

Kaleidoscope

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Word from the Editor

Has the year gone too quick or are we that busy the year flashes by?

I believe it has been busy, staff I'm sure will testify to that.

Contributions to the four of editions of Scoop this year has been fantastic. Stories have been regularly received from The Maitland Hospital and Community, which has provided readers with a wider scope of our health care services.

With children, young people and families health continuing to evolve so does the *Kaleidoscope* publication. I welcome stories within paediatrics from across the District; there are many great stories to share with our staff and the public.

To have your story included in the first edition of *Kaleidoscope* for 2012, please email Lucas.Coleman@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au.

Lucas Coleman – *Kaleidoscope* Editor

Hawkins & Hosking named HCRF Patrons



Jennifer Hawkins with the HCRF committee

The Hunter Children's Research Foundation has announced two significant local identities, Dr Cliff Hosking and Jennifer Hawkins as dual patrons at an announcement in November.

Dr Cliff Hosking, retired paediatric allergist/ immunologist and co-founder of HCRF played an integral role in the formation of the Foundation in 1996. Cliff was thrilled when asked to be on of HCRF's new patrons.



HCRF Chair Janelle Shakespeare, Jordan Flay and Patron Dr Cliff Hosking

"I see the role as being a figurehead, attending charity events and helping to promote the Foundation. Paediatric work has been my life so I am delighted and honoured to continue my involvement," Dr Hosking said.

HCRF also welcomed Former Miss Universe, TV presenter and fashion icon Jennifer Hawkins as a patron. Born in Newcastle, Jennifer holds the Hunter close to her heart, and through HCRF she can continue to support such an important organization within the region.

"I really wanted to support HCRF as they do so much for community. I grew up in Newcastle so it's very close to my heart and it's amazing to see the medical advances being achieved by researchers in the region, particularly for young children," Jennifer said.

"It can be heartbreaking to see kids in hospital or suffering long-term illnesses, but also reassuring to know that brilliant people are working on positive solutions and better clinical care," she said.

LIVE FOR KIDS

From the Gold Coast to Newcastle, nearly 800km, that is how far the Live for Kids team travelled to raise over \$53,000 for the respiratory team at John Hunter Children's Hospital.

It is the second year the Cycle Classic has been run with organisers Simon and Gwendalyn Burt putting on a very professional event. The group of riders this year included emergency clinician Dr Mark Lee who enjoyed it that much he has signed up for next year.

The journey wasn't without its hiccups though, with Simon taking a tumble on the ride from Ballina to Grafton. Luckily, with Dr Lee in tow he was in good hands and taken to Macleay Hospital to be patched up.

All riders crossed the finish line at the end of Fernleigh Track in Belmont full of pride. It was a fantastic effort from the riders who also raised money for Freedom Wheels who produce bikes for the disabled.

Both Simon and Gwendalyn are already organising the 2012 ride with 28 of the 35 riding spots already taken.



Professor Trish Davidson, Simon and Gwendalyn Burt with Cassandra Robson



The team before their journey commenced

Volunteers celebrate with a LUAU



Swansea Kids with Cancer looking very Hawaiian

Volunteers from John Hunter Children's Hospital and John Hunter Hospital celebrated the invaluable work they do within the hospital at a Hawaiian themed celebration at Charlestown Bowling Club on 7 October.

Volunteers were treated to a performance by ukulele group Ukastle Ukestra, who even had a few volunteers out of their seat dancing. The MC for the day was NBN Television news presenter Paul Lobb, who as well as being part of Ukastle Ukestra, had many guests belly laughing with his jokes.

The day wasn't all laughs though; there was cause for celebration with a number of volunteers reaching milestones in their volunteering. John Hunter Children's Hospital celebrated 15 years of volunteering and John Hunter Hospital 20 years.



Ward Granny Gladys Carolan dances with MC Paul Lobb



Kaleidoscope Kids enjoying the festivities

Great Ormond Street Professor visits John Hunter Children's Hospital

Infant lung function was the topic when distinguished respiratory specialist Professor Janet Stocks from Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children visited John Hunter Children's Hospital in November.

Over the past 15 years Professor Janet Stocks has made major contributions to international standardisation of methods and equipment for assessing lung function in infants and young children, epidemiological studies to elucidate the early determinants of airway function and clinical

applications of these tests as objective phenotypic outcome measures.

