

Kaleidoscope

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Word from the Editor

Welcome to the first edition of *Kaleidoscope* for 2010. As you may have noticed this edition of *Scoop* is slightly different than most and that’s because we needed to thank everyone for a fantastic Christmas! If that wasn’t the difference you noticed then the only other one is that *Scoop* has a new editor, me. For those I haven’t met yet, my name is Lucas and hopefully I can live up to your expectations, if not feel free to send me an email with ‘constructive criticism’ as the subject and I’ll make sure all those emails go straight to the trash. So, if you have an idea, anything at all, or would like to submit a story for the next issue, please give me a call on 4921 3844 or email Lucas.Coleman@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au. I look forward to working with you all and raising the profile of *Kaleidoscope*.

Lucas Coleman – Editor

Jingle all the way, all day, PARTY DAY!



Patients were barely out of their pyjamas before the party day action began in the Starlight Express Room, and for those that weren’t quick enough or unable to make it; the activities were beamed live throughout the children’s wards.

Following a traditional welcome by Captain Starlight the spotlight was shone on the Clown Doctors where Dr Nose Best and Dr Eather sent their young audience into a frenzy. Dr Eather serenaded the audience with his ukulele during a sing-a-long, with an interactive performance of juggling,

magic and their usual tomfoolery. Although there didn’t appear to be any Pooh in Dr Eather’s pocket.

Marty Worrall and Jeremy then settled the audience down with a traditional blend of Christmas carols, which had patients and their families singing and swaying along to their upbeat tunes. Following their performance in the Starlight Express Room, Marty and Jeremy made their way up to NICU where what took place left the Unit in a stunned silence. With the Unit at near capacity, the residents soon settled once the soothing sounds of Marty and Jeremy began echoing through the hallways. Their rendition of Silent Night was played in such an intimate way all the babies in the unit seemed to stop and listen. Parents, family members and staff watched on as the two performed a little miracle at Christmas.

Elsewhere, Henry Hound Dog from Chemist Works at Glendale was charging through the wards with his leash off handing out toy dogs of himself. Special thanks to customers of Chemist Works, Glendale whose donations paid for the Henry Hound Dog toys to be gifted to patients at Christmas. Everyone who received their new “best friend” was ecstatic; some held so tight a leash was not required.



Isabella kept the party going in the Starlight Express Room with a drum workshop while rumours circulated that Santa was in the building and making his way around the hospital.

Jingle all the way, *all day,*

PARTY DAY!

Captain's Column

In the Fairy Garden, Captain Starlight and the Newcastle Knights were preparing to begin the treasure hunt. The hunt from beginning to end was run at a frenetic pace, and why wouldn't it be with prizes up for grabs donated by Nickelodeon. All 'hunt' participants were very satisfied with their prizes and enjoyed fossicking through the Fairy Garden with the Knights.

Until the rumours that Santa had entered the building were confirmed, Big Dog - not to be outdone by Henry Hound Dog - visited his legion of fans around the hospital. Confusion that it was time to go to sleep was dispelled when Big Dog gave patients a great big hug and a high-five rather than tuck them in.



Big Dog with new friend Nathan

Back in the Starlight Express Room the legendary "Ready-Steady Christmas Cook Off" was taking off. It was the Captain's versus the schoolroom and Principal Bev Meldrum looked confident along with her young recruit from the audience. Not to be outshone, the Captain's called in the big guns through Newcastle Knights winger Cooper Vuna, which was the right move with Captain's team scoring a close victory.



Cooper Vuna and Captain Starlight's creation

The only way to slow this day down was for everyone to have lunch. It was hard to believe that only half the day had passed, so much had already been done and some re-energising was required to prepare for the afternoon's events.

Just as everyone was feeling like an afternoon siesta a few Jets flew in. Newcastle Jets players made their way through the wards, wishing all a Merry Christmas. At the same time a giant possum was in Outpatients handing out Christmas hugs.



Prime Possum couldn't get away from Captain Starlight

With The Jets and Prime Possum making their way around the Wards, some earlier rumours turned out to be true. Santa and Mrs Claus were in fact making their way to each and every young patient. Two days out from Christmas, Santa and Mrs Claus cleared their busy schedule for the whole day, making sure no one missed a visit.



Santa and Mrs Claus visited every child in hospital on party day

It was now time for the pièce de résistance, the staff pantomime. Minutes of practice go into this event and it certainly shows! Staff laugh along with the show while patients decked out in costumes - and it's not hard to see why.



Nexus Teachers Aide Jess Roach, Dr Bruce Whitehead and Ward Clerk Teena Basista

This year the story was the "Ghost of Christmas Past" with the usual humorous variations added by nurse Flora. One of Santa's reindeer Prancer tucked into the comfort food - a little too much between Christmases - leading to a fallout with Santa. Prancer then colluded with Scrooge to steal all the children's Christmas presents.

