

CONNECTING COBDEN

COMMUNITY



NEWSLETTER

EDITION No 3

November 16th, 2011

COPRICE SPRING FESTIVAL CAPTURED ON CAMERA



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1. Underbellys looking dangerous in the parade.
2. Criterium cyclists Matt Lane and Darcy Woolley.
3. Community Bank entry in the Fonterra parade.
4. Cr Jo Beard, Frank Martin and Hon Terry Mulder at the opening of the Jetties Project.
5. Andy Williams gives some grandfatherly advice to Kurtis Robbins at the Fishing Competition.
6. Bernie and Joy Bourke with cuddly bear-friend at the Country Music Night.
7. Happy Geelong Cats supporter Jan O'Connell.
8. Cobden Reformed Church float won best entry in the parade.
9. Cobden Primary School teachers and students.
10. Nancy Simper and Doug Beechey at the Country Music Night.

Photos courtesy of Julie Finney and Daniel Beard.



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Garry Moorfield reveals the ... **SEVEN REASONS TO VISIT COBDEN**

The development of tourism and improvements to the appearance of Cobden were two major priorities to emerge through the Cobden Twenty20 Planning initiative, but candid advice sought from tourism experts was that the idea of 'tourism' and 'Cobden' are not a good fit.

This was not intended as any slight against Cobden, just a hard-nosed assessment that the development of a tourism-based economy relies on possessing attributes and offering experiences relevant to existing or emerging market needs. Rather than being discouraged by this assessment, the Tourism and Town Appearance Action Groups have joined together and set about devising some longer-term strategies and plans to develop Cobden's public realm assets and to begin to give expression to 'the Cobden story'. These strategies aim to tell the story of the many and varied attractions of Cobden and district, recognising that most of these 'attractions' need to be further developed and improved to realise their tourism potential. In some cases, (such as a Rail Trail camping site or a major Street

Tree Planting Scheme), the potential 'attraction' needs to be created pretty much from scratch.

Working through an exercise to list 'Seven reasons to visit Cobden', the Tourism and Town Appearance Action Group has arrived at the following top key attractions, noting that most currently have some limitations. These are to be featured in a new brochure and website for Cobden, as well as to serve as 'Cobden content' in new Shipwreck Coast marketing materials.

Key attractions - Crater to Coast Rail Trail, Nehill Brothers Farm - Living History Reserve, (South Purrumbete), Fishing (Cobden Lake, Lake Elingamite, Curdies River, Purrumbete, Cobden Golf Course, Free camping, Cobden's walking trails, Cobden Pioneer Dairy Park, Miniature railway.

Ten other 'attractions' have been identified, which can be added to the list as they are further developed and depending on their relevance to particular market segments.

Community Advice Sought

Progressing Cobden and the Tourism and Town Appearance Committee seeks further advice from the Cobden community in regard to the creation of a substantial avenue of major tree plantings commencing at the entrances to Victoria and Curdie Streets from Neylon Streets. This is the key recommendation from the visiting urban design consultants, aimed at signing and inviting passing tourist

traffic into the town centre. If adopted, this will provide a long-term tree-planting strategy for Cobden, to be implemented in stages. The recommendation of the urban designers and the Tourism and Town Appearance Action Group is to eventually reinstate and extend the original Cobden plane tree plantings, but some have questioned the desirability of this tree selection. It is recognised that any avenue planting strategy cannot succeed without community support, and a survey of residents is proposed to gather advice on preferred tree selection.

HAVE YOUR SAY!

Your feedback is needed: email kelvin@swllen.net.au or write to Connecting Cobden, PO Box 37, Cobden 3266.



Two of the five new jetties on Lake Cobden officially opened on October 14th by Hon Terry Mulder MLA

“ALL MEN NEED A SHED”

says Barbara Cowley

On visiting the Men's Shed recently, the sense of camaraderie was very evident along with some well-deserved pride in the (ever expanding) number of goods which are made, repaired or remodelled.

The job at hand was producing a new set of gates for the miniature railway park, to replace those that had seen better days.

When that task is completed it is only a matter of consulting the list on the wall, to know that there are many more jobs yet to begin, to keep the men well and truly occupied.

