‘In the end, only kindness matters’ Jewel

Your support will make a difference

All donations to the Newborn Intensive Care Unit at The Royal Children’s Hospital are greatly appreciated. Donations over $2 are fully tax deductible.

ONLINE DONATIONS

To make an online donation that specifically supports the work of the NICU or to set up your own NICU fundraising page please visit:

http://rchfoundation.com.au/event/NICU

DONATION FORM

If you’d like to make a donation to the NICU. please fill out this form and post or tax your details, thank you!

The dedicated NNU team, parents and supporters are working together to maintain this world class facility by helping to provide:

- Additional intensive care beds
- Maintenance and purchase of vital and life saving equipment
- Additional ventilators
- Research facilities to enhance and improve methods of treatment

You can make a BIG difference to a lot of small people.
We wish your family well, and hope to hear from you soon.

Your donation to The Royal Children’s Newborn Intensive Care Unit is greatly appreciated

Method of payment (please tick)

☐ Cheque ☐ Credit

* Please make cheque payable to ‘RCH Foundation-NICU’

Credit Card details

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Amex

☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐

Expiry Date ☐☐ / ☐☐ Total amount $

Cardholders name

Cardholder signature

Personal Details for Tax return (please print)

Name

Postal Address

Phone

Please forward to
C/-Royal Children’s Hospital Foundation
50 Flemington Rd, Parkville, Vic, 3052
Phone (03) 9345 4510 **Email** donna.aranyi@rch.org.au **Fax** (03) 9345 6900

The Royal Children’s Hospital Foundation

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neonatal news

the royal children’s hospital, melbourne

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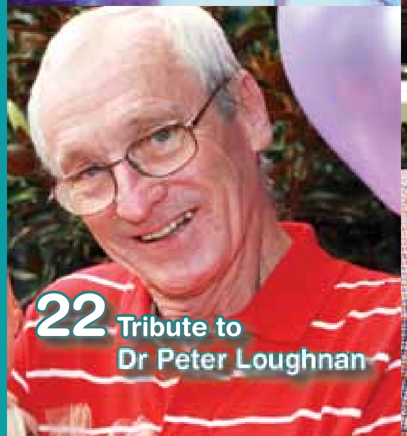


01

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 Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at The Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne (RCH). 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 NICU, A Celebration of Life was created by Chris and Sophie to assist specifically with the fundraising requirements of the NICU and hopefully make possible the equipment, resources and research that helps to make it one of the premier NICU's in Australia, if not the world.

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

A Celebration of Life is recognised as a fundraising entity for the NICU at The Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne and is coordinated by the **RCH Foundation**.

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

HOW WE ARE DIFFERENT FROM OTHER NEWBORN INTENSIVE CARE UNITS

The Royal Children's Hospital Newborn Intensive Care 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 newborn intensive care units in Victoria and in some cases, Australia.

Each year:

- Over 700 babies are transferred to the NICU 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 many 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 Newborn Intensive Care 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 Newborn Intensive Care 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 were the first intensive care unit in the country to employ 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 Newborn Intensive Care Unit for the sick babies. We provide a home apnoea 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 Newborn Intensive Care Unit. The best care of the sickest infants cannot occur without the valuable achievements provided through research and education.

THE ROYAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL NEWBORN INTENSIVE CARE UNIT VISION

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

THE ROYAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL NEWBORN INTENSIVE MISSION

The Newborn Intensive Care 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 Newborn Intensive Care Unit website.

Funds raised are used by The Royal Children's Hospital Newborn Intensive Care 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 Newborn Intensive Care Unit by providing and equipping additional intensive care cots.

3. Helps mantain the brand new Newborn Intensive Care Unit which provides world's best facilities and environment for the sickest babies and their families.

4. Support ongoing research and education in the Newborn Intensive Care Unit.

"A Celebration of Life" About Us

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr Rod Hunt

DR ROD HUNT

Welcome to the 2012 Neonatal Newsletter.

Since our last newsletter we have undergone very significant changes – most notably moving to a new Newborn Intensive Care Unit, within our brand new hospital. In keeping with themes of the hospital our new home is called the Butterfly ward, and we are very fortunate to enjoy some of the best views of the park and CBD from the fifth floor. The move on November 30 was months, in fact years, in the planning. I am extremely proud of my medical and nursing colleagues, who executed the move of 21 babies with the utmost expertise and efficiency – seeing all of our patients safely into their new home.

In the months since the move our staff have had to confront and deal with enormous changes in the way that they care for our sick infants. The staff have managed these changes extremely well, always ensuring that the care and safety of our patients is the number one priority.

Since our last newsletter we have expanded slightly – opening two new cots, taking our baseline occupancy from 24 to 26, with 12 to 14 of these babies requiring full intensive care. Our staffing numbers have increased accordingly to accommodate the extra workload, and we welcome many new nursing staff to our team.

We continue to pay close attention to the quality and safety of the care we provide, and Dr Ruth Armstrong has recently attended an international forum on Quality and Safety in Paris where some of our work practice was presented. It was a tough gig – but someone had to do it! You can read more about Ruth in our Staff Spotlight on page 30.

We are now turning our attention to our 10th Celebration of Life Ball – it's hard to believe that this incredibly successful event has been running now for 10 years – and we remain grateful to our donors for their generosity, which allows the purchase of much needed state of the art equipment. I do hope you can join us on September 20 at Crown Casino as this years event promises to be the best yet. I look forward to seeing you there…

With kindest regards,

Dr Rod Hunt, FRACP, MMed, PhD
Director, Neonatal Medicine

RCH FOUNDATION DONOR DEVELOPMENT MANAGER'S REPORT

DONNA ARANYI

I don't know where the time goes but it seems to fly past quicker than ever these days… and before I know it, another newsletter is due… long overdue!

Since our last edition, fundraising remains a priority and this edition is filled with many articles about our supporter's efforts to ensure that our Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU) receives the funds it needs to remain one of the best units in the world, offering the best/latest treatments and services available.

We have moved to our new NICU at the new RCH. You will read about move day and ward life after the move in this edition. I was extremely fortunate to be invited to participate in the NICU's move plan on move day and gained an incredible and unforgettable insight into the meticulous planning and care that went into ensuring a smooth operation and transition for all concerned. If ever I needed convincing (I didn't but the experience was great confirmation!) that the NICU staff was dedicated, I saw it first hand on 30th November 2010. I had endured my colleagues talk about the move for at least 18 months in the lead up and was somewhat grateful and relieved for them when the day actually arrived… not only did they had to maintain their extremely high standards of care and function as a unit, treating some of the sickest babies in the country, but the expectations, consultancy and extra hours that were demanded by the move to the new hospital, cannot be overstated. These weren't unwarranted but this additional workload should not be overshadowed by the success of the move itself, rather acknowledged as the cause of the seamless operation that ensued. This is our opportunity to do so. On behalf of all those that support the NICU via fundraising, a very special thank you to Dr Rod Hunt, Jessica O'Dowd and every staff member of the NICU who worked with military precision, to ensure the transition to the new NICU went without a hitch – your efforts are applauded and appreciated and I hope that our humble thanks offer some reward for your tremendous undertaking and accomplishment. Full credit to the entire NICU team.

Speaking of our supporters, it was my very great pleasure to invite our 2011-2012 NICU Cot Sponsors to visit the new NICU on 26th February. Cot Sponsorship is an affordable and tangible option for those who choose to advocate and fundraise for our NICU. In the past, we have offered twelve cots up for sponsorship but in 2012-2013 we have extended this number to twenty-six cots, with only a few remaining available for sponsorship. If you are interested in sponsoring this fundamental need in our NICU, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss.

As most of you know, all fundraising events conducted for the NICU are greatly appreciated. Two such events include our annual 'A Celebration of Life' Gala Ball and annual 'Opera in the Roses' Charity Luncheon. Both of these events continue to raise important funds for our NICU and enjoy a generous and loyal following.

For those who have supported the annual 'A Celebration of Life' Gala Ball, we are thrilled to present the 10th Anniversary event on **20th September 2012** at Crown Palladium. This is an exciting milestone for the founders, NICU and the RCH Foundation who have all helped to ensure its continued success over the last ten years. If you have ever considered attending this event and haven't as yet, please make 2012 the year you do so, as it will be another unforgettable presentation. For those that have supported it in the past, I do not need to convince your patronage, you already know that you will be in for another sophisticated, elegant, entertaining, meaningful and exciting time and I cannot wait to welcome you all and catch up with you on the night. This year's Event Committee members, led expertly by Catherine Cervasio – Chair, are working tirelessly to ensure another stunning and successful event is delivered in support of our NICU this year, as always. Please consider attending, it makes all of our hard work worthwhile and we pride ourselves in offering something for everyone's taste and budget on the night with 100% of profits fully donated to our beloved NICU.

People always ask me what the best part of my job is or state how lucky I am to make my passion for empowering people through fundraising, my life's work… the best part is meeting incredible donors and people who share my passion, especially the parents and families of our patients who don't need any convincing to support the NICU … it's true, I am incredibly blessed and grateful for the relationships that I share with many thousands of supporters who directly impact the fundraising success of our NICU. When I came to the RCH Foundation seven years ago, I felt like a very small fish in the greatest pond on earth… well, the pond is feeling homely these days and I am extremely proud of the relationships I now share that makes the tasks and challenges of fundraising for the NICU so much more meaningful and achievable. Thank you to all those that have made contact with me and with whom I share special relationships and friendships as a result – this includes my medical and nursing colleagues who have been amongst my greatest teachers and advisors… your acceptance and understanding of fundraising as a priority has really helped to set NICU fundraising in the forefront of our supporters thinking.

We really are "all in this together" and nothing gives me greater joy or fulfilment than the feeling of a team/family/joint effort made on behalf of our NICU. For when we ask for support, we are not asking for ourselves… but rather for those who are too sick, too frail, too traumatized to ask… we ask for the 700 babies and their families who will rely on our NICU for "the best chance – first chance at life". If we all make at least one "ask" for our NICU this year, another successful fundraising year ahead is assured.

Finally, special thanks to all those that have made a contribution to this edition. We appreciate and consider the sharing of personal stories a great privilege and honour. The gift of this generosity is an awareness of the life changing work of our NICU and an education/insight for those who will fortunately never share an experience of this nature and also a confirmation for those that already have or will into the future. Without this support, the NICU Newsletter cannot exist so please consider sharing your story or feel free to contact me with any comments or suggestions for future editions.

And don't forget to drop by the RCH Foundation office the next time you are visiting the hospital. All supporters have an open invitation to come in and meet with me, enjoy a catch up, show off bubs (my favourite excuse for a visitor!) or to make a donation to the NICU. You will need to take the Yellow Lifts to Level 4, exit to the right and the RCH Foundation office will be the first doorway on your right – I look forward to meeting you soon!

Until next time, thank you for your support and continued interest in the work of our NICU. Stay warm and healthy over the Winter months and I hope to catch up with you at the annual 'A Celebration of Life Gala Ball', celebrating 10 years of fundraising for our NICU in 2012.

