



Rowing Regatta Huge Success

The Fun Rowing Regatta, held at Canning Bridge on 10th November 2002 provided an appropriate culmination to a year of successful events. Pristine conditions prevailed and the carnival atmosphere created by the 80 crews who participated was a joy to behold.

Fancy dress was the order of the day with a crew of 'Women Warriors' who shall remain anonymous providing one of the highlights.



Brooke and Jim from the "Just Add Water" team captured the wonderful spirit of the morning on camera and produced an excellent summary on the "Just Add Water" program on Channel 9 on 15 December 2002.

A bouncy castle, face painting, fairy floss, sausage sizzle, bacon and egg burgers, Devonshire teas or cold drinks provided eats and entertainment for the many family groups who attended.



The most repeated quote of the morning was "Thanks, that was great fun, we will see you next year." Hopefully, this will be the case.



Our special thanks to Vanessa Grant and a group of more than 20 coaches who freely provided their time and expertise to ensure that the first-time rowers were able to negotiate the course with some deal of satisfaction and safety to boats and crews. Thanks also to Chief Marshall, Steve Fisher who, with Vanessa put the program together and ensured that events progressed on time on the morning.



Our grateful thanks to our sponsors, donors and many volunteers who attended to the catering facilities. The contribution of the Booragoon Lions was most welcome.



The co-operation of Penrhos Rowing and Keith Reynolds in the loan of their fleet of boats was terrific.

Geoff Moore, as usual, provided informed commentary and the events were oversighted by WA Rowing officials.

A pleasant presentation ceremony attended by Health Minister, Bob Kucera wrapped up a truly memorable morning of family fun.



From the Chairman

Public awareness of the dangers involved with meningococcal and all forms of meningitis has never been greater. Lives are being saved as a result. There is no doubt that this is in some part due to the work of the Amanda Young Foundation since its inception five years ago.

This result has been achieved by a massive amount of hard work by our energetic and enthusiastic committee and our many volunteer supporters and donors. We thank them all!

Our work will continue. We remain committed to ensuring that all of our activities promote not only the need for greater awareness of this lethal disease but also that we reflect through these actions on the energy and vision of Amanda Young.

This newsletter aims to give you a brief overview of our activities in the hope of encouraging your continuing support. Thanks, as always, to Barry and Lorraine Young for their publishing efforts and enthusiastic involvement in all that we do.

Barry MacKinnon
Chairman

Accountability

Our Annual Report and Financial Statement was released late last year and in summary our major items of expenditure were:

Telephone Information & Secretarial Services	\$21,000
Our share of the 2002 Awareness Media Campaign & Items	\$14,800
Awareness Video & Community Service Announcement	\$10,000
Youth Leadership Course	\$7,000
Research Grant	\$10,000

Survivor owes life to parents

On Tuesday, Peter Hillman, of Dalkeith, met the parents of the girl who saved his life - though she died five years ago.

In January, Peter (20) survived meningococcal disease, the severe and sudden illness which killed Amanda Young, a talented and intelligent 11-year-old, in 1998.

By JEN CUNNIFFE
about the illness. Wendy said: "It's through what Lorraine and Barry have done that Peter is alive today."



Congratulations

We were delighted to hear that *The Post* journalist Jen Cunniffe won the runner-up award for the best story in a suburban newspaper at the Annual Perth Press Club awards.

The successful story was based on Peter Hillman's experience with meningococcal disease and the fact that knowledge of the symptoms gained from Amanda's case, close monitoring and being proactive in seeking treatment which was promptly given, added up to a positive outcome.

Corporate Golf

Our thanks again to Annette Livesey at The Vines and Grant Thornton, Financial Planning Association and Civil Contractors for their cooperation and assistance in the allocation of a par 3 betting hole during their Corporate Golf Days.

The days are most pleasant ones and provide us with a further opportunity to spread our message whilst gathering valuable funds to assist the cause.

Unsung Heroes

Our very special thanks to Annette Gullan at Supa Valu Broadway, Nedlands for her continuing support. Annette provides a jar for loose change which she donates to the Foundation.

