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Dinner aids rare disorder research

BRACKEN Ridge not-for-profit organisation BrAshA-T will be holding a Gala Charity Dinner and Memorabilia Auction on Saturday, May 27 at the Kedron Wavell Services Club.

Husband and wife team Sean and Kristine Roebig were told, just 14 months ago, that two of their young children, Brady 4 and Ashleigh 3, had the rare degenerative disorder, Ataxia-Telangiectasia (A-T).

cancers of the blood systems like leukaemia, lymphoma and tumours," she said.

"I have just returned from attending a World A-T conference in Japan and it is hard to explain the awesome feeling of sitting in a room with 250 scientists and researchers from all over the world who work on a daily basis to find a cure for A-

T. There is no cure at present but while the research is continuing we have hope for the future of our kids.

"Receiving a diagnosis of this kind, shatters your world. It effects everyone around us, family and friends."

BrAshA-T will be holding their first major fundraising event, a Gala Charity Dinner and Memorabilia Auction, on

Saturday, May 24 at 7pm at the Kedron Wavell Services Club. Tickets include a two course dinner, entertainment, beer, wine, soft drink, memorabilia and silent auctions and lucky door prizes.

To book a table visit www.brashat.org.au, phone 0416 295 701 or email info@brashat.org.au

-Jessica Train

Determined to do something about their situation, Sean and Krissy created the organisation BrAshA-T Limited to raise much-needed funds for research into finding a cure and as a means for creating a support network for other families dealing with A-T.

A-T first shows during early childhood and affects a number of different parts of the body, particularly the brain and the immune system.

Director Kristine Roebig said A-T was such a rare disease that families felt isolated.

"The goal of BrAshA-T is to change this and let families know they are not alone and someone is fighting for their children's future," she said.

"When our two children were diagnosed with A-T, we were told there were under 20 sufferers in Australia. Since we started our awareness campaign we now know of 35 sufferers."

Ms Roebig said individuals with A-T will need a wheelchair; usually before ten years of age.

"They will need assistance with the activities of daily living and sufferers have a 40 percent higher chance of developing



• Kristine Roebig plays in the park with her three children Ashleigh (left), Brady and Stacey. Ashleigh and Brady both suffer from the rare disease Ataxia-Telangiectasia (A-T).

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