



wings of sound

The magazine for the friends and supporters of the Hear and Say Centre



Ruby's station home

Magical Mystery Tour

Centre's unique service to Queensland's "Bush Babies" with Outreach Co-ordinator Trudy Smith

By air and by road in my role as Outreach Co-ordinator, I travel thousands of kilometres every six months to visit our children in remote and rural areas of Queensland on what has been affectionately titled my "Magical Mystery Tour"!

It is an exhausting four weeks, but so satisfying to actually be face to face with the children and families that I normally see on a small screen. Sometimes I'm meeting children in person for the first time!

The visits to these children in their homes, preschools and kindys is a vital part of our program. It gives me the chance to interact, not only with the child but with their families and to learn about the special situations of our remote families.

We cannot allow these deaf and hearing impaired children to be disadvantaged because of where they live. It is essential that we provide them with as much support as the children who live near our city and regional centres.

We provide therapy sessions, counselling and general support using every communication method available to us including video conferencing, web cam technology, email and phone. Families also visit the Brisbane centre periodically for mapping (finetuning) of the implants.

My latest trip took me to Emerald, Rockhampton and Yeppoon before heading off to Mackay, Mt Isa and Townsville. I spent a day with Alyssa in Mt Isa and then saw little Jack in Townsville before flying to Longreach and then driving 300km to Ruby's home, a cattle station near Winton. Webcam at home now saves Ruby's family the three hour drive into Longreach for her video conferencing session, a drive which left four year old Ruby too tired to fully benefit from her lesson.

A 400km drive to Barcaldine next to catch up with Connor who is graduating from the Centre's program at the end of the year.

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Christmas message

All year through but particularly at Christmas we recognise and applaud the generosity of our supporters who have helped us give the gifts of speech and sound to so many deaf and hearing impaired children.

The good news this year is that Newborn Hearing Screening in our hospitals is now a reality. Giving these children a chance to start their intervention before six months of age ensures the development of their auditory brain for a lifetime of listening, speaking, reading and learning.

Of course this has resulted in an overwhelming increase in families wishing to enrol their children in the Centre's program.

The challenge for us now is to make sure we can raise the funds to ensure these newly diagnosed babies have the best chance to live their lives in the world of sound.

Dimity Dornan
Founder and Managing Director



Thank you from Tyler

Tyler was born in September 2005, a beautiful healthy baby. However at four months Tyler contracted meningitis. After two weeks in hospital he was over the worst but a routine hearing test before he was discharged showed he now had a profound hearing loss.

Although Tyler's parents Nat and Tony were working in Roma they found the Hear and

Say Centre's program and decided they wanted their little boy to learn to listen and speak.

But the Centre has been overwhelmed with an increase in referrals caused not only by our usual stream of newly diagnosed children (2 – 6 years), but also by the influx of newborns diagnosed through the State Government's universal newborn hearing screening program.

In addition, requests are being received for a second cochlear implant by some of those families whose children have already received one implant. Research is showing that for some children, bilateral implants give better localization of hearing and better hearing in noisy situations. These challenges have created severe funding and resource problems at the Hear and Say Centre.

Recognising this, centre parents Tina and Sarah organised a fundraising dinner "Hear the Dream II", specifically to raise enough funds to take some of the children off the waiting list.

During the dinner Centre founder and Managing Director, Dimity Dornan, appealed to guests to take up sponsorship of a child for \$10,000 for one year, which would enable the centre to start a baby on its journey into the world of sound and speech.

Some wonderful people responded including Brisbane couple Sally and Scott Herborn who now sponsor Tyler.

Sally and Scot were with the family to witness the switch on of Tyler's cochlear implant and have keenly followed his progress since. And because of their generosity and the hard work of Tyler's parents and therapist, Tyler is now responding to sound and starting to vocalise the same as a hearing child. He has also just received a second implant to give him the best chance to communicate on the same level as his hearing peers. The future looks bright for Tyler thanks to the Herborn's sponsorship!

