

COWWARR CHRONICLE

Vol 13/06

June 2013

Dates for the Diary

Sunday 9th. June Cowwarr Landcare Working Bee AND Raffle draw for Trailer of Wood

Where Swing Bridge Reserve Cowwarr Weir

From 10am

Final chance to get some Wood Raffle Tickets from the Shop or Brian on 5148 9364. The working bee will focus on probably our last chance to kill weeds (weather permitting) and to prepare tracks for public tours in Spring – everyone is welcome.

Sunday 23rd. June Update Cowwarr Community Plan

Where: Cowwarr Public Hall

From: 3pm

Afternoon tea/coffee or BYO something stronger – come along and have a talk about what WE want for Cowwarr in the next 4-5 years and get OUR Plan updated so it can be presented to Council. Sort out if we want to apply for any infrastructure funding and also set-up the future of Rainbow Park - plus anything else that comes to mind.

See Report from Council Meeting on the last page

Wednesday 26th. and Friday 28th. June Flights of Fantasy Cowwarr Primary School

See Page 4 for more information

Friday 28th. June Cowwarr Primary School Trailer of Wood Raffle Draw

Where: Cowwarr Primary School after BBQ lunch

Local Emergency Action Plan – LEAP

If you have not registered your interest with Sue Rogers please do so soon.

Either contact her by ringing her at Latrobe City on 5128 5764 or by email sue.rogers@latrobe.vic.gov.au this is an important planning initiative that we should all be involved in having a say.



Notes from the Station June 2013

Free Dinner with Health check thrown in - for members only – RSVP required ASAP to David Farmer 0427 924 416 or (03) 5192 4416

Wednesday 12th June CFA is hosting FREE health checks at Heyfield fire station. They will check your cholesterol, blood sugar and blood pressure and give you a health assessment, followed by dinner! Starts at 5.30pm, let me know if you need more details. (This is for CFA members only!) Thanks Ann; I snitched this from the Facebook page.

Planned Burning – the view from On High

Project Manager Zoe Toogood advises about a project (with VFBV and DEPI) aimed to increase CFA participation in planned burns. This will provide opportunities to extend CFA involvement in planned burns to areas that are not necessarily close to communities but provide for significant community protection as well as to increase participation in local burns. **CFA Vegetation Management Officers** are a key to provide planning support for local brigades and link them with DEPI and other partners and local government. Interim figures for the autumn burning season show that CFA has assisted DEPI with:

- more than 97 planned burns (approx. 17,500 ha) on public land across the state. (This is approximately 23% of the 422 planned burns undertaken by DEPI over this period).
- CFA's support has been provided through 177 brigades providing a total of 191 tankers; 77 slip-ons; and 736 crew.

CFA's current capacity to capture and report on planned burning data needs improving. We are upgrading of CFA's Fire and Incident Reporting System (FIRS) and the piloting of a new GIS system to map, plan, report and track vegetation management treatments (including planned burning). An interim Resource Request System was introduced in April 2013 in an effort to formalise DEPI requests for CFA personnel for planned burns on public land.

Additional actions for the future include a survey of the availability and attitudes of CFA volunteers to planned burning; consultation with various CFA and DEPI personnel on the issues and opportunities for increased involvement in planned burning; and consideration of the legislative framework and operational risk associated with increased planned burning. The project steering committee includes CFA, DEPI and VFBV.

Leadership Challenge 2014:

Manager Training Delivery Craig Ferguson has circulated information about the *Challenge 2014*. Challenge is an annual 12-day leadership development program specifically designed to maximise participant involvement and leadership skill development through team building activities; a personal development program and adventure based activities. In my discussions with CFA members who have participated in Challenge in previous years, many say that it was a "life changing experience". Challenge 2014 will run from **Saturday 11 January to Wednesday 22 January 2014**. *Challenge 2014* brochures have been sent to Brigade secretaries. Challenge application forms, application guidelines and the brochure can all be found on Brigades Online. Applications must be submitted to the applicant's Brigade Captain by **Friday 26 July 2013**.

