

Giving back



Brian Talmage, Dean Hopping, Amy Van Landeghem, Carolyn Blake and Kuyan Talmage with Jai Talmage, who is on the pink tractor that was donated to NNICUPS. Photo: PETER VEITH.

By STACEY HICKS

AFTER going through the ordeal of having his first son born prematurely, local father of three, Brian Talmage, is showing his appreciation for the staff at the Nepean Hospital Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), by giving a gift like no other – pink tractors.

With the help of his place of work, CNH Australia, Brian has donated a pink 1:16 scale model tractor as well as a pedal ride-on pink tractor to the Nepean Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Parents Support Inc (NNICUPS) to use for fundraising purposes.

“When my first son Jai was born at Nepean Hospital and then moved to the NICU, the staff did such a great job of looking after my family,” Brian said.

“Everyone plans for a perfect birth but there are so many things that can go wrong with pregnancy and the delivery and when it does, it is the rapid attention

of staff that helps you to get through it. I have always felt a debt of gratitude and thought that if I could ever do something to repay them, I would.”

With the limited edition tractors not available for sale in stores, President of NNICUPS, Carolyn Blake, believes Nepean Hospital will greatly benefit from the funds raised.

“It is a very special donation and a very thoughtful gift. It means a lot to be getting so much support from individuals in the community,” Ms Blake said.

“We will look for the best way possible to maximise the benefit of the gift such as through an auction or raffle.”

Brian remains humble about his donation and said it was just his family’s way of showing appreciation.

“Since 2000, my girlfriend Amy and I have been blessed with three now healthy boys and this is just our way of saying thank you,” Brian said.