

COWWARR CHRONICLE

Vol 13/02

February 2013

Dates for the Diary

Wednesday 6th. March Cowwarr Landcare 1st Meeting BBQ at Weir

Where: Cowwarr Weir

From: 6:30pm

All welcome – see details in Landcare News on the *Back Page*

Saturday 26th. March Maffra Mardi Gras.

Where: Maffra

Beth Ripper is standing as the Maffra Landcare and Gippsland Plains Rail Trail entrant in the Maffra Mardi Gras. The idea is to get as many people in the Communities along the trail to help raise funds which will be directed back to the towns – for Rail Trail/local Landcare projects.

Beth is holding a number of events (some free) and a raffle. Raffle books can be picked up from Helen ring 5148 9214.

A calendar of various events and more info is on page 3 and a number of copies of the details of venues/costs are at the Shop.

Wellington Shire Tender for Three Chain & Neilsons Roads Intersection Upgrade.

Wellington Shire has called for contractors to tender for an offset intersection at Three Chain and Neilsons Roads.

The work will include drainage, 250m kerb and channel, sealed pavement and signage.

There have been a number of accidents at this intersection and CCHA is pleased that something is to happen to increase visibility and hopefully make people slow down on Three Chain Road.

Unfortunately GPS systems still seem to direct people going to Heyfield along this road and the drivers seem to think they are competing in the Grand Prix (the x is pronounced).

Next stop – to still agitate for VicRoads to do something about the Traralgon-Maffra and Weir Roads Corner.



Notes From the Station - February 2013

Too much excitement for one summer! Cowwarr dodges another bushfire (or two). Once again, Cowwarr avoided the fire front thanks to irrigated pasture and a timely wind change. The Weir and Toongabbie have avoided trouble (thus far) thanks to DSE holding their control line on Stoney Creek Road and across Deep Creek to Walhalla. Heyfield narrowly avoided being over-run by persistent hard work from crews on the ground (and air support is always appreciated). Not so lucky for Glenmaggie, Seaton and Dawson! But no one should get too comfortable until we have a decent rainfall and the medium term forecast indicates no significant rain for February. Our thanks to everyone who helped out over the duration of the emergency.

Remain alert, but not alarmed and not downright paranoid.

Some Essential Learning from last Saturdays' (2-February) event.

- Air support stops a grassfire quicker than a tanker.
- **Private fire-fighting slip-on units make a big difference in pulling up a grassfire – thanks to all who turned out and lent a hand.**

Strike Team Duty Roster

February 18th approaches so we should be prepared to crew the tanker and be sent elsewhere, as well as remaining vigilant at home.

Our Facebook Page

Ephemeral and sometimes useful stuff from our fire-fighters. Just search for Cowwarr CFA and become our “friend”.

Reckless use of fire and Arson

The constabulary are under orders to catch anyone breaking the fire restriction regulations. Taxpayers funds have even been spent producing glossy A2 posters. We've had three local ignitions investigated, and thus far either our purported arsonist is smarter than a team of fire investigators, or CFA issue boots have trampled the evidence at the ignition point. We're supposed to identify and protect the ignition point, but sometimes in the thick of the fire-fight, it may not be our top priority.

Training.

No CFA list of courses yet, but we will be running a minimum skills training course starting on February 27th at Cowwarr Station at 7 PM. About six two hour evening sessions, some familiarization with the tanker, and written and practical tests to follow – get onboard.

Bushfire Information Line 1800 240 667

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

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COWWARR LANDCARE NETWORK

Meeting schedule for 2013.

We meet on the first Wednesday of each month, except for June, August & January.

So, you've missed our first meeting for this year and we've decided to replace our March meeting with a BBQ at the Weir.

BBQ at the Weir 6:30 PM – we'll plan anything to attract rain – in which case an alternate venue will be required. Members and fellow travellers invited. Bring a salad or dessert to share and RSVP to Roslyn by Feb 28th.

And we can finish up with tea/coffee, and BYO liquid refreshment.

Working bee at Swing Bridge Reserve.

We gather on Sunday after the monthly meeting to perform maintenance at Swing Bridge Reserve. This Sunday 10th. we'll be watering our plantings of last July.

Our thanks to HVP for slashing the grass on the reserve. Now we can see the weeds, but now we have to wait for rain before we can spray them. And we have about 300 raised by Cowwarr Primary School students seedlings ready to plant out as soon as we have that significant rain.

Rainbow Park

We did not want to take the lead on this one, but we have done a couple of waterings and transferred old hay bales ex Cutters Cup to use as mulch. We have also weeded the School plantation. If there are any residents interested in the Rainbow Creek Park then please feel free to spend an hour just pulling a few weeds and putting out some mulch. For more info contact Brian on 5148 9364.

Fox's Road

Wellington Shire is suddenly, post election, less negative about the proposal to open this road for non-vehicular traffic. And our plantation is coping with the dry conditions.

National Tree Day

We'd like to be involved again, so we're looking for funding to increase the plantings at Swing Bridge Reserve unless someone else has a project planned. That'll be coming up at the end of July.

Watch for breaking news on our website

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



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