



wings of sound

winter 2004

The magazine for friends and supporters of the Hear and Say Centre for Children who are deaf

'She's Not Listening. Bring Her Back When She's Older'

Our daughter Michaela, now four, is a bright, caring, fun loving little girl who's charging through life with a hearing loss, but she wasn't always this way.

Michaela's first six months and longer were a huge struggle for her and for us as parents and family. Michaela started life as a surviving identical twin taking less than a teaspoon of milk for a meal after being born 6 weeks premature.

After months of continual screaming and crying and numerous trips to doctors we found she didn't interact with her surroundings like her older sister had. She didn't jump if people yelled, doors slammed or if we banged on kitchen pots.

We took her off to specialist after specialist mostly the response was "She's just not listening, bring her back when she's older"

Finally a specialist concluded severely infected ears and congestion blocking her ears. The pain must have been enormous. She was fitted with grommets to release pressure and clear up the ears and happiness was instant.

After tests at nine months we were told she had a bilateral hearing loss due to nerve deafness--profound (total loss as we were to learn the term meant) in her left ear and a mild-moderate loss in her right.

Two months later Michaela was fitted with behind the ear hearing aids. It was such an incredible moment seeing your child hear all these sounds for the first time and just see the reaction in her little face.

After much research, talking to professionals and particularly parents of other deaf



Michaela and Kyel with parents Greg and Robyn Mowat.

children we decided an Auditory-Verbal approach would be the best thing for Michaela. There was nowhere, however, on the Sunshine Coast for Michaela to learn to talk. There was only sign language and we really didn't want that.

Fortunately, we found the Hear & Say Centre in Brisbane. From the moment we walked in and spoke with the staff we received all the information, encouragement and support we needed. One of the best things we found was that lessons weren't just about teaching Michaela but about educating us as parents on how to teach her at home.

From the time she started she loved it. She was taught how to make different sounds, how to listen for sounds and then progressed on to making words.

Michaela achieved great milestones through her weekly one hour sessions which were only tainted by the considerable 1 ½ hour drive to and from the Centre each week.

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Left to right: Sarah, Barbara, Tina and Marie

Dream Catchers!

Hear and Say Centre mothers- Tina Worland and Sarah Douglass combined energies with two passionate friends, Marie Barakat and Barbara Finlay, and major sponsor Adcock Prestige to deliver the Hear the Dream Charity Dinner.

The invite-only guests were entertained by the highly engaging performance of Sydney based masters of groove, Sneaky Sound System, while they enjoyed delicious cuisine by the former Kensington Palace Royal Chef, Jeffery Gear.

The evening's compare, Channel Nine personality and comedian Steve Haddan, was overshadowed only by the impressive array of raffle prizes and auction items, which included a Lexus RX330- donated by Lexus Indooroopilly.

The evening's hosts captivated the intimate crowd, persuaded them to dig deep into their pockets and put their money where it matters... which they did. The Hear the Dream dinner exceeded all expectations by raising an impressive \$55,000 for the Hear and Say Centre.

Thank you to all who made Tina and Sarah's dream a reality.



Alex dreams of being a concert violinist

Silent World is Sparked Alive by Energex

One and a half year old Antony McColl loves watching Bob The Builder and playing with trucks. He is just like every one and a half-year-old boy, except he is moderately deaf... not that you can tell.

Antony's hearing loss was identified through the Hear and Say Centre's Infant Hearing Screening Program, which is supported by Energex.

"We are incredibly lucky that Antony's hearing loss was detected when he was just 3 months old. He was fitted with hearing aids two weeks later and he has already developed age appropriate listening and speaking skills through the Centre's program" says Antony's mother Ruth.

Antony's hearing impairment has not held him back; he is growing up just like any little boy who constantly, giggles and talks. Yet, Antony is not alone. Hearing impairment is the most common disability in children; affecting one in every three hundred.

Alarmingly, hearing impairment is often overlooked or simply not detected in Queensland children, mainly due to the fact that there is no mandatory infant hearing screening in Queensland hospitals.

Early detection is vital; undetected hearing loss can severely affect a child's social and emotional development. Luckily this will not be the case for Antony.



Ex Wallaby Dan Herbert, with baby Jack and mother Jenny Wilson at the Energex Infant Hearing Screening Program launch

The Hear and Say Centre's Infant Hearing Screening Program enables parents to have their infants hearing screened on request and aims to raise awareness of the need for newborn hearing screening in Queensland hospitals.

Hear and Say Centre founder and clinical director Dimity Dornan says, "The program has identified four children with a hearing loss, as well as influencing the Queensland Government to act upon the issue; Premier Peter Beattie recently announced plans to implement mandatory newborn hearing screening in all Queensland hospitals by 2006".

The Hear and Say Centre thanks Energex for its continued support of the Infant Hearing Screening Program – without it Antony would not be the talking toddler he is today.



Ruth McColl reading to Antony



Centre graduate Nicole

Go Talk!

This could well be the theme of the Hear and Say Centre!

