

## SPRINGFIELD'S BOULEVARD BALL COMES TO GEORGIA'S AID

The second annual Springfield Boulevard Ball will make the life a little easier for one special little girl.

The 2008 Boulevard Ball is tipped to surpass the success of last year's inaugural event with over 500 people expected to attend with a Shakespearean "Midsummer Night's Dream" theme.

Money raised from the Boulevard Ball will go to the Mayoress' Community Support Committee, with one of the main beneficiaries being 11-month old Georgia Norris from Springfield Lakes.

Georgia was born with the rare birth defect called Goldenhar Syndrome, which affects about 1 in 36,000 children.

She was born with a birth defect that has left her with only one eye and one ear and other disabilities. Georgia, and her parents Daniel and Renee, will travel to Adelaide to the world-class Australian Craniofacial Unit in mid-February to undergo what will be the start of an 18-year surgical program .

Georgia will initially have surgery to correct her cleft palate, and an expander will be inserted in her skull to help her eye socket to grow for the later fitting of an artificial eye. She will also have grommets inserted to help her ears.

Georgia is likely to require surgery every year to correct her birth defects.

The cause of Goldenhar Syndrome is not known.

Ipswich Mayor Paul Pisasale and Springfield Land Corporation general manager, Bob Sharpless, say helping the Norris family is a real honour.

Georgia's mother, Mrs Renae Norris, said she was overwhelmed when told that Ipswich and Springfield wanted to join forces to help them.

"It's unbelievable that Springfield and Ipswich Council are doing this for us," said Mrs Renae Norris.

"It's very humbling. It's been a shock and really tough in the last year – dealing with Georgia's condition, understanding what it all meant and how we can improve her life.

"While we have had wonderful support from family and friends, this is very special to have this sort of assistance which will take some of financial stress off us in the near future."

Springfield's 2008 Boulevard Ball will be held on February 22 with an enchanting fantasy theme, costumed entertainers, fairy lights, tents and a magical forest sure to make it a memorable night for all.