

## FROM OUR VICE PRESIDENT

'Why am I involved with CIKA?'

As a mother who lives nearby, I was destined to spend time at the Children's. Over the years I've come here with each of my children, for minor mishaps and serious ailments. We came one Christmas morning after my daughter Katie had an incident on rollerblades, in the kitchen, with a knife. My son Andrew was born in Emergency, when he decided he couldn't wait for the ambulance. Trying to open a mandarin tin, my daughter Madeline nearly severed the nerve in her hand, but much to the relief of her hockey coach, has made a full recovery. I can look back on these stories, and laugh now, but I wasn't laughing when my son Brian was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer.

Brian had excellent care, and I do remember moments of laughter during his treatment, as we got involved with music therapy, and jumped on his bed whilst watching the Wiggles. Despite his excellent care, and our efforts to remain upbeat, Brian died 8 months after his diagnosis.

At one bereavement support group I heard about the Cancer in Kids Auxiliary. I went to a meeting, and I found something I hadn't expected, a new family. They took me in and accepted me as I was then, and gave me the support I needed. They understood when I couldn't find words, and together, we got on with raising money for cancer research.

CIKA members are very creative, and love nothing more than finding new ways to raise money. We have monthly stalls and annual balls. We've had dog shows and pie throwing competitions, and every year I get the chance to go camping at the Old Time Wood Days. Over the years I have met the most incredible people, and had my faith restored countless times. Being part of CIKA lets me do things for Brian; to achieve things I hope he would be proud of me for, and has given me many wonderful friends.

Together we have raised very significant amounts of money, which we use to fund research into solid tumours. When CIKA was first formed in 1980, most kids didn't survive. Whilst this has improved, there is still a way to go. Last year, we commenced funding for the Translational Research Centre in Paediatric Solid Tumours. This is a project that is being conducted through a partnership between The Royal Children's Cancer Centre and Murdoch Children's Research Institute.

By working together we hope to realize our common vision, that through research we can not only improve treatment but also discover a way to prevent childhood tumours. By all of us working together, we can continue to support this hospital, so it can look after the health and well-being of the children of today, and tomorrow.



*Ellen Webb*

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hi All,

CIKA will be 35 next year and still the work of funding research into solid cancerous tumours continues.

We are fortunate to have such wide support throughout Victoria and I hope that the stories of some of our supporters in the community convey the value of these people.

The CIKA team have reaffirmed their commitment to the large body of research we fund and have also approved two further projects that will run in conjunction with our current 4 year project, the establishment of a Translational Research Center in Paediatric Tumours.

The new projects are:

- A clinical trials co-coordinator for the solid tumour program for 2 years.
- Enhancing specimen collections for tissue bank for 2 years.

We thank you all for your continued support and hope that the time spent over Christmas and the New Year brings happiness to all.

*Sandra Lehrer,  
President*



## CIKA'S HOSPITAL STALL

CIKA's Hospital Stall, held monthly in Main Street at the RCH, and from time to time elsewhere, is a major source of the income that supports CIKA funded research. We continue to benefit from the kindness of many who contribute goods for sale, most of which are handmade. Amongst these generous contributors are Ann and Ron, seen below with CIKA volunteer Lyn Weber (right).



If you can help with a donation of goods or if you would like to join the volunteer team, please contact Pam Phillips on 0418 344 223 or Sala Rubinstein on 0411 515 119.

## CIKA STALL DATES

The CIKA stall is set up in the hospital foyer on the either the second or the third Thursday of most months. The 2015 dates are:

Thursday January 22  
Thursday February 19  
Thursday April 16  
Thursday May 21  
Thursday June 18

Thursday July 16  
Thursday August 20  
Thursday September 17  
Thursday October 22  
Thursday December 17

## ANDY'S MARKET

The annual Andy's market was held in Main Street at the RCH on the 26th of November. Pam, Lady Marmalade, Geoff and helpers, Lois and Anne, set out a full array of home-made jams, aprons, frocks and an abundance of beautifully presented Christmas presents. This energetic crew started early in the morning and finally pulled up stumps at 5pm. Although very hard work, their reward was the number of transactions in the day. All in all, a very successful stall. Well done team!



## WHAT IS CIKA?

Cancer in Kids @ RCH (CIKA) was founded in 1980 by three families who were each grieving their beloved child who had died from a solid tumour. CIKA has grown over the years to include many more families and friends of a child who has been diagnosed with a solid tumour.

