

# HAPPENINGS

Donors and Supporters • Thank you from The Infants' Home to those who help make our work possible

## Aaryan's early arrival

**Anu was less than six months pregnant when a precautionary check-up turned into the beginning of the hardest journey she, or her husband Ashish, have ever faced.** After treatment prolonged her pregnancy for six precious days, their son Aaryan was born. Aaryan's chances of survival were low, but he proved to be stronger than anyone could have imagined, and 5 years later, he is about to begin formal schooling.

haemorrhage, slipping into a coma. Fortunately, Aaryan was able to recover from the coma after 10 days, however the hard road continued.

Over the next four months, Aaryan suffered from serious infections, had sixteen blood transfusions and four platelet transfusions, and surgeries to repair two hernias. After 127 very long days in hospital, Anu and Ashish were finally able to bring Aaryan home. What a joyous moment!

Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, where Aaryan was born, referred Anu and Ashish to The Infants' Home when Aaryan was finally strong enough to mix with other children at 18 months old, knowing that he would be able to receive early intervention and specialist support in our integrated early education and care services.

Starting at Murray House Infants and later moving to Robinson House Preschool, The Infants' Home's allied health team and educators collaborated with Aaryan's external therapists, providing individual support to address his low appetite, weight loss and feeding difficulties. Aaryan's early experiences of intubation had left him with psychological scarring – he was scared of gagging. Weakened jaw muscles led to difficulty chewing. Months of isolation in hospital, and later at home with his parents and grandparents, delayed development of the social skills Aaryan needed

to connect with typically developing children. The Infants' Home team worked extensively to support Aaryan's development, frequently liaising externally, and internally recording and communicating every step so that the whole team had the best understanding of how to support him as he grew stronger.

Now 5 years old, Aaryan is supported to eat the same food as other children, and although his fine motor skills are delayed, he can jump and climb. Aaryan's language and memory skills are exceptional. He enjoys reading aloud to the other pre-schoolers, and can clearly recall events and images from several years ago. His peers often gather around to hear him read a story, and these social connections are a great asset to everyone in Robinson House. Anu and Ashish are thrilled that Aaryan will go to Kindergarten next year, something they believe is only possible due to the early intervention he has received at The Infants' Home.

**“The team here [at The Infants' Home] are truly extraordinary; it's not a day care, it's like a nursery with a heart! It feels like everyone's been on a journey with us, we haven't been alone at all.”**

ASHISH, AARYAN'S FATHER



**Aaryan has fought through his challenges and grown into a confident and friendly child**



When Aaryan was born, he weighed just 630 grams. After initial resuscitation and oxygen, he seemed to be coping well with his early entry into the world. At three weeks, everything changed. Aaryan experienced a pulmonary

**You can help**  
ensure the continuation of our programs for vulnerable children and families.  
To donate, please use the form on the back of this newsletter, visit [theinfantshome.org.au](http://theinfantshome.org.au) or call 02 9799 4844.  
**Thank you.**



**Elizabeth Robinson,**  
CEO

## How your support is helping The Infants' Home

Since commencing at The Infants' Home in July, I have been busy overseeing a number of projects. I have also had the good fortune to meet many of our supporters and partners.

The construction of an accessible toilet and the refurbishment of the Johnson House Toddlers playground have recently been completed. We now turn our attentions to Rigby House, which will receive a much-needed renovation in January 2018.

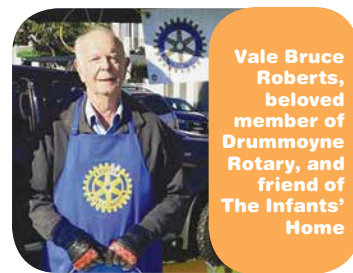
I recently had the pleasure of addressing Herbalife's international conference, and attending the Wests Ashfield Leagues Club grants ceremony where we received a cheque towards our education and transport scholarships, and multilingual playgroups.

We're currently working on the development of a new Strategic Plan for The Infants' Home that will drive our organisation into the future. I'd love to hear your thoughts about our direction and priorities, what we do well, what we can do better and how we can make the biggest difference in the lives of children and families. Please get in touch if you have thoughts you'd like to share at [erobinson@theinfantshome.org.au](mailto:erobinson@theinfantshome.org.au).

## Vale Robert White AO: Banking Giant and Friend of The Infants' Home

Robert (Bob) White was a banking pioneer and former CEO of Westpac. His passing this June (aged 93) marked the end of a life accomplished in banking advancements and contribution to community.

