

MEDIA ALERT

Thursday 12 February 2009

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INAUGURAL CEREBRAL PALSY FOUNDATION DINNER

The Cerebral Palsy (CP) Foundation will host an inaugural dinner next Tuesday 17th February 2009 at Sydney's Museum of Contemporary Art to acknowledge donors and supporters of the Foundation and raise awareness of the Foundation's objectives.

The dinner will be held on the eve of the 3rd International Cerebral Palsy Conference – the biggest of its kind in the world bringing top researchers in cerebral palsy from around the globe.

At the star-studded event, the CP Foundation will announce ten celebrity ambassadors along with significant donations to be made to the Foundation. In addition, ten former Miss Australians will be announced as Goodwill Ambassadors.

The Foundation will receive a donation of \$2 million from Avant, Australia's leading provider of medical indemnity insurance. The CP Foundation aims to raise \$50 million dollars to fund research, now worldwide, to find the prevention and cure of cerebral palsy.

Ambassadors to be announced include:

- Natasha Garrity, 9-year-old girl with CP
- Phil Waugh, Australian and NSW Rugby Union Player
- Peter Fitzsimons, Journalist
- Thomas Keneally, Author
- Jimmy Barnes, Singer
- Elly-May Barnes, singer who has CP and daughter of Jimmy Barnes
- Tim Webster, media personality
- General Peter Cosgrove, AC MC, Former Chief of the Australian Defence Force
- Simon Katich, Australian cricketer
- Julia Wilson, Australian Olympic Rower

Goodwill Ambassadors and Former Miss Australias:

- Miss Australia 1969 Suzanne Maple-Brown (nee McClelland)
- Miss Australia 1975 Kerry Harfield (nee Doyle)
- Miss Australia 1980 Eleanor Morton-Duff (nee Morton)
- Miss Australia 1982 Jennifer Martin (nee Coupland)
- Miss Australia 1984 Mary-Ann Lewis (nee Kosnjak)
- Miss Australia 1988 Caroline Lumley
- Miss Australia 1989 Lea Wilson (nee Dickson)
- Miss Australia 1995 Margaret Dowling (nee Tierney)
- Miss Australia 2000 Sheree Primmer-Dell (nee Primmer)

Attending on the night:

- Julia Wilson, Australian Olympic Rower and her partner Robin Bell, Olympic kayaker
- Professor Fiona Stanley, former Australian of the year who discovered the link between folate and spina bifida
- General Peter Cosgrove
- Peter Fitzsimons
- Elly May Barnes
- Former media personality Sally Loane
- CP Foundation Governor Anne Keating, sister of Paul Keating.
- All ten former Miss Australia and Goodwill Ambassadors

For further information, visit www.cpfoundation.com.au

ENDS

Media are invited to cover the event:

What: Inaugural Cerebral Palsy Foundation Dinner

Where: Museum of Contemporary Art
Foundation Hall
140 George Street
The Rocks, Sydney

When: Tuesday, 17 February 2009
6:00pm to 11:30pm

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MEDIA CONTACTS

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About the Cerebral Palsy Foundation

The Cerebral Palsy Foundation was established to take on the global challenge of finding the prevention and cure for cerebral palsy.

This will be achieved by:

- Funding research
- Expanding a grants program
- Encouraging researchers to adopt cerebral palsy as their area of study
- Bringing together research from around the world and sharing the information globally
- Building partnerships

