the corridor to Room 2, a major milestone in her recovery and the next step towards home.

We were now able to provide a lot more of the daily care for Jemaya. We were able to bath, dress and feed her for the first time. Our three daughters spent many days with us during Jemaya's time in the NNU and they all wanted to nurse, bath and change her, which at times was quite amusing. The staff was amazing in the way they involved the girls and they would always go out of their way to talk to them or in Roberto's case, just to get Aaliyah to smile!

Another three weeks passed and Jemaya was continuously improving to the point where going home was a reality. However, another setback, Jemaya had a reaction to the formula and a number of formulas were trialed over the next two weeks. During this time we were learning to care for her nasogastric tube and to administer her medications.

Finally, after ten weeks in the NNU, the day arrived when we were able to take our baby home. It was a day of excitement, nervousness and a touch of sadness as we left behind those who had been with us every step of the way. These people were no longer just staff members of the NNU; they were our support network and our friends.

Since going home Jemaya has continued to improve and hasn't looked back. We have regular trips to Melbourne for the ongoing care provided by Dr John Mills. Jemaya is constantly the centre of attention from her three sisters and holds a special place in all our lives.

When asked to tell our story we felt compelled to take the opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks to an amazing group of people working in an extraordinary place. During our time in the NNU we experienced first hand the finest qualities of care, support and friendship with many people. No matter where we were in the hospital, staff from the NNU would stop us and check up on how Jemaya was going and how we were holding up. It provided us with hope and strength and it is something we will never forget.

Special thanks to all the staff in the NNU for providing us with our very own "Celebration of Life." We will forever support the great organization that is The Royal Children's Hospital and especially the Neonatal Unit.

Tim Hassett – Jemaya's Daddy

09
STAFF SPOTLIGHT

DR AMANDA MOODY MBBS FRACP
Neonatologist
Department of Neonatology

I started working at the RCH after my Intern year and have happily remained in Paediatrics ever since. I was drawn to Neonatology by the challenging nature of the work as well as the immense satisfaction gained from looking after sick babies and their families. I spent some time at The Royal Women's Hospital before heading over to Bristol, UK where I learned that cider can be lethal and that wetsuits are required for surfing in the English summer! I picked up some valuable work experience as well as taking full advantage of the proximity of Europe. Whilst away I developed an interest in Medical Education which I've been fortunate to be able to develop back at the RCH after being appointed as a Neonatal Physician last year. I feel privileged to work with such a fantastic group of people on the NNU. It's very often a busy and stressful environment and it's a buzz to be part of a team who fulfill their responsibilities so capably but with a healthy dose of humour as well. When not at work, I'm usually supporting the local Brunswick St food and beverage economy and planning my next holiday.

SALLY ANN BURNS
Lactation Consultant NNU

As a little girl, all I wanted to be when I grew up was a nurse who fed babies.

Many years later, this is what I am doing, but instead feeding babies I am helping mothers to feed their ow infants.

As the Lactation Consultant for the NNU my role is to assist and support all mothers who are breast feeding or expressing breast milk.

The NNU supports all mothers who choose to breast feed their baby. It is my role to ensure that mothers have access to information and the equipment required to successfully express breast milk and or breast feed their infant.

We provide electric breast pumps and equipment for expressing. Mothers can also hire equipment from the Equipment Distribution Centre which is located in the basement of the RCH, at a small cost. All breast feeding mothers are covered by the hospital for daily lunch and dinners – please advise our receptionists if you require a meal when you visit.

In my role as Lactation Consultant, I see all mothers at least weekly and as required. Mothers who are unable to breast feed for a variety of reasons can be referred to me for advice about infant feeding. I also work as a clinical nurse specialist which involves bedside nursing care of our very special patients.

During my time at the RCH I have seen the NNU grow and expand. I witnessed the NNU's move from the 10th floor to it's current 2nd floor location and I am looking forward to our upcoming move to the new NNU located on the 3rd floor of the RCH. In this new Unit, we will be able to provide two Expressing Rooms for privacy and comfort. Every bedspace will also have a privacy screen for mums who can express at the bedside. We know this move will improve the conditions for our patients, their families and the staff.

Finally, we are very grateful to the parents who have generously donated funds to support new equipment for breast feeding mothers, particularly in the last 12 months – thank you!

MR RUSSELL TAYLOR
Paediatric Surgeon

I first walked in to The Royal Children's Hospital thirty five years ago.

