



northcott
disability services

A newsletter for clients and supporters of Northcott Disability Services, an organisation that provides support to over 6000 people with disabilities and their families across NSW and the ACT.

Northcott NEWS

Edition 1 2007



Celebrating ability

A spectacular display of creativity and ability took place in North Parramatta when Northcott Disability Services hosted International Day of People with a DisAbility celebrations on Friday December 1, 2006. Over 100 children and adults with disabilities and able-bodied children from various schools across metropolitan Sydney joined members of the community and Northcott staff in a number of inclusive activities and workshops to recognise the abilities of people with a disability. Rock climbing and a performance by Drum Café were among the special attractions. Members of the NSW Wheelchair Rugby Team also attended the celebrations. Northcott's International Day of People with a DisAbility celebrations were proudly sponsored by Parramatta City Council and Eckersley's, Australia's leading art, craft and design supplies retailer. Please call Tereza Culina on (02) 9890 0113 or email terezac@northcott.com.au before July 30, 2007 if you are able to assist with this year's celebrations.

Having a go... Gosford East Public School student Tom Brewer shows his ability on the rock climbing wall at Northcott's International Day celebrations.

Message from the CEO



WELCOME to the first revamped edition of *Northcott News* in which you'll find out more about Northcott Disability Services. We will endeavour to provide you with a broad spectrum of information that will keep you up-to-date.

On behalf of everyone at Northcott, I would like to thank the many generous businesses and individuals who helped us raise more than \$90,000 at Northcott's 11th Annual Cricket Legends Lunch last year. Your support is vital in ensuring that Northcott continues to provide services and support to children and adults with disabilities across NSW and the ACT.

Northcott also appreciates the ongoing support that the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care (DADHC) provides, particularly with the allocation of funding for new programs which will enable Northcott to provide support to many more clients throughout the state.

We hope you enjoy this publication and learn more about the work that we do. If you would prefer this publication emailed to you, as this option will help us to reduce our mailing costs, please email pr@northcott.com.au with your full name, preferred email address and contact number and we will ensure you receive the next edition of *Northcott News* via email.

Managing Director and
Chief Executive Officer



A presence in Penrith

The Team... (L to R) NIFS Team Leader Aby Hutchinson-West and Family Caseworker Billie Preston

SINCE November 2006, Northcott Disability Services has been providing intensive family support to families in crisis who have a child with a disability and are living in the Nepean region of Sydney.

Northcott secured recurrent funding, plus initial funds from Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care (DADHC) to set up the service based in Penrith. The service is called Northcott Intensive Family Support (NIFS). NIFS provides intensive, short-term

support to children with a disability aged 0 to 17 and their families in order to reduce the risk of family breakdown and the children being removed from their family home.

The most significant difference between this and other services in the area is that workers provide a flexible service to assist the family 24 hours, seven days a week for a period of two to three months.

A third caseworker has also joined the service.

Western Sydney Therapy Team

THE Western Sydney Therapy Team is a new service provided by Northcott Disability Services. Funded until June 2008 via the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care (DADHC), the service is designed to target children with a disability aged 0 to 18 years and who have significant and/or complex needs. Speech pathology and occupational therapy services will be offered across the Cumberland/Prospect and Nepean regions.



Wheele skills for life

FOUR-YEAR-OLD Ethan Moos of Sefton, who has spina bifida and uses Northcott's Early Childhood Support Service (ECSS), is guided by Northcott's ECSS occupational therapist Erin Krisenthal at Northcott's recent Skills for Wheelies day on April 16, 2007. The aim of the day was to learn life long skills required for using a wheelchair.

Photo by Natalie Spiteri courtesy of The Parramatta Sun

Northcott clients play and chat in Hawkesbury

MORGAN Bucco is a lively two-year-old who loves all things cuddly. Morgan, who has Ullrich congenital muscular dystrophy, is supported by Northcott's Early Childhood Support Service (ECSS).

Morgan and his mother Jennie regularly attend the Play and Chat group in Windsor. Play and Chat is a support and early learning group coordinated by ECSS and the Family Co-op, an early intervention service of Hawkesbury City Council funded by Families First, a NSW Government initiative.

The Play and Chat group provides an outlet for children with a disability and their siblings to interact with other children with a disability. Northcott staff including social workers, occupational therapists and physiotherapists encourage skills development in children through socialisation and play. It also gives parents an opportunity to build social and support networks with other parents who attend.

"The support provided by this group is nice as we all have

something in common that not a lot of people have, a child with a disability," Jennie said. ECSS provides therapy, education and family support to children with a physical disability aged 0 to 6 and their families. For further information on this group and other Northcott services, please call (02) 9890 0100.



