

THE COMMITTEE FOR LORNE

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LORNE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL



Latest on Our Integration Project



Last week, Marg Cartledge, Board Member of Lorne Community Hospital and Kate Gillan, CEO of LCH, addressed the Committee for Lorne Luncheon to provide an update on their progress on an integration project with Otway Health which was initiated earlier this year.

Back in February, Chairman of the Board, Damien Smith reported: "The Boards of Management of Lorne Community Hospital and Otway Health have now formally committed to exploring further opportunities for sharing of resources and potential partnership in new health initiatives."

This would build on a strong recent history of successful collaboration between the health services such as our current shared CEO, social worker, exercise physiology, project coordinator, post-bushfire mental health services in Wye River and Separation Creek, and common involvement in a grant to support chronic illness.

The communities of Lorne and Apollo Bay belong to isolated coastal villages on a busy tourist route with extreme seasonal population shifts and as a result, face similar challenges relating to accessibility and range of services available, and sustainability of highly qualified staff."

Lorne Community Hospital and Otway Health CEO, Kate Gillan said, "Our communities are responding to current

challenges faced by regional and rural health services, so it's important to ensure we build a strong health system for the future."

The following is a summary of Marg Cartledge's and Kate Gillan's presentation at last week's luncheon.

Background

Lorne Community Hospital (LCH) is unusual in that the service is named for its hospital (like Portland and Casterton). Otway Health(OH) is like most other services and named for its region (Apollo Bay and Otways) rather than its hospital. That distinction aside, LCH and OH have many similarities in coastal location, population size and seasonal variation, clinical challenges, and service delivery and workforce needs.

What has happened since our last conversation?

A great deal has happened. Experienced, independent analysts have had a good look at both Lorne Community Hospital (LCH) and Otway Health (OH), and reported back with authoritative and thoughtful summaries of facts, qualitative observations and recommendations for improvements.

Importantly, and not surprisingly, their findings and recommendations are that both Lorne and Apollo Bay need their own local hospital providing, just as they do now, Urgent, Acute and Residential Aged Care. So, from a hospital perspective it should be business as usual in both towns.

Did they find areas for collaboration or integration?

Yes, they did, and it is quite exciting. Firstly, there are huge benefits to both services from an integration and consolidation of GP services at several locations along the coast. Secondly, closer collaboration on community health care would enable an increase in the

range and quality of services at both towns, especially Lorne which would benefit from Apollo Bay's longer and wider experience in that area.

What happens next?

So far, the process has been one of discovery. In order to formally integrate services, we now need a process that is very purposeful and with clearly stated outcomes/ objectives. So we are finalising a formal memorandum that sets out what each service brings to the table and what we expect to achieve through collaboration. It will also look at some operational issues, compliance and financial aspects.

Notwithstanding the formalities, because the benefits are so profound and immediately doable, we have already commenced integration of GP services. Dr Dave Mullen from our Lorne practice is now seeing patients at Apollo Bay and new doctors and registrars have been recruited to come on stream in the next months. Doctors are excited about being part of a team where they have back-up, where they can share and grow expertise, and which offers sustainability for a career in rural medicine.

Has the community feedback been positive?

As you know, we are trying very hard to be inclusive and transparent and community consultation has commenced in both towns to gauge community attitudes, sensitivities, wants, concerns and so on. To date the feedback is very positive. We encourage anyone who is curious to attend our 'tea talks' and discover first-hand what health services along our Great Ocean Road might look like in the future.

Lorne Community Hospital

COMMUNITY PROFILE



CHERIE OSTA

Have you noticed how 'like new' the iconic shark sculpture looks in Sharky's Surf Shop window?

Well, that's thanks to just one of Lorne P-12 College, multi award winning teacher, Cherie Osta and her team's many VCAL programs.

Much has been written about Cherie's achievements recently (VCAL Teacher of the Year 21017) but she is far more interested in talking about those of her students. She is the totally dedicated, highly motivated coordinator of VCAL (Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning) at the Lorne School – which, by the way, she attended herself for some years. She loves her job and the connection she has with her students and her supportive colleagues. Her energy is endless. Lorne's programs have been so successful that she has been asked to mentor and support other schools, including Horsham and Mildura. She has conducted master classes in Melbourne.

