



Cancer in Kids Auxiliary

of the Royal Children's Hospital



Newsletter Winter 2004

From the Editors Desk

Dear Family and Friends of CIKA,

Your CIKA Auxiliary has been hard at work over the last few months and the current newsletter reflects the various activities we are involved in.

Planning is well underway for our major fundraising activity of the year; our annual dinner dance. So block out your diaries for Saturday August the 14th. The venue is the Hilton on the Park and this year's theme is "An Irish Christmas". Bookings for this evening are now being accepted.

We at CIKA are very environmentally conscious and don't like to sacrifice trees needlessly, so we are looking at ways to increase the distribution of this newsletter whilst reducing the paper needed to do so. We are seeking your assistance in this, please confirm via the form on the back page if you would like to continue to receive this newsletter and if so, whether you would like to receive it via e-mail.

We have increased our level of committed research projects at RCH (see article under "Research News"). As our annual commitments are approaching \$100,000 we invite you to assist with fundraising to enable us to meet our obligations.

We welcome new members to our team and will assist anyone who wishes to hold a fundraising activity.

The Editors

Sandra Lehrer **9696-9775**

Ellen Webb **9326 0962**



CIKA Collection Tins-Can you Help?

Can you help find a home for our CIKA collection tins? If you have contacts with a shop or business etc where a tin could be placed we would love to hear from

you. We can arrange for tins to be sent to you and collected, or you can pick up and deliver them to the RCH-Auxiliaries Office. Pictured above, the WEBB children (twins Katie and Madeline and big brother Andrew) and their cousin Kyle, start off the collection drive on Mothers Day in memory of their brother Brian who lost his battle with Neuroblastoma in 1997.

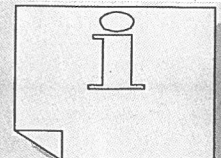
Please contact Sandra Lehrer on 9696-9775 to collect your tin.

Inside this issue:

Member News	2
Supporter Updates	3
Photo Gallery-2003 Dinner Dance	4
2004 Dinner Dance Update	5
Research News	6
Children's Cancer Centre	7
Dates to Remember	8

This issue of the newsletter was generously supported by Record Printing

Visit our website at
www.cika.org.au



Member News

Proud Parents! One Mum's Story



My name is Fiona and at the age of 15 in 1989 I was diagnosed with Ewing's Sarcoma. The treatment for this included radiotherapy which left me infertile. However 14 years on in 2003 my dream to become a parent became reality. Through the process of intercountry adoption my husband Jamie and I were able to adopt a precious boy. Mitchell Min Soo as we call him was born 23 July 2003 in South Korea. In December Jamie and I traveled to South Korea to meet Mitchell and bring him home to join our family. Now almost four months on and Mitchell has settled into his new life. He is a happy healthy boy who has brought so much joy not only to Jamie and I but to our family and friends. In another year or so we hope to be able to add to our family by going through the adoption process again.

Fiona

Thanks Ted!

A big thanks to CIKA member Ted Taplin who has organized the design and production of our new CIKA badges. Ted first suggested the need for some form of identification after assisting at a CIKA bookstall at RCH.

The badges, which display the CIKA logo and members name, identify the wearer as a volunteer from the Royal Children's Hospital. Ted also organized extra "Volunteer Badges" for the friends of CIKA who assist at various fundraising events.

Thanks to all-type signs & badges for their support. They can be contacted on (03) 9762 4100.

Contact Us

Sandra Lehrer—President
Tel 9696 9775

Ellen Webb—Vice President
Tel 9326 0962

David Webb—Treasurer
Tel 9326 0962

Bernie Dawson—Secretary
Tel 5428 6019

News from Our Valuable Supporters

The Auxiliaries Office

The Auxiliaries of the Royal Children's Hospital were formed in 1922 with the aim to interest the community in providing goods and to raise money for the hospital.

Auxiliaries have always had the ability to raise funds in various and interesting ways. Today the majority of new auxiliaries established are brought together by a common illness.

Our Cancer In Kids Auxiliary – CIKA will be celebrating it's 24th birthday in 2004 and it is with great excitement and anticipation that we look forward to what the committee has in store for us this year. Last year, Masquerade. This year – who knows. What we do know is that it will be a fun night and that is your greatest asset, everyone knows it will be a fabulous event. What they don't know is how much hard work it takes to turn an idea into \$110,000 as you did in 2003.

It is not just the Oncology Unit, we in the Auxiliary Office also know how hard the CIKA committee work all year round to ensure that their fundraising efforts are successful. And that is why they cherish their "Friends of Auxiliaries".

So to all our CIKA members and the people who help CIKA provide the funding in a big way to continue the research into solid tumour cancer for which the hospital has come to depend.

