

COWWARR CHRONICLE

Vol 12/10

December 2010 & January 2011

IMPORTANT NOTICE

FIRE DANGER PERIOD

The CFA has notified that the Fire Danger Period for Wellington and Latrobe Shires will commence at:-

1am Monday 27th. December 2010

If you require to do any fuel reduction or burns AFTER this date you must obtain a permit from your Shire.

If you need any assistance please contact any of the Brigade Officers Listed on the News from the Shed page.

Dates for the Diary

Pub Opening Times Christmas and New Year

Christmas Eve Open until 9pm – NO meals
Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and Monday 27th.
Open Tuesday 28th. at 2pm

New Years Eve Open until 1am – Schnitzel Night
New Years Day Open at noon



Notes from the Station December 2010

CUTTERS CUP Sunday 5th December

Well, the dust has settled on the Cutters Cup Course – pasture renovation the next move.

The chance to develop rocket propulsion by ejecting mud seemed to fail; had that mass of mud been directed behind the vehicle, I'm sure greater speeds would have ensured, but maybe that wouldn't have been advisable, given the difficulty in turning corners! In spite of the drizzle and overcast weather, the contestants were bold enough to tackle the course. Well done to everybody who helped to make the day a success.

Roster – December

Dec	10	Duty Officer	Andrew Iseppi	0458 042 565			
Date		Driver	Phone		Crew		Phone Hydrant
07		Ken Walker	5148 9000		Maurie Walters		5148 9265 29
14		Dave Kelley	5148 9397		Robin Hoggins		5148 9312 30
21		Simon Mitchell	5148 9384		David Johnston		5148 9231 31
28		Andrew Iseppi	5148 9339		Brian Tyler		0428 399 348 33

Roster Duties

On the Tuesday preceding your roster appearance, the duty officer should contact one of the listed volunteers as a reminder, and to pass on the phone number of the other person. You can then arrange a time to take the tanker for a spin; visit the nominated hydrant and check for workability (and red-backs and snakes, etc.).

On return to station, write a note in the vehicle log book. Please leave a note of any problems encountered. (Like the Hydrants that cannot be found!)

Pager Alerts via SMS messaging

Our brigade has been allocated eight slots for members who would prefer to receive Alert messages via SMS instead of carrying the separate (and additional) pager. If you wish to change from Pager to SMS all you need is your mobile phone. If you return your Pager, then we can allocate it to another member.

Fire Season Briefing

I trust you have all received and Digested the CFA Pre-Season Update and digested the fine print.

Of special note is marking of burned trees with a yellow K to indicate that it will likely fall or drop branches and needs to be kept clear of. The other snippet that Authorities are keen on pursuing is fires of suspicious origin. We're too busy assessing the fire as we approach, but we need to take note of vehicles in the area and people on the fire-ground – they may be fighting the fire; but they might be stoking it!

Fire Hydrants

The last thing you want to have to search for during an emergency is a Fire-plug. Some of our Hydrant markers are getting past their use-by date and we're preparing a list of defects to send to whomever is supposed to be looking after Hydrants.

Tall Grass and Fire Restrictions

While this damp weather keeps up, the start of fire restrictions will be delayed. But the dry land curing of the grass is advancing toward the danger threshold of 70% (in spite of the official figure at Sale being 20%). On a windy day, a fire can still travel through long grass in spite of new growth at ground level. Keep up the efforts to slash grass or convince a herbivore to eat it.

Register a Burn-off: 1800 668 511 Bushfire Information Line 1800 240 667

Officers: Captain Andrew Iseppi 5148 9339
 Lieutenants: Anton Vardy (0417) 380 329 Paddy O'Brien (0427) 088 066
 Steve Felmingham 0429 344 009 and Veggy
 Secretary: Brian Burleigh (03)5148 9364
 Treasurer: Ann Scott (03) 5148 9079

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Due to recent issues on the rail trail, the Gippsland Plains Rail Committee of management would like to make the local community aware of our obligations managing Crown Land. While we have volunteered our time and effort for almost twenty years, there are still some people who continue to break the law and have caused damage to the trail asset. Motorised vehicles are continuing to dig up the trail surface and deposit mud across the Rainbow Creek Bridge, illegal building waste dumped on the trail which has been sorted out by the appropriate authorities, and fences being pulled down on the Rainbow Creek chicane. As the trail progressively is constructed and more people use it, these matters are brought to the committee's attention and as we don't have the resources at hand to deal with them, in the future we will call on the authorities to administer the law for those who insist on breaking it.

While the Committee of Management continues to move ahead and negotiate with the community on trail development issues, we will leave those with the legal power to deal with offenders. If you have broken the law or intend to continue to cause damage to the trail assets, then expect that you will be prosecuted.

On a happier note, we have constructed the chicanes at the top of the trail at Cowwarr on both sides of the road and will continue with the chicanes at Afflecks Road intersection in the next few weeks. This means not having to stop and open gates which has been a concern for local trail users. -it also means wandering animals will escape so the adjacent landholders with poor fencing please be aware.

And we do have a Coalition Government pledge of \$800,000 to assist with the replacement of bridges over the Latrobe River Floodplains which is terrific. We are currently working through that issue and expect some good results in the new year. Finally we are relying on the community to continue to report any illegal activity on the trail to the authorities. Due to the length and demographics of the trail, we cannot check daily on every section and do appreciate those who keep us informed of issues arising. We thank you sincerely for your efforts.

Helen Hoppner GPRT COM Chairperson

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