

GOLD DINNER RAISES \$1.5 MILLION

OPULENT GOLD-DECORATED tables and spectacular theatrics were part of the experience of this year's Gold Dinner. This important fundraiser, held at Star City in Sydney, resulted in \$1.5 million towards the extraordinary work carried out by the Department of Immunology and Infectious Diseases at Sydney Children's Hospital in Randwick.

The evening began with an array of delectable canapés ranging from oysters to platters of poached quail's eggs – all accompanied by Bollinger champagne. An exciting mood was created with a fantastic dance performance by Todd McKenney and his troupe of dancers, and continued as dinner tables for the 700 guests were lowered onto the stage.

The hospital's urbane Professor Les White began proceedings and was followed by Penny Prott, with a brave story about her daughter

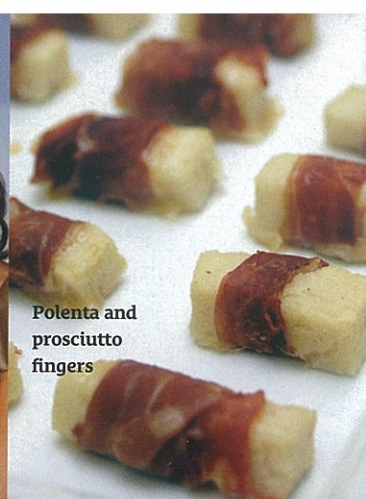
Emma's battle with severe combined immune deficiency syndrome and how vital the hospital's dedicated team of specialists were in her survival. This moving story prompted guests to contribute with overwhelming enthusiasm.

Opportunities to contribute included 'gold indulgences' for purchase and an auction by Sotheby's Justin Miller, with prizes donated by an array of companies including principal sponsor Mulpha Australia, plus many others such as Cartier, Louis Vuitton, The Leading Hotels of the World, Albert and Sophie Wong, Aria and the Armati family.

Belinda Franks Catering created an amazing dinner that included an entrée of poached lobster with snapper boudin, pea and fennel bouillabaisse and mustard foam, with Henschke Cranes Eden Valley Chardonnay provided by Tucker Seabrook's Robert and Judith Hirst. **SW**



Megan Gale



Polenta and prosciutto fingers



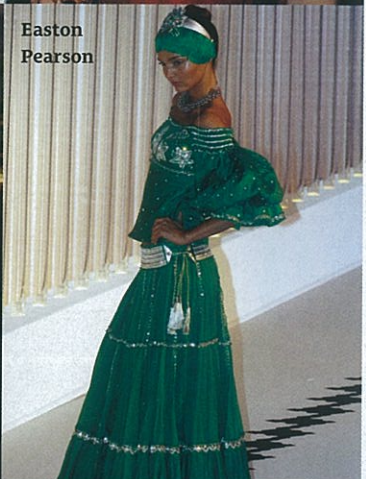
Spinach and gruyère tartlets



Annalise Seubert



Colette Garnsey and Akira Isogawa



Easton Pearson

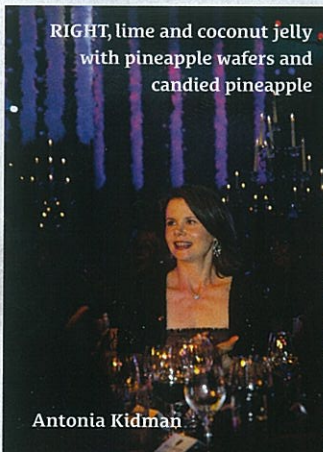
NEW SEASON'S FASHION LAUNCH

SUN-SOAKED PLACES on Italy's Amalfi Coast provided the settings for the filming of a glamorous advertisement starring Australian beauty Megan Gale. Produced by David Jones to convey the lively spirit of our leading designers, this featurette formed a romantic backdrop to a runway show to launch the new Summer 2005 season, appropriately set amid watery reflections at the W, Sydney.

Guests enjoyed Moët & Chandon champagne and Mediterranean-inspired tastes created by Stefano Manfredi of Manta including divine

gorgonzola turnovers, flavourful wild mushroom risotto, and prawn cannelloni.

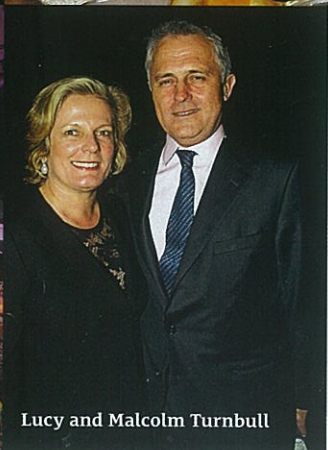
The show was also infused with the spirit of *la dolce vita*, with numerous stand-out moments including opulent kaftans by Bare by Rebecca Davies, sleek swimwear by Zimmermann, modern prints from Morrissey, silver-beaded dresses by Collette Dinnigan, sublime silk cotton and silver embroidered tops, and tiered skirts and dresses in vibrant emerald and yellow by Easton Pearson, which will be shown soon in Paris. **SW**



Antonia Kidman



RIGHT, lime and coconut jelly with pineapple wafers and candied pineapple



Lucy and Malcolm Turnbull