Donna XXX

UNIT MANAGER'S REPORT

Jessica O'Dowd

UNIT MANAGER'S REPORT

JESSICA O'DOWD

It is very exciting to be writing a report for this newsletter which will be our first edition since moving into our new home – The Butterfly Ward, Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU) in the brand new Royal Children's Hospital.

It has been a very challenging 12months since our last newsletter in which time all staff in the NICU worked tirelessly to prepare for the RCH move and ensure that our neonatal patients were moved from the old NNU into the new NICU as safely as possible. We are very fortunate to have a team of highly skilled and dedicated staff that were able to ensure that this necessary but high risk and delicate operation was a success.

Aside from the challenge of moving the actual patients on move day, the transition into the new RCH has also brought about many changes to the daily running of the NICU. The design of the Butterfly Ward has meant a significant change to our model of care, one that we worked hard to prepare for and one that we have been refining since the move and will no doubt continue to do, at least during our first 12 months.

It has been a period of great excitement but also a time that has been really challenging for all staff. Every day we are providing care for critically ill babies that involves a very high level of medical care, nursing care, and technology; to continue to provide this care for our neonatal patients whilst we transitioned into our new home without impact on our patients and daily work, was testament to what an amazing and dedicated team we have.

We are enjoying our new home in this world class facility and are enjoying many benefits of our new ward such as natural light, noise reduction, family friendly atmosphere, and new and improved equipment. We are still in a critical period of adjustment and because our daily work of caring for critically ill babies has had to continue uninterrupted throughout this period of transition, we will continue to work through these challenges for some time to come.

It is important to acknowledge that whilst we are in a new facility with new equipment, we are still in great need of the extra support and funding that we are fortunate to receive from many dedicated supporters, fundraisers, and donors. Donna Aranyi plays a vital role in supporting the NICU through her role as our Donor Development Manager. Donna does an amazing job in coordinating the many people who are committed to provide us with additional funds that allow us to provide care at a level of excellence that we could not achieve without that extra support.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff that made our move a success and acknowledge the challenges and hard work that we will continue to endure throughout the coming months. To everyone that continues to provide support and donations to the NICU, I thank you for your continued efforts and we appreciate being able to maximise the quality and high level of care that we provide for these critically ill babies that would not be possible without your support.

I look forward to catching up with you at the Celebration of Life Gala Ball later this year and sharing in the achievements and success of the Butterfly Ward – NICU.

Thanks Again,

Jessica

Share YOUR story in the NNU Newsletter and help raise awareness of the important work of the Newborn Intensive Care Unit at The Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne

If you have an inpatient story, family celebration, fundraising event, thank you note or life after the NICU story that you would like share with our readers, please email these to **donna.aranyi@rch.org.au** along with any photos you'd like included. Please ensure photos are high resolution JPEG or TIFF files. Feedback regarding the newsletter from parents in the NICU has been extremely positive and they tell us that reading stories about babies and families that have had an NICU experience inspires hope, comfort and a sense of "community".

Please help us continue to support our very special families in this way – we welcome your contributions!

Permission to reprint any part of this newsletter is required from the author and The Royal Children's Hospital Foundation. Please note that articles published in this newsletter do not imply endorsement and may not reflect overall views of The Royal Children's Hospital, Newborn Intensive Care Unit or The Royal Children's Hospital Foundation. Also note that the opinions expressed in patient stories represent personal experiences and that the medical details are specific to each case.
Parents requiring more specific information should check with their child's neonatologist or GP.

THIS IS HOW WE CELEBRATE LIFE!
A Celebration of Life Gala Ball 2011

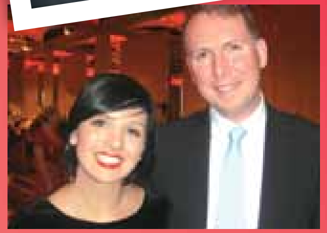
The 9th annual A Celebration of Life Gala Ball was held on Thursday 16th September at Crown Palladium. Our theme "A Royal Reason To Celebrate," set the tone for guests to enjoy all that was on offer at this elegant and sophisticated event.

As guests were enjoying their pre dinner drinks, the doors to the ballroom soon opened with members from **Scotch College Pipes and Drums** heralding their attention to follow and enter the Palladium. It was a truly regal way to commence the evening's festivities, the Year 8 students gave a stirring performance and guests were greatly impressed with their skill and talent and also at their ability to perform and march at the same time without skipping a beat! Special thanks to **Mr Brian Symington and Scotch College Pipes & Drums students Ryan Luke, Tom Erwin, Alex Dalla-Riva and Tom Perry** for their very special contribution and participation in our event.

The Palladium ballroom provided the perfect setting yet again for this very special occasion and we are indebted to **Ann Peacock and the Crown Charity Committee** for their ongoing sponsorship and support. **Event Hosts, Melissa Hetherington and Glen Moriarty** welcomed guests into the Palladium Ballroom, which had been beautifully decorated by our long-time supporters, **Function Accessories…** special thanks to **Paul Geraghty** and his creative team for their amazing transformational design talents. Large golden gilt candelabras, brocade ribbons and luscious fruits were in abundance, setting a very "royal" mood and scene.

Special thanks to Celebration of Life (COL) Event Committee Member - **Ian Kirkwood and his team from Staging Connections,** whose outstanding production efforts helped to compliment our theme and also create a warm, intimate ambiance in the ballroom. Ian and his team put in an outstanding effort each year and I am sure that everyone that attended would agree that their hard work and creative insight definitely contributed to the beauty of the room on the night.

A very special place setting gift had been provided by **Danielle Gleeson of "Baked By Mum"**, a royal coronet cookie that was beautifully decorated and personalized. Thank you so much for donating these very special and unique gifts for our event Danielle, your delicious support is greatly appreciated!



Guests were soon seated and enjoying their entrées when **Emily Rosner and Angels on Strings** took to the stage. Emily, a classical harpist, had created an exceptionally "royal" program of pieces for our guests' entertainment that included Finale from Music from the Royal Fireworks – George Frideric Handel; Trumpet Tune – Henry Purcell; Jesu Joy of Mans Desiring – Bach to name a few. Emily and her Angels gave an inspiring and unforgettable performance – thank you so much Emily for the gift of your musical talent, your extraordinary contribution was greatly appreciated.

Formal presentations soon followed with Director of the NICU, **Dr Rod Hunt** stressing to the audience the importance and value of fundraising to the NICU. He explained how the funds raised at the Gala Ball would make it possible for the NICU to extend a **Neonatal Neurodevelopmental Follow-up Program** to ex NICU patients. You can read Rod's speech on page 9.

Our **Special Guest Speaker** on the night was NICU Dad and Collingwood Football Club legend, **Brodie Holland.** In a conversation led by Glen Moriarty, Brodie shared his and his wife Sarita's experience of the NICU with their twins, Kip & Bowie. Brodie shared a very personal time in his and Sarita's life, so that our guests could better appreciate the reality of life in the NICU for its patients and families. We are indebted to Brodie and Sarita for the precious gift of their story and for their willingness to advocate for and help to raise awareness of our NICU, in this special and personal way.

Following Brodie's heartfelt and emotional offering, it was then my great honour to publically thank and acknowledge our **2011-2012 NICU Cot Sponsors:**

Strathmore Community Branch Bendigo Bank (4 cots); Domain Charter Group (2 cots); Warren Larsen & Family; MILU Pty Ltd; Gourlay Family; Universal Steel; McCarroll Family; Jacobson Family and Michael's Supa IGA.

On behalf of the 700 babies cared for by the NNU at RCH each year, who will rely on these cots for their survival, we say a heartfelt "thank you".

Time for our **Main Auction,** which was expertly led by the legendary **Mr Gerald Delany** of Kay & Burton Real Estate, with Glen Moriarty assisting. A stunning selection of irresistible prizes and money can't buy experiences had been handpicked to temp guests and raise important funds for the NICU. These included: The Lyall Hotel & Spa Luxury Accommodation Package; Pierrick Boyer Masterclass; Henri Matisse Artwork; Mozom Crystal Jewellery; Philip Vakos Masterclass; Carbone Master Tailors Bespoke Custom Tailored Men's Suit; Coda-Movida-Comme Luxury Progressive Dinner Party Package; Qantas Flight Simulator Experience; Yering Station Winery Private Dining Experience and OOH!Media Advertising Package. Bidding was competitive and Gerald weaved his magic ensuring that the highest bids were achieved to maximize the best possible fundraising outcome for NNU. We were honoured to have Gerald attend and support our event in this way, as his contribution to many charities over the years has been outstanding and we were extremely privileged to add the NNU to his list in 2011. Special thanks also to our INCREDIBLE prize donors, we rely 100% on the generosity of those that make possible the calibre of items we were fortunate to present at this event.

Our deepest thanks to The Lyall Hotel & Spa; Pierrick Boyer; The Chase Gallery; Maurizio from Mozom; Philip Vakos & Philhellene; Carbone Master Tailors; Mykal Bartholomew, Adam D'Sylva, Kate Calder – Coda; Frank Comorra, Andrew McMahon – Movida; Peter Bartholomew – Comme and Grand Limousines; Qantas Airways Limited; Yering Station Winery, Watsons Pty Ltd & Hummers 4 Hire; Kelly McIlwraith & Ooh!Media – thank you all so much!

With formalities over, it was time to draw our Raffle, which was generously sponsored by Technika Australia. Special thanks to **Mark Galea, Managing Director – Technika Australia** and his Team for their ongoing generosity, our prize winners were very happy with their special prizes! Thank you also to Event Committee member, **Georgie Kirby** for her ever generous sponsorship of our Door prize, another gorgeous **kirby&kirby** gift hamper made its way home with a very happy winner and finally, to **Ryan Hillas** of **last-seat.com.au** for his generous donation of two travel experience gift vouchers as Lucky Seat prizes!

As guests made their final bids in the fabulous silent auction, it was time for **Scott Carne, Brian Mannix, Dale Ryder and Ally Fowler** to take to the stage with the **Absolute 80's** Party Band and entertain our guests into the wee hours…they did a fantastic job and their music provided a welcome trip down memory lane for many of our guests! Special thanks to Scott, Brian, Dale & Ally for their wonderful performances and also to **Judi Kittelty** and **JAG Entertainment.**

It had been an unforgettable night… ***thank you so much to everyone involved….*** the 2011 annual A Celebration of Life Gala Ball had given us many royal reasons to celebrate life.

There are no words that adequately express our thanks to the **2011 COL Event Committee,** who worked tirelessly to ensure the event was another wonderful success raising $140,000 for the NICU. To **Catherine Cervasio – Chair; Helen Reizer; Ian Kirkwood; Jo Larsen; Craig Douglas; Marie Popple; Georgie Kirby; Lydia Atwell and Lisa Slaughter.** A HUGE royal thank you for your tremendous commitment and dedication to our cause. Also to our **Event Volunteers**, expertly led by **Anna Nowak & Sharon Coulston** – the value of our volunteers cannot be overstated. Many of them spend the entire day at Crown helping to set up the ballroom and then stay on for the duration of the event, which finishes around 2.30am for them. It would be fair to say that we could not conduct the event with the generous support of the Event Committee and our Event Volunteers; we are truly blessed and grateful to benefit from this support.

