

**Cancer  
In  
Kids  
Auxiliary**  
of the Royal Children's Hospital  
**Newsletter Summer Edition**



**F**rom the Editors Desk

Dear family and friends of CIKA,

Another exciting and challenging year for CIKA is concluding. This news letter reflects the many different activities we are involved in. To all of our supporters we thank you and wish you all well for the forthcoming festive season.

A big thanks goes to Accord Colour who will now manage the production of our news letter. The Bergman family who own Accord have always been very generous to CIKA and we appreciate the help that has been offered.

If you have any idea for fundraising or you want a guest speaker, ring us!

Sandra Lehrer 9696 9775

Ellen Webb 9326 0962 [ellen.webb@optusnet.com.au](mailto:ellen.webb@optusnet.com.au)

## A Christmas Message from our Patron



"Another year passes and especially from where I sit at 6pm Monday to Friday, it doesn't appear as if the world is getting any friendlier.

That's why I love spending as much time as I can with my children, particularly at this time of year. Not only do they help take your mind away from the trivial and make you focus on what really matters, there is an optimistic look in their eyes.

Thanks to the hard working volunteers at CIKA, there's a chance that other parents out there are able to feel this way this Christmas. Of course I know that many aren't and that's why CIKA continues to try to make a difference.

As Sandra said to me at the Auxiliary's fantastic fund raiser at the Hilton Hotel back in August, CIKA is a team effort.

To all the team, congratulations on another excellent year and may I take this opportunity to wish everyone a healthy and happy festive season and a prosperous 2004.

Yours sincerely, Peter Mitchell"

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Visit Our Website [WWW.CIKA.ORG.AU](http://WWW.CIKA.ORG.AU)

## C IKA – For RCH Auxiliaries Annual Report

Founded:	1980
President:	Sandra Lehrer
Vice President:	Ellen Webb
Secretary:	Bernie Dawson
Treasurer:	David Webb

There has been a changeover of Presidency and the inclusion of new members since last year. Kaye Murphy has moved on but not before making an enormous contribution to CIKA over a period of approximately 10 years. For that, the current members of CIKA are extremely appreciative and wish Kaye all the very best in her new endeavours.

CIKA raised \$63,771.90 over the past twelve months of which \$36,986 was attributed to our annual Dinner Dance. Heather and Kevin Dixon, owners of Cosmetics of Richmond were extremely supportive of our Dinner Dance and we realize that the amount raised would have been significantly less if not for their generosity.

We have a number of very loyal supporters in the community to help us achieve these figures each year and of course help find cures for many of the solid tumours that our kids suffer. The Macedon Ranges Focus group has donated \$4,682 from their fun-filled activities and a massive \$20,000 since 1997. The ladies from Nhill lead by Gwen Mulhallen donated \$965.25. Austrade have again supported us to the value of \$700 and the Thomastown Italian Community were able to donate \$5000 from their very successful fundraiser. We also conducted a second hand bookstall at RCH, which raised \$950. Our sister parent support group FIRST@RCH (Families In Response to Solid Tumours) has been involved with the Cancer Council Victoria and the department of Paediatric Haematology and Oncology in setting up Parent Cancer Connect which is a peer support service that puts parents in touch with other parents whose children have had similar cancer experience.

Our newsletter has further developed with the expertise of AXA and to them we extend our thanks.

The Vaccine trials for Neuroblastoma, which begun in 1999, are continuing and there has been lots learnt from the trial especially on timing for giving the vaccine and the associated immune responses. Diagnostic tests are carried out to locate circulating cancer cells through blood testing. These tests are now so sensitive that abnormal cells are located before the patient experiences any symptoms.

There have been many donations received over the past twelve months and only a few mentioned but CIKA members are extremely grateful for each and every one of them. Many thanks to Sue, Helen and Rose from the Auxiliaries Office for their support and lastly a big thank you to the Committee for their assistance throughout the year. Our gratitude goes out to all of our supporters for without them CIKA would not be able to continue contributing to the research into cancer treatment at "the Kids".





The Year 11 Students at St Margaret's School at Berwick Decided to hold a fundraiser for CIKA after receiving information about our auxiliary from a family Member.

