

COWWARR CHRONICLE

Vol 13/05

May 2013

Dates for the Diary

Wednesday 8th. May Cowwarr Public Hall Meeting

Where: Cowwarr Public Hall

From: 7pm

All welcome

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

Where Swing Bridge Reserve Cowwarr Weir

From 10am

Tickets \$1 available from the Shop or ring Roslyn on 5148 9416 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.

To join Landcare costs \$10 per family per year contact Brian (above) if you would like to join us or, you have a project that you think we should be involved with.

Local Emergency Action Plan – LEAP

A LEAP is developed by the community for the community and covers all emergency situations – fire, flood, storm etc.

Latrobe City and Wellington Shire are getting together to produce a LEAP for the Cowwarr/Toongabbie area which will include the Weir Estate and everyone in Cowwarr village plus those to the South (on the Rise) and North including Dawson.

There is an information poster at the Shop and CCHA urges all people in Cowwarr to register their interest with the LEAP co-ordinator Sue Rogers either by ringing her at Latrobe City on 5128 5764 or by email on sue.rogers@latrobe.vic.gov.au .

There is some other info on LEAPs at [www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/Our Community/Fire Floods and Other emergencies/Municipal Emergency Management](http://www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/Our_Community/Fire_Floods_and_Other_emergencies/Municipal_Emergency_Management) Did not find this site all that useful but it does highlight areas that everyone should think about – PLEASE get involved.



Notes from the Station May 2013

Fire Restrictions End – Rubbish and stubble burns

Rainfall for the four months is still below average at 101 mls. The 28 day outlook suggests that we have good prospects for rain on only 3 days in May. And the increasing Westerly wind is still drying the place out. So, check that there will be light winds for your burn, and put it out completely before the next wind event. Remember that fires must still be supervised, reasonable precautions taken and neighbours advised. As ever, the brigade will be ready to turn out to help anyone who gets over-eager, but the response may be a little wearied.

Planned Burns

The DSE has one more planned burn – the Eaglehawk Creek Reference Area behind Toongabbie – that is one for late Autumn! CFA and Latrobe Shire will be burning Old Walhalla Road and into the private Forest area.

Season De-brief 15th May from 6:30 PM for BBQ at Hotel Beer-garden.

The brigade is hosting a BBQ dinner followed by a de-briefing session for members and families.

We are aware how stressful it can be for a fire-fighter to be away performing community service while there is still a fire hazard on the home front. The CIS peer support team will give you an opportunity to express your misgivings and opinions. Everyone gets to have a say on how we as a brigade managed and how the summer was run overall. Please take this opportunity.

TRAINING

CFA Training Calendar

Start	End Date	Course Name	Course Code	Location	Nominations Close
17-Jun	6-Jul	ADVANCED PUMPING ENDORSEMENT	END ADV PUMP	CFA TC - WEST SALE CAMPUS	13-May
5-Jun	5-Jun	CPR UPDATE	CFA21001	BRIAGOLONG	13-May
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

Minimum Skills Training

The current course is progressing well. Students should be ready for testing by the end of April.

If you missed out, there will be another course starting on Thursday 23rd May at Glengarry. Be quick; places are filling fast.

Roster

May	Duty Officer	Ken Walker	0429 708 556		
Date	Driver	Phone	Crew	Phone	Hydrant
07	Damien Kessner	5148 9375	Peter Smart	5148 9322	5
14	Garry Blair	5148 9232	John Allen	5148 9443	6
21	Steve Felmingham	0429 344009	Stuart James	5148 9150	7
28	Ken Walker	0429 708 556	Ken Cantwell	5148 9245	8

Junior Volunteer Firefighter Development Program. Ages 11 - 15

Toongabbie brigade is running a Juniors program on every second Thursday, and Heyfield is about to restart theirs. Check the blurb in the Heyfield News of 18th April or contact Di Nickel (0418 561 064) email: di.nickel@bigpond.com. The challenge is that children must be provided with transport by their parents. Is anybody interested?

Strategic Fire Breaks – Municipal Fire Management & Prevention Committee

The Brigade has written to the Wellington Shire Fire Management Officer requesting that the shire proactively manage roadside remnant vegetation through grassland areas by removing over-mature and hollow trees. It's a bit late once you are confronting a kilometre of giant roman candles! But we won't be holding our breath while we wait for the reply.

LOCAL EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

Following some grumbling about the inconsistency of the local government response to the summer fire(s) Wellington and Latrobe Shires have decided to ignore their gazetted boundary and invite all residents of Cowwarr, the Weir Estate and stretching back to Toongabbie, the opportunity to develop an "all events" emergency response plan. Latrobe Shire will auspice a public meeting and any actions which follow on. Check the CCHA article in this issue.

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



Cowwarr Landcare Group

Our logo: the Gippsland Water Dragon

AKA Physignathus lesueurii howitti

Catch all our news by following the hyperlink.

<http://westgippsland.landcarevic.net.au/cowwarr>

COWWARR LANDCARE NETWORK

Our annual general meeting has been held; the status quo will prevail in respect of office bearers.

El presidente, Brian Burleigh, Secretary Jane Hessel, Treas Peter Smart

- **Swing Bridge Reserve**

Our major tree-planting will be on Sunday July 28th – using our own funds and Planet Ark for promotion of the event. We're planning a soup or BBQ lunch for the workers.

- **Fox's Road Bio-link (and Pony trail)**

Wellington Shire is reconsidering the proposal and the mechanism by which the closed section of Fox Road West might be reopened to non-vehicular traffic. At this stage, we'll just watch the plantation grow.

- **Rainbow Park.**

The Landcare group has concerns about the ongoing maintenance of the flood recovery plantations on the stream bank. A great deal of dead and dying trees will have to be progressively removed (hopefully without wiping out the plantations of last Winter). The group will consult with CCHA, and the fishing club before we raise our concerns with the Shire.

Our next meeting will be on 3rd July. For further information contact president Brian Burleigh on 5148 9364.

FOUND

In Heyfield, a Macalister Research Farm Co-op tie clip

Probably lost at the Heyfield ANZAC ceremony – please ring Brian on 5148 9364 if you know who may have lost it.

We don't seem to have much luck putting things into the Heyfield News.

Doggy Doo Disposal Depot – 4D

Now that Terry is back from his fishing trip he has started work on **4D**.

WE NEED YOUR HELP WITH THE LOCATION

The first thought is that it should go on the south side of the Rainbow Creek bridge so that people who walk their  either to the north and then back can pick-up a bag from the letterbox dispenser and return to deposit it in the recycled Lions bin on the way back.

OR

If people want to go the other way, you can still pick-up a bag and either drop it into the bin at the Shop or take it home – either way you are not putting a plastic bag into landfill.

And

Your dog POO is not going into Rainbow Creek.

If you have another preferred location or think that where we currently think it should go is OK then please drop a note into the Shop. Just remember that 4D has to be on Rail Trail Land as it must be managed by the Rail Trail Committee.

So far a big thank-you to:-

Terry – The Worker
CCHA – purchase of compostable Doggy Bags
Rail Trail – purchase of Letterbox Dispenser
Covwarr Primary School – donation of Post for Letterbox.



Chronicle is Supported by Wellington Shire Council