

COWWARR CHRONICLE

Vol 14/3

March 2014

Dates for the Diary

Friday 21st. March 2014 – Last Date for Submissions to Wellington Shire Council

FOR

Residential Road and Street Construction Plan

AND

Open Space Plan

Residential Roads in Consideration are Draper, Morgan & Park – all gravel

Cowwarr Public Hall Committee is submitting that Draper Street should be paved as the Committee has spent over \$1,500 replacing glass in the windows on the west side of the Hall (money the Committee could have used for other improvements) due to the hoons using Draper Street to get to and from the Rec Reserve throwing up stones onto the grass and then **volunteer** Committee Members mowing the grass accidentally throwing these stones through the windows.

There are also dust issues etc., for residents living or working along the above streets and CCHA strongly suggests that all residents submit their ideas to this plan at www.wellington.vic.gov.au/Lists/Projects-Seeking-Feedback/2014-Residential-Road-and-Street-Construction-Plan

Open Space Plan

Open Spaces include Playground (Morgan Street), Rainbow Creek Reserve, The Town Entry and Centre.

CCHA is submitting the following submissions to Wellington Shire:-

Maintenance of Rainbow Park

This is Shire land but the major maintenance of this area is carried out by the residents of Cowwarr – to name a few – Bob Simpson (mowing) – Brian Burleigh and members of the Cowwarr Landcare Group (whipper snipping/weed spraying – Cowwarr CFA annual burn-off of dead timber and all the Community

who turn up when there is a general working bee. Wellington Shire – maybe mow a couple of strips on either side of the path.

There is also the ongoing lack of a decision about the old trees – one they do help to maintain the bank when there is a flood in Rainbow Creek – but – two they are getting to the end of their natural life and every time there is a strong wind large branches fall.

For many years and indeed during the original Cowwarr Plan the Shire was not only asked for, but committed to a concept plan for Rainbow Park – something we have not seen to date.

CCHA contends that either the Shire maintains this area properly **OR** those that do the work be properly recompensed – fuel cards for Bob – stuff for Landcare.

Town Entry and Centre

CCHA has frequently asked that the entry points to Cowwarr be more frequently mowed and maintained and will continue to do so – forever it would seem.

CCHA is also submitting that we need some bike racks in town – and we don't want those crappy things that they have in Sale and Heyfield, we want some really cool “old fashioned” ones that we can paint in rainbow colours and position outside the General Store and the Hall.

All residents are urged to put their ideas to the Shire about what you think is important about **OUR** open space at www.wellington.vic.gov.au/lists/projects-Seeking-Feedback/Draft-Open-Space-Plan

Other useful contacts for the above are:-

Email martin.norris@wellington.vic.gov.au or Meg.Capurso@wellington.vic.gov.au or just ring the usual “service” number.

ANNUAL MYNAH BIRD TRAPPING CHALLENGE

Yes – it is on again as the Indian Mynah birds return to our area.

Followers of this program will be aware that Mrs. Mary O'Brien took out the inaugural “First to 100 Birds Mars Bar” award and has promised to donate the next Mars Bar to a successful entrant. The Editor thinks that Mary will probably buying herself a Mars bar.

CCHA has a spare trap if there is someone having a problem with these rats in the sky pinching chook/cat/dog food or in any other way destroying our little native birds.

If you would like to take part in getting rid of these pests, you do need to be prepared to treat these birds humanely and also kill them humanely at the end of each day.

CCHA has some brochures and Tip Sheets to help and our members will deliver and give assistance about the best place to set up the trap etc.



Notes from the Skeleton for March 2014

Summer ends but Fire Restrictions remain

As usual, the fire season just fades away; but we don't hold our breath waiting for rain.

We are thankful for so few call-outs in our local area. Not so fortunate elsewhere, and we have been glad to lend a hand when resources permit.

Station Upgrade Progress

Work on the station upgrade proceeds by fits and starts; we're sure it'll be operational next summer...

Survey Responses

Big thanks to those members who have indicated they will be resigning for their past service.

