

# wings of sound

The magazine for the friends and supporters of the Hear and Say Centre  
for children who are deaf/hearing impaired and their families



Hear and Say Centre

## Thank you all!



**Christmas is a time to give thanks and celebrate, a time to give and a time to spend with loved ones.**

This Christmas I want to thank all the Centre's supporters for giving children like Lily and Caitlin the chance to live in our hearing world, and I wish to celebrate with you all the wonderful outcomes for deaf and hearing impaired children that are available in today's world.

Like most of us, the centre's children and their families will be enjoying Christmas together. But for some of our children, there will be a difference. It will be the first time they will actually be able to hear the wonderful sounds of Christmas!

I would like you all to remember that it is because of people like you that this Christmas will not be a silent one for some of our deaf and hearing-impaired children.

With the roll out of universal hearing screening for newborns, children are being diagnosed earlier. But the good news is that early diagnosis and early intervention can give these children the best chance to develop good speech and language.

At the end of this year twenty seven of our children will graduate from our program and will be going to school next year...that's a mainstream school – in most cases the same school as their brothers, sisters and friends will be attending.

A great reason to give thanks and celebrate... may I wish you all the very best for this Christmas season!

**Dimity Dornan A.M.**  
Centre Founder and Clinical Director

**"The most basic of all human needs is the need to understand and be understood. The best way to understand people is to listen to them"**  
– Ralph Nicols

## Tim and Annie's Story



**Our second child arrived in early March of this year. A beautiful peaceful boy called Ned.**

After the shock of Ruby's diagnosis of profound hearing loss, we knew that there was a possibility that Ned too could be hearing impaired and we prepared ourselves for the results of the newborn hearing screening.

At 3 days old he passed the test, his hearing was fine. We were delighted and relieved for him, and for us, and thought how great it would be for Ruby to have a hearing brother.

However another check up at 4 weeks revealed a progressive hearing loss that had deteriorated to a moderate/severe level. We had been hit with a sucker punch that caught us totally off guard!

We jumped on the emotional rollercoaster again. The dust settled after a few weeks and things became clearer.

This time we aren't alone. We have the best Auditory-Verbal professionals in the world on our own doorstep. Our friends at The Hear and Say Centre have made an enormous contribution to our lives.

Amazing people getting amazing results with amazing technology.

*Continued on page 4*

## Bill's Story

*"I went from being the person no-one wanted to talk to in year 7, to school captain in year 12"*

My name is Bill and I am now twenty-two years old. Since birth I have been profoundly deaf. My hearing was barely enough to hear a plane taking off overhead.

I managed with hearing aids until I was thirteen when the hearing aids became almost useless. I couldn't talk to anyone outside of my family. As a result I was almost segregated at school. I lost all my friends.

I was severely depressed, and it seemed that life had nothing to offer. I couldn't even hold a conversation. How was I going to finish school and hold down a job? Books became my only retreat, and when visitors came to our house, I would hide with one.

Then I received a cochlear implant and the Hear and Say Centre helped me to understand the sounds I could hear with it and to learn to speak. Within months I was

hearing much better than I ever had, and I was able to think of becoming an audiologist, someone who specializes in the non-medical treatment of hearing impairment. I knew I wanted to help people in similar situations, using my own life experiences.

Without exaggeration, my life completely changed. From being the person no one wanted to talk to in year 7, I became school captain in year 12. I received an OP of 3, and then completed an undergraduate degree in psychology.

*"We marvel at how much Bill has achieved. I was in tears when he gave the valedictory speech on his last day at school. This is the boy we were told would never read well and probably never talk properly." – Bill's father*

Last year I was honoured to receive the Graeme Clark Scholarship for academic achievement, community activities and commitment to the cochlear ideals of leadership and humanity.

Now I am studying part time for a Masters in Audiology at UQ. My dreams are within my grasp. I am working part time as a carer and as a database operator at the Hear and Say Centre.



Bill with Damien and Antoni at playgroup

I can talk to everyone on the phone, follow a conversation around a dinner table or out in public, hear the punch line of a joke the first time, and I've even discovered the joy of music.

Given the opportunities afforded to me by the cochlear implant, as well as a loving family and the wonderful people at the Hear and Say Centre, it seems the world is mine for the taking. I'm a lucky guy!