During a one hour seminar to staff, Professor Stocks posed the question, how can lung function tests help improve children's health? Through her many years of research Professor Stocks provided detailed information on her findings, in particular she pointed out the need for more public education on the effects of smoking during pregnancy.

Professor Stocks also joined Professor Joerg Mattes during a lung

function test following the seminar. Professor Mattes will continue

to liaise and compare data with Professor Stocks in the UK.



Prof. Janet Stocks (centre in white) with JHCH staff

Kiwis win fans at Children's Hospital



Kiwis do the haka

They may have been flogged 42-6 by the Kangaroos in Newcastle, but the New Zealand Rugby League Team were still winners to the patients at John Hunter Children's Hospital.

Led by their captain Benji Marshall, the ten players who visited were swamped with fans. Those in the Starlight Room received the biggest surprise of all when the players

agreed to do the haka at the request of Captain Starlight.

The team then visited patients on the wards, even handing out a few tickets to the game, before heading over to Ronald McDonald House.

The visit would not have been possible without the support of the Hunter Sports Group.

PAT'S PEN

DIRECTOR KGN

I would like to thank staff for their hard work and dedication for 2011, it has been a very busy year and all Kaleidoscope staff has shown tremendous dedication and work ethic.

As Christmas approaches I would like to wish all staff, patients and their families a happy and safe Christmas.

In the lead up to Christmas I also attended our annual Volunteers Appreciation Function. It was lovely lunch and a great opportunity to catch up with and thank our hard working volunteers for their role in the Children's Hospital.

Congratulations goes out to Professor Graham Vimpani who was this year awarded the prestigious Howard Williams Medal for outstanding contributions to child and youth health.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Dr Eric Ho in winning an Achievement Award and Jennifer Keller for being nominated as a finalist. Being recognised for your clinical excellence throughout the District is a great honour.

Patricia A Marks

Pat Marks –

Director of Kaleidoscope KGN
Director of Nursing KGN

ABC Research Network

Children's research took the spotlight in November with the launch of the highly anticipated Adolescents, Babies and Children (ABC) Research Network.

The Hunter Medical Research Institute (HMRI) alongside Hunter New England Health, Kaleidoscope and The University of Newcastle launched the Network that will create an active collaboration of researchers with a focus on the health of infants, children and young people in the Hunter.

"The ABC Network will provide an essential support basis for children's research throughout Northern New South Wales," ABC Network Chair, Associate Professor Dr Ian Wright said.

"The Network will have two primary functions; internally the network will allow researchers in children's health to be aware of each other's work, to establish collaborations within the field and to build capacity for national and international grant funding.

Externally the network will also give state wide and national networks a focal point to interact with and contribute to children's research in Northern New South Wales" he said.

Externally the network will build capacity for external grants and give agencies a focal point to interact with and contribute in children's research in Northern NSW.



Professor Maree Gleeson speak at the launch

KIDS CLUB win fundraising award

The John Hunter Children's Hospital Kids Club has been awarded The Matron E.M. Shaw Trophy for Runner up of Most Money Raised per Member – Country at the annual United Hospital Auxiliaries State Conference.

Held in Ballina on 27 October, the Conference brings together all Hospital Auxiliary members from across NSW. This is not the first time Kids Club has tasted success at the Conference, the group has had their hands on the trophy numerous times throughout the years.



Kids Club with Pat Marks and The Matron E.M. Shaw Trophy

Families look forward to FUN thanks to Hunter Sports Group

The patients and families at John Hunter Children's Hospital have received a number of welcome surprises recently from Hunter Sports Group, with tickets to the opening Newcastle Jets game and tickets to the Tri Nations clash between Australia and New Zealand.

Over 100 tickets between the two games were given away, which instantly turned some frowns upside down.



Wajdi Younis with his dad after receiving tickets to the Jets

PLAY THERAPY WEEK (10-14 October 2011)

Hospital Play Therapy week was celebrated across Australia from 10th – 14th October. The aim of the week is to raise awareness of the role of Hospital Play Specialists.

The Play Specialists at John Hunter Children's Hospital form part of the Music, Art & Play Therapy department. They work across all inpatient wards of the hospital and also see outpatients by referral. Play Specialists support children, young people and their families by helping them understand their treatment, providing information and support for medical procedures and providing therapeutic recreation activities during their stay. Play Specialists engage children in role play with medical equipment to gain insight into their understanding of their care and coach children and families to develop relaxation and coping strategies.