Cherie's family has always had a house in Lorne. She was brought up in an environment where giving back to the community was highly valued. "My mother, Jenifer Collins, has always been a strong advocate of 'hands on giving', from supporting those with addictions on the streets to volunteering in the Lorne Op Shop. She was a wonderful role model to all of us." This is the spirit that flavours Cherie's life, at home and at work. Social justice is the focus of the programs she creates to individually suit her students every year, such as working with The Sisters of Charity and feeding homeless men, being involved with the Arts Festival, renovating the 'Dolls House' and making a documentary of the construction of The Great Ocean Road. "Refugee teenagers have been welcomed into Lorne through the students' initiative to experience our wonderful community and swim in the ocean for the first time". Soon her VCAL students will travel to Alice Springs to work with a group of Aboriginal teenagers who, in October, will make a return visit to Lorne.

"My main highlight has been to witness the incredible link between community and the Lorne VCAL students. Not just financial support but through people's time and energy – sharing stories, experiences and skills". With this community support and providing them with knowledge, personal skills and confidence, she has been able to inspire students into starting their own businesses or work in a profession that they are passionate about.

Cherie says she is blessed to have the opportunity to work with people who are not only intelligent, gifted teachers but who share her passion. "At the end of the day, it's all about my amazing students. I learn as much from them as they do from me".

There would be few of us who couldn't help but wonder what a difference a teacher like Cherie, could have made to our own education and ultimate careers. Nothing wrong with dreaming!

CW

LORNE WARD EVENTS CALENDAR

June

- 23 **Lorne vs Simpson football** and netball, at Stribling Reserve, juniors matches from 9am, seniors at 2pm
- 28 **Lorne Community and Hospital Auxiliary Inc. AGM**, at Lorne Community House at 11am.

COMMITTEE FOR LORNE

A word from the Chairman

What a huge weekend just passed as thousands descended into town for the Queen's Birthday holiday celebration and it was winter Lorne at its best. Sunshine, no wind, mild climate, foreshore markets, local football and netball and bush and beach walks awaiting this is such a great time of the year for our town when Mother Nature continues to "turn it on".

Graeme Wilkie; what an achievement, what a legend!!!! Graeme was honoured on Monday with a Medal of the Order of Australia for his services to the visual arts, and how deserving for such a committed and passionate arts person like Graeme. Growing up in Lorne as a junior it's probably fair to say that there wasn't much going on when it came to cultural activities and many of us had never been exposed to the imagination of the arts world, let alone the type of thinking that Graeme Wilkie exudes and has brought to town.

Lorne has had such a proud past history of great local sports people across so many

disciplines and what Graeme has created in Lorne is an arts culture that never existed over previous generations. We have such an array of brilliant performers across various sporting disciplines of football, netball, surfing and surf lifesaving that include the names of Couper and Lynch on the world surfing stage, footballers of generations past that have played at the highest level to present day local champion Jack Steven having won multiple best and fairest awards at the St Kilda Football Club.

Our town has been so blessed to punch "above our weight" on so many different platforms and I'm sure that Graeme's influence will ensure this continues in the arts world. Graeme's influence on our community has been without peer in the arts world and cuts deep into our community. Who would ever imagined that over a quiet beer at the Lorne Aquatic and Angling Club that sculpture would have ever been a topic of communication, let alone one of their own being a regular "unofficial" exhibitor -

congratulations Graeme.

Amazing where one is at any given time in one's life and I have to share that in my travels I am fortunate enough to be in Singapore, well fortunate I thought until I learnt that the historic meeting between American President Donald Trump and his North Korean counterpart Kim Jong-un was to take place in the same city at the same time and my thoughts of "what may be" and what may we experience began to surface.

Well it was like this, imagine if President Trump was in the Lorne Nursing Home, his Korean counterpart staying at Mantra and myself sitting in my office in Mountjoy Parade that was the geographic picture. How would the coming days play out, what would security be like, would the city be in lock down, what may the talks bring - I'll share with you next week.

Ian Stewart

Chairman - Committee for Lorne