

bear

facts

newsletter autumn 2011



Mum's leap of faith!

Launching oneself out of an aircraft at 14,000 feet to plummet towards the ground at an incredible 220km/h before popping a parachute, might be considered a little extreme as a fundraising event but it was the option ticked by 30 brave people earlier this year.

The skydive was the brainchild of Victoria O'Neill, mother to 10 year-old Harry, who was diagnosed with Osteosarcoma or bone cancer in June last year.

Harry has undergone 14 rounds of chemotherapy and had an operation to remove his left shoulder joint but remains positive about his treatment and progress.

The skydivers, whose lives have all been touched by Harry's plight, paid to participate in the jump and also for the privilege of raising money for Ward 3b, the oncology ward at PMH.

The thrillseeking high-divers, their families and friends all camped at the jump zone overnight to be up with the birds and leap from the plane in the most favourable conditions.

Victoria was full of nerves but says it was an incredible

experience and although it scared the pants off her, she was a bit disappointed to have her feet (and bum!) back on the ground.

And by the look on Harry's face as he raced over to where his mum had bumped safely back to earth, he was very relieved to have her back, even if he did have to wait a little while as her stomach calmed down a bit!

So far, the amount raised has jumped through the \$50,000 barrier and this will be shared equally with us and The Telethon Adventurers. A fantastic effort from everybody involved and a brilliant and novel idea from Vicki who's vowed to do it all again!

Well done Vic and we all hope Harry keeps improving and is better very, very soon!



Above right: Mum Victoria in full flight.
Right: Back to earth with a bump.



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