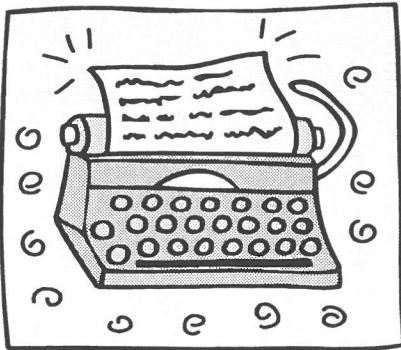




Cancer in Kids Auxiliary

Newsletter **Winter 2003**

**of the Royal Children's Hospital,
Melbourne**



From the Editors Desk

Dear Families and friends of CIKA,
The countdown to the Dinner dance has begun! Have you reserved your seat yet? The theme this year is "Masquerade" and we look forward to seeing you in your finery. Bookings are going well and we are excited about the new venue. This letter wouldn't be complete without letting you know how you can help...we are still looking for advertisers for our promotional booklets so please let us know if you are interested.

We have a new sponsor for our newsletter, Zoom Digital Print Centre. Zoom are a great friend to RCH, so please consider them for any upcoming printing needs you may have.

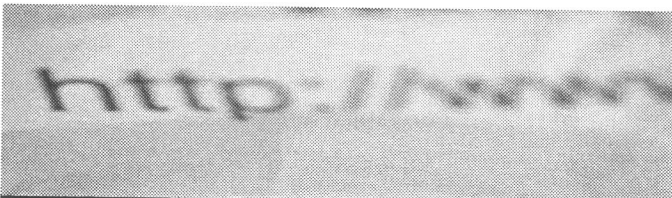
Hope to see you at "the Masquerade" on the 16th!

Ellen Webb 9326 0962 ellen.webb@optusnet.com.au
Sandra Lehrer 9696 9775 Fax 9372 0635



This issue of the newsletter was generously sponsored by
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www.zoomdigital.com.au/



Visit our website at www.cika.org.au

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CIKA Member Information

Kaye Murphy

CIKA's long serving President, Kaye Murphy, has resigned to pursue other community interests. Kaye has been involved with CIKA since 1992. Kaye joined CIKA after her daughter Cassie was diagnosed with the rare disease Leimyosarcoma.

Kaye has been President since 1994 and has overseen many changes during her tenure. Her dedication and commitment to CIKA is reflected in the strong position she has left CIKA in.

The committee thanks Kaye for her tireless dedication over the years and wishes her well in her new pursuits.



**Jenny
Carafa.
Kaye
Murphy.
and
Sandra
Lehrer**

CIKA Committee

Following the annual AGM the elected office bearers are:

Name	Position	Why involved
Sandra Lehrer	President	Mother of Shaun who has survived Osteosarcoma
Ellen Webb	Vice-President	Mother of Brian who died from Neuroblastoma
David Webb	Treasurer	Father of Brian who died from Neuroblastoma
Bernie Dawson	Secretary	Mother of James who has survived Wilm's tumour

CIKA Affiliations

One of CIKA's objectives is to provide support to the families of children with a solid tumour. At present the main support is offered through Families in Response to Solid Tumours (FIRST). Longtime CIKA supporters, **Brendan and Susie Case**, have been instrumental in the establishment of FIRST and we have been thrilled with this development. Watch this space for more info on FIRST and keep up the great work!

Active Members

CIKA meetings are held at the Royal Children's Hospital. If you would like to attend please contact Sandra or Ellen for details of the next meeting.

Current active committee members are:

Name	Why involved?
Julie Casili	Mother of Sam who has survived Ewing's sarcoma
Jenny Carafa	Mother of Thomas who is in remission from neuroblastoma
Steve Lehrer	Father of Shaun who has survived Osteosarcoma
Maryann Moncur	Mother of Kylie who has survived Osteosarcoma
Mary McGowan	Manager of Children's Cancer Centre.
Jim Dawson	Father of James who has survived Wilm's tumour
Jayson Joyce	Family friend of Lehrer's
Nadia Gordon	Mother of Melissa who died of Retinoblastoma in 1980
Ted Taplin	Grandfather of Edward James Hunt who died from Neuroblastoma
Yvonne Fairweather	Family friend of Lehrers



CIKA Christmas Function

Back row: Mario Carafa, Sam Casili, Jenny Carafa, Jayson Joyce, Bernie Dawson, Michael Love, Sandra and Steve Lehrer, David and Madeline Webb

Front row: Julie Casili, Faye Love, Jim Dawson, Katie, Andrew and Ellen Webb

Fundraising News



Ellen's 40th

Thanks to all the friends and family of Ellen Webb who contributed over \$500 to CIKA. Ellen's 40th birthday bash was on 26 April.