There are forty girls in year 11 and they planned a party for Junior School Students. Over 100 children attended and enjoyed party games, dress up's and of course lolly bags. A great effort from Year 11 Students as they raised \$655.

## A.G.M. Meeting Results

The Annual AGM of Cika was held at the Royal Children's Hospital on November The Tenth and the elected office bearers are:

Sandra Lehrer	President	9696 9775
Ellen Webb	Vice President	9326 0962
David Webb	Treasurer	9326 0962
Bernie Dawson	Secretary	5428 6019

Mr. Alexander Graham C.P.A. has audited the books and found all in order. He has offered his professional services free of charge to CIKA indefinitely - Thank-you Alex.

## Other News

On the sick list - But Recovering

Our best wishes to CIKA member Michael Love and also Shawn, Son of Sandra and Steve. Both have been on the 'Not Well' list but are recovering.

## Baby News



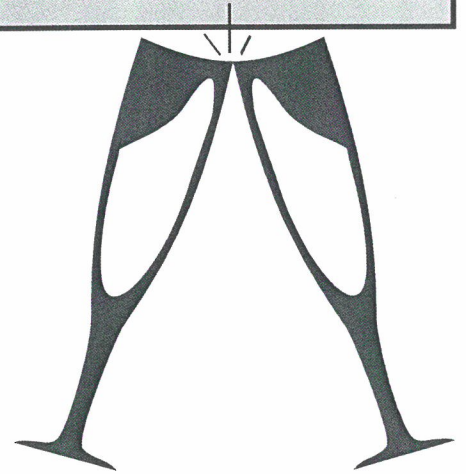
Stand by – Big story next newsletter, The arrival of Fay and Michael Love's grandson.

The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and contributors, and do not necessarily reflect the overall views nor imply endorsement by CIKA or the RCH. Permission to reprint articles from this newsletter is required from the author of the newsletter's editors, Ellen Webb and Sandra Lehrer.

## Dinner Dance Speech

We have printed the speech made by Vice president Ellen Webb at our annual Cika Dinner Dance held in August. Please Take the time to read and reflect on this article as it speaks on behalf of all the cika committee.

Good evening. On behalf of the committee and members of CIKA I thank you all for coming tonight. I'd like to introduce the other elected officers of CIKA, Sandra Lehrer – President, David Webb – Treasurer and Bernie Dawson – Secretary. CIKA is an auxiliary of the Royal Children's Hospital; our members are the families and friends of children with solid tumors. These tumors include Ewings Sarcoma, Neuroblastoma, Osteosarcoma, Wilms tumor and retinoblastoma.



Our children are at different stages of their fight against cancer. Some have beaten the disease itself but now have ongoing severe health problems. Some have won their fight and, thankfully have minimal long-term impact. Some of our children have lost their fight leaving us to fight on in their memory. Others are in remission and are hoping and praying to one day hear that they've been cured.

Tonight's theme is masquerade, which I believe, is very appropriate as we try to unmask the causes of cancer, to reveal the cure and to lift the veil on the ways that solid tumors disguise themselves. We, the parents and friends of children with solid tumors are their advocates. We see to ensure that all children with solid tumors receive the best possible care. In order for children to receive the best care it is imperative that we can continue to support research.

CIKA's funding supports innovative vaccine studies for children who have relapsed. CIKA also supports molecular diagnostic studies. The research is critical as it helps the doctors determine the diagnosis quicker and ensure the appropriate course of treatment is administered. With the money raised from your generous donations and enthusiastic support we hope to be able to fund more research with the Children's Cancer Centre at the Royal Children's Hospital.

As we are a parent run charity every dollar raised goes directly to support our aims; we have no overheads.

We thank you for coming and hope you enjoy the evening – we also hope to raise pots of money! The flowerpots on your table were painted by the children. We have raffles, lucky dip boxes, CIKA t-shirts, ladies bags (courtesy of L'Oreal and Cosmetics), and Silent and Grand Auctions. Thanks to all of you for your generous support and the wonderful donations of goods. Thank you for coming and enjoy the night.

