

Kaleidoscope

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Word from the Editor

Welcome to 2006 *Kaleidoscope's* Inside this edition you'll get the scoop on staff achievements with coverage of presentations made at the paediatric trauma symposium and the Kaleidoscope Nurses' Seminar. Stories like these are great for our mag, as they showcase the work of staff across the area.

You can also catch up on news about the new paediatric clinic space at The Maitland Hospital, the recently opened Fairy Sparkle Forest Garden at JHCH, cystic fibrosis outreach clinics in Armidale and the recipients of HCRF CARE awards 2005.

We also have the privilege of sharing a tribute made by our colleagues at The Maitland Hospital to paediatric NUM Janet Ausling who died on Saturday 9 January following a long battle with breast cancer. (Please see page 4 for more information).

If you have a story idea for the next edition please contact me **before February 28** on 4921 3844 or email sarah.beames@hne.health.nsw.gov.au. For those who contribute regular columns, please aim for March 9! Thank you so much Wendy, Pearl, Heather and Keith, Catherine, Pat and Trish for being so supportive!

A complete list of *Kaleidoscope* deadlines for 2006 will be circulated via email and posted on the website shortly.

Sarah Beames – *Kaleidoscope* Editor

Plastic surgeon joins cleft lip & palate service

Hunter children with cleft lip and/or palate have a greater chance of receiving surgery in Newcastle after the appointment of plastic specialist Dr Catherine Boorer last year.

Dr Boorer's current allocation of theatre time means fewer families need to travel to Sydney for plastic surgery, with half the children requiring cleft lip and/or palate procedures now able to access the service locally.

Coordinator of John Hunter Children's Hospital cleft lip and palate service Dr Larry Roddick said the appointment brings Kaleidoscope one step closer to offering clients a full Hunter based service.

"Many Hunter families can now expect continuity of care locally and forgo the additional stress of travelling to Sydney to meet a new surgical team.

"They have access at a local level to their speech pathologist, ENT surgeon, respiratory specialist, geneticist, orthodontist, oral surgeon and now in some cases, their plastic surgeon," Dr Roddick said.

The Hunter team has a strong focus on quality improvement and are collaborating with other



Dr Boorer's appointment and allocation of theatre time means more patients will have access to plastic surgery locally.

cleft lip and palate services to develop state-wide best practice guidelines.

Dr Boorer, who fills the equivalent surgical positions at The Children's Hospital at Westmead and Sydney Children's Hospital at Randwick, is encouraging each centre to work together to improve and standardise care. The units have recently commenced videoconference links.



The cleft lip and palate team work together to ensure patients like Andrew Pobjoy (centre) have the best possible outcome.

SPOTLIGHT ON

Dr Catherine Boorer



When Dr Boorer chose her specialty in plastic surgery, she was motivated by the desire to help her patients achieve their full potential.

“Working with a child who has a cleft lip, palate or both is very rewarding as it is one of the few areas in plastics that allows you to practice long term care with the child and their family,” Dr Boorer said.

“The management of children with cleft lip and palate is a journey from birth to 19, with many corrective procedures and interventions needed to ensure the best outcomes for the patient.”

For a child with a cleft lip, surgery begins at three months to reconstruct the nose and lip.

If the child also has a cleft palate they require additional surgery between nine and 12 months to repair the gap at the roof of their mouth to allow normal speech development and prevent hearing loss secondary to middle ear fluid.

As the child grows they will need intensive speech therapy, a bone graft to fill the gap in the gum line and orthodontic treatment. Some children may also need revisional rhinoplasty and jaw surgery.

“A coordinated team approach to care gives the child the best chance of developing regular speech and meaningful personal and professional relationships.

“It is a privilege to be a part of this process and help each patient reach their full potential,” Dr Boorer said.

Occupational Therapy Team thinks OUTSIDE THE SQUARE

When a patient presents with a problem that can't be managed by stock sourced direct from the shelf, the John Hunter Children's Hospital occupational therapy team custom build a solution.

Three and half year old patient Emma Ellis recently received a vest designed to ensure her much loved playtime is uninhibited by her enteral line.

Occupational Therapy Technical Assistant Jenny Piper who created the vest after consultation with H1 staff, Occupational Therapy and Emma's family said the aim was to find a solution that allowed Emma to enjoy her playtime and continue her feeds.

“Emma is a very active child and often showed frustration with her IV pole when she was playing and moving about. We designed a vest to store her enteral supply during the day when she is active, to take the place of her IV pole,” said Jenny.

The original design housed Emma's bottles on her front and was made from denim, held together by a system of buckles. While this vest worked well, a number of changes were made to the type of

material used, the position of the bottles and the materials used to the secure the vest.

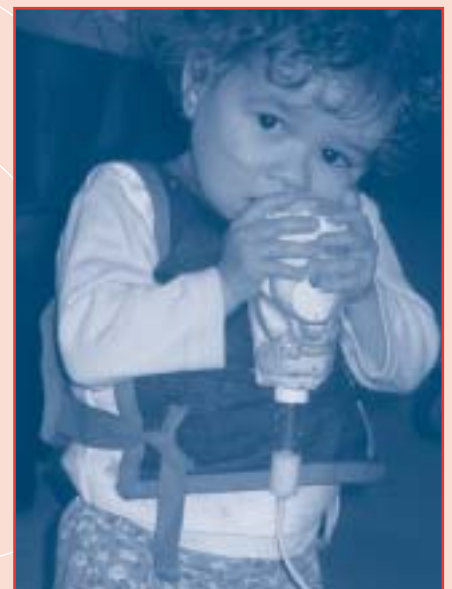
“We improved the second version by making it out of neoprene; a wetsuit material that is more flexible, softer and durable than the denim,” Jenny said.

