Fishy business in children’s ward

Face painting and party games will be the order of the day when the children’s ward at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital is transformed into a deep sea playground for United Nations’ Universal Children's Day on October 24.

Thanks to a new marine mural donated by VisualFX Printing, in Leichhardt, the playroom in the children’s ward, now alive with images of dolphins, jellyfish and buried treasure, will play host to a morning tea served by staff dressed as sea creatures.

Craft activities, face painting and party games will also be on offer as the mural is officially launched by Sam Arnold, from VisualFX, paediatric staff specialist Dr Phillip Coote and the nursing staff of the children’s ward.

The United Nations' Universal Children's Day is recognised each year to promote international togetherness and awareness among children.

Universal Children's Day calls society to a greater response to the plight of many millions of children around the world who are denied the basic necessities of a happy childhood and the education to develop their capacities.

Thousands of children across Australia are involved in activities organised by schools, childcare centres, play groups, libraries, cultural and community groups.

Events and activities focus on language and literacy, health, sport and recreation, the arts and science, as well as children's cultural, social and emotional needs.

Canterbury Hospital will mark the day with a “Sporting Heroes” theme, with staff also dressing up for the occasion.

The general manager, Ann Kelly, said children, aged three to six years recovering from recent illness and surgery, as well as their visiting families, were encouraged to join in the festivities and dress up as their favourite sporting heroes.

“Children's Day is great opportunity for children to be able to display their talents, skills and achievements and simply celebrate the earlier years of childhood,” she said.

“We will have a children's entertainer who will be here to paint faces and ensure everyone is having plenty of fun. We will also be having a raffle with prizes kindly donated by local businesses, so I’d encourage everyone to come along and celebrate children everywhere.”

Where: RPA children’s ward
When: 10.30am, Wednesday, October 24.