Guests were advised not to bring gifts but if they wanted to mark the occasion to make a donation to CIKA in memory of Brian Webb.

Brian lost his battle against neuroblastoma in 1997 shortly after his 3rd birthday.



Bookstall

On Wednesday the 16th of April CIKA held a stall at the Royal Children's Hospital selling new and used books, videos, puzzles and soft toys plus home baked goodies.

Thanks to CIKA members Julie Casilli and Sandra Lehrer for helping sort the goods. We were helped from Bernie and Tanya Dawson, Auxiliaries Co-coordinator, Sue Manson, Sandra Lehrer and her friends Lou and Sandra.

We raised \$940 and had a fun day. Our next stall is on Wednesday the 1st of October. Donations of second hand books and baked goods would be most appreciated! Contact Faye on 9842 1282 for more information.

Faye Love

Austrade (www.austrade.gov.au)

Thanks to Austrade for their latest generous donation. Austrade's Melbourne Social Club has been supporting CIKA for a number of years and is a very valued CIKA friend. The Social club's motto of "have fun and contribute" demonstrates that helping charities like CIKA can be more than a straight out donation. The social club runs a number of events throughout the year including a major Christmas raffle where all the staff contribute to the collection of goodies (special thanks to Southgate traders who also donate). The surplus left over after all their social activities is kindly donated to CIKA.

CIKA and the Kids at the Children's say "thanks Austrade Melbourne".

CIKA would love to hear from other social clubs who could become CIKA friends.



History and Aims

CIKA was founded in April 1980 by three 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 to 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 third most common group of childhood cancer. Solid tumours include Wilm's tumour, Neuroblastoma, Osteosarcoma, and Ewing's sarcoma.

Apart from the influence of genetic factors, inherited conditions, and exposure 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.

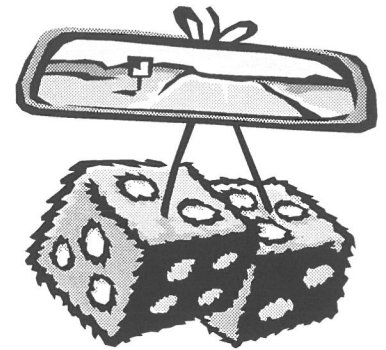
The hopes and dreams of CIKA are to stop children from ever contracting these types of cancer, but if they do, to ensure that the treatment they receive is successful. At present the only way to move positively towards these ideals is through Research.

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 recognized as one of the foremost fundraising auxiliaries of the Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne.

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

May the children rest in peace!

Dinner Dance Parking

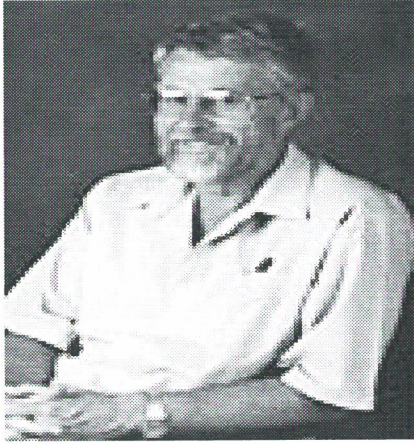


Discounted parking has been made available on August 16th for the Dinner Dance at the Hilton. To obtain the special rate of \$12 for the evening please park at the Hilton after 6pm and notify the parking attendant that you are attending the CIKA function.

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 or the newsletter's editors, Ellen Webb and Sandra Lehrer.

Research News

ADVANCES IN THE TREATMENT OF PAEDI- ATRIC ONCOLOGY OVER THE PAST 20 YEARS



Obviously over a 20 year period there will be many changes in the understanding of and treatment of childhood solid tumours. Cure rates have improved significantly. In many tumours the intensity of therapy has in fact been lessened. I would like to discuss 2 particular advances, which have improved the quality of

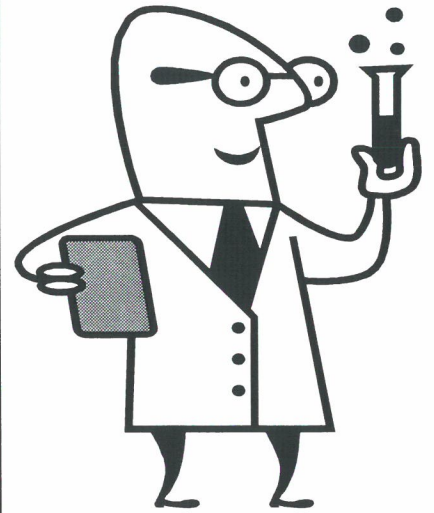
life for children receiving chemotherapy.