When the Ghosts of Christmas 'past', 'present' and 'future' visited, Scrooge definitely thought twice about going through with the plan. It wasn't hard to see why after being visited by three very scary ghosts. Ghost of Christmas 'past', who displayed a strong resemblance to Gene Simmons from Kiss was Dr Bruce Whitehead. Ghost of Christmas 'present' - again dressed as a female - was Dr Frank Alvaro who could also have been on

the lookout for three bears. Dr Ian Wilkinson played the role of Ghost of Christmas 'future', and our look into the future suggests a bleak one if we'll all be wearing pink Power Ranger outfits.



Who was the ghost of Christmas future? Dr Ian Wilkinson of course

Needless to say Scrooge saw the error of his ways and Christmas was safe. The production was a roaring success, with special mention to all staff who played a role in the pantomime.

An extra special thanks to everyone who contributed to such a wonderful Christmas Party Day. Without the effort of our staff, supporters, volunteers and community groups this special Christmas event wouldn't be possible

jingle bells,
jingle bells,

jingle all
the way!



Wow, what an amazing time everyone had at the Kaleidoscope Christmas Party for 2009. The day was jam packed with fun, laughter and loads of surprises for the children.

A big thank you to Isabella from Song Room for a spectacular African drum workshop which the kids loved! Thank you to Marty Worrell for coming in to sing some very festive Christmas carols to get everyone in the mood. And a really big thank you goes out to the Newcastle Knights who came in armed with Christmas presents for everyone!

We challenged the Knights players to a Christmas cook off which was very funny... the end product was a spectacular Christmas Tree made out of biscuits, lollies and a lot of icing and sprinkles, the winner being the Captain Starlight/Newcastle Knights team, but a big cheer for Bev and the School Room who were worthy opponents in the kitchen.

As always the Starlight Express Room was packed to the rafters for Christmas pantomime which was performed by an amazing cast of doctors and nurses from the children's wards and while the acting was very funny we don't think any of the cast should give up their day job!!

A wonderful day was had by everyone and we look forward to do it all again this year.

Signing out
Captain Starlight

Newcastle Knights come bearing gifts... lots of gifts!



Newcastle Knights with truckloads of gifts

When patients hear the Knights are coming to visit, excitement fills the wards. This year their inaugural team Christmas visit was no different. For the first time the entire Knights squad was available to visit and hand out gifts, sign autographs and wish all their fans a Merry Christmas.

The visit almost didn't go to plan. A frantic call for help from Santa's workshop - more sleighs were needed to help deliver an amazing selection of toys.

Thanks to some very special elves in the Engineering Department the toys arrived

safely and just in time for the Knights arrival.

There was everything from walking dinosaurs to cake bakeries, Barbie Dolls to Hot Wheels car sets.

The Knights presence and the gifts received will be a special 'hospital' memory for the children and their families. On behalf of the Knights and the many grateful patients and families we extend a special thank you to Mr Nathan Tinkler of The Tinkler Foundation whose generosity made the purchase of gifts possible for the Knights to distribute to patients.

Today's the day the teddy bears came to hospital

At this time last year the residents of St Agnes Hostel in Port Macquarie were busy knitting an enormous number of unique teddy bears.

They start knitting the bears at the beginning of the year so by Christmas time there is enough bears to go around to all the children at Ronald McDonald house and John Hunter Children's Hospital.

What's unique about these bears is each part has been individually made before being sewn together in an assembly-line-like process.

The residents knit six squares, one for the head and one for the body, and two each for the

arms and legs. Once there are enough body parts a teddy is sewn together by the staff.

No teddy bear would be complete though without a name, with each bear produced given a special name that is displayed on a tag for the children to see.

On 25 November Pat and Ohna, residents of St Agnes made their way down to John Hunter Children's Hospital and were adamant that every child must receive a bear for Christmas.

They made their way through outpatients, NICU and the wards where they left a trail of smiles from the children who made some cuddly new friends.



Thank you to all the residents of St Agnes Hostel for your hard work and the joy you brought to so many children during your visit.

THE CHRISTMAS BUS'S most important STOP

Each year Marg Pannell, bus driver at Newcastle Buses looks forward to the festive season because that means its time for her to decorate her Christmas Bus.

During the month of December the Christmas Bus treks around Newcastle giving joy to the passengers and Marg. There is one special stop that Marg makes only once a year - and it's her favourite one - at John Hunter Children's Hospital!

From the beginning of December until her trip to the hospital, Marg and her helpers at Newcastle Buses collect donated toys from other bus drivers and members of the public.

This year a number of staff from the buses joined Marg on the trip as the goodwill shown was overwhelming. With fluffy toys, tennis racquets, boogie boards and hula hoops just some of the gifts collected for distribution to patients.