Ellen Webb - August 2003

## Dates To Remember

Dates to Remember

March 5<sup>th</sup> New book sale @ the Royal Children's Hospital

May 26<sup>th</sup> 2nd hand book sale @ the Royal Children's Hospital  
 Help we need more second hand books,  
 Ring Sandra Ph: 9696 9775

August 16<sup>th</sup> Dinner Dance @ Hilton on the Park





## Royal Children's Book Stall

CIKA members in conjunction with Victorian Book Wholesalers have held two new book stalls in the foyer of the Royal Children's Hospital.

The helpers for these days were kept very busy and besides selling books we were able to hand out information about our auxiliary.

These days were a lot of fun and thanks must go to Sandra Bernie and Ted with a big thanks to our volunteers, Lou Learmonth, Sandra Lewis and Gina Haldouris.

Lyall from Victorian Book Wholesalers has been a great support and he just loves wearing his CIKA polo shirt.

We have raised \$1700 from this activity - and more days are planned for next year.

# Focus Spring Luncheon

With great delight, several members of CIKA auxiliary accepted an invitation to attend the Annual Spring Luncheon of the Macedon Ranges Focus group at Sunbury.

Auxiliary members have attended many of these luncheons and we are always over whelmed with the friendship and hospitality extended by the focus group.

Ellen Webb – Vice President of CIKA was invited to talk about her and her families involvement with CIKA. Ellen talked with great courage and conviction about her need to become Pro Active after the death of their son Brian from Neuroblastoma in June 1996. Focus has been a major supporter of CIKA for many years and Ellen's speech reinforced the need for funding into research at the Royal Children's Hospital.

Following a wonderful lunch and a fun raffle, Focus launched their exciting new cookbook.

Please support this great effort by the ladies and purchase a copy of:

### FOCUS ON FOOD

Experience the great culinary delights of the members of the  
Macedon Ranges Focus Group - Only \$12.00

Ring Bernie on 5428 6019.





**H**ello, my name is Sonya Camilleri and I am the new solid tumour nurse coordinator. Many of you will know me as I have been part of the Haem/Onc team at the Royal Childrens Hospital for around 11 years.

I started my nursing career as a graduate nurse rotating to the Haematology/Oncology Unit (which was on 9 East in those days). My desire to specialize in paediatric oncology started at this time. What I enjoyed most was the rapport I built with children and families during and after treatment.

I began working in the Day Chemotherapy Unit in 1999. I came to realise that it is often procedures that cause more stress and concern to children than the disease itself. My focus has since been assisting children and families requiring potentially painful procedures. I have spent much time establishing and coordinating a General Anaesthetic list so children have a choice in the way some procedures are performed.

In July of this year I was given the opportunity to step into the role that Jacqui Robinson and Linda Burnett had done such a wonderful job with as the solid tumour nurse coordinators. I saw this as an opportunity to continue to work towards providing support and resources for families of children with solid tumours.

I am thoroughly enjoying my dual role as nurse coordinator as well as a clinical nurse specialist in the Day Chemotherapy Unit. I hope to continue to work closely with the Haem/Onc team and use my oncology nursing experience to assist in the care of all children and families with solid tumours.

I can be contacted on (03) 9345 4868 or by e-mail: [solidtumour.coordinator@rch.org.au](mailto:solidtumour.coordinator@rch.org.au)



# Thank You - One Steel

7

**T**hank you – One Steel

At the invitation of management of One Steel, Sue Manson auxiliaries co-ordinator and Sandra Lehrer attended an Afternoon Tea and Cheque Presentation at their Somerton Plant.

Each year several awards are made to One Steel employees and Mr. Peter Jones – Operations Manager was the recipient of the Safety Leadership of the year award. Peter was very keen to allocate the award to research into childhood cancer and after discussions with the Royal Children's Hospital he asked that the \$2000 cheque be donated to CIKA.

After the cheque handover Peter was presented with a CIKA badge and information pack, a general discussion followed about the aims and goals of CIKA. Many thanks to One Steel for making those awards available and also to Mr. Geoff Plumber – Executive General Manager of Marketing, for the ... who flew down from Sydney for the Presentation. Of course congratulations and thanks again go to Peter Jones for his award and for his allocation of \$2000 to CIKA.