The production line ranges from practical to decorative and I can vouch for the convenience of having a small folding table, one of their many manufactured items.

At our recent festival, the men had a stall at the Pioneer Dairy Park and one item that was very intriguing to me, was a mousetrap. On inquiring about it, a demonstration (fortunately, minus the mouse) was quickly arranged.

The group meets Tuesdays 10am-3pm and Thursdays 1pm-3pm, although such is the enthusiasm shown, they can often be found there outside these times.

The group has a good balance between socialising and physical activity with the men determining what they will participate in according to their interests, capabilities and health.

Money raised by sales fund their activities as there are no membership fees.

For more information contact Cobden District Health Services on 5595 3100.



Kevin Hinkley and Bruce Woodmason working on the miniature railway park gates



Eddie McDowall and Frank de Koning enjoying the produce in the Men's Shed's strawberry patch



2010-2011 Junior Premiers Left: A Grade Adidas, Ashley Rosolin, Rhys Fallon, Harrison King. Right: B Grade Ghanda, Matthew Kemp, Emily Henriksen, Jai Anderson



TENNIS SERVES THE COMMUNITY WELL

Cobden Tennis is available to all ages. We aim to provide players with the opportunity to play a challenging sport where they can develop their skills whilst having fun too.

In September, 1989 the small country tennis clubs in Cobden and its surrounds were struggling with numbers so the Associations Committee at the time made the decision to centralise the tennis into the one spot at Cobden Recreation Reserve. According to the meeting minutes, senior players from Carpendeit, Cobden, Cobrico, Glenfyne, Redcourt and United were requested to pool players, which were then graded into even teams to strengthen the Association. Junior numbers were strong at the time but they also followed the same format.

We still play at the Cobden Recreation Reserve with the Season commencing mid October to late March on Saturday mornings during school terms for juniors and Saturday afternoons for seniors.

Unfortunately history is repeating itself with numbers slowly declining for the senior competition. This is disappointing for the hard working committee members but people just don't have the time to commit to weekend sport these days. Having had two grades 10 years ago with 40 players we now have the one grade with 20 players competing.

On a positive note the junior numbers are steady at approximately 50 members with the juniors starting their season each year with 3 weeks of coaching by Warrnambool Indoor Tennis Centre coaches and are then graded accordingly into teams in A & B Grades. There is a C Grade coaching program for beginners as well, which is proving very popular.

Seniors play on Saturdays from 1pm to approximately 4pm. We do feature several Friday night matches followed by a BBQ, which frees up our weekends too. We are a very social group and enjoy our Friday night tennis as we get to catch up off the court as well. On Saturday games we support the Cobden Sports Club by enjoying a drink upstairs after the game.

Office bearers are: President, Garry Finlayson, Vice-President, Milton Parlour, Secretary/Treasurer, Sharyn Finlayson, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer, Janine Stevens.

All existing office bearers have been in their positions for many years. We hold our AGM each year in September and a general meeting at the end of the season.

Sharyn Finlayson

Right: Senior Premiers 2010-2011 Carpendeit Cats Back: Ken Coverdale, Linda Kelson Front: Greg Fleming, Maureen Clements, Judy Walsh

CLASSY CHAMPS ON COBDEN'S COURTS

Milton Parlour rates his best 25 players to grace Cobden's tennis courts over the past 40 years. What do you think? We'll publish your opinions! Write to: kelvin@swllen.net.au

MEN

1. Peter Sharp
2. Graham (Fred) Murrhny
3. Ken Taylor
4. Don Vickers
5. Russell Maynard
6. Alan Buncle
7. Gary Raselli
8. Craig Dwyer
9. Wayne Oates
10. Jo Clements
11. Wayne Greaves
12. Garry Finlayson
13. Greg Fleming
14. Geoff Oates
15. Bernie McQuinn

WOMEN

1. Maureen Clements
2. Belinda Savage
3. Fay Greaves
4. Val Baker
5. Marg Finlayson
6. Kate Parlour
7. Judy Myers
8. Eunice Anson
9. Janine Vickers
10. Melva Smith



QUILTING GROUP HAS SUCCESS ALL SEWN UP

Our group began in July 2007, when during a quilting retreat, we discovered that nine of us were from Cobden and surrounds.