Three cheers to you all. Hip Hip Hooray, Hip Hip Hooray, Hip Hip Hooray

Happy Fundraising Everyone – Because we are Auxiliaries –

One Team, One Goal – Making Sick Kids Better

Sue Manson

Focus Xmas Luncheon



A few of the CIKA Committee (Sandra, Jim and Bernie) attended the Macedon Ranges Focus Christmas Luncheon at the Victoria Restaurant on Friday 12th December 2003. As usual we had a very entertaining afternoon with the ladies. We had a scrumptious Christmas lunch and afterwards Mrs. Kris Kringle arrived bearing gifts for all of us.

CIKA was presented with a cheque for \$3,000 which was raised by Focus during 2003. Sandra Lehrer (President of CIKA) then presented Carolyn Jeffrey (President of Focus) with a framed Certificate of Appreciation for the support given to CIKA by the ladies of Focus to help continue vital research into childhood cancers.

The members of CIKA value the support and friendship shown to us by the Focus ladies and look forward to a long association with the Group.

Appreciation Column

The CIKA Committee would like to thank the following for their generous support since our last newsletter—Mr. G Wales and Mrs. B Hutchison, Lincoln Leisure Distributors, Central Motor Auctions, 3AW Breakfast, Austrade Melbourne Social Club and Southgate supporters The Deck Restaurant & Ves Vian Hair & Beauty, The Nhill Group and the Woodpeckers Club Eltham.

Also LJ Whorlow First National Real Estate at Riddells Creek for providing photocopies of minutes.

Photos from the 2003 Dinner Dance "A Masquerade"



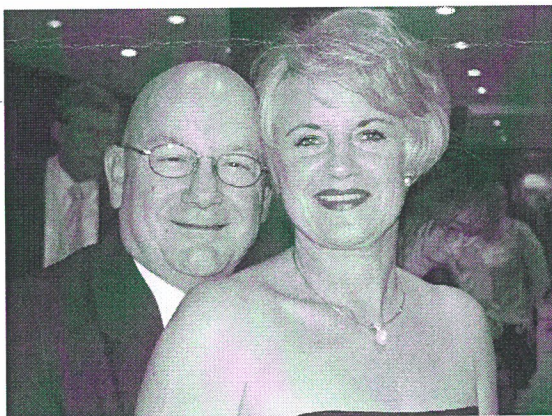
A very big thanks to Kate Greenall for organizing so many craft goodies over the years and so many of her friends to come



Auctioneer and Mary Mac



Sue Christov, Danielle Stage-man, Jenny Carafa and Alan Dodd



Kevin and Heather Dixon of Cos-



The crew from Mill Park Heights Primary School: Carmen, Eli, Jenny and Angela model their Masquerades on the evening which were kindly made and donated by their Grade 1 students.

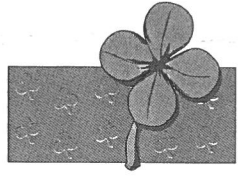
2004 Dinner Dance Update



The CIKA committee members invite you to celebrate an "Irish Christmas" at our annual dinner dance.

Venue: Hilton on the Park

When: **14 AUGUST**



Cost: \$100 per person

Includes 3 fabulous courses, beer wine and soft drinks

Top Irish Show Band

Hosted by the CIKA Patron, Mr Peter Mitchell

Tickets on sale now, contact David Webb on 9326-0962 to reserve your seat(s).



Research News

THE MOLECULAR ONCOLOGY LABORATORY

SUPPORT CIKA-Support a Cure

Editors Note:

Since the inception of CIKA 24 years ago we have been very committed to funding research at the Royal Children's Hospital.

Late in 2003 CIKA was made aware that there was a shortfall in funding for research at the Molecular Oncology Laboratory. At the November CIKA meeting the committee considered a presentation from Dr Elizabeth Algar, in which she presented an overview of the work being undertaken by the lab under her direction, and the funding needed to ensure its continuation in the short term. The CIKA committee agreed to fund this important work in conjunction with the Leukemia Association of the Royal Children's Hospital (LARCH). Detailed below is an overview of the research that CIKA is funding.

The Molecular Oncology Laboratory provides a molecular diagnostic testing service to assist in the clinical management of solid tumour and leukemia patients. The aim of the laboratory is to enable paediatric cancer patients to benefit from the application of "state of the art" technologies in the management of their disease. This involves using current knowledge of the chromosomal and genetic changes that have arisen in a cancer cell to aid accurate disease diagnosis and to give an idea of disease prognosis. This information is required in order for optimal therapies to be given. Knowledge of the chromosomal or genetic changes in a cancer cell, identified at diagnosis, also provide a tool to distinguish the cancer cell from other normal cells. This is done in the laboratory using a technology known as the *polymerase chain reaction* or PCR, and has an especially important application in the monitoring of leukemia during therapy.

It is likely in the future that new therapies for the treatment of both solid tumors and leukemias will be based on targeting the genetic alterations that are unique to

cancer cells and that are not present in normal cells. It is clear that molecular oncology, or understanding and identifying the genetic changes in cancer, will play an increasingly important role in cancer diagnosis and treatment in the future.