The Infants' Home was privileged by Mr White's generous support for almost 50 years; as our banker, advisor to the board, and donor. The Infants' Home will remember Mr White's unassuming and gentlemanly manner, and willingness to rally support for child and family projects great and small. Our CEO Elizabeth Robinson attended Robert White's Sydney memorial service on behalf of The Infants' Home. Vale Robert White, may he rest in peace.



**Vale Bruce Roberts,**  
beloved member of Drummoyne Rotary, and friend of The Infants' Home

## Celebrating Rotary Support

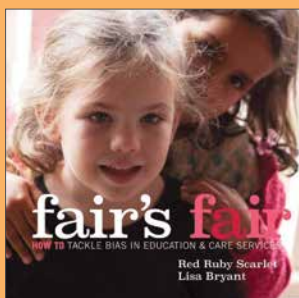
The Infants' Home is deeply grateful to local Rotary Clubs for their fantastic support over many, many years. We thank Strathfield Rotary for their hard work and generous donation towards the improvement and expansion of Johnson House toddler's playground. Drummoyne Rotary cooked up a storm to help raise funds at a recent Bunnings Ashfield BBQ, and their beloved late member Bruce Roberts very kindly left The Infants' Home a gift in his will. We offer our condolences and thanks to Bruce, his family, and members of Drummoyne Rotary. Together with a donation from Rotary Five Dock, these funds will help renovate Rigby House in early 2018, to provide more inclusive environments for babies and toddlers. We also thank Ryde Rotary, who donated tickets to enable many of our children and families living with vulnerabilities to enjoy the thrill of a circus show.

## Social Justice at The Infants' Home

Early childhood academics Dr Red Ruby Scarlet and Lisa Bryant

approached The Infants' Home early this year to seek permission from families for a photoshoot to help illustrate an early childhood text book on anti-bias that they had co-authored.

*Fair's fair* is written for early childhood educators who are interested in making their everyday practices as inclusive and fair as possible. It offers guides, suggestions and descriptions of what those practices may look like for children, their families and educators in how they plan, set up and reflect on learning environments. The authors chose to illustrate the book using Johnson House, in acknowledgement of The Infants' Home's long history of practicing fair and equitable educational practices.



## Celebrating 10 years of Herbalife Support

The Infants' Home thanks Herbalife Family Foundation for supporting our 'Head Start on Health' program to promote nutrition education across our centres, playgroups and parent education programs since 2008.

To mark the occasion, we were invited to present to over 300 delegates at their Global Leaders Weekend. Herbalife members were very interested to hear about the importance of establishing healthy eating habits in early childhood. A group of 20 delegates then hosted a celebration at The Infants' Home: they organised fun activities for children and helped out with cleaning and gardening around our centres.

We thank Herbalife for their long-standing support and enthusiastic participation in our Corporate Volunteering program.

**Herbalife volunteers celebrate 10 years of supporting The Infants' Home**





the infants' home  
CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES

## Deepening our Appreciation of Aboriginal Culture

The children in Gorton pre-school continue to learn about Wangal land, and the Wangal and Gadigal people. After seeing images of humpies in the dreamtime story of Gooriella, the rainbow serpent, the children discussed different ways to create shelter.

Venturing outside, they discussed the large sticks they would need and how they might put these together, and enthusiasm grew. The largest sticks they could find were next to the old goose paddock, and the children decided this was the place to build their humpy.

It was built then and there, children collaborating as they held sticks in place and tied them together with twine. The children have returned to the humpy day after day, reading and then enacting various dreamtime stories. They have pretended to hunt for food and then lit imaginary campfires to cook their food. The children's ideas have been supported with enthusiasm and educators are so inspired to hear that other groups of children within The Infants' Home have also been visiting the humpy.



**Early Childhood Teacher Nicky Roditis reads dreamtime stories to Gorton pre-schoolers at their humpy**

**The Infants' Home is a leading provider of:**

- early childhood education and care,
- early intervention and
- clinical health services for children from birth to school age.

Each year we provide services for over 2,600 children and their families. One third of our onsite services are directed to children and families with additional physical or emotional needs, or those living in vulnerable circumstances. For 142 years The Infants' Home has been a dynamic and innovative organisation, championing the rights of children, women and families.

Our services include:

- Early Childhood Education and Care Centres
- Family Day Care
- Supported playgroups
- Parent education and family support
- Postnatal Clinic

Our programs are funded through Government, Trusts, Foundations, Corporations, local clubs, business and donors.

Donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible.

Please see donations form overleaf.