## Butterflies raised the roof...

*Thank you Queenslanders for helping to make this year's appeal the most successful ever!*

And thank you to our major sponsor **Suncorp** and to **KFC** for your support and to the **Lioness ladies** and **Suncorp volunteers** who helped pack the boxes!

Over \$112,000 was raised throughout the state in the Centre's major annual statewide fundraiser when supporters were encouraged to "buy a butterfly and help give a deaf child wings".

The funds raised will support eleven newly diagnosed babies through their first year in the Centre's program, giving them an invaluable start on their journey into the world of sound.

The school competitions were hotly contested with both **Hilder Road State School** and **St Augustine's Mossman** winning prizes for best butterfly artwork. **Lockyer District High School** raised the most funds with **Kelvin Grove State College** and **Brisbane Girls Grammar School** not far behind.

*Top Left: Suncorp volunteers packing boxes.*

*Left: Rugby legend Gene Miles, Centre graduate Bill Raymond, Sarah Davies Miss World Australia, Centre graduate James Harlow and Shane Webke.*

## Suncorp leads the way!

*Not only was Suncorp the major sponsor of the appeal, but Suncorp employees became involved even before the appeal started with teams of volunteers packing the boxes in record time.*

And on *butterfly day* the Suncorp butterfly brigade took to the streets to sell butterflies... some volunteers were seen wearing wings!

Great competition waged in Suncorp branches throughout the state for the prize for the Best Promoted Branch. **Pacific Fair** edged out the others once again and the prize for Best Community Involvement went to the **Whitsunday** branch.

The appeal was launched at the Suncorp Queensland Business Leader's Dinner, a black tie fundraiser for the centre which was held at Suncorp Stadium. A host of sporting legends and entertainment personalities showed their support by attending including **Eddie Jones**, **Leigh Matthews**, **John Buchanan**, **Shane Webke**, and **Heather Ford** and the dinner was hosted by Channel 7's **Andrew O'Keefe**.

Guests gathered on the field before dinner to listen to Centre vice patron, **Wally Lewis** talk about his daughter **Jamie-Lee** and her great achievements since graduating from the Centre's program. Some of the older centre graduates ferried the guests in golf carts from the field to the dining room for the rest of the evening's entertainment.



The 2005 faces of the butterfly appeal...centre children Bethany and Kabisi



## News from the Hear and Say Regional Centres

### Gold Coast

**Margaret May**, MP for McPherson officially opened the Gold Coast Hear and Say Centre at Varsity Lakes on 7th June in front of 60 guests representing organizations that have contributed to the building of the Centre.

Our appreciation is extended to the **Australian Government Non Government Centres Support Program, Matrix Builders, the Ash Family, the Variety Club, Rotary Club of Surfers Paradise Central, Quota International of Tweed Heads/ Coolangatta, Quota International Club of Gold Coast, Gambling Community Benefit Fund, the Paul Newman Foundation, Reuben Pellerman Foundation, Viertel Foundation, Gold Coast Community Benefit Fund** and the **Gold Coast Children's Society** for their major contributions to the building of this centre.

It has taken many years and the generosity of many people and organizations to see this project through to completion. We thank everyone who has contributed in some way to help us make this dream of having a purpose built centre for local hearing-impaired children a reality.

### Sunshine Coast

We are indebted to the Sunshine Coast local community and business for their support, which originally assisted us to establish our Nambour centre, and now helps to ensure the centre's continued operation for the benefit of local children who are deaf or hearing impaired.

The **Sunshine Coast McDonalds** stores raised \$23,000 through their *Mc Happy Time* fundraiser and the centre was fortunate to be nominated as beneficiary of several events during the year including the **Mooloolaba Triathlon, Caloundra Pacific Golf Day, Viva La Musica, and Nambour Rotary Club Garden Expo.**

Our thanks go to the **Nambour and Mooloolaba Rotary Clubs, the Reed Charity Foundation** and to **Doug and Dawn Biggs** for their passionate support.

Our corporate support committee of **Kerrie Arnott, Trudiann Marshall and Kirsten von Homeyer**, headed by centre fundraising co-ordinator, **Karen von Homeyer**, are to be congratulated for successfully organising their first major event, the inaugural **Peregian Springs Charity Golf Day** which was held on 29th September and raised over \$15,000.

Thank you to major sponsors the **Reed Property Group, HOT 91.1FM** and **Peregian Springs** who made the event possible.

