

Kaleidoscope

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Word from the Editor

Welcome to the second edition of *Kaleidoscope*!

The first half of the year has been quite exciting, with a number of special guests requesting to visit the children’s hospital and we thank them all for taking time out of their busy schedules to visit.

This year is also a special time for John Hunter Children’s Hospital, celebrating 20 years of paediatric care and 15 years as a children’s hospital. If there are any staff, patients or families with old photos or stories over this time they would like to share please contact me.

Also, thank you to Community Health who assisted in the preparation of an awareness story for Hunter Lifestyle regarding immunising your child, at such an important time of year it is a message that needs to be heard.

If you have some exciting news you would like to share with your colleagues, please email Lucas.Coleman@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au and it may be in the next Scoop!

Lucas Coleman – *Kaleidoscope* Editor



Children’s Hospital reaches adolescence



The Paediatric Oncology Day Unit opened in 2008



The new children's waiting room in emergency opened in 2010



New facilities were opened in 2010 for paediatric palliative care, chronically ill patients and long term patients



A refurbished Allied Health area was completed in 2010

For many years now clinicians in the Hunter Region have excelled in the treatment and care of children, from services at the now non-existent Royal Newcastle Hospital to The Mater Hospital, children have always been in the very best care.

2011 though holds special significance for children’s healthcare, children’s services mark 20 years of paediatric care at John Hunter and 15 years as a dedicated children’s hospital.

Such emphasis is placed on the previous 20 years as the period has seen such profound growth, in the number of services provided, specialist staff employed and recognition throughout the country as a first class facility.

Director of Children, Young People and Families, Professor Trish Davidson has been instrumental in advocating and securing new services and facilities at John Hunter Children’s Hospital, however Professor Davidson still remembers the excitement of moving paediatric services to John Hunter in 1991.

“The opening of the new facilities on the John Hunter site was exciting; new colourful wards and offices in a hospital designed for mothers and babies, cared for by staff dedicated to the care of children,” Professor Davidson said.

“There was a sense of new beginnings built on the firm foundations of children’s services at The Mater Hospital. New surgeons and paediatricians with appointments to the University of Newcastle enthusiastic to teach, undertake research and deliver excellent healthcare,” she said.

Children's Hospital reaches adolescence

Continued from page 1

In 1991 paediatric services at John Hunter included general paediatrics, general surgery, endocrine and respiratory services, in reach oncology services, a 29-bed neonatal intensive care unit and an outpatient department that had a significant increase in appointments in comparison to clinics at The Mater Hospital.

Following five years of excellence in children's healthcare, clinicians headed by Dr Cliff Hosking, executive staff and community group the Kids Club embarked on a bold plan for children's services at John Hunter to form a dedicated children's hospital.

In early 1996 the dream was realised, paediatric services would no longer be attached to John Hunter Hospital. Paediatric services then formed NSW third children's hospital, the only such facility outside a capital city in Australia, to be known as John Hunter Children's Hospital.

"The recognition of being known as a children's hospital provided an open acknowledgement of the standard of care delivered to children with complex and often difficult conditions," Professor Davidson said.

"Public acknowledgement by government, colleagues and our community provided a sense of achievement, but more importantly a sense to deliver.

"Becoming a children's hospital lifted the expectations of many of our specialties and paediatric

anaesthesia, paediatric radiology and paediatric orthopaedics amongst others became recognised in their own right," she said.

Director of John Hunter Children's Hospital, Pat Marks, said that following the name change to John Hunter Children's Hospital, services increased, as did public confidence in services provided.

"Following our transition into John Hunter Children's Hospital, tertiary services increased and we attracted more specialist staff, which enhanced our reputation and public confidence in our services grew," Mrs Marks said.

In 2011 John Hunter Children's Hospital has a 41-bed Neonatal Intensive Care Unit with five specialist staff, a cancer and haematology service with three oncologists, an allergy/immunology service, palliative care service, respiratory/sleep service, paediatric surgery and trauma service, neurology service, endocrinology service, orthopaedics service, allied health department, pain service, gastroenterology service, juvenile arthritis clinic, three paediatric wards, outpatients department, along with music, art and play therapy.

