

Health scheme is 75 and still expanding

THE Royal Queensland Bush Children's Health Scheme is celebrating its 75th anniversary and is looking to the future with new, colourful business branding, a new website and an expansion of services.

The organisation, founded in 1935 by former governor of Queensland Sir Leslie Orme Wilson, has evolved from providing medical services and surgery for rural children at coastal centres including Redcliffe.

It is now an allied health scheme focusing on occupational therapy, speech pathology, psychology and family health support for children in a wide range of rural areas.

The Redcliffe Home was established on Prince Edward Pde in 1935 and remained there until the children's residential programs eventually finished in 1998.

The Redcliffe Centre was then at Hays Inlet, Clontarf,



HAPPY DAYS: Carlton Meyn, GM of the Bush Children's Health Scheme, with Fiona Pelling, community relations manager for sponsor, the North Queensland Toyota Cowboys.

housing family programs until 2005.

Dr Neil Bartels, chairman for the last four years, said the scheme now ran from facilities in Mt Isa, Dalby, Warwick, Emerald and Bundaberg, with the majority of patients, from newborns to 13-year-olds, being treated for speech pathology.

"We are now looking to expand our services, lift our profile and build on the organisation. The need for our services is huge," Dr Bartels said.

➔ **The organisation's official birthday celebrations and relaunch will be held at Bush Kids Place, 16 Morley St, Toowong, on December 6. Visit bushkids.org.au**