

Through the Lens...

CRICKET legends, corporates and the community came together on 20 February 2009 to raise \$105,000 for Northcott's respite services while enjoying harbour views, fine dining and cricket commentary from the best.



[L to R] Amanda Nevin, Richie Benaud and Carlee Watson



[L to R] Barbara Wilcox, Richard Collinge and Diane Cody



[L to R] Kerry Stubbs, Wayne Seabrook, Katie Facarais and Linda Facarais



[L to R] Geoff Lawson OAM, Neil Harvey MBE, Max Walker, Richie Benaud, Alan Davidson AM MBE, Steve Waugh AO, David Gilbert, Trevor Chappell and Murray Bennett



[L to R] Kerry Chikarovski and Max Walker



[L to R] David Warner, Jacqui Facarais and Peter Forrest

Upcoming Events

The Roaring 20s Fundraising Ball for Northcott

Step back in time for a night of 1920s music, dance and dressing up to raise much needed funds for Northcott's Adult Recreation Service.

What: The Roaring 20s Fundraising Ball for Northcott

When: Saturday, 23 May 2009

Venue: Marconi Club, Bossley Park

Time: 7pm onwards

Ticket Price/Registration: \$65. Download an invitation from www.northcott.com.au or contact Carol Hanna on (02) 9890 0954

Northcott's Celebrity Doodle Auction

Enjoy a cocktail night at Northcott's second Celebrity Doodle Auction which has already received artwork from the likes of Olivia Newtown John, Ken Done, Lee Kernaghan, Gai Waterhouse and more.



Ken Done artwork to be auctioned at the Celebrity Doodle Auction

What: Northcott's Celebrity Doodle Auction

When: Wednesday, 27 May 2009

Venue: Crowne Plaza, Norwest

For more information: Contact Carol Hanna on (02) 9890 0954 or go to www.northcott.com.au

Drive 4 Life

Experience the beauty of the Australian outback on a charity 4WD tour to raise funds for Northcott's equipment loan pool.

What: Drive 4 Life - Alpine National Park Tour in Victoria

When: 19 - 24 April 2009

Ticket Price/Registration: \$1,000 donation. Download information pack and booking form from www.drive4life.com.au

80th Anniversary Gala Dinner

Help us dance through the ages as we journey from Northcott's beginnings back in 1929 to today at the Northcott 80th Anniversary Gala Dinner on Saturday 31 October, at Four Season's Hotel in Sydney. With celebrity hosts, performers and plenty of music and dance this will be a special night to remember. So save the date! To register your interest, please contact michael.johnson@northcott.com.au.

Supporters Discount!

Life Design Books and Northcott Disability Services have established a special sponsorship program which allows you to create your own beautifully bound and printed PhotoBook at a discount of \$10 which will be contributed back to Northcott.

To take part in this unique offer:

- Download the FREE PhotoBook software from www.lifedesignbooks.com.au
- Enter your Discount/Contribution Code "Northcott" when paying for your product

More information: info@lifedesignbooks.com.au

You have a choice - mail or email?

In a new year come new and exciting changes: this is the first edition of Northcott News which is made available online. To view this quarterly newsletter online or to opt to receive Northcott News via email please visit www.northcott.com.au

Northcott News

Issue 1 2009



...building an inclusive society



Join in the celebration as Northcott Disability Services turns 80!

A year to celebrate! This year marks the 80th anniversary of Northcott Disability Services provision of care and support to children and adults with disabilities across NSW and the ACT. Celebrate with us the achievements and progress over the years and join us in our journey ahead as we continue to build an inclusive society.

Turning back the hands of time, Northcott Disability Services (formerly known as the NSW Society for Crippled Children) was founded in 1929 by the Rotary Club of Sydney in response to serious deficiencies in medical and curative treatment for the growing number of children with polio and tuberculosis.

The vision of our organisation then was to permanently care for the surgical aid of "crippled" children and make plans for their education and vocational training. After eight months, 1,153 children were identified and registered as needing support.