We decided to advertise for other interested Quilters and Stitchers to join us and began meeting in the quilt shop. After four meetings we outgrew our meeting place and needed a larger venue.

We now meet at the Cobden Senior Citizens' Hall and have a membership of forty. There are no formal requirements in becoming a member. The most important pre-requisite is a sense of humour, along with an interest in stitching.

The overall aim of the Cobden Quilters' Group is to create an informal environment where like minded people can socialise, share their skills and knowledge with others, have a fun and relaxing time and maybe do a little stitching along the way, and most importantly enjoy themselves.

“A great way to end a day.”

- Helen Smith

You do not necessarily have to be a quilter. We welcome along all facets of the craft world to join us. Other interests of members include cross-stitch, card making, scrapbooking, painting, knitting, crochet, gardening and the list continues.

The Quilt Group joins with the Spring Festival every second year and holds a Quilt Exhibition. Throughout the year we have a challenge to display at our exhibitions.

This year we also had a challenge involving table runners. The husband of one of our members went to an auction and arrived home with big brown boxes of table runners. What do we do with them?

Each quilter was given one or two

runners and two squares of the most desirable fabrics (some of us thought so).

The challenge was to make something from the plain table runner and use a recognisable piece of each fabric somewhere on the masterpiece produced.

We have group days where a tutor comes along and guides members through a class to make a new quilt or project. So far we have had a Stack and Slash Day and a Curved Triangle Quilt.

Each year in conjunction with Australia's Biggest Quilting Bee fundraiser organised by Victorian Quilters, we hold a fundraising day, where you bring along whatever you are working on and sit and sew for the day. This year we raised \$1000.00 through door entry and many lucky draws of which our members donated all the fantastic prizes.

We also support local community groups and individuals with donations.

We have a special grievance officer. She is able to help solve everyone's problems, be it marital or whatever?? She has also been known to give out "unpredictable predictions??"

As for any humorous incidents, I have been informed by the members that they are not to be printed (in order to protect the innocent!!)

Anyone is most welcome to come along and join in with us. Beginners, advanced, everyone is welcome. Lots of assistance can be found if required, as everyone is a wealth of knowledge in their own special way.

We meet at the Cobden Senior Citizens' Hall on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7pm (and also on the fifth Tuesday, if there is one), for a cost of \$2.

Our meetings can be described as an "Uplifting experience," and "A great way to end a day."

For any further information contact Helen Smith 5595 1258, 0408 104 912 or Pat Wilson 5595 1438.

COBDEN QUILTERS IN FESTIVAL MODE



Back row: Julie Broomby, Pat Wilson, Diana Place, Maureen Dalton, Anne Box, Lyn McGhee, Margaret Meade, Betty Moore, Nola Robinson, Val Eldridge Front row: Carol McCosh, Helen Smith, Gayle Kelson

Inset: The results of the table runner challenge

PAULINE IN THE POOL

I watched the site developing and patiently waited as it went from paddock to building site...holes in the ground, spas in ground, mud bog surrounds, building being erected, pumps installed, parking lot paved and last but not least, garden surrounds established.

At last it was finished and I was able to attend the grand opening in March and then finally it was time for me to fulfill my dreams and have a regular place to exercise and so I plunged in...ahh beautiful.

I started out taking two water aerobics classes each week and even made up a class or two at another time when commitments caused me to miss my regular class.

This may not sound much but from someone who really didn't have any interest in exercise at all, it is a huge step.

You may wonder what we do in aerobic classes! Well we exercise in the water... run on the spot, work on leg movements, arm movements, body movements, kick, twist, lunge, squat, walk in the water, we started out at a slow pace but now have built up the repetitions and speed and have become dare I say it, fitter...

Then we work with dumbbells in strengthening exercises, up and down, in and out and also another piece of equipment called the noodle, which is a piece of waterproof foam like a giant piece of spaghetti, about a metre long. We push them, pull them,

twist them, squeeze them, wave them in the air and try to stomp on them.

Finally we do some relaxing, stretching and breathing exercises and we are about done for the class.

