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**A vibrant happy child helps raise
\$7000 for Cure Kids – Child Health Research**

Nicholas Connal aged 17-months, captured by Howick photographer John Cowan, has won the top prize of a \$5000 family holiday in the 2010 Photokids Portrait Contest Grand Final, judged on the 27th May in Christchurch.

Leilesha, Nicholas's mother, describes him as a very happy child who acts like he looks, and often has people commenting on his outgoing nature. He is Leilesha's and dad Nicholas's third child and has nine-year old twin brothers to play with.

The participants in the Internet based National Final, are selected by public vote from portraits displayed in regional finals at supporting shopping centres throughout New Zealand. The Grand Final is decided by an independent judging panel.

The 2010 Photokids Portrait Contest has raised \$ 7,000 for Cure Kids this year and attracted intense interest around the country. Now in its 25th year the contest has raised over \$350,000 for children's health research.

The concept was first started in 1986, to raise funds for the Child Health Research Foundation that has been conducting life saving research for over 35 years and have helped fund world first breakthroughs in cot death, childhood leukaemia, and cystic fibrosis.

Photographer John Cowan who has now photographed seven National winners has been involved with this contest and Child Health research since 1986.

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2011 contest by phoning John Cowan (09) 534 9163. The contest is open to boys and girls from birth to nineteen years including siblings.

Each participant receives a professional creative portrait session in colour or black and white for a \$30 donation to Cure Kids.

Parents select the image to enter into the contest. The whole donation of thirty dollars goes to Cure Kids for vital medical research.

The photograph shows Nicholas Connal the winner of the 2010 Photokids Portrait Contest with his parents Leilesha and Nicholas and photographer John Cowan who is presenting a cheque for \$7000 to Carolyn Hobson General Manager of Cure Kids.