Our thanks also to the team of professionals at **Crown** that work tirelessly to ensure the smooth operation of our event and provide such valuable support and guidance each year – to **Carolyn Josephson, Nichole Rowland and Rita Galea,** a HUGE THANK YOU as always! Also to **Deb Carter** and her AMAZING graphics design Team at **DNA Artworks** for their contribution to all event collateral and also to **Printhouse Group** for their support of our print needs – another beautiful job done!

In 2012, we will celebrate a very special milestone in NICU fundraising history, the 10th annual A Celebration of Life Gala Ball! Ten years on, it is going to be another awesome night out in celebration of the NICU at RCH, Melbourne. Make 2012 the year that YOU attend this very special and important event in support of the NICU at RCH.
I hope to see you there!

Donna Aranyi

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THIS IS HOW WE CELEBRATE LIFE!
A Celebration of Life Gala Ball 2011

Thank you to the following...

ABC Reading Eggs
Adam D'Sylva
Ally Fowler
Alex Dalla-Riva
Amanda Johnson & Family
American Express
Angela Babatsias
Andrew McMahon
Angii Rotblatt
Anita Bowen
Ann Peacock
Anthony & Susie Koutoufides
Aromababy
Artist Photographer
Avanti
Awesome Playgrounds
Babycinos Café
Back To Sleep
Balthazar Wines
Bartholomew Family
Bayside Rock
Beaumont Tiles
Beauty Mate
Belle Bijoux
Birgul Tercan
Blush Photography
Bodyography
Boondie Baby
Brian Mannix
Brian Symington
Brooke Gibbon
Brodie Holland
Bunnings Warehouse
Calton Football Club
Carly Söderström
Carbone Master Tailors
Casella Wines
Chase Gallery
Chris Judd
CitiPower
Coco Lounge
Coda Group
Coda Bar & Restaurant
Colin & Dorothy Silke
Comme
Cosi Restaurant
Costco
Crayola Australia
Crown Limited
Cyber Party Plan
Dan's Plants
Dahlsens
Dale Ryder
David Lindsay
David Schwarz
Deborah Carter
De Ja Vue Interiors
Dizzy's Castle
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DNA Artworks
Domain Charter Group
Doug Smith
Dr Andrew Gronow
Draeger Safety Pacific Pty Ltd
Earlybirds Clothing
Easy Gallery
Ednie Family
Emily Rosner
Emma & Tom's Juices
Emmanuel Ammo
Erin & Ben McCarroll
Essendon Football Club
Eve Nightclub
Fleur Florist
Forever Flowering
FOX FM
Frank Comorra
Frog Sofas
Function Accessories
Geelong Football Club
Geoff Cunningham
George Skanda
Gigi & Robin Williams
Glen Moriarty
Glenn & Kelly Warren
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H.A.G Import Corporation
Hairhouse Warehouse
Harness Racing Australia Inc
Harvey Norman
Herald & Weekly Times Pty Ltd
Home Direct
Hook, Line & Sinker
Hummers4Hire
Hunky Dory's
Hyatt Regency Coolum
Jacobson Family
JAG Entertainment
J Lili
James Hird
Jason Hecker
Jason Schwarz
Jobe Watson
John & Ros Andrews
John & Sophie Cartwright
John Woodman
John & Vivian Woodman
Kate Calder
Katnook Estate
Katharine Miccalizzi
Kathryn Mitchell
Kelly McIlwraith
Kerry Stanley Milliner
King of Rugs
Kirby&Kirby
LA Nannies
Lamb and Lamb
Last-Seat.com.au
Le Petit Gateau
Lee-anne Henrikson
Lifestyle Ensemble
Linear Hair Group
Lino Blasi
Little Hollywood Hair Salon
Loredana Parletta
Lounge Apparel
Love Never Dies Cast
Lyall Hotel & Spa
Madison Jewellery
Maggie Beer
Magnetic Momentos
Mark Galea
Melbourne Pilates Group
Melbourne Symphony Orchestra
Melbourne Tigers
Melissa Hetherington
Mercedes Stewart
Michael's Supa IGA
MILU Pty Ltd
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Mooku
Movida
Mozom
Mykal Bartholomew
Negane Family
Neonate Mates Auxiliary
News Magazines
Nick Giannopoulos
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Ooh!media
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Vicki Bell Photography
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Paula Anthony
Kerri Smurthwaite
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If you would like to attend or support the 2012 A Celebration of Life Gala Ball, please contact donna.aranyi@rch.org.au or call (03) 9345 4510.
This year's event will be held on Thursday 20th September at Crown Palladium. Invitations due June/July 2012.

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DONOR DEVELOPMENT MANAGER'S SPEECH
Donna Aranyi - COL Gala Ball 2011

A very warm welcome to old friends and new…
Thank you so much for being here with us tonight.
This event is the ONLY one of its kind in Melbourne.

You will not be asked to attend or lend your support to any other charity ball that is held specifically for our Neonatal Unit – THIS IS IT.

Tonight presents the ONE opportunity we get this year, to come together as we are, and acknowledge the life changing work of and the absolute need to raise funds for this important unit, for which many of us share a unique and lifelong bond.

You may think that your ticket has brought you a fine meal, wine & entertainment… but what you have actually brought by being here, is a vote of confidence, a vote of faith, a vote of advocacy for the staff and families of our precious Neonatal Unit. By "showing up" you have pledged your support of those who dedicate their lives in service of healing our sickest and most vulnerable.

The Neonatal Unit's motto – *"Giving our sickest babies the best chance, first chance at life"* is a perfect summation of what it aims to and achieves 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Every single person in this room right NOW represents a baby and a family that have needed the expertise and support of our Neonatal Unit SO FAR THIS YEAR. And the numbers keep growing.

Part of my role at the Royal Children's Hospital Foundation is to develop and manage the fundraising portfolio for the Neonatal Unit. Through my work, I have the great honour and privilege of meeting and working with those who are passionate and committed to supporting this very special cause.

We are united in our efforts to fundraise and support the excellence so deserved by our patients and families, who place their trust and lives in our hands - a trust evoked by our brand. I know this is true because the donors I work with, share with me their incredible stories of their hospital experiences; stories of survival, courage, gratitude, faith and love. These inspire many of our fundraisers to get involved and enter a relationship with the Foundation, and further support our Neonatal Unit.

The Royal Children's Hospital Foundation can be described as a "scaffold" around the hospital… a scaffold whose shape and dimensions are fluid and flexible in order to meet the ever changing fundraising needs of the hospital. This scaffold, wraps itself around and embraces all that our great hospital represents – it serves as a platform to showcase it's values through its fundraising efforts and unique relationships with donors and supporters... it's a comforting vision and one that YOU here tonight, are an important and essential part. Nothing worth building is EVER worth building on anything but solid Foundations.

And so it is with those that have committed to supporting a Neonatal Intensive Care Cot for the next 12 months. These sponsors are the FIRST to support 13 NICU Cots located in the NEW Neonatal Unit at the NEW Royal Children's Hospital due to open in late November this year. I would like to acknowledge & thank these "Foundation sponsors" for their kindness and generosity and for choosing to demonstrate their appreciation of our very special and unique cause, in this essential and practical way:

Strathmore Community Branch Bendigo Bank – Peter McKie & Team 4 x Cots
Domain Charter Group – Trish & John Cerini x 2 Cots in celebration of their Grandson, Jay
Universal Steel – Kim & John Muscat and team in celebration of their Great nephew Brooklyn & Grandson Jacob
Justine & Shane Jacobson in celebration of their daughter, Pippa
Michael's Super IGA – Michael & Rose Lorenz & team
Erin & Ben McCarroll in loving memory of their son, Cormac
Milu Pty Limited
Warren Larsen & Family
Andrew & Rachel Gourlay & Family

Thank you all so much. You will be invited to attend a special preview of the new facilities available at our new NNU in the New Year. You will receive a personalized tour and an opportunity to witness first hand, the value and difference your support makes. We look forward to welcoming our 2011-2012 NICU Cot Sponsors to our new Neonatal Unit in the near future.

Speaking of special previews, we have been granted special permission for tonight's event only, to showcase to you, an exclusive sneak peek of our new Neonatal Unit.

Known as the "Butterfly" Ward, the new NNU will continue to provide excellent services, treatments and intensive care and with your ongoing support, world class results.

In addition to theme names given to each level of the new RCH, hospital wards will take on the name of an Australian native animal. The use of animal names for the wards is one of the child-centric way finding strategies to make navigation around the hospital as easy and enjoyable as possible.

Next year will see us celebrating 10 years of our annual Gala Ball and we look forward to taking you BEYOND the entrance to a new frontier for neonatal medicine at the Royal Children's Hospital and INSIDE the new unit where we will be able to showcase what your ongoing support will make possible.

You may ask why we need to continue with our fundraising efforts when we have a nice, shiny, new unit to work in…most of you already know the answer. Whilst we are incredibly grateful to you for the support you already share as tax payers, we know that excellence comes at a cost that is beyond the gift of our tax dollars.

In order to be reputed as a world class neonatal unit, we must set a standard that puts us on a world stage… special projects such as Rod Hunt's Neonatal Neurodevelopmental Program, a world first study, makes a place for us on this world stage possible, and can only be achieved through the fundraising success of events such as this and with the support of the Royal Children's Hospital Foundation.

As we make plans to up and move in the coming months, we look forward to transforming "Change" into "Gift" and "Opportunity". Please know that your support is greatly appreciated. Your support and effort to be a part of what this cause represents is both seen and known by us… you are NOT invisible to us…you may feel that what you do and what you give is somehow insignificant or overshadowed… but please know that this is never the case…we SEE you and we thank you for all that you do and all that you are in a position to share.

Finally, it is with great sentimentality that I introduce this year's DVD presentation. We felt it was important to visit the current Neonatal Unit one last time…this particular DVD is a favourite, known as "Love is in the Air", it showcases the success of the NNU beyond the equipment, intensive care and expertise… it, most importantly, showcases the "love" and "royal" treatment of our precious patients that ultimately sets us apart of all others.

We may be changing locations in the near future…. but the love we feel for our patients and families and our ongoing commitment to neonatal fundraising, remains unchanged.

Thanks again for your attendance tonight, please enjoy "Love is in the Air" one final time. Goodnight.

DIRECTOR'S SPEECH

Dr Rod Hunt - COL Gala Ball 2011

Good Evening Ladies and Gentleman - I'd like to extend to you all a very warm welcome on behalf of the staff of the Neonatal Unit for this - our 9th Celebration of Life (COL) Gala Ball. A special welcome to our CEO - Professor Christine Kilpatrick, and members of our Hospital Executive - Peter McDougall, Sheri Waldron and John Stanway.