“It is also easier to care for as it can be thrown in the washing machine and dries very fast.

“The bottles were secured to the back of the vest, allowing Emma greater range of movement when playing. A small plastic window was also inserted over the pack so Emma's family and hospital staff can see if the machine is turned on, and also get an idea of how much food is left in the pack,” she said.

Replacing the buckles with Velcro also offered a number of advantages.

“The Velcro is not only more durable and likely to remain fixed, it also allows us to adjust the vest as Emma grows. The aim is to make larger vests for Emma as she gets bigger, but she will get more use out of each one now that we are using Velcro,” Jenny said.



Emma Ellis enjoys the benefits of a vest designed by Jenny Piper that houses her enteral supply during playtime (first version shown in photo).

On top of these advantages Jenny fabricated the vest to be 'fun' so it looked more like a piece of clothing rather than a piece of medical equipment thus helping Emma to fit in more easily among her peers.

From the Director's desk

For some time now, senior management of KGNS and I in collaboration with Human Resources have been working to refine the process for when a staff member raises concern in the workplace about inappropriate behaviour.

It is encouraging to report that the overall approach has been refreshed, with an increased emphasis on support for both the staff who are concerned and the staff about whom concern has been raised. A range of initiatives including: an improved focus on confidential investigations, support, election of mentors and provision of mental health care to concerned staff and consultation with both internal and external experts in this arena, has meant that more recent issues have been dealt with in a fair and clear fashion and in a more timely manner.

Such issues are always challenging and always require careful consideration of many facets. Area Health Service and DOH Policy and procedures as well as a mandate by the Ombudsman must always be taken into account when resolving some of the more difficult matters.

Progress on *Managed Clinical Networks* continues with children's health services selected as one of the first programs for implementation.

Although New England paediatric services and Kaleidoscope have an informal network it is critical that the two sectors develop a managed clinical network to facilitate strategic planning and service development for health services for children and young people. Each sector has different strengths and weakness but there is goodwill to work together to provide high quality care for children and families in this large region.

As Area Director for Kaleidoscope I have been asked to play an active role in the Working Group and will keep you informed of developments.

Following implementation of a managed clinical network a strategic

plan will be developed for children and young people in HNEAHS. Access to timely and relevant data is crucial to the success of this initiative.

I'd like to take the opportunity to congratulate Dr Paul Walker on the publication of his 50th academic paper. Paul is a Paediatric Otolaryngologist who has provided an invaluable service to children for more than 20 years. In the next edition of *Kaleidoscope* we'll read of some of Paul's achievements during that time.

Congratulations too to Helen Johnson and the team at Maitland on your successful NSW Health Baxter Award for the Children's Emergency Care Project.

Research collaborators, Associate Professor John Stuart, paediatrician and Mr Chris Ashhurst-Smith, microbiologist have been recognised for their contribution to investigating otitis media – an important health issue in Aboriginal communities. In October, John and Chris were jointly awarded the inaugural Excellence Award for Aboriginal Health Research by the NSW Ministry for Science and Medical Research.

We are all busy... focussed on delivering the core function of our employment – be that administrative, clinical or generalist – but I would ask all staff to share their success stories. Such successes could be a presentation at conference/seminar, a change in procedure that results in a service delivery improvement or enhanced efficiency; a published paper, receipt of an award, grant or accolade. In the field of child health, you are achieving great things and it is appropriate to shout about these successes through avenues like the media, internal publications, staff forums etc. Please drop me or Colleen or Sarah in the Communication Team a note and we'll do the rest.



Prof. Trish Davidson
Area Director of Kaleidoscope

Child & Youth Maggie Project

improving the health journey for children, adolescents, their families and carers

Sean Fardell and Robert Redpath –
Implementation Officers

The Child & Youth Maggie Project is now twelve months into implementation. This project examines the way our health services are delivered to children and young people with a range of emotional, behavioural, developmental and mental health problems.

The project involves many staff from CAYMHS (Child And Youth Mental Health Services), CAFHS (Child and Family Health Service) and CAMHSNet (Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services Network) working together to deliver an integrated range of clinical programs in the community.

WHERE IS IMPLEMENTATION UP TO?

- The recommendations from the Program Design Working Party have been submitted. These include a draft of staffing requirements for the clinical programs.
- The management model for the new service has been submitted to the project's Executive for approval.
- The recommendations from the Central Intake (and referral form) working party have been accepted. New referral forms have been developed and trialled, and involved consultation with staff and external stakeholders (e.g. GPs)
- Case Management guidelines for staff have been developed and endorsed.
- Development of the referral criteria is well underway and meetings to progress the remaining solutions, Joint Interagency Working and Discharge and Transitions are occurring.
- The recommendations from the Information for Consumers and Stakeholders Working Party have been accepted. Work will continue on developing fact sheets and service brochures.

LOCATION, LOCATION

The implementation date for the new model continues to be delayed pending resolution of location and space issues. It has been decided that the new service will operate over two sites, Wallsend Campus and a yet to be determined inner Newcastle site. Funding has been approved to lease and refurbish this second site. Negotiations are currently occurring regarding a property in the Newcastle CBD.

NAME OF SERVICE

After much consultation and deliberation, we have decided upon the name for the new service – *Kaleidoscope Community Network*. Our consumer representative suggested this name and it has now been endorsed. This name distinguishes the service from other Kaleidoscope community services such as Child and Family Health Nursing.

CLINICAL PROGRAMS

Further negotiations have occurred about the names of programs. The Aboriginal Program will be known as "*Wiyiliin-ta*" (which means talking) *Aboriginal Well-Being Program*. The new name for the Child Protection Program is *Safer Families* and Zero to Four has become *Early Years Parenting*.