To celebrate Play Therapy week the team displayed photos and a poster of the work that they do and visited the wards with information and treats to help them celebrate.

10 REASONS TO CALL A HOSPITAL PLAY SPECIALIST

- Preparation of child and family for impending clinical procedure
- Diversional support required during clinical procedure
- New diagnosis of chronic health condition
- Medical play to familiarise patient and family with equipment and/or environment
- Patient is not cooperating with necessary treatments
- Assist with settling distressed children or infants
- Children who will have lengthy admissions to hospital
- Concerns regarding a child who may be struggling with hospitalisation
- Play activities to support developmental goals
- Play to support siblings and families

Prof. Ashley D'Cruz visits JHCH

Staff across Hunter New England and Tweed had the pleasure of listening to eminent paediatric surgeon Professor Ashley D'Cruz at Paediatric Grand Rounds on 1 November when he visited John Hunter Children's Hospital.

Professor D'Cruz, a past president of the Indian Association of Paediatric Surgeons shared his wide experience on paediatric liver transplants in India and the low cost surgery being performed in Bangalore, India, at Naryana Hridayalaya Hospital. The hospital provides advanced cardiac surgery and liver transplants to children at a low cost.

While visiting Professor D'Cruz and his wife Devayani were shown around the Hunter Valley and Nelson Bay. The Professor and his wife were impressed by Newcastle and its surrounds and the facilities at John Hunter Children's Hospital.



Prof Trish Davidson, Prof Ashley D'Cruz, Dr Gerard Roy, and Dr Raj Kumar

Captain's Column



Hi there and welcome to another edition of the Captains Column, where we keep you updated on all that's been happening in the Starlight Express Room over the last little while!

September was 'Sports month' for us so we had loads of Wii sports challenges and enjoyed our weekly visit from the teachers and children of the school room to join in on Friday afternoon 'Sports Arvo'. We were also lucky enough to have a visit from the band 'Eskimo Joe' who came and had photos with the kids then played us a few acoustic songs. We also set up a challenge for them – a Disney movie quiz which saw the lead singer Kav take out first prize!

October was a really busy month for us in the Starlight Room, beginning with a visit from the New Zealand Rugby League team who performed the 'Haka' for us then answered all of our crazy questions! We set them an obstacle course challenge and watched as Benji Marshall came through to take the gold.

Our theme for October was movie month and although we watch movies every day in the Starlight Room, we thought it was a good opportunity to have a Starlight Cinema day. We screened three movies in the first session which was a drive in. All the kids decorated cardboard boxes as cars and we parked our vehicles and sat in them to watch 'Rio'. There was a candy bar set up all day with popcorn, chips, lollies and drinks so no one left hungry!

Starlight would also like to say a huge welcome to the nine new volunteers who have joined our team over the last couple of months. Your time and effort is so valuable and allows us to continue to deliver an awesome program to kids and families! Signing off,

Newcastle Captains

Captain Starlight

Message from The Director of Children, Young People and Families

*'Caring for children-wherever they are.
Highlighting Rural and Regional Services'*

It has been an eventful year in children's health, during the year I was honoured to be appointed as Director of Children, Young People and Families on the Executive Leadership Team. It is the first time Children, Young People and Families has had representation at this level and in the coming months I hope to have more exciting news about how we can further strengthen our services. Once we have the draft NSW Kids document due before Christmas, we can reflect our relationships at a state level both across community

child health, violence prevention and for acute care. I am supported by an excellent team of clinicians and managers who are determined to provide quality care for children, young people and families.

I would like to acknowledge HCRF and their CARE Awards and Grants Evening. Researchers and clinicians were recognised for their achievements in children's health research, with a number receiving grants to start research projects, that over \$1 million in 16 years. Such commitment can only

strengthen the evidence for the care we deliver. HCRF also announced dual patrons this year, Jennifer Hawkins and Dr Cliff Hosking, who will both act as advocates for the great work HCRF do.

The next year I'm sure will be just as eventful as 2011, until that time I would like to wish staff a safe and happy Christmas, and thank you all for your efforts this year.

Prof. Trish Davidson

Go4Fun

The biggest losers in the end are those who do not know how to sustain a healthy lifestyle. Now, with the introduction of the community based program Go4Fun across the Hunter through Kaleidoscope's John Hunter Children's Hospital, parents and children will be educated to do just that.