I'd like to thank the Executive Director of the Royal Children's Hospital Foundation, Sue Hunt for the Foundation's ongoing support, and Donna Aranyi - a great colleague who continues to work tirelessly alongside our neonatal unit supporters, parents and donors to ensure that fundraising events like this are successful.

Events like this don't happen without the support of hundreds of people, all of whom are listed in our Event Program, and I thank them all for their contributions tonight.

Special thanks to Melissa Hetherington and Glen Moriarty for agreeing to host tonight's event and for their interest in the work of the Neonatal Unit at RCH. Also to Brodie Holland, who has agreed to share a personal insight into his family's neonatal journey.

We are very fortunate to have the support and major sponsorship of Crown Limited, with special thanks also to Staging Connections for their ongoing support with our technical and production needs.

Working for many months in the lead up to tonight's event has been the 2011 Celebration of Life Event Committee ably led by Chairwoman, Catherine Cervasio and her Committee Members - Georgie Kirby, Lisa Slaughter, Jo Larsen, Helen Reizer, Marie Popple, Craig Douglas, Ian Kirkwood, Lydia Atwell and Sophie Pownall. You have all done an incredible job and we are deeply grateful to you for the many hours you've all spent ensuring that tonight's fundraising efforts are worthwhile for the Neonatal Unit.

To the 2011-2012 Neonatal Cot Sponsors, special thanks to you, we welcome some new supporters to the Neonatal fundraising family and highly value our ongoing supporters of this worthwhile program.

I'd also like to thank those of you here tonight who attended last year's event and generously contributed to the purchase of our ultrasound machine, which has been an invaluable addition to the tools we use to manage our patients - seen here being used by Dr Neil Patel. With this machine we have improved our bedside assessment of the heart and brain for our sickest patients.

I'd like to spend a few minutes sharing some thoughts about change. On our collective journeys we confront change every day at a number of levels and I'd like to describe some of these journeys and the changes they require in three different situations as they apply to our work in the Neonatal Unit - the individual... the departmental... and the organisational levels.

Charles Darwin said "*It is not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change*". For those of you who have embarked upon the journey of parenthood, consider for a moment the sorts of change that were required when your healthy babies were born and came home - the rearrangements of priority, sleepless nights, and sudden requirement to put our own wishes last. My wife Ele might tell you that I didn't put too many of my own wishes last, but I can tell you that we were both challenged when Benjamin and Ethan first came home - man we were tired - it was hard. We see much tougher demands for change in the families that we care for everyday, when often unexpectedly, their lives are thrown into chaos as their precious babies are admitted to our Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, often with life threatening conditions, and often for prolonged periods.

I'd like to tell you about Iggy and his families journey - Iggy was born a few weeks early with a condition called diaphragmatic hernia. This is a condition where there is a hole in the large muscle that separates the chest from the abdomen, allowing intestines and other abdominal organs to develop up in the chest, and restricting the development of the lung. Iggy was really very sick and required major surgery in the first few days of life - and he spent many weeks on life support. Just as he was recovering from this surgery, it became apparent that he also had a heart condition called coarctation of the aorta, for which he then required major heart surgery, prolonging his admission and delaying his recovery even further. Iggy's arrival, whilst very exciting, demanded fairly significant change for his parents - John and Sophie - who join us tonight and who have graciously allowed me to share Iggy's story. John and Sophie, and their older boy Frankie - had to change. They changed their routine, to include long visits to the hospital, in fact they visited the hospital every day... for most of the day. They changed their capacity to be at work every day and they changed their expectations about the sort of care that their youngest son would require. Sometimes they even contemplated the sorts of changes that parents all fear - with a risk on more than one occasion that Iggy might not make it home at all. They lived this change daily - in fact every day for six months - watching their youngest son fight on while we all did our best to make him comfortable, healthy and strong. You might recall seeing Iggy on the front page of the paper because he just got home in time for Christmas - he celebrated his first birthday in June and continues to do well. John and Sophie very graciously commemorated Iggy's birthday with a fundraising party, raising over $10,000 dollars for our Neonatal Unit - which was just fantastic and is certainly worth a round of applause.

Winston Churchill said "*To improve is to change, to be perfect is to change often*". Our NNU is on a journey. Departmental change is also required if we are to continue to provide the best care we can to babies like Iggy. Iggy's journey now takes him beyond the walls of the Neonatal Unit into a bigger - and in the best sense - more exciting world. I'm very pleased to tell you that in the past few months, with the tremendous support of the Foundation, we have begun our developmental follow-up clinic, in which we will assess babies like Iggy - who have recovered from major surgery in the newborn period. A dedicated team of therapists, neuro-psychologist and doctors are assessing these children at two, five and eight years of age, allowing us for the first time to accurately assess the intellectual capabilities of our graduates, and to determine whether the many novel therapies we employ in our intensive care unit are producing the high quality of life that we all want for these children.

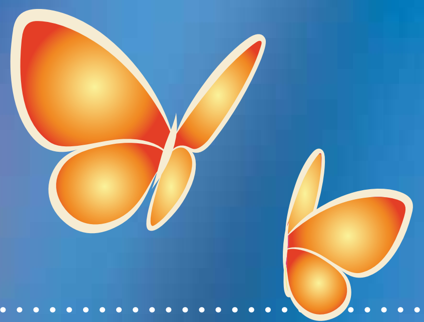
Tonight we raise money to ensure the ongoing provision of this important and exciting new venture, because we recognise that our care of these children extends beyond the period where they're in hospital. Our responsibility to them does not end with their neonatal journey - we want to be sure that individuals like Iggy are developing to their full potential, and enjoying healthy and productive lives.

The developmental team are here tonight and I'm sure they would all be very pleased to speak to you later this evening if you had any questions about this service.

John F Kennedy said "*change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present, are certain to miss the future*". Many of you will be aware that in the next three months our organisation, The Royal Children's Hospital takes a few big steps on its own journey. RCH will undergo a very significant and exciting change, as we move into new premises, with state of the art facilities, and improved scope to care for the sick children of Victoria. Most of us move house at least once - these moves are usually very exciting - although sorting of belongings and packing boxes is at best, fairly tedious. Over the past few months, I can tell you that, as a hospital, we have sorted a lot of belongings and we are packing a lot of boxes. "All change - even for the better - is accompanied by discomfort" - but we understand that if we are to continue to provide the best care available... we have to change - we have to push ourselves beyond our comfort zone - and embrace new surroundings, new systems, new routines and changing technology - so that all of our patients are offered every opportunity to be the best that they can be.

There are many examples of these types of change... single rooms for patients provide huge advantages in quality of family-centred care, but come at the expense of significant changes to the way our nursing staff practice. These changes won't be easy, but our incredible staff - many of whom are also here tonight - understand that change is necessary to ensure the best care for our patients.

So thank you for your attention. We feel a great sense of privilege to be able to support families along their journeys as they confront and conquer change, and we look forward to your ongoing support on our journey - as we institute changes that improve our standard of care, in what is undoubtedly one of the finest children's hospitals in the world. Through these changes - we will continue to strive to be the very best that we can be.



> **"We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give."**
>
> **- Winston Churchill**

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NEONATAL UNIT MOVE DAY

The Royal Children's Hospital (RCH) successfully moved into its new state-of-the-art facility, next door to the old hospital site in Parkville, on Wednesday 30 November 2011.

It took just under 8 hours to move 143 inpatients from the old hospital into the new, with hundreds of staff involved in making the move a great success.

Planning the move
While the move of patients to the new hospital took just one day, it took more than a year to plan the move. RCH developed a Move Plan, in consultation with the Department of Health, Children's Health Partnership (responsible for financing, constructing and maintaining the building), families and staff.

The RCH Move Plan outlined principles, dates, structure of the teams responsible for developing move plans and key considerations in move planning. It was designed to minimise disruption to services while maintaining safety of patients, staff and the community.

Admissions to the Neonatal Unit are usually time critical and patients often require urgent medical and surgical interventions at a level of high acuity. The Neonatal Unit move plan had to prepare for every scenario, which included planning the move of some of the most critically ill patients requiring maximum intensive care support and large amounts of equipment.

With a neonatal team of highly skilled, dedicated and very experienced doctors, nurses, and intensive care technologists, staff were allocated roles and responsibilities and participated in trial mock moves in the months prior to the move. Every staff member at the hospital also undertook orientation and training before they moved.

Patient Move Day
The Neonatal Unit was one of many departments to move on 'Patient Move Day', which was on Wednesday 30 November 2011.

Right on the target time of 7.00am, patients started their move journey via passageways from the old site to the new.

For patients and staff of the Neonatal Unit, this journey was via a purpose-built passage way to their new neonatal ward called Butterfly Ward, which is located on level five of the hospital.

On the day, teams of Neonatal staff were in place on both the old Neonatal Ward and on the new Butterfly Ward. There were five transport teams responsible for moving the patients. Up to nine people accompanied one patient at a time, indicating the high level of care required for the move of both patient and necessary equipment.

There were four transport times of neonatal patients:

7.00am–8.00am: Six patients moved, all five teams involved and completed by 7.40am.

9.00am–10.00am: Seven patients moved, all five teams involved and completed by 9.35am.

11.30am–12.00noon: This half hour was designated to move the sickest Neonatal Intensive Care patients to ensure transport and receiving teams had time to prepare and stabilise patients before and after the move.

1.00pm–2.00pm: Six patients moved, all five teams involved and completed by 1.37pm.

Unlike other wards, where a family member accompanied their child for the duration of the move, all parents and families left the Neonatal Unit immediately prior to the move to allow staff to prepare their babies and any necessary equipment for their transfer.

Parents were phoned as their baby departed the old ward and once all patients in each move timeslot were settled and stable, the parents were contacted again and escorted to the new ward. The staff greatly appreciated the support of the parents and families on Patient Move Day.

Once word came through that the last of the patients had arrived safely in the new ward there was a brief moment to breathe a sigh of relief and celebrate this significant achievement. Staff working in the new Butterfly Ward were immediately getting on with the day-to-day running of the ward and adapting to the new environment whilst staff in the old Neonatal Unit prepared the area for decommissioning.

Settling into the new RCH
The new Royal Children's Hospital was officially opened by Her Majesty the Queen on 26 October 2011, just prior to the move. This was a truly wonderful occasion with hundreds of staff, patients, families and members of the community invited to share in the historic event.

Since the move, patients and families have had a wonderful time exploring the new environment, which has been uniquely designed for children and young people. Highlights include the meerkat enclosure located within Specialist Clinics and the two-storey coral reef aquarium in Main Street.

Patients have also settled in comfortably into the bedrooms, of which 85 percent have direct views of the parkland.

Staff have done an amazing job of remaining focused on caring for patients and families while showing a huge commitment to adapting to their new work environment.

Congratulations to all involved!

