

COWWARR CHRONICLE

Vol 2/11

March 2011

The Fire Danger Period ended on Monday 14th. March so a permit is no longer required to do a burn-off. Care should still be taken as a few fair windy days will soon dry things off. To register a burn-off call 1800 668 511.

Dates for the Diary

Wednesday 20th. March 2011 Author Talk “ADHD to the Power of Three”

Wellington Shire Library is holding free sessions with the author. See **B**ack **P**age for details on session times and venues plus information about the author etc.

Sunday 17th. April 2011 Junk & Jewels Garage/Boot Sale

Where: Cowwarr Public Hall

From: 10am to 4pm

See flyer attached for details/bookings etc.

Sunday 1st. May 2011 CFA Heyfield Group Presentation Lunch

Where: Cowwarr Public Hall

From: to be confirmed

Members of the Cowwarr Rural Fire Brigade for their assistance with this event – please ring Judith Stone or Brian Burleigh on 5148 9364 if you can assist with catering, setting-up and cleaning-up etc.

Cowwarr Landcare Group

Landcare meetings are held on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the WGCMA depot Main St. Cowwarr. New members are welcome: family / individual membership only \$10 per year. Phone Robyn Hoggins 51489312 for further info.



Wildfire-free Summer

The big wet season has sent enough rain to keep the grass green and the brigade idle and members getting on with the rest of our lives. That's good, we are enjoying the respite; but that's bad because we're all getting a bit older and very much rustier. To maintain fire-fighting skills, one needs to practice; being incident controller requires that you identify all of the potential dangers before sending your team into battle. The bottom line is that we all need to be doing some refresher training. A few of our members were available on Thursday 24th to assist with the DSE prescribed burn on the rail-trail near Toongabbie. That must have gone well because we didn't get called out in the night to deal with a breakaway; and the rain on the following Sunday will have dampened down any remnants. There is one more prescribed burn – probably in May-June in the Eaglehawk Creek Reference Area – tricky country for operating a tanker.

Ultra-light Tanker Funding Round

The grant funding program is continuing under another name with some revised guidelines and less focus on vehicles of the type we need. Applications close on March 24th so we will be working on our application during the next two weeks.

Wildfire – Fireground Safety - LACES

Another acronym, and this one approved by CFA and AFAC as part of our "safety first" approach to fireground practices.

- Lookouts – Fire crews shall lookout and ensure that they have a clear appreciation of current fire behaviour, location and size in relationship to crew location.
- Awareness – Firefighters shall be aware of the impact of changes in fire behaviour including those resulting from variations to fuel, weather and topography and of other fireground hazards.
- Communications – All fire crew shall discuss and address safety issues and ensure that the established communication plan is implemented.
- Escape Routes – At least two escape routes should be agreed and made known to all relevant personnel. The suitability of escape route should be continually reviewed to ensure it remains effective.
- Safety Zones – Safety zones should be identified and made known to all relevant firefighters. Firefighters need to consider escape time and safety zone size requirements that will change as fire behaviour changes.

Wildfire – Hazardous Trees

When we're working with DSE in a forest fire, we need to be aware of the DSE protocol for identifying trees which may fall or drop branches, and avoid being underneath when they do.

DSE usually marks these trees with a yellow K or cordons them off with hazard tape. CFA just uses Danger tape for marking hazardous trees.

If we're working with DSE, they will send crews for tree identification; if we're working on a private bush-block or a plantation, then we are responsible for identifying and isolating the hazard.

Also, we note that any tree with a K on it (as per the photo) should have been dealt with before three months of regrowth have occurred after the fire!

Training

There is a Minimum Skills training course scheduled to start at Traralgon on March 20th.

Bookings required by Monday 7th for anyone who needs to undertake this training.

Tanker check-run Roster – March

Mar	11	Duty Officer	Paddy O'Brien	0427 088 066		
Date		Driver	Phone	Crew	Phone	Hydrant
01		Damien Kessner	5148 9375	Ann Scott	5148 9079	5
08		Garry Blair	5148 9232	Dave Morgan	5116 5602	6
15		Ken Walker	5148 9000	John Allen	5148 9443	7
22		Dave Kelley	5148 9397	Stuart James	5148 9150	8
29		Paddy O'Brien	5148 9134	Matt Broad	5148 9123	9

Hydrants and Markers

The blue markers which identify roadside fire hydrants have taken a beating over the years, particularly in the main street. New reflectors have been glued onto the roadway to replace the damaged ones. Some of the posts also need attention; reflectors to be replaced and the faded red paint can be repainted.

Community Warning via Siren

Not a skerrick of feedback on this one. Maybe we're all going deaf and it wouldn't help.

Certainly the Siren at the shed is not reliably heard throughout the village and I'm not sure how that could be rectified except with sirens at additional locations around the town.

Bushfire Information Line 1800 240 667

Register a Burn-off 1800 668 511

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 5148 9364 Treasurer: Ann Scott 5148 9079



Cowwarr – Toongabbie Lions Club News

We started the year with our Australia Day Flag raising and breakfast ceremony. This is a very rewarding activity for us as a club because it is always fantastic to see the local community venture out early to witness and share the ceremony and enjoy a hearty breakfast together. Thank you to the Wellington Shire for funding the event for us. A big thank you to our members for all their hard work to put the occasion together as it does take quite a bit of planning to coordinate and make the morning successful.

We do hope that our local community will continue to support our club this year with their generosity and fellowship. In the last month we have witnessed the devastation caused by the floods and earthquake and the communities affected will have a very uncertain future that will undoubtedly affect us all over the next 12 months. We must continue to support our volunteers, community groups, emergency services and associations as they are always there when we need them the most, particularly in times of loss and disaster. A big hearty thank you to them all.

I trust you didn't blink during our summer, because you'd have missed it. The cool and damp weather has given us a fire-free summer, for which we are all thankful.

Cheers to all from President Vicki.

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Author Talk

Wellington Shire Library cordially invite you to an Author's Talk featuring Carolyn Angelin on Wednesday 30 March.

Carolyn will be in town on to speak about her recently published book "ADHD to the Power of Three." A family story about the ups, downs, heartache and joy of raising four boys under the age of three, with three of them being identical triplets. The triplets all have ADHD. The book has been featured in the media on Sunrise, Kerri-Anne, The Circle, Who Weekly, Take 5, Sunday Herald Sun and Whitehorse Leader.

Carolyn feels the following groups might find her story interesting:

Parents /Grandparents:

in general,

Of ADHD children,

Of Multiples,

Of children with learning disability

Playgroups/MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers), Kindergartens

Nursing Mothers' Groups

Date: Wednesday 30 March

Morning session: 9.15am for 9.30am start at Maffra Library, 150 Johnson Street.

Morning tea served. RSVP for catering purposes: Maffra Library, 5147 1052

Evening session: 6.30pm for 7.00pm start at Sale Library, 75 Macalister Street.

Light refreshments served. RSVP for catering purposes: Sale Library, 5144 2258
(Sessions run for approximately 1 hour)

All welcome to free author's talk. Books will be available for purchase.

Enquiries: Wellington Shire Library, 5142 3368



Supported by Wellington Shire Council