

COWWARR CHRONICLE

Vol 13/04

April 2013

Dates for the Diary

Sunday 7th. April Regular Landcare Working Bee - Swing Bridge Reserve

Where: Cowwarr Weir

From: 10am

All welcome – see more details in Landcare News.

Sunday 28th. April Cowwarr Primary School Working Bee

Where Cowwarr Primary School

From 10am

All welcome – the major task will be finishing the Chook enclosure, but there a always a few small jobs around the garden that need to be done so, even if you just have an hour to spare there will be something to do.

Cowwarr Primary School News

In its' 136 year history Cowwarr Primary has always been an open and inclusive School so, it was very hard for the Staff and Students to learn about the vandalism which had occurred around the school and even harder to comprehend that some of these stupid acts were perpetrated by people living in Cowwarr. The School Community has always welcomed people to enjoy our playground after school and during holidays and has no wish to turn the place into Fort Knox, but at some expense from a small budget has felt the need to install security cameras.

The Students will be engaging with artist Gavin Roberts on an ambitious project to provide some durable art works for the Rail Trail and around town under the broad title "Flights of Fantasy". So expect the unexpected.

The School has a new permanent Principal after enjoying the presence of Rod Clarke as Acting Principal for a bit over a year. The whole Community thanks Rod for his time here and wish him and his family "ALL THE BEST".

The new Principal is Garry Vear, who is looking forward to moving to Gippsland and it will be great for Cowwarr Primary to have a permanent Head as there is quite a bit of long term planning to be done so Cowwarr grows and prospers into the future.



Notes from the Station April 2013

Fire Restrictions Continue

Rainfall for the Quarter is below average at 67 mls. The 28 day outlook suggests that we have good prospects for rain on only 5 days in April. At this rate the fire danger period should extend until 1-May! But most of the district is much greener than here, prompting suggestions that restrictions could end on April 15. My advice is to defer any planned use of fire until we get some decent rain. But the brigade will need to be ready to turn out to help anyone who gets over-eager. Remember that fires must still be supervised, reasonable precautions taken and neighbours advised.

Planned Burns

The DSE has one more planned burn – the Eaglehawk Creek Reference Area behind Toongabbie – that is one for late Autumn! CFA and Latrobe Shire will be burning Old Walhalla Road and into the private Forest area.

Turning Out in own vehicle

While the plan is for firefighters to assemble at the Station before turning out, it doesn't always happen like that. Sometimes we hope to pick up more crew along the route. Some members drive directly to the incident. That's fine in our primary area, but no good if you end up driving through neighbouring Brigade areas. You need to attract the Tanker driver's attention possibly on UHF Channel 30. Or, if following, overtake and then pull off the road 500 metres in front, so we have time to stop and pick you up.

CFA Training Calendar

Start	End Date	Course Name	Course Code	Location	Nominations Close
17-06-13	06-07-13	ADVANCED PUMPING ENDORSEMENT	END ADV PUMP	CFA TC - WEST SALE CAMPUS	13-05-13
05-06-13	05-06-13	CPR UPDATE	CFA21001	BRIAGOLONG	13-05-13
21-10-13	21-10-13	CPR UPDATE	CFA21001	CHURCHILL	21-10-13
02-05-13	23-05-13	CREW LEADERSHIP	CFA06501	LONGFORD	08-04-13
12-07-13	28-07-13	FIRELINE LEADERSHIP (L-380)	CFA283	TRARALGON	17-06-13
06-07-13	07-07-13	INTRODUCTION TO AIIMS	CFA40401	MAFFRA	17-06-13
07-05-13	01-06-13	SUPPRESS WILDFIRE	CFA293	CHURCHILL	15-04-13

Minimum Skills Training

The current course is progressing well. Students should be ready for testing by the end of April.

If you missed out, there will be another course starting in Winter. Experienced members are being dragooned to assist where required.

