

Cowwarr Community & Historical Association Inc.

COWWARR CHRONICLE

Vol 2/4

October 2004.

Gippsland Plains Rail Trail Committee Update.

The Gippsland Plains Rail Trail Committee of Management has closed the bridges over the Latrobe River floodplains and over Rainbow Creek Cowwarr due to the dangerous state of these bridges.

As a volunteer Committee they are directly responsible for the risk management of this infrastructure and the decision to erect barriers on both sides of the bridges was taken with public safety in mind.

The bridge at Cowwarr needs significant work on the pylons and an assessment of the proposed upgrade can be viewed by contacting Helen Hoppner on 5148 9233.

In the meantime it would be very helpful if individuals, groups and organisations could send a letter of support to the Committee of Management showing their reasons and/or enthusiasm for the upgrade on the Cowwarr bridge. This will greatly assist the lobbying campaign to fund this bridge for the local community and rail trail users.

Contact Helen for further information.

Report from AGM 11th. August 2004.

1. Election of Office Bearers

Chairperson Nomination: Helen Hoppner
Nominated by: M. Stewart
Seconded: M. Trevisan

Secretary Nomination: Judith Stone
Nominated by: H. Hoppner
Seconded: R. Clarke

Treasurer Nomination: Heather Allen
Nominated by: J. Cooney
Seconded: N. Beamish.

2. Wellington Shire - Main Street Draft Plan

Tim Rowe from Wellington Shire presented the draft concept plan for the main road covering the section between Church Street and the Rail Trail. The aim of the plan is as follows: town beautification, raising of the towns' profile and hopefully to reduce speeding motorists. This plan is the first step in the process and it is to be noted that it is a long-term plan and a two step phase may be beneficial. Vic Roads has been asked about relocating the speed signs to no avail. Hopefully the plan will assist in this area.

Tim went through plan with those present. Ideas include separating the road with a planted median strip of approximately 1.5m in width, removal of existing roadside trees with replacement planting's occurring. Modifying power lines could also be looked at ie. underground. The possible effect of these ideas was shown.

Report from AGM cont....

It was noted that vertical trees more appropriate as less interference with traffic. Tree species undecided and will be looked at closer to plan implementation. Noted that the plan concept has not been budgeted for. Lobbying for funds to commence around March 2005. The lobbying process will be made easier if plan is to be phased in. An approximate estimate of cost was between \$30,000 and \$60,000.

Some points raised were the possibility of tree root damage to footpaths, vandalism and possible parking issues for truck drivers due to median strip, thus effecting local businesses. Rob Clarke asked for a guarantee from Shire that care and maintenance of planting's be maintained.

Community consultation is to take place until the end of September. Copies of the plan to be located at Cricket Club Hotel, Cowwarr General Store and Cowwarr Primary School. Following community consultation a meeting is to take place to determine what the community requires prior to submission to Wellington Shire.

3. House Numbering System

Judith contacted Wellington Shire in relation to house numbers and requested a map be forwarded to community for consultation. Map shall be put up to enable community input.

4. Christ Church Update

Power has been connected. Church in need of signage and a few trees.

Due to enormous cost involved with water connection (\$10,000 headwork's charge) it has been agreed that a water tank will provide sufficiently for church needs.

Restumping is required. Helen currently in process of obtaining quote for these works.

Church attendance has been good. Parish is looking at Cowwarr as a revival of the parish.

Helen moved that quotes be obtained to purchase signs and have them erected at the church along with a few trees for beautification purposes.

Question from the floor was asked about what made up the Christ Church Fund held in CCHA funds.

Answer:	Easter 2003 Raffle	\$264.50
	Donations received by H. Hoppner	\$150.00
	Donations received by J. Stone.	<u>\$ 64.00</u>
	Total	\$478.50

5. Local History Grant

Local History Grant funding occurs twice yearly.

Helen and Judith to continue with applying. If unable to be included in this round of funding, they shall apply for it again in April 2005.

6. Wellington Shire

Letter received from Shire in relation to submission sent by Helen and Judith.

Letter discussed and tabled. Communication with Shire to be maintained and followed up to ensure action taken by Shire in relation to issues raised in submission.

7. Cowwarr Community Hall

All agreed an amount of \$250 from funds be donated to Cowwarr Community Hall Committee to assist with repair works.

8. Membership

Membership fees now due and payable. Fees to remain same as last year.

9. Public Toilets

Concerns were raised about public toilets. It was pointed out that problems have occurred in the past and maintaining cleanliness is a serious issue. Local government is in charge of public toilets and the cost is large. Signage is required for the toilets located at the Recreation Reserve.

Helen has indicated that people can use toilets in the hotel if required.

The Annual Packhorse Ride from Toongabbie to Walhalla

The Packhorse Ride is on again this year with a record number of participants
You can go along to send them off from Toongabbie Riders Club at 8am on Saturday 9th. October.
Better still pack a picnic lunch and go to Walhalla on Sunday 10th and catch the Parade at noon – including the smallest packhorse in Australia.
Even better catch the steam train from Thomson River Bridge and join in the fun and the auction.
All proceeds from this ride is donated to SIDS and Kids to further research and support for families who have experienced this devastating syndrome.

Cowwarr Public Hall Raffle and Community Get Together

The Cowwarr Hall Raffle is still going on and will be drawn on Sunday 17th. October 2004, 2pm at the Hall.
At the same time the Committee is putting on Afternoon Tea which gives us all an opportunity to get together and get to know new residents.

Raffle prizes are: DVD Player donated by NAB
 Basket of Cheese donated by Jindi Cheese
 Cut and Blow Wave donated by Debbie Iseppi

Tickets are \$2 and are available from the Shop or the Pub. If you think you can sell some to friends or at work then contact Judith on 5148 9364.

District Area Network (DAN) Update.

Brian Burleigh reports that at the last DAN forum it was proposed that Wellington Shire Councillors be invited to community meetings to discuss issues relative to the current Council plan and what should be included in the next annual plan.

Community Meetings will take place in November 2004, at a time and place (probably Heyfield) to be decided – look out for Posters at the Shop/Pub etc.

Anyone with a burning issue which should be put to the meeting and cannot attend, then write a note or speak to Brian on 5148 9364.

This is a great platform to begin discussions about “what’s important for our Community” and to allow community members to bring that information to Councillors directly.

CFA Training Session

The next CFA Training Sessions will be in Heyfield on Sunday 17th. October 2004.
Brigade members are asked to attend and the truck will leave Cowwarr at 8:30am.

Christ Church Service

The next service at Christ Church is on Sunday 17th. October. at 11am.
Thanks again to the “mowers” and anyone who feels like doing a bit – well just go along any old time – lots of fun you know !!!!!