

## **THE LAND**

# **\$55,000 Christmas gift for children's medical research**

By STEPHEN BURNS  
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Wagga Committee president of the Children's Medical Research Institute Fiona Hamilton presents the \$55,000 cheque to Dr Sonja Frolich of the Genome Integrity Group with the Institute.

THE annual Christmas Fair held by the Wagga Committee of the Children's Medical Research Institute (CMRI) has been contributing funds toward the research into children's health issues for the past 32 years.

This year's event, held in the grounds of the Murrumbidgee Turf Club attracted more than 3700 visitors who were taking the chance to support a worthy cause with the purchase of Christmas presents.

Following this year's most successful event, Wagga Committee president Fiona Hamilton presented a cheque of \$55,000 to Dr Sonja Frolich, a post-doctoral scientist working in the Genome Integrity Group, known as "The Wagga Lab" within the Institute.

“We are honoured and delighted to have Dr Frolich come to Wagga to accept our donation on behalf of the “Wagga Lab” and CMRI,” Mrs Hamilton said.

“The 2015 fair, held on 23 and 24 October was the most successful event the Committee has held, and we are immensely grateful to the Wagga community and district for their ongoing support.”

Mrs Hamilton said a lot of hard work from the volunteer committee went into making the annual event a great success.

“This year’s fair was absolutely fantastic,” she said.

“As one of the largest annual community fundraising activities donating to the Institute, it is so rewarding to the Committee and other local stakeholders to know the Fair is still getting bigger and better and our donations continue to grow.”

Responding to the generous donation, Dr Frolich said she can’t adequately express the gratitude of the Institute enough.

“It is letting us move into areas of research much quicker speeding up the process,” Dr Frolich said.

The Wagga committee was instigated by Marg Cerebona when her son spent a lot of time in hospital during his childhood.

“I was determined to start the CMRI in Wagga to support further research and help future generations of children overcome their childhood illnesses,” Mrs Cerebona said.

Foundation president and committee member for 32 years, Libby Lamont said CMRI was helping children all across Australia and internationally.

“The remarkable research carried out by Dr Folich and all at CMRI is helping to discover cures and develop preventative measures for all people, including adults who suffer from cancers, epilepsy, genetic disorders and other diseases associated with childhood,” Mrs Lamont said.

“The fair has been a lot of fun and a lot of hard work, and it is incredible to see what we are achieving today.”

- If you are interested in joining the Wagga Committee please contact Fiona Hamilton on 0428 245 446.