Along with these specialised services the hospital has seen an increase in specialised staff, many of whom are local people that have been trained at the children's hospital. It is this ability to retain staff that Director of John Hunter Children's Hospital Pat Marks is proud of.

Director of Children, Young People and Families appointed to Executive Team

The Managers Forum in April represented a significant time in children's health, with Chief Executive Michael Dirienzo and the Governing Council announcing the formation of a new executive team.

For the first time the Executive Leadership Team will include a Director of Children, Young People and Families who will provide strategic leadership in children's health, with Professor Trish Davidson appointed to the position.

This appointment is in line with the NSW Kids Strategies which aims to draw together overarching services and programs across the domains of paediatrics, child health, child protection and wellbeing and young people's health to ensure services are delivered through a comprehensive and integrated model.

Following the announcement Professor Davidson released this message:

The appointment to the executive team is recognition by the CE and Governing Council that Hunter New England should further develop our existing services and networks for children, young people and families and ensure these are well coordinated and offer a consistent standard of care.

As the individual who has been appointed to this position I am

honoured. We can celebrate our achievements but we should take this opportunity to reshape our existing systems in line with the Minister's expectations of a system that is responsive to the community's needs, focussed on best-practice, strikes a balance between acute, community and early intervention and prevention services and has the capacity to engage at a local level. Our clinical services and our patient's and their families remain as our highest priority.

The network of clinicians from John Hunter Children's Hospital, Kaleidoscope, the Rural Referral, District and Community Hospitals and Community Child, Family and Youth Health services throughout HNE are integral to this work. It is a great opportunity to enhance our capacity to deliver in line with the NSW Kids strategies.



Professor Trish Davidson)

WELL DONE Carissa



Communication Officer from the adult world Carissa Green put her body on the line for children's health when she ran the 10km Hill to Harbour.

Carissa directed her fundraising efforts to John Hunter Children's Hospital Kids Club with a grand total of \$735. Well done Carissa.

Left: Communication Officer Carissa Green handing her donation to Kids Club

NSW CHIEF PAEDIATRICIAN visits John Hunter Children's Hospital and Tamworth Hospital

NSW Chief Paediatrician, Professor Les White visited John Hunter Children's Hospital in February and Tamworth Hospital in May for a tour of both facilities and to discuss with staff throughout the region his vision for the development of integrated services for children and young people in NSW.

Professor White is a clinical leader and champion of children's needs in NSW and is responsible for providing high level advice to NSW Health and Local Health Networks on paediatric services and models of care.

The visits were Professor White's first tour of both hospitals since his appointment as Chief Paediatrician in September 2010.

Prior to his appointment, Professor White worked as the executive director of the Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick, for 14 years. He also has over 25 years experience in providing clinical direction and expertise in child and adolescent health.

Director of Children Young People and Families for Hunter New England Health Professor Trish Davidson said the visit was an opportunity to shine the spotlight on the excellent clinical care provided by the rural and regional clinicians who work in children's health care.

"The staff live and work in the region and are passionate in delivering excellent health care to children and their families. Our staff members care deeply

for their patients and take their responsibilities seriously," Professor Davidson said.

During his visit, Professor White outlined his vision for the role

of Chief Paediatrician, a first for NSW. This discussion was video linked to other regional centres throughout the area.



Professor Trish Davidson, Professor Les White, Pat Marks and Michael DiRienzo

National Youth Week, OWN IT!

On Monday 4 April 2011 The Kaleidoscope Youth Health Team and ACI Transition Coordinator held a joint display in the foyer of the John Hunter Hospital to celebrate youth week.

Youth week is Australia's biggest youth event with events being held all over the country.

Adolescent ward inpatients were visited by Newcastle Knights players Antonio Kaufusi and Lisiate Richie Fa'aoso. Young people were given

health information brochures, pencil cases and folders and the Knights players signed posters.



