



THE 22ND WOOD DAYS: WHAT A WEEKEND!

Over 22 years ago CIKA members Andrew and Christine Duyvestyn decided that they wanted to 'give back' to the Royal Children's Hospital following the successful treatment of their son Dean for a solid tumour. Utilising their bush block and co-opting the support of family and friends the Old Time Wood Days began.

Although the Wood Days is held in November, as always, there were several events held before the main event. Earlier this year a dinner was held in Hamilton, pancakes were sold at the Easter event at The Wheatland's Museum at Warracknabeal, the Horse Saddle and Sullies Club at Mt Gambier held a fundraiser, and Andrew and Christine, along with the family and friends of the Wood Days, hosted the Heywood Tractor Trek. In addition to all that, in the final weeks, the Wood Days Monster Raffle was held.

The week before the Wood Days, volunteers start coming to the bush block to set up. This is no mean feat and CIKA is grateful to all those who assist. Their help ensured the more than 550 visitors who attended were able to enjoy the many displays, the fabulous food and the opportunity to purchase home made goods. The live auction was outstanding and over \$4110 was raised from this alone. The Saturday night dinner was, as always, very well supported and a local band played well into the night.

We are grateful to the many family and friends who come together to make the Wood Days such a success with some driving many miles with heavy loads to set up for the day. The Heywood Lions Club are great supporters and were there on both days cooking the hamburgers and sausages provided by Farm Foods.

At this stage the 2017 Old Time Wood Days has raised over \$35,000 but the final total will exceed this when all the calendars are sold. Once again it was amazing and those who were there enjoyed the wonderful atmosphere, food and sense of community – always a feature of this event! More information about the Wood Days, including its history, can be found at www.cika.org.au/WoodDays or on Facebook.



FROM OUR PRESIDENT

To our amazing CIKA supporters,

A small but tenacious group of volunteers makes up the CIKA team, all dedicated to the fight against childhood cancer. We cannot do this without you, our supporters, and cannot express how much your contribution means. Congratulations are particularly extended to long term CIKA members Fred and Leah Bergman who were recently recognised by the Royal Children's Hospital for their outstanding contribution to CIKA. Many of the CIKA team were on hand to see them both receive the Living Treasure Award which was presented to them at a function at the hospital. Following in the footsteps of Fred and Leah are daughters Ruth and Jude who are also actively involved in fundraising for CIKA. Great work from the Bergman family.



A new initiative this year has been the introduction of our e-newsletter. Of course, we know that some of you still prefer to see us in print so we will continue to produce this hard copy version on an occasional basis. It will bring together all the great stories from our e-newsletter, our website and our Facebook page.

We are always proud to bring you stories of supporters and an insight into the work that is done with the funds raised – an amazing \$236,684 in the last year. We have been able to fund the establishment of a tissue bank, the after-hours collection of tumour samples and a clinical trials nurse coordinator and we know that these projects make a difference now and into the future.



Recent CIKA supporters might not have heard of John Tasker who passed away on Thursday 19th October. John was one of CIKA's founding members. He and his wife Lois were the parents of Katie whose love of butterflies is commemorated in our logo. His funeral was held at the Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Doncaster, the same location as Katie's funeral in 1976. In the eulogy his son, Rick, spoke at length about the loss of Katie and the subsequent creation of CIKA. He and his sister Naomi are very proud that his parents' legacy continues.

We thank you all for your commitment to CIKA and wish you health and happiness for the rest of 2017 and beyond.

Sandra Lehrer





Left to Right: Sarah, Faye, Michael, Jamie

FIONA'S MEMORIAL MORNING TEA

On the 13th of October the CIKA team came together to remember and recognise Fiona Gilchrist (nee Love) one of CIKA's children who passed last year. With her parents Faye and Michael, her sister Sarah, Fiona's husband Jamie and all her wonderful friends, we were able to share the journey of her life.

The morning commenced with a presentation from Ellen and was followed by Fiona's story told by her husband, Jamie. CIKA have purchased a Biomedical Freezer in memory of Fiona. Dr Louise Ludlow, the Tissue Bank Coordinator, was able to share with the guests the importance of the work that she undertakes and the valuable contribution that the new freezer has made.

Faye expressed thanks from the family for all the support that they had received from all present.