When CIKA was first formed, most children did not survive their cancer. Today, most will survive, but not all. It is our aim to see all children not just survive, but thrive.

We believe that the best way to help cancer patients is to find new ways to treat cancer. We do this by raising money to fund research at the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne. We have funded many projects over the years.

The projects we fund:

- Conduct research into multiple types of solid tumours;
- Have the potential to provide benefit to current patients;
- Build on research we have previously funded.

We are currently funding the Translational Research Centre in Paediatric Solid Tumours, through a partnership of the Children's Cancer Centre and Murdoch Children's Research Institute.

At the core of the Centre is the Tissue Bank. Banking of tumour tissue is essential for research into childhood tumours, as researchers need access to sufficient numbers of samples of these rare disorders. The RCH CCC tissue bank is one of only a few in the country that routinely collects such tissues for these purposes. CIKA was involved in the initial creation of this tissue bank. We have recently committed to funding a roster on-call scientists to enable out of hour collection and processing of specimens.

We are also funding a dedicated clinical trials coordinator for solid tumours to help increase the number of children with solid tumours enrolled on clinical trials from under 10%, to greater than 70%, and give patients access to new novel therapeutic drug trials.

**All the money we raise goes to fund research.  
We thank you for your interest and support.**

For more information and to see what activities are taking place to support CIKA please visit our website:

[www.cika.org.au](http://www.cika.org.au)



## STALL AT THE PINES

Pam Phillips has one speed for CIKA and that is flat-out!

April the 17th saw Pam, her trailer laden with home-made and donated goods, set up a huge pre-Easter stall at The Pines Shopping center.

Intent on capturing the very busy passing traffic she enlisted her friends Lois, Eugenia, Maryanne and her grandchildren, Harvey and Chantelle, to assist on the day.

The stall was an overwhelming success and over \$4000.00 was raised during the very long day of selling.

We would like to send a special thank you to Pam's grandchildren Harvey and Chantelle who had made loom bands to sell. They did a very brisk trade with their great designs! They were also very enthusiastic shaker tin rattlers and were able to raise \$600.00 with this activity alone.

Well done, it's great to have young CIKA supporters on board.



## WONDERFUL WOODDAYS

The annual Wood Days fundraiser is the highlight of the year for many CIKA supporters. A first time attendee at this year's event tells us why she agrees.

I was told many things about Wood Days by friends and family who had been lucky enough to go in previous years. Although I was looking forward to going this year, nothing prepared me for what was in store. My expectation of the Wood Days bush block was one of the wilderness and maybe a hut or two. Extensive sheds, benches and a huge fire pit, all crafted without machinery created a wonderful old-time feeling. Dean and Lea made a long bar height bench just after we arrived. This didn't take too long due to the enthusiasm and help that went in to creating it.

The atmosphere at the block was inclusive, kind, old-worldly, and very child friendly. The CIKA Wood Days team was forever busy but always ready for a chat, a cuppa and showing people the old ways of doing things that we take for granted today. A good example of this was when two very lucky kids talked about making a stool within earshot of Andrew, who subsequently cut two stools for them within 20 minutes! The smiles on all three faces were beautiful.

Saturday's festivities were amazing. Johnny, the two year old Clydesdale, and his friends Tiny and Lofty were well received by all, especially the kids. One regular Wood Days attendee, Jason, spent many hours carefully hand making wooden toys for the kids which were immediately played with. Many of Jason's toys are still being enjoyed years after they were made! The pit saw and double-handed saw were a hit, as was the axe handle machine, which creates a handle from a template. Several interesting old machines were used to power saws and the axe-handle cutter. The bench chainsaw cut huge, glowing redgum and cedar pieces. All were for sale and highly prized; they were bought immediately once cut. One family who are going to use cedar pieces to make new benches in their kitchen took many as they left on Sunday. The three-course dinner was cooked entirely in the fire pit and included a suckling pig, tender lamb shoulder, apricot chicken, curried sausages, vegetables and salad. Dessert was no less impressive and after such a busy day, everyone had a very good appetite!

Wood Days began nineteen years ago due to the Duyvestyn family's passion to raise funds for the Children's Hospital. Dean was one of the lucky ones and survived his childhood cancer; he and his family dedicate huge efforts to supporting the hospital in the hope that others with an ill child will be as lucky as their family continues to be. As a first-time Wood Days attendee I am already looking forward to going to the Wood Days in 2015 to further support the Duyvestyns in their fundraising for CIKA, and for an even better time.

