

CONNECTING COBDEN

COMMUNITY



NEWSLETTER

EDITION No 2

October 12th, 2011

CHAMPION FIRE FIGHTERS and CHAMPION RUNNERS

The Cobden Urban Fire Brigade, founded in 1938, was housed in Silvester Street until moving to its modern state-of-the-art premises in McKenzie Street in May 2003.

In all that time – 73 years – the brigade has had only four captains – Jack Rose, Eric Fagan, Bob Andrews and present captain, Bill Nelson.

Over the past thirty years, membership has grown to more than thirty active fire fighters, plus many junior members.

The competition side of Cobden Urban Fire Brigade has proved most popular with both senior and junior members travelling around the State to compete very successfully against other towns.

Brigade turn-outs average about six

to eight a month, obviously peaking in summer, with much strike team activity involving travelling to fight large bushfires all over Victoria and New South Wales.

Our biggest fires have been the Pauls Store blaze, Ash Wednesday, Black Saturday and many supporting incidents.

Our brigade meets on the third Monday of every month and training is carried out on the first Monday of the month.

The brigade has several life members – including Bob Andrews, Denis Power, Geoff Fagan, Lex Parlour, Bill Nelson and the late Eric Fagan, Alice Fagan and Thelma Parlour.

The most recent addition to the modern fleet of fire fighting vehicles is a new pumper.

Our members wear modern turn-out gear which is much safer than past clothing.

The local siren was always heard weekly but up-to-date technology has seen the introduction of individual pagers which improves turn-out times to incidents.

By Ashley Fagan

Photo (Right): Cobden Urban Fire Brigade captain Bill Nelson (left) and secretary Ash Fagan proudly show young runners Bec Millard (front door) and Lucy Fagan Cobden's brand new pumper which is yet to be used "in anger". Ash is wearing the brigade's recently-issued turn-out protective clothing



Colleen Baynes tells the wonderful story behind the...

RED HILL HALL - NEARLY 75 YEARS YOUNG!

When the Red Hill Hall was built in 1937 on land donated by the Finlayson family, it must have been a real talking point - a new hall out in the bush.

Although we see Cobden as a five minute drive now, back then it was a trip that was only done when supplies were needed.

The name Red Hill is only a nickname as the hill coming up past Les Sumner's house used to be a red gravel track and, with old heavy under-powered vehicles, it would have been a slow trip up. So, in actual fact, it should be called the Jancourt East Hall.

From 1937 to the 1970s, the hall was used to gather the locals together with dances, sports days, etc. I'm not sure exactly when the tennis courts were built and a tennis club created but, eventually, tennis moved into Cobden and the courts

fell into disrepair.

Sadly, in the 1980-90s, the hall was only used once a year to host the annual Christmas Tree. As a result, it also started to fall into a state of disrepair. That was when a community meeting was called and a whole new committee was elected.

At first, the job seemed too big – we didn't know where to start! The roof leaked, gutters were rusted out, possums nested in the kitchen wall... it needed everything, and we didn't think we could do it all. So we started with the roof, but how could we raise \$3000 when we didn't have enough in the bank to pay the power bill?

Someone suggested we approach the local community for donations, collect aluminum cans and run a car rally. We started and have never looked back.

To date we have re-roofed, re-wired, painted, installed a heater/air conditioner, replaced toilets, polished floors, installed a new kitchen, built a storage shed, a playground, a recycling shelter, some decking, mounted a changeable sign, hung blinds, and the list goes on...and on...and on!

Without the help of the Shire and DSE grants we wouldn't have been able to achieve as much as we have. Most grants we had to match \$ for \$ so we have had to do lots of fundraising along the way. Don't get me wrong, we have had fun along the way too. If the hall walls could talk, there would be some stories to tell I'm sure. People come and go but most who have lived at Jancourt East would have been to the hall!

(Continued page 2)



WHO AM I?

When were you born (or in which decade)? I was born in 1967 and am proudly 44 years-old.

Your AFL team? I have none. I hate football as a concept and a game!

How do you relax? Garden and renovate houses.

Your favourite holiday destination? Anywhere, as long as it's away from where I live. It's not a holiday, if you can "Just duck home for a moment"

Your favourite television show? Master Chef, for the psychology, not the cooking.