TRAINING

CFA Training Calendar

Start	End Date	Course Name	Course Code	Location	Nominations Close
21-Oct	21-Oct	CPR UPDATE	CFA21001	CHURCHILL	21-Oct
12-Jul	28-Jul	FIRELINE LEADERSHIP (L-380)	CFA283	TRARALGON	17-Jun
6-Jul	7-Jul	INTRODUCTION TO AIIMS	CFA40401	MAFFRA	17-Jun
4-Jun	29-Jun	SUPPRESS WILDFIRE	CFA293	MAFFRA	13-May
6-Jul	7-Jul	INTRODUCTION TO AIIMS	CFA40401	MAFFRA	17-Jun
12-Jul	28-Jul	FIRELINE LEADERSHIP	CFA283	TRARALGON	17-Jun
13-Oct	13-Oct	MANAGE INJURIES AT	CFA338	BOOLARRA	23-Sep
21-Oct	21-Oct	CPR UPDATE	CFA21001	CHURCHILL	21-Sep

Minimum Skills Training

The Autumn course is concluded. Well done to those who lasted the distance. Now we need to get you kitted out and through some live fire exercises so you can get used to working with a crew from the tanker.

Roster

June	Duty Officer				
Date	Driver	Phone	Crew	Phone	Hydrant
04	Kim Hoggins	0428 514 566	Doug Steley	0408 754 250	14
11	Simon Mitchell	5148 9384	Stacey Iseppi	0409 709 361	15
18	Ray Pollard	5148 9305	Robert Clarke	0423 062 590	16
25	Brian Burleigh	0428 864 371	Ann Gibbs	0412 085 076	17

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

REGISTER A BURN- OFF **1800 668 511**

Gippsland Plains Rail Trail Progress Report.

Well, we have finally finished the Trail upgrade from Cowwarr to Glengarry and it is being used frequently which is great to see. In the next few weeks you will see some more action around the Cowwarr area of the trail. Safety chicanes will be erected on both sides of the trail on the main road at Cowwarr and an information shelter directing users to the town businesses and toilets. We have also erected **temporary signs** at the Cowwarr/Heyfield Road diverting people to Dawson via the Seaton - Dawson Road. We are currently lobbying politicians for funds to build a bridge over the Thompson River and would appreciate any support for this if you are speaking to your local politicians. As we all know, the bridge over the Rainbow Creek was a very expensive item and I am sure the Thompson will be just as expensive so bear with us while we chase up support. Tim Bull is the man to lobby as the River is the border of his electorate. We have also started work on the Latrobe River bridge engineering and expect to have tenders back soon. This is an important section for the Gippsland Plains Rail Trail connection as it will feed users out to this area. In September we will start to connect Dawson to Heyfield and upgrade to Tinamba which will be finished in October/November weather permitting. The Cowwarr Primary School are about to undertake an arts project on the trail which is fantastic and will be a feature on the trail close to Cowwarr and the students will also be planting trees in a Habitat for Small Birds Project using local plants they have raised from seed. We also have a team from Conservation Volunteers to clean up the old platform site soon. Thanks to the very positive comments from both locals and users coming in to Cowwarr ..and please report any issues to me including remedial works that need to be done, vandalism, illegal use of the trail including machines and motor bikes and of course any great ideas you would like us to undertake in the future, Thanks Helen 51489214

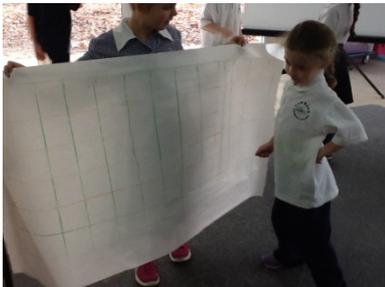
Flights of Fantasy

The Flights of Fantasy project is now in full swing. Our project facilitator, Gavin, has been extremely impressed with the children's level of enthusiasm.

Each child has designed their own and unique bird, then walked the Rail Trail to see where their bird will fly.



Then it was creating models which could be scaled up onto large grid paper in preparation for the final transfer to the large blue barrels.



We are now calling out to all parents and community - please if you have any blue plastic farm barrels not being used could you please send them to the school.