This annual event is a tribute to the energy and resourcefulness of the Duyvestyn family and their many generous helpers and supporters. This year's event had all of the usual displays: post-and-rail fencing, slab cutting for tables and seats, axe handle making, whip making, Clydesdale horses working in the bush, drag saws, saw benching with





oil engines, photographic display of the local area, displays of tools, axes, saws etc., and camp oven cooking with damper for morning and afternoon teas.

Heywood Lions Club manned the BBQ on both days for lunch and Nick Kerr from Farm Foods provided the meat for those meals, a generous donation for which we are most grateful. We also appreciate the donations by the Taranto Family and Rod's Fruit and Veg of fresh fruit and vegetables used for the Saturday night dinner and the stalls and which, along with other donated homemade product, was available for purchase.

Wood Days Calendars were, as usual, a big hit and we still have a few available for purchase.

To the many people who continue to assist, donate and support this event – Thank you! We can only continue to fund the research we do with YOUR support!



Planning for the 2015 event has already started.  
**It will be the 20th Wood Days Weekend and it's going to be HUGE!**



**SCOTT DUYVESTYN HAS DONE IT AGAIN**



For the second year running Scott has been recognized by his employer, ExxonMobil, for his volunteer work with CIKA. As a result of his efforts, CIKA was the recipient of a \$1000 cheque that will be used to support our research project. Our thanks go to ExxonMobil for recognizing the volunteer work that many of their staff do in the community.



Before the guests arrive, the volunteer team has the opportunity for a preview of the ballroom and the silent auction.



### A PICTURE SPEAKS A THOUSAND WORDS...

Saturday 16 August saw many of CIKA's loyal supporters enjoying themselves at The Pullman Albert Park where our annual ball was hosted by our patron, Mr Peter Mitchell. Bob Valentine and his band provided the music and the Grand Auction was conducted by Leor Samuel.

The event raised \$47,453, a great result in these difficult economic times and a tribute to the generosity of our supporters and the hard work of our volunteers.

It was another wonderful night thanks to a small committee of hardworking people who are committed to the work that CIKA does.

Patrons were treated to the music of Bob Valentine's band and the Grand Auction was conducted by Leor Samuel.

A delicious surprise for the guests was the auction of a 10 kg block of chocolate, donated by a Methodist Ladies' College family.





We were very pleased to welcome so many of the dedicated nursing team from the RCH.



CIKA Patron, Peter Mitchell



Committee member, Pam Phillips, was presented with the award of CIKA CHAMPION in recognition of her tireless support over many years. Peter Mitchell and Ellen Webb made the presentation (left) and CIKA president, Sandra Lehrer, was amongst the first to congratulate her.



The second CIKA CHAMPION award for 2014 was made to Stuart and Robert Crowl of Briamar Press for their generous support for more than a decade.



#### MADGE TATE AWARD

The prestigious Madge Tate award is presented each year to an auxiliary member who has shown great leadership and diligence in fundraising for the Royal Children's Hospital. This year, and for the first time in the history of this award, a couple were the winners. CIKA members Andrew and Christine Duyvestyn from Byaduk have shown a long and sustained commitment to supporting research into solid cancerous tumours in children. The CIKA team, along with a large contingent of family and friends, were there to celebrate the award with them. Andrew and Christine have also received recognition from Premier Napthine who is well aware of the work that they have done in his electorate. We are very proud to have them on the CIKA team.

### TEN YEARS OF 'BUILD A BASKET' AT MLC

It was 'All Hands on Deck' for Year 7 at Methodist Ladies' College on Tuesday August 5 when the students, with some help from staff and volunteer parents, wrapped the baskets that they had donated to the Silent Auction for this year's CIKA Ball. For the past ten years, students have been donating goods and producing these colourful and popular baskets for auction. Those produced this year were placed on display around the school before being transported to the ball venue. Well over \$30,000 has been raised to date. We are most grateful to everyone involved in this initiative.



### COOKING FOR CASH (CIKA)

Every year since 2006 a significant amount of money has been raised by a small group of girls at MLC who take a Home Economics subject called Cooking for Cash. The girls run a small catering business and staff at the College purchase the goods produced. Muesli, sausage rolls, banana and blueberry bread and Thai Green Curry have been enjoyed this year. More than \$10,000 has been raised since the program's inception and this year will add another \$1534 to the total. Teacher, Debbie Hudson, has nothing but praise for the team of girls who work incredibly hard to fill the orders in a short space of time. While the staff enjoy the fruits of their labour, CIKA takes their earnings. A great partnership!