I'm now taking deep water running classes. They are similar but in the deeper end of the pool and you wear a belt with a float attached so that you stay afloat and then we do the same type of exercises that you do in water aerobics.

My first week was in a class with more experienced ladies who had become used to staying in one spot doing the exercises. I hadn't quite mastered that yet, so I floated around the pool dodging people like a fart in a bottle! No one minded.

In fact this is a very important part of the pool experience...everyone is happy, everyone is supportive, we all are there to enjoy ourselves, become fit, or in the case of some, stay fit. You know the ones with defined muscles on their arms and not these tuck shop arms. Oh well one day.

"... I floated around the pool dodging people like a fart in a bottle!"

It's a place where you can catch up with old friends and make new ones. No one judges you, it's like the water is the great equaliser.

I took to wearing a bathing cap for a while on the advice of my hairdresser, to protect the colour I'd had put in my hair, for a play I was in. So one very frosty mid-June morning, I put on my bathing cap and was about to take the short walk down to the pool... Well it's not the best look, so I quickly put on a beanie to cover the cap and

headed out wearing a coat, beanie, swimsuit, a towel wrapped around my legs and crocs on my feet.

As this wasn't my regular class I wasn't sure what to expect, but I saw a friend that I hadn't seen for ages and happily chatted in the water till the instructor started. Caroline asked me if my head was cold and I replied that it was the hairdresser that suggested the bathing cap.

Fair enough, the rest of class nodded and off we went, until about eight minutes into the class when we put our hands on our heads and walked to the deep end...that's when I discovered I was still wearing the beanie...I quickly threw it off...we all had a good laugh...but no one made me feel an idiot...which meant I had been accepted and that whatever I was doing, was okay!

I've visited at different times and there is a whole social network happening there, with people swimming laps, doing mobility exercises for knee and hip replacements, elderly people who can barely make it to the water but once there enjoy freedom to move without restraint.

It was lovely to see the look of confidence come back on one white haired lady as she became immersed in the pool. It looked like the cares of the world had slipped from her shoulders.

Often someone will mention how lucky we are to have the pool. It's a place to exercise, recuperate, keep fit, share laughter, connect with people, relax and have the weight of the world lifted as you float about with all the smiling faces.

Thank you for providing such a fantastic venue.

Pauline Van Dijk sings the praises of the Rodney Grove Community Aquatic Centre



Above: Pauline Van Dijk enjoying water aerobics at Rodney Grove Community Aquatic Centre
Below: Pauline with Cheryl Evans, Malcolm Udy and Noreen Hester at the CDHS Annual Meeting



We were at the CDHS Annual Meeting ...



Brian Polkinghorne, Marie Barrett and Marie Jones



Joan Anson, Alma MacDonald, Judy Morgan and Ian Laurenson



Duncan Morris, Jeannine Creely and Wendy Crow



CHAIRMAN FRANK SPEAKS ...

What is the role of the Board of the Cobden District Health Services (CDHS)? What does the community expect the Board, and through it the Health Services, to do? Does the Board achieve the community expectations? Is the Board sufficiently connected with the community to be able to recognise what the community wants from us?

As we contemplate the completion of another year of service in the community, these questions should be in the minds of us all – not just the Board members, but all members of CDHS, and all members of the community.

As a Board we can look at our formal responsibilities, which mean we should act so that -

- effective strategic direction is provided for the overall management of the facility;
- proper governance is exercised by the Board, through risk management strategies, a commitment to meeting accreditation requirements, and maintaining effective relationships with a range of external bodies;
- that the entire operation remains viable in both the short and long term; and
- the day-to-day activities are resourced and supported to enable the Health Services to perform effectively.

But if we haven't got the members and the community actively and continually supporting, driving and challenging us, are we really impacting our community as a whole.

It is interesting to note that in the recent Cobden Twenty20 Vision forums and surveys, under the topic of "Services", the only issue relating to health and well-being which emerged from the more than 120 responses received was the question of maintaining adequate general practitioners in Cobden. If this is a true reflection of community opinions and attitudes about CDHS then we must be doing

everything expected of us because, until very recently, provision of general practice in the Cobden community was, and still is, a private enterprise matter amongst the members of the medical profession.

