

# Santa and his helpers pay a Christmas visit

**IT'S A TIME FOR GIVING AND THE NSW RACING INDUSTRY CONTINUED ITS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TRADITION BY DONATING HUNDREDS OF TOYS TO SICK CHILDREN IN HOSPITAL** WORDS: PHILLIP O'BRIEN IMAGES: STEVE HART



Tony Crisafi, Dylan Gibbons, Mike (hospital staff), Tommy Berry (Santa Claus), Shayne O'Cass, Molly Bourke and Steve Hart



Dylan Gibbons (left), Santa, Molly Bourke (second from right), Reece Jones (far right) and parents with their youngsters receiving presents

**T**he racing industry has brought Christmas cheer to hundreds of sick children with visits each year to The Sydney Children's Hospital and Westmead Children's Hospital.

The children's hospital visits were started over 28 years ago by former jockey Malcolm Fitzgerald and racing photographer Steve Hart and with the support of Peter V'landys AM and Racing NSW, the festive initiative has grown over the past decade.

Thousands of dollars have been raised to purchase toys for Westmead Children's Hospital which were specially delivered by Santa and racing industry members.

"We are thrilled to be able to visit the hospitals once again after being locked out in the last few years due to the pandemic," Mal Fitzgerald said.

"A great contribution from Racing NSW has helped us considerably and we have special thanks to Peter V'landys for also making it possible.

"Thanks to a generous discount that was arranged by Racing NSW we were able to purchase more toys from K-Mart Broadway which has brought smiles to many children's faces.

"It would be a difficult time for sick children who are in hospital over the Christmas period and it's wonderful that the NSW Racing Industry can come together each year and bring such joy to the kids and their parents.

"We send a special thank you to everyone who contributed to this great cause."

Among those visiting Sydney Children's Hospital were star apprentices Dylan Gibbons and Reece Jones, ace jockey Tommy Berry (aka Santa), promising apprentice rider Molly Bourke, Daily Telegraph journalist Shayne O'Cass and of course Steve Hart and Tony Crisafi.

**\* The Westmead Children's Hospital visit took place after this magazine went to print**





Molly Bourke, Santa and Dylan Gibbons with one of the children



ROSEHILL GARDENS

# GOLDEN SLIPPER

» 23 MARCH 2024  
» ROSEHILL GARDENS

**Second acceptances**  
closing 3pm, Tuesday 16  
January 2024 for the \$5  
million world's richest race  
for two-year-olds.

**SECOND ACCEPTANCES FEE**  
\$1,100 (inc. GST)

**FIRST ACCEPTANCES CLOSE**  
3pm, Tuesday 16 January 2024



[australianurfclub.com.au](http://australianurfclub.com.au)