The Centre is pleased to announce Telecom /Go Talk Ltd, as a new corporate supporter of the Hear and Say Centre. The team at Telecom are committed to long term assistance and support of our work and are working towards raising funds to sponsor a child through the Centre's program.

Telecom is offering to provide cheaper telephone services to you and ongoing donations to the Hear and Say Centre for deaf children Queensland wide.

In addition Telecom will donate a percentage of all supporters' monthly phone bills that are connected to their telephone service, direct to the Hear and Say Centre.

Telecom is an established Queensland based telecommunications company offering Hear and Say Centre supporters the ability to save on their business and/or home telephone bill with their Go talk /Business telephone services.

Phone 1800 010 018 to register your interest and advise GO talk that you are a Centre supporter and quote CAM01 to ensure that you receive your Centre customer bonus offer.

It costs the Centre \$1.5 million annually to provide our world class program to deaf and hearing impaired children throughout Queensland, and the majority must be raised through the community.

Without you, we would not be able to continue to give deaf and hearing impaired children the chance to live their lives in the hearing world.

Please consider this offer which will help you by saving on your phone bill and help give young Queensland children the chance to achieve their potential.

She's Not Listening From page one

Second Blow

Everything seemed to be finally on track for the family when we were dealt a second blow. Our youngest son Kyel was also diagnosed with a hearing loss in both ears. Although we knew the road ahead we were devastated.

Luckily we had the Hear & Say centre for support and it really made this stage of our life much easier. The staff knew exactly what was needed and the early intervention and fitting of aides got Kyel off to a great start on his learning journey.

Needless to say we were now doing 2-3 trips to Brisbane each week, which became very taxing on us but the progress of Michaela & Kyel was well worth the challenge.

The establishment of the new Hear & Say Centre in Nambour has really been a blessing for us, with time previously spent driving now spent learning.

As parents we all know we'd do anything for our children. Having the Hear & Say Centre means that we know exactly what to do.



Left to right: Harry Reed, Dimity Dornan and Doug Biggs of the Nambour Rotary Club.

Sunshine Coast Centre Opening

The residents of the Sunshine Coast have displayed their true generosity and community spirit through raising the much-needed funds and materials required to build a Hear and Say Centre on the Sunshine Coast.

The Nambour based Centre means that Sunshine Coast based families will no longer have to make the four hour round trip to Brisbane for their weekly therapy sessions.

The \$500,000 Nambour based Hear and Say Centre opened earlier this month; - an achievement only possible through the outstanding support of the Sunshine Coast community.

The Centre's development was driven by the team at Nambour Rotary Club, who generously donated the land and sourced other supporters. The building's construction can be attributed to the outstanding contribution by local developer Harry Reed and the Reed Property Group Charity Foundation, as well as numerous local businesses, community groups, members of government and individuals.

Grants from the Commonwealth's Regional Partnership Program and Jupiter Casino's Community Benefit Fund have been gratefully received and will fund the sound proof hearing assessment booth, audiological, administration and IT equipment, security and air conditioning.

The determination and persistence of all who contributed to the Centre stunned Charity founder Dimity Dornan " I was amazed by the level of community spirit - I've never seen anything like it before" .

Let's 'Hear' it for Jim!



Jim with Centre children

After eight years as Development Officer, Jim Fagan has decided to take time out to "smell the roses", or more likely the sea air on the Sunshine Coast!

Jim first became involved in the Hear and Say Centre in 1992 when he helped Dimity Dornan to obtain a seeding grant from the Shepherd Centre in Sydney to enable her to set up the Hear and Say Centre.

In January 1996 Jim joined the Hear and Say Centre team after six years with the Shepherd Centre and has been an integral part of the Centre since. Up until late 1999 he worked alone being solely responsible for fundraising and development.

He has seen the Centre grow from one Centre based in rented premises, "The Mouse House" in Brisbane, with only 23 children, to five centres throughout Queensland and 157 children this year, all due to his tireless, enthusiastic and creative efforts.

Jim is proud to have been involved in establishing the proactive board that governs the Centre and has worked closely with board members Peter Sheehy and Paul McDermott.

"Jim, more than anyone is the person to which Hear and Say can attribute its current existence" said Jane Black, Chair of the Hear and Say Centre Board.

"When a seed is planted it requires constant watering to thrive and survive. Jim has been the faithful gardener who has kept the Hear and Say flower alive and thriving. We will miss him greatly and will be forever grateful for his many years of inspired help, financial creativity, mentorism and dedication." Jane said.

It was Jim who somehow raised the funds to allow the Centre to buy its first building and renovate the old church that now houses the Brisbane Centre.

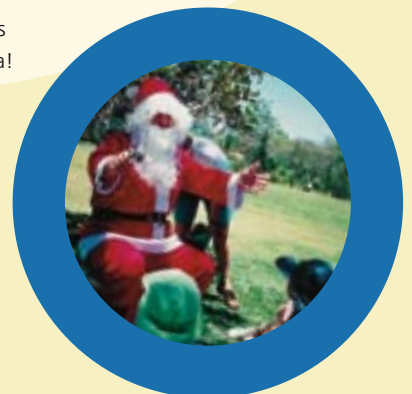
And it was Jim who was the driving force behind the building of the Sunshine Coast Centre and the purchase of the land for the new Gold Coast Centre.

