

The groups that connect Cobden . . .

COBDEN DAIRY PARK (0427 353 106)

1. The market day on the second Sunday of the month at Apex Park, thus slotting into Corangamite’s monthly market calendar
2. Displaying our dairy history and pioneering spirit monthly and as requested at the Park

CATHOLIC WOMEN’S LEAGUE – ST BRENDANS (5595 1020)

1. Support the needy in Australia and overseas.
2. Concern for women’s and children’s issues.
3. Maintain the church environment.
4. Conduct social events in our church community.

COBDEN DISTRICT HEALTH SERVICES (5595 3100)

1. Upgrade to Anzac Dementia Wing fundraiser: Spring Gala Extravaganza October 10th 1.30pm-4.30pm, Civic Hall.
2. Successful Aged Care Accreditation May 2015. Passed all 44 outcome standards Gym Feasibility Study concluded.
3. Working on extending the warm water pool for a gym and exercise facility.
4. CDHS faring well with Aged Care Reform – holding strong to competitive model. Here to stay!

ROTARY CLUB OF COBDEN (5595 1533)

1. 2016 will see the club celebrate 50 years of volunteer service.
2. Annual smoke detector battery changeover conducted in April for the elderly.
3. With assistance from Cobden & Timboon Pharmacies, Bowelscan program was conducted in May.
4. Easter 2016 will see the hosting of the 60th AALS National Convention at the Cobden Miniature Railway.

COBDEN CRICKET CLUB (0448 834 411)

1. President Cameron Beaton; Vice presidents Leigh Walsh, Josh Hickey; Secretary Jo McInnes; Treasurer Glenn Cain.
2. Fielding two senior teams and two junior teams and running an In2cricket program for prep to grade 4.
3. Home grounds are Rec Reserve (turf) and Tech School (hard).
4. Training nights: Seniors and juniors (Thursday).



Cobden Cricket Club’s 2014/15 U16 trophy winners, back: Mitch Reed, Matthew Clarke, Braden Poole, front: Trent Reed, Matthew Kemp, Louis Cain.

COBDEN & DISTRICT TENNIS ASSOCIATION (0409 253 727)

1. Junior Tennis: A parents’ meeting will be held at 10am on Saturday October 10th with a view to getting the season underway later in the month. It is hoped to offer an ANZ Hot Shot program that develops younger players by using smaller racquets and nets, as well as C grade coaching and a competition for the older children.
2. Senior Tennis resumes on Saturday 24th October with numbers looking promising for an even bigger and stronger competition than last season. Some rounds are played on Friday evenings. Again, a great mix of older and up-and-coming players will take to the courts with great enthusiasm.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL – COBDEN CONFERENCE (5595 1020)

1. Help the needy – with food vouchers
2. Visit with bereavement parcels.
3. Knit beanies, scarves, mittens, crochet rugs for homeless.
4. Help students with uniforms, shoes and camps.

COBDEN CALENDAR	
Monday 5th October:	7.30pm Progressing Cobden meeting, Heytesbury Room, Cobden Civic Hall.
Saturday 10th October:	1.30pm Spring Gala Extravaganza at Cobden Civic Hall. In aid of Cobden District Health Services Anzac Wing.
Sunday 11th October:	9am-1pm Apex Park market. 10am Lake Cobden working bee.
Friday 16th, Saturday 17th, Sunday 18th October:	CopRice Cobden Spring Festival.
Friday 30th October:	8pm Old Time Dance at Cobrico Hall.
~ 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.	

Val Maynard has contributed much to our community since she and her family arrived in the district in 1962. Here she reflects on her life’s journey . . . and thanks her lucky stars.

Cobden is a great place to live

Growing up: I was born in Casterton in 1936. My father, Horace Teague, was a baker and my mother, Ada, was a telephonist. When I was two, we shifted to Cowwarr in Gippsland where Dad bought a bakery.

At 4½, school was fun. Do you remember playing marbles in the dirt under the pepper tree, and other games like skippy and hopscotch?

War came. We were on the flight-path to the Sale airfield so we were at risk. Our walls were painted black and our windows were blacked out. Air raid drills took place day and night. I didn’t like the smelly, damp, dark air raid shelters – scary stuff for a little girl.

Dad ran two bakeries and worked at a factory at night for the war effort. Our old bread van was not reliable, and I was often brought home from school to help Mum put the bread in the ovens. I had to stand on a stool to weigh the dough and put it in the tins. Anybody who has made bread will know that timing and rising dough are two important variables.

My brother, John, was born in Maffra, before we moved to Inglewood, 45 kilometres north-west of Bendigo. Boy, it was hot! The cellar was a good place on Christmas Day. No swimming pools back then, just the Loddon River. Because I didn’t like leeches, I never learned to swim!

Coupons were needed for food, clothes and petrol. It was here that I went to school through to year 11. I learned to play the piano and I joined the girl guides. I also loved going to the pictures on Saturday nights – only if it was a suitable film, of course.

To my delight, I now had a baby sister – Lynette.

Bread was delivered around Inglewood by horse and cart. Sunday nights were special as the bread came out of the oven. I can still smell it! People would sneak into the bakery for a fresh loaf and every kid wanted the ‘dodger’ (Dad’s name for the bit of dough left over that ‘dodged’ the tin). Wonderful! Funny how there was always a ‘dodger’ for some lucky kid.

For a short time, I went to Maryborough High School where I joined the debating team. There may be some people who won’t be surprised by that.

