



## Campbelltown Embraces Children's Hope

**On Saturday 6th October, over 200 local citizens turned out to give strong support to the Children's Hope Foundation's fundraiser for Campbelltown's Beverley Park School. It was the inaugural event for the Children's Hope Foundation and raised over \$30,000 (after costs) on the night.**

"All of those funds go directly to Beverley Park School to provide basic facilities for their kids," said foundation Chairman, **Craig Blight**. "They are so drastically under funded; they don't even have suitable playground equipment. Not only can we now provide that, but we can also contribute toward other desperately needed essentials. It's a great cause".

Media director for the foundation, **Steve McClure** said, "The highlight of the night was undoubtedly the children and their amazing "signing choir" performance. Many of the students have severe disabilities, but they each communicate in their own special way. They touched all our hearts." Other star performers on the night included **Tommy Dean** - a brilliant comedian, and former Australian test cricketers, **David Colley & Brian Taber**.

"We thank all the guests for responding so overwhelmingly, not only generously donating items, but bidding so strongly for a great cause. Very typical of Campbelltown people" said Blight.

Whilst Beverley Park School has been providing for the needs of physically and mentally disadvantaged children for 60 years, the Children's Hope Foundation commenced only at the start of 2007. Already they have had a big impact. The directors and executive committee comprise Craig Blight, Paul Howe, Jason Martin, Steve McClure, Leigh Rollason & Paula Hodge. They all grew up in the Campbelltown area, and most were born here. "We wanted to put something back into the community and you just can't do enough for handicapped children" is the common motivation for everyone involved.

Beverley Park principal, **Sue Elliott-Newth** tells of her first encounter with The Children's Hope Foundation. "I couldn't believe it, **Paul Howe** came to my office, and asked—how can we help?" Since that first day, his energy and determination has been amazing."

Says Steve McClure "This is easy for us (the foundation members), but it's the amazing children, their teachers and parents that face challenges every day of their lives. The school needs more government funding and the citizens have overwhelmingly shown their support. So we'll not only do our best to help, but we'll also be in the face of local politicians to let them know the community has spoken."

Treasurer **Leigh Rollason** reminds everyone that the fund raising activities of the foundation are ongoing. "We have sponsorship packages from personal to corporate, ranging from under \$5 per week. We also have some smaller events happening soon and will continue the major fundraising night every year—it will be an event for everyone to look forward to".

The Children's Hope Foundation is not a "hard sell" charity. Says **Jason Martin** "People become involved and donate because they love to. Not only do the directors donate their time 100%, but we are also diamond sponsors, increasing the amount we can pass on to disadvantaged children".

**Paula Hodge** adds "Our meetings are filled with ideas, and we take great care with the organisation of the events to ensure no one is disappointed. The response to the fundraising night was a reflection of that, and each year we will strive to improve. Our focus will be on getting our message out there and publishing the website ([www.childrenshope.org.au](http://www.childrenshope.org.au)) so we can reach more people, more easily"

**If you would like to contribute to the Children's Hope Foundation** or find out more about upcoming events, please contact:

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