Although this is a time of great change, CAYMHS, CAFHS and CAMHSNet staff are continuing to meet the increasing demand for services as well as contribute to the project. A recent snapshot of consumer satisfaction across the services was very positive. This highlights the high quality of care staff are delivering to those clients who make it to our services. We intend to continue providing this high level of care within the new service whilst at the same time addressing the identified difficulties associated with access, duplication and space.

LOWER HUNTER CLUSTER

News from Maitland/Dungog

Dr Howard

Kaleidoscope's Maitland Paediatric team moved into a new dedicated child health clinic area on 10th October 2005.

Those familiar with the hospital will remember the area as A WARD, and more recently Human resources. Robbie Campbell and his enthusiastic team at the hospital did a marvellous job with the design, finish, and colour scheme.

The clinic area now comprises four consultation rooms, with a fifth equipped for minor procedures that may be appropriate on an outpatient basis. There are also offices for clinical and clerical staff.

As well as general paediatric outpatients, the clinic will also house

the long-standing paediatric cardiology clinic. It is hoped to develop other joint clinics with paediatric sub-specialists, as well as provide a site for allied health workers to provide child health services.

The refurbishment has been jointly funded by The Maitland Hospital, the Lower Hunter Sector, and interest earned on money raised from the first NBN Telethon to all of whom we are most grateful.

The new Paediatric and Child Health clinic at Maitland is certainly a marvellous opportunity to provide an optimal service to the children and their families of our community. We will be hosting an official opening early this year to showcase

the new facility to the Hunter community to acknowledge the role they played in securing this wonderful facility for our patients through the NBN Telethon.

In a four-week cycle, our four paediatricians now run 41 clinics in Maitland, 14 in Cessnock, six in Muswellbrook, six in Nelson Bay, eight in Raymond Terrace, and six in Singleton. Clinics are also run at Hunter Prelude in Singleton, and the Coachstop caravan park project in Maitland. Our aim is to provide service for our catchment population of approximately 180,000 (including 43,000 14y-olds and a number of older adolescents), in keeping with Kaleidoscope's ideal of "From the Bush to the Beach".



Dr Howard showcases one of the consultation rooms in the new paediatric clinic space at The Maitland Hospital.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF Janet Vale Ausling 1954 - 2006

Janet Ausling, The Maitland Hospital's long term Paediatric Nurse Unit Manager died on Saturday 9 January following a long battle with breast cancer.

Janet was 51 and is survived by her husband Peter Ryan and their children David, 19 and Olivia, nine. The couple's middle child Katherine died two years ago.

At 16, Janet started her general nurse training in Port Kembla, and after completing her general training, she went on to study midwifery at St George in Sydney.

In 1977 Janet began nursing in the Maternity Unit at The Maitland Hospital. In 1979 she transferred to paediatric nursing and was known as a passionate advocate for improving patient care. In 1983 Janet took up the role of Nurse Unit Manager in the Paediatric Unit.

Janet was a passionate nurse and always advocated for the children and families in her care. She was their

nurse but she was also a friend to many children and their families. Janet improved health services for children in our community through nursing with her heart. She instigated and oversaw a progressive and family centred approach to care in the Paediatric Unit. Janet was respected by all who worked with her.

Janet was a nursing mentor to many, and brought out the best in all people. Many of the nursing staff working in the Paediatric Unit have been there for more than 20 years, which is a reflection of Janet as a person and a manager.

Janet had a sharp wit and a wicked sense of humour. Laughter was often heard when she was around.

Janet lived her life with a positive and optimistic outlook, facing life's adversities head on and with great courage. Janet's many friends at Maitland will miss her smile, her sense of humour and her passion for life. We feel the richer for having had Janet in our lives.

Outrageous fun HIGHLIGHTS IMPORTANT ISSUE



Deborah Kerz, Bron Thomson and Linda Howell find a fun way to discuss an important topic.

Children & staff of The Maitland Hospital's Paediatric Unit helped to promote awareness of child protection issues by participating in *Outrageous Wednesday*. Staff chose the theme 'Happy Hippies' and had as much FUN as the children, with face painting and fancy dress.

The aim of the day was to raise the community's awareness of issues surrounding child protection. When community members and other staff asked about the team's choice of dress it gave them an opportunity to discuss child protection week.

HAND *in* HAND

Public Relations & Fundraising Unit Locked Bag 1, Hunter Region Mail Centre, Newcastle 2310

A SPECIAL *gift* FROM A *fairy* SPECIAL

Fairy Sparkle gifted a nature wonderland to John Hunter Children's Hospital patients and staff with the opening the Fairy Sparkle Forest Garden during Christmas celebrations 2005.

Patients and special guests Marcia Hines and Australian Idol finalist Marty Worrall sprinkled "fairy dust" around the roots of the frangipani tree, the Japanese maple, ancient tree ferns and the annuals to help the garden grow.

The opening celebrated the completion of stage two, and Fairy says the "magic and finishing touches" will be added in stage three, with the introduction of ornamentals and further planting.

"I'm delighted that with the help of many community supporters, we have transformed an unused space into an outdoor retreat for patients and staff to use over Christmas and into the New Year," Fairy said.

Creating the garden involved making the site flat and transporting soil, trees, and ferns over the walls of the John Hunter and into the courtyard by crane.

"We will host an official opening at the completion of stage three to acknowledge contributions from our financial partners, our dedicated volunteers and the contractors who worked with us along the way," she said.

Fairy has already begun work on the 'extras' that will make the garden into a true sanctuary and place for healing.

