

COWWARR CHRONICLE

Vol 2/09

February/March 2009

Ed. Note – Things got a bit busy in February so this edition covers February and March.

Dates for the Diary

Wednesday 25th. March Cutters Cup Planning Meeting.

Where: Pub

From: 7:30pm

The February meeting was postponed so this one is important so tasks can be planned and allocated everyone welcome.

Other Important Stuff

Bereavement Thanks

On behalf of the Hollonds family, we would like to thank the community of Cowwarr who have offered help, sent cards and flowers, telephoned, visited, baked wonderful dinners and who have generally supported us during the past weeks since Andrew's death. A very special thanks also to the players and committee of the Cowwarr Football Club for their generous offer to hold the wake and to Gary Blair for the tireless hours you put in to assist with funeral preparations. We cannot express how grateful we are to be a part of this community and please accept this as our personal thanks. Richard and Penny Hollonds.

Proposed Removal of Payphone from Cowwarr

It is still not too late to write or phone through objections to the proposed removal of the payphone.

Write to: Mr. Kevin Gasparini
Telstra Payphone Siting Manager
Locked Bag 6658
Sydney 2001

Or Phone: 1800 011 433

The more objections the better as many people who either do not have a mobile phone or have one that doesn't work well in rural locations need to use the phone.

News from the Shed – February/March 2009.

Black Saturday – Part of the Cost of Living in Victoria

The combination of low rainfall, heat-wave, a hot northerly wind and any spark is something we all dread. And we all know why. Our sympathy to the families of those who perished, our condolences to relatives; our best wishes to the survivors, and our generosity toward the relief and recovery effort. Communities have to better understand "living near the bush" if a repeat performance is to be avoided. It must be admitted that the CFA and Statewide fire-fighting resources were no match for the fire-storm of February 7th – nor can we ever be! (Short of eradicating forests!!) There are several toasted tankers and some injured firefighters, but the CFA training and precautions for a burn-over appear to work! We've had a busy three weeks, and we're hoping for a change in the rainfall pattern.

Andrew Hollonds - RIP

Members were shocked to hear of Andrew's demise; a floral tribute was sent on behalf of brigade members and several members attended the funeral.

Cutters Cup

The dust has long since blown away, and the proceeds of \$2,500 from the day graciously received from the organizing committee and tucked away at the bank!

Now we have to rehabilitate the pasture and get the paddock ready for the next event. We're sticking with the first week in December as our preferred date.

The funds will be directed to the Station facilities upgrade.

Strike Team Dates – Strike Team 1006.

Our Strike Team Roster still has us allocated for the weeks commencing 30-March and 18-May. We'd like soaking rain before those weeks, please. Otherwise, please consider your availability for either a four day, one day or one night engagement on Strike Team. Lots of our members have other commitments which preclude their participation, so, if you may be available, we'll keep you in mind when the turn-out is requested. If Region is requesting the event, we may get an administrative Pager message, otherwise we will be working the phones until we get a crew together. One item that needs work is a procedure to pass strike-team requests on the members who do not have a pager.

Bushfire Information Line 1800 240 667

Officers:	Captain Andrew Iseppi	5148 9339
Lieutenants:	Anton Vardy	(0417) 380 329
	Brian Burleigh	5148 9364
Sec/Treas:	Stacey Shepley	(0417) 595 905
	Paddy O'Brien	(0427) 088 066

FROM THE PUB.

For some time now we have been contemplating retiring from the hotel and building a house in Cowwarr. We now have the hotel on the market of which you will see more in the local papers in weeks to come. After almost nine years in the industry and all our lives in private enterprise it is time to move along. Our marketing strategy is to try and convince a family to buy the hotel which would be good for the school and the town. But if you think you might like to seriously consider buying the pub then let us know and we will point your nose in the right direction.

We will stay on in town and still be actively involved in community affairs and will be creating a business venture with the church we recently purchased.

Business will be as usual until we move along so don't forget to book for Friday night dinners on 5148 9233.

OTHER STUFF

RAINBOW CREEK BRIDGE COWWARR.

Finally the bridge has been completed and now we are working on the track from the Rainbow Creek to the Thompson. Unfortunately we have had reports of vehicles accessing the bridge and rubbish dumped in the area. As a result we will be erecting chicanes and gates on the end of the bridge and we ask that people learn to take their rubbish away with them. Restriction signs will also be placed at each end of the bridge for public safety.

The Rail Trail committee is also very concerned that local kids are jumping and diving from the bridge. The bridge was not designed for that and it is a clearly dangerous activity. Should someone come to grief off the bridge, we would be put in the unenviable situation of closing it down. Could parents please ensure that kids are aware of the dangers of diving from the structure..in my role fundraising for Variety, the children's charity, I would hate to think of having to find a wheelchair for a local with spinal injuries.

Please apply some commonsense when in the bridge area.

We are hoping to have the trail to the Thompson River finished soon, so it will give locals another recreational walk to and from town. We will notify everyone as to the official opening of the bridge and trail...we hope to have a community BBQ to mark the event.

We are also working with the local Landcare Group to volunteer their time to control weeds and plant trees providing we can access funds.

The bridge and another section of trail will bring more people to Cowwarr and we hope they put pressure on the powers to be for funds to connect the trail to Heyfield.

AGAIN the Committee advises that the Rail Trail **IS NOT** available for motorbike or any other motorised vehicle and can only be used for **PASSIVE RECREATION**.

Landcare News.

At our last we met with representatives of Southern Rural Water and Lake Wellington Landcare Network to thrash out some planning issues and discuss our proposed takeover of the weed infested block next to the Weir which we hope to convert to a wetlands and passive recreation area. Obviously we need to secure funding and are working towards this end.

Things move slowly but we seem to be progressing and looks like we could get funding for the 1st. stage which is to get rid of the weeds. We plan to use this stage to also continue our ongoing project of weed eradication along the Rail Trail.

WHEN we get some decent **RAIN** (whatever that is) we hope to get some plantings established along the Trail and at the Weir.

Cowwarr Landcare meets at the Hall on the 1st Wednesday of each month from 7pm – everyone is welcome.