

Progressing Cobden's 2014-15 Report Card

The year started with the “Report Back” after the Twenty20 Vision community planning review. The re-jigged priorities were revealed – getting young people involved, a caravan dump point, the community activity precinct, a community noticeboard and the upgrading of Victoria Street.

The AGM again decided to stay with the leadership group model rather than the traditional executive structure. Those who offered their services were Helen Smith, Harry Timmermans, Milton Parlour, Harry Uwland, James Green, Barbara Cowley, Garry Moorfield and Kelvin White with Frank Martin as treasurer.

We have successfully alternated our monthly Progressing Cobden and action group meetings which has provided the opportunity to ‘drill down’ on particular issues eg . . .

✓**The push for a dump point, together with a free camping facility, has been determined and consistent. Sub-committees have been set up through both the Facilities, Infrastructure and Services (FIS) action group and the Business Network. Shire Technical Services director Alex Green was grilled at, at least, two local forums explaining Corangamite’s opposition to both issues, particularly free camping. To this point, success is evident on one front – with shire assistance, Matthews Petroleum has agreed to install a dump point behind its roadhouse. The debate will probably continue about free camping.**

✓**Through the Facilities, Infrastructure and Services (FIS) action group, PC supported the community activity precinct campaign, providing backbone support for the grant application process and everything associated with attaining the feasibility study’s first stage. Having SED appointed to carry out the initial consultations with community groups, we look forward to seeing just how much energy this forward-thinking initiative has.**

✓**It is pleasing that PC has achieved more consistent interaction with young people from Cobden Technical School. SRC executive members Chelsea Mason and Chelsea Dawson attended meetings regularly after Jo Beard and Kelvin White met with teacher Jo Brooks, the two Chelseas and Maddie McInnes at the school to discuss a wide range of student participation issues.**



SRC members Chelsea Mason (left) and Chelsea Dawson

✓**September 13 saw visitors to the Corangamite Shire as the follow-up to the Regional Expo Weekend in Melbourne. Jo Beard, Milton Parlour and Gary Kimber toured the town with an inquiring busload, culminating in a barbecue lunch at the Miniature Railway Park. Thanks to Rotarians Graham Marchant, family and friends – including Kaye Hanks – who were fine hosts, engineer Graham Ralph as well as CDHS CEO Jeannine Creely who provided information about our health services.**

✓**Sunday markets were tried up at the Dairy Park before being moved down to Apex Park. Hopefully, they will become a permanent fixture on the second Sunday of every month, thus slotting into the Corangamite market calendar.**

✓**PC has six median strip removable poles ready for erection along Curdie St between Adams St and Walker St. A new two-year Christmas-on-Curdie St sponsorship arrangement with the Community Bank (and a Shire grant) should enable the purchase of new banners to adorn these poles during the festive occasion. We plan that they can be also utilised at other times of the year eg the Spring Festival, shopping and marketing promotions, Cobden (and Melbourne) premierships.**

✓**Maybe, the location of Fonterra’s big Western Star butter could be improved. For some time now, it has been sitting within Fonterra’s fence-line, looking like an advertising sign, taken for granted and hardly noticeable. Perhaps, it would have more impact if it was placed away from the factory itself . . . perhaps on the village green at the Racecourse Reserve?**

✓**Congratulations Quota on your project at the Cobden Connection gazebo on Nylon St. An all-weather car-park with bollards will make it a good spot for tourists to stop to have a ‘look-see’. Not far from Lake Cobden either.**

✓**Last year’s Volunteers’ Evening was hosted by Cobden Rotary at the golf club. Vicki Jellie, founder of Peter’s Project’ was an excellent guest speaker while Jo Brooks introduced the L2P driver mentoring program. The 2015 dinner was hosted recently by Cobden Sports Club with more than 80 people representing 40 organisations attending. Alan ‘Sarge’ Hart returned to provide the keynote speech in his inimitable style.**

~ Connecting Cobden ~ A Progressing Cobden Twenty20 Vision Project.
Websites: cobden.org.au, cobdenbusinessnetwork.org.au,
cobdenspringfestival.com.au. Facebook: Cobden Community.
Registered email: community@cobden.org.au.



Judith Gribble (left) and Elizabeth Wilson served Anzac biscuits with morning tea at the memorabilia exhibition

✓**Congratulations Cobden and District Historical Society and Cobden Primary School for making the observance of Gallipoli’s centenary so special. The memorabilia exhibition, the honour board, the war memorial and its surrounds – great credit to all involved.**

✓**Connecting Cobden chalked up its 50th edition featuring the 2015 Volunteers’ Dinner, appropriate considering the number of volunteers written about over the last four years!**

✓**Shire Environmental Officer Belinda Bennett spoke to PC about new recycling and rubbish receptacles being placed in Cobden. After feedback, the bins were positioned in the Arcade, outside the Bakery, at Apex Park and on the Lake Cobden foreshore. We look to even more bins as they become available.**

✓**Among many events, Progressing Cobden was well-represented at three school presentation functions, the CDHS AGM, Rotary’s handover dinner, the unveiling of improvements at the Scout Hall, Fonterra’s open day when they announced new employment opportunities, the Civic Hall AGM, the Rotary Club’s Business Awards and the launch of the Community Bank’s Innovations Program.**

