

# COWWARR CHRONICLE

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Vol 13/10

November 2013

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## Dates for the Diary

### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November. Community Engagement and CFA Sunday

**Where:** at the Fire Station

**From:** 11 am to 2pm

All the CFA brochures and advice on preparation for Summer will be available AND there will be a **FREE** Sausage Sizzle – what else could there be!

### Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>. December. Cowwarr Primary School Musical

**Where:** Cowwarr Public Hall

**From:** Further details in next Chronicle

### Gippsland Plains Rail Trail news....

You would have noticed by now that the chicanes are in place on the rail trail in Cowwarr and Toongabbie. This is to slow people down before they reach the main road and to stop cars and motor bikes from entering the trail.

The trail has now been completed and upgraded from Dawson Reserve (still some work on the Dawson bridge to go yet) and it now connects with Heyfield then on to STRATFORD. Thanks to Wellington Shire and the Bendigo Community Bank in Heyfield for their loyal support and assistance getting this section finished.

We have still to get funds for the Thompson River crossing and are looking at design work at the moment and lobbying continues. The State Government have just announced a further \$600,000 which is part of the promised \$800,000 to upgrade from Cowwarr to Traralgon. Work will start very soon on the Glengarry to Traralgon section and should be finished by Autumn - weather, bush fires and any other hold ups permitting.

Please continue to use the dog poo facility on the trail at Cowwarr as this is working well thanks to all who have cleaned up after their dogs.

We have another surprise in store for the Cowwarr Station Grounds but more on this next year as the project progresses. You will also notice a seat installed at the top of the hill at Cowwarr - this is for those who are puffed after climbing the hill and can rest and take in the panoramic view from that part of the rail trail.

We will also be fixing some flood damage on this section in the next month so watch out for some heavy machinery as you walk.

Please contact me if you need any further information and a big Thank-you to those who keep the trail mowed from the main road to the Rainbow Creek, we appreciate your support immensely as we have 67 kms of trail to manage.

Helen Hoppner GPRT COM 51489214



## Notes from the Station for November 2013

### Medal Award.

The brigade is pleased to recognise that member Rob Gibbs has received his National Emergency medal for his involvement in action in the 2009 fires. The award ceremony was held at Kernot Hall, Morwell on Sunday October 27<sup>th</sup>. The rest of us were mighty pleased to not be in the thick of that one!

### Community Engagement and CFA Sunday on 24<sup>th</sup> November 11:00 to 14:00 at the Station

It will be open day at the station; your chance to come and check us out. Instead of a separate pre-summer engagement activity, we'll have all of the CFA brochures and advice on preparation for Summer. There will also be a sausage sizzle.

### Preparation for Summer

Its grand to see large swathes of Traralgon –Maffra road-side looking like lawns. The VicRoads contractors will be miffed if there's nothing left for them to slash – we can just wish that everyone was so committed to making their place bush-fire ready.

### Time to check your PPE.

During the torch-clip roll-out, we discovered more than a few defective helmets. Now's the time to check out all your PPE so we can replace worn and damaged items before summer. Gloves and goggles are a particular problem as we have to order them for each individual. (Retail they're at least \$25 so you can understand why the CFA is being a bit frugal). An eye-full of smoke is in the same class as a free beard singe when you're in the thick of it.

### Brigade and Group Activities

Special training evening Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November at Gippsland Fire Training Ground. Bring and wear your full Wildfire PPE. Leaving Station at 18:30 for action at 19:00

The brigade will be actively training on Tuesday evenings at 19:00 as we approach summer and we need to get another 15 firefighters through the burn-over drill refresher.

### Roster for weekly maintenance run

Novemb er	Duty Officer	<b>Anton Vardy</b>	<b>0417 380 329</b>		
Date	Driver	Phone	Crew	Phone	Hydrant
05	Richard Hollonds	0427 489 283	Gary Scott	5148 9079	37
12	Damien Kessner	5148 9375	Evan Walker	0410 961 300	38
19	Garry Blair	5148 9232	David Johnston	5148 9231	39
26	<b>Anton Vardy</b>	<b>0417 380 329</b>	Brian Tyler	0428 399 348	1

### Training

See training officer Ken Walker and get Captain Andrew to approve your request for training if you are interested in any of the courses listed below. Of note are the new courses for LCF training for incident management. Anyone who has done Intro to AIIMS should attend the update session.