UWA student, Alison Taylor who died from meningococcal disease in 1998 was a part-time employee at Supa Valu and held in very high esteem by Annette and her customers. Alison's parents Gail and Neil Taylor kindly supply proteas from their Yallingup farm for sale at Amanda's Garden Fete.

Santina Stransky who is better known for her outstanding work with Save the Children is also a generous donor to the Amanda Young Foundation. Santina very kindly provides one or more of her paintings for our fund raising activities on a continuing basis. Thank you Santina for your kindness and generosity.

Michael Cox, who organised a free dress day at Joondalup Baptist College and raised \$250 for the Foundation. Thank you Michael for your initiative and contribution.

Homeloans Limited also held a free dress day and donated proceeds of \$164.45 to the Foundation. Thanks to Rechelle and fellow staff members for your generosity.

Coming Events

Ball:

Bohemian Rhapsody
Burswood International
Resort Casino
5 April

Young Leaders

Eco-Health Summit
Year 11 Students
Pt Walter Recreational Centre
22 - 25 April

Champion's Breakfast
TBA

Amanda's Garden Fete
22, 23 and 25 & 26 October

Fun Rowing Regatta
Canning Bridge
9 November

Inquiries: Barry or
Lorraine Young on 9398 7275.

Champion's Breakfast

The Golden Nugget room at Gloucester Park provided an ideal setting for our inaugural Champion's Breakfast on 26 June 2002.

The highlight of the morning was the launch of our meningococcal awareness video which was produced on our behalf by Channel 9 Perth. The video was introduced by triple Olympic Hockey Gold Medallist Rechelle Hawkes and was well received.

Host, Michael Thomson and guest panellists, Rechelle, Guy McKenna and Mich D'Avray entertained the gathering of 240 guests with stories about their sporting lives.

Our thanks to Spices for handling ticket sales and providing an excellent breakfast and Corporate Theatre for transforming the venue in order that the video could be screened in a professional manner.

Panel members were presented with wine gift packs by young meningococcal survivors, Peter Hillman, Lisa White, Chris Sambell and Rebecca Monley. Special thanks to the generosity of our donors Palandri Wines, Millbrook Wines, Fox River Wines, Kailis Seafood Restaurant Leederville, Peter Hickson – Spices Catering, Grant Dorrington – WAFL and Dr Viv Booker and 6PR for promotional assistance.



'Lilys' by Katrina Goh, Year 12 Art student, Penrhos College.

Penrhos Art Exhibition

Year 12 students displayed their works of art at an exhibition held at the Performing Arts Centre. The event attracted a large appreciative crowd who enjoyed the talented display. Our thanks to the organisers for donating the proceeds of this function to the Foundation.

Community Luncheon

State Cabinet held a meeting in Gosnells in November and Premier Geoff Gallop hosted a community luncheon at the Gosnells Hotel to mark the occasion.

In paying tribute to local community organisations and volunteers, the premier made special mention of the Amanda Young Foundation in relation to our awareness of meningococcal disease and also in relation to our Youth Leadership Seminar for Year 11 students.

Thanks Premier for your genuine interest in our activities and achievements.

Penrhos Walkathon

Penrhos College students and staff again conducted their Annual Walkathon on behalf of the Foundation. The event was held in conjunction with the House Cross Country Running Competition and the new format proved to be most successful. Over \$2,500 was raised and our thanks once more to the Penrhos Community for their ongoing support.

Eagles players Ashley Sampi and David Sierakowski attracted plenty of attention and assisted with the presentation of awards. Special thanks to Jim Walker of Westrac for their sponsorship and Norbert Fandry and Victoria Woollard for their coordination and promotion of the event.



Research



Meningococcal C Vaccination

Meningococcal disease is caused by one of five different serotypes. The serotype is determined by the type of sugars, which comprise the capsule that surrounds the bacteria and protects it against normal immune defences. In Australia virtually all meningococcal disease is caused either by serotype B or serotype C. For many years, serotype B has been the most common type for, but in the last five years there has been a substantial increase in serotype C cases, in the Eastern states which now represents about 50% of cases. In WA about 80 to 90% of meningococcal disease is still caused by serotype B.

