

COWWARR CHRONICLE

Proudly supported by Cowwarr Fire Brigade

Vol 16/08

August 2016

Fatal Motor Vehicle Accident Ann Gibbs and Ed O'Brien

Sadly as most of you know "crash corner", corner Traralgon Maffra road and Toongabbie Cowwarr road 2km west of Cowwarr claimed a life on Saturday 23rd July in some terrible weather conditions. Due to the accident the road was closed for over four hours. Police, Ambulance, Cowwarr Toongabbie and Traralgon fire brigade attended and worked together. It was a sad and cold job for all involved.

From the fire brigade, THANKYOU..... Thanks to all the football netball crowd that put up with the road blocks and got the word out superfast to allow extra time and alternate routes, thanks to all the local residents putting up with the disruption, thanks to all the emergency services that assisted, thanks to the Cowwarr General store for the coffee, thanks to everyone that has checked in on the volunteers that turned out. THANK YOU.

In case you didn't see, the Traralgon Ladder Platform came out to take photos of the scene for the police. It was great to have it in Cowwarr (even though we would have preferred to have it for a nicer reason)

If you would like to lodge a request that Vic Roads look at the corner where the fatal accident happened on Saturday morning please go to the website below and lodge a request.

It is described as the corner where the Traralgon Maffra Rd meets the Toongabbie Cowwarr Rd 2km west of Cowwarr.

Any message of request will assist getting this dangerous corner made safer.

<https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/contact-us/feedback-and-enquiries>

For updates on getting the road made safer Carolyn Crossley is updating the "Discover Cowwarr" Facebook page

Cowwarr Football Netball Club

Over half way through the season, A and D grade netball and reserves Football are all looking a chance to play finals. Get on board and cheer OUR teams on.

6th August home against Churchill

13th August away against Sale City

Then its finals

Keep up with news of our teams and their finals journey, jump onto the Cowwarr Football Netball Club Facebook page

The canteen is needing some extra volunteers Saturday 6th August, especially in the morning 8.15-10am as some of the regulars are unavailable. We would appreciate your help.

The Cowwarr Community and Historical Association H Hoppner

The Cowwarr Community and Historical Association is now de incorporated and Cowwarr no longer has a community reference group due mainly to Judith and Helen wanting to retire from some community duties...ho ho ho... Over the years CCHA was a great organisation that did lots of good things for Cowwarr for example saving the Church, running the Cowwarr Cutters Cup, negotiating the main street development to stop speeding traffic and improve the main street landscape. This was the organisation behind getting the disabled toilet at the Hall, wrote numerous letters to deal with the dangerous Channel corner (not fixed yet) and Neilsons / Three Chain Road corner (now fixed). And for many years after the Lions Club retired, Judith has responded to the kids Santa's letters to locals and schools all under the CCHA banner. Many other issues and jobs in this community were handled by CCHA but it's our time to move on and let the community of Cowwarr decide what they want. If there is enough interest, then the CCHA could be re incorporated or another community reference group could be started. The choice belongs to this community. Judith and I are here to help anyone interested in forming another group, we just won't take an office bearers position. NOW ITS OVER TO YOU.. the Cowwarr Community. Helen Hoppner 51489214 Judith Stone 51489364

Cowwarr Hall

Our Much Loved Cowwarr Public Hall Receives Grants for Restoration

The Cowwarr Public Hall Committee of Management is delighted to announce we have received \$11,000 for urgent repairs to our much loved Cowwarr Public Hall from DELWP's 'Public Safety on Public Land' grant program.

We appreciate the support DELWP has given to our volunteer committee and our community as we commence the mammoth task of restoring our public hall and thank Tarnia Leeming, Senior Property Officer, Public Land Administration, Gippsland Regional Services, Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning [DELWP] for her support in gaining this much needed financial assistance.

We have also received a generous donation of \$1000 from the Heyfield Lions Club towards the restoration of the Meeting/Reading room and the installation of Cowwarr's WW1 and WW2 Honour Boards.

We have already commenced works on the hall, tackling drainage issues and upgrading and repairing the ageing toilet facilities. The roof gutters are in need of attention and when the building is water tight we will commence repairing the internals.

The Historic 1930 Cowwarr Public Hall is on crown land and managed by a community committee of management answerable to DELWP. The Hall has had an illustrious history in the tradition of the Mechanics Institute of community activities, with many memoirs of dances, weddings and all manner of community events. The restoration project intends to bring it back to life again.

It is an integral part of our built environment heritage and is included in the Wellington Heritage Study 2016 "...as a significant concrete construction a feature of a number of Cowwarr heritage buildings..."

So if you can assist with this community project the committee will welcome you with open arms.

Contact via: <https://www.facebook.com/CowwarrPublicHall/>

Or cowwarrpublichall@gmail.com

2016 PROPERTY VALUATION NOTICES. Judith Stone

Our latest valuation insists that our 1878 all wood Old Bank with 1988 steel/hardiplank extension is worth \$186,000. A totally laughable idea.. The Shire has come up with this by assuming the 2 Lots (4&5) that make up our single title are:-

- a. each the same size and
- b. are suitable for subdivision.

