

Website

The Gunnedah Rural Health Centre project continues apace with the latest development being the launch of a website, designed by Maree Kelly. The site should be operational within two weeks and can be found at www.grhc.com.au. It includes information, both detailed and overall, about the project, fundraising ideas and a calendar of events.

Fundraising

The generosity of the local community and its concern for the future health and welfare of Gunnedah are demonstrated by the fundraising ventures that have been staged or are in the pipeline.

About \$16,000 has been collected since Ag Quip which provides further foundation for the centre's planning.

Mercy Associates continue their hard work with sausage sizzles and the proceeds of their stall at the Christmas Fair this month. The CWA's lamington drive, the Upper Namoi Cotton Growers' bowls day and the Courthouse Hotel's Movember initiative are some of the diverse money raising activities.

The GRHC's marketing group is always looking for both novel and tried and tested fundraising campaigns. Please feel free to contact the project manager Kate Perrett on 67423633 or kperrett@barwondgp.org.au if you have some bright ideas and wish to contribute. Any organisation that wants to help might like to list their event on the website calendar.

Some future fundraisers being discussed include a gala ball, a family fun day and a golf day. One idea that requires development is a canoe trip on the Namoi where paddlers would be sponsored, the voyage culminating in a riverbank barbecue. Any club that would be able to assist is urged to come forward.

Funding wait

GRHC must wait until January next year for determination of its \$500,000 application to the National Rural and Remote Health Infrastructure Fund which replaces the previous federal government's regional partnerships program.

Should the grant be successful, it would allow for the next stage of planning, surveying and other start-up costs associated with the project.

Last month GRHC chairwoman Penny Crawford and board member Dr Graham Deane travelled to Canberra to push Gunnedah's case for GP super clinic funding. The Rudd Government has promised eight super clinics in NSW but none in this region.

The delegation reported a positive response from representatives of Health Minister Nicola Roxon and Deputy Prime Minister Julia Gillard along with Labor Senator Joe Ludwig who undertook to raise the matter in the party room.

Charity status

A small but significant step has been taken with the GRHC being granted charity status in its own right. The centre is still waiting for the conferment of tax deductible status and that is delaying the printing of brochures.

Council presentation

Chairwoman Penny Crawford will present another overview of the project to Gunnedah Shire Council. The GRHC board is hoping to obtain a letter of in-principle support from the newly elected council.