

Eron's dream comes true

Kiah unites to give Eron Hallinan a dream homecoming

By KATHIE YATES

The smile on Eron Hallinan's face says it all - dreams can come true.

First diagnosed with leukemia in 1992, Eron, 16, progressed well with treatment, however relapsed last October.

When Eron was confronted by SilverDreams Entertainment and asked what her one wish would be, she was quick to ask if she could be returned to her family's home at Kiah, about 25km south of Eden.

For Eron, who has lived with her mother and father at Ronald McDonald House, Sydney for the past eight months, her dream became a reality on Sunday.

Eron's father, John said Eron had counted down the days until her return to Kiah.

"It was like she was waiting for Christmas to arrive," he said. "She just couldn't wait to see her friends."

Mr Hallinan said the family had no idea what it would find when it returned home.

The family's home had been neglected for eight months while John and Linda Hallinan supported Eron through treatment at Sydney's Children's Hospital.

They returned at 2.30pm on Sunday to find their home had a new roof, plumbing and electricity and Eron's bedroom had been fully redecorated.

The garden was in tip top shape and more than 100 friends were there to greet Eron, including well known entertainer Daryl Braithwaite.

"I'm shaking like a leaf, I'm span out!" Mr Hallinan said. Eron was overcome with emotion as his friends, her brother and sisters ran to give her a welcoming hug.

"I can't believe it," she said. "Look at the house!"

Eron ventured inside to take a peak.

"I miss my friends, the river and the cats and dogs," she said.

"I haven't been home for ages and I wanted to

come home so badly."

For a girl who could have had anything she wanted, Eron said coming home to Kiah beat Disneyland any day.

The television production company responsible for coordinating Eron's homecoming - SilverDreams Entertainment is owned and operated by John Dwyer.

A father of five, Mr Dwyer said he was sick of turning on his television to find a constant bombardment of bad news.

"I want my kids and others to see a few happy stories from time to time - stories of hope," he said.

SilverDreams is producing a new program for channel 10, titled "Dreams Can Come True".

The first episode, which features Eron's homecoming is scheduled to go to air around mid September.

While SilverDreams had coordinated the event, Mr Dwyer said the local community was responsible for everything which had been achieved.

"On our part it was easy when you consider most kids ask for a meeting with Michael Jackson or a trip to Disneyland and Eron just wanted to come home."

"This called for a huge community effort to make it a day she would remember.

"All the expenses were met by the people in Eden and the surrounding area.

"Local people donated their time to make Eron's homecoming very special.

"I'm sure Eron's will to win against her illness was boosted today."

While friends had donated their time to help at a working bee, local tradesmen Alan Clarke, Malcolm Terry, Kel Henry and Geoff Cohen, under the instruction of builder Craig Butt, undertook the major restoration of the home.



● Eron couldn't wipe the smile from her face: "Coming home beats Disneyland any day."



● Eron and Daryl pose for the cameras.



● Part of the Dream Team: SilverDreams Entertainment owner John Dwyer.



● They came from near and far to welcome Eron home.



● There were plenty of hugs for Eron.



● By the end of the day it was all just a bit much.



● Happy to help out: The local tradesmen responsible for renovating the Hallinan's home, electrician Alan Clarke, plumber Malcolm Terry, builder's labourer Kel Henry, builder's labourer Geoff Cohen and project coordinator Craig Butt.

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