In the up and coming weeks the children will continue to work alongside Gavin creating and sculpting their very own flight of fantasy which we will all be able to admire for years to come developing strong and purposeful sense of belonging to their local environment and community.

Please try and keep Wednesday June 26 free, for we would love our families and community to be involved to help and support the children in planting native grasses, dig holes and pour concrete, in preparation for the grand opening Friday June 28.

Flights of Fantasy Grand Opening Friday June 28

12:15- Walk to rail trail.

12:30- Walk the trail.

12:45- Walk back to school.

2:00- School finishes for Term 2.

12:20- Opening speeches.

12:40- Children read Flights of Fantasy poetry at the bridge.

12:50- BBQ Lunch at Cowwarr PS. Whole community gathering.

Gayle Coleman

REMINDER – REMINDER - REMINDER

Don't forget the Trailer of Wood Raffle Draw at the School after the BBQ Lunch

TICKETS \$1

AVAILABLE AT THE SHOP OR AT SCHOOL

Wellington Shire Community Representative Groups Meeting 30th. May 2013 –J. Stone.

A combined Community Representative Groups (CRG) meeting was held at Wellington Shire to discuss the next phase in the evolution of this concept. This is a brief report on proceedings.

Some of you may remember DLAGs (District Leisure Advisory Groups) or perhaps DANs (District Advisory Networks) and that they then morphed into CRGs. When CRGs were first formed their first task was to prepare Community Plans. These were quite lengthy documents and contained ongoing issues about just about everything that was wrong in the town, to what the community wanted. Some of the items in our plan included the streetscape, street lighting, town entrance signage/mowing, Rainbow Park and the playground area – all of which have had considerable time/money spent on upgrading them.

CRGs are very diverse some are like CCHA made up of anyone who is interested, some are Ratepayers Associations etc., and everything in between.

As Wellington Shire structure changed so did the role of the CRG and when Cowwarr did the first update to our plan some years ago the emphasis was more on the future of the town, not current problems so again the focus was on street amenities (seats/bike racks etc) and a few big ticket items like the corner of Weir & Traralgon-Maffra Roads remained high on our list.

Well, again the Shire structure has changed somewhat and there is an emphasis on a more interlocking planning process and a two pronged approach to ongoing maintenance/infrastructure issues and the vision of Wellington into the future.

So the name CRG will change as will their role in the community. A few names were tossed around at the meeting and a decision will be made soon.

To this end Customer Action Request System (CARS) has been implemented to deal with issues like road/ roadside problems, infrastructure maintenance in general (footpaths/drains etc.) and all the items which are now not part of a Community Plan. Any ratepayer or the CRG can lodge a CARS form which will be actioned in conjunction with the Shire budget. These are no longer seen as Community Plan items.

The future (new name) CRG will be mainly concerned with the Community Plan, aimed at planning for the future and being a conduit for information to and from the Shire plus help to facilitate community involvement in various activities and/or initiatives the community has indicated are important.

The get together on Sunday 23rd. June at the Hall at 3pm is all about starting this process. Namely getting our Community Plan updated – sorting out some issues with Rainbow Park – and getting everyone to have their say about where we want to be in 4-5 years.

This is not just a talkfest – if we don't take ownership of the future of Cowwarr then Wellington Shire isn't going to be very interested in supporting us and why should they!

Hope to see everyone there.

Judith



Indian Mynah Bird Eradication Program Update.

Looks like we are coming to the end of the season for this year.

Congratulations to Mary O'Brien for winning the inaugural Mars Bar for the first to trap over 100 birds, followed by Burleigh with a steady 44 and David Johnston credible at 35. There were also a few 4's and 6's but as this is NOT cricket they are just going to have to lift their game.

Anyone wishing to return their CCHA traps please give Judith a ring on 5148 9364 and we will pick them up.

The birds however, may just decide to roost in machinery/hay sheds over Winter so, if this is the situation at your place and you would like to borrow a trap ring as above and we will arrange a trap and information leaflet.

A big thank-you to all who have participated as it is not easy killing anything – even flying rats – we will start up again in probably September.



Chronicle is Supported by Wellington Shire Council