

COWWARR CHRONICLE

Vol 10/03

April 2012

Dates for the Diary

Saturday 7th. April – Cowwarr Primary School Easter Cake/Produce Stall.

Where: Outside Foodworks in Heyfield

From: 9am to 12:30pm unless sold out

Come along and buy some yummy homemade cakes etc., get a raffle ticket in the Easter Eggs raffles and help the Parents Club in their work to support the students at Cowwarr Primary School.

Mill Ends

Pine Mill Ends are again available this year at the old Cowwarr Tip site for \$10 per trailer load.

Unlike previous years, the tip will not be open every Sunday but anyone wishing to get some mill ends please ring Brian Burleigh or Judith Stone on 5148 9364 to arrange a suitable time for a Sunday afternoon or some Wednesday afternoons.

All proceeds go to the Cowwarr Public Hall.

Cowwarr Landcare Group

Cowwarr Landcare Group hold their monthly meetings which are held on the first Wednesday of each month at the Catchment Management depot in the Main Street.

To join the Group costs only \$10 per family each year, so come along to a meeting and see what they are up to and if you are interested sign on.

Have a Safe & Happy Easter



Notes from the Station April 2012

Fuel Reduction Season commenced March 19th. Autumn is turning on quite a few mild weather opportunities to use fire for fuel reduction. The same rules apply; consult your neighbours, and register your Burn with Vicfire on 1800 668 511.

ID Cards Photo opportunity: 19:00 Tuesday 10th at Station; call in! For those who have missed the previous photo-sessions, a final opportunity is scheduled on Tuesday 10th April to capture your passport style photograph for your ID card.

PAGERS. If you already carry a mobile phone, would like to receive Alerts only on the phone and not have to regularly feed batteries to your pager, speak to Brian. And bring back the Pager!

Training

First Aid Refresher Course – April 21 at Toongabbie. Starting 8:30 AM Book with Brian.

A Low Structure and BA refresher day is planned for Fulham Training Centre soon. We'll keep you posted.

CFA Course Listing – reduced to offerings within reasonable travel distance.

Start Date	End Date	Course Name	Course Code	Location	Nominations Close
1-Jun	17-Jun	FIRELINE LEADERSHIP (L-380)	CFA283	DISTRICT 10	1-May
7-Jun	8-Jun	INTRODUCTION TO AIIMS	CFA40401	TRARALGON	16-May
10-Jun	17-Jun	MANAGE INJURIES AT EMERGENCY INCIDENT	CFA318	CHURCHILL	21-May
20-Jun	21-Jun	MANAGE INJURIES AT EMERGENCY INCIDENT	CFA318	TRAINING GROUND WEST SALE	1-Jun
7-Jul	15-Jul	DRIVE OFF ROAD	CFA28402	TRAINING GROUND WEST SALE	11-Jun
21-Jul	29-Jul	DRIVE OFF ROAD	CFA28402	TRAINING GROUND WEST SALE	25-Jun
3-Aug	19-Aug	FIRELINE LEADERSHIP (L-380)	CFA283	DISTRICT 10	13-Jul
11-Dec	12-Dec	INTRODUCTION TO AIIMS	CFA40401	TRARALGON	20-Nov

TANKER ROSTER

Apr	Duty Officer	Steve Felmingham	0429 344 009		
Date	Driver	Phone	Crew	Phone	Hydrant
03	Ray Pollard	5148 9305	Peter Westland	5148 2268	27
10	Trevor Astbury	5148 9267	Graeme Harrington	5148 9315	29
17	Dave Smith	5148 9344	Luke Cooper	5148 9386	30
24	Steve Felmingham	0429 344 009	Ken Cantwell	5148 9245	31

Hand-held Radio Replacement.

Our MTS 2000 has been replaced by two Tait hand-held units, each with a spare battery. In their current Analogue mode, they behave and perform similarly to the old Motorola unit. We are blessed with a second hand-held unit because our Tanker carries BA gear. And we're short a few BA wearers (mostly very fit young men), so we may have to resort to press-gang methods to bring our numbers up to the CFA quota.

Officer Meeting. Next meeting on Wednesday 11th at the Station at 20:00

Advance notice of Biennial General Meeting and Brigade elections Wed 9th May. Supper Room Cowwarr Public Hall at 8 PM.

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

Report from CCHA Meeting held on Wednesday 18th. February

Will Oakley, Wellington Shire Community Planning Officer met with a few enthusiastic locals to discuss the grant of \$10k on offer through Council. The money had to be spent on things around the town that had been identified in our local town plan which was put together some time ago.