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NICU AMBASSADOR PROFILE
Matt & Melissa Hetherington

- **Why was it important to you to get involved?**

The Newborn Intensive Care Unit is such a critical cause. It helps people that desperately need help at the very beginning of their lives. The unit gives these little ones the chance to lead the lives we are so blessed to have. You will never find a more beautiful and special cause. It is an honor to be involved. Anything we can do to help is a gift.

- **How has your support made a difference to the NICU?**

We are very passionate about the love, work and constant commitment from the NICU team that goes into giving babies the best possible start in life. Our aim as ambassadors is to raise awareness & educate people about the miracles that take place within the unit in saving lives and of course do whatever we can to help raise enough funds so that this work can continue.

- **How has being involved changed your lives personally?**

When you see what some people have to contend with in their lives, it makes you appreciate how lucky you are, so much more. When we visit the unit or speak to people that work with the unit, it makes us feel closer to humanity; closer to the truly important things in life. Helping people in need is a great gift in life and when it is done within the context of the NICU it is a true blessing.

- **You are about to become first time parents, congratulations! What has this experience been like for you both and has your involvement with NICU had any impact of how you are preparing emotionally/spiritually for parenthood?**

As soon to be first time parents, a natural hope is that everything will be fine and that our baby will be 100% healthy. Seeing what some babies and families have to endure is a bit scary. With all due respect I pray regularly that the only time our child sees the NICU is when we come in as a family to give support and share love.

- **You are both an integral part of the NICU Family and we feel extremely blessed and grateful to have you in our lives. As Ambassadors of the NICU, what do you hope is your greatest legacy?**

If we are able to make any sort of positive impact then our involvement is a great success. We want to spread awareness of the unit and also help those dealing with the reality of direct involvement within the unit. If we can use our talents/musical gifts to make people feel better then we will feel immense satisfaction.

- **Matt, congratulations on making it into Delta Goodrem's Team on The Voice earlier this year – we all think of you as "Our Voice" already and feel so proud of you! What's it like being involved?**

Being involved in "The Voice" has been an amazing, life changing experience. I have been able to get closer to the goals I have been working hard to achieve for many years. When you get to share your passion and connect with a big audience it is wonderfully fulfilling. I want to show my child that you can do anything if you work hard enough and keep faith. The reward for waiting so long is just how much gratitude you feel.

Special thanks to our friends at nab...

It was my very great pleasure to attend a morning tea conducted by nabGroup Credit Risk in April 2012.

Steve Webb and his colleagues had once again nominated the New born Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at RCH as the beneficiary of this morning tea. Steve had firsthand experience of our NICU when his nephew was a patient some years ago and the morning tea is a personal expression of his gratitude for the care his family and nephew received at that time. Having attended the event previously, I felt I was amongst friends and welcomed the opportunity to provide an update on the new NICU and how fundraising remains an important resource for the NICU. It was a most enjoyable and meaningful occasion and I cannot thank Steve and his colleagues enough for their wonderful support, interest, hospitality and generosity.

Following the event, Steve and his colleague, Paula Matenga, personally visited the NICU to enjoy a tour and see firsthand the difference their support makes to our patients and their families. Steve and Paula proudly presented their donation of $1,200 raised by their colleagues at the morning tea, to Dr Rod Hunt along with their intention to keep the NICU in the forefront of their department's efforts to support community initiatives well into the future.
"It's a small gesture but a genuine one on the part of a small group of staff who do what we can on a regular basis to give back to the community that we are all a part", explained Steve.

Thanks so much guys, I hope your efforts inspire and serve as an example to other companies and individuals who may also be in a position to help raise funds for our NICU in this way – congratulations to you all and I look forward to catching up with you all again in the near future!

A GREAT RIDE – A GREAT CAUSE
"Team Iggy" Murray To Moyne

Inspired by the fighting spirit of young Ignatius 'Iggy' Cartwright, and being eternally grateful to The Royal Children's Hospital, Neonatal Unit (now known as Newborn Intensive Care Unit) for the amazing level of care and support provided to Iggy and his family, a small group of 'mates of Iggy' and 'weekend warrior' cyclists decided to participate in the 2012 'Murray to Moyne' charity ride, riding a total distance of 430km from Echuca to Stawell and Hamilton to Port Fairy, raising funds in support of the RCH NICU.

After many months of training rides along Beach Road, and the consumption of countless macchiatos, Team Iggy (whittled down to 5 cyclists ably assisted by our support crew member 'Jimmy') departed Melbourne late Friday afternoon bound for Echuca and Saturday mornings official start.

Friday night consisted of the obligatory 'carb-loading' session (i.e. beer, pasta and more beer) in downtown Echuca and happily watching the Hawks down the Pies on the telly, following which the team retired prior to assembling early Saturday morning on the scenic banks of the Murray River, with 600 of our closest friends and fellow riders.

After an indecipherable ride briefing from the race director and some last minute tinkering on the bikes, Team Iggy's first group of riders departed Echuca at 9:32am bound for the Saturday night stopover in Stawell. It wasn't long before the team realised just how different 'country riding' conditions are compared to the relative comfort of Melbourne's smooth road conditions and the ability to (at some stage) 'have the wind at your back'. Rough road surfaces and a raging westerly head wind tested the determination of the team for the first 140km's of the ride heading west, however the team dug deep and eventually turned the corner at Charlton, where we thankfully headed due south with the wind on our shoulders.

After a 14.5 hour day on the road, with the team consuming litre after litre of energy drink and countless Powerbars, John Cartwright and Chris Ingle put in a stellar final push to climb the last hill of the day and roll Team Iggy into its overnight destination of Stawell around midnight. The lads received a rousing reception from some locals who it appeared had spent the day camped out on couches, had replenished the esky's more than once, and were eager to offer their support and advice to the 'lycra clad road warriors from the City'.

The following morning saw a last minute dash to the Sunday start line in Hamilton, with the full team hitting the road at 7:30am Sunday for the final 90kms to the Port Fairy finish line.

Benefiting from a couple of hours sleep, more cyclist friendly road conditions and the absence of a head wind (not to mention a timely roadside coffee and bagel), the final 3 hour ride to Port Fairy was an enjoyable affair when compared to the previous mornings slog, with the entire team rolling over the line in Port Fairy just after 10:30am for a celebratory 'snag and stubbie' before hitting the road for the return trip to Melbourne.

Now weeks later, and having recovered from many hours in the saddle, the headwinds, and the sore legs, some members of 'Team Iggy' have already begun to talk about a repeat performance in April 2013, albeit it with a slightly larger team of riders and support crew to share the workload and the experience of taking part in such a great event as the Murray to Moyne, and to raise funds for such a worthy cause as the RCH NICU.

With registrations for the 2013 ride expected to open in October / November of this year, Team Iggy hope to put out a call via the RCH NICU network to any potential riders and support crew who may be interested in joining us for a great weekend on the road, and the opportunity to raise funds in support of a great cause.

In the meantime, Team Iggy's fundraising page has been established and donations to the RCH NICU can be made via **http://rchfoundation.com.au/team_iggy**

Finally, thank you to all who participated as part of Team Iggy, our support crew James Cartwright, Donna Aranyi at the RCH Foundation, our sponsors (Giant Bikes, Blueprint Australia and Powerbar) and to all who donated in support of Team Iggy and the RCH NICU.

Costco Wholesale Docklands – a NICU Hero!

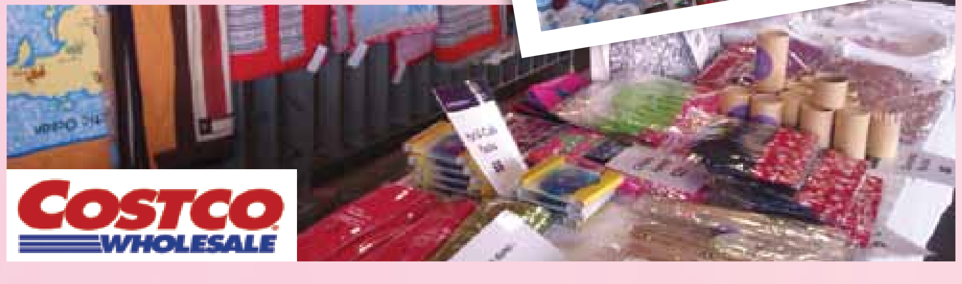
On Saturday 21st April 2012 Costco Wholesale Docklands hosted its first "Costco Hero's Day", whereby local community groups were invited to promote their good causes to Costco members.

Irene & Tony Hubbard of the Prem Bubs Auxiliary saw this as a wonderful opportunity to raise awareness of Prem Bubs and the Newborn Intensive Care Unit at RCH and kindly set up a merchandise stall that was bulging with lots and wonderful goodies to help raise funds.

Costco has held an annual RCH Staff Shopping Night over the past three years with over $20,000 raised so far. In 2012-2013 Costco has committed part of these funds to a NICU Cot Sponsorship and we are greatly indebted to them for their ongoing generosity and support.

Special thanks to Loredana Parletta, Costco Membership/Marketing Manager, and her wonderful Team for going the extra mile for the RCH Foundation and especially our NICU in 2012!

Further info **www.costco.com.au** and **irenehubbard@prembubs.org**



We had complications with Iggy (Ignatius) from very early on. At his 12 week scan, his ultrasound showed that he had a megacystis, which basically meant that his bladder was almost as big as his head because he had a blockage somewhere and it wasn't emptying. We were told that there was only a 10% chance of this rectifying, but we decided to hang in there and hope for that 1 in 10 chance.

At his 19 week scan our joy was palpable as we could see straight away that his bladder had emptied and our baby had beaten the odds, but our joy quickly turned to grief as we were informed that our baby boy had a Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia, which meant he had a hole in his diaphragm that was allowing some of his abdominal contents to slip up into his chest cavity. We were given 50/50 odds that he could survive and that if he did, he would need to have surgery within the first few days of life to repair his diaphragm and put his stomach and bowel back into his abdomen. We were devastated and hated the thought that we would be bringing a baby into the world that was going to have an unavoidable rough start, but after doing some research and knowing that he would be going to what is probably the best children's hospital in the southern hemisphere and given that he had already overcome huge odds, we decided to hang in there and let him decide.

Iggy was born premature at 33wks gestation with left CDH agenesis (complete absence of the left diaphragm). He was ventilated from 4 minutes post birth, stablised and cared for by the wonderful NICU team at The Royal Women's Hospital and then transported by the amazing NETS team to his new home, the notorious room 5 in the Neonatal Unit at The Royal Children's Hospital (RCH). He had his diaphragm repaired with a large gortex patch on day 5 and then we just had to wait and see. He was left with a small left lung and a severe case of pulmonary hypertension and it was touch and go for a very long time!

Iggy also had a heart defect called a coarctation of the aorta that was only picked up after he was born. His doctors were hoping that they could get him well enough and off "the jet" ventilator so that they could operate on his heart, but it ended up being a vicious cycle, that they wouldn't be able to get him off the ventilator until he had his heart repaired, but he was too sick to have open heart surgery. It was such a scary, awful time. Our hands were tied and the only option was for Iggy to have the heart surgery and hope he survived it. He did, and we continued our 182 day stay in NICU.