So in their wisdom have valued each Lot separately instead of as a whole of the one Title.

Well, the 2 Lots are not the same size and there is no possibility of being subdivided as the house now occupies both of the original Lots.

Anyone else in a similar situation study your Notice of Valuation carefully and object as we are in the process of doing. You of course HAVE to object on the APPROVED form which you MUST get (by Mail) from the Shire and you have until the end of August 2016 to submit your objection.

If you are not in our situation (think there are about 5 of us collectively) then still check your valuation against like properties as I think you also may find that the new valuation will not compare favourably.

Here are just two reasons why the “value” of your property may have risen above what you think is reasonable.

1. The Shire has changed the designation of what were called “Villages” (Cowwarr) to “Townships” (Heyfield). This means that a different set of criteria is used for valuation based on assumptions that “townships” have more amenities/services. It also means that more Local Laws are applied to Cowwarr eg. – if you want to burn off some garden trimmings you have to buy a permit its call revenue. This change will probably also affect your Fire Services Levy and other charges based on property value.
2. There has been some general changes about properties in adjacent Local Govt. Areas stating that there should not be big differential spikes in the value of like properties over Govt. borders. In other words like properties in Toongabbie and Cowwarr should be about the same value.

None of the above is possible as the three nearest towns to Cowwarr – Toongabbie, Rosedale and Heyfield all:-

- have township sewerage systems – Cowwarr is septic.
- have Childcare/PreSchool/Kindergartens
- have good indoor and outdoor sporting facilities including usable tennis courts, skateboard, netball, cricket etc., facilities.
- have curb and channel to 90% of properties or open drains are spooned regularly
- have 90% solid footpaths

The list of differences could get a lot longer, but all of it adds up to the fact that any “LIKE” property in any of the surrounding townships is going to be of a higher value than in Cowwarr simply because of the level of amenity and the number of properties.

This whole exercise is simply a grab for more money without increasing any “services” by the Shire as all our rates are going to go UP seriously as a result of these new valuations.

Gippsland Plains Rail Trail. Helen Hoppner

From 8th July 2016 a new business will be open in the Historic Glengarry Railway Station. Business days are Thursday till Sunday and public holidays, the new business is called Vintage from Track to Rack and specialises in vintage clothing, accessories and furniture etc... the new proprietor is a Toongabbie lady and her stock for sale is quite spectacular. Pop in and take a peek.. it's like stepping back in time.

HORSES.

Can I appeal to the good senses of all horse owners using the rail trail? We are constantly getting complaints about horses ruining the rail trail and in particular the area from Dawson reserve to Heyfield. If you are a responsible horse owner we thank you for keeping off the track when its wet and keeping the horses to the side of the track. Unfortunately the disrespectful horse owners using the rail trail have not heeded the rules and as a result all hose owners get the blame. If you are on the trail and see any really stupid horse activity then please dont hesitate to call me on 51489214.

CRANE TROLLEY

Finally we have sourced all the bits to re establish the crane trolley next to the GY wagon at Cowwarr...will be in place very soon.

NEW LOGO

After 20 years and an injection of funding, we have decided to change the rail trail logo to better reflect the built trail and the history of the railway line from Traralgon to Stratford. We will also erect historic signs in every station ground over the coming months. The history of every station along the route is currently being researched but if you have anything on the Cowwarr or Dawson stations including pictures, we would really appreciate your help.

Thank you to our local Wellington Shire Councillor, Carolyn Crossley for her energy and enthusiasm for the Gippsland Plains Rail Trail her support is very much appreciated and very valuable .

Helen Hoppner GPRT Committee of Management



News from the station

Obviously the biggest news of the station is the MVA. Once again thankyou community.

Congratulations to Caleb and Kate on gaining their minimum skills, can't wait to have you on the truck
Weekly truck run roster is published at the Cowwarr Store

We have more BA (Breathing Apparatus) qualified firefighters, you might see them training around town.

We were unsuccessful in this years VESEP grant round, we are starting planning for next year already.

We are looking at a second firefighting appliance to help us protect Cowwarr.

We are also looking at purchasing a trailer for the quick fill, if you know of any please let Andrew know.

Cowwarr General Store

Petrol is currently \$1.15 per litre, get it while you can. And due to popular demand the Johnny Cash Burger will be available for the month of August

Cowwarr Art Space

Pezaloom: Dopa-kinesia

5 August - 26 September 2016

Opening Celebration: Sunday 7th August 2-5pm.

Please come and join Pezaloom in celebrating the opening of his exhibition.

Dopa-kinesia, created with the assistance of Kim Anderson in the role of support artist and curator, is a series of experimental self-portraits intended to challenge the many myths and misconceptions surrounding Parkinson's Disease. The title – an amalgamation of “dopamine” and “hypokinesia” – relates to one of the major symptoms of the disease, namely the failure of certain cells in the brain to manufacture dopamine, a substance that allows for smooth, coordinated function of the body's muscles and movement. Pezaloom has immersed his entire body in approximately 160 kilograms of petroleum jelly to represent the heaviness, slowness and restriction of movement he experiences.

