



Tara brings happiness to children

TARA Panayis may only have one leg but she is happy to go far to help others.

The nine-year-old St Hilda's School student yesterday donated \$1000 to the Gold Coast Hospital children's ward from money she raised selling wrist bands.

The bands were engraved with her motto 'If I can you can', which was meant to encourage people to enter the Gold Coast Marathon.

Tara ran the marathon as junior ambassador for the first time this year – she walked last year – after

having her leg amputated and replaced with a prosthetic limb.

Until the amputation, her leg was so painful from a condition known as 'bent tibia' that it made running too difficult.

No matter how many operations she had, the leg could not be corrected which was why it was better to have it removed.

Her leg bone continues to grow and rub against her stump, and will require another operation within four weeks.

Tara raised money to help the

hospital because it created a great environment for children.

Despite the pain of her regular operations she considered her own visits somewhat of a holiday.

Tara and her sisters sold the wrist bands at shopping centres, cinemas, schools and in the street.

Half of the money will go towards buying herself a new leg while the donated money will be used to buy a new nitrous oxide (happy gas) machine for pain relief.



Tara Panayis, right, with Cassie Panayis try to brighten up Hana Hollingsbee's day in hospital