Newcastle Knights player Richie Fa'aoso and Jenifa on ward J2 at JHCH



Youth week display at John Hunter Children's Hospital - Karen Johnson- Dewit (Youth Health Team CNC) and Lisa Steele (Youth Health Team Social worker)

PAT'S PEN DIRECTOR KGN

As we move into the winter months I would like to express my appreciation of the commitment and dedication of staff, this time of year can be testing, however we always pull through as a team with flying colours.

I would also like to welcome Professor Les White in his role as the new Chief Paediatrician and thank him for taking time out of his busy schedule to tour John Hunter Children's Hospital and speak with staff. Congratulations to Professor Trish Davidson who will represent children's health at an area executive level for the first time.

Thank you to staff for the assistance and patience during hospital accreditation, it is an extremely busy time to prepare for and again the hospital rated well with surveyors.

I also recently had the pleasure of cutting the cake with Sally-Milson Hawke for John Hunter Hospital's 20th birthday celebrations; it is an important milestone for the hospital and paediatric services, as we have come a long way in such a short period of time.

We also recently celebrated International Nurses Day, and I thank all our nurses for their dedication over the years and also today. A special congratulations to the nurses who received their 25 years continuous service badges.

Patricia A. Marks

Pat Marks –
Director of Kaleidoscope KGN
Director of Nursing KGN

Making cleft education palatable

A NORTHERN CHILD HEALTH NETWORK PROJECT

Development of a website to support speech pathologists across Northern NSW in the treatment of children with cleft related speech disorders

Help! My client is coming in ten minutes. He has a cleft palate, and I don't know where to start!

The incidence of cleft in NSW is 1:700 live births. There are three multidisciplinary cleft teams in NSW, all linked with Children's Hospitals. The cleft team at John Hunter Children's Hospital provides a consultative and diagnostic speech pathology service for children across Northern NSW. When children require treatment for cleft related speech disorders, they are referred back to their local primary health speech pathology service.

Speech pathologists across Northern NSW may treat only a couple of children per year with cleft palate or related speech disorders such as velopharyngeal insufficiency (VPI). Education programs to support generalist clinicians with management of cleft palate and VPI in Australia are limited, with annual workshops in major cities, clinical peer support groups, and recorded lectures. Timely access to these resources may not always be possible.

In 2009, Speech Pathologists at John Hunter Children's Hospital (JHCH) identified this as an area of need for generalist speech pathologists across Northern NSW, and felt they were not able to support clinicians sufficiently in the area of cleft and VPI. The Speech Pathology Department at JHCH submitted a proposal to the Northern Child Health Network (NCHN) for funding to support development of a multimedia learning package in the area of cleft treatment. Once developed, this resource would be an easily accessible, user-friendly, information-rich educational tool for speech pathologists and other professionals.

The project team comprised / consisted of Tina Wilkie, speech pathologist and project co-ordinator, the speech pathology department and cleft team at JHCH, and Louise Austin Project Manager and webmaster at NCHN. Together they embarked on a lengthy process of literature and source material review, consent, filming, writing and editing.



NCHN Resource Manager Louise Austin, Project Coordinator Tania Wilkie and Speech Pathologist Jana Carr

The end result is a new comprehensive educational website for speech pathologists that combines up to date theoretical information with practical clinical tips. It includes over 50 short film clips which demonstrate various assessment and treatment techniques for children with cleft speech. The website is an interactive learning tool as well as a portal of information regarding best practice options for cleft speech treatment. It also contains insights into how the JHCH cleft team works and treatment options specific to JHCH.

The website, entitled "Management of children with cleft palate and related speech disorders" was launched on 8th February 2011, and can be found at: <http://www.nchn.org.au/projects/0911/cleft/index.htm>

Website contents include:

- Cleft Palate Services in NSW
- JHCH Cleft Palate Team
- About cleft palate and VPI
- What is cleft lip / palate?
- What is VPI?
- Cleft palate surgery at JHCH
- Craniofacial anomalies
- **Resources for speech pathologists: assessment and treatment of cleft related speech disorders**
 - Service provision for children with cleft lip/palate/VPI
 - Terminology/definitions
 - Typical cleft palate speech patterns
 - Assessment of VPI/cleft palate speech
 - Treatment of VPI/cleft palate speech
 - English as a second language (ESL) clients

- Help! My client is coming in 10 minutes!
- Feeding
- Resources for parents
- Resources available for loan
- Additional resources and references
- Acknowledgements and contributors

The website is aimed at rural and community based speech pathologists within the Northern Child Health Network. The site is available on the world wide web and can therefore be accessed by others who may find it useful as a source of information.