Marg and her team of helpers presented some of the toys to children attending Outpatient Clinics; with the remainder saved for distribution by Santa on Party Day and Christmas Eve.

Thank you to all staff from Newcastle Buses and members of the public who each year provide their special touch of Christmas



joy to John Hunter Children's Hospital. An extra special thanks goes out to Marg Pannell for her continued support.

Newcastle Buses employees with Marg Pannell dressed as Mrs Claus

KY'S CRUSADE

While most nine-year-olds are spending their school holidays at the beach or playing video games, Ky Lowrey was handing over \$510 to John Hunter Children's Hospital from money he raised during the 2009 junior rugby league season.

With the help of his father Troy, Ky made an oversized novelty cheque that was handed to Sean Nolan, music therapist at John Hunter Children's Hospital on 21 January, 2010 at 10:15am.

The money was raised through Trys for Kids, an idea Ky and his dad had where Ky's under nine rugby league team was

sponsored to score tries throughout the 2009 season.

This has been the second successive year Ky donated money to John Hunter Children's Hospital, in 2008 Ky raised \$37 selling drawings he drew of people in his local neighbourhood of Fletcher.

Ky's crusade began when he noticed all the charities receiving support on television were for adults. An industrious Ky then set about changing that trend and decided the sick kids at John Hunter Children's Hospital needed the same amount of support.

The Western Suburbs flyer knows only too well the how much



Ky Lowrey's cheque presentation

support hospitalised children need as his mum Alicia is an occupational therapist at Wallsend.

Ky decided music therapy would receive his donation as he is an avid drummer and hopes that any hospitalised children can benefit from music the same way he has.

This is only the beginning for Ky, he has already been told of a pledge for a \$1000 donation for the

upcoming season. Until then Ky plans to keep beating those drums in the hope that other junior rugby league teams in Newcastle join his cause for 2010.

The SPIRIT of CHRISTMAS

Christmas at the John Hunter Children's Hospital this year was a joyous and busy time. Many of our patients received a welcome distraction from treatment with the ongoing festivities.

The festive season wouldn't be such a spectacular time without the donations and assistance from our community groups,

supporters and individuals. We would like to give a special thanks to the following supporters, groups and individuals who brought

their own special touch of Christmas to JHCH:



MAUREEN AT THOMAS' TIMEPIECES has for the past four years donated a small kaleidoscope to each patient on Christmas morning. Many of us as children experienced the joy of a kaleidoscope and we would like to thank Maureen and her husband, David for giving our patients the chance to experience that same joy. Three different, distinctive designs were available this year for patients to choose. Thanks again Maureen.



CAMP QUALITY, who provided a donation of assorted toys to the oncology patients in ward J1. Thank you for brightening the day of our patients and for the great work you continue to do.

HOPE BEARS CHARITY made some fantastic Christmas teddy bears along with Christmas activity bags, which had colouring in books and pencils with a pencil case. Hope Bears Charity donates bears all year round, though for Christmas some special bears were made. Thank you to Hope Bears Charity for your support at Christmas and your continued support throughout the year.

WOODTURNERS OF THE HUNTER who again donated thirty turned sweet bowls filled with lollies to the patients at John Hunter Children's Hospital. The Woodturners have supported JHCH for a number of years now and we thank them for their support and delectable delights.

MUREE LADIES GOLF CLUB collected toys at Christmas and through their efforts the patients at JHCH received some great presents. Fantastic effort ladies, thanks for all the happiness you gave our patients at Christmas.

NELL PURVIS'S TOYS are almost a part of John Hunter Children's Hospital. For years Nell has created beautiful knitted toys for the kids, delivering an enormous amount each year and often took a round trip on the bus to do so. Nell has been convinced to allow a pick-up of the toys; however that has not diminished her enthusiasm for helping our patients. Thank you for another wonderful year Nell.



JAN JOHNSON AND THE CRAFT GROUP provided the NICU babies with handmade Christmas bootie stockings. Jan and the Group also made cardboard hangers, which hung the stockings so that the mothers of the NICU babies could choose the booties they fancied. Thank you Jan and The Craft Group for your fantastic gifts.



THE TAREE FIRE BRIGADE made a special visit to the Children's Ward at Manning Hospital for an emergency drop off of presents.

SUE AND LISA FROM WATERDALE for a second year in a row brought up from Sydney a car load of toys. Sue who is a Newcastle girl that hails from Sydney now organised a toy drive at the facilities Waterdale manage, the result was a full car of toys and some happy patients at JHCH. Thanks Sue, Lisa and all at Waterdale who contributed to the toy drive that brought a smile to the faces of so many patients.



MASONIC LODGE, once again through their toy drive were able to give an assortment of toys to our patients, a special mention goes out to Fahey who had been collecting soft toys for the entire year. Thank you to the Masonic Lodge for your continued support.