Nevertheless, the Board has now made a strategic decision to become involved in a very direct way in ensuring the ongoing provision of general medical services in Cobden. This will mean that, over time, there will be a restructuring of clinical services in Cobden and that continuity and growth of these services will be an ongoing matter between CDHS and other providers. We look forward to this with the hope and confidence that the community will support and our direction because it is fulfilling an expressed desire of the community.

The opening of the Rodney Grove Community Aquatic Centre during the year was a major milestone for the Cobden and surrounding community. A long-held goal of CDHS, and one which needed major community support as well as local government assistance to come to fruition, this project is now making its mark in offering a wide range of programs for the whole of our extended community. In partnership with the YMCA we are delighted at the initial response to the programs offered, but we urge all sectors of the community to take up the opportunities to use this facility year-round.

Overall, the community places its trust in the Board of the Cobden District Health Services to continue to deliver on the strategic plans which we have developed. The Annual Report for 2010-11 shows that we have carried out that trust with enthusiasm, focus and a commitment to the future.

I thank our CEO, Jeannine Creely, for her tireless leadership and management, all the staff of Cobden District Health Services for their continuing dedicated service and the volunteers for their willing support for our facility and residents. I look forward to finding ways to engage more members of our community in our future planning and directions.

Frank Martin

COBDEN TRIVIA - by Janet van Leerdam

1. Who was the founder of Cobden?
2. What was the name of his property?
3. What is the name of the person Cobden was named after?
4. When did the first cheese and butter cooperative in Victoria open in Cobden?
5. When did the last train come through Cobden?
6. What year did CopRice open?
7. Who established Truline Post Drivers?
8. What is the track length at the Miniature Railway?
9. What is the motto of Cobden District Health Services?
10. In which year was the Cobden Bush Hospital opened?

Answers: 1. Dr Daniel Curdie; 2. Tandarook; 3. Richard Cobden; 4. 1888; 5. 1977; 6. 1997; 7. Bob King; 8. 1.6 kms; 9. "Let's beat it, not treat it!"; 10. 1958.

New opening hours at ...

COBDEN SWIMMING POOL

says Raylene Hallyburton

The role of the Committee is to monitor and support the management of the Cobden Swimming Pool on behalf of Council.

The Committee act as a local contact for feedback about the pool's operations, provide local input into programming and plan and undertake minor capital improvements approved by Council.

The Committee receives 20% of the gate takings for the season as a form of fundraising to invest back into the swimming pool facility such as pool play equipment and the artificial grass on the terraced area.

A new committee has recently been formed following the long-standing tenure by Alma MacDonald, Vi Jehu and Harry Gattens.

The new Committee would like to especially thank Alma for 66 years of service to the Cobden pool.

Alma first joined the committee in 1945 at the age of 15. She moved away from Cobden for 7 years, but joined the committee again on her return to Cobden, and only this year decided to hand over the reins.

Alma has been a driving force behind many of the improvements that have taken place at the pool over the years. She is especially proud of the terraced area, which her committee saved for over many years, along with funding that

she was able to obtain.

The new committee members are: Helen Scott, Kathryn Nelson, Michelle de Bie, Phyllis Finlayson, Kerrie Howard and Raylene Hallyburton. Brooke Love represented the Corangamite Shire and is currently acting as Secretary until the position is filled.

New members are always welcome. There are no pre-determined meetings. The Committee only meets a few times a year, or as required. If you are interested in having an input into how the pool is run, contact any of the above committee members.

The Committee is allocated the total number of hours for the pool season and can determine how this is scheduled between days and times. This year the Committee has made significant changes, deciding to open the pool to the public for longer hours during the holidays and on weekends but less during the school days.

Opening times will be 10.30am-7pm weekend/public holidays/school holidays and 3pm-7pm school terms. Lap-swimming sessions will be held from 6.30am-8am Tuesdays and Thursdays from 24th January to 8th March.

This year the pool will open on Monday 21st November 2011 and will close on 12th March 2012.

POOL HISTORY

The Cobden pool was opened in 1930 and was built at the current location because there was a natural spring (water hole) there, where the local boys would play. It was originally gravity filled using the dam water, and as such there were always frogs, eels and green slime to be found in the pool.