So cute... Jennie Bucco (left) with her son Morgan and Sydney Wildlife Education Officer Cheryl Walkington were visited by some furry friends from Sydney Wildlife.

NSW Clubs support Northcott

NSW Clubs did a fantastic job of supporting Northcott Disability Services in the 2006 Community Development and Support Expenditure (CDSE) funding round. Northcott received a total of \$69,825 from metropolitan and regional areas. Particularly notable supporters were Parramatta Leagues Club who provided \$25,000 to support Northcott's Adult Outreach Program. Please visit www.northcott.com.au to view a listing of all the different clubs that have also supported Northcott.

Kurt Fearnley receives world sport nomination

WORLD and Paralympic wheelchair marathon champion Kurt Fearnley was the only Australian nominated for a Laureus World Sports Award. The Laureus Awards are unofficially known as the Oscars of Sport and were held on Monday April 2, 2007 in Barcelona. Fearnley did not win, yet the 25-year-old recipient of Northcott's Thomas Hepburn Lennox Scholarship has already taken out the award for Australian sportsperson with a disability and most recently won the New York and Seoul marathon in record time.

In the regions

Tamworth - A country rock winner gives his time

CLIENTS and their families who use Northcott's services in New England and North West NSW were entertained by a surprise Country Music Festival guest when they celebrated a Happy New Year Party on Sunday February 11, 2007 at Northcott's Respite House in Tamworth. Matt Scullion, winner of the Country Rock Section in the inaugural Independent Country Entertainers Awards (2007), volunteered his time to perform on the day.

Wagga Wagga - Employment agency supports Northcott

BRICKS and mortar will turn into cash for Northcott Disability Services. Recruitment firm Sureway have purchased a house in central Wagga and are providing six unemployed people from Wagga the chance to renovate it. The house will be auctioned in June 2007, with all proceeds donated to the Wagga branch of Northcott.

Dubbo - Introducing families to reinforce support

IT was a day of fun and activity as clients and their families who use Northcott's services in Western NSW gathered for a Meet and Greet family fun day on Saturday February 10, 2007 at Northcott's Dubbo office. The Meet and Greet day included a BBQ, lucky door prize and face painting.

Coffs Harbour - A Dream Night at Pet Porpoise Pool

WITH four dolphins, 15 seals and plenty of audience interaction, clients and their families who use Northcott's services in Coffs Harbour enjoyed a marine magic show on Friday December 1, 2006. The "Dream Night at the Pool" was hosted by Pet Porpoise Pool, a well known institution in Coffs Harbour.

Legendary cricketers lunch for Northcott



All smiles... (L to R) Former Australian wicketkeeper Ian Healy with Patrick O'Hehir and Northcott client Melissa O'Hehir

OVER 400 guests joined cricketing greats Richie Benaud, Trevor Chappell and VIP guests Kamahl, Tony Squires and Northcott's Regional Ambassador Peter Wynn to raise over \$90,000 at Northcott's 11th Annual Cricket Legends Lunch at Star City. The money raised will provide over 500 nights of respite for children with disabilities and their families. Northcott client Melissa O'Hehir and her father Patrick were special guests at the lunch. The 18-year-old, who has spina bifida and uses Northcott's Roselands Respite Service, enjoyed the opportunity to meet the cricket legends face to face. Master of ceremonies Ian Healy was superb in his role, working with Adam Spencer to encourage the crowd to support Northcott's Centre Based Respite service, a service that provides a home away from home for children with disabilities on weekends and school holidays. Northcott's cricket lunches are proudly supported by Cricket NSW. Stay tuned for more details on the 2007 event.

NORTHCOTT Disability Services has recently created Gumnut Baby Badges to raise funds for children and adults with disabilities. The badges are available for sale. Please complete, cut out and send the coupon below to show your support.



Snugglepole and Cuddlepole

Gumnut Baby Badge
Supporting Children
with Disabilities

Please send me ___ badges
at \$5.50 each (incl P&H)



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Please make cheques payable to
Northcott Disability Services and send to;

Northcott's Gumnut Baby Badge Program
PO Box 4055, Parramatta NSW 2124

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AN incentive based program has recently been launched by Northcott Disability Services. Children raise funds for both Northcott and their school and as an extra incentive the children receive prizes for the money that they raise. Schools can hold a fundraiser with an existing event, such as a cross-country, swimming carnival or athletics carnival. A number of schools are already involved. If you know of a school which would also be interested in participating, please contact Michael Johnson on (02) 9890 0127.

Feedback

WE welcome your feedback. If you would like to contribute to this newsletter please email pr@northcott.com.au. If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter please contact Carol Hanna on (02) 9890 0954 or email the above with your details and we will remove you from our mailing list.