## Double Thanks

**C**IKKA recently received a donation of \$800 from Powercor on behalf of Mr Graeme Fleming.

Powercor presented Graeme with the Spirit of Excellence Award for his commitment and outstanding contribution to the business, its customers or the community.

As part of this award, Graeme was able to donate to his choice of charity and, thanks Graeme for choosing the Cancer in Kids Auxiliary at the Royal children's Hospital.

Congratulations must go to the management of Powercor for this award system. It truly shows the generosity of the larger business sector. Graeme's donation will be used to continue improvement in treatment for our children who suffer cancer.

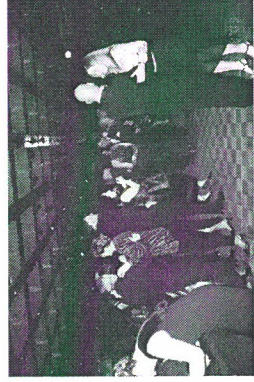
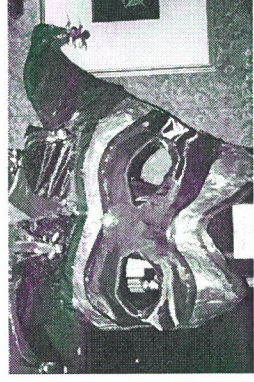
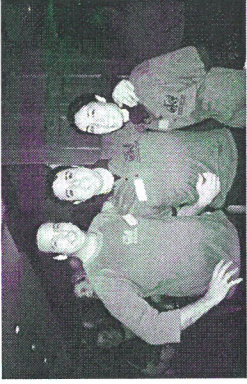
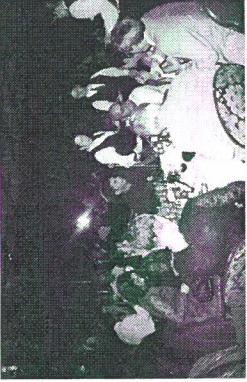
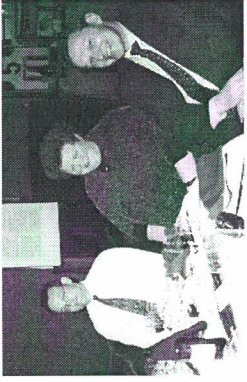
## Donation Tins

Cika has available coin donation tins for shop counters or work place environments.

This is an easy way to raise funds.

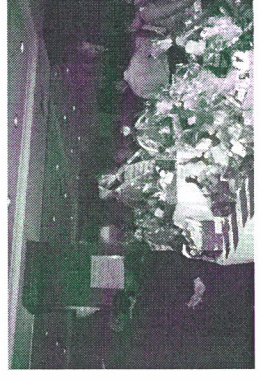
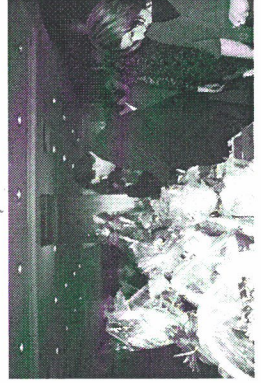
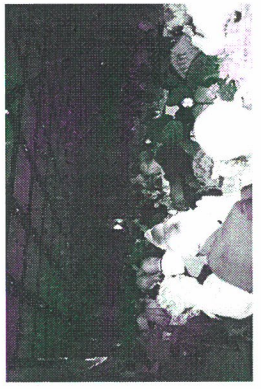
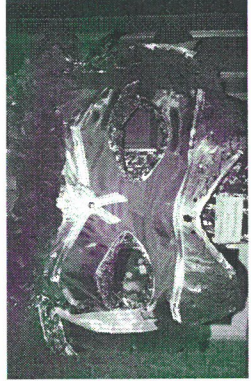
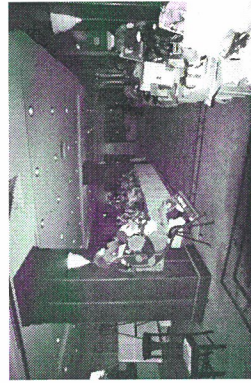
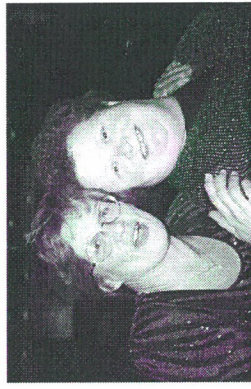
If you are interested, can you please call Steve at Work on 9748 4944





# C I K A D I N N E R D A N C E A U G U S T 1 6 T H 2 0 0 3

. T H E G R A N D B A L L R O O M . H I L T O N O N T H E P A R K .