## BENDIGO CUP DAY LUNCHEON

Fashion for the Field was name of this year's highly successful Bendigo Cup Day Luncheon. This event, which took place on Tuesday 30 September, was the second such luncheon organised by the very energetic Ruth Edelsten, supported by CIKA member Sala Rubinstein shown here with a very special guest at the 2013 function. Almost 150 attendees enjoyed great company, terrific food and an inspiring fashion parade which resulted in over \$4,100 being raised for CIKA. A special thanks to those thirty members of the Macedon Ranges Focus Group who caught the train to Bendigo, to the guests who attended from Melbourne and to the representatives from the Bendigo branch of The Bendigo Bank for their support. We also thank those supporters who donated time and product for the event. These include Ali from the Bendigo Hat Shop, Colibri Jewellery, and Ellie from Marinda Bout.

An excerpt from an article which appeared in the Bendigo Advertiser is reprinted below.

*TUMOURS in children becoming a thing of the past was the main reason for a special lunch and fashion parade in Bendigo today. The Fashion for the Field fundraising lunch at Bendigo Stadium raised around \$3780 for an official auxiliary of the Royal Children's Hospital, the Cancer In Kids Auxiliary (CIKA), which conducts research into childhood cancers.*

*Event organisers Ruth Edelsten and Sala Rubenstein said the CIKA fundraiser, which included a two-course meal and a clothes and hat fashion parade, had a good turnout of about 150 people. They said the fact the amount raised for CIKA more than doubled the amount raised at last year event was "fantastic". "Everyone loved it, we had great models," she said. "The venue was great...very supportive of whatever we wanted. I'd like to thank everyone for their support, people were just wonderful."*

*CIKA president Sandra Lehrer, one of the event's special guests, thanked Ruth and Sala for their support with getting CIKA fundraisers under way in Bendigo. Ms Lehrer said all money raised for the auxiliary went directly towards research into solid tumours, the most common type of childhood cancers.*

*She said the auxiliary was also looking to establish a Bendigo "Friends of CIKA" group who could get together socially and discuss future fundraising events in the area, with the support of the Royal Children's Hospital.*





## CARDINIA WATERS VILLAGE

The generous people at Cardinia Waters Village have recently joined the CIKA team with a donation of \$1395.50. Village resident, Graeme Taylor, has provided this report.

It started with a simple luncheon invitation by Ann and Ron Fisher, who live in the village and are volunteers on the hospital CIKA stall, to stall organiser, Pam Phillips, and her helper, Lois Staunton. Also at lunch that day were village residents Nell Scalzo and Renee Taylor who are involved in several village activity groups. They knew nothing about CIKA but by end of lunch were well and truly fully informed and indoctrinated.

As a result and soft urging from the “village four”, subsequent village activity group gatherings of residents decided to support CIKA. This was a project that obviously had hit a chord with residents – and the fact that the village is comprised of lots of grandparents helped as well.

So, off they went. They stitched, sewed and created lots of crafty thingummybobs. The keepers of the village library book stall sales decided to help. The Wednesday craft group created the most amazing cards for sale. And, together, they had a morning tea and sale of craft and other goods, as well as auctioning off some major donated items. A total of \$1077.10 was gathered from the morning’s activities for donation to our cause.

But then the Village Singers decided to help and, from a Frank Sinatra Tribute Show, “Ol Blue-eyes is Back”, held one Saturday night in the village, a further \$318.40 was donated.

Altogether a total of \$1395.50 was raised by the groups and a cheque subsequently presented to Pam at a small luncheon put on by the Stitch & Bitch girls on Tuesday 20 May. All this from a simple luncheon invitation - and so our network grows - fantastic!

## LOUD AND GENEROUS SUPPORT

Throughout June, Melbourne staff at Airservices Australia generously supported 'Loud Shirt Day', raising \$1371.95 for research into childhood cancers at the Royal Children's Hospital.

LA Simulator Support Supervisor, David Dearthcott, organised the day and rattled tins throughout the Melbourne compound with the support of academy colleagues like Alison Seaton and Farran King.

The ‘best dressed’ award was given to the team at the staff café, who won a site tour and goodies. A tin at the café’s cash register also helped to boost funds raised on the day.

After promising that he would wear a ‘onesie’ to work if over \$500 was raised, David, with the support of his many colleagues, raised an additional \$500 on June 27. CIKA is most grateful for their fund-raising efforts.