MISS FEE LOVE

Fiona Love was one of CIKA's children. After successful treatment for Ewing's sarcoma in 1989 she became a much-loved member of the CIKA family. Last year she succumbed to uterine cancer, leaving behind her husband and two children.

You can read her story at <http://www.cika.org.au/Fiona>

On the initiative of her many friends, Rob Hall of Rob Hall Wine has produced a special edition of her favourite chardonnay which is now on sale. Why not purchase half a dozen bottles to drink a toast to her memory and to support CIKA?



All proceeds from sales of this wine will be shared between the two charities with which Fiona was involved: CIKA and Love Your Sister. To order, or simply for details of this great wine visit <https://mfproject.com.au/>



2018 WOOD DAYS CALENDAR?

The 2018 Wood Days Calendar is still available. Always a sellout, the calendar is a thing of beauty and great value at only \$5.00. It captures the spectacular fundraising weekend that is held in November each year in Milltown. Our thanks go to Daniel Burke from Graphic Impressions, Spicers paper, Marvel Impressions and Zeena Lakhani for the design of the calendar.

If you would like to purchase a calendar please contact Christine on 0427 101 559. Postage can be arranged. This is a fabulous fundraiser for CIKA - 2000 calendars are DONATED to us, so that's \$10,000 from the work donated by Daniel and his friends.

CIKA EVENTS

It's been a busy year with CIKA events. We cannot sufficiently express our gratitude to all our event organisers. As well as raising money for much needed research you spread CIKA's message far and wide.



SEASIDE SOIREE AND A FUNDRAISING CRUISE

May 6 was a night of nights at the Blairgowrie Yacht Club where the first CIKA Seaside Soiree went all out to raise funds for paediatric cancer research. Our thanks to Barb and Andrew Rozsa who coordinated this stunning event and who were presented with the CIKA Champions Award.

Sixteen Sailability volunteers were blessed with blue skies and fair winds when they joined CIKA supporters Barbara and Andrew Rozsa in February for their third

annual CIKA fundraising cruise from Blairgowrie to Queenscliff. On arrival at the Queenscliff Cruising Yacht Club, a BBQ lunch was enjoyed by all. The cruise raised \$800 for CIKA.



THE END OF AN ERA...

In August we held our final book stall. The late Ted Taplin, a CIKA stalwart and grandfather of Edward who lost his battle with neuroblastoma in 2002, started the book stalls many years ago so this is the close of another CIKA chapter.



WOOD DAYS RAFFLE

Big 4 Adventure Whitsunday Holiday Resort

The Duyvestyns created a monster Wood Days raffle this year. Congratulation to the winners of the fabulous Whitsunday holiday, the beautiful dolls' house made with love for the Wood Days and CIKA by Jan Plowright and the set of three Victoria Station silver hard cover suitcases, value \$500.



SPECTACULAR SUCCESS AT CIKA STALLS

The stalls continue to go from strength to strength and in November they yielded over \$5000. Regular stalls at the RCH, The Pines shopping centre the Sunday Market at Trentham, St Mary's and Kangaroo Flat are a feature of our fundraising calendar. Who knows where else our stalls team will appear in 2018.

Thanks to the work of Ruth, Pam, Sala, Leah and Ruth, and their teams, tens of thousands of dollars have been raised. Sourcing of great product, beautiful packaging and presentation and then a very early start on the day are what makes it all happen. Although they make it look easy we know it is a huge commitment by our stalls teams.



Always a team effort!

HIGHLANDS FOCUS LUNCHEON

The annual Highlands Focus Luncheon was a great success with over 50 guests attending by car or by bus from Sunbury.

Morning tea was served on arrival and was followed by raffle sales and a time for friends to catch up.

A lovely buffet luncheon was then served and was followed by the drawing of the raffles. Thank you to all those from Focus who were involved in the organisation of this great fundraiser.



Renate, Lesley and Faye enjoy a coffee after the delicious lunch.



TRENTHAM TALES

In April this year 1134 bears moved in to Ruth Edelsten's Bendigo home. Donated to CIKA by Nola, these bears have been a great hit at Ruth's Sunday market stall on the last Sunday of each month at the Trentham Railway Station.

Of course, that is not all that is available. A great variety of items is always on display and there is great support by locals and visitors to Trentham.