The Federal Government has launched recently a campaign for nationwide vaccination using a new and highly effective vaccine, but it is only effective against serotype C and has no protective effect against serotype B. This should have a major impact in reducing deaths from meningococcal disease in the Eastern States, but it will probably have little impact in WA because of our preponderance of serotype B disease. It is vital that children are immunised, but also vital that parents understand that the vaccine is not effective against all types of meningococcal disease. Parents must know not to disregard warning symptoms of meningitis because their child has been vaccinated. Community awareness of meningitis has increased substantially in recent years, and the need to further increase knowledge and awareness is important as the serotype C vaccine is introduced, especially in WA.

Dr Steve Webb

Senior Lecturer in Intensive Care Medicine, University of Western Australia, Staff Specialist in Intensive Care, Royal Perth Hospital and Joondalup Health Campus.

Research to Trick Clever Meningococcal Bacteria

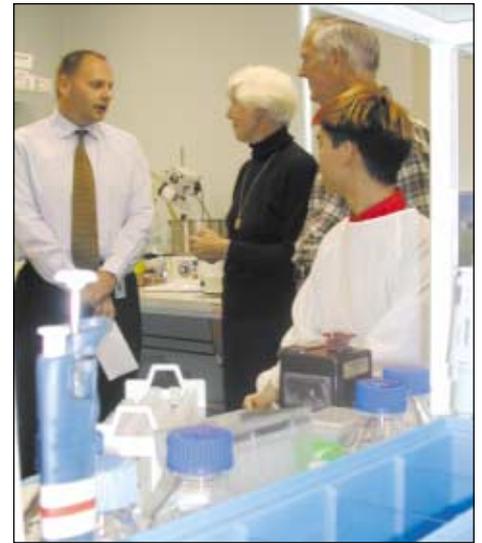
The Amanda Young Foundation awarded its first research grant to Dr Steve Webb, Senior Lecturer in Medicine at Royal Perth Hospital's Intensive Care Unit on 16th August 2002. Dr Webb will put the \$10,000 grant towards tricking the meningococcus bacteria into revealing how it "switches on" to cause infection.

The meningococcus bacteria lives harmlessly in the throat of 10% - 25% of healthy people but for unknown reasons sometimes invade across the throat and into the bloodstream causing meningitis or septicaemia.

It has recently been established that bacteria specifically switch on genes that are necessary to cause disease only when they come into contact with new hosts. This discovery forms the basis of a research project being undertaken by researchers from the University of Western Australia at Royal Perth Hospital, which is being funded by the Amanda Young Foundation.

"We will use a molecular technique to trick the meningococcus into revealing the genes which it switches on during the crucial phase of invasion into throat cells," said Dr Steve Webb.

"The research aims to identify new genes, which are important to this phase of the illness and which may also explain why the bacteria lives



harmlessly in so many people and only rarely causes disease."

The products of genes, which are essential for invasion across the throat, may also be suitable candidates for a vaccine, which is desperately needed for this important disease. Whilst a vaccine is available for type C, this is not the case for the more prevalent type B meningococcal.

"We're delighted to be able to award our first research grant," said Lorraine Young, "it's wonderful to be able to put money raised in WA through the generosity of the community back into important research like this."



2003 Australian of the Year

Congratulations to the 2003 Australian of the Year, Professor Fiona Stanley.

Professor Stanley has been a great supporter of the Amanda Young Foundation and her enthusiastic and empathetic endorsement of our awareness campaign has been inspirational.

We wish her well in her new role and thank her sincerely for her assistance.

Youth Leadership Eco-Health Summit

The annual Youth Leadership Eco-Health Summit was held in April 2002 at the new venue at Point Walter. The location is a spectacular one, more conveniently located and the quality of the food was a vast improvement on previous occasions.