Plans are currently underway to create several spaces to accommodate small groups with seating facilities and Fairy is looking at ways to make the garden more private and restful. A special character will also take up residence in the garden... but that is a story for another time!

If you would like to know more about the philosophy of the Fairy Sparkle Forest Garden or her progress at the JHCH, please visit www.fairysparkle.com. To register your interest in supporting Stage Three, please contact Fairy on 0416 284 343.



Above: With a wave of her wand and the support of the community, Fairy Sparkle gifted a nature wonderland to patients and staff at the John Hunter Children's Hospital Christmas Party.
Below: After - stage two completion.



Above: Before all the hard work
Below: One of the trees being lowered into the courtyard garden



SPECIAL CARE for Maitland newborns

Local company Peabody Coaltrade and associates recently donated \$2,750 to The Special Care Nursery at The Maitland Hospital for the purchase of two Infant Resuscitator Neopuffs.

Funds were raised when Peabody Coaltrade invited customers and business associates to attend a function at a Rugby match and asked them to make a contribution towards the Special Care Nursery.

Special Care Nursery Nurse Unit Manager Louise-Maree Bright said the availability of two more neopuffs has meant better outcomes for patients and families.

"It has always been the team's aim to have one neopuff for each birthing suite, so that if a newborn needs oxygen, it can be delivered in a timely matter, without having to outsource from other units," Louise said.

"The generous contributions made by Peabody Coaltrade, Excel Mining and Noble Energy has brought us one step closer to achieving this goal."

Many newborns will benefit from the neopuffs, which help them breathe by delivering extra pressure and extra oxygen at a controlled pressure.

"The new models allow us to select the amount of oxygen required, and inflates the baby's lungs at a controlled pressure," Louise said.

"This means that the flow of oxygen is maintained at a consistent rate, and is far more precise than a manual system of oxygen delivery.

"We are sincerely grateful to the team at Peabody Coaltrade for organising the event on our behalf to help us achieve this wonderful result for our patients," she said.

Dancing & magic assist in pain management



Bob and the team from NSW Fire Brigade Zone North Three contributed \$15,000 towards the upgrade of patient controlled analgesia syringe pumps at the John Hunter Children's Hospital.

A Fire Fighters' Ball and the smoke and mirrors of a magic show has enabled the John Hunter Children's Hospital to secure funds to replace a fleet of Patient Controlled Analgesia (PCA) Syringe Pumps.

The NSW Fire Brigade Zone North Three and The Rotary Club of Newcastle Enterprise each contributed \$15,000 towards the upgrade after raising funds through a ball and magic festival (respectively).

The PCA Syringe Pumps are used to deliver pain relief in a safe way that empowers the child with a sense of control over their treatment plan.

The new pumps offer a number of advantages for patients including easier programming, enhanced safety features and a child-friendly button that is easier to press and lights up when a dose is available.

The increased number of pumps will almost double our capacity to offer children this effective mode of delivering pain relief.

The arrival of the new pumps has kick started our campaign to improve the paediatric pain service and we are extremely grateful to our community partners for their support.

The magic of MUSIC

It was a long overdue introduction, but nonetheless an exceptionally special one when at last Music Therapist Rachel Hamilton met

seven year-old Chelsea McNamara (left), her mum Leanne and siblings Breeanna and Jarrod for the first time in October.

Many at the John Hunter Children's Hospital know young Chelsea McNamara

and her family quite well. Although the initial introduction was as the result of a tragic accident some four

years ago, it was during that lengthy stay she and her family touched many hearts.

Chelsea's courage and willpower are a credit to the love, strength and conviction of her parents Leanne and Anthony. She underwent numerous life saving operations; made news headlines when Prof Davidson requested the assistance of an international surgeon to help reconstruct her oesophagus at Sydney Children's Hospital at Randwick; and continued to inspire staff with her sheer determination to survive.

During her treatment in Sydney, Chelsea experienced the positive

benefits of music therapy – a diversional therapy at the time only available for oncology patients at the John Hunter Children's Hospital. The benefits were so great for Chelsea that when she recovered her family turned their attention to helping other patients – this time channelling their strengths to fundraising to extend Music Therapy to all patients in our children's hospital.

Today, thanks to the McNamara family, the music that Rachel Hamilton makes is enjoyed by patients across the John Hunter Children's Hospital.



Right: Chelsea and Breeanna join a music session with Rachel.

Cheerleading for Chelsea fundraisers happen throughout the year and Public Relations can give you details. If you're interested in supporting Music Therapy or any other Kaleidoscope fundraising program either by making a direct donation or through regular Payroll Deduction, please call 4921 3844.

A good turn for Hunter kids



Above: Cardiac patient Gabrielle Tregloan will benefit from new monitoring equipment purchased with proceeds from the Hunter United Woodworking and Craft Expo 2005.

Patients from the John Hunter Children's Hospital like three-year-old Gabrielle Tregloan stand to benefit from funds raised at the Hunter United Woodworking and Craft Expo held in August last year.

Funds helped purchase four heart monitors for use at John Hunter Children's Hospital and devices used by Kaleidoscope's Child and Family Health Nurses to conduct hearing assessments.

Director for Kaleidoscope in Greater Newcastle Sector Pat Marks said the generosity of the Woodturners means the monitors in use at the John Hunter Children's Hospital can be replaced with a more advanced system.

"Partnerships with community groups like the Woodturners of the Hunter help us purchase state of the art equipment and ensures we can deliver an even higher standard of care to our patients," Ms Marks said.

"The new monitors observe the child's heart rate and oxygen levels, incorporate an inbuilt alarm to notify staff when changes occur, and a facility to print out results for patients like Gabby who have specialists in other facilities," she said.