Otway water came to Cobden in 1938. In the late 40s the pool was fenced off to stop cattle getting in and in the early 50s the bank on the north side was terraced. In those days, the pool was a very popular place to be. For a long time, it was the only pool in the district between Geelong and Warrnambool. They used to hold big carnivals down at the pool, including beauty pageants, with many people attending.

The pool had a springboard and a fixed tower with 2 levels. The tower was dismantled due to the water not being deep enough for the height of the tower.

The pool has been flooded over a dozen times, but the floods of last year were the worst of them all.

In 1967/68, the current building, with kiosk and change rooms, was erected. Before this, the change rooms were located at the east end of the pool.

Funds for the Committee are quite limited. However one of the major projects recently was the terraced area being covered with artificial grass. This has been a huge benefit to users of the pool. The new Committee is hoping to get more



permanent shade structures over the terraced area and maybe to install some playground equipment up near the toddlers' pool.

The Committee would like to hear from the public with any ideas on how to improve the Cobden pool.

Flooding August 2010

Did you guess who they were in October's "Connecting Cobden?"

Page 1:

Would you believe that local police sergeant, Heather Morris, is reading her favourite book again?

Will somebody please tell her that "A Fine Balance" will finish the same way as it did last time ... and the time before that?



Page 2:

Spring-heeled Essendon fan Josh Hickey, eldest son of Paul and Bernadette, slam-dunks his footy through the backyard basketball ring.

One of five children, Josh loves the sporting life.



Page 3:

Ritchies IGA's Adrian Kelly has lived in Cobden since 1986.

He is pictured with three of his finest achievements - sons Tyson (left), Mitchell and daughter Gemma.

Wife Edna was a little bashful.



Page 4:

Most people now know that Courtney Mason (16, front) and her sister Chelsea (13) share the same birthday.

Their parents Jeff and Sandra were very clever, weren't they?



Diving in with Tracy Hickey and the ...

COBDEN SWIMMING CLUB

The aim of the Cobden Swimming Club is to provide swimming coaching to children to advance their skills and stroke technique while gaining fitness.

The club's activities are mostly swimming training Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights 5.30pm-6.30pm.

We also host a carnival which will be held on Sunday March 4th 2012, and a few fun nights throughout the season such as BBQ's, water-polo and a beach swim.

This organisation was established around 50 years ago. (Many years ago the Pool Committee and the Swimming Club were joined as one). Last year we had about 25 members. This was down on the previous year when we had 45 members. It was due to our pool and clubrooms being flooded last August which caused a much delayed start to our season.

Members can enrol as a recreational swimmer which means that they train and attend the Cobden carnival and fun nights or as a competitive swimmer which means that they are eligible to also enter other clubs' carnivals.

Swimming Club is held at the Cobden Pool and will commence on Monday November 21st, 5.30pm-6.30pm.

It will be held on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights and the season will run through until March with a few weeks' break over Christmas and New Year.

The cost is \$90 for a recreational swimmer and \$135 for a competitive member. Additional family members can join for a reduced cost.

Caps and goggles are available for purchase along with merchandise. It is recommended that swimmers bring their own goggles and flippers although flippers can also be borrowed from the club.

Swimmers must pay their registration within the first week of joining swimming club.

Two past members, Leigh Blake and Daniel Unwin, went on to achieve at higher levels.

One of our members, David 'Robbo' Robertson, dedicates 4 nights a week by volunteering to coach our swimmers. He is a wonderful coach who relates well to children and improves their swimming techniques immensely.

Robbo is also a life member of the Cobden Swimming Club and he still competes in carnivals.

Current office bearers are:

President: Matthew Coverdale (0417 650 026)

Secretary: Tracy Hickey (0439 952 014)

Treasurer: Raylene Hallyburton (0417 867 605)



Cobden Swimming Club Members with coaches Dave Robertson and Donna Scott in front row

COBDEN CALENDAR

Saturday December 3rd:

Cobden Uniting Church Christmas Dinner 6.30pm.

Friday, December 16th: 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.

Sunday, December 18th: Progressing Cobden/Community Bank Christmas Celebrations Apex Park 5pm-7pm.