

Welcome



On behalf of the Radiomathon Trust, it is with great enthusiasm that I welcome you to the first issue of Radiomathon News in 2008.

Thanks to the generosity of the entire Radiomathon community, the funds raised have made a real difference to the lives of kids with special needs. This issue of the newsletter shares inspiring stories from some of the organisations who received support from Radiomathon

in last few months. These stories motivate us to continue supporting the worthy cause of Radiomathon with the same enthusiasm as previous years. Our efforts will make a significant contribution to the quality of life

enjoyed by many children with special needs.

This year we start the official fundraising activities with the traditional launch at St George College, South Australia on the 28th of August. The Adelaide team are once again organising a treat for our South Australian supporters this time in the form of a stylish cocktail function. In Melbourne our staff are collecting donations and selling raffle tickets to our valued supporters. We also look forward to the Dinner Dance at Sydney's Dockside Events Centre, on the 1st of November.

Lets keep up the support and give our kids the life they deserve!
Good luck and take care.

Michalis Athanasiou
Chairman, Radiomathon Trust Australia

More than \$90,000 raised to help find a cure for Juvenile Arthritis



The George Kranitis Juvenile Arthritis Fundraising Dinner 2008 raised an incredible total of over \$90,000, to help continue valuable research towards finding a cure for Juvenile Arthritis. The Fundraising Dinner was held at Doltone House in Sylvania Waters, Sydney, on the 11th of July.

From left: Mary Kranitis presents Sandra Gav- Radiomathon Trustee with the Diamond Sponsor certificate, with husband John.

The fundraising initiative started in April 2007, when Mary took on a challenge to raise \$25,000 to start a research scholarship for Juvenile Arthritis. With the enormous support of the community, the Juvenile Arthritis fundraiser raised over \$80,000 in its first year, far exceeding her expectations. This year the event was attended by over 400 distinguished guests, who donated generously to raise a total of about \$90,000!

Soteris Hadjikyriacou, a trustee of Radiomathon Trust and Head of Retail & Branch Network, Laiki Bank Australia, applauded Mrs. Kranitis for her unwavering motivation and hard work. He congratulated her for successfully organising the Juvenile arthritis fundraiser for a second consecutive year and pledged a donation of \$15000 on behalf of Radiomathon.

Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis or JIA affects 1 in 1000 children in Australia. Juvenile Arthritis affects kids' knees, ankles, wrists and fingers. JIA can also affect the skin, tendons, muscles and eyes. One-third of children with juvenile arthritis develop Uveitis (inflammation of the eyes). There is currently no known cure for Juvenile Arthritis.

All proceeds from the fundraiser will be directed towards The George Kranitis Juvenile Arthritis/ Uveitis Scholarship part of the Faculty of Medicine at the UNSW.

Join us in a fundraiser like none other!

Enjoy a night full of entertainment, exciting auction and raffle items, delicious food, music, dancing and a guaranteed vibrant atmosphere!

Radiomathon Annual Dinner Dance

Date: Saturday 1st November 2008

Location: Dockside Events Centre
Darling Harbour, Sydney

Tickets: \$130 per person (3 course meal & drinks included)

For bookings please use the form on the last page of this newsletter.

Recreation, Sports & Aquatics Club

On June 29 Dr Miranda Adamou a Trustee of Radiomathon attended the Annual Presentation Day of Recreation, Sports and Aquatics Club and presented a cheque for \$5,000 on behalf of the Committee. Every day of the week RSAC provides sporting and recreation activities for people with disabilities in southern and western Sydney.

With the help of 100 volunteers the club offers sports such as soccer, athletics, basketball, gymnastics, swimming and tennis, dance parties, drama classes and personal development courses. Whenever funds can be found the club provides much needed holiday respite and camps for teenagers with disabilities, and provides support groups for carers as well. For club members, who have disabilities such as Down Syndrome, autism and cerebral palsy the emphasis is on ability and activity. Involvement in club activities provides acceptance, opportunities to develop skills, a healthier lifestyle, and for some members, even opportunities to compete around Australia, or overseas through the Special Olympics movement.

Parents of club members say 'RSAC gives my son something to look forward to. He doesn't want to miss activities - he makes sure we take him. Because swimming is there every week we have to go. As well as the exercise it's a social thing, which he wouldn't have otherwise'. 'RSAC has built my son's confidence through the sport, camps, day program and other activities. He's more focused and social, he can follow instructions better.'

RSAC has recently moved into a new club house through the generous support of Bankstown Sports Club. Radiomathon's donation of \$5,000 will assist in their appeal to develop this space, so that members with mobility issues can join in dance nights, vacation care, bocce and other activities that the club runs at this base.