Forty-two Year 11 students from many schools around Western Australia assembled for a most enjoyable 4 days of interesting activities. Some of the quotes included:

"The camp has been a wonderful, insightful, motivating experience and I Have grown because of it."

"The Summit was highly inspiring and all of the people were inspiring in their own ways."

"Thank you for the best experience of my life."

"I had the greatest time. I didn't want to come at first but once I was there, I didn't want to leave."

"I had so much fun and I'm so much more knowledgeable about the disease. I'm inspired to do something other than sympathise."

"Thanks guys for doing this – it has helped me in a way you can't imagine."

"Overall, it was great and I would have no problem doing anything like this many more times in the future."

"Great information and I'm sure that awesome things will happen in our society because of the camp."

We are indebted to Val Mayger and Belinda Turner for all the behind the scenes administrative arrangements and facilitating the selection process. Dr Peter Dingle of Murdoch University's Environmental Science Department was at his inspirational best and Simon and the Merribrook Adventures team put together a most interesting, informative and challenging program.

A special thank you to the Department of Youth Affairs for their continued sponsorship.

We look forward to the forthcoming Youth Leadership camp, which will commence at Point Walter on 22nd April 2003. Inquiries to Desarae on 9489 7709.



Global Youth Leadership Seminar

We were happy to make a contribution to support Laura Blechynden who attended a Global Youth Leadership seminar in New York in July 2002. Laura will be relating some of her experiences to the 2003 Summit intake at Point Walter in April.

Thank You

During its short existence, the Amanda Young Foundation has been able to attract a band of loyal supporters who assist in numerous ways to enable us to function successfully. In December we had great pleasure in forwarding a special edition AYF coffee mug to our supporters as a small token of our appreciation of their special contribution to the Foundation.

Special thanks to the assembly team of Christine, Paul, Jean and Lorraine and to John Cooper at Mars Confectionery and Bruce Morgan and Cheryl at Courier Australia for their generous support of the project. Courier Australia delivered a total of 210 mugs without a breakage. Thanks a million!



Water Bottle Warning

Our latest innovation is the production of water bottles bearing the signs and symptoms of meningococcal disease and a warning not to share drinks. The bottles are attractively presented in pearl white with navy blue and gold lettering and the Amanda Young Foundation logo.

We are pleased that Southern Districts Little Athletics, which are based at Coker Park in Cannington, have embraced the idea. Co-ordinator, Murray Doig arranged for a supply of the bottles to be made available for purchase at their meeting on 25th January 2003 and the response was very encouraging.

We are hoping that other sporting clubs will see the merit in Southern Districts' proactive action and wish to follow suit.

Bottles are available at \$2 each.



THE AMANDA YOUNG FOUNDATION PRESENTS

Bohemian Rhapsody

We invite you to dress up, make up a party and join us in an action packed night of fun at the Burswood Plaza Ballroom on Saturday 5 April, 2003.

A spectacular Moulin Rouge theme in the best traditions of old Montmartre will set the scene for a great evening.

Champagne on arrival, fine food and wines, and Tod Johnston's popular band "Peace, Love and all That Stuff" will ensure a top night. Can Can dancers, an artist and live model, and entertainment in the Montmartre tradition will demand your presence.