### A Christmas package from Euston.

CIKA is proud to have many supporters in rural areas and we are fortunate to have a very dedicated friend in Janetta Sutton who lives in Euston. Janetta is very creative and has surprised us with packages of very different product that is sold on the CIKA stalls.

This photograph enables us to share with you the wonderful contribution made by Janetta. It arrived just in time for Andy's Market on Wednesday November 26. We are indebted to our many volunteers like Janetta who keep us supplied with product to sell. Thank you.

### CIKA SUPPORTERS

**Sala Rubinstein** is heavily involved with the CIKA stall at the RCH, but it turns out that she has other skills. Her friend Freda Boyer, who helps her with the stall, has a group of seven friends who meet once a month when they take it in turns to organise something different. When it was Freda's turn, she asked Sala to teach her friends tapping. So, on the evening of November 6th, she had a tapping class at Freda's place. After a strenuous ninety minute workout, and a lot of fun, they all put in for CIKA, donating \$200 toward the fight against childhood cancer. Thank you Sala, Freda and everyone involved.



**Emily Graham** recently received a certificate of appreciation from CIKA president Sandra Lehrer in recognition of her fundraising efforts over the past five years. Emily is currently working her gap year at the family store in Nhill where she has an area set aside for the sale of donated product for us. We congratulate Emily on her fundraising efforts and look forward to her continued support when she moves to Melbourne next year. Thank you Emily, it is wonderful people like you who help to make a difference.



**The Let's Go Cruisin'** committee has made a generous donation to CIKA, accompanied by a very kind letter. This social group is based on the Mornington Peninsula and supports many local charities. It was a major sponsor of the CIKA Coach Drive in 2013.

CIKA would also like to thank those from the club who made the journey to Melbourne to attend our Lab Day at the end of March, and on behalf of the CIKA team and our children we appreciate your help in Funding Research to Find a Cure.

### CONSUMABLES

Donations come in many forms and we are always appreciative of an offer of money, goods or skills. All can be translated into funding for research.

The CIKA team has learned that there are many items used in the RCH and MCRI Laboratories on a daily basis. They are called 'consumables'. Without these small items, little progress could be made. CIKA has therefore made a commitment to help with this. It was decided that we should put together a brochure, and so, with the help of long time CIKA supporter

Keith Couzinwood from Kinc Agency in Kent Street South Melbourne, the journey of creativity began.

We are indebted to Keith for undertaking this work pro bono as we now have a brochure that is easily understood and one which is a great tool in assisting in CIKA's work.

And, as always, the wonderful family at Briamar Press stepped up, obtained paper and printed at no cost to CIKA.



## LIONS CLUB

The Lions Club are well known for rolling up their sleeves and getting onto projects so CIKA enthusiastically welcomes the continuing participation of Lions Club District 201v2. Last year this district supported the entire journey of the Coach Drive with the provision of meals and the collection of many donations. This year, under the care of District Governor Phillip Johnson, club members are working hard to fund the provision of a Lightcycler 480 Real Time PCR. (More information about this is available on the CIKA website.) We are grateful for the work that Phillip does for the community and we value the conversations he has with many Lions Clubs about the work that CIKA does. He has attended several CIKA functions and was a guest at the Lab Day held in March this year.



## CIKA LAB DAY

The very successful Coach Drive in 2013 resulted in the purchase of a Leica microscope. This was a wonderful achievement but especially for those researchers that are using this at the RCH and Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI). To thank supporters and to promote the work that CIKA funds, an open Lab Day was undertaken at MCRI on the 30th of March this year. Invitations to attend were posted and we were overwhelmed with the response. We were well overbooked!



Many supporters came from country Victoria as well as a large contingent from Melbourne. We are indebted to those many researchers who gave generously of their time and who were more than happy to share information with everyone. These events communicate the importance of the work we do and also provide an insight to the workings of laboratories. A special thanks goes to Rebecca Harford from MCRI for the great work done by her in facilitating this event. Rebecca is a great advocate for the work we do.

Ellie, as always, got the ball rolling with this event. We also wish to express our appreciation for the donation of afternoon tea from Aruba Espresso Cafe. And yes, another Lab Open Day is planned for 2015! Watch our website or Facebook for details.

## THANK YOU

We would like to thank the following who have given generously to CIKA over the last few months.

Bev and David Jenkins  
Joseph Ngo and Judy Thanh Truc, L J Hooker Real Estate - Glen Waverley - Doncaster - Box Hill  
The Woodpeckers.  
O-I Melbourne  
Margaret and Geoff Greenwood  
All our anonymous donors.

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