Go4Fun is, as the name suggests, a fun approach to physical activity and practical education to help families make a healthy lifestyle change. The program offers a comprehensive multidisciplinary approach to helping families make lifestyle changes to ensure these children have a healthier and happier future.

The NSW Schools Physical Activity and Nutrition Survey (SPANS 2010), is the fourth school-based survey of its kind to be conducted in NSW. The

survey estimates that 25 per cent of children are overweight or obese and only 51 per cent of students in years six, eight and 10 met physical activity guidelines during winter, with that number rising slightly to 63 per cent during summer.

Paediatric Dietitian Emily O'Connor from John Hunter Children's Hospital explains the significance of lifestyle trends impacting on children's health.

"Childhood obesity is becoming an increasing concern in our community. Children who are above their healthy weight range are at an increased health risk," Ms O'Connor said.

"Excess weight gain in childhood increases the risk of developing chronic diseases, including type two diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Children who are above their healthy



Phoebe Price and Physiotherapist Kristin Finlay-Jones get active

weight are also at greater risk of becoming overweight as adults," she said.

Go4Fun, which has previously not been available to families in the Hunter, is aimed to help children aged seven to 13 years and their parents to make changes that promote a long lasting and healthy approach to living.

The Allied Health Team at John Hunter Children's Hospital advises

that to encourage kids to be fit and healthy it is essential that the whole family make positive lifestyle changes.

Key messages for a healthy lifestyle are:

- Get active each day
- Choose water as a drink
- Eat more fruit and vegetables
- Switch off the screen and get active
- Eat fewer snacks and choose healthier alternatives

Woolworths Fun Day

As part of their Fresh Food Kids Hospital Appeal, Woolworths held a family fun day at Blackbutt Reserve on Sunday 16 October that attracted over 3000 people.

There were rides, stalls, food and entertainment for those who attended, and due to the overwhelming success of the day Woolworths is looking to do it all again in 2012.

Cessnock Quilters

The ladies from Cessnock Quilters recently donated beautifully knitted Christmas stockings and gifts for the children who will be in hospital at Christmas.



The Cessnock Quilters with Christmas stockings

NICU Picnic

Families from as far as Inverell and Melbourne celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at John Hunter Children's Hospital on 18 September at Speers Point Park.

Staff, parents, families and former patients (some who are now 20) attended the picnic on a warm, sunny day with rides, stalls and entertainment keeping everyone busy.

Run 4 Fun

Over 6,300 competitors took part in this year's Run4Fun which supports the three children's hospitals in NSW. The event was held at Sydney Olympic Park on Sunday 6 November and among competitors were runners, walkers, pushers, mums, dad's and families.

Sleep Unit monitored by West Wallsend Colliery

With over \$50,000 in donations to the Children's Hospital in recent years, West Wallsend Colliery has been a long-term and valued donor. This year the workers donated \$17,520 which has been directed to the Paediatric Sleep Unit to purchase a Transcutaneous Carbon Dioxide monitor.



West Wallsend Colliery workers visit the Sleep Unit

Safety Award assists Children's Hospital

OneSteel takes the importance of their workers and contractors seriously, and recently Geoff Marks was rewarded for his commitment to safety when he won the National Contractor Safety Award.

Geoff, who works for Transpacific, was awarded \$500 to the charity of his choice, with Geoff choosing John Hunter Children's Hospital.



OneSteel staff with Pat and Geoff Marks

Passmores' students pass fundraising

Students at Passmores' Business and Management College are required to fundraise for a local charity as part of their course. Simon McMillan together with Emily Tomlinson, Kirsty Howe and Jess Spicer from the College hosted the Magical Kids' Party and Disco to raise funds for Kaleidoscope on Saturday 11 June. The evening was quite a success, with 70 attendees raising almost \$1000. The hardworking group then took on other fundraising activities including BBQs at Woolworths Mayfield and selling chocolates. Their efforts netted a donation to the children's hospital of \$1934.78.

CONGRATULATIONS

Dr Ho and Jennifer Keller

John Hunter Children's Hospital staff recently tasted success at the 2011 JHNE Achievement Awards.



Dr Ho

Dr Eric Ho won the Extended Excellence Award for his dedication to the ongoing improvement of orthopaedic services for children and their families. To be recognised in this category one must display a sustained and meritorious contribution to Hunter New England Health and the delivery of patient services/care over an extended period of time.



