

Cowwarr Community & Historical Association Inc.

COWWARR CHRONICLE

Vol 3/4

October 2004.

Submission To Wellington Shire re Streetscape Draft Plan.

The following is a summary of the submission to be sent to Wellington Shire re the Draft Streetscape Plan. Thank-you to everyone who contributed their views.

Community Comments

That the Bus Shelter should NOT be moved as most people would visit the Cowwarr Store prior to boarding the bus and if the weather is really foul prefer to shelter under the Store verandah.

That the south side of the road should have curb and channel from the Hall to McEwans Lane and the grassed road area should be bitumened. Part of this strip already has curb and channel – Hall and Dennis Carsteins so it would mean connecting 6 blocks. This would mean better parking and access for the Library, School and V/Line buses and allow better off street parking for trucks etc., when drivers need to visit businesses in this area.

That the Peppermint Gums be retained as street trees. There are 4 Peppermint Gums on the North side of the road and members of the community consider them of significant importance.

That the planting's "collar" the Main Street from the Rail Trail (west) and the triangle and bend (east) as the best way to slow traffic and prevent overtaking and speeding in the centre of the village.

That a School crossing be installed at Cricket Street this would allow children to cross safely to the Library Bus from the school and be safer for children living on the south side of the road.

CCHA has proposed a two phase program to implement the plan AFTER a Community meeting with the Shire.

Phase 1.

South side remove trees under powerlines – TXU will probably do this for free if asked - the timber to be made available as firewood for locals (Lions) or sold to woodcraft people.

Plant suitable small trees and shrubs and establish gardens at each end of the Main Road on both sides.

Complete curb and channel from the Hall to McEwans Lane

Install a footpath from the Rail Trail to the existing footpath – North Side

Upgrade ALL footpaths.

Install a new Bus Shelter at existing site.

Install School Crossing at Cricket Street.

Phase 2.

North Side remove any trees deemed dangerous and replant with suitable trees and shrubs.

Install centre median strip – if traffic does NOT slow down.

Christ Church Update.

Anyone interested in the rebuilding of the Cowwarr Christ Church is invited to a meeting to be held at the Cowwarr Hotel, Wednesday 17th. November at 7:30pm to discuss the following agenda items.

Re-stumping and painting the church
Water connection and toilet
Maintenance roster including lawns
Cleaning and Flowers for church services once a month
Future of land behind church and implications for our community
State of the commemorative tree at the entrance to the church
Ideas for Signage at front of the church
Fencing
Working Bees
Christmas Service
Appointment of Parish Representatives
Future Baptisms for any people interested.
Church Bazaar – Early December?

Please ring Helen Hoppner on 5148 9233 if you **cannot** attend.

The future of our church is in our hands – please make an effort to come.

Rev. Canon Keith South from Heyfield Parish will attend the meeting.

Cowwarr – Toongabbie Lions Club

At our next Dinner Meeting we will have a quest speaker and invite any interested people to attend.

Speaker: Karen Passey from SIDS and Kids
Karen will update us on SIDS research and their support role for families who experience a child's death from SIDS.

When: Tuesday 9th. November 2004.

Where: Cricket Club Hotel, Cowwarr.

From: 7 – 7:30pm

Cost: Dinner \$12, drinks at bar prices.

RSVP: Please RSVP to Judith Stone , on 5148 9364 by Friday 5th. November 2004.

Everyone is welcome

Cowwarr – Toongabbie Lions has supported SIDS for a number of years, first with the Thomson Valley Bushraces and lately with the Toongabbie to Walhalla Packhorse Ride.

FROM COWWARR TO COMPESTELLA

by John Cooney

Santiago de Compestella, in northwest Spain, is one of the three great destinations for Christian pilgrimages. The others are Jerusalem and Rome. For over 1000 years pilgrims have travelled to what is believed to be the tomb of St James the apostle. Pilgrims have travelled from all points of the compass. However the French way (*camino frances*), which starts in either Paris, Vezeley, Le Puy or Arles, has gained particular significance. Pilgrims could take weeks, months even years to travel the Camino to Santiago by either foot or on a horse. In modern times bicycles have also been included. To be declared a true pilgrim one must either walk or ride a horse at least 100km, or ride a bicycle at least 200km.

In September, Marianne and myself qualified as true pilgrims by walking 112km from Sarria to Santiago. We had planned to take five days for the journey but managed it in four. The Camino to Santiago winds its way through countryside, villages and towns. Busy roads are effectively avoided so there is ample time for reflection or discussions with fellow pilgrims, as the spirit moves. The country is undulating so there is more up and down than on the Gippsland Plains Rail Trail. Even so, the training done on the rail trail stood us in good stead. We planned walking 20-25km a day so walks to Toongabbie and Glengarry prepared us for what lay ahead. We also spent a surprising amount of time on the Camino walking through eucalypt plantations so home and the rail trail were never very far away.

Interest in pilgrimage to Santiago has fluctuated over the last 1000 years, but there has been renewed interest over recent years. 2004 is a holy year and these years usually attract greater interest. American academic, Nancy Louise Frey, chose the Camino to Santiago as the topic for her PhD program. Her *Pilgrim Stories* (University of California Press, 1998) is the book resulting from her research. She found that '[w]hen pilgrims begin to walk several things usually begin to happen to their perception of the world which continue over the course of the journey: they develop a changing sense of time, a heightening of their senses, and a new awareness of their bodies and the landscape' (p.72).

On a broader canvas she also notes that UNESCO has named Santiago a World Heritage City and the Council of Europe holds high hopes for the pilgrimage routes. 'Suddenly, a Europe fractured forty years before is now characterised by a distinct "identity" whose foundation is union. Not only is it Europe, but it is "our identity", an identity that somehow erases national boundaries in favour of a loftier European identity located somewhere in the collective memory embodied in the pilgrimage routes. Moreover, the pilgrimage routes are understood to contain a "set of values and a fund of shared experience recorded for all time in our collective memory, representing the indivisible heritage of all European countries"'.

GREAT CFA SAUSAGE SIZZLE

Everyone is welcome to attend the START of FIRE SEASON SAUSAGE SIZZLE.

- When: Wednesday 10th. November 2004
- Where: At the Fire Shed, Main Street
- From: 7pm
- RSVP: Karen Beamish at "The Shop" Tel. 5148 9226
- Provided: Sausages, Bread, Cole Slaw, Onions and Sauce.
- BYO: Drinks, glasses etc.