Home invasion



At the Trentham Sunday Market stall



Peter Mitchell and Ann Peacock

KOOYONG LUNCH

Old friends and new came together on Monday, March 27 at the CIKA Kooyong Lunch to have fun and raise funds for CIKA. In historic surroundings the guests enjoyed a 3 course lunch, a fun raffle and a table auction of the lovely centrepieces created by CIKA member, Lou Learmonth.

Peter Mitchell, CIKA's patron, along with 80 guests at the luncheon gained an interesting insight into Ann Peacock's life and work. Ann generously shared stories about managing a family and her position at Crown where she is Corporate and Public Relations Manager. The conversation was fascinating and Ann took some time to relate some amusing in-house stories

Friends of CIKA join together to raise funds to cure children's cancer



WHY RESEARCH IS NEEDED: PIPPA'S STORY

In June 2013 Pippa Rea was diagnosed with diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma, a very aggressive and virtually incurable form of brain tumour. She lost her battle with this disease in March 2015 at the age of eleven.

When Pippa was diagnosed and treated the only option available to her oncologist was to attempt to extend her life whilst maintaining as much quality as possible. This type of tumour is inoperable; it blends itself like the tentacles of an octopus into the brainstem from the inside. Pippa received adult doses of radiation and steroid doses higher than those prescribed for adults. Chemotherapy involved the administration of adult brain cancer and bowel cancer drugs, there being no drugs specifically for children with this disease.

Tissue from Pippa's tumour was donated to the Royal Children's Hospital Tumour Tissue Bank at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute where it was the first such tissue to provide a live cell line which can be cultured and shared again and again. Researchers here in Australia and in Canada and the USA have benefited from this tissue donation. The culture was labelled DIPG326 which is the name that has been given to Pippa's Trust, established in 2016 to raise funds for research into paediatric brain cancer at the RCH.

Pippa left behind a plethora of art works which have been used to raise funds for research into paediatric brain cancers. You can read about this and other fundraising activities undertaken in her name by Pippa's family at www.cika.org.au/PippaRea

To learn more about Pippa's journey visit <http://www.cika.org.au/Pippa> which also contains links to a comprehensive blog maintained by Pippa's mother, Virginia.



Pippa with her brothers, James (left) and Patrick, and her mother, Virginia.

CIKA SUPPORTERS

MLC AND CIKA

Methodist Ladies' College has supported CIKA since 2004 and the range of projects undertaken by the students is varied. In 2017 seventeen MLC students made a commitment to regularly bake goods for the CIKA stalls. Their first effort produced dozens of yoyos and kilos of chocolate fudge and this has been followed by hundreds of beautifully packaged chocolate chip cookies, hedgehog, lolly bags and rocky road. The girls also prepare goods for a fortnightly MLC staff morning tea. College staff members are very happy to make a donation in exchange for the delicious treats on offer. We are most grateful for another new partnership between CIKA and MLC.

In July this year Berry House in the MLC Middle School came together to create gift packs to be sold at the stalls. The packs are designed

to be purchased by visitors to the hospital and taken to a sick child. Games and activities for the younger patients or pampering packs for older children will bring a lot of pleasure raises funds for CIKA

Cooking for Cash (now known as the Young Entrepreneurs) has been a part of Term 4 at MLC since 2005. Each year a small group of Year 9 students forms a small catering company and makes goods that are sold to staff members. Cookies, muffins, muesli, pasta sauces, curries and



sausage rolls are just some of the items that have been produced. Under the guidance of Home Economics teacher, Debbie Hudson, this initiative has raised almost \$20,000 for CIKA.

Build a Basket is a Year 7 initiative in which students create beautiful gift baskets to be sold at CIKA functions. The girls work in teams to think of a theme, purchase the items and then wrap the baskets with lots of cellophane and ribbon. They are very proud of their efforts which we estimate have raised around \$60,000 for CIKA since the project began in 2005.

BENDIGO POSTIES

Bendigo "Posties" have come on board to support CIKA. Following a presentation by Ruth Edelsten in late June, a large group of Bendigo "Posties" have committed to raise funds for CIKA this year. Thank you Ruth for taking this initiative, and a big thank you to the Australia Post workers in Bendigo.



CLOWNS AND MORE...