Spending so long in the unit I think I can safely say that he was cared for by every single nurse, doctor, specialist and PSA in the unit and we thank each and every one of them for the amazing job they did in caring for our little boy. He was assigned a primary care team for consistency of care, which was wonderful for him and for us. Thanks to Kathleen, Rachel, Melanie and Amy for your amazing care, Lai Khoon for the head massages and Chinese songs, Jane, Trish and Jan for your care of us and a special thanks to Meagan and Pip, his most regular nurses who knew him so well and always took such amazing care of him. You told us you grew to love our little boy and we love you in turn. Thanks also to our social worker Cecilia, and care manager Jill for their care of John and I!! Finally thanks to Iggy's consulting Neonatologist Rod Hunt. What a blessing it was that you were on duty when Iggy was admitted. You have been so amazingly supportive and available to us and your optimism and belief in our little boy gave us the hope and courage to hang in there on the darkest of days. Words cannot express our gratitude to you and your amazing team. Special Thanks must also go to his surgeons Joe Crameri, Yves Dudekem and Alan Woodward.

When you travel a road like this, sometimes it is hard to find the silver lining, but I can say that one true gift that has come from this experience has been connecting with some of the most amazing people that we would otherwise not have met. I found CDH Australia, an organisation that support families and health professionals on the CDH journey while googling CDH, joined up and within a week I suddenly had a network of other parents around me who had had "Cherubs" diagnosed with CDH. Their stories gave us a clear understanding of what we were in for and what we might expect, but also made us feel that whatever we decided and however things turned out, there would be people who really understood and cared and would support us every step of the way. They were a great source of information and support while Iggy was in the unit and this support has continued in the 18 months since we got home. Our family and friends have been amazing, but no one can fully understand what it is like to have a critically ill child in your care like other families who have done it too. I would have been lost without their support.

While we were bedside with Iggy over several months, we had the privilege of meeting other families and their little heroes, who were fighting their own battles. It was great to reconnect with an old school friend, who had a little boy in the unit at the same time as Iggy and it was a gift to be able to share the journey with her and we still catch up at a specialist playgroup weekly. John and I also connected with other long-term families and our journeys became intertwined as we share the ups and downs. Iggy's battles were extremely tough, but there were other babies whose battles were even tougher and even with the amazing care and treatment they received these battles ultimately could not be won. They fought so hard and so bravely. Some people have said to us that our love and dedication to Iggy is what got him through, but I know that these babies' parents loved their babies just as much and were just as dedicated. We will never forget these precious babies and will be friends with their brave and beautiful parents forever.

We got Iggy home on 20 December, just in time for Christmas, which was so wonderful, but it was also pretty scary. How on earth were we supposed to manage without all the wonderful nurses, doctors, etc right there? We had learned a lot over the 6 months bedside, but there was no red button to push if something went wrong. The wonderful thing about RCH is that they do follow you up and link you in with community services to support you to care for your child once you are home. If you are a parent preparing to take your baby home from the unit, make sure you talk to your social worker or care manger about what resources are available to you from RCH and in the community in your local area. We were blown away by what was available.

As with Iggy's recovery in the Neonatal Unit, his development on the outside has been one baby step after another. He was on home oxygen therapy until he was 22 months old (It was such a wonderful milestone weaning him off!!) and he is still completely tube fed. Several of Iggy's NICU nurses had told us that, as a bit of a guide for what to expect: for every day a baby spends in NICU, it will take them a week to catch up developmentally. I often have to think back to that when I feel challenged by setbacks and delays with Iggy's progress. He is only just over halfway through his 182 week catch up period!! That said, every milestone is a great cause for celebration, because Iggy has fought so hard to reach it. We get wonderful support from the RCH@Home Family Choices Program who have provided much needed respite care and support, and from our local Early Intervention Service provided by Melbourne City Mission, who provide home visits from physios, speech pathologists and OTs and we also continue to see Iggy's extensive team in at RCH regularly. Slowly, slowly we have got Iggy upright and moving around. He is close to walking and starting to talk. I melt every time he says "Mamma". He is very slowly starting to come around to our attempts at food play and I know that, with the great team around him, he'll get there in the eating department.

We took the opportunity of Iggy's birthday to throw a huge party to say thank you to all our friends and family and decided to make it a fundraiser for the NICU and for CDH Australia. We were overwhelmed by people's generosity and by how huge the network of people following Iggy's progress had become. People who we had never met, who had heard of Iggy's battle, made contributions and the outpouring of support and love was out of this world. It was a huge day, but so many people helped out that it wasn't too big of a strain on our already "stretched" family unit. We are looking forward to celebrating his 2nd birthday very soon and though it will be low key this year, we will look at ways of how we can give back as part of our celebration.

If I had to offer advice to other NICU parents going through the NICU experience and bringing a critically ill baby home, I think the main things would be to seek and accept help, you can't do it alone - don't be ashamed of this. The NICU experience would have to be up there with the most stressful experiences a person can have and the effects on a parent can be long lasting. Seek counselling if you need it, seek respite care if you are struggling, if you have other children, spend time with them and make them a high priority too. Be kind to yourself and to your partner, you are both going through hell. Take care of yourself and know that your baby is on his/her own journey and all you can do is love them and support them along their way.

John & Sophie Cartwright

> ***"With increasing cot numbers, and the potential for further improvement, we look to our donors again as we try to raise funds for a specific piece of equipment called a NIRS (Near Infrared Spectrometer). This machine, allows measurement of blood flow in various organs including the brain and the gut. The use of this monitor will allow us to better monitor our patients, potentially detecting life-threatening disease earlier, and increasing the window of opportunity in which we can provide life-saving treatment. This monitoring is not standard of care currently, but we hope to assess its utility to improve care in the Newborn Intensive Care Unit."***
>
> **Dr Rod Hunt, FRACP, MMed, PhD**
> Director, Neonatal Medicine

A Celebration of Life

10th Anniversary Gala Ball

Thursday 20th September 2012
Palladium at Crown, Southbank, VIC

Because you loved me...

Proudly hosted by Matt & Melissa Hetherington and Glen Moriarty

Special Guest Speakers Mr Chris Clarke, Founder - A Celebration of Life and CEO - Pure Growth Partners, USA and Dr Rod Hunt – Director, Neonatal Medicine, The Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne

PURPOSE

"With increasing cot numbers, and the potential for further improvement, we look to our friends and supporters attending this year's 10th A Celebration of Life Gala Ball, to raise funds for a specific piece of equipment called a NIRS (Near Infrared Spectrometer). This machine, allows measurement of blood flow in various organs including the brain and the gut. The use of this monitor will allow us to better monitor our patients, potentially detecting life-threatening disease earlier, and increasing the window of opportunity in which we can provide life-saving treatment". **Dr Rod Hunt – Director Neonatal Medicine, The Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne.**

ENTERTAINMENT

Electra Duo - **Virtuoso** violinist **Airlie Koo and guests** perform in a stunning electric violin show followed by NICU Ambassador **"Matt Hetherington and Very Special Friends for One Night Only"** – a once in a lifetime line up comprising the hottest Australian talent come together in support of our very special cause to help us celebrate 10 Years of living, loving and giving to the NICU at RCH, Melbourne.

Ticket Booking: email lisa.addison@rch.org.au **Tel** (03) 9345 5143 • No refunds after 3rd September 2012

The 10th Annual A Celebration of Life Gala Ball proudly sponsored by

Proudly presented by

PROUDLY SUPPORTING
THE NEWBORN INTENSIVE CARE UNIT - BUTTERFLY WARD, THE ROYAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, MELBOURNE

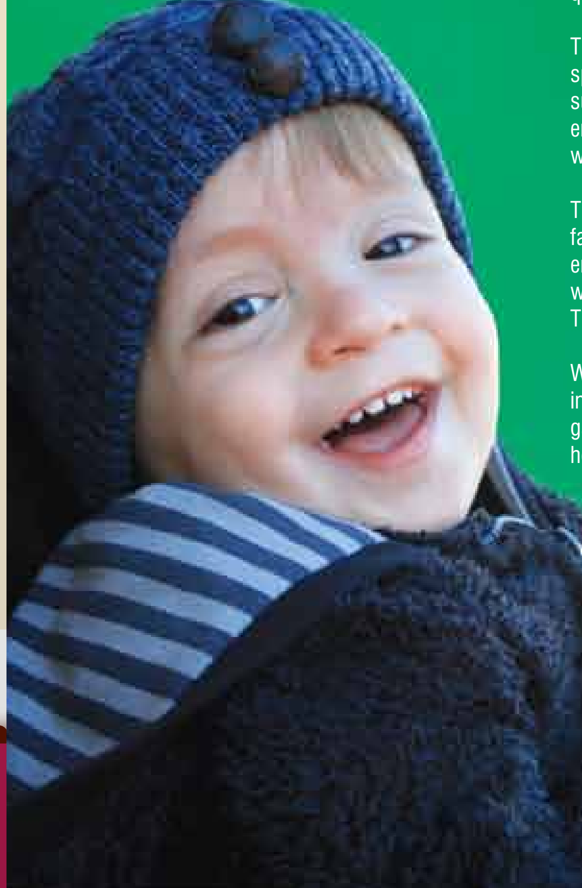
PATIENT PROFILE
Theo Woodward

There really are certain moments in life that we remember vividly. For me, one such moment was being told, at what I thought would be a straightforward 32 week scan, that my baby had a "lesion" in his brain.

My husband and I instantly had a lot of people around us and a lot of calls being made on our behalf. I had an immediate MRI at the RCH so pictures of our baby's brain could be taken. It came to light that our baby had a "Vein of Galen Aneurysmal Malformation" or as we came to know it - our baby had a "VGAM".

I am sure our initial response was similar to the reaction most parents would have in this situation – complete shock, and feelings of "why us". Needing to be informed, we scoured the internet to find out as much as we could about the condition, though our research provided little comfort; outcomes for VGAM babies are mixed and the risks associated with the condition are high. We learnt that Vein of Galen Malformations are very rare (about 1 in 3 million) and only a handful of hospitals around the world provide treatment for the condition.

Though not a standard medical definition, the best way we have found to describe VGAM to people is: a condition affecting the blood vessels in the very centre of the brain. The capillaries which normally connect the arteries and the vein, acting to slow blood flow, are absent. This means that blood flow is faster and can result in heart failure after birth as the heart struggles to keep up with the speed of the blood.



The condition is non-genetic and its cause is currently unknown, other than it is thought to develop between 6 to 11 weeks of embryonic growth.

Much discussion was had as to when our baby would be induced. A date was set, but our little man decided to follow his own schedule and in early 2011, Theodore was born at around 37 weeks.

Another moment I will never forget is Theo looking in my eyes for the first time. Silly as it sounds, I told him to be strong. I was able to hold him for a minute before the Newborn Intensive Care Unit team of 4 doctors and nurses whisked him away to the RCH neonatal unit in the early hours of the morning.