Clients visiting Kaleidoscope's audiometry clinics will also have access to new Earscan tympanotres used to assess the child's middle ear function and identify any abnormal results.

Over the past ten years the Woodturners of the Hunter have dedicated an enormous amount of time, skill, passion and commitment to helping patients through a unique association with the John Hunter Children's Hospital Kids Club.

"This wonderful partnership has resulted in over \$400,000 worth of equipment being purchased for patients at the John Hunter Children's Hospital and we are sincerely grateful for their continued support," Ms Marks said.



Left: Kaleidoscope staff Sandy Stone, Karen Johnson, Lynn Walker and Cathy Grahame with Kids Club representatives at the opening of the Expo.

WOOLIES... willing a Fresh Future

The Woolworths Fresh Future Appeal has done more than just change its name... it changed the focus in the Hunter to support a campaign at the John Hunter Children's Hospital and paved the way to expand support for local child health projects throughout our region.

This year, the John Hunter Children's Hospital was represented by two



Woolworths Regional Manager (Northern) Jim Hassan and Deputy Chair of the Fresh Future Appeal Alison Minassian present a \$100,000 cheque to Prof. Davidson

patients nominated as Hospital Heroes of the Fresh Future Appeal. Chelsea McNamara and Elise Montgomery. Both Heroes attended Appeal launch celebrations and escorted Store Managers and Campaign coordinators on a tour of the children's hospital.

Hospital Heroes have a busy schedule, participating in store functions and recreational activities where they meet other Woolworths staff and other Hospital Heroes from around NSW. Chelsea and Elise represented the many sick children and young people who require the specialist care at our facility each year.

On 16 November the Woolworths team presented a cheque for \$100,000. The funds raised this year will ensure that the parent sofa beds in the John Hunter Children's Hospital will be replaced. The

existing beds are now quite old and their size restrictive in such a confined space. The new beds have sprung mattress - assuring a more comfortable night sleep - and will fold away into special wall mounts making the area surrounding the patient's bed more spacious and providing better access.

The support of Alison Minassian, who each year takes on the role of Fresh Future Deputy Appeal Manager in addition to her normal finance management duties, is especially acknowledged. Her passion and dedication is greatly appreciated and her willingness to pursue an even stronger partnership of support for our region is inspirational. Thanks too to Woolworths senior executives Peter Smith and Jim Hassan for their support and commitment to children of the Hunter.

Take a bow guys, you deserve it

Thank you staff and management from the following Woolworths stores for delivering a magnificent result this year... On behalf of the many thousands of families who will benefit from your generosity, our sincerest thanks.

- Beresfield
- Cessnock
- Charlestown
- Foster
- Glendale
- Greenhills
- Jesmond
- Kotara
- Maitland
- Mayfield
- Mount Hutton
- Muswellbrook
- Raymond Terrace
- Raymond Terrace North
- Salamander Bay
- Scone
- Singleton
- Taree
- Toronto
- Warrabrook

A bright Christmas for PATIENTS & CLIENTS

Kaleidoscope patients and clients benefited from the support of the Hunter community over the Christmas season, with many well wishers donating gifts for distribution throughout the network. An assortment of gifts were issued to paediatric wards and child and family health nursing centres at Maitland, Muswellbrook, Cessnock, Singleton, Kurri Kurri, Newcastle, Tamworth, Taree and Armidale.

Other community friends donated their time to visit patients at the John Hunter Children's Hospital in the lead up to Christmas. On behalf of the patients and their families who received gifts and special visits, thank you:

STACKS
GOUDCAMP,
Newcastle
Newcastle Bus Service
Ted and Leonie Care
Maureen Thomas,
Thomas' Time Pieces
Kmart Wishing Tree
Contour Building

Les and June Simmons
Fairy Sparkle
Paul and Helen Arkley
McDonalds Family
Restaurants Hunter
The McDonalds
Hunter Jaegers
Newcastle United Jets
The Matildas

Joel Howlett
Marty Worrall
Marcia Hines
John Paul Young
Burnie Cinders
Prime Possum
Big Dog
Dr Twang
Nathan and Luke

Dr Either
Nurse Smee
Ronald McDonald
Katie Renshaw
Victory Christian
Centre
Rainbows and Jelly
Beans and Friends
Lisa from Fun Faces

John Hunter
Hospital Choir
Hunter Pirates
Newcastle Knights
NRMA Charlestown
The Exodus Foundation
Australian Tax Office
Social Club, Newcastle
Energy Australia

Kasey Chambers
Becy Cole
ChemistWorks
Carol Sanderson

Below: Tyler Farmer meets his favourite Jet Nick Carle and wears ears for the occasion!



Ronald McDonald and players from Newcastle United Jets, Hunter Jaegers and the Matildas made a special visit to JHCH in the lead up to Christmas.



Margaret Pannell delivered a busload of presents to the John Hunter Children's Hospital in December with her colleagues from Newcastle Bus Service.

PARTNERSHIP continues beyond RETIREMENT



Chief Superintendent Bob Lewthwaite (pictured on the left) was farewelled in August at Newcastle Panthers by 280 colleagues and friends after 40 years with the New South Wales Fire Brigade.

The event celebrated many facets of his leadership including his approachable nature and commitment to supporting his staff and members of the community who have been touched by the service in very difficult circumstances.

Hunter Kidsafe, Burns Support Network and the John Hunter Children's Hospital benefited from Bob's support during his eight and a half years as Chief Superintendent in the Hunter region.

In 2000, Bob formed a committee to organise an annual Fire Fighters' Ball, raising funds to help in the promotion of fire safety and prevention,

as well as offer support to JHCH patients receiving treatment for burns and other illnesses.