# Annual Dinner Dance Report

The annual Dinner Dance was held in the Grand Ballroom at The Hilton on the park in Melbourne on the 16<sup>th</sup> of August. Our thanks must go to the many friends of CIKA who supported us for the evening – But a big thankyou to our 388 guests who attended the event, they dug deep and helped us raise over \$50,000 for the evening.

Our MC for the evening was our patron Mr. Peter Mitchell who as always handled the many activities for the evening with great style and enthusiasm. The committee appreciate the time Peter donates to CIKA and we thank him for his continuing patronage.

The Event commenced with the introduction of Ellen Webb, Vice President of CIKA who spoke on behalf of the committee. We have published Ellen's speech as it reflects so much of what CIKA represents.

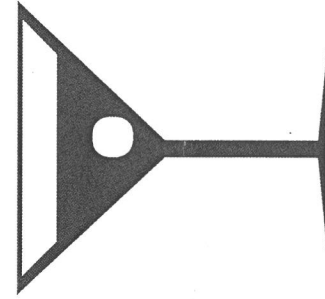
The evening moved into top gear with the fine food, dancing (courtesy of the energetic band elevation) and frantic buying of the L'Oreal Bags – Welcome and thankyou to L'Oreal for their support and their generous cosmetic gift for each lady. This year we were fortunate to have over 200 items donated for the silent auction, the bidding for this extensive range of goods was very spirited and enthusiastic.

The ever popular lucky dip boxes sold out quickly and a steady sale of T shirts and raffle tickets continued throughout the night.

Midway through the evening Peter Mitchell introduced Dr. Peter Downie, Paediatric Oncologist at the Royal Children's Hospital. Peter spoke about the research that CIKA supports and for the planned major redevelopment of the cancer unit at the hospital.

A very poignant video was shown of the children of 6 East and the care and treatment given to them by the health professionals and our thank go to Maryanne a CIKA committee member and mother for her production of the video.

Well known auctioneer Johnny Carter took over and quickly extracted large dollars for the many items in the Grand Auction. The evening's festivities continued and it was great to see many old and new guests renewing acquaintances.



## A Story From Sue

A story from Sue, mother of Callum, a survivor of Ewings Sarcoma.

What do you do when your supposedly healthy eleven year old sports made son is told he has cancer and may lose his leg? Well, for a start you have to keep positive for your sanity and that of your family. Try to surround yourself with "normality" Being positive was also helped by the lovely and caring doctors who Callum first saw, Peter Downie and Prof Smith who would always greet us with a smile.

Dr Downie also told me there was always hope on our first biopsy. We were also VERY lucky as Callum's cancer was contained in a bone that is dispensible -the fibula, so we all had reason to be positive about this as well

As a country family we did not establish ties with many other people in the hospital, but Callum was treated to a couple of great camps with Challenge and Camp Quality, and although he was always reluctant to go at first, he always had a ball.

Callum did not seem to have too many problems during treatment except for nausea and a couple of infections, and the time I spent with him made us very close, so this was a precious time for me as well. I remember talking to Callum's teachers at his small rural school, when he returned after his first treatment, telling them that as far as my family were concerned Callum was going to survive, and I didn't want to hear any negative talk about cancer, and he was to be treated as close to the other students as possible, with school work and homework expectations. This may sound tough but it made life a little more normal for all of us..

Callum has now been off treatment for 6 years and although he would love to be involved in football again after breaking his leg and stress fractures he finally decided he was not meant to be playing anymore!

