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## **HOSPITAL ART FUNDS MANLY WOMEN'S CHARITY**

Staying in hospital can be a stressful time for anyone, let alone children – but for Freshwater local Carter Gazzard, his stay at Royal North Shore Hospital was made easier by the S.E.A.T Project.

As part of the project, the eight-year-old was presented with a sustainably harvested bamboo seat by the hospital school.

A blank canvas, it would later become a work of art and would be sold with proceeds going to women and children in need both in Sydney and in Nepal.

“We find the S.E.A.T Project gives kids something positive to focus on during their Hospital stay,” school principal Vanessa Murphy said.

“Some kids come through and say to us ‘we’re not good at art’ or ‘we can’t paint’ but they give it a go and end up producing a beautiful seat.

“Art can be therapeutic, not only does it give them something productive to do, but it also makes them feel a part of something bigger and they leave with a new skill.”

Carter said participating in the S.E.A.T Project was a highlight of his hospital stay.

“I enjoyed it because it was really fun painting on wood, I’ve never done that before,” he said.

“On my seat I decided to draw a robot on top and paint the legs different colours for the seasons.

“I normally sit with my dad and do a lot of drawing, mainly monsters and stuff – he hasn’t seen the seat yet, so I can’t wait to show him.”

On August 22, more than 40 seats will be auctioned at Royal North Shore, with proceeds being donated to the Seven Women Charity and Manly Women’s Shelter.

Carter’s Mum Sascha Collins said her son enjoyed the project so much he was willing to bid for his seat using his birthday money.

“Carter actually offered to buy his own chair with the money his grandfather gave him that day for his birthday,” she said.

“I stepped in and said ‘you keep your birthday money matey, I’ll buy it for you,’ and I offered above the reserve price to reserve the chair.”

If you would like to be involved in bidding at the auction or would like to contribute to the S.E.A.T Project at Royal North Shore Hospital School, contact Vanessa Murphy on 9463 2280 for more information.