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## **Courageous children inspire Fremantle**

The Fremantle Football Club and the South Metropolitan Area Health Service (SMAHS) joined forces again this season to present the annual Bravery Awards.

The Bravery Awards are hosted by Fremantle players and recognise not only the bravery of the children and young adults, but are held in admiration of the amazing strength and determination of these special people who for one reason or another pass through the wards of Hospitals within the SMAHS.

This year's recipients were from Hospitals across SMAHS, including Fremantle Hospital, Rockingham/Kwinana District Hospital, Armadale-Kelmscott Memorial Hospital and Royal Perth Hospital.

This year's Bravery Awards presentation was held in the club's boardroom on Friday 30 May and honoured some of the bravest children seen over the past 13 years.

"When I first found out that I was going to be presenting a couple of awards I was stoked, especially finding out about how Scott Joyce was also a football player and to go through the injury he has," Chris Mayne said after presenting Mr Joyce with his award.

"It makes you start to appreciate life a lot more when you see what hard things people have to go through.

"To be a football player that is healthy and living life to the fullest is awesome, but if we can get behind those people not so lucky then hopefully they enjoy life as much as we do," he said.

The Fremantle players who presented the awards are from the club's development group of first and second year players, which include Rhys Palmer, Chris Mayne, Brock O'Brien, Clayton Hinkley, Luke Pratt, Calib Mourish, Andrew Foster and Brent Connelly.

The players found the event inspirational and enjoyed meeting the twelve inspirational young West Australians.

**ENDS**

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### **This years Bravery Award winners are:**

**JORDAN HINDER – DOCHERTY (6)** Suburb: SINGLETON

Rockingham/Kwinana District Hospital staff had no hesitation in recommending six-year-old Jordan for this award.

He stood out as a young patient who has endured and continues to manage acute medical complications with exceptional bravery.

His mother Sharmaine was not only full of admiration for her son but also for staff at Rockingham Hospital who diagnosed her son and staff at Princess Margaret.

In December last year Jordan's mother noticed that he was walking with his head tilted to the left-hand side. His sleep was also severely affected by really bad headaches.

After two visits to the GP Jordan was referred to Rockingham Hospital's Emergency Department who immediately admitted him onto the Children's Ward at Rockingham for observation. A CT scan the next day revealed a large tumour.

Sharmaine's words sums up how any one would feel given this news.

"My world came tumbling down that day when the tumour was found."

Jordan was transferred to PMH the next day and he had a six-hour operation a couple of days later to remove the first tumour, which was thankfully benign.

Unfortunately Jordan is not free of doctors and hospital's quite yet as a second tumour has developed and is being monitored.

**MR SCOTT JOYCE** Suburb: Mosman Park

Scott Joyce is a remarkable young adult whose determination to live independently is inspirational after a football accident left him with very limited mobility.

Scott is testimony to us all that courage and inner strength against adversity can bring reward. He was playing amateur footy for the Mosman Park WAAFL last July when a tackle resulted in him slipping and hitting his head on his opponent's hip.

He sustained a severe fracture of the cervical vertebrae number 7 which has left him paralysed from the chest down, however, he does have partial use of his hands and his arms and is now learning to live independently in his own home.

Before the injury Scott was employed as a trade's assistant and had just completed high school. He had also been on an overseas surfing holiday. He was planning to become a carpenter.

**ETHAN LYNAM (7)** Suburb: KELMSCOTT

Ethan was leaving home for what he expected to be a normal day in his year-two classroom with his mates.

Unfortunately, young Ethan was hit by a car when he was crossing the road and instead of going to school Ethan was taken by ambulance to Armadale-Kelmscott Memorial Hospital's Emergency Department.

Mum Lauren told us she was already at work in Kwinana when she got the phone call and had to make what she described as 'a horrific drive' to the hospital.

She recounted that the staff in the ED were excellent and just amazing with her son working with Ethan who handled himself very well.



Staff at Armadale recommended Ethan without hesitation for coping so well after the accident.

Ethan suffered a broken ankle, which was put into plaster, and then it was off to the hospital's Children's Ward for an overnight stay to recover from the shock of the accident and his injuries.

Ethan is a soccer player for the Kelmscott Roos and can be forgiven for his passion for soccer because he is also a devoted young Fremantle fan and his favourite player is Matthew Pavlich.

**SOPHIE LAWSON (6)**

Suburb: KARDINYA

Young Sophie was a bit quiet in hospital according to her Dad Stephen – however, when she started to get better she got louder and became quite a handful!

It was then that Stephen knew Sophie was well and truly on the mend!

Sophie had good reason to be a bit quiet initially - she spent 12 days in Fremantle Hospital on the Children's Ward with Septic Arthritis of her left hip.

This is a very painful condition and it meant complete bed rest for a normally very active little girl. Not only that but it also meant intravenous antibiotics as well as X-Rays, Ultrasound and a bone scan. She showed immense bravery during her stay and came highly recommended for an award.

**WILLIAM VALENTINO (7)**

Suburb: CLARKSON

7 years old William has a kidney condition called Nephrotic Syndrome that he will need to have ongoing treatment for until he hopefully grows out of the condition when he is a teenager.

Until then William is on medication and makes regular trips to the doctors and specialist who monitor him.

Unfortunately for William 2007 was not a good year health wise – and he had several lengthy admissions to the Children's Ward at Fremantle Hospital for intravenous therapy and antibiotics and relapses.

When he is unwell William is prone to other illnesses like chest infections and complications include severe swelling of his limbs.

His diet is also restricted. Even when he is well that means little or no party food.