ONDANSETRON (Zofran) Nausea and vomiting are particularly unpleasant side effects of many chemotherapy agents. Twenty years ago there was no effective therapy for this. In some children nausea and vomiting could only be controlled by very heavy sedation but even with this some vomiting and particularly nausea would still occur. Ondansetron was a revolutionary advance and our unit performed one of the first studies in the world of its use in children. Ondansetron is also very effective in controlling nausea and vomiting associated with irradiation therapy.

CENTRAL VENOUS CATHETERS (Hickman catheters, Infusaport) These have enabled the administration of chemotherapy, blood transfusions, platelet transfusions, antibiotics, intravenous nutrition to be done without the child needing to have frequent intravenous injections. It has also meant that the difficulty of finding a vein to cannulate by the doctor or nurse no longer exists. Importantly it means the child has both hands free for play and other activities. These devices can be associated with some problems such as infections or clotting but again they are a marvellous technological advance.

Many of the current curative therapies, which need to be intensive, would not be possible without these advances. It has been most gratifying for me as a physician to have been part of these advances and to have seen the enormous difference in quality of life that these developments have produced.

Dr. Keith Waters.



Molecular Oncology Lab

Some of CIKA's funds are being used to support the work of the Molecular Oncology laboratory headed by Dr. Elizabeth Algar in establishing tests using molecular or DNA markers that will help in both the diagnosis of solid tumors and in monitoring the patient's response to chemotherapy. Some tumors for which these tests have already proven useful include desmoplastic small round cell tumor, alveolar rhabdomyosarcoma and atypical teratoid rhabdoid tumor. CIKA also supports the ongoing testing of neuroblastoma samples for N-Myc gene amplification within the Molecular Oncology lab. Many of the tests that have been established are critical to accurate early diagnosis of these rare tumors.



Southern Health

JOIN OUR TEAM

The Cancer Council Victoria in association with
The Department of Haematology & Oncology of the Royal Children's Hospital &
The Paediatric Haematology & Oncology Unit, Monash Medical Centre & the
RCH & Monash Parents Oncology Support Groups

PARENTS CANCER CONNECT

Parents Cancer Connect is a peer support service that puts parents in touch with other parents whose children have had a similar cancer experience.

We are recruiting parents who are:

- warm and sensitive
- realistic about their own limitations
- committed to personal growth and development
- well adjusted to their children's experience of cancer
- able to communicate effectively.

By becoming a Parents Cancer Connect volunteer you will gain:

- a great sense of satisfaction by doing something positive to help other parents
- new skills through access to training
- a sense of belonging to a high profile and successful charitable organisation
- recognition and continued support for your efforts from The Cancer Council Victoria
- recognition and acknowledgment from the Paediatric Haematology & Oncology Units at Royal Children's Hospital and Monash Medical Centre.

A minimum two-year period since your child completed treatment for cancer is required for you to be a Parents Cancer Connect volunteer.

**If you would like further information please contact the
Cancer Support Network Coordinator on 13 11 20; or
your oncology social worker.**



SET YOURSELF FREE
THIS AUGUST
FOR THE
CIKA EVENT
OF THE YEAR!



CANCER IN
KIDS AUXILIARY

Date: 16th August, 2003

Venue: Grand Ballroom, Hilton on the Park

Time: 6:15 for 7pm Dinner

Theme: Masquerade

Dress Code: After Five

Cost: \$99 per head including- 3 course meal
Live Band, Beer Wine & Soft Drink

Hosted By our Patron Mr Peter Mitchell

Evening includes Grand Auction, Silent Auction, Raffles
Table Prizes and Lucky Ticket!

ALL MONEY RAISED IS USED IN RESEARCH INTO CANCEROUS SOLID
TUMOURS AT THE ROYAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL



Hilton

Go on, Spoil Yourself!

Maximize your enjoyment of the dinner dance. Why don't you spend the evening at the Hilton and avoid the worry of driving home. A great couples package is on offer for \$220 per night. This fantastic rate includes parking and breakfast for two. Book now -but remember to lock in the special rate of \$220 by informing the Hilton staff that you are attending the CIKA function.

www.melbourne.hilton.com

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