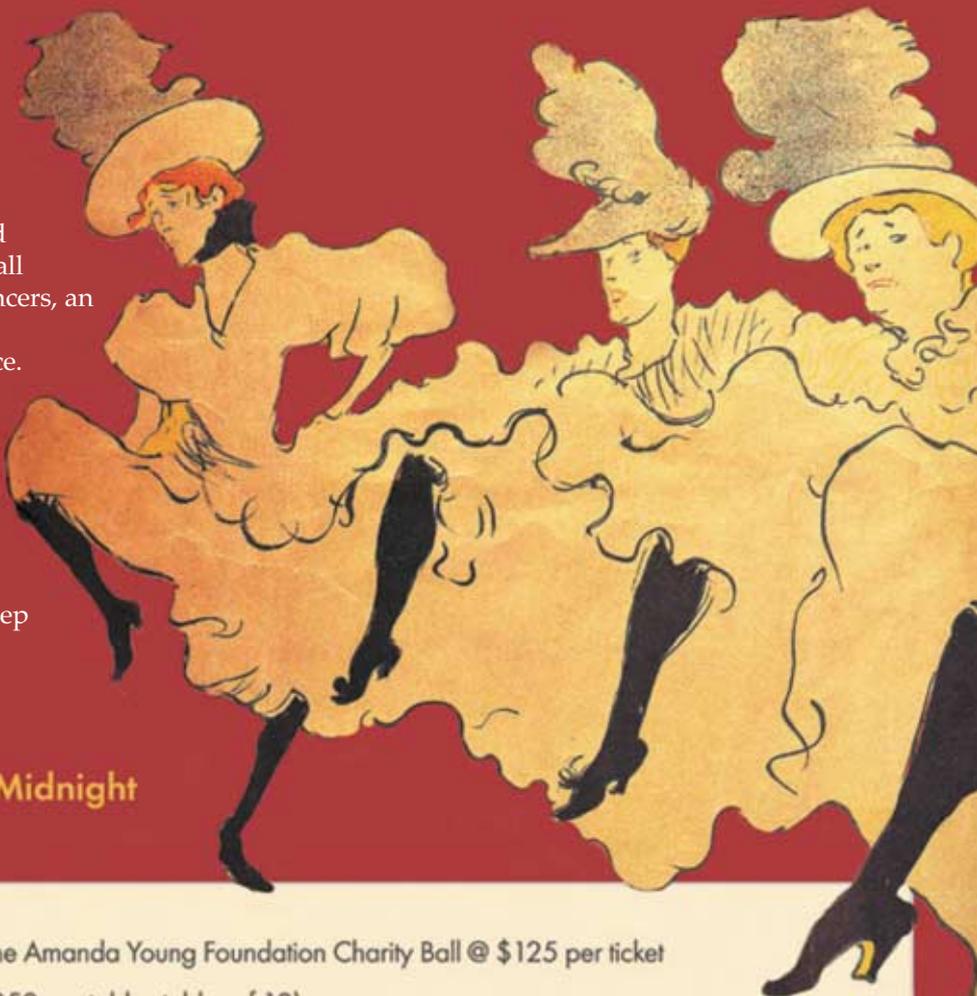
Door prizes, table prizes, Best Dressed Award, an auction and a raffle complete the package for the night.

Thanks to the generosity of our major sponsors Burswood International Resort Casino, Corporate Theatre and Hay Shed Hill Margaret River Wines, we have been able to keep ticket prices at a reasonable cost of \$125 each.

Please join us for our big night of the year.

Dress: Black Tie or Moulin Rouge theme.

Saturday 5 April, 2003 • 7.00pm-Midnight
Burswood Plaza Ballroom



I would like to purchase _____ tickets to The Amanda Young Foundation Charity Ball @ \$125 per ticket

I would like to purchase _____ tables (\$1250 per table - tables of 10)

and have enclosed payment for \$ _____

Payment Method:

I have enclosed a cheque/money order for the amount of \$ _____

Please debit my Credit Card for the amount of \$ _____



THE
AMANDA
YOUNG
FOUNDATION

Name: _____ Contact Number: _____

Address: _____ Post Code: _____

Visa Mastercard Bankcard

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

Expiry Date: ____/____/____ Signature _____

Name on Card: _____

Please return with payment to The Amanda Young Foundation - PO Box 855 West Perth 6872. Telephone (08) 9489 7791 Facsimile (08) 9489 7705



Burswood Blackjack Shootout

Thanks to the generosity of Burswood International Resort Casino, several charities were able to benefit from the Celebrity Blackjack Shootout conducted on 24th March 2002.



We were indeed fortunate that Rechelle Hawkes nominated the Amanda Young Foundation as her chosen beneficiary and following a patient and skillful performance from

Rechelle, we were able to benefit to the tune of \$500.