He has truly left a remarkable legacy for Queensland children who are deaf or hearing impaired.

It was timely that recently Premier Beattie announced the Centre is to receive recurrent funding of \$270,000 from the Department of Education and the Arts as Jim has been closely involved in the submissions for government funding from the beginning.

"I think the Centre has lobbied 50 politicians and senior policy advisors over the past few years and I'm thrilled that the Centre's outstanding outcomes have finally been recognised" Jim said.

We'll miss you Santa!



Jazz in the Moonlight... thank you Jane and Tim Bell!

Drought breaking rain came down but the clouds passed in time to sight the full moon rising over the valley at Jane and Tim Bell's historic homestead, Coochin Coochin.

The moonlight lit up the lawn as 300 guests enjoyed the music, food and wine and raised \$6,500 for the Centre.

The highlight of the evening was the speech by Centre graduate Bill Raymond, now in his second year at University. Guests listened in awe as Bill told how the cochlear implant and the Hear and Say Centre have given him the ability to communicate orally, and how he has achieved both academically and socially and has fully integrated with the hearing community.

News from the Regionals



Darling Downs Centre

Thank you to the generous Dalby community and Darling Downs Centre Co-ordinator, Wendy Caldwell, for their wonderful support of the 2004 "buy a butterfly" appeal.

The Northern Downs News featured stories, Beck Street Kindergarten children made butterflies, Dresses and Things held a bake sale, and the Dalby Wambo Library sold butterflies and raffle tickets.

Local artist Maree Cameron, donated a beautiful butterfly painting for the raffle and Rimfire Winery displayed the painting and sold tickets.

And how generous is the staff of the Wambo Library! They took up a collection to replace the butterfly money which was stolen from the library. A Big Bouquet and a sincere thank you to all!



Cairns Centre

Thank you to everyone for welcoming the new North Queensland Co-ordinator Jayne Simpson and admin assistant Silke Hardland to our Cairns Centre. We say goodbye but not farewell to Kerrie Endres as her new position will keep her in contact with some of the North Queensland graduates. Congratulations to the Fundraising Committee who are powering ahead with their projects for 2004.

Far left: Wendy Caldwell (left) and Margaret Kucks (right)
Left: Picture of Jayne teaching Dylan

Gold Coast Centre

The roof is on! If you don't believe it drive by Bellevue Ave, Varsity Lakes and see it yourself! Our new building is now well underway and we look forward to moving in for 3rd term! Thank you Matrix!

Nambour Centre

Great news! McDonald's Nambour and Sunshine Coast have just confirmed that the Sunshine Coast Hear and Say Centre is again to be the beneficiary of the MCHappy Time campaign from 7th-20th July. All hands on deck to try to raise the total above the incredible \$36,000 raised last year!

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

- \$65 One teaching session one to one
- \$105 Resource equipment and teaching aids for one year for one child
- \$275 The weekly cost of the program for each child
- \$1025 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:

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Type of Card:

Name on Card:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

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 - 2004

Hear and Say Centre Fundraising Events

Contact Donna at the Centre for tickets and information about the following events or to list your fundraising event in the next Wings of Sound Diary - phone 3870 2221.

Sunday 13th June 'Truck Thunder'

A spectacular convoy of big rigs departing Toowoomba at 11.00am to the Pittsworth Show Grounds for a Family Fun Day with rides, barbeque and truck show commencing midday. Rodeo from 6.00pm, band from 9.00pm

16th July Annual Thiess & Suncorp 'Reach for the Stars' Ball

Join our stars for a night of glitz, glamour and glitter at the recently revamped Victoria Park Function Centre. Enjoy great food and wine and dance the night away.

1st August Ambiwerra 'Wine, food and all that jazz!'

Starring Rene Geyer and Vince Jones with food and wine stalls from the best of Brisbane's Restaurants, the Centre is this year's charity partner for the great annual festival held at Erinvale St Corinda.

20th August An Evening of Elegance

Black tie dinner at Brisbane's Royal on the Park featuring the Scott Martin 11 piece jazz band raising funds to help "give a special child wings" sponsored by Metropolitan Funerals.

8th October Matrix Annual Corporate Charity Golf Day

Calling all corporates! Sponsor a hole and your team of four will enjoy an afternoon at the scenic Lakelands Golf Course. The four ball ambrose event includes lunch, golf, dinner and drinks and will raise funds for the Gold Coast Hear and Say Centre.

29th October Thiess & Suncorp Day

Golf enthusiasts swing for charity, enjoy a social game of golf, and share golf stories at a relaxed post golf barbeque dinner.

19th November Graduation

The official farewell to the families of the 2004 Hear and Say Centre's graduating children. A congratulatory evening for the parents of Hear and Say Centre children.

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