

The Sun-Herald

CITY2SURF

PRESENTED BY



Parramatta Eels star Nathan Hindmarsh has a very personal reason for taking on the role of Ambassador for the Children's Hospital at Westmead team in this year's *Sun-Herald City2Surf* presented by Westpac.

His youngest son Rowdie [NS subs: correct] was only two-weeks-old when he had to be admitted to the hospital with meningitis.

"It was a scary 10 days and not long after that he had pneumonia and a collapsed lung, which was also scary," Hindmarsh said.

"He's fit and healthy now, but it makes you think how lucky we were with Rowdie – for a lot of parents, they have to go through much more than we did."

As Ambassador for the hospital's 2010 Think Kids Challenge, Hindmarsh is providing City2Surf team members with fortnightly training tips and urging people to dig deep for a worthy cause.

The Think Kids Challenge is raising money for both the hospital and the children's hospice, Bear Cottage, with funds directed to areas where they are most needed – such as purchase of equipment, patient services and research into childhood illnesses.

Over the last three years the Think Kids Challenge has raised more than \$300,000 through the City2Surf and the target for this year's 40th race, on Sunday August 8, is a sizeable \$150,000.

Hindmarsh is the father of three boys – Archie 4, Buster almost 3 and Rowdie 16 months – and he says the Think Kids Challenge is an initiative close to his heart.

"Now that I'm a parent I know how important it is to have great care available for your children when they're ill," he said.

"This is a cause many people can relate to."

As part of his role, Hindmarsh has visited sick children at the hospital, including 13-year-old Jacob Kinghorn, whose recent kidney failure put him on daily dialysis.

Jacob also has a chromosome abnormality and attends Halinda special needs school in Whalan.

“Jacob watches footy but he doesn’t really follow a team – he was funny when Nathan first visited him but by the end there were high-fives and hugs, so that was great,” his mum Haley said.

Participants and supporters in the City2Surf can donate to The Children’s Hospital at Westmead, Bear Cottage or a charity of choice by simply visiting the event website www.city2surf.com.au and clicking on the Give Gauge.

Enter online and create your own personalised fundraising page that can be emailed to friends, family or corporate supporters – it’s that easy.

The 2010 *Sun-Herald* City2Surf is proudly presented by Westpac and supported by New Balance, Rebel Sport, Gatorade, Jockey, Berlei, RSVP, Nova 969, One HD, 2UE, Fitness First, Sheraton on the Park Sydney, NSW Government, Events NSW, City of Sydney, Waverley and Woollahra Councils.