Without the support of the Northern Child health Network, Kaleidoscope Children's Health Network, and the cleft palate team at JHCH, this project would never have come to fruition. It is with great thanks that we also acknowledge the families and other professionals who contributed to the content of this website. It is hoped that the website will be used widely across Northern NSW by the clinicians who provide care and treatment for children with cleft related speech disorders.

The website will continue to be updated on the basis of feedback from users, and as and when new evidence based practice principles arise. The speech pathology department at JHCH invite people to visit the site, and would be happy to provide further information if required. We hope the content is palatable!

KIDS CLUB THANK YOU...

The first Wednesday in March each year always marks a very special event – the annual John Hunter Children's Hospital Kids Club Thank you morning tea. It is the one morning when all the generous people who support the Kids Club come together to celebrate what has been achieved in the previous year.

Nearly \$90,000 of funding came to the Children's Hospital in 2010.

Funds are raised in a variety of ways, on top of the usual volunteer stalls held in the hospital foyers, selling beautifully handcrafted items. A dolls house donated for the Christmas raffle was a huge success with a group of dedicated Kids Club volunteers giving up their Saturday evenings to sell raffle tickets at Newcastle Harness Racing meetings.

The Kids Club was also successful this year in securing funding from the CDSE. This enabled the purchase of TVs with DVD players for parent education in our Community Child and Family Health Centres around Newcastle.

So a big thank you to the John Hunter Children's Hospital Kids Club for another fantastic year supporting sick children in the Hunter.



NUM Paul Widseth explains how the new bladder scanner works

International Nurses Day 2011

Thank you to all our dedicated nurses



DONATIONS: Feb to Apr. 2011

KINDLY DONATED TO:

FAIRY GARDEN

- Lions Club of Jesmond Inc
- Australian Lions Foundation

JOHN HUNTER CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL - GENERAL FUND

- BHP Billiton
- Sanitarium Health Food Co
- Robert Merlo
- Rochelle Walmsley
- Craig Capp
- Ben Doyle
- Christopher Farmer
- Pearce Consolidated
- Paul Croak
- Simon Young
- Alison Mitchell
- Sonia Roughan
- Deanne Hurley
- Andrew Farrelly & Crystal Bergemann
- Grant Matthews
- Melissa G Weismantel
- Brett Farrelly
- Keith Wilton
- Maureen Jack
- Brad Nicol & Naomi Myers
- Scott Walkhom
- J & W Mills Contracting Pty Ltd
- RTA Newcastle
- Conway Family
- John Skippen
- Volvo Commercial Vehicles Newcastle
- Dr AR Mehta
- Jannette Malone
- Port Stephens Vending
- JHCH Kids Club

PAEDIATRIC ONCOLOGY

- Pallet Logistics
- Allan & Ailsa Bargwanna
- Broadlands Estate Residents

KALEIDOSCOPE AREA

- Budgewoi Playgroup
- SNL Building Constructions Pty Ltd
- Denises Ladieswear Toronto
- Go Vita
- Paul & Helen Arkley
- Kaleidoscope Kids
- John Crosby

ONCOLOGY PLAY PROGRAM

- JHCH Kids Club

PLAY THERAPY PROGRAM

- JHCH Kids Club
- Nova Cruises
- Warners Bay Rotary Club - Loop the Lake
- Dr Lindsay Marsh
- Energy Australia

MUSIC THERAPY PROGRAM

- Excel Hunter Tours
- Rotary Club of Newcastle Enterprise
- Geoff Hallman
- Shashank Verma