Established 1874

Patron: Mrs Linda Hurley

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**Leaving a bequest to The Infants' Home will ensure that each child is given every opportunity to reach their full potential.**



**Murray House Toddlers jump in muddy puddles and make mud pies**

## Mud! Glorious Mud!

Children at Murray House have been jumping in, 'cooking' with, and enjoying messy mud play in their new mud patch, recently completed with the help of our corporate volunteers.

Research supports the benefits of playing with dirt and mud: organic soil in mud contains good bacteria to stimulate the immune system, prevent allergies and helps increase serotonin levels in children's brains. Messy play also fosters curiosity, imagination, and experimentation. Children were full of giggles and laughter as they mixed water and soil to make mud, then splashed in it until it was on their hands, feet and face!

## We Have a Winner: Excellence in Family Day Care Awards



**Gabi communicates with the children through simple games and songs, using resources that build upon their imagination and creativity**

Congratulations to Gabi Gasinska, a registered Family Day Care educator (with The Infants' Home since early 2015) who was both a finalist in Randwick City Council's Small Business Awards and regional winner of the 2017 Excellence in Family Day Care Award for the Inner West & Eastern Suburbs. Gabi's teaching philosophy is inspired by Maria Montessori, using a play-based program to help children to transfer knowledge and understanding between experiences. Well done Gabi!

### Follow us on Facebook

To keep up to date on news and events at The Infants' Home, we invite you to follow us on Facebook here:

[www.facebook.com/theinfantshome](http://www.facebook.com/theinfantshome)

## How you can help

Every contribution helps a child. If you would like to support us, please send this form with your donation to:

**The Infants' Home, 17 Henry Street, Ashfield NSW 2131  
ABN: 71 174 918 661**

**Yes, I would like to make a difference to children and families.**

**Please accept my gift of:**

\$50  \$100  \$200  \$500  
 Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please find enclosed my:**

cheque/money order OR please debit my  Visa  Mastercard

Number:


Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**You can donate online, visit [www.theinfantshome.org.au](http://www.theinfantshome.org.au) and click on the 'Donate' button.**

**Yes, I would like you to debit my credit card \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month.**

Expiry date   /

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (H) \_\_\_\_\_

(M) \_\_\_\_\_

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**Yes, I would like to give a lasting gift. Please send me information on leaving a bequest.**

**Yes, I would like to know more. Please send me information about your services.**

Donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible. A receipt will be issued on all donations. The Infants' Home respects your privacy. We do not disclose personal contact information without permission.

**Please remove my name from your mailing list.**

## Building Community Partnerships with Jo Haylen MP

The Hon. Jo Haylen MP has supported The Infants' Home through the Community Building Partnerships grants program, under which The Infants' Home received \$15,000 to refurbish the old Gorton House bathroom. Refurbishments are now complete and the bathroom has been transformed into an accessible and inclusive space for clients of the Child Think allied health clinic. We thank Jo for her support, as well as all of our donors and supporters who 'voted' for our project to receive funding.



**The Hon. Jo Haylen (second from right) with The Infants' Home staff**



**(I to r clockwise) Vin Christanto, Director of Murray House with Murray House Infant Eden, Harriet Clutterbuck and Suzanne Clutterbuck**

## A Visit from Our Long-Time Friends

This winter we were honoured to host a visit from long term friends and supporters Suzanne and Harriet Clutterbuck. Suzanne has been involved with us for over 50 years, including volunteering to help look after children when we operated as an orphanage. Suzanne's daughter Harriet remembers accompanying her mother as a teenager in the 60s to help out during school holidays. Suzanne and Harriet chatted with Murray House Director Vin and remarked how inspiring and stimulating the children's environments are now, marvelling at the independence of babies and toddlers exploring gardens, swinging in hammocks, and coming up to investigate their visitors. The Infants' Home is grateful to all our friends and supporters who have helped us over time and continue to help us in our work with children and families.

## Supporting staff wellbeing

Team members from every area of The Infants' Home's operations came together for our annual staff training day, to focus on wellness and wellbeing. Working in an industry where we constantly focus on the wellbeing of others means that staff often put their own needs last. Award-winning educator Dr William De Jean gave an invigorating and inspiring presentation on the need to intentionally and strategically turn to one another to magnify both our individual and collective wellbeing. Staff explored new ways to make their wellness and wellbeing a priority, beginning with an interactive session held by Kate Anderson, a Kinesiology coach, who spoke about easy techniques to help relieve stress, such as through simple massage of pressure points, that everyone enjoyed trying! Everyone left feeling inspired and empowered to help ourselves and one another.

**Team members formed small groups to discuss ways to prioritise their own wellness and wellbeing**