Thanks to the efforts of Bob, the committee, and the Fire Fighters and their families who generously support the fundraising events each year, patients at the John Hunter Children's Hospital have received more than \$100,000 in benefits.

We extend our sincere thanks to Bob and his team for the legacy they created for our patients during his time as Chief Superintendent, and look forward to working with him in retirement in his capacity as patron of the ball!

We would also like to welcome Chief Superintendent Garry McBain to the role, and thank him for his continuing support of this partnership.

SPONSORSHIP POLICY

Prof. Trish Davidson

From the General Manager's desk

Children's services in the Upper Hunter remain busy, with an extra half day child and family health clinic operating at Scone due to an increased need for service.

The weekly settling group in Muswellbrook continues to be popular with mothers, and has been extended to Scone initially on a fortnightly basis. The new mothers groups are up running again in the Upper Hunter after Child and Family Health nurse Pat Miller was recruited to the role.

The outreach child & family health clinics in the socially isolated community in South Muswellbrook, and geographically isolated community of Cassilis continue to be well accessed by families in those areas.

The *Pathways to Health* research program being run in partnership between community nursing and the Shire Council auspiced Rural Families Project is in its final stages and will be evaluated over the next few months. We are hoping that the outcomes will indicate a need for ongoing funding to enable our

two organisations to continue this worthwhile program targeting the health of disadvantaged children.

The pilot of *Kids on Walkabout* project targeting healthy eating and activity in two local schools, run by dietician Brodie Preston and Diabetes Educator Kerry Collins, has been completed and is currently being evaluated.

The Young Parent Support Worker, Michelle Mason and Outreach Prenatal Educators Jodie Duffell and Connie Greenwood have commenced a Young Parent Support Group in Muswellbrook. The Outreach Prenatal Educators are planning to run groups in both Muswellbrook and Merriwa targeting women who are newly pregnant or considering pregnancy, to provide information about keeping themselves and their baby healthy throughout the pregnancy.

As you can see we are very busy in the Upper Hunter keeping our families healthy and well informed!

As employees of NSW Health, all Kaleidoscope employees must conform to the NSW Health Sponsorship Policy – reference PD2005-415. The Policy has been developed to ensure we operate in a consistent and ethical way to seeking and granting sponsorships.

Compliance with the Sponsorship Policy, which was developed in consultation with all Area Health Services, ICAC and the Audit Office – is mandatory.

As stated in that Policy “*over the past two decades there has been a trend for government agencies to develop community partnerships and to seek sponsorship from the private sector. Through such arrangements and as a result of additional funds, many government agencies have been able to develop new services and receive regular income from sponsorship.*”

As well as the benefits, there are risks associated with sponsorship. Sponsorship agreements require careful review to ensure they fit within an ethical framework that complies with accountability and transparency requirements set out for the public sector and are in the public interest.”

The test is whether the arrangement will withstand full public scrutiny and not undermine public confidence in the neutrality and integrity of the agency. Public confidence can quickly

erode if there is a perception that, by way of a sponsorship arrangement, a government agency is no longer neutral, or is implicitly promoting or endorsing a particular sponsor's products or services.

Risks can be minimised by ensuring that sponsorship arrangements are properly assessed, developed, documented, managed, monitored and evaluated.

The policy document is available on the NSW Health website or copy is available in the Kaleidoscope Communication Unit. All staff who have previously been involved with or who are interested in arranging sponsorship should familiarise themselves with the Policy document. The document contains a Checklist and Contract template that must be completed for the Chief Executive's signature.

I have asked the Communication Manager to play a consultancy role in advising staff on attracting, assessing, securing approval and directing evaluation of all sponsorships to support Kaleidoscope activities.

Please advise Colleen Crowe or Sarah Beames of all existing sponsorship arrangements and liaise with them if you are considering pursuing sponsorship opportunities.

Education Day for trauma professionals

John Hunter Children's Hospital Orthopaedic CNC Kim Berry presented on the Management of Paediatric Fractures at an Education Day for trauma professionals in November last year.

Over 150 trauma professionals from medical, nursing and ambulance disciplines attended the Education Day supported by the NSW Institute of Trauma and Injury

Management at Noah's on the Beach.

Kim said the aim of her presentation was to ensure both rural and metropolitan centres were aware of best practice guidelines and working towards providing standardised care for patients.

“It is important that all institutions receiving paediatric orthopaedic

trauma collaborate to ensure that the management of these injuries is consistent,” Kim said.

“In my presentation we discussed the primary aims of orthopaedic management and reviewed procedures for the initial assessment and management.”

Kim also stressed the importance of keeping the lines of communication

between each service open, so that staff know that advice is always a phone call away.

Other topics covered by speakers at the forum (including John Hunter Hospital Trauma CNC Julie Evans) included pre-hospital management, in-hospital management, stabilisation and transfer, and specialty areas such as paediatric burns.

Pat's Pen: Director KGNS

As another year begins, it is a timely opportunity to reflect on our achievements during a year of change and flexibility. For many it was business as usual as we continued to provide excellent healthcare services to the children, young people and their families in the greater Newcastle area.

While embracing our new identity, management structure and future strategic directions we also brought to reality some long awaited goals in 2005.

When Fairy Sparkle first posed the idea of building a Forest Garden on the John Hunter campus it marked the start of a journey by many to provide better recreational facilities in the children's hospital.

During that journey, patients of the John Hunter Children's Hospital have reaped the benefits of the introduction of enormously successful programs such as Play Therapy (which also resulted in enhanced playground facilities for every ward) and Music Therapy. Then we constructed the Starlight Express Room and the Ronald McDonald Family Room – facilities designed around patient and family comfort. This journey concludes this

year with a special celebration as Fairy Sparkle presented the *Fairy Sparkle Forest Garden* to the Hospital at the Children's Christmas Party in December.