PAEDIATRIC PALLIATIVE CARE SERVICE

- Alison & Peter Brown

NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE UNIT

- A&A Borzestowski t/a A B Eng Draft Serv
- Hatch Associates Pty Ltd
- Anonymous
- Anonymous
- Andrew & Holly Wakeman
- Bloomfield Group
- Ian Johnston
- Katrina & Jamie Crew
- Taxi Clothing Pty Ltd
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- IB & WS Hayes
- Dr John Fitter
- Pt Stephens Ladies Tennis Assoc

JUVENILE DIABETES CLINIC

- Bradford Hotel Pty Ltd

PAEDIATRIC PHYSIO

- JHCH Kids Club

VOLUNTEER NEWS

by Volunteer Coordinator
Naomi Pope

CELEBRATING NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK – ‘INSPIRING THE VOLUNTEER IN YOU’

National Volunteer Week was held 9 - 15 May and is the largest celebration of volunteers in Australia. The week is a wonderful opportunity to highlight the role of volunteers in our communities and to say thank you to more than 5 million Australians who volunteer each year.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers at John Hunter Children's Hospital for making the hospital experience less daunting and more enjoyable for kids and for supporting the staff in doing this.

APPRECIATION MORNING TEA

During the week volunteers and staff gathered to celebrate. The morning tea was a chance to recognise the valuable contribution volunteers make in supporting sick kids and their families. Volunteers received a Certificate of Appreciation on the day. Thanks to Alison Minassian from Woolies for sponsoring the event with a delicious range of morning tea goodies!



Celebrating the efforts of our volunteers

DAY AT THE MOVIES

On Thursday 12th May, Greater Union Cinemas, Glendale offered our volunteers an opportunity for a Social Day Out at the Movies. The movie "Water for Elephants" was a huge hit... especially to those who were animal lovers!



Volunteers at the movies

Working Together

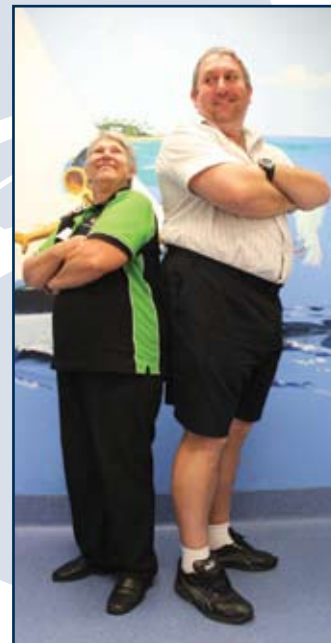
*Volunteers and JHCH Staff
Robyn Rowe and Gary Rowe*

Robyn

After my son Gary started working in Outpatients he told me about ward grannies, he then asked me if I would be interested in volunteering in the role. Following retiring from running my own business I was interested in finding out more. Gary put me in contact with the public relations department and the rest is history. I feel that my time here assists the staff by keeping the children distracted from their surroundings through craft, reading and colouring in.

Gary

The volunteers offer assistance to us in so many ways. Firstly, they give the young patients a friendly non threatening atmosphere when they come with their families for a clinic visit. They also entertain the little ones with craft and colouring in so the parents can relax and not have to worry about entertaining their child whilst waiting for their appointment. Most importantly this assists greatly in reducing the anxiety felt by everyone in the clinic, including the staff, and makes the young person's journey through Outpatients a lot more pleasant.



Robyn Rowe and Gary Rowe

HELP US SAVE BABIES Golf Day

A round of golf at Medowie on the fantastic Pacific Dunes Golf course doesn't seem to have much in common with a tiny infant in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) or a helicopter used to help critically ill patients. For a group of dedicated fundraisers it seemed like a perfect match.

This year in March on a cool crisp morning 183 golfers took to the course in support of two good causes. Although the day was about having a great round of golf at nearly every hole there was an opportunity to support the babies in NICU at John Hunter Children's Hospital and the Westpac Rescue Helicopter.

In its fourth year, the Help Us Save Babies Golf Day, organised by Nadine Leighton and the golf day committee, raised over \$46,000!

With the funds being equally divided between the two charities, the NICU will be able to purchase another Philips MP70 monitor for the Intensive Care Nursery. The MP70 is a sophisticated device that can provide continual read-outs of blood pressure, heart rate, breathing rate, temperature and oxygen levels in the baby's body.