My first job was as a Recovery Room Orderly, looking after patients coming out of surgery. In those days the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) was also attached and so I was exposed to the workings of both the Operating Suite and the ICU. A notable member of the ICU staff at that time was Louise Blewett (Lou is also still working at the RCH)!

As a medical student I felt privileged to be exposed to many fine teachers of their craft from the fields of Anaesthesia and Surgery. The Senior Nursing staff however left me in no doubt who the real bosses were and so began a lifelong understanding of the power structure of the institution in which I now work.
I returned in 1979 as a JRMO having rejected surgery as a career at RMH. I was now keen to pursue life as a country GP.

During my first job as the NAM Unit Resident I was seduced by Paediatric Surgery and thus began my new career path. After further training in General and Paediatric Surgery in both Australia and UK, I returned as a Registrar in 1986/87, a Clinical Research Fellow 1988 and was appointed a Consultant in 1989.

I married Tara in that year and we now have three teenage boys and two dogs. My interest in the country has not waned and we now own a small drought ridden farm with little water and lots of hungry cows!

WORDS OF THANKS FROM THE FAMILIES OF THE NNU

"Thank you for your care and kindness over the past six weeks with TJ. We will miss you all and will keep in touch to let you know his progress. Thank you again." Shasta, Jhan & TJ

"Thanks to one and all for your support over the last five weeks. We have both enjoyed our time here and have learnt lots" Jenny & Jo

" Words cannot express the gratitude we feel for the exceptional care you have taken of Lachlan. We sincerely believe that he would not be here today without your love and professionalism. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts and consider you all a part of our family". Jamie, Tracey, Georgia & Lachlan

"Thank you very much to all the lovely Doctor's Nurses & Staff who have taken care of me during my stay in the NNU. I've loved getting to know you all but am really looking forward to going home. My Mummy & Daddy will bring me back to visit you all next time we are at the RCH". Jacob

"Our heartfelt thanks to the Doctor's and Nurses who looked after our little baby when he was in your care during 2006. We can't begin to tell you of the depth of our gratitude and our appreciation for the fantastic job you do, saving the lives of these little babies. You really are wonderful people; please don't ever forget the wonderful contribution and the difference you make in many people's lives". Emma, Fenton, Max & Zac

"We would like to thank you for the sensational care given to our beautiful boy. Thank you for the love, support, strength and hope given to us during the most trying time of our lives. We often wondered how we would cope when we bought our baby home but with the support we received, you gave us the courage that made it possible. The last two months have been hard but well worth it. We love having our gorgeous boy home but wouldn't have wanted him anywhere other than the NNU during his illness. It's been an absolute honour to have met you all and a blessing that you cared for our boy. We will never forget you and will make sure that as our boy grows older he knows that he's with us because of you all – the very special and wonderful staff of the NNU". Bec, Ben & Zach

"Thank you so much for the care of our baby boy back in June 06. We were so grateful for all you did and very reassured in the knowledge that he was in such capable and caring hands. Spending much time in hospital was made pleasant by the company of so many lovely staff members. Our baby is doing really well (he's giving his lungs lots of exercise!) – giving us lots of lovely smiles and baby chit-chat". Kathryn & Jason

"Eleven days old and it has been a bit of a scary time for my family - but we wouldn't have got through it without your help. Thank you for the special care and support that you have given to me and my family. Thank you just doesn't seem enough. We are truly grateful for everything that you have done for us. Thanks to you, I am able to go home with my Mum and Dad today. To all the Doctors and Nurses who helped me have a speedy recovery, I am going to miss you all. My Mum, Dad & I feel truly blessed". Hunter, Shaun & Michelle

"Thank you for all your support, guidance & encouragement over the past ten weeks that we have been with you in the NNU. Was great to meet you all – we've learnt a lot and loved the experience despite the seriousness of our situation. Hope to see you all in the future". Kate

"A huge thank you to all those that looked after our little angel, Michelle. You are all amazing people. How can you thank someone enough for giving you the opportunity to take your daughter home when that was such an unlikely outcome at one point? We will never forget all you did for our daughter and the respect, kindness and sensitivity you showed us at all times. We will definitely send you regular updates. Thank you so much!" Louise, Damien & Michelle

"Thank you to all the staff that in the NNU for looking after our daughter, Zoe. We are so excited to be taking her home after so many weeks. The care, support and education we have received from the RCH has been wonderful and we appreciate it greatly". Maxine, Andrew & Zoe

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