Jennifer Keller

Clinical Nurse Consultant **Jennifer Keller** was also recognised as a finalist in the Clinical Leader of the Year category. Jenny was recognised for her strong commitment to the care of children with Acquired Brain Injury and their families during their inpatient stay at the Children's Hospital and as they transition back home and into the community.

DALE schools partnership with First Steps a winner

First Steps Parenting has provided the DALE school with consultation on child health matters for many years. The school provides an opportunity for pregnant teenagers and young mothers to continue their education in a flexible adult learning environment. An onsite crèche allows the mothers to participate in education while their infants are cared for by qualified staff.

In 2006 this arrangement was formalised to include a weekly on site well baby clinic staffed by a child health nurse and social worker. The clinic offers parenting advice and support, post natal health and mental health advice and referral, individual counselling and referral to services within health e.g. speech. Clinicians from First Steps Parenting have also presented group sessions on parenting and child health education.

This year the school identified the need to purchase another mode of

transport to support the current mini bus pickup service and to transport the young mothers to appointments. It was also identified that a DVD production of Parenting at School would assist in promoting education for teen mothers and encourage them to remain at school. The school submitted an application to NAB Schools First program for funding for the above projects naming First Steps Parenting as their community partner. The school was successful in obtaining the NSW first prize of \$50,000.



Martine Ward (centre) with DALE staff and NAB representatives

VOLUNTEER NEWS

by Volunteer Coordinator
Naomi Pope

NEW VOLUNTEERS JUST IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS!

There are lots of new faces around the Children's Hospital following our recent recruitment drive. We now have eleven new people who started at the beginning of November. I would like to welcome everyone to our friendly volunteer team. We were even lucky enough to have enlisted the support two new four legged friends ...both beautiful Dalmatians joined us through Delta Pets.

VOLUNTEER TRAINING DAY

Volunteers had a great opportunity to get to know each other at the Children's Hospital Orientation Day on 21 October. Nineteen people attended a fun and interactive day, some travelling from Maitland, others from as far as the Central Coast.

The day gave new volunteers an opportunity to learn all about the importance of play, safety both for themselves and others, the impact of infection control, boundaries in the workplace and the practicalities of fire safety. Everyone finished the day talking and thinking more about the rewards and responsibilities involved in volunteering in a children's health care facility.

ESKIMO JOE by Captain Starlight

The excitement of the week that sent Newcastle's Children's Hospital and the Starlight Express Room into a frenzy, was the planned but random visit by Eskimo Joe. The Perth trio arrived at the John Hunter Children's hospital not knowing

where the room was, so we headed out to collect them. To our horror and two laps of the hospital unable to find our famous rock stars we began thinking they'd turned up at a completely different hospital, but then we stumbled across them sitting inside the waiting room of the ED!



Eskimo Joe with Captain Starlight

Finally making it to the Starlight Room, they sat through a probing from the audience answering some question's right out of the left field and answering them well! To our surprise they did a couple of acoustic songs including "Black fingernails, Red wine" and "Love is a Drug".

Book Nook donation

Speech pathologist Tania Lyddiard from Kaleidoscope Community Health was recently a judge for the Speech Pathology Australia's Book of the Year Awards.

Tania was given an age category to judge and a number of books to read where she provided her recommendation as to Book of the Year.

Following the announcement of the winners Tanya was given copies of the books she read by Speech

Pathology Australia, she then kindly donated them to the Book Nook at John Hunter Children's Hospital.



Tanya Lyddiard with Debra Robinson

DONATIONS:

Sept. - Oct. 2011

KINDLY DONATED TO: JOHN HUNTER CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL - GENERAL FUND

- One Steel
- Southern Cross Ten
- Passmores Charity fund
- Entertainment Publications
- Swansea Combined Pensioners Association
- Oceanic Coal Australia - Employees
- Oceanic Coal Australia
- UGM Engineers Pty Ltd - Employee
- Reliable Conveyor Belt Pty Ltd
- Bolt Up Mining Pty Ltd
- GT*LM Tong
- S Ashbourne
- J Baker
- S Bartsch
- P Burgin
- C Duffey
- G Foster
- D Hogan
- D Lane
- V Maher
- B Mate
- S Middleton
- N Muller
- N Newton
- M Pickles
- S Rae
- K Short
- J Singleton
- A Trevor
- R Wilson
- J Nelson