## CFA Training Calendar

Start Date	End Date	Course Name	Course Code	Location	Nominations Close
18-Nov	18-Nov	EMAP FIELD TRAINING	CFA440	SALE ICC	11-Nov
18-Nov	18-Nov	EMAP MAPPING TRAINING (WEB)	CFA441	SALE ICC	11-Nov
18-Nov	18-Nov	EMAP MAPPING TRAINING (WEB)	CFA441	SALE ICC	11-Nov
18-Nov	19-Nov	INTRODUCTION TO AIIMS	CFA40401	DISTRICT 10	11-Nov
20-Nov	20-Nov	EMAP MAPPING TRAINING (WEB)	CFA441	TRARALGON ICC	13-Nov
20-Nov	20-Nov	EMAP MAPPING TRAINING (WEB)	CFA441	TRARALGON ICC	13-Nov
20-Nov	20-Nov	EMAP FIELD TRAINING	CFA440	TRARALGON ICC	13-Nov
1-Dec	1-Dec	INTRO TO AIIMS SKILLS MAINTENANCE	CFA029A	HEYFIELD	25-Nov
15-Dec	15-Dec	STAGING AREA MANAGEMENT	CFA094A	MAFFRA	18-Nov
5-Feb	15-Mar	OPERATE BA (OPEN CIRCUIT) PLUS SEARCH & RESCUE	NEA0002	MAFFRA	13-Jan
7-Feb	30-Mar	DRIVE VEHICLES UNDER OPERATIONAL CONDITIONS	CFA308	SALE	13-Jan
11-Feb	23-Mar	LOW STRUCTURE A	CFA07501	CHURCHILL	13-Jan
1-Mar	9-Mar	DRIVE OFF ROAD	CFA28402	DISTRICT 10	3-Feb
1-Mar	30-Mar	EMPLOY PERSONAL PROTECTION AT A HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENT	CFA299	MORWELL	1-Feb
5-Mar	30-Mar	SUPPRESS WILDFIRE	CFA293	MAFFRA	10-Feb
15-Mar	22-Mar	LPG EMERGENCY RESPONSE	CFA00301	TRARALGON	10-Feb
1-Apr	30-Apr	THERMAL IMAGING CAMERA OPERATION - STRUCTURAL	CFA18601	DISTRICT 10	1-Apr
1-Apr	30-Apr	ATMOSPHERIC MONITORING	CFA230	MORWELL	1-Mar
8-Apr	27-Apr	SUPPRESS WILDFIRE	CFA293	CHURCHILL	17-Mar
11-Apr	25-May	DRIVE VEHICLES UNDER OPERATIONAL CONDITIONS	CFA308	MORWELL	10-Mar
12-May	19-May	CHECK INSTALLED FIRE SAFETY SYSTEMS	CFA306	CHURCHILL	7-Apr

### Officer Contacts

		Home	Work	Mobile
Captain	<b>Andrew Iseppi</b>	<b>5148 9339</b>		<b>0458 042 565</b>
1st Lieutenant	<b>Anton Vardy</b>		<b>5142 3371</b>	<b>0417 380 329</b>
2nd Lieutenant	<b>Ken Walker</b>	<b>5148 9000</b>		<b>0429 708 556</b>
3rd Lieutenant	<b>Rob Gibbs</b>			<b>0409 566 320</b>
4th Lieutenant	<b>Veggy</b>			
Comms Officer	<b>Ann Gibbs</b>			<b>0412 085 076</b>
Secretary	<b>Brian Burleigh</b>	<b>5148 9364</b>	<b>5135 5387</b>	<b>0428 864 371</b>
EAS Pager	<b>1800 609 511</b>	<b>Pager Fault</b>		<b>1800 604 977</b>
FIRS	<b>1800 628 844</b>	<b>Vicfire*</b>		<b>1800 668 511</b>

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

## **Cowwarr Landcare News - November 2013**

The Group is winding down for the year but still spraying weeds like mad.

Our end of year break-up will be at Temple Glory Indian Restaurant, 8b Temple Street Heyfield, members and interested persons should RSVP ASAP to Brian Burleigh on 5148 9364 Or 0428 864 371.

## **Cowwarr Primary School Wins Garden Award.**

Cowwarr Primary School was a buzz of excitement on Friday, October 18 as the Victorian Garden School Awards judging panel arrived by helicopter on schedule at 10.55am. After being officially welcomed by students, Ellen and Rory, the panel's first duty was to present to Year 6 leaders, Leah and Cloe, a certificate and \$350 prize on being awarded the South Eastern Victorian Regional Schools (with enrolments less than 100) Garden Awards winner. Cowwarr was judged Regional runner up when it last entered the Victorian Schools Garden Awards in 2011.

As a Regional winner, Cowwarr was visited by the four person judging panel assigned the task of selecting the winner of the prestigious Victorian State Garden Awards winner. Our children took the judges around our gardens, explaining its features, how the gardens promote sustainability, how the wider school community is involved and importantly, how the garden helps with their learning. The announcement of the State winner will be made at an official ceremony at the Royal Botanic Garden in Melbourne in early December.

Congratulations to Marg Smith and her team of merry gardeners—comprising students, staff, parents and community members. A huge Cowwarr School Community effort!