This performative act was photographed in the hulking Yallourn Power Station administration building, which now stands derelict and empty. The Latrobe Valley where Pezaloom has always lived is the centre of the brown coal power industry in Victoria, and the strange aesthetic of this environment provides an apt metaphor for the dissonance occurring within his own body with the progression of Parkinson's Disease. Within and without, the beauty and horror exist in a symbiotic relationship, intermingled with fear and a deep love and acceptance of the place as an essential part of his identity.

Pezaloom was supported by Arts Access Victoria, the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria, and the City of Melbourne 2015 Arts Grants Program.

The works toured to:

Bendigo at the Phyllis Palmer Gallery of La Trobe University. 4th - 27th May 2016

Ballarat at The Lost Ones Contemporary Gallery 17th July – 16th August 2015

Federation Square No Vacancy Gallery, 15th June - 5th July 2015

We thank the team at the Phyllis Palmer Gallery, La Trobe University for delivering the works to the Cowwarr Art Space.

Community engagement strategy out for community engagement

Wellington Shire Council is currently seeking feedback on its new draft Community Engagement Strategy. This document guides the way council staff will consult with and inform the community about projects and services. Mayor Darren McCubbin says that community engagement is at the heart of everything council does. “We know when we've done good engagement, because we get better project outcomes and a more satisfied community.” “Independent annual community survey results tell us that our residents are more satisfied with the level of community engagement than the state wide average for similar councils.”

The previous Community Engagement Strategy, adopted by Council in 2011, was prepared following an extensive period of consultation with the Wellington Shire community. Many of the strategy's actions have been completed, however more remains to be done.

The Mayor continues, “we've come a very long way in the past five years, but, and I think residents may agree, we still have some way to go.”

“Whilst we've engaged on many projects well; like the redevelopment of King George V Jubilee Avenue and the closure of Thomson River Caravan Park, there are others we've not done so well with. We need to make sure that we learn from those and continually improve.”

“This Strategy is specifically developed to take it back to basics. To consider how we hold the right kind of conversations with our community; how we listen and how we interact.”

The Mayor concludes, “Your feedback will tell us what you’ve liked, not liked and how you prefer we converse with you. Have your say, keep your conversation going with Council so we can do the most appropriate thing by you and by your rates.”

Community members can have their say on Council’s draft Community Engagement Strategy until 5.00pm on Friday 12 August by completing a simple survey.

More information, the survey and the draft strategy are available online at www.wellington.vic.gov.au/ces or in hard copy at Wellington Shire Council Customer Service Centres and Libraries.

AN ESSENTIAL ASSET FOR COWWARR. Judith Stone

Australia and in particular Wellington Shire could learn a lot from the Pacific Island nations.

From The Kingdom of Tonga, Samoa, Cook Islands, Vanuatu, even little Niue and now Ouvea at both ends of each village, and outside every Church, School, Clinic, Meeting House, Sports Ground or any other public building/place there are:-

SPEED HUMPS

Wouldn’t it be wonderful if we had some at either end of Cowwarr – no more BW gravel trucks roaring through at 6am, no more hoons, people overtaking at speed in the middle of town, everyone just tootling along at a civilised pace making it a lot safer for kids crossing the road to go to school and people just wanting to turn in/out of the footy ground or go to the Pub or Store.

AH BLISS

Anyway Ouvea is a lovely no frills place with wonderful FRESH fish lots of Pacific Ocean to muck around in though, as you can see from the Pic it can be difficult to get a spot on THE BEACH (it stretches for about 18km).



New website for local volunteers

<http://www.volunteeringinwellington.com.au/>

Wellington 2030 Strategic Vision

Direct our journey to 2030!

We are currently renewing the Wellington 2030 Strategic Vision.

A lot has changed since 2008, when the original Wellington 2030 Vision was created. We are keen to hear from everyone on current thoughts about our Shire and hopes for the future.

We would really value your input and ask you to send this invitation onto others.

A website has been set up for the consultation process www.wellington2030.com and it has information on what has changed under the key themes since the 2008 document.

Feedback can be provided through an online survey available on the website www.wellington2030.com

Every survey completed goes into the prize draw for 2 x \$300 Local retailer vouchers!

Three videos, produced locally are available to view on YouTube here:
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLUjFVD1eoGulnz20Poqs2ilzpZqjLMHd3>

These videos are also available on Council's Facebook page (and our Twitter stream).

If you have already seen this information and given feedback, Thankyou!

We are hoping to have all feedback received by Friday 19 August 2016.

For further information, please feel free to contact me on ph 5142 3114 or karen.mclennan@wellington.vic.gov.au

Please send in anything you would like to see in the Chronicle. Deadline for the September edition is 25th August. Email me at cowarr.chronicle@gmail.com Ann Gibbs.

Remember without your news the chronicle can't survive.

If you would like the chronicle emailed directly to your inbox, email cowarr.chronicle@gmail.com



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