We moved on to Dingee Post Office, 48 kilometres directly north of Bendigo where I went to the high school until ‘school over’.

School to work: I worked on the phones in the post office in the mornings – an old switchboard, full of plugs, party lines, open 24 hours a day. The post office was the lifeline of the community because everyone came in.

The district inspector was quite put out when I wouldn’t hand over the safe keys to him. Well, I didn’t know who he was, did I? A week later, he offered me a job in his office! I said no thanks.

In the afternoons, I became the sewing mistress at the Dingee school. I loved teaching preps, grade 1 and 2 and my one hour a week of sewing. Looking back, it would have been wonderful to go to teachers college but my parents just couldn’t afford it. After school, I would return to the switchboard.

By the way, the headmaster at Dingee school was a Mr Dinghy. Quite a coincidence.

Concert parties were a popular pastime. It was great fun travelling around the district on the back of a truck to put on a concert. As a young group, we sang and performed skits . . . anything we could do to entertain people. It was during this time that I met my husband Alec.

My parents ran the Dingee Post Office for 50 years.

Family and Farms: The next stage of my life was becoming a farmer’s wife at Calivil, 64 kilometres north-northwest of Bendigo. Not for long though because I soon bought the Calivil Post Office. Farmers brought their milk cans down to meet the trucks and to collect their mail. It was during this time that our children Chris, Jeffrey, Russell and Sue were born in Bendigo.

In 1962, we bought a dairy farm on the Heytesbury Settlement – the western end of Gribbles Road with the Sambells, Jenkins and Lias for neighbours. They were hard years, and a long way from home . . . 198 acres and 198 heaps of trees and logs to be cleared, no electricity, a woodfire for hot water, no floor coverings, a copper to wash clothes and four small children!

It was not what I had hoped for . . . and then came the drought. Our cows were agisted out and the shire offered work to the men. I learned to feed calves and pigs . . . but we survived it all. The kids travelled to Timboon Consolidated School by bus. Back in those days, settlement kids were given very cheap hot lunches at school. Even, to this day, I can’t eat veal because of my time rearing calves. And, believe it or not, the western end of Gribbles Road is still not sealed!

A memory is our kids finding a nearby vegetable garden and taking great delight in pulling up all the carrots. They couldn’t believe that these beautiful, orange carrots could be hiding under the ground.

Cobden Central: While we were on the farm, during the drought, I worked at weekends in Ken Harwood’s milk-bar in Cobden. In 1970, eight years after we arrived at Gribbles Road, we bought that business. It is now David Steel’s Real Estate office but, since we departed in 1976, ‘Joffa’ Horsted, Les and Betty Fryers, George and Kaye Hanks, among others, have all operated a milk-bar in the building.

It was during this time that I became involved in the community especially with Cobden Technical School and Cobden Quota Club as a charter member. Son Chris was in the first-ever Tech School group at the recreation reserve and I joined the school as the canteen lady in 1973, a position I held for 25 years.



Val relaxes at home.

Owning a milk bar made Chris quite popular at school because he took student orders as he left for lunch, returning with all the goods before afternoon classes got underway.

Canteen helpers became friends, staff and students became family. I even forgive the student who handed me a live magpie instead of money and the student who threw a fire cracker in the door of the canteen . . . and ran for his life! Funny days, I am glad the school is still known as Cobden Tech.

Community: I have thoroughly enjoyed the Cobden community – including my 45 years with Quota, my involvement in the Country Women’s Association, the Uniting Church, the Cobden Choir and, especially, as charter president of Cobden Probus. Attending conferences, serving as an office bearer at district level and learning how we can help others, have been real highlights of being a part of these organisations.

I also love being at home where I can quilt, knit and read. Whenever I can, I go to the cinema, most recently to see Oddball which I thought was good family fun. I like any film, I’m not hard to please.

Thanks to Kevin ‘Johnno’ Johnston’s overseas trips, I have seen the fantastic sights in Canada and Alaska, and I have been fortunate to visit Russell in both USA (twice) and China.

I am so glad girls now have equal opportunity to access education and career advancement. In my time, this wasn’t the case with boys seen as the sole breadwinners. I remember when women were not allowed to take out loans or sign cheques. Times have changed, thank goodness!

My family is a special joy. I have four wonderful children, ten grandchildren (all with jobs – isn’t that great?) and two delightful great grandchildren.

You know, I never really thought of Cobden as home. When we came south in 1962, it was all about making some money and going back to the Bendigo area. Then my parents died and I realised I was home . . . and always will be.

Cobden is a great place to live . . . so I am blessed.

SERVICE FIRST, SELF LAST

Val was a Quota charter member (45 years ago), the charter president of Cobden Probus and a CWA member for so many years she has lost count. She has held president and secretary positions with all these organisations as well as being president of the South Western CWA Group.

Our research also unearthed the fact that Val was presented with a Corangamite Shire Australia Day citizenship award in 2009.

Val’s family and community can attest to her exemplary willingness to help people in distress. Over the years, she has supported young people needing assistance – accommodation and meals overnight or even over a week, also enlisting the aid of her organisations to provide basic necessities for a student to attend school – but her family has watched on in even more awe in recent times.

Val Maynard (left), with fellow Quotarian Nola Farquharson.

For the past two years, she has spent the majority of her time in Melbourne caring for son Chris’ wife Wendy, who needed 24 hour support while recuperating from illness. At this point, Val is able to spend more time at the place she gladly calls home.