CIKA supporter, Ann, from Cardinia Waters Retirement Village at Pakenham, makes clowns, dolls and other items for CIKA. She has donated in excess of 100 clowns, each of which is sold for \$35 each.

Pam Phillips recently visited Cardinia Waters and was amazed by the generosity of the residents. On arrival her eyes were drawn to six beautiful clowns sitting on the couch. Next to the clowns was Humpty Dumpty and four beautiful dolls. On the next couch there were 3 cradles, each containing a beautifully dressed porcelain doll with lacy pillow and bed cover to match. The porcelain dolls are actually hand made by a lady at the Village. She gave them to Ann for CIKA. On the adjoining chair was an assortment of beautiful hand knitted garments made by various ladies at the Village. Talk about quality!!

Pam was then taken to the community area where the Village Fete was being held. On the way another

lady handed her a beautifully knitted, colored blanket and a small bag which included a tiny blue jumper and pants to match for a very small baby boy. Quite exquisite.

One of the stalls at the fete had lovely knitted dolls, scarves and other items. The small dolls, beautifully made and selling for only \$4 each were irresistible. Pam purchased five with the intention of donating them to CIKA for the next stall where they'll have a price tag of \$10. That beats slaving over a pair of knitting needles!





FARM FOODS

Dean Duyvestyn and Sandra Lehrer recently visited the CEO of Farm Foods, Nick Kerr, who donated all the meat for the Heywood Lions Club Barbecue held at the Wood Days. Nick was presented with an award for his contribution. It's great to be able to welcome another CIKA supporter on board.



Left to Right: CIKA member: Dean Duyvestyn, National Sales and Marketing Manager: Casey Barras, CIKA member: Sandra Lehrer, Nicholas Kerr: CEO Farm Foods



EXXONMOBIL SUPPORTS CIKA

Scott Duyvestyn has again made a successful application for CIKA to be awarded an ExxonMobil Australia Volunteer Involvement Program Grant of \$1000 to reflect his community involvement with The Old Time Wood Days and CIKA. We appreciate the support that Scott has shown the team over the many years that he has been successful in obtaining this grant from ExxonMobil.

Scott's journey is personal and whilst it is many years since his brother Dean was diagnosed with cancer Scott continues to lend his support to CIKA's mission to "Fund Research, Find A Cure"

Velocity Vehicle Care

A NEW CIKA SPONSOR

We recently received a donation of \$1000 from Sam Casilli's workplace, Velocity Vehicle Care. We cannot overemphasise the value of such donations in the fight against paediatric cancer. Thank you.

HOW IS YOUR SUPPORT USED?

CIKA funds research into Childhood Cancer. The programs we fund build on projects we have previously funded, cover all solid tumours, and have the potential to help current and future patients, at RCH, and across the globe. Our current funding commitments exceed \$200,000 per year.

- Since 2013 we have been funding the Tissue Bank, which collects and stores samples from children with cancer, which improve diagnostics, are used to develop personalised treatments, and are accessed by other institutions globally.
- Clinical trials of new treatments are the reason why cure rates have improved so markedly over the last 30 years. They have also enabled long term effects for survivors to be minimised. Since 2015 CIKA has supported these clinical trials by funding the position of a Solid Tumour Study Coordinator, to maximise the number of patients enrolled in clinical trials and to monitor the health of these children.
- We also fund the purchase of capital items. Earlier this year we committed more than \$14,800 for the purchase of a -30°C freezer, a liquid nitrogen transport vehicle and freezing containers for cell cryopreservation. This equipment is need to further the work of the Children's Cancer Centre Tissue Bank.
- This year CIKA began funding another new project - "Molecular Characterisation of Paediatric Brain Tumours". This project focuses on studying and testing paediatric central nervous system (CNS) tumours and is needed if researchers are to understand the molecular basis of childhood CNS cancer. The goal is to improve the diagnosis of these tumours and to apply the findings of the study to design improved therapies. We particularly acknowledge the generous contribution from **Pippa's Trust DIPG326**.



WANT TO MAKE A SMALL BUT SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE?

Large donations go towards high cost items but there are many small items that are vital in research. Basic laboratory consumables are an example. Here's what fifty dollars can buy...

If you would like to make such a donation please contact our president, Sandra Lehrer president@cika.org.au



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Used daily. Like a tray of small test tubes, they store liquid drawn up and dispensed by pipettes.
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