

The Canberra Times
March 2004
By Marie Skelton



Launching Australia's first Smile Day, Scott Cam brings a grin to the face of a Westmead Children's Hospital patient with the help of Dr Nut-Case and Dr B. Loony.

Handyman Cam builds foundation for serious laughs

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If laughter is the best medicine then smiling is the best way of raising funds to cheer people up, according to the Humour Foundation.

Today is Australia's first Smile Day and foundation spokesman Scott Cam said fund-raising would support the Clown Doctors who brought laughter to more than 50,000 hospital patients each year.

Cam, television tradesman from *Backyard Blitz* and *Renovation Rescue*, said the foundation hoped to raise \$500,000 to help the Clown Doctors address the psychological and social needs of sick children in hospitals across Australia.

"We aim to make April 1st one of the most enjoyable days of the year — a day when people of all ages smile and laugh because it's great for

their health," he said. The day was an opportunity for the community to have fun, smile and play together while supporting Clown Doctors who delivered the health benefits of humour around Australia.

Clown Doctors have names such as Dr Nut-Case, Dr Phil Betta and Dr Smarty Pants and they wear white doctor coats with plenty of pockets for finger puppets, bubble mixture

and other assorted props, and a stethoscope around the neck. The Clown Doctors are professional performers trained by the Humour Foundation to work in sensitive hospital settings.

The Humour Foundation is an Australian non-profit organisation set up in 1997 by long-time friends Dr Peter Spitzer, a Bowral GP ("the doctor who wanted to be a

performer") and Jean-Paul Bell, a trained mime artist and clown ("the performer who wanted to be a doctor").

The foundation has 35 clown doctors working in all the major children's hospitals around the country.

To support Smile Day buy selected Cadbury Schweppes products, a clown pen from Woolworths supermarkets or make a donation at any Commonwealth Bank.