The head of the Molecular Oncology laboratory is Dr. Elizabeth Algar. The only salaried staff member of the laboratory, Dr. Algar has had fourteen years of post-doctoral experience in the area of paediatric cancer genetics. She is one of few people in Australia with a breadth of experience in this specialized field. In 2001 she initiated the transformation of the Molecular Oncology laboratory from a basic research laboratory into one providing both applied research and diagnostic testing for paediatric cancers and cancer syndromes. Her vision is to see the Molecular Oncology laboratory develop into a specialized laboratory providing molecular genetic testing for the paediatric cancer population in Victoria initially, and ultimately for the Australian population.

However, for its continued operation the Molecular Oncology laboratory is heavily reliant on philanthropic funds. This is particularly acute in its present phase. An enormous amount of ground work has been put in to get the laboratory to its present operational state and to apply for NATA accreditation status (which will hopefully be granted this year). Whilst the laboratory is currently supported through CIKA and LARCH at its present funding and staffing levels the laboratory cannot expand the range of tests it can offer nor improve result delivery times. In addition, the current situation limits the opportunity that Dr. Algar might otherwise have to seek new potential sources of funding. Additional staffing and financial security to enable long-term planning are desperately needed.



Dr David Ashley, Head of Clinical Haematology & Oncology

Children's Cancer Centre

The Children's Cancer Centre Foundation and Royal Children's Hospital are well advanced in their plans for a new Children's Cancer Centre of Excellence at the Royal Children's Hospital.

While childhood cancer facilities in Australia are of a high standard, they are not world class. A new Children's Cancer Centre will address this and offer world-class research and treatment to our sick children.

At least \$18 million in capital funding is required to realise the Children's Cancer Centre Foundation's vision. The Victorian State Government has already recognised the critical importance of this project with a grant of \$6 million and an approach to the Federal Government is underway. Additional philanthropic support has so far raised the total income to date to approximately 50% of the \$18 million required.

The CCCF is now actively seeking funds through strategic partnerships with corporate and philanthropic Australia to help establish the new Children's Cancer Centre and advance Australia's fight against childhood cancer.

The new Centre, will occupy the 6th floor of the main hospital building (the current location of the Department) opening out in continuous space onto the same level of the new Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI) Research and Development facility on the south west side of the Hospital. The new Centre will occupy a total area of 3000 square metres, some 1800 square metres larger than the current facility.

The new Cancer Centre will deliver a range of features and facilities to bring it into line with best practice and to ensure the quality of life for young cancer patients and their families by caring for their physical, psychological and social well being. It will specifically facilitate:

- Increase in the number of beds from 17 to 32,
- Best practice co-location of research and treatment facilities,
- Treatment of cancer patients in dedicated cancer wards at all times.
- A reduction in cross-infection via air filtration of the ward.
- Improved facilities for day chemotherapy and other day procedures.
- Provision for parents to stay in the room with their sick child overnight.
- Improved parent facilities, including interview and counseling rooms, kitchens, laundries, bathrooms, education services and bereavement services.

A new Children's Cancer Centre will deliver a range of benefits ultimately meaning that more children will be cured, better treatments will be developed and that the basic care of children with cancer will be improved and undertaken at all times in dedicated cancer wards.

The fit out and furnishing of the new Centre is scheduled to commence in September 2004 and conclude at the end of 2006.

WE NEED
YOUR HELP!!

Dinner Dance

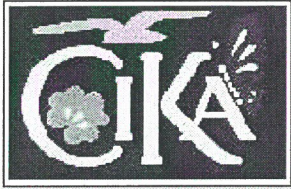
We are still seeking items for our dinner dance auctions.

**Please contact Julie Casilli on
9314 2459**

Monster Book Stall

Don't miss our monster book sale which will be held in the foyer of RCH on 26 May. We hold these regularly throughout the year and are always on the look out for goods.

Contact Sandra on 9696 9775



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 ionising radiation, little is known of the cause (s) of the 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 will be 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 to the children of the families who founded CIKA.

One child liked birds, particularly seagulls, one child liked butterflies and the other child liked flowers, especially nasturtiums.

May the children rest in peace!

Dates to remember

May 26th

Second Hand Book Stall at RCH

7 June

Next CIKA Members Meeting

August 14th

Annual Dinner Dance
An Irish Christmas

14th October

Socks and Jocks Stall at RCH

29th October

Jewellery Stall at RCH

To receive this newsletter:

E-mail details to ellenwebb@optusnet.com.au or phone Ellen or David Webb on 9326 0962, or fill in the form below and fax to 9372 0635 or mail to:

Ellen and David Webb

62 Munro Street

Ascot Vale, Vic 3032

Mr. Mrs. Ms Dr Given Name: _____ Surname: _____

Address: _____ Postcode: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____