Sadly, there are still children on our waiting list. If you would like to help by sponsoring a child in our "Sponsor a Child" Program, please contact the Centre or email robyn@hearandsaycentre.com.au for further information.



Jo and Steven

Gifts that change lives

Steven Koch

Like all other couples, Jo and I wanted our wedding day to be perfect, a true celebration of our love and commitment to each other. It was only when we started making plans for the day and thinking about a gift register that we realised that we have most things we need.

So we thought that we could make our day even more perfect by using it to make a difference to a child's life. We had heard about the Hear and Say Centre and the wonderful outcomes for children in its program so we decided that we would ask our wedding guests to make a donation to the Centre instead of buying us a gift.

We raised over \$4,000 which we presented at the Centre's playgroup. We met some of the children and their families and have seen how the centre is helping them to talk and listen. Watching lots of little children, all hearing impaired and some profoundly deaf, happily singing along to "I'm a Little Teapot" with all the actions was so moving!

We hope that other people will think about asking for donations to the centre instead of gifts at their next celebration, birthday, anniversary, wedding or christening. It is just so worthwhile, and is a gift we'll always remember our family and friends giving to celebrate our wedding!

Contact the Centre for donation slips specifically designed for your celebration.

Music to their ears!

"Old MacDonald Had a Farm" and "I'm a Little Teapot" never sounded so good! Playgroup was visited recently by two members of the Queensland Orchestra who enthralled the children with their playing of these familiar songs. The children sang along and then learnt hands on the correct way to hold the instruments and how to make sounds with them! Maybe a future career in music for Lily!

Lily and violinist Brenda Sullivan



Brisbane Runs for Centre children!

Thank you Volunteers!

We couldn't have done it without you! Over 160 volunteers got out of bed, in the dark, on a cold Sunday morning to volunteer for the Sunday Mail Suncorp Bridge to Brisbane Fun Run to honour the Centre's commitment as the nominated beneficiary of this year's event.

A record 24,350 entrants resulted in \$181,376 raised for the Hear and Say Centre. This will enable the centre to shorten its waiting list and improve services to all our children.



Butterflies, butterflies, everywhere there were butterflies!

Swarms of butterflies were sighted in Queensland in March and April this year but it wasn't a plague – just the 2007 Butterfly Appeal.

Live butterflies were released simultaneously from all the regional centres on 27th March

to signify the launch of the Centre's annual fundraising and awareness appeal, and boxes of butterfly brooches flooded the state in all Suncorp and KFC branches and selected schools and retail outlets.

Thank you to everyone who supported the appeal by taking boxes and buying butterflies! Every box of butterflies that was sold provided a centre child with a therapy lesson, another step on their journey into the world of sound!

This successful appeal would not have been possible without the support, in so many ways, of our major appeal sponsor, Suncorp. Volunteers from Suncorp staff packed the butterflies into boxes in two feverish days of high activity, assisted with the launches statewide, and hit the streets on Butterfly Day to sell the butterflies. Some brave souls even donned wings and feelers to set the mood!

Suncorp branches enthusiastically competed for the Best Promoted Branch with **Southport** coming in as the clear winner and **Toowoomba branch** winning the Highest Fundraising Branch prize.

Congratulations to **Redeemer Lutheran College** for winning the Highest Fundraising School and to **KFC** for its continued support.

The 2007 Butterfly Appeal will run from **19th March to 19th April**. The exciting news is that we have found some new, very pretty butterfly brooches! Register now to reserve your box of butterflies by phoning 07 3870 2221 or email to robyn@hearandsaycentre.com.au.



News from the Regional Centres

Darling Downs

The coldest June day to hit Pittsworth in years kept most people inside for the day, but those that braved the weather were treated to the awesome sight of 60 big rigs in convoy rolling down the highway from Toowoomba to Pittsworth in the 2006 Truck Thunder! Almost every truck carried excited children in the cabin, many from the Centre, who waved and sounded the truck horns all the way creating much noise and excitement along the highway. A family fun day followed with rides, bands, barbecues, ute shows, truck pulling competitions and culminated in a fireworks display and rodeo.