The best thing about your work? I get to help people, even if they don't realise or appreciate it!

Who provided the best piece of advice you have ever received? What was it? Myself. "If you don't like it change it; if you can't change it, leave."and "Fools will cause their own demise"

One thing about you that might surprise our readers? I'm a 2nd degree black belt, and a martial arts instructor (not practising).

Four stimulating and interesting dinner guests?

- Mother Teresa
- Hitler
- A suicide bomber (any one of them and, preferably, before detonation, but I'd like to ask the question, "So, was it worth it?")
- David SUZUKI

The best book you've ever read? I read so much. It changes from day to day. I think my most memorable was "A Fine Balance" because I got to the end, and was so shocked by the ending, I re-read the whole book again. Surprisingly, it finished the same way.

Your worst habit? Smoking.

Cobden's best feature? The town itself is its own best feature. If I was pushed for an answer, I'd say the green undulating landscape. I come from a very dry and flat area. This town's beautiful, and the community is great.

Which schools did you attend? Stanhope Primary and Rushworth High.

Your favourite subject at school? English.

Your proudest achievement so far? I don't have one. I'm still waiting to achieve something great but I'm not sure what I would consider to be great either, otherwise, I'd work towards achieving it. I'll get back to you...

The name of this Cobden identity will be revealed in November's Connecting Cobden.

RESTORATION GROUP CRANKS UP!

The object of the South Western Restoration Group, which moved from Bookaar to Cobden in 2010, is to foster interest in the restitution and restoration of steam and oil engines and other vintage articles.

The big event of the year is held in March – the annual rally with invitations extended to other clubs with similar interests and, of course, the public.

In the meantime, the Cobden Spring Festival weekend (October 14-16)

will provide the chance for visitors to check out the fascinating exhibition of engines. The rally grounds and sheds will be open on Saturday afternoon and all day on Sunday.

The club was officially formed in 1978 with Ron Jackson president and John Haden secretary.

Current membership is about 200 which includes nine life members. New members with same interests are most welcome. For insurance purposes, you have to

be over 10 years-old and under 80 years-old.

The group meets on the third Sunday of the month at its club grounds on Grayland St, Cobden.

Because the grounds have been very wet, many members have bogged vehicles. We even presented an award to the "Best Bogged Truck".

We look forward to creating something really special at our new grounds for all to enjoy in the future, and to show our thanks to the



many people who have supported us.

President Ian Wilson

Secretary Val Higgins

Treasurer Ron "Jacko" Jackson

Contact person:
Ian Wilson 5595 1438
ianpatdav1@bigpond.com

By Ian Wilson



ABOVE: The group's first rally on its new grounds – March 2011.

LEFT: South Western District Restoration Group member Mackie Smith in his engine shed.

1937-2011 – RED HILL HALL

(Continued from page 1)

Each year, the Hall committee hosts a car rally, a trivia night, the Christmas Tree, and has plenty of hiring for birthdays (excluding 18th and 21st occasions), family reunions, anniversaries and a couple of weddings. One of our locals always wanted the hall to be the venue for his funeral, his wish was granted and the hall converted into a beautiful setting just right for that occasion. We now have another wanting the hall for her funeral (date to be confirmed, she still looks pretty healthy to me).

The hall is regularly hired out and brings in enough money to run with the hire money alone but we feel we want to make our hall better so we continue to fundraise all the time. Our meetings are usually held at 8pm on a Sunday night at the hall, but which Sunday???? We just decide to have one when we need one, about once a month.

Most of our committee have acquired a Food Handler's Certificate as we have catered for functions at the hall and done some catering at clearing sales for fundraisers. We also have completed Working with Children checks.

The only other community organisation we have out at Red Hill is the Jancourt Fire Brigade. We have just leased the old tennis courts area to them and a new CFA shed is going to commence being built there after Christmas. So, after almost 75 years the hall, and CFA will be neighbours.

Our committee consists of: President – Erich Wagner, Secretary – Colleen Baynes, Treasurer – Sharyn Finlayson, General Committee Members – Janine Thow, Judith Gribble, Garry Finlayson and Margaret Morris. This committee has been unchanged since 2003.

