

2023

Thanks to the team at Oasis and a lot of volunteers putting in plenty of work in the background, **our Melbourne Cup Luncheon was well received**. From funds received through tickets, sweeps, raffles and donations we have made a small profit as well as covering costs for not only one but **two** defibrillators. We had a generous donation from Joanne Ferguson and Frank Granieri to buy the second one which will live on the Coochie Bus - many thanks!

Elizabeth Rankin (president) receiving a donation for our next CellaAED from Joanne & Frank →

Special thanks go to: Jane Beatty for organising, Heather Cooper and helpers for decorating & fashion models, Peter Webb as MC, Gail Webb for fashion parade and donation of jewellery, Peter Lane and staff at Oasis for a lovely catered meal and venue. Also a shout out to Lulu Purnell who donated winnings from the Calcutta race (roll the dice to move horses along the track) - thank you also!



In other news we now have three people on island registered to use the Royal Flying Doctor Service medical chest (Elizabeth Rankin, Jane Beatty and Julie Vegter). We have applied for the chest itself and expect to have that operational as soon as it arrives. Another thank you to Paul Mabon for donating the cost of the medical chest. 🙏 This will give us a completely independent means of responding to anything from a cut to a medical crisis. A registered participant will attend to a patient under the direct guidance of a remote doctor, using the well stocked chest of medical supplies. **Once operational you can call the Coochie Bus booking phone 0437 559 046 any time of day or night to arrange help.** We'll also need to register the RFDS chest with QAS so they can reach out to us during a 000 call if needed.

On another front we are starting to get the word out to health service providers that there is basically *nothing* on the island at the moment, backed by our recent survey and planning session. It's encouraging to know that the SMBI community partnership service - a group from Metro Health South - are currently building a team who can provide a range of medical and mental health services via home visits to the islands, Coochie included. We also have interest from a physio in providing mobile services, and already have Tina Farrimond helping people work through My Aged Care issues. Attending community hub days on Russell or MacLeay is an invaluable source of contacts and help for us in becoming known and finding services.





2024

The consulting room we're hoping for at the Rec Club is currently on hold until council responds to Rec Club request for that change of use, and we have no clear timeframe for that. Like roadworks, 'expect delays'.

Coming at council from another angle, we have set the goal for 2024 of securing council land and grant funding to establish a space with amenities, kitchen, waiting area and one or two consultation rooms - in the form of 2 or 3 dongas with covered deck between. There are many options for pre-existing or custom made amenities & consultation rooms possible.

For next year, you can already book in some dates: we will be holding four Health Hub public information days, all at the Rec Club on a Sunday from 2pm - 4pm (the day after Op Shop):

- Feb 4th
- May 5th
- Aug 4th
- Nov 3rd

If you haven't already we encourage you to become a member. Already we have 92 members; the more we have the more credible we become to government and providers.

thank you for your interest and support so far!

Russell Austerberry on behalf of the team at Coochie Health Hub.