✓**Small Business Day on Saturday 4th October was a new and worthwhile involvement for the CBN. Many businesses were involved with significant interest in the available customer vouchers. Well done, Frank Martin on successfully applying for the \$5000 promotional package, also Barb Cowley and team. Yes, Cobden does great . . . !**

✓**The Dairy Park remains committed to its centrepiece building with space for Harold Lamb’s buggies, an office and canteen. The late Keith van Leerdam’s mini-village has a new home at the park.**

✓**The 2014 CopRice Spring Festival was a huge success with many positive comments. Favoured by good weather, both days had their highlights – the inclusion of legendary farming families leading the Fonterra Parade was a masterstroke which made the procession even more special.**

✓**Six new CBN Business of the Month awards were shared by deserving members during the year – GreenCon, Heytesbury House, Hampden Veterinary Clinic, Cobden and Camperdown Community Bank, Reid Stockfeeds and Cobden Roadhouse Motel.**

✓**Congratulations to Australia Day nominees: Phil Langley, Barbara Cowley and Kelvin White.**

✓**Working bees on the second Sunday of every month from 10am for a couple of hours have maintained Lake Cobden. Help is always appreciated. A grant will help pay for repainting the jetties and the bridge, as well as the bollards at the roadhouse truck-stop. Affiliation with Bostock’s Creek Landcare Group has also proved a bonus with their invaluable support.**



Some of the team at one of Lake Cobden’s working bees. Rex (left) and Helen Perkins, Frank Martin, Marj and David Staggard

✓**The CBN produced an issue that grew legs as the year progressed – a suggestion that Curdie St between Adams and Walker streets be reduced to a 40kph speed limit. Letters to VicRoads and Corangamite Shire pointed out that speed limits could be reduced for everybody’s safety. Letters were also written to businesses with bigger vehicles seeking their cooperation - certainly no finger-pointing. Generally, everyone was doing the right thing – sometimes just a bit too fast, especially given the limited space between parked cars and the median strip. This issue meshed with Cr Jo Beard’s bid to improve the dangerous camber on the**

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Victoria St bridge and to lessen the speed limit to 50kph along the length of Victoria St. The shire’s Alex Green supported Cr Jo’s campaign and worked through VicRoads’ on/off/on willingness to deal with community groups. Finally, success as VicRoads decides to jump on board!

✓**The second pre-Christmas late night shopping night in November proved popular again with more retailers keeping their doors open and more customers supporting the event. Thanks Helen Smith for your liaison work and organisation**

✓**PC appreciated Andrew Nooy and Jo Wood from Fonterra attending our February meeting prior to its open day to provide an insight into developments on the site, including opportunities at its new fresh milk and cream plant.**

✓**Progressing Cobden/Cobden Business Network is the proud owner of a portable Mipro wireless PA system with the capacity to play music and broadcast AM and FM radio - valued at \$5000. A user-policy has been approved. The system was used on Small Business Day, in the lead-up to Christmas, and at the Christmas-on-Curdie event. It was also used by Hampden Specialist School, the Community Bank and the Football Netball Club.**

✓**The CBN is also using a leadership group model with members volunteering to represent retail, hospitality, professional, trade and agriculture areas. Trevor Clarke who played a major role in establishing the CBN has handballed the chairperson job to Gary Kimber.**

✓**The Cobden Rotary/Community Bank Business Awards are upon us again with nominations being sought. After Timboon last year, the event returns to Cobden. Well done to Rotary for extensively reviewing its process and including representatives of other towns’ business groups in its planning for 2015.**

✓**The CBN welcomed Makan Cafesserie and Cobden Seafoods and looks forward to the Trade Skills Centre achieving its purpose across the Corangamite schools – including the \$2.6 million spend at Cobden.**

✓**CBN’s Christmas-on-Curdie was held on a Friday evening again with a \$2500 travel voucher won by Lauren Meade. The Community Bank continues to be a valued sponsor of this event with GreenCon, SLM and Reid Stockfeeds also lending significant support.**



Sarae Hickey (left) painting Lily Bell’s nails at Christmas-on-Curdie in December

✓**The idea of a CHIC (community hub/information centre) is high in PC’s thoughts. The opportunity to procure a space in Curdie St to act as a meeting place and an information resource for both visitors and locals is being investigated. The benefits to Cobden are obvious but is understood that the concept would require the support of townspeople as volunteers to ‘person’ the CHIC.**

✓**We are pleased that Cobden will be part of the Community Art Project, an opportunity to create a suitable art piece for our town.**

✓**A real plus has been the bedding down of our on-line presence. Barbara Cowley’s commitment to establishing and maintaining a social media network sees our websites cobden.org.au, cobdenbusinessnetwork.org.au, cobdenspringfestival.com.au and the Cobden Community Facebook page as internet ‘go-to’ places for us all.**

Mt Emu SCOUTING ASSOCIATION

**The water activities canoe trailer is being housed in a garage by someone in Cobden.
Could that person please contact Harry on 5595 2285?**

COBDEN CALENDAR

Tuesday 25th August:	7.15am Cobden Business Network meeting at Cobden Golf Club.
Saturday 5th September:	8am “Spring into Summer” free fitness event with Belinda Savage, on “Circuit de Savage”. 0419 587 036.
Monday 7th September:	7.30pm Facilities, Infrastructure and Services (FIS), Tourism and Town Appearance (TAT) action groups, Heytesbury Room.
Monday 21st September:	7.30pm CopRice Cobden Spring Festival meeting, Heytesbury Room.