He has some great life experiences by trekking in the Annapurna Ranges, Cradle Mountain, spending ten weeks as an exchange student in Germany and now studying at university in Melbourne. There is life after cancer, there is always hope and I am SO grateful that he is a survivor.

Sue (Callum's Mum)



Callum  
- May  
2003

Callum  
turned 19  
on 31 Aug.

Callum + David for his last  
treatment April 1997 - Aged 12





## Spoil Yourself

Enjoy the hospitality and friendship of the well known LANGBROOK FARM nestled in the beautiful Yarra Valley.

Relax in 5 star accomodation in the Cottage which boasts a solar heated pool, gas heated spa, tennis court and a BBQ area, or for a romantic getaway fortwo the Private Studio Apartment.

Ring Ingrid or Graham Smith for more information on

5967 1320

## Christmas Cards

Please find enclosed a brochure for the auxiliary Christmas card collection. The entire range has been revamped and includes 2004 Diaries and Calendars. New to the range is nurse bear who is 26cm tall, a great gift for Christmas. A portion of the sale of each item will be returned to CIKA.

“Support the Kids”



## History and Aims<sup>11</sup>

CIKA was founded in April 1980 by 3 families to increase the awareness of cancer in children and to encourage financial support to aid research into children's cancer. CIKA is an official auxiliary of the Royal Children's Hospital and is open to any interested persons who feel that they would like to contribute tom help CIKA.

Over 140 children under 15 years of age are diagnosed with cancer each year in Victoria and 90% of these children are treated at RCH. CIKA is committed to providing funding for research into solid tumours, the thied most common group of childhood cancer. Solid tumours include Wilm's tumour, Nueroblastoma, Osteosarcoma and Ewing's Sarcoma.

Apart from the influence of genetic factors, inherited conditions andexposure to ionizing radiation, little is known of the cause(s) of childhood cancers and nothing can be done to prevent them. Therefore, the need to continue the financial support of research into childhood cancer is imperative.

The hopes anddreams of CIKA are to stop children from evre contracting these types of cancer, but if they don to ensure that the treatment they receive is succesful. At present the only way to move positively towards these ideals is through research.

CIKA has actively supported research projects at RCH with financial assistance since its inception and will continue to do so until these types of cancer are cured. CIKA is recognised as one of the foremost fundraising auxiliaries of the RCH, Melbourne.

The CIKA logo is in memory of the children of the families who founded CIKA. One Child liked birds, particularly seagulls, one child liked butterflies and the other liked flowers especially nasturtiums.

**May the children rest in peace!**



# ACCORD COLOUR

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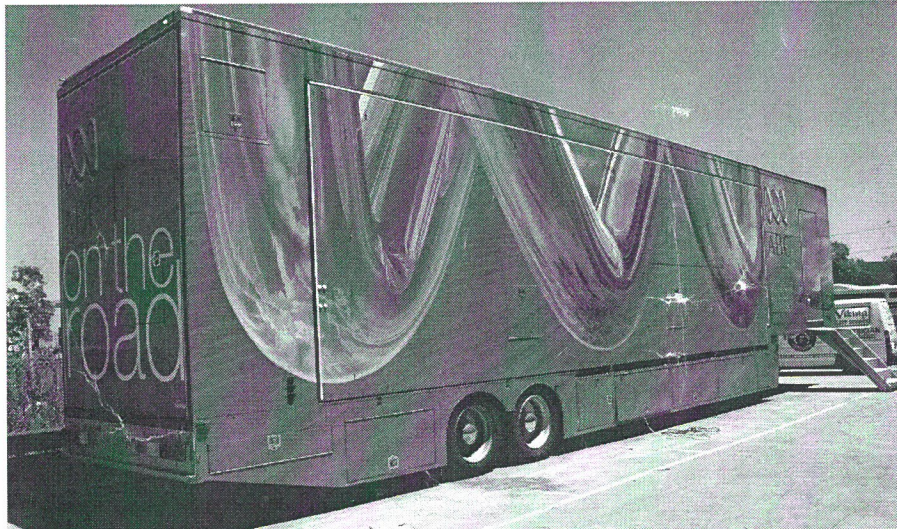
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Leah, Fred, Judith, Naomi and Ruth Bergman

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