He was in the care of the NICU for the first 5 weeks of his life, during which time we quickly learnt a host of new medical terms and medicines. It was overwhelming for us, and our family members, to see such a little person sedated and attached to so many wires and machines. The nurses went to a lot of effort to enable my husband and I a precious hold of Theo every couple of days.

We made countless journeys to and from the hospital and became well acquainted with the RCH car park, cafeteria and all the staff on level 3 of the old building. We did not sleep much during this time and sat by Theo, holding his little hand as much as we could night and day. I spent a lot of time expressing, hoping that it was at least something I could do to help. We both scribbled out countless notes each day to take down the doctors' comments and explanations, and to ensure we would not forget our questions when it came time for the doctors' rounds.

Theo was ventilated and transported twice in a special "NeoCot" unit from the NNU to his life saving surgeon at the Royal Melbourne Hospital for embolisation of the arteries feeding the Vein of Galen, with the aim of slowing the blood flow.

The first hurdle was overcome, with Theo's heart failure being controlled following these initial embolisation procedures. To our absolute joy, we were told one morning that plans could be made for Theo to be discharged.

We felt a lot of responsibility for his care, which included learning how to use and replace a naso gastric tube so he could be given expressed milk, how to wean him from the morphine he had been on since birth, and how to give some basic CPR in the event of an emergency. We "roomed in" with Theo at the hospital for 2 nights to ensure we felt comfortable in taking him home. We made many last minute nursery purchases and started thinking about "normal" baby things. It was such a lovely thing to see Theo in his own home, in his own cot finally.

Since leaving the NNU, Theo has been back under the care of the wonderful RCH Neuroscience ward for 3 more embolisation procedures at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. These further procedures aim to control the hydrocephalus which has developed due to the water inside the brain not being absorbed properly, because of the abnormal vein and artery connections. Theo receives regular MRI's under general anaesthetic to monitor his condition.

Theo is a cheeky and fun 16 month old now. He is always on the look out for someone to smile at, chuckles when tickled, loves to explore and really lives every moment to its fullest. He continues to thrive and we cannot wait to celebrate the day that we receive a clean bill of health for him.

We are forever grateful to the NNU team. They were simply amazing at a time when our son's health was at its most delicate. The NNU doctors and nurses do not seem to treat what they do as a "job" in the slightest.

The doctors always had time to sit and talk to us and answer all our questions, often having to repeat explanations more than once when it was too much for us to take in! They were honest about risks, but gentle and understanding at the same time.

The nurses effortlessly balanced my need as a mum and my husband's need as a dad to feel useful for our new baby, while at the same time appreciating our need to be cared for ourselves! They even found ways to make us smile which helped us to stay positive.

Thank you to each member of the wonderful NNU team. In particular, Drs Amanda, Peter, Ruth, Anastasia and Rod. A special thank you also to the NNU nurses and midwives who could not have been more kind and attentive.

While unlucky that our son was afflicted with this serious medical condition, we are so fortunate that we are able to have such a remarkable institution and such amazing individuals to care for him.

Yvette & Joe Woodward

A TRIBUTE TO DR PETER LOUGHNAN ON HIS RETIREMENT

I am writing to acknowledge the career of Dr Peter Loughnan, who sadly for us, retires from clinical service with the Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU) of The Royal Children's Hospital (RCH) on 30th June 2012.

After a stellar medical student career, Peter commenced work at the RCH as a member of the junior medical staff in the late 1960s. He surprised everyone by passing the Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians soon after arriving, which demonstrated his amazing but sometimes underestimated intellectual abilities. He also won the 'Wearing Award' for being a very naughty boy! His extraordinary intellectual talents were matched by his fiendish sense of humour from very early in his career.

After just a few years as a registrar, he left with his wife Marg in 1973 to take up a position as Pharmacology Fellow at Montreal Canada, and whilst there, developed a very keen interest in all things French. He worked alongside Nobel Prize Laureates and was very highly regarded by his mentors. He returned to the RCH in 1975 as the hospital's first clinical pharmacologist and soon published a stream of scientific articles in peer reviewed journals. His first scientific paper in 1973 was published in the Lancet with Peter as primary author along with Dr Hugo Gold which was a very significant achievement.

However, Paediatric Pharmacology was not given its due recognition in the 1970's and Peter went through a challenging period of his career.

In 1978, at lunch in the doctor's dining room at the RCH, Peter met with Neil Campbell who was at the time newly appointed inaugural Director of Neonatology. Neil was eating his customary apple and orange, but not peeled, in his usual methodical way. Peter noticed that Neil was very tired after several weeks on call and offered to cover Neil for a night in neonates. And so Peter's career in neonates commenced. With an adult fellowship and no experience in neonatology he soon after joined the team of Campbell and Geoff Gillam. It was a seamless transition!

From 1978 until 1996, Peter was officially employed part-time with the Neonatal Unit and also in private practice. However, from the time he started in the Neonatal unit in 1978, Peter's dedication to the care of babies, their parents and all staff in the Unit was more than full-time. He lived and breathed the Neonatal Unit.

Peter has had a single minded dedication to the care of sick newborn babies and applies his considerable intellectual talents, in combination with his passion to save babies who would otherwise not have survived. But he always cared for the quality of outcomes and would not pursue intensive care that was futile. This dedication had a very serious repercussion when members of the 'Right to Life' attempted to intervene in the care of a baby and subsequently pilloried Peter in the infamous coroner's inquest known as the Baby M case. Again Peter put his incredible energy into the successful outcome of this case which was paramount to the rational care of newborn infants in Australia. This came at tremendous personal cost to Peter but through it he demonstrated his amazing resilience.

In the late 1980's Peter recognised that the lack of research in the department was a significant weakness. He mentored Peter Dargaville and Paul Ekert in their early research years and the research profile of the department gradually lifted.

He helped pioneer High Frequency Oscillatory Ventilation, which was pioneered in Australia at the RCH. This mode of ventilation has made a difference to hundreds of critically ill newborn babies.

Through his close friendship with Bert Bunnell from the Bunnell Company in Utah, Peter introduced High Frequency Jet Ventilation to newborn care at the RCH. Until recently, no other hospital in Australia had this technology. Through his tenaciously inquiring mind Peter developed techniques of its use that have been replicated internationally. Peter is THE expert in Jet Ventilation today and his passion for this technology almost competes with the true love of his life, his wife Marg!

Peter also became Australia's expert in the management of the extremely rare condition of Vein of Galen. Together with the fantastic interventional radiology team at the Royal Melbourne Hospital, led by Peter Mitchell, he would spend hours perfecting the complex medical management of this condition, thus allowing the radiology team to employ their considerable expertise in the management.

Peter also mentored Professor Denise Harrison and was a co-supervisor in her PhD thesis on the use of sucrose in the management of procedural pain in neonates. Denise was the first nurse in the neonatal department to complete a PhD and is now Professor of Nursing Research in Ottawa Canada.

Peter's care of Madelaine Clarke in 2001 led to her almost miraculous cure. As a result of his life saving efforts, Chris and Sophie Clarke ran the first "Celebration of Life" fundraising Ball, in 2002, the 10th anniversary of which is celebrated this year.

The funds raised by these events have made an extraordinary contribution to the excellence of care carried out by the Neonatal Unit.

The care of all staff in the Neonatal Unit by Peter has been legendary. He always has good things to say to people and to make light of a bad situation. Caring for the sickest babies in Victoria is challenging at the best of times and there are many dark hours. Peter Loughnan has the most amazing ability to inspire people and keep them amused yet focused on the care of babies.

It is through this care of staff that enables a team to thrive and achieve great things. His influence will be missed.

In 2002, Peter's great work was recognised by the RCH, by awarding him the hospital's most prestigious award, the GOLD MEDAL.

Peter's dedication to the Neonatal Unit comes second to that of his love for his wife, Marg, their children and grandchildren. The unit is very grateful to Marg's hospitality over the years and for sharing Peter with his working life.

Over several cups of tea at the Windsor Hotel in early 2004, Peter persuaded me to take a job as neonatologist at the RCH. I spent quite a bit of time with Peter over the years and wish to thank him and Marg for their friendship and support in the good times and bad. It's been a very special relationship.

Peter and I travelled to many conferences interstate and overseas and we were known to have one or two wines together at a fairly late hour. Inevitably it would end by Peter pronouncing "*I love my job, I love the Neonatal Unit*" usually several times.

I have no doubt that all in the Neonatal Unit both past and present together with countless patients and parents will join with me in saying 'We love you and thank you, Peter.'

Dr Peter McDougall
Executive Director Medical Services

RCH Newborn Intensive Care Unit Cot Donations - 5000 good reasons to lend your support....

Photo Baby Thomas, NNU @ RCH 2007

Make a lasting contribution to the Newborn Intensive Care Unit at The Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne.

On average, the operational cost of one Newborn Intensive Care Unit Cot is $250,000 per annum.

There are 5000 good reasons to justify the availability of these MOBILE LIFE SUPPORT CENTRES
- the moment a baby in distress requires specialized treatment, cost should no longer present a factor
- every baby's life is precious and priceless and deserves the "very best chance – first chance at life".

We ask that you individually, as a family, as a company or even as a group of friends consider a **12 month Newborn Intensive Care Unit Cot donation of $5,000** which will ensure the maintenance of our current cots with the most advanced and life saving equipment available.

Your kindness and support will be recognized with the placement of an individually engraved plaque, dedicated in the name of the sponsor/family/ company, which is mounted on the Cot for the duration of the donations.

Your donation will help to ensure the comfort and care of our sickest babies.

Please contact Donna Aranyi at The Royal Children's Hospital Foundation on (03) 9345 4510 for further information – thank you for your support!

WELCOME TO OUR 2011-2012 NICU COT SPONSORS

On Sunday 26th February 2012, we were thrilled to welcome our 2011-2012 Cot Sponsors to the new NICU at RCH for a tour of the unit with Dr Rod Hunt – Director, Neonatal Medicine at RCH and Jessica O'Dowd - Nurse Unit Manager, NICU at RCH.

The occasion provided a wonderful engagement opportunity and also an insight around the importance of cot sponsorship and the true impact/ value to our babies and their families.

Dr Rod Hunt and Jessica O'Dowd warmly welcomed our sponsors and commenced their tours of the new NICU. Whilst the facilities were nothing short of impressive, it was also clear to our donors that their ongoing support remain a vital and greatly appreciated aspect to the unit's purpose. Special thanks to the NICU families that consented to meeting with our sponsors and sharing a little of their NICU experience on the day. I am sure that everyone that attended will agree that having an opportunity to engage with those actually benefiting from the sponsorship of this equipment, was an extremely rewarding and unforgettable experience, further confirming for our donors, the true value of their contribution.

The tours were followed by a Welcome and Thank You event held by the RCH Foundation in the Ella Latham Theatre which included afternoon tea. It was a lovely occasion and presented a perfect opportunity to catch up and introduce our NICU family of supporters to the new NICU and RCH.