PAEDIATRIC RESPIRATORY MEDICINE - LIVE FOR KIDS CYCLE CLASSIC 2011

- Paediatric Oncology
- Pallet Logistics
- G.E Gream
- June Clark
- Eileen Porter
- Allan Bargwanna
- Don & Frances Alley
- Kol Crowley
- Cessnock Tennis Club Seniors Account
- Kirkwood Produce Co Pty Ltd

KALEIDOSCOPE AREA -

- Kaleidoscope Kids
- Cardiff Mens Bowling Club

ONCOLOGY PLAY PROGRAM

- JHCH Kids Club

PLAY THERAPY PROGRAM

- JHCH Kids Club

MUSIC THERAPY PROGRAM

- Redkite
- Hush Music Foundation
- Greg Lewis - GNSL Pty Ltd

NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE UNIT

- Six Hats Early Childhood Service
- GG Management
- Eleebana Public School
- Peabody Energy Australia Pty Ltd
- RAEME Association NSW Inc

Community Corner

PAEDIATRIC BRAIN INJURY SERVICE TURNS 10

by Mathew Frith

Kaleidoscope's Paediatric Brain Injury Rehabilitation Team (otherwise fondly known as PBIRT) celebrates 10 years providing community rehabilitation to children and their families after an acquired brain injury.

10 years prior all children and their families received their rehabilitation through the hospital based services (in Newcastle or Sydney) with just on 43 new referrals a year and an inpatient length of stay averaging 6 days.

In 2001 the new small community team started on casual employment, with compensable children involved in a motor vehicle accident only seen at the Special Education Centre, University of Newcastle, before recurrent funding was obtained to recruit permanent part time clinical specialists in the role. Many changes occurred following with moves back to John Hunter Children's Hospital and now 621 Hunter Street Newcastle West.

PBIRT has seen many changes over the years; changes for the better to assist children and their families after an acquired brain injury.

The service is now able to see all children whether compensable or not and have responded to the needs of our communities by strengthening rural and regional partnerships and providing outreach services in Tamworth and in Taree. Families in rural NSW now have access to clinical specialist rehabilitation services without having to come back to the hospital.

Strong collaborative partnerships have been formed with the ACI Brain Injury Directorate and Sydney Children's Hospital Network Brain Injury services. We are leaders in research collaborating with initiatives such as investigating evidence based practice use of outcome measures, goal setting, behaviour support for regional and rural families, transition and school support for children with an acquired brain injury.

PBIRT also has its own national and international motion picture DVD "Looking Ahead": The DVD/CD Rom resource assists teachers in transitioning a child back to school after hospital.

One of the important changes seen within in the last ten years is no fault claim for children under the age of 16 involved in a motor vehicle accident. PBIRT has positive relationships with Lifetime Care & Support Authority of NSW to provide the best rehabilitation outcomes for children and their families who have sustained severe or catastrophic injuries due to a motor vehicle accident.

Our service continues to strive for innovative practices to facilitate improved outcomes for children and their families. As we move on 10 years, PBIRT now receives referrals in excess of 90 with an average length of stay averaging 28 days. Its small team takes pride in servicing Newcastle, Tamworth, Taree, North Coast and Central Coast. We look forward to what the next 10 years shall bring.

Lake Macquarie Running Festival

It was an overcast day for the start of the 2011 Lake Macquarie Running Festival, with a big black cloud threatening rain over the lake, as nearly 3000 people gathered on the shore at Warners Bay. The festival incorporates three races – a half marathon, a 10.5km fun run and a 4km kid's scamper.

Thankfully the clouds parted and it turned out to be a perfect day for a run. Several John Hunter Children's Hospital staff took part in the fun run and all agreed it was a fantastic local event.

In 2010 the organisers donated funds to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and in 2011 participants were encouraged to fundraise for the NICU through personal sponsorship on Everyday Hero. Several individuals and teams raised funds for the NICU and we were delighted to again receive a donation from the organisers after the event. The success of the event is due to the hard work of the mother and son team of Anne and Chad Griffiths who have been personally touched by the NICU team.



HCRF Awards and Grants Evening

It was a record evening of research funding for the Hunter Children's Research Foundation who awarded \$92,000 in grants and prizes at their annual grants and awards evening in October.

