

The Daily Advertiser

Wagga CMRI Christmas Fair going strong after 35 years



ENJOYMENT: Maureen McNeil from Milawa, Anna Harrington from Whorouly and Bernadette Harrington-McNally from Whorouly have a laugh at last year's Christmas fair.

Since 1983 a team of energetic, dedicated Riverina women have donated their time and enthusiasm to the Children's Medical Research Institute (CMRI) to raise around \$50,000 annually for the cause.

Each year they co-ordinate and host the two-day Christmas Fair and have raised in excess of \$1.6 million over the years to help kids with genetic disorders and rare medical conditions have the best chance at life.

"This year CMRI celebrates 60 years of ground-breaking research."

Wagga committee president Helen Chamberlain

Committee president Helen Chamberlain has been a part of the Wagga committee almost since it began.

“This year CMRI celebrates 60 years of ground-breaking research, developments and incredible achievements for unwell individuals, including for a number of local children, as well as internationally on the world scientific and medical stage,” Mrs Chamberlain said.

“The growth of medical knowledge, breakthroughs and achievements is currently exploding at CMRI as technology and digital systems speed up the rate of research, accuracy of results and an unprecedented depth of record keeping allowing to the amazing scientific minds to test theories, discover and recognise genetic links to diseases and disorders and, in turn, provide highly accurate and fast diagnosis in many patients.”

This advertising feature is supported by the following organisation:

- [Children’s Medical Research Institute – Wagga committee](#)

The CMRI is closely linked to Sydney’s Westmead Children’s Hospital and began with a simple idea as paediatrician and researcher, Sir Lorimer Dods, turned his vision for a Children’s Medical Research Foundation into reality.

The foundation (later renamed institute) was established in 1958 with funds raised by Australia’s first telethon and a large public campaign.

Grass roots fund-raising committees were soon formed, with 20 now active across NSW. While not the oldest, the Wagga committee remains one of the largest donors.

This year’s Christmas Fair is being held on Friday and Saturday, October 26 and 27 at the Murrumbidgee Turf Club and promises to be another amazing event.

The space will be filled to overflowing with over 95 stalls, with about one quarter having never been to Wagga before.

The incredible range of products coming to this year’s event can be viewed at the CMRI Wagga Christmas Fair page on Facebook.

The fair will be open from 10.30am to 5.30pm on October 26 and 10am to 4pm on October 27. The \$5 entry fee goes directly to CMRI.

Helping CMRI is helping our kids

- 1 in 20 Australian children are born with a birth defect or genetic disease.
- Paediatricians Sir Lorimer Dods and Dr John Fulton decided on prevention, with research the key.
- After 60 years of community and philanthropic support, CMRI now boasts some of the world’s best scientists and technology and from day one has achieved ground-breaking success.
- CMRI has just become a cancer research laboratory.

- 100 per cent of Christmas Fair gate takings; lunch, morning tea and raffle sales; 10 per cent of stallholder takings are donated to CMRI.
- The Wagga committee raises between \$50,000 and \$60,000 annually.
- Wagga has raised over \$1.6 million in 35 years.
- Two years ago the scientists at CMRI named one of its laboratories “The Wagga Lab”.