RSAC is always looking for volunteer coaches and assistants for its activities. Executive Officer Jenny Bombardieri says that while she can't offer payment, the rewards of involvement with the club's energetic and appreciative members and families are terrific. "Funding assistance is crucial for us to continue to provide the services to the disabled community that we offer. The ongoing support of the Radiomathon Committee is greatly appreciated."



Below: (L-R) Dr Miranda Adamou- Radiomathon Trustee, with volunteers and staff of RSAC at the presentation of the Gymnastics Award

Diabetes Prevention Research Centre

a new ray of hope for kids with diabetes

On 14th of November 2007, in honour of UN World Diabetes Day, President of the Diavitiko Association, Maria Bouzanis accompanied by the chairman of Radiomathon Mr Michalis Athanasiou officially launched the Diabetes Prevention Research Centre at The Children's Hospital at Westmead.

Diabetes is one of the top ten significant diseases in the developed world and there is an unexplained increase in the number of patients. There is currently no cure for Type 1 Diabetes and it can cause complications leading to blindness, kidney failure, disabling pain, foot amputation and even early death from heart disease. The new research centre will conduct valuable research in exploring the cause and possible cure for the disease.

Laiki Bank and Radiomathon have donated tens of thousands of dollars towards the establishment of the Research Centre as well as administrative support to Diavitiko Association's efforts. The Diabetes Clinic at The Children's Hospital at Westmead was established in 1950 and is the largest paediatric endocrine unit in Australia. It treats over 50 percent of children with Diabetes in NSW and offers a Diabetes Complications Assessment Service across the state. The unit sees 1,000 patients at the Hospital with a further 500 in Outreach clinics. About 120 new patients are seen per year and 20 percent of these children are under five years of age.

The launch of the new research centre was attended by the Hospital Goodwill Ambassador, Bec Hewitt as well as patients and families, members of the press and the hospital's mascot the Bandaged Bear. Also present, were a number of extremely important members of the Greek community who have been financial supporters of Diavitiko for over 20 years. Associate Professor Chris Cowell, Head of Research at The Children's Hospital at Westmead said, "Prevention is vital as diabetes is on the increase and we need to understand this disease better. Without the help and support of Mrs Maria Bouzanis, the Diavitiko Association and Laiki Bank, this Centre would not be ready to commence life-changing research today."

The Hospital currently leads the way in paediatric endocrine clinical research in Australia. The launch of the new Diabetes Prevention Research Centre will allow national and international research into causes and prevention of Diabetes, and will offer a new ray of hope for kids and adolescents suffering from diabetes.



Above: Committee members of the Diavitiko Association together with Radiomathon Trustees and representatives of The Children's Hospital at Westmead, for the opening of Diabetes Prevention Research Centre

Heidelberg wins the Radiomathon Cup for the second year in a row

Heidelberg United continued its winning streak in the Radiomathon Cup by winning for the second year in a row. The defending champions from 2007 faced a tough challenge from South Melbourne Football Cup but won the game 2-1 at the Bob Jane Stadium.

"I would like to congratulate not just the winners but both the teams for playing the game in good spirit and with an excellent standard of football. On behalf of Radiomathon I thank all the players, referees and everyone else involved, for helping us raise awareness for this important cause", said Michalis Athanasiou, chairman of Radiomathon trust.



St Spyridon College Students bring stories of Greek migrants to life

More than 200 St Spyridon College students staged a mesmerising play titled "In this Strange Land - Exile and Refuge", on 15th and 16th of May at St Spyridon Church hall, Kingsford. The huge production featured students from year five to twelve who enthralled an audience of hundreds over two days, transporting them back to the early days of Greek migration to Australia.

The school's decision to donate the proceeds of the play to Radiomathon added another dimension to the success of the production. "I congratulate everyone involved in this production for their dedication and hard work", said Spiro Kanellakis, Marketing Manager of Laiki Bank. "I would also like to thank St Spyridon for truly believing in the worthy cause of Radiomathon and making this generous contribution. With events like this, we can expand the Radiomathon community and work more effectively towards making a difference to these kids' lives" he added.



2007 in Retrospect

Radiomathon Australia concluded 11 years of successful fundraising in 2007, collecting an astonishing \$350,000 in Australia. The funds are disbursed to numerous organisations dedicated to help kids with special needs. Worldwide, Radiomathon raised an incredible \$6 million to improve the quality of life enjoyed by kids with mental and physical disabilities, and their families.

