

Date:

26 November 2003

Subject

It's an official World Record fund raising effort

The almost 6,000 people who donned a wig at the final Knights home game this year to celebrate NIB's 50th birthday and raise funds for the Mater Hospital are now official world record holders.

On September 7 NIB Health Funds issued a challenge to Knights fans throughout the Hunter to wig up and set a world record to raise money and support cancer care and research at the Mater Hospital.

Word arrived this morning from Guinness World Records™ Limited that the record attempt has been approved and the "certificate is in the mail".

The official record will read:

"At an event organized by NIB Health Funds a total of 5,574 people donned glitter wigs at the Newcastle Knights v. North Queensland Cowboys Rugby League match, Newcastle, NSW, Australia on 7 September 2003."

The official record coincides with the presentation of monies raised from the event.

NIB Chief Executive Officer, Mark Fitzgibbon, today returned to EnergyAustralia Stadium, the scene of the record attempt, to present the Mater's General Manager, Colin Osborne, with a cheque for \$17,500.

"NIB is so pleased to have played a part in this unique fund raising initiative," Mr Fitzgibbon said.

"It was an opportunity for the community to take part in an event to celebrate NIB's 50 years in business.

"The Hunter is well known for a strong sense of community spirit and willingness to support our own and this amazing fund raising effort of \$17,500 proves that.

"I would like to thank everybody that participated and helped to achieve this phenomenal result - it was a great 50th birthday gift for NIB and will allow the Mater to continue offering the best care for cancer patients throughout the Hunter and beyond."

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