



## **Dr John Whitehall**

Queensland  
Senior Australian of the Year 2006 - Finalist

He has seen the worst of human suffering providing aid to refugees and victims of war in Lebanon, Africa, East Timor, Vietnam - but Dr Whitehall's belief in miracles has never faded. John is director of Townsville Hospital's neonatal unit. The night of the Boxing Day tsunami, he called a meeting of Sri Lankan people living locally to discuss how to help. He became the main face of that ad hoc committee and public support for the victims was un-precedented. The local council cancelled the New Years Eve fireworks, donating the \$30,000 saved to tsunami victims, and money poured in from the public. John and his shipment of ventilators, antibiotics, painkillers and bandages were in Sri Lanka within days. He stayed there for weeks to help and returned later with more supplies. The Townsville region helped John deliver thousands of little miracles in those first crucial weeks.

**John Whitehall** is Director of Neonatology at The Townsville Hospital, North Queensland. He is a paediatrician who graduated from Sydney University and has worked in a number of developing countries. Most recently, he spent five months in Sri Lanka where he hopes to return with post-graduate students of Tropical Paediatrics which he teaches in the School of Public Health at James Cook University. John is married with six grown children and is a member of a Baptist Church.