Thank you Rechelle and Burswood for your generous support.

Calisthenics Gala Awards Night

The Calisthenics Association of Western Australia conducted their annual Gala Awards Night Presentation at their Swan Park Theatre, Midvale on 2 November 2002.

The theme of the evening was "Have a Heart for Meningococcal Disease" and the theatre was decorated with hundreds of purple hearts.

Miranda Eastman from Channel 7 hosted the event superbly and the gathering was entertained by some 20 items performed by the talented members of the various Clubs. A stunning exhibition of spectacular calisthenics at its very best.

The Amanda Young Foundation was the recipient of a most generous donation of \$1200 and we are sincerely grateful for the ongoing support we receive from the Calisthenics Association.

Each performer was presented with an AYF drink bottle and fridge magnet indicating signs and symptoms of the disease.

Web Page

Thanks to Neil Leonard for his maintenance of our website at www.amandayoungfoundation.org.au The site is updated periodically and contains details of upcoming events.

AWARENESS VIDEO

Thanks to Pedro Dunn and his production team at Channel 9 our awareness video was completed in June 2002 and launched by Rechelle Hawkes at the Champion's Breakfast. The video runs for seven minutes with Lisa White telling her story of her brush with Meningococcal Septicaemia and Amanda's story is also told. Dr Clayton Golledge provides an overview of the disease and Professor Fiona Stanley provides a compelling message to be aware of the symptoms and to seek treatment urgently.

A 30 second Community Service Announcement featuring Professor Stanley was also produced. Both items were issued to all TV stations in Perth. We express our gratitude to Access 31 which has frequently and freely screened them. We are hoping that the CSA will receive more viewings during the peak period later this year.



Copies of the video or CD-ROM are available from Barry or Lorraine Young on 08 9398 7275.



Stork Coming Soon – Good Luck

Belinda Turner, who has worked diligently for 2 years behind the scenes in the office we share with the Meningitis Centre at the Institute for Child Health Research, will be embarking on a period of maternity leave from late February.

We wish Belinda well in her new role. We welcome Desarae Biddle as Belinda's replacement and look forward to her meeting her new challenge in a positive and productive manner.

Spreading the Message

If your organisation is looking for a guest speaker, we can assist. During the year we were happy to appear on Kalamunda Community Radio, at Puss in Boots Day Care Centre, Iona Presentation College Assembly and University of the 3rd Age.

Fridge magnets and brochures were freely handed out at our events and we were pleased to be given several opportunities at relevant times to make media comment on meningococcal issues which arose during the year.

Amanda's Garden Fete



Amanda's Memorial Garden became a hive of activity during the last week in October when the 3rd Annual Garden Fete was conducted. The mild Spring conditions ensured that the garden was at its absolute peak for the occasion and the mass display of the Amanda Rose was indeed a highlight.

A small army of 50 volunteers assembled to ensure that all stations operated smoothly and that the event was an enjoyable one for the 1600 people who attended over the four days.

A most welcome addition this year was Robert Boyd and his "Mother Natures Music" which harmonised perfectly in the peace and tranquillity of the garden. Huntingdale Primary School students also entertained the weekend patrons with a series of delightful musical interludes.

Contributions from local nurseries and businesses assisted greatly in our quest to raise funds. In particular, the contribution from Trevor and Cheryl Gay of Sunnyvale

Plants was absolutely outstanding. Ian Dawson once more most generously donated a supply of the Amanda Rose.

Media coverage provided by *The West Australian*, *Comment News*, *The Examiner*, 6PR and ABC enabled us to get our message across and even Don Burke chimed in with a special message on *Burke's Backyard*.

We were amazed recently to receive an inquiry from New Zealand about the dates for 2003.

Amanda's Garden is also available as a wedding ceremony venue, offering privacy, a peaceful setting and a photographer's delight.

Several art groups have also availed themselves of the opportunity to conduct a workshop in the ideal surrounds of the garden and further inquiries are welcome.