Today Northcott Disability Services has expanded and developed, providing support and care to over 6000 people with a disability and their families across NSW and the ACT by offering a range of quality programs which promote a genuinely inclusive society.

On this anniversary we continue to endeavour to fulfill our current vision: to be the leading provider of choice and meet the needs of three times more clients by 2012. Northcott will officially launch our 80th Anniversary celebrations with a reception at Government House on 19 May.

If you would like to share your stories on how Northcott has made a positive impact to your life or your involvement with Northcott in the early years, we would love to hear from you. Please email pr@northcott.com.au or mail responses to Savannah Finlay using the address details below.

Message From the CEO

Dear Friends,

2009 has begun with a series of momentous events, for the world at large and closer to home for Northcott itself.

This year marks our 80th birthday as a charity dedicated to building an inclusive society for people with disabilities. We are planning to use this year not only to continue serving people with disabilities and their families, but to celebrate the clients, staff and supporters who have helped build Northcott over those years.

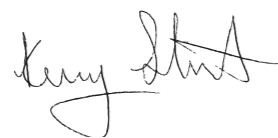
There are many similarities between 2009 and 1929, the year Northcott began as the NSW Society for Crippled Children. In 1929 the good people of Rotary identified a need for services for children suffering the after effects of polio and tuberculosis - a need to bring to them the services they needed to become full members of society, and to relieve their parents and families of the burden of full time, unrelenting care. In 1929, despite the worst of financial times, a falling stock market and rising unemployment, the generous community of New South Wales dug deep to raise the funds to form the Society, and so we began.

In 2009 we also face falling stock markets, rising unemployment and difficult financial times. We also still face need. Today people with disabilities have access to schooling, better health care and better aids. Yet they still face many barriers to realising their full potential and taking their place in society. Many wait months or years for the equipment they need to enable them to attend school or the workplace. Recreational pursuits, education and leisure activities

are restricted due to lack of assistance or transport or opportunity. Parents and carers spend 24 hours a day 7 days a week providing loving care, with little opportunity for a holiday or a break, or simply time to devote to the rest of the family. Teenagers are denied the opportunity for a simple sleepover with their friends, or time to bond with other young people who share their situation. And many young people with disabilities who leave school will face enormous barriers in entering the job market, despite their achievements and abilities.

Northcott still relies on the support of the community to help meet these needs and to give our clients and their families freedom and choice. We thank all the supporters of Northcott for their generous contributions and ask that you continue to remember us during these difficult times.

And don't forget to celebrate with us!! 80 years is a great achievement. Happy birthday to Northcott, and to all of our Northcott friends.



Kerry Stubbs
CEO



First ParaGolfer in Australia

NORTHCOTT Disability Services became the first disability service provider in Australia to have access to the ParaGolfer, an innovative all-terrain special mobility device that enables people who use a wheelchair to be lifted from a sitting position to a standing position.

By enabling an upright posture, the ParaGolfer allows for unrestricted shoulder movement. This freedom is not only a huge benefit on the golf course, it also opens up new possibilities of movement during a range of other activities.

Aside from the many physical benefits of this feature, standing upright also offers the psychological benefit of communicating with others at eye level.

Mitch Taylor, Team Leader of Northcott's Recreation Service, is thrilled with the potential opportunities the ParaGolfer will provide to teenagers with a physical disability.

"The ParaGolfer will be beneficial because it allows people with a disability the opportunity to play golf and a range of other recreational opportunities," Mr Taylor said. "The ParaGolfer will also allow our clients the opportunity to participate in other sports such as archery and fishing."

KidSwing International, a not-for-profit organisation that operates in Germany, generously donated the mobility device to Northcott Disability Services in partnership with Otto Bock.

The ParaGolfer can be hired from Northcott's Equipment Loan Pool. To make a booking please call (02) 9890 0950.



Northcott client Scott Hutton uses the ParaGolfer to play golf for the first time

All aboard...