We thank Fairy for having the dream and for her tenacity and strength in staying committed to making this dream a reality. Success would not have been possible without Fairy's support and the tireless fundraising work of many groups in the Hunter and beyond. Thank you!

Mental Health is an area where as a result of enormous efforts by many, amazing progress has been made on the implementation of the Child and

Youth Health Maggie Project. I commend the team, the consumers, the service providers and all involved in this huge organisational change for their dedication and drive to bringing the project forward. Implementation this year will have its challenges but they will be far outweighed by the successes.

The reintroduction of Staff Forums in 2005 proved a successful step forward in meeting the challenges of communicating with a diverse range of staff with competing workloads, differing access to technological tools and varying work schedules. We'll continue to ask how best to serve staff communication needs and

welcome your suggestions and feedback.

Dates for 2006 Staff Forums will be posted on the Kaleidoscope website in February and an all user email will follow. Please ensure this information is available to staff who do not have access to the intranet/email.

Patricia M Marks

Pat Marks
Director of Kaleidoscope KGNS
Director of Nursing KGNS



Trees and soil were transported over the walls of JHH and into the garden courtyard via crane



Lord Mayor Cnr John Tate joins patients and staff for the turning of the first sod.

KALEIDOSCOPE...looking good



The New Year heralds the rollout of our new Corporate Style and the introduction of a range of tools to ensure that we all consistently promote and reinforce the professionalism and credibility of the services provided under the umbrella of Kaleidoscope.

The new range of corporate stationery items and templates introduced includes: compliment slips, presentation folders and document / report cover pages. Also available in the corporate package is a range of pre-printed colour documents (we call these "shell papers") created to work with B&W word templates for in-house printing to produce DL (A4 3-fold) brochures, double-sided A4 Information sheets/posters, invitation cards and certificates. A PowerPoint template will also be introduced.

Staff will receive a detailed memo about these corporate style products which will be sent to managers and posted on the Kaleidoscope website. Your co-operation in converting existing promotional documents to reflect our new corporate style is appreciated.

At the moment, while the organisation-wide SALMAT ordering system gets established, staff are asked to contact Katie Tudor (ext. 13672) to order supplies of corporate stationery items. If you have any questions about corporate style guidelines and publication requirements please contact Colleen Crowe, Kaleidoscope Communication Manager on ext. 14492.



Showcasing our diverse NURSING TALENTS



Committee members Denise Kinross, Julie McBride, Jen Wendtman, Kerri Sullivan, Liz Notaras, Sandy Stone and Linda Cheese enjoy a moment before the seminar begins



Jim and Louise Smith can smile after their presentations!

JHCH Paediatric Brain Injury CNC Jenny Keller gives the inside scoop on the posters, presentations and prizes from the Kaleidoscope Nurses' Seminar

The 5th Annual Kaleidoscope and Northern Child Health Network Nurses' Seminar, *Embracing Our Diversity*, was recently held at Sebel Kirkton Park in the Hunter Vineyards.

Professor **Diana Keatinge** headlined the event and congratulated the seminar committee on its valuable contribution to nurse education. She noted the seminar was extremely successful in uniting paediatric nurses, with some attendees coming as far as Tamworth.

HNEAH Chief Executive **Terry Clout** followed, dealing with every presenter's nightmare "Oh my god where's the disk with my power point?" with skill and good humour. And you guessed it...the back up was a dud! There was a nervous tension in the room as every presenter checked for the location of their discs.

Terry's words flowed easily regardless; a man passionate about our health system, our partnerships, values and vision. It was great to hear validation of the importance Kaleidoscope's role, a small system within the humongous health system. The power of praise cannot

be underestimated and should be prescribed more often.

Louise Smith then gave an insight into her role as the first nurse employed in child protection in Australia. It was inspiring stuff and no great surprise when Louise won people's choice award for best presentation.

The Hunter Orthopaedic School CNS **Jim Smith**, not adverse to a challenge, approached the pulpit armed with information on the special schools program. Redefining nursing roles within schools... did I hear that right? Out with the curtain washing and the bleaching of the coffee cups and in with such activities as wound assessment, epilepsy management, infection control and health liaison etc.

Jim was commended for his ability to look outside the square. His vision for the future is both inspiring and progressive.

Paediatric Outreach CNC **Rhonda Winskill** then gave feedback collated from participants who attended the *Paediatric Resuscitation Workshop*, a one-day program written and developed by CNC Paediatric Outreach at NETS **Debbie Andrews**. The workshop is offered throughout metropolitan, rural and remote areas. Rhonda said there has been positive feedback on the program's hands on approach to education.

Kerri Sullivan invited us to share her journey from the beginnings of the position of Paediatric Surgery Liaison Nurse. With much dedication, passion and hard work the pilot position evolved into her current position of Paediatric Surgical CNC. Kerri continues with her efforts to streamline nursing care and support staff working at the coalface.

CNS **Wendy Aston** and CFHN **Wendy Sahu-Khan** showcased the Early Bird support group offered to families of infants aged 0-8 months in East Lake Macquarie. One of the aims is to improve the duration of breastfeeding rates for local mothers. Wendy reinforced that Child and Family Health Nursing is not all weighing and measuring babies; early intervention can ensure less demand on the health system later.

Robyn Wile outlined the history of Neonatal Transport in HNE Health. Robyn has worked in NICU for the past 16 years in which she has witnessed many changes. The retrieval of neonates in the Hunter

receives no additional funding and she highlighted the need for people to support them in any future endeavours.

