

Big day out for Ethan

Leesa Smith

SYDNEY Children's Hospital patient Ethan Kumar, 5, was given the opportunity to hang out with his NRL heroes and forget about his medical worries for a day.

Canterbury Bulldogs players Brent Crisp, Bryson Goodwin and Michael Hodgson lightened up the day for Ethan and his brother Dominic, 4, at the NRL player charity Christmas party on Friday.

Ethan's mother, Christine, said once the boys got over their initial shyness towards their heroes, they "stuck to them like glue".

"They were tackling each other; it was very funny," she said. "The players hung out with the boys all day - they got their faces painted together, they were diving on the jumping castle and in the balls - it was wonderful."

Ethan, of Daceyville, has spent much of his young life visiting the Randwick hospital.

He was born with hypopituitarism, a condition that affects the part of the



Ethan Kumar, pictured with his mum Christine (left) and siblings Alex, Jasmine and Dominic, was treated to an afternoon on Sydney Harbour (below).



brain that controls growth and energy. Every day Ethan has to keep up a regime of medication and hormone injections to manage his condition.

Mrs Kumar said the day was a perfect distraction for Ethan.

"It takes away the stress for the day

because every day we struggle to give him the injections," she said. "It gives him something else to think about."

Ethan was also treated to an afternoon on Sydney Harbour last month aboard the historical tall ship, *The Seaman*, and took part in the a charity

regatta organised by the Rotary Club of Sydney Cove.

Hosted by the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia Rushcutters Bay, the regatta raised funds for Sydney Children's Hospital, Hoc-Mai, Sunshine Home and other charities.