COBDEN CALENDAR

Friday, October 14: Cobden and District Kindergarten Open House – Renovations Opening. 2pm to 4pm with official opening at 2.30pm. All past, present and future parents, children and friends welcome. RSVP Liz Roberts 5595 0256 or Kindergarten 5595 1373

Weekend, October 14, 15 and 16: CopRice Cobden Spring Festival
Sunday, October 23: Red Hill Hall Car Rally, 9.30am onwards. \$7 per adult, \$5 Under 16 & \$2 Under 12. Includes BBQ lunch. A great day for young and old. All welcome!

Friday, December 16 (date to be confirmed): Red Hill Hall Christmas Tree, 7pm BYO shared tea, \$5 Family. Santa will arrive with gifts for all primary school-age and younger children. Enquiries: Margaret Finlayson 5594 6217

LETTERS

Congratulations

We would like to congratulate the Connecting Cobden Committee on such a fantastic idea. You would know as we do it's hard to get things up and going without volunteers. It's just too easy for people to say they don't have time to help but the fact is you have to make time! We wish you all the best with this new venture.

Colleen Baynes

CHECK YOUR ORGANISATION AND ITS DETAILS, PLEASE

"Connecting Cobden" is all about organisations – so we need to know if we have you on file . . . and if we have your correct details. Please check our list and let us know of any mistakes or omissions. Email kelvin@swilen.net.au or ring 55951700 if you want anything amended or added. We're happy to add email addresses if they are provided.