Sunshine Coast Centre... Dancing with the Stars!

The Sunshine Coast Centre has had a busy year with many activities including the Peregian Springs Golf Tournament and the inaugural "Dancing with the Local Stars". This exciting event featured Channel 7's Dancing with the Stars judge Mark Wilson and major sponsors included McDonalds Sunshine Coast, Channel 7, Hot 91.1FM, Sunshine Coast Daily and REED Property Group.

Six local celebrities teamed up with some very experienced dancers to dazzle the 200 plus guests with their showmanship and expertise! Make a diary note for the 2007 Dancing with the Local Stars for 13th October at the Caloundra Cultural Centre.

Local celebrity Dan Staines with partner Sheree Atkinson



Gold Coast Centre

Unbelievably in these drought conditions the Annual Matrix Charity Golf Day at Lakelands Golf Club was rained out in July but fortunately the sun shone on the rescheduled day in September and over \$20,000 was raised to help the Gold Coast Centre to continue to provide local hearing impaired children with the best opportunity to learn to listen and speak.

North Queensland Centre

Our ongoing thanks and appreciation goes to Centre Community Champion Sandra Troughton of Thiess Harbour Lights Project in Cairns for her commitment to supporting our North Queensland Centre. Sandra once again organised and ran the annual Thiess Golf Day at Paradise Palms on 11th July raising funds for the North Queensland Centre.



Magical Mystery Tour

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Then more locally I visited Stuart in Wondai, a new child in our program and then to the Darling Downs for my regular fortnightly visiting service. The next day a five hour flight to Darwin and a wonderful dinner with two of my families where I was fortunate to witness the fiery sunset over the water. And finally back to Brisbane to wash the dirt off the car and the dust out of my clothes!

Is it worth it? Most definitely! My "bush babies" are doing beautifully. Ethan and

Connor who go on to Grade One next year are performing up to 18 months ahead of their chronological age in language skills. Katie from Emerald is also ready for school next year, and Ruby is making amazing progress since the switch to webcam. And more exciting news! The Paul Newman Foundation has made a \$100,000 grant to the Centre to fund the Telemedicine Centre. This will allow us to update the video conferencing and webcam equipment to give my bush babies even better access to learning to listen and speak. Thank you Paul Newman Foundation from all the families in our Outreach Program!



Trudy with Yeeppoon twins Chris and Nick

Yes, I would like to help deaf children hear the miracle of sound!

Hear and Say Centre
for children who are deaf and their families
PO Box 930 TOOWONG QLD 4066

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

- \$65 One teaching session one to one
- \$110 Resource equipment and teaching aids for one year for one child
- \$205 The weekly cost of the program for each child
- \$750 The monthly cost of the program for each child
- \$ Whatever you can afford will be gratefully appreciated.

Enclosed cheque for \$
made payable to: Hear and Say Centre.
All gifts \$2.00 and over are tax deductible.

Debit my credit card \$

Card Number:

Type of Card: _____

Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____

Expiry Date: _____

- Please send me information on making a bequest.

If you would like to donate by phone please call (07) 3870 2221.

Diary Dates for 2007

Contact the Centre phone 07 3870 2221 for information and tickets

The Internet...the next generation. A truly unique once in a lifetime experience!

7th March 2007

Luncheon at Suncorp Stadium

Guest speaker Vint Cerf is the co-founder of the Internet and Vice President of Google (ever wondered where the term "cerfing the net" originated?)

One of the great intellects of our time in his only public appearance in Australia. Recently awarded the greatest civilian award in the USA, the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his work as "founding father of the internet". One of the most important people alive today!

The Australasian Conference on Listening and Spoken Language

7/8/9th March 2007

Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre

The first international conference jointly presented in Australia by the Hear and Say Centre and the Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

2007 Butterfly Appeal

19th March – 19th April 2007

Great new butterflies for 2007. Register now for your box.

Dancing with the Local Stars

Saturday 13th October

Caloundra Cultural Centre



Hear and Say Centre

for children who are deaf/hearing impaired and their families

The Hear and Say Centre

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