Radiomathon 2007 Launch a Resounding Success

Radiomathon officially launched its fundraising initiative for 2007 once again at the St George College in Adelaide. The event raised over \$18,000, thanks to over 110 distinguished guests from the South Australian business community, who were treated to a banquet prepared by the year 11 & 12 hospitality students. The local business community donated the food, and items were donated towards the successful silent auction.

Another two highly successful annual dinner dances in NSW and Victoria

In its 11th year of fund raising in Australia, Radiomathon raised over \$240,000 from the NSW and VIC balls alone. NSW Radiomathon ball, at the Le Montage Bayside Events Centre in Sydney raised an astonishing \$130,000, with Victorians not too far behind, raising \$112,000 to help kids with special needs, at a gala event at the Grand Hyatt hotel in Melbourne.

Premier venues, A- class entertainment and exciting auction items marked the evenings. Stunning adagio acts and exotic belly dancers captivated the audience, while the auction kept them on the edge of their seats. The auctioning of a night at home for a group of 10 with Melbourne's star chef George Calombaris of the Press Club was the highlight of Melbourne ball; while in Sydney guests competed to win a Red Bull Stunt Flight and to beat the summer heat with a cool Vespa Scooter!

Several notable dignitaries attended the events. The Hon Theo Theophanous, Minister for Industry and Trade, Information Technology and Major Projects in Victoria attended the Melbourne event and the NSW Attorney General and Minister for Justice, The Hon John Hatzistergos MLC attended the Sydney ball.

Radiomathon Finishes the Year in Style at the Museum of Contemporary Art

Radiomathon bid farewell to 2007 with a fantastic night at the Museum of Contemporary Arts in Sydney, raising a total of \$5000. The event was organised by Mr Bill Kritharas and friends Jenny Manetas and Leon Bombotas, who booked the venue over a year ago. "We had NYE on the South Terrace of the MCA two years ago and it was an excellent night, but the Harbour Terrace on the North side of the MCA is spectacular. It's a great way to bring our friends and their friends together to welcome the New Year. Committing the profit to Radiomathon was an easy decision, given their very valuable work in supporting children with special needs."



Above: Organisers of the Radiomathon New Year's eve celebrations (from left) Bill Kritharas, Jenny Manetas, Chairman of Radiomathon Michalis Athanasiou, Leon Bombotas (co -organiser) and Spiro Kanellakis, Marketing Manager of Laiki Bank

Radiomathon Events Booking / Donation Form

Please select relevant option:

- Yes, I wish to make a donation** – please complete donation amount below
- NSW Radiomathon Dinner Dance** – Saturday November 1, 7.00pm - Dockside Events Centre, Cockle Bay, \$130 pp

Please read the following instructions carefully to ensure your booking can be processed.

1. The NSW Radiomathon Dinner Dance is available to all
2. Nominate one contact person for your booking/table
3. List **all** guests for your booking/table, maximum 10 guests per table
4. All ticket payments must have a booking form
5. If multiple payments are required for the same booking/table, provide additional form(s) and payment details with the same contact person
6. The organisers will combine smaller bookings to form tables of 10
7. Tickets are limited and tables will be allocated as forms are received
9. Tickets will not be available for purchase on the night
10. All booking and payments need to be received a minimum of **FOUR** days prior to the event, in order to finalise food quantities.

Event Booking Details

Contact Person: **Tel No:**.....

Postal Address (for tickets):

..... **No. of vegetarian meals (if any):**.....

Guest Name	Address	Phone No.
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		

Yes, I wish to donate: \$100 \$200 \$500 \$1000 other

Choose your payment method for the above amount:

- Debit my Laiki Bank Account No.
- Account Name: Signature:
- Charge my Credit/Debit Card* No.
- Expiry Date/..... MasterCard Visa Bank Card Amex
- Cardholder Name: Signature:.....
- Cheque - Please make cheques payable to Radiomathon Australia. For mailing address see below.
- Cash - Payment and Booking Form must be submitted in person at any Laiki Bank branch (LBA Rep.....)

Return completed form to:

- | | | |
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| <p>Sydney:
 by fax: 02 9283 7723 or by mail:
 Laiki Bank, GPO Box 4288
 Sydney NSW 2001
 For more information contact
 Neha on 02 8262 9072</p> | <p>Melbourne:
 by fax: 03 9650 5562 or by mail:
 Laiki Bank, 215 Spring St
 Melbourne VIC 3000
 For more information contact
 Theoharis on 03 9656 8502</p> | <p>Adelaide:
 by fax: 08 8234 7957 or by mail:
 Laiki Bank, GPO Box 170
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 For more information contact Athos
 on 08 8159 8001</p> |
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