CHILDREN and adults with a disability in the Riverina and New England region have each been enjoying a new, safe and comfortable bus.

The bus, which cost approximately \$150,000 to purchase, including modifications to customise the vehicle for wheelchair accessibility, will allow children and adults with a disability to engage in activities within the local community and assist Northcott staff in transporting clients as part of Northcott's services in and around the local area.

The bus, a Mitsubishi Fuso Rosa model, includes 23 seats with a lift. The bus's spacious interior and superior safety features provide staff and clients with added comfort and peace of mind.

The Riverina bus is made available thanks to the support of Northcott's Fundraising Committee in Wagga Wagga, as well as Wollundry Rotary Club,



Clients to access the community thanks to new bus

Arabic supported playgroup

NORTHCOTT Disability Services has launched a new service in partnership with Macarthur Diversity Services Inc. Families are now able to receive easy access to a supported playgroup where there are both Arabic-speaking and English-speaking workers.

The Arabic supported playgroup is an educational program, which is reviewed according to the identified needs of the children and families that attend. Families also receive support through the playgroup by linking them into local services and networks.

Based in the centre of Campbelltown, the program ensures culturally appropriate activities and resources are readily accessible.

The playgroup runs every Friday from 10:00am to 12:00pm at Jessie Thompson Building, Browne St, Campbelltown.

For more information please contact Leanne Charles from Northcott Disability Services on (02) 4640 8704 or 0409 228 247.

Then & Now

THIS year we will highlight the advances in innovations and technology over Northcott's 80 year history which have enabled Northcott to continue to build a genuinely inclusive society.

Then: In the past the beach was appreciated only from a distance as conventional wheelchairs could not provide access to some of the most beautiful areas of our country.

Now: People with disabilities are able to enjoy the therapeutic feel of sand beneath their feet and the cleansing feel of salt water with the innovative FreeWheeler designed by Northcott. The FreeWheeler's huge pneumatic tyres make it possible for people with disabilities to access the water or snow with ease. Designed with travelling in mind, the FreeWheeler can be dismantled and reassembled easily with its marine grade steel tubing making it strong and durable, ensuring years of reliable use.

For more information on the FreeWheeler, please contact (02) 9890 0950

In The Hot Seat... *with Emily Dash*

EMILY is an 18-year-old with cerebral palsy who uses Northcott's centre-based respite service in Roselands. Emily left no eye dry as she spoke to a room full of cricket legends at Northcott's 13th Annual Cricket Legends Lunch.

My most treasured possession is... The Tiffany Ring my sister got me for my 18th birthday, just before leaving on a 3 month trip to South America - it represents family and is a good omen

Hero/Idol... Anyone that has it worse off than me

Worst habit... I'm obsessive to the point that people get frustrated with me

My dream... Equality for all

I avoid... Crowds and loud noises



(L to R) Stuart MacGill, Emily Dash and Peter Forrest

Here's to you!

2DISCOVER recruitment was the proud sponsor of Northcott Disability Services' 13th Annual Cricket Legends Lunch on 20 February.

"We were proud to be involved as a sponsor of this great event that raised \$105,000 of respite nights for Northcott's clients and are very pleased to be associated with Northcott" said John Leith, Managing Director.

2discover is a boutique firm of specialist recruiters discovering permanent, temporary and contract talent from entry to executive in the areas of Human

Resources, Sales & Marketing, Technology, Business Support, Finance & Accounting and Customer Service. They have made an offer to donate to Northcott Disability Services 50% of any fee generated by placing a permanent candidate. This offer is extended only to the Annual Cricket Legends Lunch attendees. **To find out more about this offer or 2discover you can go to www.2discover.com.au or call (02) 8211 0626.**

Also a big thank you to Cricket NSW and the Dockside Group, which as sponsors made possible the 13th Annual Cricket Legends Lunch.



Surf, sun and sand can now be enjoyed thanks to advances in technology displayed in the FreeWheeler