JHCH Oncology CNC **Di Cotterell** provided an overview of the Oncology Bravery Bead Program which allows children to record their individual journeys through treatment by beads given after health care events. A necklace that tells an individual story, each bead a huge event in a child's life. The program receiving positive feedback from staff, family and children involved.

All presenters were inspiring and demonstrated their dedication to delivering high quality care to the children within the Hunter New England area.

Many thanks to Tyco Healthcare, Heinz, Wyeth Nutrition, Industries Mutual, Credit Union, Roche Products Pty Limited and Paedpharm for their valuable sponsorship. We appreciate your contributions and hope to see you all next year.

Congratulations to JHCH Respiratory CNC **Linda Cheese** for winning the prize for best poster. Linda documented her well planned and coordinated approach to transition care for young people with CF from the JHCH to the JHH. Linda acknowledged the contributions of Adult Respiratory CNC **Vanessa McDonald**, and Kaleidoscope's Transition Coordinator **Rebecca Harris**.

The CAREing side of research

Each year the HCRF CARE Awards – proudly sponsored by local businesses – are awarded to individuals respected for their contribution to child health. The ongoing commitment represented by these valuable sponsors reinforces the respect that our community has for the important role that researchers play in ensuring our children have a healthy future.



Award recipients showed surprise at their success after being encouraged to attend to show support for a "colleague" who had been nominated!

Congratulations to **Professor Philip Hazell** on receiving the **Research Mentor of the Year Award** in recognition of his invaluable role over many years in mentoring young researchers. A forerunner in creating a research and evidence-based focused child and youth mental health

service, Philip was commended for making the research world a place others would want to be involved in. He received his award from Ms Margaret Ellis, General Manager, Marketing, Newcastle Permanent Building Society.

Mr Jeff Shakespeare, Managing Director of JSA Financial Planning Group presented the **Achievement in Research Award** to joint recipients **A/Professor John Stuart** and **Mr Chris Ashhurst-Smith**. This Award recognises the special community links they have established within the Aboriginal community. John and Chris were also acknowledged for their recent commendation for the significance of their research for investigating otitis media – an important health issue in Aboriginal communities.

The **Special Achievement in Quality Improvement** was awarded to **Dr Paul Craven** and presented by Kevin McDougall, President of Wests Leagues Club. This Award recognises Dr Craven's contribution to the Newborn Resuscitation Program. While birth is an exciting and rewarding time for all involved it is one of the riskiest times of our lives. Paul's efforts have ensured that everyone attending deliveries in the Hunter New

England Area is trained in resuscitation. With yearly updates provided by the new trainers, all Hunter New England babies are assured the best possible start.



Congratulations to **Dr Rajendra Kumar** (pictured left) who received the **Special Encouragement Award for Research**. Presented by Mr Steve Rich,

Managing Director, RICH Computing this Award acknowledges Raj's enthusiasm for promoting the paediatric surgical unit as a research oriented unit. His presentation of scientific papers and presentations to Grand Rounds was acknowledged, as was his commitment to encourage staff across a multidisciplinary team to participate in research.

Congratulations and Thank You too to the Hunter Children's Research Foundation for their amazing efforts, their continued stamina and relentless enthusiasm for ensuring that commitment to research into childhood illness lives on in the Hunter.

PARTNERSHIPS IMPROVE CARE FOR CHILDREN WITH CYSTIC FIBROSIS

Children with cystic fibrosis from Armidale and surrounding districts enjoyed access to an outreach clinic in September thanks to a partnership between Cystic Fibrosis NSW and HNE Health staff.

John Hunter Children's Hospital (JHCH) Respiratory Specialist Dr Bruce Whitehead said eight families from places like Armidale, Lismore, and Tamworth benefited enormously from the outreach clinic.

"During the clinic, patients had access to all the services and specialists they would normally encounter at a tertiary hospital, including their respiratory specialist, clinical nurse consultant, physiotherapist, dietitian and social worker," Dr Whitehead said.

After the clinic, parents had an opportunity to have an informal lunch with the JHCH Cystic Fibrosis Team and local health professionals.

"This was a great opportunity for parents to ask any questions relating to their child's care and form lasting support networks with other parents," he said.

In addition to the clinic, a free Cystic Fibrosis update was held for local health professionals who treat the children on a regular basis.

"Local GPs and health staff provide a fantastic service to our cystic fibrosis patients in between clinics and are

often the first point of contact for a family when they are concerned about their child," Dr Whitehead said.

"The CF update gave us an opportunity to share information on new trends in medical and nursing management, and different aspects of physiotherapy, dietetics and social work.

"This sharing exercise strengthened the partnerships we currently enjoy with our colleagues and will ultimately lead to improved results for the children in our care," he said.

Another outreach clinic is planned for May.



CF team members Dr Gus Elder, Barbara Anderson, Alicia Tremain, Rosie Day, Dr Bruce Whitehead, Dr Clare Collins, Majella Maher and Linda Cheese held an outreach clinic in Armidale late last year.

NICU FAREWELLS Margaret Yarrow

An afternoon tea was held in November to celebrate the retirement of Margaret Yarrow (NUM), following a nursing career spanning over 47 years.

Margaret began her nursing as a cadet nurse at the age of 15, before completing her nursing training at Kurri Kurri District Hospital.

After working in several hospitals in country NSW, she returned to Newcastle to settle with her husband and family.

Margaret began work in the special care nursery at the Mater Hospital over 30 years ago and moved to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at John Hunter Hospital when it opened its doors in 1991.

Margaret is well known for her jokes and story telling as well as her netball skills and has made many friends during her career- many of those friends joined Margaret and her family in celebrating her retirement at a dinner held in her honour.