His story is enough for you all to understand why the nursing staff nominated this very special and very brave young man who made very few complaints despite the severity of his condition.

**JOSHUA MARTIN (5)**

Suburb: PORT KENNEDY

Joshua was only a toddler when he started to have febrile convulsions. For Mum Catherine these convulsions were very scary indeed.

Catherine said that without the support of the nursing and medical staff at both Rockingham/Kwinana District Hospital and Fremantle Hospital, she would not have got through the very difficult times.

Joshua was brought into Rockingham's Emergency Department initially and transferred to Fremantle Hospital for specialist care.

In the past three years he has had six admissions. Last month Joshua was well enough to have his tonsils out and according to Catherine he hasn't looked back since!



According to Catherine Joshua didn't really seem to mind at all about his admissions to the Children's Ward and absolutely loved the playroom, the mobile games console that he was able to play in bed and his favourite visitors were Captain Starlight and The Clown Doctors!

The good news is that Joshua is now well enough to go to Pre-primary and he is apparently passionate about school, soccer and The West Tigers NRL team.

**HAZIM DARWISH (17)**

Suburb: KELMSCOTT

Hazim was 16 and in his final TEE year at high school when he became very ill. He was diagnosed with Guillian Barre Syndrome, which is a sudden onset of an autoimmune disease. It causes limb weakness, acute pain and has the potential to completely paralyse.

He needed extensive monitoring of his respiratory function and had to have a transfusion of human immunoglobulin to reverse his symptoms.

Initially Hazim was seen in the Emergency Department of Armadale-Kelmscott Memorial Hospital who transferred him to Fremantle Hospital where he was admitted onto the Children's Ward under a team of specialists working in this area.

To recover Hazim required pain relief, regular physiotherapy, and special care with his diet and speech therapy.

There was wide praise from the Children's Ward (which treats patients up to the age of 18) nursing staff of Hazim's mature attitude and tolerance for his pain and symptoms.

**ALEC THOMAS (17)**

Suburb: MANDURAH

Alec is an example of how to conduct yourself with maturity and a positive attitude despite many things affecting his health and lifestyle at the one time.

A few days after his 17th birthday, Alec was on his moped on his way to work at Target when he had an accident and smashed into a parked car.

The accident came at quite a price for Alec who lost his licence for three months. His injuries to his left leg were so severe that for a while his family were concerned he may have lost his leg.

Thankfully the orthopaedic team at Fremantle Hospital saved his leg but there are more operations to come when he has the pins removed. Despite the severity of his accident the family has told us they have much to be thankful for.

Alec also lives with Chronic Granulomatous Disease or CGD which affects his immune system putting him at high risk of infection – this was of particular concern when Alec had his accident and had large wounds.

**RUMON OSWICK-KOK (6)**

Suburb: PINJARRA

Rumon has been sick since birth and when he was a small baby he was cared for at Princess Margaret Hospital. When he got big enough he was admitted to Fremantle Hospital for his care.

Rumon has Klinefelters Syndrome, a chromosomal disorder that affects his growth and his development. It is a condition he is learning to adjust to living with.

This young man has had no less than 10 admissions to hospital the last one being in August when he spent eight days on the Children's Ward at Fremantle Hospital with acute bilateral pneumonia.

He had oxygen, half-hourly Ventolin puffers, intravenous fluids and medications.



The nursing staff nominated Rumon for his exceptional bravery and wonderful disposition during his latest stay with them in particular.

**TAGHI REZAI (13)**

Suburb: SPEARWOOD

Taghi and his family left Afghanistan just over three years ago and have now settled locally. Taghi has a brother and two sisters.

When Taghi got sick he collapsed at his school with severe abdominal pain.

He was taken to Fremantle Hospital's Emergency Department and before long was in theatre with suspected appendicitis.

However, surgeons soon discovered that he had a perforated duodenal ulcer.

Taghi developed peritonitis and was very unwell. He needed to have intravenous fluids and antibiotics and after his surgery he was brought to the Children's Ward to begin his recuperation.

Nursing staff on the ward said he was really brave when receiving his treatment.

Just two days after his surgery Taghi had to have another procedure – a gastroscopy – and the medical team confirmed a further two gastric ulcers.

Taghi was eventually discharged home on medications to eradicate the cause of his ulcers.

**REBECCA STANLEY (16)**

Suburb: CANNINGVALE

When Rebecca first became sick her mum Tracey, who is a nurse, thought at first that she had a gastro.

It soon became evident that Rebecca was not improving and Tracey took her daughter straight to the Emergency Department at Fremantle Hospital.

Within an hour and a half of arriving at the Hospital, Rebecca was in theatre where surgeons discovered a burst appendix.

She went on to develop peritonitis and was severely unwell for several days after her surgery and needed intravenous therapy and antibiotics.

Despite these set backs Rebecca remained mature and focussed on her recovery and it is this attitude that won the hearts of the nursing staff on the ward.

**MR SAM HURST (15)**

Suburb: ATTADALE

Sam is currently undergoing Chemotherapy every two weeks at Princess Margaret Hospital. Sam was admitted to Fremantle Hospital with acute abdominal pain and a tumour was discovered in his large intestine. He underwent major surgery to remove the tumour and a section of the bowel.

He was in Fremantle Hospital's Children's Ward for nine days recovering from surgery and according to nursing staff he coped amazingly with both the surgery and the wait for his histology results.

Sam is now under the care of the Oncology team at Princess Margaret Hospital under a pretty gruelling regime. Sam's Mum Lorna said Sam is amazingly strong emotionally and physically and that has helped him through the bad times and also helped him make the absolute best of the good times in between therapy.

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