

COUCH NEWSLETTER

November 2007

Our last update was on 28 August and a lot has happened in the last two months.

The highlight was the Cancer Crusade Charity Walk on Sunday 30th September on the Esplanade with almost 4,000 walkers. Sandy Astill did a fantastic job and Brothers Leagues Club must be congratulated for allowing Sandy to be involved in the organisation of the event. A BIG THANK you must also be given to the many volunteers who worked tirelessly before and during the Cancer Crusade Charity Walk.

At the Cancer Crusade Charity Walk, Warren Entsch and Charlie McKillop announced \$8.3 million dollars for capital works for an Oncology Centre here in Cairns. We have also had a meeting with Nicola Roxon, Shadow Minister for Health and Jim Turnour to ensure we are in fact covering all bases because we believe this is such an important issue for Cairns and the region.

We also met with Desley Boyle, MP who is very supportive to our aims and objectives.

If you attended the Walk then you would have noticed a great looking COUCH sofa on the stage. This was

donated by Mr Patrick Roberts from Upholstery Works. A huge thank you Mr Patrick Roberts.



Our Fundraising activities are too numerous to mention and we don't want to miss anyone out! So a huge thank you to everyone who has emailed, telephoned or spoken to the COUCH Committee members to offer their services to assist in raising awareness and much needed funds. Please keep up the good work. To date, we have raised almost \$200,000.

Charles Woodward, COUCH Chairman flew down to Sydney and went to Wagga Wagga to visit Dr Tony Noun, Group Managing Director of the Riverina Cancer Care Centre. COUCH believes this Centre can be a model for a similar Centre here in Cairns.

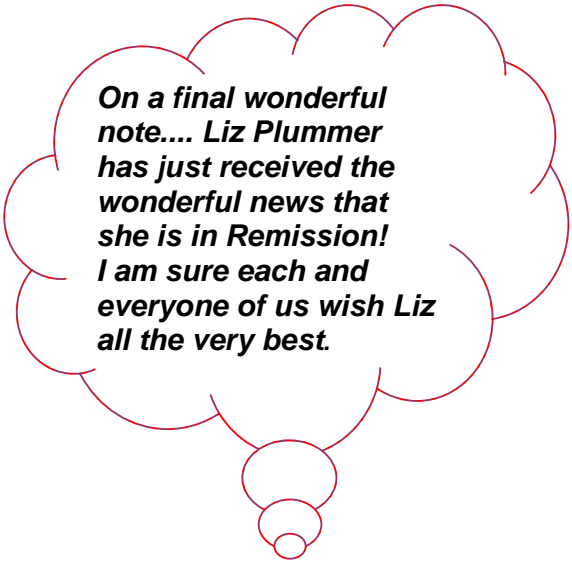
'Committee for Oncology Unit for Cairns Hospital'

Dr Noun flew to Cairns in early October and met with many Queensland Health senior staff as well as talking to senior staff at Ramsay Health.

Since this meeting, representatives of Queensland Health have flown to Wagga Wagga to see first-hand the Riverina Cancer Care Centre. We also have a meeting scheduled with the Hon Stephen Robertson, Minister for Health when the Minister visits Cairns in a few weeks time.

It is possible that the Cancer Care Centre might be a privately run operation in conjunction with COUCH but it would treat both public and private patients. No one will go untreated because they may not have private health insurance.

Helga Biro and Bob McGill recently met with Graham Cook, Director of the Central Pharmacy, Queensland Health in Brisbane. The Hospital is seriously looking at what is possible and they are undertaking a feasibility study on providing Cytotoxic Cabinets to mix chemotherapy chemicals on site at Cairns Base Hospital.



On a final wonderful note.... Liz Plummer has just received the wonderful news that she is in Remission! I am sure each and everyone of us wish Liz all the very best.

'Committee for Oncology Unit for Cairns Hospital'