TEA GARDENS CRAFT GROUP donated various toys collected from donation box placed in their foyer prior to Christmas. The Craft Group also made Christmas stockings for the patients. Thanks Tea Gardens Craft Group for the thoughtful gifts and contributing to a great Christmas at JHCH.



LUCY AND SAMUEL TAYLOR who were out shopping with dad for Christmas and bought two gifts for use in our play program. Thank you Lucy and Samuel for showing the true spirit of Christmas.



AAMI arrive antlers and all...

The charity team at AAMI have long been strong supporters of children's charities, in particular The Sydney Children's Hospitals. This year however, AAMI employee Katie Sherman who is on their charity committee told her colleagues not to forget about the children's hospital in Newcastle.

Upon learning about NSW third children's hospital, AAMI was on the phone and asked what would benefit the children in hospital most this Christmas, and without hesitation set about fulfilling those needs.

On December 23, Keyah Abbott, Mary Burck, Michael Rashke, Sabrina Collinson and Kate Campbell from AAMI at Charlestown arrived, adorned with antlers and carrying bags full of goodies.

AAMI's amazing gifts included a fantastic range of DVD's, portable DVD players, audio players and audio books. Their well considered selection provided wonderful gifts for patients as well as providing essential items for donation to the Book Nook for future patients to use.

Thanks to Katie and the team at AAMI for providing the children and hospital with such thoughtful gifts, we look forward to a long and continued relationship.



AAMI staff with their bags of goodies

LUKE'S LETTER

When 10-year-old Luke Kelly of Fishing Point sent a letter into a Saturday Disney competition and won, he thought all his Christmases had come at once.

In Luke's giant prize pack was a new Wii console, the trouble was Luke already owned a Wii console and his mum Jill thought it would be a good idea to donate it to someone less fortunate.

Luke said the best place for the Wii was in hospital, so the sick kids could get as much joy out of a Wii as he does.

At the end of school one day Jill brought Luke up to John Hunter Children's Hospital where he presented a brand new Wii console and Wii sport game for use on the wards.

A great big thank you goes out to Luke and his selfless gift to the John Hunter Children's Hospital, a gift that will bring a smile to the faces of all who use it.

Ronald's SPECIAL Christmas VISIT

It is with eagerness and anticipation that children wait when they hear their favourite clown with big yellow feet has entered the building.

On 7 December it was no different as Ronald McDonald made his way into John Hunter Children's Hospital for a special Christmas visit.

Ronald with his array of magic tricks and infectious smile visited all the wards. Some recognised him immediately, others were a little tentative, but in the end he brought a giant smile to all the faces he saw.

A special moment was shared with one lucky patient, Myles Hobson who Ronald met during a Cystic Fibrosis Clinic.

Before leaving Ronald did one last magic trick, pulling a cheque out of his pocket made out to John Hunter Children's Hospital for \$1000.

This is the fourth year Ronald has visited JHCH on his tour, we thank Ronald and McDonalds for their generosity and continued support of JHCH.



Ronald with patient Myles Hobson

A parent's night before Christmas

It was the night before Christmas when all through the house I searched for the tools to hand to my spouse. Instructions were studied and we were inspired, In hopes we could manage "Some Assembly Required." The children were quiet (not asleep) in their beds, While Dad and I faced the evening with dread: A kitchen, two bikes, Barbie's town house to boot! And, thanks to Grandpa, a train with a toot

We opened the boxes, my heart skipped a beat... Let no parts be missing or parts incomplete! Too late for last-minute returns or replacement; If we can't get it right, it goes in the basement!

When what to my worrying eyes should appear, But 50 sheets of directions, concise, but not clear, With each part numbered and every slot named, So if we failed, only we could be blamed.

More rapid than eagles the parts then fell out, All over the carpet they were scattered about. "Now bolt it! Now twist it! Attach it right there! Slide on the seats, and staple the stair! Hammer the shelves, and nail to the stand." "Honey," said hubby, "you just glued my hand."

And then in a twinkling, I knew for a fact That all the toy dealers had indeed made a pact To keep parents busy all Christmas Eve night With "assembly required" till morning's first light.

We spoke not a word, but kept bent at our work, Till our eyes, they went bleary; our fingers all hurt. The coffee went cold and the night, it wore thin Before we attached the last rod and last pin.

Then laying the tools away in the chest, We fell into bed for a well-deserved rest. But I said to my husband just before I passed out, "This will be the best Christmas, without any doubt.

Tomorrow we'll cheer, let the holiday ring, And not have to run to the store for a thing! We did it! We did it! The toys are all set For the perfect, most perfect, Christmas, I bet!"

Then off to dreamland and sweet repose I gratefully went, Though I suppose there's something to say for those self-deluded...

I'd forgotten that batteries are never included!