

First Aid Report of the 2008 Autumn Festival

This Easter was largely an uneventful one as far as First Aid Emergencies go. One of the best confests for us in the First Aid Tent.

We had the usual feet problems mostly foreign objects sticking into feet and other parts of the body. Plus the odd burn or two but nowhere near what we used to get and a few tummy upsets.

There was a substance that was being sold in the market under the heading of 'Herbal Ecstasy' this put 3 people in the first aid tent and I was told of others who were not quite so bad but had been effected by the substance. It was a liquid and was supposed to give you a high the problem was it made you very sick.

The vendor was asked to stop selling the product and appeared to comply but I think we have a lesson to learn here, someone should know what stores are operating in the market and what the products are. Could this be more closely controlled for the next confest?

There was a falling off of volunteers and we did have a few days where there was a distinct lack of volunteers and there were a few hours where I was by myself.

The First Aid tent itself is in a state of disrepair there are holes in the tarp and the carpet has perished. I believe we are moving for the next confest, could we please have a new tarp for the roof, I will see if I can get some old carpet to bring up next time.

We have purchased some new items for First Aid. We now have a spine board and associated head/body restraints. You may have noticed this was kept at the beach in case of a diving accident.

A new blood glucose monitor, a light device for looking into ears, and a new thermometer which takes temperatures from inside the ear instead of sticking something in the mouth. These combined with the equipment we already have, the oxygen unit, defibrillator, and pulse oximeter plus the first aid kits make us a very well prepared First Aid Room.

Plus we have the services of our emergency nurse Lore who has extras that only nurses can use and of course the expertise and qualifications to put in a line to administer intra-venous fluids etc. very useful in cases of severe dehydration and other events.

We have more clinical expertise and equipment than the local Ambulance Service volunteers. This is very important as the nearest professional medics are about 70-80 kms away.

There was only one black spot in the whole confest and that was doof doof music going all night until 6 o'clock in the morning. Both myself and Lore did not get any sleep that night which wasn't good if we had to attend to anything serious the next day.

We were not impressed with the disturbing, abusive and erratic behaviour of the so called organizer of this event when at 5 a.m he verbally abused Lore when he was politely asked to turn it down. I know a lot of other people complained about the music too.

Can I request that if amplified music be allowed at the next site that it be as far away as possible. We can't move ourselves away from First Aid as we have to be near and on call.

Better still how about a peaceful confest with no amplified music and the drums well out of the way with a curfew.

A big thankyou to Andrea in Bliss Kitchen, Cheryl in Mingles and Cathy in the Arts Village for feeding us once again. The return of the workers kitchen in the Arts Village I believe was a great success it allowed people to come together and discuss problems over a bite to eat.

See you all in the Summer.

Steve Schofield