- | | |
|---|---|
| Cobrico Public Hall Reserve
Janet Ovens Ph: 5595 1796 | Cobden Airstrip
Kevin Osborne Ph: 5595 2027
kevoborne@bigpond.com |
| Red Hill Public Hall Reserve
Colleen Baynes Ph: 5594 6231 | Cobden Aero Club Inc
Duncan Morris Ph: 5505 1089 |
| Bostocks Creek Public Hall
Maree Coverdale Ph: 5595 1526 | Airport Fundraising Committee
Phillip Robertson Ph: 5593 3095 |
| Cobden SES
Murray Kelson Ph: 5595 1549
kelsonnansonic@bigpond.com | Lake Elingamite Reserve
Les Blake Ph: 5595 1136 |
| Cobden & District Historical Society
Alma MacDonald Ph: 5595 1162 | Cobrico Recreation Reserve
Cheryl Oates Ph: 5595 1706 |
| Cobden Art Group
Wilma Fagan Ph: 5595 1679 | Cobden Recreation Centre
Geanelle Searle Ph: 5593 3014 |
| Cobden Cemetery Trust
Joanne Beard Ph: 5595 1951
jobeard78@yahoo.com.au | Cobden Swimming Pool
Brooke Love (acting) Ph: 5593 7100 |
| Cobden Country Women's Assoc.
Dawn Robertson Ph: 5595 1181 | Cobden Recreation Reserve
Harry Umland Ph: 5595 1186 |
| Cobden District Health Services
Jeannine Creely Ph: 5595 3100
admin.cdhs@swarh.vic.gov.au | Cobden Sports Club
Kelvin White Ph: 5595 1183 |
| Cobden Fire Brigade
Ashley Fagan Ph: 5595 1939
robbo@tca-online.com.au | Progressing Cobden
Kelvin White Ph: 5595 1183 |
| Elingamite/Glenfyne Fire Brigade
Greg Free Ph: 5595 1454 | Cobden Civic Hall
Kevin Johnston Ph: 5595 1842 |
| Cobrico Rural Fire Brigade
Ken Smith Ph: 5595 4259 | Cobden Miniature Rail/Mini Golf
Gary Kimber Ph: 5595 1275
mazzgazz@bigpond.net.au |
| Jancourt Rural Fire Brigade
Les Sumner Ph: 5594 6253 | Cobden Pioneer Dairy Park
Heather Walsh Ph: 5595 1524 |
| Bostocks Creek Rural Fire Brigade
Christine Clark Ph: 5593 2104
lepacl@tac-online.com.au | Cobden Rotary Club
Kevin Moran Ph: 5595 1882 |
| Cobden Scouting Group
Jodie Walsh Ph: 0447 943 064 | Cobden Safety House Committee
Pam Savage Ph: 5595 1565 |
| Cobden Playgroup Inc
Jedda Couch Ph: 5595 1769 | Cobden Senior Citizens Club
Irene Wyles Ph: 5595 1850 |
| Cobden and District Kindergarten
Liz Roberts Ph: 5595 0256 | Probus Club of Cobden
Ken Unwin Ph: 5594 3407 |
| Cobden Primary School
Peter Lee Ph: 5595 1087
lee.peter.p@edumail.vic.gov.au | Quota International of Cobden
Sue Robertson Ph: 5593 3095 |
| Cobden Technical School
Peter Rock Ph: 5595 1202 | Cobden Men's Shed
Gary Kimber Ph: 0409 951 275
mazzgazz@bigpond.net.au |
| Cobden and District Night Netball
Tanya Davis Ph: 5595 2074 | South West Restoration Group
Ian Wilson Ph: 5595 1438
ianpatdav1@bigpond.com |
| Cobden Cricket Club
Brendan Hickey Ph: 0439 983 060 | St Vincent de Paul Society
Helen Watts Ph: 5595 2210 |
| Cobden District Tennis
Sharyn Finlayson Ph: 5594 6272
shazfin@bigpond.com | Meals on Wheels
Kate Daffy Ph: 5595 1020 |
| Cobden Football Netball Club
Kelli Pekin Ph: 5595 1791 | Red Cross – Cobden Unit
Helen Chivell Ph: 5595 1364 |
| Cobden Golf Club
George Readings Ph: 5595 1393
www.cobdengolf.com.au | Cobden Garden Club
Barbara Cowley Ph: 5595 4243 |
| Cobden Indoor Bowling Club
Joan Hammond Ph: 5595 1235 | Cobden Quilters
Mrs Helen Smith Ph: 5595 1258 |
| Cobden Olympic Basketball
Kathryn Robertson Ph: 5595 2256 | Cobden Walking Group
Joyce De Koning Ph: 5595 1175 |
| Cobden Ladies Bowling Club
Lorraine King Ph: 5595 1598 | Cobden Orchid Club
Leanne Rethus Ph: 5595 1527
llrethus@westvic.com |
| Cobden Squash Club
John Fallon Ph: 5595 1787 | St Brendan's Catholic Church
Kate Daffy Ph: 5595 1020 |
| Cobden Swimming Club
Tracy Hickey Ph: 0439 952 014 | St Mary's Anglican Church
Kaye Hanks Ph: 5595 1210 |
| Cobden Junior Football Netball
Phyllis Finlayson Ph: 5595 1645 | Christian Reformed Church
John van Leerdam Ph: 5595 1676 |
| Cobden Volleyball Association
Mark Rantall Ph: 5595 1730 | Cobden Uniting Church
Fred Wheaton Ph: 5595 1272 |
| Cobden Zen Do Kai Martial Arts
Craig Davis Ph: 0419 387 462
craigtanya.d@bigpond.com | Uniting Church Opportunity Shop
Elizabeth Wilson Ph: 5595 1093 |
| South West Kart Club Inc
Bevan Walker Ph: 0418 995 015 | Kingdom Hall
Gary Clissold Ph: 5593 2336 |
| Camperdown Timboon Rail Trail
Pat Robinson Ph: 5593 1104 | Heytesbury Dist Landcare Network
Geoff Rollinson Ph: 5598 3755 |
| Cobden and District Pony Club
Cheryl Oates Ph: 5595 1706 | Elingamite Cobrico Landcare
Barbara Cowley Ph: 5595 4243 |
| Cobden Angling Club
Les Blake Ph: 5595 1136 | Glenfyne Public Hall Reserve
Pat Robinson Ph: 5593 1104 |
| | Cobden & Dist Community Finance
Margaret McDonald
margaretemily@yahoo.com.au |

Secretary Jodie Walsh reports on...

COBDEN SCOUTING GROUP TURNING 90!

This year sees Cobden 1st Scouting Group turn 90, and special celebration badges have been made to commemorate the occasion. Past and present members who would like a badge should contact Phil Langley.

Heading our four sections – Joeys, Cubs, Scouts and Venturers – is the infamous David Luker.

