



COBRA CAR CLUB OF NSW INC.

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE DINNER 16/10/2007

Not everyone is probably aware of the good work that McDonalds do for the community around the world, they provide the funds that allow the construction of the facilities that are called Ronald McDonald House. At these Hospices they provide – free of charge – a home away from home for the families of children who are being treated at hospitals that are too far away from their home. Many of these children need long term care and in their own locality the specialised care is not available, so McDonalds put these Hospices near Childrens Hospitals around the world.

Some of these children suffer with terminal illnesses, while the lucky ones recover and go home with their families.

A couple of nights each week volunteer groups come in and cook dinner for the the families that are staying. This event was initially called Friday Night Dinner, which we have done before, but with the many volunteer groups wanting to lend a hand, they now have Tuesday Night Dinner for the families also. Tuesday 16/10/07 was our night, and Karen Mizzi and Tracey White volunteered to coordinate for us. They set about organising a group of helpers, and Tracey even found a magician by the name of Alan Cullen to give up his paid night to come along and entertain the children, even the big kids were amazed.

Karen's house was used to prepare the food for the evening, which consisted of coleslaw, potato salad, roast chicken, lasagne, cold meat, bread rolls, potato bake, vegetable bake followed with cake and ice cream for dessert. Some of the crew had arrived at 5.00pm to set up and get things hotting up in the kitchen, as I arrived at 6.00pm they were just starting to serve dinner for close to 60 people. The menu selection seemed to be on the money as there was very little left after they had all eaten.

As we sat and had dinner with the families that were there we listened to their stories about their kids and it made us all realise how lucky we are. Not all of these kids get to go home...

Towards the end of the evening some of us were given a guided tour by the staff. This facility has rooms for the families that they stay in as well as a huge fully serviced kitchen, communal entertainment room, BBQ area and play grounds for the kids, truly a home away from home when things are so tough.

This dinner would not have been a success without the help of Karen & Phil Mizzi, their daughter Samantha Mizzi, Tracey White, Phil Lynn, Roz & Dave Richards, Robyn & Mark Hudson, Angela Sutter, Stefano Greco and Brett Hoy who cooked up the best vegie bake I've ever had. Thank you to Joe's Fruit World at Wetherill Park, who donated the fruit and vegies. Thanks to you all for giving up your time and it's an honour to be involved with a great bunch of people in our club.

Kevin Walker. Pres. C.C.C of N.S.W. Inc