It was an awe inspiring experience and the support of our NICU cot sponsors cannot be overstated. Special thanks to all those that attended and we look forward to welcoming our 2012-2013 sponsors to share in a similar experience next year.

Further information re 2012-2013 NICU Cot Sponsorships, please contact donna.aranyi@rch.org.au

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The report's thorough valuation methodology considers brand strength perception and financial performance and scores each brand on a variety of measures. These scores are then combined with hard volume data to create a league table of the most powerful international drink brands.

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*Intangible Business - Power 100, the world's most powerful spirits and wine brands, 2010.

NICU WORD FINDING FUN!

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Jessica O'Dowd
JET
Kangaroo Care
Lactation
Lanugo
Lung
MRI
Nasogastric Tube
Neonatologist
NICU
Nurses
Oesophageal
Oxygen
Prone
Pulse
Radiologist
RCH
RCH Foundation
Respirator
Rod Hunt
Shunt
Sterile
Steroids
Suction
Surgical
Syringe Pumps
Ultrasound
UTI
Ventilation
Vial
Vital Signs
VLBW
XRay

OPERA IN THE ROSES
Cruden Farm 2011

The highly anticipated and now annual event, "Opera in the Roses", honours the work of the Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU) of The Royal Children's Hospital (RCH). The November 2011 luncheon was staged once again in the delightful setting of the celebrated gardens of Cruden Farm, Langwarrin, the home of our beloved patron, Dame Elisabeth Murdoch AC DBE, and for a cause that is so close to her heart. The ambience of this setting with the marquee on the lawn between the lake and the Rose Garden, together with our wonderful young performers, highlighted a memorable day.

Opera in the Roses was created to combine the twin interests of a love of music and a deep commitment to the support of the Neonatal Unit and the inaugural luncheon was held in 2008. The funds raised from this event provide "excellence" by way of support of the Neonatal Nurse Practitioner role within the Neonatal Unit. Sincere thanks and appreciation to the Royal Children's Hospital Foundation, and in particular Donna Aranyi along with her Foundation colleagues, who all assisted on the day.

Our multi talented Dermot Tutty, in his multiple roles as Committee Member, Accompanist, and in this case, MC for this event, introduced my welcoming address as Chairperson of "Opera in the Roses". I thanked the event committee members: Dermot Tutty, Maxine Wain, Sheila Lamont-Stacey, Sandra Fitzsimmons, Veronica Kastelan and Pamela Wright, who have planned and worked throughout the past year to ensure the success of this event.

The program this year included a tribute to the great Australian operatic star Dame Nellie Melba, in celebration of the 150th anniversary of her birth in Melbourne in 1861. We were honoured to welcome members of the Dame Nellie Melba Opera Trust and our special guest speaker Sarah Gardenia Seymour, who is the God Daughter to Lady Pamela Vesty, Melba's granddaughter. "Gardi" shared personal memories of her visits to Coombe Cottage, Melba's Australian home.






Dame Nellie's triumphant career as prima donna encompassed Australia, England, Europe and America, and she was the greatest international celebrity or "superstar" of her age. She was also a celebrated philanthropist with an ongoing interest in supporting Australian causes. Above all, was her commitment to sponsor young Australian singers. She would surely have approved of the brilliant display of operatic talent in the performers appearing in this program for "Opera in the Roses".

This day owes so much to our sponsors, and I would like to express our gratitude to all those who have made a contribution to today's event, especially our major event partners:
Casella Wines, Yamaha Music Australia, Opera Australia, Crabtree & Evelyn, Botanica, Chase Gallery, Table Matters, Over the Top Marquees, Myles Audio Visual, DNA Artworks, Function Accessories, and to all those whose names appear in the "Thank You" part of this article in the Neonatal Newsletter.

None of these special offerings would have been made possible without the hard work and efforts of so many contributors and supporters. Sue Hunt, Executive Director, RCH Foundation, was introduced and expressed a message of thanks on behalf of the Foundation. But everyone who was been involved in this day, in whatever capacity, has been motivated above all in the cause of the care of these smallest and most vulnerable human beings. We have all been inspired by the skill and dedication of the doctors and nurses in the Neonatal Unit and a wish to make some kind of contribution to assist in their care.

The luncheon was superb, and prepared once again by Table Matters and complemented by our sponsor Casella Wines with their Yellowtail selection of sophisticated wines.

Our guests were entertained by some brilliantly talented artists including: Katie McKay (Viola), who was sponsored by Yamaha; Austin Haynes, boy Soprano from the National Boys Choir of Australia; the now internationally famous Melba Scholarship holder, Siobhan Stagg (Soprano) and the delightful Janet Todd (Soprano) also a Melba Scholarship holder, were accompanied by the well-known conductor and composer Dr David Kram; Victoria Lambourn (Mezzo-Soprano) sponsored by Opera Australia; and Carlos Barcenos (Tenor), who all mesmerized us with their beautiful voices. The musical entertainment continued with the international concert pianist Mark Gasser, whose performance at this event was sponsored by Yamaha. His playing has been acclaimed as "scintillating and poetic"

Dr Rod Hunt, Director Neonatal Medicine at RCH, was introduced as a guest speaker and made a speech that seemed to touch every member of the audience, as he spoke very movingly of the work of the unit. My own son Edward Hooper, was a patient in the Neonatal Unit twenty-six years ago was saved by these dedicated and highly talented doctors and nurses.






We wish also to extend a warm note of thanks to our loved event patron, Dame Elisabeth Murdoch, for allowing us to conduct this special fundraising event in the celebrated gardens of her home at Cruden farm, for a cause that is very dear to her heart. The fine dining and the ambience of the music in this beautiful and tranquil setting of the gardens highlighted a truly memorable occasion.

It seems impossible to convey in words the special and unique pleasure of this day. Perhaps an indication is the large number of guests who already want to book tables for the 2012 event. We can now assure guests of the same delightful setting and a firm date for "Opera in the Roses" of Friday, 23 November 2012.

"Thank you, Dame Elisabeth for sharing your beautiful Cruden Farm with us for this magical event."

Judy Hooper
Chairperson, Opera in the Roses
hooper.judith@gmail.com


Special thanks to our friends and supporters

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- Table Matters
- The Coffee Club
- Universal Music
- Warehouse 8 Interiors
- Yamaha Music Australia
- Yering Station Winery

Our deepest thanks to the 2011 Opera in the Roses Event Committee:
Judy Hooper – Chair
Dermott Tutty – MC
Maxine Wain
Shelia Lamont-Stacey
Veronica Kastelan
Pam Wright
Sandy Fitzsimmons

SPONSOR PROFILE
Strathmore Community Branch - Bendigo Bank

Q & A with Philip Stewart, Manager, Strathmore Community Branch Bendigo Bank

- **Please tell us about Strathmore Community Branch Bendigo Bank**

Strathmore Community Bank opened its doors in July 2001 after the other major banks in the village closed leaving residents in the community without a bank. Since then we have succeeded in building a business with focus on the local community.

The Strathmore Community Bank is a franchise of Bendigo and Adelaide Bank. We are committed to providing personal attention to the financial well-being of every customer and to support the community through grants, donations and sponsorships.

- **How did you first get involved in supporting our Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at The Royal Children's Hospital (RCH)?**

A tour of the ward gave us an insight into the incredible work done by the dedicated doctors and nurses to save the lives of their most fragile and needy patients and to offer support to their families. We became aware of the opportunity to sponsor cots in the ward to ensure that these tiny patients have the best equipment possible to provide them the best opportunity at life.

We have always considered sponsorship to be an important part of the support of our communities and when we became aware of the possibility to assist the NICU at the hospital we jumped at the opportunity.

- **In what ways have you been able to show your support?**

We are very proud to sponsor four cots in the ward each year and to have also been privileged to make possible the purchase of a Sensormedics high frequency oscillatory ventilator.

- **How does your philanthropic support of community projects fit in with your organization's values?**

We are committed to reinvesting significantly back into the community. We recognise that to be successful we must maintain our achievements and sustainability and be founded on the values of diversity, opportunity and perseverance.

- **What has been a highlight of your involvement so far?**

To be invited to tour the old and the new wards and to see the cots and the ventilator in use. This gave us great pleasure to know that our community is making a difference to the lives of the babies and their families and perhaps making it a little easier for the dedicated staff to continue with their amazing work.

- **What does your involvement mean to you professionally and personally?**

We at Strathmore Community Branch Bendigo Bank are very pleased to be able to make a difference to the lives of the very special patients.
The hospitalisation of a child is a most heartbreaking time and for us to be able to help brings a sense of pride and true fulfilment.

- **What do you hope will be the legacy of all that Strathmore Community Branch Bendigo Bank makes possible for our NICU?**

That we are able to ensure the unit is supported in its mission to provide the best possible care for our sickest babies.

- **If you had to sum up your impression of the NEW NICU at RCH in one sentence, it would be?**

A very special and caring place dedicated to improving the lives of the sickest of babies and their families.

> **"You cannot live a perfect day without doing something for someone who will never be able to repay you."**
>
> **- John Wooden**

NICU STAFF SPOTLIGHT
Dr Ruth Armstrong

Having been asked to write something about myself for this edition of Neonatal News I am suddenly lost for words – something which many of you who read this and know me will find a little hard to believe! A good place to start would be the reason that I appear in this edition: If you have been on the neonatal unit in the last year you will have seen my waistline (and other parts) growing ever larger and in January I gave birth to a little boy. I am, and always will be, the first woman to break her waters in the new children's hospital; this was not deliberate! At the time of writing, young Luca Deven Narayanan is 4 months old and a lovely little fella who makes his dad and I very happy simply by smiling at us each morning – we feel very blessed! Now the hard work starts on reducing the waistline!

For as long as I can remember I have wanted to be a doctor. When I didn't achieve the grades that were needed for medical school I thought that this dream was dashed but I persevered. I gained an honours degree (first class) in biomedical sciences, travelled around south east asia, did some hospital based work and returned to university to study medicine as a mature student.

I qualified in 1998 from The University of Liverpool (UK) and worked for a couple of years in adult medicine before accepting a junior training position in paediatrics – a brilliant decision! I love working with children. During this time I passed my postgraduate exams and decided to take a short break from further training in the UK when the opportunity arose to come and work at The Royal Children's Hospital for a year… I have been in Australia for 9 years now and during that time I have played a little and worked A LOT! I am rewarded for all my hard work every day, by the patients and families that I treat and by the wonderful teams of people that I work with.

For the last 20 months I have been a consultant neonatologist – a job that I had my eye on for many years and of which I am very proud. I feel honoured to be part of such a dedicated team and privileged to be able to look after so many little souls at the start of their lives. My parents are my inspiration. I hope that I am able to give the parents of the babies that I care for the same opportunities that mine have had; to share their child's life, to protect and support through the hard times, to enjoy and take pride in the successes and to love and nurture each individual personality.