- Joeys, aged 6-7 years, meet every Monday (except school holidays) from 4pm until 5pm with their leaders being Pam Green and Natasha Powell.
- Captains of the Cubs ship are Kim Gration and Amber Henriksen who meet with their 8 to 10 year-olds every Monday night (except school holidays) between 7pm and 8.30pm.
- Phil Langley leads the 10-14 year-old Scouts who meet on Wednesday nights (except school holidays) between 7.30pm and 9pm.
- Friday from 7pm to 9.30pm is Venturers night (14-17 year-olds) with Sue Weppner and Steve Leversha taking charge.

Committee meetings are held every second Wednesday of the month. New members are always welcome.

The OUT in ScOUTing

The founder of Scouting, Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell, was born in England in 1857. He lived a busy and adventurous life and, as a boy, spent much of his spare time in open-air pursuits, hunting in the woods, and joining his brothers in expeditions by land and by boat. Thus he developed his powers of observation and resourcefulness, which helped him to acquire many useful skills.

Lord Baden Powell once said: "Let us practise the OUT in ScOUTing." Well, you could say Cobden Scouts practise the OUT in scouting using their hall only as a meeting place. They always went camping at Curdies Siding for Easter and Christmas up to two weeks at a time. This is the real part of Scouting – camping, cooking, sharing, crying, laughing, togetherness. When I look back, these things provided a great start to a boy's life.

Although we have seen girls enter our groups, nothing much has changed in Scouting over the many years. Today, we are still practising the real art of Scouting!!

We give our groups the opportunity to learn practical skills, develop positive attitudes and acquire the personal values which sustain you throughout life.

We stand by this today with many of our current leaders having grown up through Cobden Scouts, starting as Cubs and progressing right through to become our leaders. David Luker, Phil Langley and Ronnie Greagen have all been involved for more than 45 years.

If you have any queries, please contact David (5595 1015), Phil (0419 865 367) or Ronnie (5595 1690).



Venturer Dylan Leversha works on the art of abseiling



A strong group of Scouting leaders (1979): Back: Greg McQuinn (left), Ray Baker, Des Mackay, Gary Alexander, Ronnie Greagen, David Luker. Front: Joyce Roberts, Annette Mulholland, Sharon Oates.

After chatting with a couple of retailers in our shopping area, I was moved to include the following piece in Connecting Cobden. It's not rocket science. In fact...

IT'S A NO-BRAINER!

If we don't shop locally...

What happens when we need something today... and the shop closed its doors... just last week?

Imagine what Curdie and Victoria streets will look like in ten years' time.

Imagine what services we won't have in ten years' time. We'll have to go to Camperdown, or Colac and Warrnambool for more than what we have to currently .

No local sponsors for our clubs and organisations.

No tradies, no industry, no employment, less education options, one supermarket with no competition, no pub, no butcher, no lolly shop, no fruit and vegie shop, no clothing shop, no bakery, no fish and chip shop, no hardware shop, fewer sporting clubs, and no weekend petrol...

It's a no-brainer really.

Nobody can argue against the occasional trip to the bigger shopping centres, the occasional family day-out. But let's keep our day-to-day dollars close to home so we can keep Cobden not just steady on its feet but up and running.

Let our business people know what you need... keep the channels of communication open... you might be surprised by what might be available, and at what price!

A few extra dollars spent in Cobden may be worth the investment in our town's future, an investment that might pay dividends for yourself, your family and your friends.

A town that shops locally... won't die wondering.

In the lead-up to Christmas, let's make a clear statement to all our retailers and our tradespeople. "We want you in the town so we will support you as much as we possibly can!"

Kelvin White

If we shop locally...

Our shops will remain open because they will be more viable.

Our shops will be capable of carrying a wider range of stock.

Their owners will be in a better position to support other businesses, our schools, our clubs and organisations.

There will be more employment opportunities for everyone.

There will be more training opportunities for our young people – traineeships and apprenticeships.

Young people may not even have to leave town to work... they might even be more inclined to return after completing study or training elsewhere.

If our retail and tradespeople are doing well, we are more likely to attract other industries and businesses, even a bigger population.

More services – healthcare, education and the like – will be available in the town.

Those who work in Cobden (but live elsewhere) might be more likely to live in or around the town.

Those who live in the town (but work elsewhere) may get employment closer to home.