And the results will be collated and presented at the next Officer meeting with a view to taking on board the constructive suggestions that have been offered.

Brigade T-shirts and Polo Tops

First order placed so these will be available soon. More orders taken and will be sent on when a collection accumulates, so you haven't missed out. But we should put a closure date on the Brigade subsidy!

Fund Raising and Community Activities – Lumberjacks & B&S Ball 26th April

We are looking for three shifts (Afternoon, Evening and Night-owl) of volunteers (operational and member jobs available) to spread the work around and share the effort. Please contact Ann Gibbs if you can help.

Current Tanker

We have the ex-Woodside Tanker for the time-being – all 14 Tonnes of it – don't get bogged!

The temporary designation is COWWARR TANKER 9 to reduce the confusion at Vicfire, so take no notice of the name painted on the Tanker! That is all part of the "local knowledge" problem. If we go about waving an erroneous locality name, what are the locals to think? Out turn on the Strike Team Roster this week anyway.

Roster for weekly maintenance run: find key safe (Postcode?) at WGCMA depot gate!

Mar	Duty Officer	Ken Walker	5148 9000		
Date	Driver	Phone	Crew	Phone	Hydrant
04	Steve Felmingham	0429 344 009	Robyn Hoggins	5148 9312	14
11	Kim Hoggins	0428 514 566	Stacey Iseppi	0409 709 361	15
18	Ricky Bellion	0400 738 558	Ann Gibbs	0412 085 076	17
25	Ken Walker	5148 9000	Shelby Morgan	0427 713 327	18
Apr	Duty Officer	Rob Gibbs	0409 566 320		
Date	Driver	Phone	Crew	Phone	Hydrant
01	Manaia O'Donnell	0488 102 222	Edward O'Brien	5148 3375	19
08	John Allen	5148 9443	Neil Wilson	0487 824 713	20
15	Simon Mitchell	5148 9384	Denis Reynolds	0459 776 782	21
22	Ray Pollard	5148 9305	Gary Scott	5148 9079	22
29	Rob Gibbs	0409 566 320	David Johnston	5148 9231	23

Brigade bi-annual election - Coming up on Tuesday May 20th.

Here follows the generic "Criteria for Holding Office" from the CFA web site!

Every candidate for a brigade office must be a registered member of the brigade.

Reserve, Operational Support or Junior Members are not permitted to hold office.

A Senior Officer of a brigade should not hold senior office simultaneously in any other emergency service organisation. A conflict of interest could arise when both organisations are involved in combating an emergency.

The Authority has determined the following specific criteria:

Captain

A member shall not be eligible for election as Captain of any brigade unless he or she has served as an officer in a registered brigade for not less than 2 years (except with special consent of the Operations Manager).

Lieutenants(4), Secretary, Treasurer: (don't rate a mention).

Auditor

Auditors shall not be members of the brigade whose accounts are being audited (as this position requires independence) and an auditor must be one of the following:

- qualified accountant
- accounting firm or auditor
- a competent person approved by the Operations Manager
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Term of office: commencement & duration

The election of officers has no effect until formally approved by the Operations Manager. The elected officers will commence their term of office on July 1st and will remain in that position for 2 years.

In the event that an officer is unable to finish his or her term in office, an election must be held to fill the position. The elected officer shall, if approved by the Operations Manager, hold office until the expiration of the term for which the predecessor was elected.

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

Cowwarr Landcare News – Contact Brian Burleigh 5148 9364

Cowwarr Landcare is still beavering away at the Swing Bridge Reserve at the Cowwarr Weir.

The work entails mostly weed eradication and other works to try to get this area into a space for everyone to enjoy, plus about twice a year we do a major planting.

There is a meeting of the committee on the 1st. Wednesday of each month at the WGCMA depot in Cowwarr and then everyone is welcome to come and help at our regular sessions at the reserve on the following Sunday at 10am.

Membership of the Cowwarr Landcare Group is \$10 per Family each year and for this vast sum of money you will enjoy a lot of days outdoors getting dirty, having fun and probably making something to bring to our events to be enjoyed by everyone at the usual cuppa at the end of work.