First cab off the rank was the street lighting – or lack thereof – after a survey of current lights approx a third were not working and a number of poles which it would be handy to have a light on were identified. Feedback from Will is that SP AusNet will factor in the non-operating street lights in the next maintenance round and look at the sites of poles that could be fitted with lights.

Perhaps we could all get a bit proactive and **actually notify** SP AusNet when a light near our house fails? To contact SP AusNet call 13 1799 or email streetlight@sp-ausnet.com.au the only information you have to supply is town, postcode, street name and pole number – easily found on pole.

The big issue was town signage and all present felt that what we should have is a single “Welcome to Cowwarr” type sign with room for all the Clubs etc., to have some space and an area for one off events and get rid of the decrepit signs currently at each end of town.

Turns out that the biggest sign VicRoads would approve is three metres, so our proposal is the top two metres be devoted to clubs/hall/pub/shop/school/artspace/weir etc. information and the one metre at the bottom to be available for the Cutters Cup/ Family Farm Day type events.

As the \$10k has to be spent before the end of this financial year it is unlikely we will be able to finalise the sign design and get it approved by VicRoads especially as Wellington Shire is thinking of changing their logo. Hopefully we can get this sorted out during the funding round next year.

The next two issues were some solar lights in the playground and bike racks. As these are fairly easy to obtain and install (as opposed to the signage) these will be the two projects for this year.

Other issues like our crumbling footpaths and extending the footpaths look like being in the to hard basket at this point in time but need to be put into our revised town plan as a priority item.

Council also held a meeting about Rainbow Park some time ago and this was also brought up at the meeting as Sharon Cooper and others have virtually been doing what the Shire should do on Shire land – mowing, weed control etc. Cowwarr Landcare Group and the Cowwarr Primary School have also put in a few hours at the park. Word has it that Council has spent around \$34k to date cleaning up the dead and falling limbs from the Cyprus trees, will now mow the area and put a path around the park with a seat or two – hopefully above the flood water zone.

We need to revise our Town Plan as some of the original issues have been resolved and there are going to be new things to be added. The next Wellington Shire visit of Councillors and Staff is pencilled in for some time in June – will advise date in later newsletter and at the Shop.

It is important that we turn up at these meetings if we are to get funding for items we list as important for Cowwarr. **Apathy on our part = Shire not interested.**

CCHA is thinking about holding a Sunday afternoon meeting in late May or before our possible June meeting with Council to go over our current town plan and get it up to scratch so we can present a comprehensive list of items that the town and surrounding area thinks are important.

Get your thinking caps on and if you don't have a copy of the old plan it is still on the Wellington Shire website or call Judith on 5148 9364 and get a photocopy of the basic bits – we need some positive and constructive ideas from the Community to put to the Shire.

Drop them off at the Shop or send to CCHA

Cowwarr Public Hall News.

Most will have noticed that the Hall is looking a bit spiffy at the moment due to spending about \$25k of government and Hall funds.

The major project was the painting – the main reason for this was that the render has failed and rainwater seeped through the concrete walls and was effecting the internal plaster. Hope you like the end result. Of course it will all have to be done again in a couple of years – unfortunately we probably won't have the \$10k to do the job.

The Hall Committee has tried on many occasions to upgrade the “Gents” toilet to meet health and safety standards – so fellas you got a new \$8k urinal that actually works – a bit of cosmetic work to still be done.

The last part of the project was to replace 11 window panes. Unfortunately we lose most our windows on the west side of the hall to people driving fast on Draper Street. This behaviour means stones are thrown onto the grass at the Hall, ergo grass is mown and stones go through windows. The Hall Committee has in the past asked for a 5km sign to be erected in Draper Street but that doesn't mean anyone would take any notice of it!

A big thanks to Greg Hudson who bricked in the old stage door, Terry Hoppner who repaired under the eaves and work done by the Committee for finding the contractors and preparing the place for them.

Also ongoing thanks to Pat Clarke for looking after the garden area and Brian Burleigh for mowing.

Gippsland Plains Rail Trail News

We have the money for the bridges over the Latrobe River and the Wellington Shire Tourism Officer is working on new funding opportunities to complete the surfacing of the trail from Glengarry to Tinamba.

Fingers crossed we are successful. Thanks for all the positive feedback on trail matters it really helps our volunteer Committee of Management deal with issues on the 67kms of trail

Helen Hoppner



Supported by Wellington Shire Council