In the NICU all babies remain on a monitor until they are well, and at least until they are 35 weeks corrected gestational age. It is important that vital signs are visible as a continuous display so that staff can constantly monitor the baby's condition and take immediate action to intervene if the baby gets sick, stops breathing or needs more oxygen.

Dr Chris Wake, Dr Paul Craven and Marie Mannion from the NICU recently attended the cheque presentation at the Westpac Rescue Helicopter base and took possession of a large cheque in the amount of \$23,590.

Thank you so much to everyone who helped make this fantastic event such a success again!

Fairy Garden Upgraded

The unique Fairy Garden tucked away in John Hunter Children's Hospital has recently had an upgrade thanks to the Jesmond Lions Club.

Since 2007 the Fairy Garden has offered a sanctuary to children, young people and their families by providing access to the outside world.

The Fairy Garden offers a space where families can meander at their own pace around a path which reflects an infinity sign, to renew their senses and delight in the colour and splendour of nature.

In the five years the garden has been open to the public it's been utilised to the extent that the path, made of rubber soft fall matting, was starting to wear out.

When Jesmond Lions Club was made aware of the dilemma, they along with other community groups, members of the public and schools began fundraising for the upgrade.

Jesmond Lions Club fundraised for six months and donated the

substantial sum of \$11,550. The Jesmond Lions Club and Australian Lions Foundation will be recognised for their efforts by having a recognition plaque in "Cubby Corner" in the Fairy Garden.

In comparison to five years ago, the garden has matured with trees and foliage creating areas of shade with sunlight peering through the canopy.

The Fairy Garden offers a sanctuary where patients can experience a sense of freedom from the hospital environment.

It is a special place outside, but within the children's hospital where children can go to spend time, while still being immediately accessible by medical staff when necessary.

At no cost to the children's hospital engineering firm Daracon rectified drainage issues that was causing the soft fall matting to wear quickly.

The new rubber matting has an expected life of 10 years, which will accommodate many little feet.

Below: Jesmond Lions Club members with Caitlyn Parker, 12, and John Hunter Children's Hospital Director Pat Marks



LOOP THE LAKE

Rotary Club of Warners Bay Together with other Lake Macquarie Rotary clubs have once again put together an outstanding event.

Loop the Lake is a cycle challenge around the beautiful Lake Macquarie.

Our Play Therapy program benefits from this fantastic annual event. We rely on the annual donation from the Rotary Club to continue our program and the Children's Hospital looks forward to being involved every year.

This year riders could set up their own fundraising page online and seek support from family and friends.

Full details on the event will be in the next issue of Kaleidoscoop.

Captain's Column



Howdy and welcome to another edition of Captains Column where we keep you updated on all the fun and exciting things that have been happening over the last few months in the Starlight Express room!

Well we're not even half way through the year yet and we have already been absolutely jam-packed with fun-filled adventures and visitors to the room.

We celebrated Valentines Day by having a cook-off against the teachers and students in the schoolroom. Some delectable looking concoctions were produced with the schoolroom taking home gold for their chocolate brownie inspired dish.

In March the Starlight room was converted into a tropical haven to celebrate Arty Captains Surprise Pool party (which she organized for herself). Everyone came dressed ready for a splashing time and we played party games like pass the parcel, freeze and pin the goggles on the swimmer.

We were lucky to have some of the swans players come to visit the Starlight room in March and they taught the kids some tricky ball

skills and also let us in on a few of their team secrets but shhhh, we can't tell you!!!

To celebrate Easter we transformed the Starlight room into an Easter carnival extravaganza with carnival games, a show bag stall and a fairy floss stand. The kids all had coupon booklets which they could use to purchase goods and have turns on the different 'rides.' It was an awesome afternoon and everyone took home loads of prizes and showbags.