HCRF Chairperson Janelle Shakespeare said the grants and awards would once again support research into a wide variety of medical conditions.

"This year we have asthma, cancer, diabetes and premmie babies programs that are so vital to children's health," she said.

"HCRF's profile is increasing, and with it has come a noticeable rise in donations from businesses and individuals in the Hunter, to whom we owe our thanks."

Professor Joerg Mattes, who holds the Chair of Paediatrics & Child Health in the Faculty of Health at the University of Newcastle and is Chair of the Hunter Children's Research Executive, said it was a tribute to the excellence of paediatric research being conducted in the Hunter.

"This funding will lead to better management and treatment of diseases relevant to babies, children and adolescents in our region," he said.

"By raising the profile we hope to continue attracting the best paediatricians and also contribute to the training of younger doctors and scientists."

The grants and awards were again presented at Memories Function Centre in Wallsend. The 2011 recipients and CARE Award winners were:

GRANTS AND PRIZES

Prof Joerg Mattes, Prof Peter Gibson, Prof Michael Hensley, A/Prof Bruce Whitehead and Dr Vanessa Murphy (\$25,000)

The Growing into Asthma study: Wheezing prevalence and markers of airways inflammation in preschoolers born to mothers with asthma exacerbations in pregnancy.

Dr Jay Horvat, Prof Phil Hansbro and Prof Paul Foster (\$15,000)

Elucidating the mechanisms of steroid-resistant asthma

Dr Rick Thorne and Dr Charles de Bock (\$20,000)

Establishment of Fat1 cadherin as biomarker and unique target for anti-cancer therapy in paediatric acute lymphoblastic leukaemia

Dr Donald Anderson, Dr Bruce King, A/Prof Patricia Crock, Michelle Neylan, Carmel Smart and Helen Phelan (HCRF - \$24,000 and HMRI sponsored by Tomago Aluminium \$24,000)

A double blind cross over trial in young insulin pump users comparing their glucose control when their insulin pump settings have been set from data interpreted by PumpTune, to when a doctor reviews the same data and uses clinical judgement.

HCRF EDUCATION PRIZES

Megan Jensen (\$4,000)

Megan is a member of the HMRI VIVA Program. Her research is focused on the relationship between obesity and childhood asthma in children and adolescents. The HCRF Education Prize will enable Megan to attend the American Thoracic Society International Conference in San Francisco, USA in 2012.

Rebecca Dyson (\$4,000)

Rebecca is a member of the HMRI Pregnancy and Reproduction Program. Her research is focused on understanding cardiovascular function in very preterm newborns. She will attend the joint meeting between the British Microcirculation Society and the American Microcirculation Society, to be held in the UK, as well as the Annual Meeting of the Fetal & Neonatal Physiological Society (FNPS) in the Netherlands.

CARE AWARDS

Achievements in Research

Recognising success in competitive research grants, significant publications in the past year, and/or a long history of successful research.

Dr Ian Wright

Dr Wright is a Neonatologist at John Hunter Children's Hospital and

Associate Professor at the Discipline of Paediatric and Child Health.

Adam Collison

Mr Collison is a Research Fellow in the Experimental and Translational Respiratory Research Group, Discipline of Paediatrics and Child Health.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

This award recognises a project that has received external recognition and employs an evidence-based approach to improvement with data already available.

Dr Keith Howard

Dr Howard is Director of Paediatrics and Child Health at The Maitland Hospital and Stream Leader of General Paediatrics for the Hunter and Northern NSW Region. Dr Howard played a leading role in the development, implementation, maintenance and auditing of a program called Between the Flags.

ENCOURAGEMENT IN RESEARCH

Recognising a person without an established track record in research who has received funding this year.

Dr Jodi Hilton

Dr Hilton is a vital member of John Hunter Children's Hospital's respiratory team. Dr Hilton has developed an expertise in the field of cystic fibrosis related diabetes and has over the years guided efforts in improving the management of patients who develop this complication.

RESEARCH MENTOR

This award recognises an experienced researcher mentoring a research with less research experience.

Dr Lisa Wood

Dr Wood is a Senior Lecturer at The University of Newcastle. Her time is divided between lecturing at the University and coordinating multiple clinical trials at the Hunter Medical Research Institute where she is head of the Respiratory Research Nutrition Node.



The HCRF Committee



The Grant and Award winners