Roster

Apr	Duty Officer	Andrew Iseppi	0458 042 565		
Date	Driver	Phone	Crew	Phone	Hydrant
02	Ray Pollard	5148 9305	Denis Reynolds	5148 9336	5
09	Trevor Astbury	5148 9267	Gary Scott	5148 9079	6
16	Dave Smith	5148 9344	Evan Walker	0410 961 300	7
23	Richard Hollonds	0427 489 283	David Johnston	5148 9231	8
30	Andrew Iseppi	0458 042 565	Brian Tyler	0428 399 348	9

Strategic Fire Breaks – Municipal Fire Management & Prevention Committee

The first task for the new MFMP is the update to road-side fire breaks. A draft map will be available in the next few months. The project does not address other significant hot-spots; the rail trail and the SRW channel-banks come to mind, so we'll have a plan initially for roads only, and some indication of who will take charge of each task.

Vegetation Management (VM)

This recently created CFA function superintends roadside fuel reduction by CFA. While canvassing land-holder views, the team has discovered the need for fuel reduction on forest blocks adjacent to public land. Owners are requesting assistance to manage the fire hazard on their property. The VM team is hopeful that fuel reduction can be included when DSE is burning adjacent land. Look no further than the weir estate and offer encouragement to make this happen!

Officer Contacts

		Home	Work	Mobile
Captain	Andrew Iseppi	5148 9339		0458 042 565
1st Lieutenant	Anton Vardy		5142 3371	0417 380 329
2nd Lieutenant	Ken Walker	5148 9000		0429 708 556
3rd Lieutenant	Rob Gibbs			0409 566 320
4th Lieutenant	Veggy			
Comms Officer	Ann Gibbs			0412 085 076
Secretary	Brian Burleigh	5148 9364	5135 5387	0428 864 371
EAS Pager	1800 609 511	Pager Fault		1800 604 977
FIRS	1800 628 844	Vicfire*		1800 668 511

BUSHFIRE INFO LINE 1800 240 667



Cowwarr Landcare Group

Our logo: the Gippsland Water Dragon

AKA Physignathus lesueurii howitti

Catch all our news by following the hyperlink.

<http://westgippsland.landcarevic.net.au/cowwarr>

COWWARR LANDCARE NETWORK

The Landcare group has held its regular April meeting.

The Annual General Meeting will be held next month; office bearers are again sought for a one year term.

The group has been busy looking after plantings at Swing Bridge, and helping out at Rainbow Park. Most of last year's plantings are still hanging on, but would appreciate an "Autumn break".

Our regular monthly working bee at swing Bridge Reserve is on again this Sunday 7th at 10 AM. We have 50 seedlings which need to be planted out, and a small area where the soil may not be baked dry.

We'll get these into the ground and may have to do a follow-up watering on the following weekend.

Further ahead, we're planning to participate in National Tree Day again this year and will conduct a 700 seedling plant-out at Swing Bridge Reserve. Mark July 28th on your calendar.

Additionally, we're planning to open the reserve for public inspection by tour groups in the Spring time-frame. We need to clear and level some tracks and remove dead trees to make the area safe.

So there's lots for everyone to do. Bring your gloves on Sunday and we'll see you there.

Brian Burleigh – el presidente.

Cowwarr Brigade Collection Tins

A big thanks to everyone – the Total collected to Date is a whopping \$1,391.60 for brigade equipment.

Would be more but unfortunately – 50c coins can go in the Pub tin – but we can't get them out!!!!!!

Looks like a job for Burleigh armed with a suitably delicate instrument.

Cowwarr Football Netball Club

The Club is looking for Helpers in the canteen for this season.

There are nine home games this year, the first being the 20th. April.

If you are able to help even just for an hour or so then please ring **Genevieve on 5174 8149** or **Nellie on 5148 9236**.

Thank-you

Bushfire Update.

The old Cowwarr Tip area is still available for affected landowners to place rubbish collected from their properties.

We will be seeing a few groups of helpers around town as some 4WD Clubs and Rotary teams come through to help with fencing and all sorts of other jobs – so if you see them around say hello, shout them a beer or, perhaps a good coffee from the Shop.

Affected landowners should keep in close touch with Wellington Shire staff as from time to time various offers of help do come in and the shire staff can assist in linking up with suitable groups for specific jobs.



Chronicle is Supported by Wellington Shire Council