A competitive environment will help to keep prices down. While we have a supermarket, we also need to keep our smaller shops viable.

While some items might be a little dearer, how much do we spend on petrol to save a few dollars?

SOME INTERESTING FACTS

Our last Queen Scout was Becky McCann back in 1996. After disbanding in the early 1990s due to lack of numbers, Venturers has since reformed. We now have eight members, some of whom are progressing towards this prestigious award.

Barbara Mason was our first female Scout leader, the third member of Bernie and Joan McQuinn's family to be invested as a leader – brothers Greg and Michael beginning the tradition.

Our first girls participated in Scouts in 1994. They were Becky McCann, Georgia Sambell and Brenda James.

Our involvement with the community includes such events and activities as Anzac Day, the Red Shield Appeal, tree-planting around Lake Cobden, the CopRice Spring Festival, and the Relay for Life.

WHO AM I?

When were you born? 1969

Your AFL team? Richmond

How do you relax? In the shed with music or sport

Your favourite holiday destination? Gold Coast

How many children do you have? Three

Their ages? 11, 10 and 8

Your favourite television show? Family Guy, Swamp People

The best thing about your work? Dealing with the public

Who provided the best piece of advice you have ever received? What was it? "Stop paying rent – it's dead money." I heard it on the radio.

One thing about you that might surprise our readers? I like playing lawn bowls

The best book you've ever read? Spy Catcher

Your worst habit? Snoring in my chair

Cobden's best feature? The lake

Your favourite subject at school? Woodwork and Maths

Your proudest achievement so far? Getting married and having three kids

To which clubs or organisations do you currently belong? Hampden Darts Association, Cobden Cricket Club

Four stimulating and interesting dinner guests? Matthew Richardson, Shane Warne, Matthew Knights, Jack Reiwoldt – I love the Black and Yellow.

Which schools did you attend? Seymour, Brunswick East, Colac East primary schools and Manangatang P-12

The name of this Cobden identity will be revealed in November's Connecting Cobden.

Your views are welcome - email kelvin@swllen.net.au

WHO AM I?

When and where were you born? 1994 in Camperdown
Which schools have you attended? Cobden Primary and Cobden Technical School
Your AFL team? Geelong Cats
How do you relax? Drawing
Your favourite holiday destination? Anywhere where there's a beach.
Brothers and sisters? One sister
Your favourite television shows? Packed to the Rafters and Winners and Losers
The best thing about your school? The great relationship we have with our teachers
Who provided the best piece of advice you have ever received? Mum.
What was it? "Give it a go, you might surprise yourself."
Current clubs or organisations? Dance Struck and Cobden Tennis Association
One thing about you that might surprise our readers? My sister and I share the same birthday
Cobden's best feature? The Rail Trail
Your favourite subject at school? Art
Your proudest achievement so far? Getting my L plates
What do you want to do when you leave school? Become an interior or graphic designer
The name of this Cobden identity will be revealed in November's Connecting Cobden.

STATE CHAMPION REUNION



Cobden Urban Fire Brigade has produced some magnificent performances on the running track. A shining example is the State title winning senior team of 1981, pictured at a 25 year reunion in 2006. Back (l-r): Bill Nelson, Chris Gaut, Colin Kelson, Norm Frusher, Ash Fagan, Paul Sullivan, Milton Parlour and Robert Frusher. Front: Brigade captain Bob Andrews and team coach Geoff Fagan. Absent from the photo are John Rix and Dale Bunn.

COBDEN KINDER IS KIND OF COOL! (says president, Liz Roberts)

The Cobden and District Kindergarten's aim is to provide children, aged three to six, with a well-rounded fun and educational experience.

The children are exposed to many different learning experiences and play opportunities within a safe and engaging environment, which ideally promotes independence and encourages self-esteem. Play based daily programs are carefully developed by staff, incorporating every child's individual strengths and interests, encouraging them to explore, investigate and learn about the world around them.

Presently 56 children are catered for at the kindergarten throughout the week. The four year-old kinder program involves 34 children split

into two equal groups, with Yellow Group attending on Monday and Wednesday, and Blue Group attending Tuesday and Thursday. Both groups attend the kinder for 10.75 hours per week.

