

# COWWARR CHRONICLE

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Vol 13/01

January 2013

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HOPE EVERYONE HAD A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND WISHING  
YOU ALL A GREAT 2013.

## Dates for the Diary

### Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>. January Rainbow Park Working Bee.

Where: Rainbow Park

From: 10am

The latest flood naturally deposited a large (and varied) number of weed seeds when the silt was left behind. The weeds have grown well and are very easy to pull out of the soft silt. The purpose of this working bee is to get them out before they seed and to mulch around the new tree plantings. Brian Burleigh has transported all the old small hay bales used for the Cutters Cup down to the park, but if anyone has a low trailer there is a pile of very rotty hay left at Andy Iseppi's place which would be great for mulch.

If you cannot make it on Sunday and wish to help, just go down to the park any time and do a bit of weeding and mulching – it is just a case of continuing on where we left off.

### Saturday 26<sup>th</sup>. January Australia Day Breakfast and CFA Presentation

Where: Cowwarr Public Hall

From: 8am

Come along and have a great breakfast, a good gossip and the fun of the lolly scramble. The Cowwarr Primary School 2013 leadership team will raise the flag and it is a great chance to talk informally with a Wellington Shire representative.

A cheque from the last Cutters Cup Lawnmower Race event will be presented to the CFA.



## Notes from the Station January 2013

### ONE HOT DAY DOES NOT A SUMMER MAKE!

We managed to keep the tanker in the shed on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> January. Well done to our whole community; you must be doing something right; thank you for taking notice of the warnings and observing the Fire Ban restrictions. However, summer's not over, and our good fortune probably won't last. With next to no rain forecast in the 28 day outlook period, and at least one stinker per week, we have to maintain readiness until the Autumn break. We've made it through our second week of Strike Team duty without being called on. Our next weeks commence 18-Feb and 8-April. Lets hope it rains before then!

### PREPARATION FOR SUMMER FIRE SEASON

For those who drive toward the Valley, the roadsides will have been noticeably fuel-reduced; that will make stopping a fire there so much easier. We'll be providing positive feedback to VicRoads on their contractor's thoroughness. On a less positive note, very few paddocks appear to have ploughed or mowed fire breaks. I trust your fences are well insured because when the CFA thinks about asset protection, your fences are at the bottom of the priority list!

### CUTTERS CUP Sunday 2 December

The dust was raised and has settled somewhere else in the Iseppi paddock. Pasture renovation will be required to re-level the paddock – we'll be waiting for the Autumn break. We'll hope to hear more about the allocation of the proceeds at the Australia Day Breakfast.

### New Members

Take a look at the roster: names are repeating too frequently! We need to be training younger members for next year because most of our team will be needed for incident management roles. Remembering that we all have commitments to family, work, home and possibly a business; then we make time for community service and finally leisure pursuits are relegated to the bottom of the list. Within that community service slot, some will serve through the CFA brigade; if only because a small fire contained to your place is better than a big fire contained at my place! So we're searching for the few younger people who settle in the district, but we'll train youngsters who might be considering a life on the land, and anyone who is prepared to put in the training effort to get and stay up to speed with our fire-fighting methods and equipment. If the cap fits, expect a solicitation from our recruiting officer!

**Please note:-** PAMELA will be at the Scotts' for the Summer

### TANKER ROSTER

This rostered activity is designed to keep you familiar with Tanker operations, and to provide a check on the workability of our 38 Hydrants. So, coordinate a suitable time with your partner, and take the tanker for a 30 Km warm-up. We're asking you to choose a time other than Tuesday evening, as we're using the tanker for training activities.

| Jan  | Duty Officer   | Anton Vardy  | 0417 380 329   |              |         |
|------|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|---------|
| Date | Driver         | Phone        | Crew           | Phone        | Hydrant |
| 01   | Simon Mitchell | 5148 9384    | Denis Reynolds | 5148 9336    | 31      |
| 08   | Ray Pollard    | 5148 9305    | Gary Scott     | 5148 9079    | 32      |
| 15   | Trevor Astbury | 5148 9267    | Evan Walker    | 0410 961 300 | 33      |
| 22   | Dave Smith     | 5148 9344    | David Johnston | 5148 9231    | 34      |
| 29   | Anton Vardy    | 0417 380 329 | Brian Tyler    | 0428 399 348 | 35      |

## Bushfire Information Line 1800 240 667

### Officer Contacts

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



## **INDIAN MYNAH BIRD ERADICATION PROJECT.**

All over Australia, Landcare and other Community Groups are involved in trying to eradicate this bird by trapping and humanely killing them.

The Indian Mynah (pictured) was introduced into Australia in the 1860s and later, to apparently eat insects affecting various horticultural crops with little or no success. The bird however has flourished and is severely threatening our native birds.

Indian mynahs are very aggressive and will take over nesting hollows, nests and will eat eggs and attack chicks especially of small birds like the Blue Wren, honeyeaters, robins and whistlers etc.

They are essentially scavengers and will eat anything from rubbish, food scraps, dry dog and cat food, chook pellets through to all sorts of soft fruits – tomatoes, figs, plums and berries etc. – especially when rotten fruit has fallen to the ground.

Like all birds, mynahs have excellent food mapping skills and will accurately turn up at your place just when the particular item they like to eat from your garden is ripe or, they will visit daily to sample dog, cat or chook feed which is left outside. They also check out sporting, picnic and school grounds for that bit of sandwich/pie that didn't make it to the rubbish bin.

Over the Christmas/New Year period a single trap was trialled at 2 properties in Cowwarr. Two birds were caught at the first property (cat food) and 9 birds at the second property (figs).

As a result 4 traps have been ordered and will be available to residents of Cowwarr and surrounds – for free - who have a family of mynahs visiting their property on a regular basis.

If you would like to participate in this program:-

1. Take a bit of time to work out what the mynahs are eating at your property because this is what you will use to bait the trap.
2. Ring Judith on 5148 9364 and place a booking for a trap.
3. When you get the trap clean up the food the mynahs are eating and use it to bait the trap.

Please dispose of any trapped birds humanely – gassing, (car exhaust) drowning or neck stretching.

The experience over the trial period showed that mynahs are either very close to family members or don't like one member getting something they don't also have. The family of 6 birds trapped at the second property followed the first bird into the trap one after the other.