In May we had one of the biggest events we've had so far in the starlight room- A Harry Potter Birthday Party!! (It was for a patient who turned 9 and loves Harry Potter). The Starlight room was magically renovated into

Diagon Alley with shops from the movie, a sorting hat; Harry Potter games and a Philosphers stone hunt. Cessnock Zoo donated their time and brought in an owl, 2 snakes and a crocodile for the kids to meet. Newcastle's Famous Tram met us out the front of the hospital and took us all for a few loops around the building just like the Hogwarts express! Everyone came dressed as different Harry Potter characters and had a wild time.

Well, that's it for our column this time!!

Signing Off

Newcastle Captains

Captain Starlight

KURT FEARNLEY – a friend to the Children’s Hospital

Staff and patients at John Hunter Children’s Hospital have recently made a new friend – Kurt Fearnley. Kurt is best recognised for his achievement as a wheelchair athlete, having competed at three Olympic Games and collected three gold medals, five silver and one bronze.

Kurt has also tackled and finished the Kokoda Track and competes in marathons throughout the year.

The patients and staff were ecstatic when Kurt visited in March,

providing inspiration to the patients he met. We look forward to many more visits in the future.



Captain Starlight, Taylor and Kurt Fearnley

Walking with Dinosaurs

Those old enough to remember may have feared for their lives when it appeared there was some truth to the movie *Jurassic Park*, as a baby Tyrannosaurus Rex charged down the corridor.

As the anxiety eased the crowd of on-lookers were treated to a display from Baby T-Rex, one of the stars of the stage show ‘Walking with Dinosaurs’.

The life like and size dinosaur roared and played with the corridor of



Baby T-Rex on the charge

excited patients. As baby T-Rex tired he swiftly ran back up the hallway to get some rest before the start of their Australian tour.

Swans fly in for a visit

Sydney Swans players Kieran Jack, Sam Reid and Ben Haron brought their pre-season to John Hunter Children’s Hospital where they spent some time visiting patients and handing out signed footy’s.

Those able to were treated to a lesson on how to handball an AFL ball, others were just happy to have a visit from the popular Sydney team. The players and management spent quite a large amount of time at

the hospital, ensuring all patients received a visit.



Swans players visited the Starlight Room and all patients in the Children’s Hospital

One, two, three, four Hi 5



Hi5 perform in the Starlight Room

Starlight ambassadors and children’s music group Hi5 popped in to sing a few songs for patients in the Starlight Room before their show at the Civic Theatre in April.

Following their performance in the Starlight Room the group visited patients on the wards that were unable to watch them in action.

Ted E Bare and Strassman visit JHCH

Ventriloquist David Strassman made a special visit to John Hunter Children’s Hospital during his Australian tour in May with his popular character Ted E Bare.

Strassman and Ted E Bare entertained patients and some Newcastle Knights players in

the Starlight Room during the morning, before visiting again in the afternoon to visit each child on the wards.

A special visit was also made to ICU, where Ted E Bare brought a much needed smile to the face of one of our younger patients.



Fylie Pettrie meets Ted E Bare



Strassman and Ted E Bare in the Starlight Room

Xstrata Coal adds to Art Therapy and NICU

Xstrata Coal has continued their support of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit through their CSI program with a \$200,000 donation, which will be used to purchase specialised monitors.

Art Therapy also received a boost, with Xstrata supporting the program by funding Art Therapist Julie Nichols for an extra day a week for 12 months.



Art Therapist Julie Nichols with a patient



Xstrata CEO Peter Freyberg (left) saw first hand the difference his company is making

Staff at the Children’s Hospital would like to thank Xstrata for their ongoing support.

Best & Less open their doors to NICU

New supporters of John Hunter Children’s Hospital, Best and Less recently opened a new store in the Kotara Homemaker Centre and invited NICU staff to raid the babywear.

As part of the opening Best and Less manager Geoff Sparke gave Dr Paul Craven a chance to do a one minute dash to grab as many clothes from babywear as possible. Dr Craven certainly didn’t waste his opportunity, grabbing \$2629.59 worth of clothing.

Dr Craven was impressed by his effort, however the management of

Best and Less thought otherwise, donated a further \$1370.41 to the NICU. The added donation brought the total to \$4000.



Thankfully staff weren’t required to pay the bill