Friday mornings are attended by 22 eager three year-olds for two to three hours.

All groups get to experience daily routines, with activities changing themes each week. Performances, excursions, theme dress up days and special visitor days are also incorporated into the learning programs each term, to stimulate the children's learning process, as well as embracing the kindergarten's philosophy of welcoming family and community involvement.

Originally founded as the Cobden Play Centre in 1955 and held in the St Andrews Presbyterian Sunday School Hall, a group of dedicated parents and teachers ran the centre with permission from the Health Department, on the understanding that a pre-school centre would be established and function under Government supervision and regulation.

In 1962 the Heytesbury Shire Council decided to apply for grants to build a dual building in Cobden to house a new infant welfare centre and a new pre-school centre. It was not until 1965 that the modern brick veneer centre was built at a cost of £8390, with the Play Centre committee also contributing money toward new

equipment and set up costs. As time went by, public assistance was called on to extend the kindergarten's playground.

Parent committees continued to assist in the everyday running of the centre until the 1990s when the Shires merged and became the Corangamite Shire. District kindergartens were moved into a cluster management scheme with the Shire taking on the majority of the everyday running, including employment of staff, managing the grounds etc. Parent committees continued to assist in fundraising for new equipment, as well as day-to-day assistance with fruit duties, gardening, maintenance etc.

For their dedication and the hard work put into establishing the kindergarten, life memberships have been awarded to Elsie Denney, Nancy Morris, Margaret Mounsey, Enid Smith, Heather McArthur and Muriel Stewart.

Family Membership - Corangamite

Shire advertises four year-old enrolments each year, where parents must provide birth certificates, maternal health and immunisations records. The Kindergarten Committee runs three year-old kinder and advertises for interest. This group only runs if numbers are viable, with thirteen being a minimum group number. This is due to it being a stand-alone program, with no government assistance at all. Teacher and assistant salaries must be raised by the families attending, through quarterly fees and additional fundraising.

Parent Committee meetings are held monthly at the kindergarten at 7:30pm. Dates and days are pre-arranged early in the year to accommodate and work around other commitments of staff and parents. The annual general meeting is held in November each year after being advertised in public newspapers.



(Top left) SUNDAY DRIVE - Front: Riley Nelson, Fraser Guthrie; Middle: Kiera Goonan, Holly Roberts; Back: Jasmine Kelcey, Connor Burgin

(Top right) SO MUCH TO DO - Henry Robertson, Grace Taylor and Holly Roberts.

(Left) "THINGLETOODLE" AND FRIENDS - Front: Henry Robertson, Jack Simper, Lara Taylor, Grace Taylor, Holly Roberts, Oscar Barden; Middle: Maddison Osborne, Fraser Guthrie, Jasmine Kelcey, Connor Burgin, Chris Kellermeier; Back: Teacher Teresa Frost, Kurtis Robbins, "Thingletoodle", Kiera Goonan, Riley Nelson, Jay-Lee Neal.



STAFF PROFILES

Teresa Frost (Four year-old Director): Commenced at Cobden as a three year-old teacher in 2003 before gaining the director's position in 2007. Teresa is very dedicated to her work and the children who come through each year. Often seen at kindergarten long after the children have gone. An avid music concert attendee – just ask her!

Glenda Tesselaar (Four year-old Assistant): Commenced at Cobden in 2000. Has wonderful knowledge of the kinder. Loves to work with the children which reflects her warm, friendly nature. The kids all love her too!

Kerry Cain (Four and three year-old Assistant): Commenced at Cobden in 2009 as the three year-old assistant. Now working with Glenda and the four year-olds. currently studying her Diploma of Children's Services in her spare time! A vibrant personality who the children love and admire.

Julie Wallace (Three year-old Director): Commenced at Cobden in 2010 as the three year-old teacher. A very experienced teacher who has taught at primary schools, kindergartens and TAFE. Local identity who grew up in the area. Keeps the three year olds entertained with fun stories and play days.

Sue Ralph (Cleaner): Commenced at Cobden in 1999. Also has a wonderful knowledge of the kindergarten and enjoys the developments made over the years. A jovial hard worker who is meticulous in her work. But don't ask her about the days when the glitter is out. Apparently it's not easy to clean up!