

The key authors were Sarah Johnson and John Walsh (PricewaterhouseCoopers); Trudy Rebeck, Poppy Sindushake, George Rubin and Ian Cameron, from the University of Sydney.

Meanwhile, underscoring the high qualifications of ROYAL REHAB staff, Carolyn Fettes, a senior social worker in the Brain Injury Unit, recently graduated from the University of New South Wales, receiving a Post Graduate Certificate of Supervision in Field Education in Social Work.

Carolyn gained a "High Distinction" and was given the special honour of delivering an address at the graduation ceremony.

## A Special House Taking Shape



*Ray Martin and his wife with Julie and Alan McCabe, and Royal Rehab staff Gail Richmond and Hamish Murray.*

Alan McCabe hopes he will be able to move into a new home in Coffs Harbour within the next two months, thanks to a major community support campaign.

The house has been specially constructed for

Alan, who broke his neck while playing in a Rugby Grand Final, leaving him a C4 quadriplegic.

Alan completed his rehabilitation program in ROYAL REHAB's Moorong Spinal Unit. Since his return to Coffs Harbour, Centre staff members have continued to monitor his progress, and provide support in his efforts to re-establish his life.

Because it was a sporting accident, little compensation was available. The Alan McCabe Trust was formed by the footballer's sporting mates, supporters and local business people to help pay for the house, which will have wheelchair access to all areas.

At a recent final fundraising event, ROYAL REHAB was represented by Client Ambassador, Hamish Murray. Hamish joined General Peter Cosgrove as a guest speaker, while former Channel 9 TV host Ray Martin was MC.

## Recreational amenity is part of our vision



## Where to go for more information?

You can visit the ROYAL REHAB website for updates. [www.royalrehab.com.au](http://www.royalrehab.com.au).

You can address questions or concerns to our Community Consultation Officers,  
Jim Towers ~ Phone: 02 9808 9229  
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ROYAL REHAB will provide regular updates in:

- The Northern District Times
- The Weekly Times

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# ROYAL REHAB Community Update

MARCH 2008

**ROYAL**  
REHABILITATION CENTRE SYDNEY  
*Maximising Abilities - Optimising Lifeskills*

## New Technology to aid injury recovery

State-of-the-art technology introduced at ROYAL REHAB will allow three dimensional assessment of gait and mobility in adults and children with spinal cord injuries, brain injury, stroke, and other age-related conditions.

Thanks to a donation by the Primary Club of Australia, the new Gait Centre will provide better insight into rehabilitation for these clients.



**Brett Lee makes the first walk down the Gait Mat.**

Test cricketer Brett Lee was on hand at the official opening of the new centre on 13 March and was the first person to trial the hi-tech system.

Also on hand for the opening was six times world wheelchair tennis champion and three time Paralympian David Hall. David, Ambassador at Large for ROYAL REHAB, was amazed by the new technology and the prospect of it assisting in a major way the recovery of clients.

The Chairman of ROYAL REHAB, Clive Austin, told guests at the launch ceremony that being able to walk unassisted and without fear of falling is an important element in living an independent life.

*"With the new Gait Centre our clinical staff members are now able to accurately assess a person's skills and abilities in relation to their gait and more accurately prescribe a course of treatment to assist them in regaining their skill," Mr Austin said.*

*"With our own plans for a state-of-the-art Rehabilitation Centre to be built on this site, the Gait Centre will eventually be located within this specialised rehabilitation facility.*

*"This is the first of many steps for our organisation to implement the latest technology to benefit our clients and many others through our clinical and research services.*

*"The Primary Club of Australia has once again shown how it's possible for a dedicated group of cricket lovers to enrich the lives of people with disabilities through sport and recreation.*

*"On behalf of the Board of ROYAL REHAB, Doctors and Staff, and most importantly the clients who will most benefit from the Primary Club Gait Centre, a massive thank you."*

## Better assessment the answer

**President of the Primary Club of Australia, Bruce Collins QC, said:**

*"This project is very important to the aims of the Primary Club because it has the potential to give those with disabilities the opportunity to experience the joy and exhilaration that physical activity of any kind brings.*

*"Equipment in the new centre equipment will record and integrate complex information about disturbances in balance, muscle control and patterns of movement in the trunk, pelvis and limbs during functional mobility tasks."*



**Associate Professor Jack Crosbie discusses features of the Gait Centre with Staff from ROYAL REHAB.**

## The Spirit of Easter Boosts Clients



A special performance on the eve of Easter by the OZ Education Putney Choir put a smile on the face of clients of ROYAL REHAB's Coorabel centre.

The Choir performed Peter Rabbit, Baa Baa Black Sheep, and the Goodbye Song, and personally handed out self-made Easter cards.

OZ Education Putney Childcare Centre is located in Charles Street Putney, a short walk to the Rehabilitation Centre.

One of the clients to receive a card was Gloria Hales, who recently started a rehabilitation program after a series of five operations and nearly 12 months in hospital, most recently at Hornsby Hospital.

**Commented Gloria, a Ryde resident for 47 years:**

*"ROYAL REHAB was my first choice. A few years ago I had to spend time here following a knee replacement, and I wouldn't go anywhere else. I have been looked after really well, and the visit today by the children, gives it a real family atmosphere."*

## Award Underscores Research Excellence

A study on whiplash injuries prepared by Ian Cameron, of the Rehabilitation Studies Unit, has been recognised internationally.

The 2008 Award for Research Excellence in Clinical Sciences was presented at the World Congress on Neck Pain in Los Angeles in January. It was made by the Canadian Institute for the Relief of Pain and Disability under the Woodbridge Grants and Awards Programs.

The paper concentrated on legislative change leading to an improvement in recovery for people with whiplash.