Guests enjoyed hearing celebrity guest speaker **Ben Ikin** from the Broncos along with centre graduate eleven year old **Casey Raymond**. Casey certainly proved that centre graduates can speak for themselves!

### Cairns

We are particularly grateful to our volunteer committee in Cairns headed by **Ken Spain** and including **Adrian Shea, Bob & Di Crimmins, Cameron Price** and **Di Messervy** who put in so much time to support our North Queensland Centre.

Our thanks to **Verdes Restaurant** and **JAL** for raising funds for the North Queensland centre through their charity golf day and to the **Thiess Cairns Harbour Lights Project** for their ongoing support.

### Darling Downs

They came from all over for **Truck Thunder – Down Under...** over 3,000 people from as far away as the Gold Coast, Gayndah, Goondiwindi and Scone descended on the Darling Downs town of Pittsworth for the 2005 Truck Thunder.

Funds raised through this major annual event, this year over \$15,000, give the Hear and Say Centre the ability to provide a centre service to the Darling Downs for local children who are deaf or hearing impaired, saving the families a long drive to Brisbane.

For ten months of the year the enthusiastic and hard working Truck Thunder volunteer committee plan and organise this unique event. This year sixty big rigs gathered at the Toowoomba Show Grounds and drove in convoy to Pittsworth Show Grounds with the excited young children from the Centre riding high in the cabins and sounding the horns along the way.

It's a fun day for all the family with a great variety of country entertainment including rides, ute and truck competitions, live bands, a rodeo and fireworks display.

**If you missed out this year make sure you mark Sunday 11th June 2006 in your diary now to take the family for an unforgettable day out!**



Centre graduate Jillian with Maxi, the first child to be "switched on" at the Gold Coast Centre



Kerrie Arnott and daughter Mia



Toneisha, North Old Centre



Centre therapist Lynda Close and volunteer Graeme Clark



### Governor General visit

In March we were honoured to receive a visit from the Governor General, **Michael Jeffries** and **Mrs Jeffries**, who toured the centre and met some of our children and their families.

*Kai demonstrates a lesson technique to Governor General Michael Jeffries*

## Tim and Annie's story

(continued from page 1)

We know that hearing Ruby talk so perfectly now is something we will never take for granted. We know that Ned's hearing has a great future. We know how lucky we are – above everything we have two beautiful healthy happy children.

### 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.

or 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) 3720 9632.



## Financiers raise funds with football... a fundraising story with a difference!

When **City Pacific Finance Managing Director Wayne Milner** and his wife **Michelle** attended the **Suncorp Business Leader's Dinner** they successfully bid for the services of **Eddie Jones** to speak at a function of their choice.

But Wayne and Michelle were so motivated by the story of the guest speakers at the dinner, centre parent's **Tina and Matthew**, that they decided to try to raise further funds for the centre by putting on a free breakfast for their colleagues with Eddie Jones as the guest speaker.

Over two hundred guests got up early to attend the breakfast the day before the test against France at Suncorp Stadium and enjoyed Eddie's comments on past matches and strategies for the rest of the season.

The guests donated a total of \$10,000 – enough to sponsor one child through a year in the centre's program.

*Above: City Pacific Finance Managing Director Wayne Milner with centre parent and guest speaker Damien Prineas.*

## Diary Dates

Contact the Centre on 07 3720 9632 for tickets and information.

### 2005

#### Thursday 17th November

##### Timeless Elegance

Jewels Art Fashion Fun Ladies Luncheon at the Victoria Park Golf and Function Centre, Herston, Brisbane.

#### Friday 18th November

##### Graduation Ceremony

Honouring the families of graduating children, Brisbane Centre Auchenflower

### 2006

#### Friday 24th March

##### Hear the Dream

Charity Dinner, Victoria Park Golf and Function Centre, Herston Brisbane

#### June / July

##### Brisbane Annual Charity Ball

#### Sunday 6th August

##### Queensland Newspapers and Suncorp

##### Bridge to Brisbane Fun Run

Brisbane charity run over the Gateway Bridge to benefit the centre

#### Monday 27th March – Thursday 27th

##### April "buy a butterfly" appeal statewide

#### Sunday 11th June

##### Truck Thunder

Toowoomba to Pittsworth truck convoy and family fun day

#### October / November

##### Brisbane Annual Charity Golf Day

#### July

##### Matrix Annual Charity Golf Day

Lakelands Golf Course, Gold Coast



### The Hear and Say Centre

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