

CONNECTING COBDEN



COMMUNITY



NEWSLETTER

EDITION No 4

December 14 2011

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our Readers



Santa with bag packed ready for his night of nights

You better watch out
You better not cry
You better not pout
I'm telling you why . . .

Santa Claus is coming to town

PROGRESSING COBDEN

invites you all to the
Cobden Community Bank (Bendigo Bank)

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Sunday December 18, 5 pm - 7 pm

Apex Park, Shenfield Street, Cobden.

Free rides, entertainment and Santa

BBQ (\$1 donations to Cobden Scouting Group)

Drinks on sale

Traders' Hamper Competition drawn

Winners must be present to win the 4x \$180 hampers. Coupons available in all shops. Winners of best decorated house and shop announced.

BEST DECORATED HOUSE

Registrations can be sent to Frank Martin or to Box 37, Cobden by **Friday December 16**. Houses must be registered to win a prize. The winners each receive a \$50 voucher to be spent at any Cobden business.

Name:

Address:

Save Our Sportsground



SOS ...

Four people urgently needed for Cobden's Recreation Reserve Committee of Management

Cobden's Recreation Reserve Committee of Management really needs more community-based people to become involved as our user-club committees are stretched.

We need people with a little spare time and a passion to provide our community and sporting groups with a first class facility.

We need a couple of people to help apply for grants/funding and manage the larger projects, and also two others to help share the load of day-to-day coordination of general upkeep.

Our mission is to manage the facility for the DSE and, more importantly, for our community. We receive some monetary assistance from the Corangamite Shire (approximately 25% of our operating costs) and rely on our user groups to contribute annual fees to cover the other 75%. Our committee coordinates all maintenance and ongoing upkeep, along with upgrading facilities as needed.

The committee of management has a rich history. The first public meeting was held on December 13th, 1886, to form a committee of management for the Lands Department.

The committee currently has only two community officers – president and treasurer - with user group representatives making up the other

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Frankly, a fine fellow!

Progressing Cobden was thrilled at its recent meeting to learn that its own Frank Martin had been recognised with the Member of Parliament's Award for Volunteering by Wannan MP Dan Tehan as part of the National Awards for International Volunteers Day.

Frank is also active in other organisations including the Rotary Club of Cobden, Cobden District Health Services and the Cobden Community Choir.

He has been a tireless worker for the local community since he and Jocelyn arrived in Cobden in 1995.

Frank is pictured with his Progressing Cobden colleagues. Back: Barbara Cowley (left), Kathryn Stubbings, Andrew Stubbings, Milton Parlour, Dennis Walsh, David Buckle, Michelle Easton, Janet van Leerdam, Cam Bylykbashi, Elaine Dryburgh.

Front: Garry Moorfield (left) Heather Walsh, Frank Martin, Kelvin White, Jo Beard.

Photo by Helen McLaren.

Are you FireReady?

Focus on Faith

St Brendan's in the Spotlight

(by Kate Daffy)

Cobden's St Brendan's Catholic Church, for most of its years, has been part of the Camperdown Parish. The original building in which people met, was established in 1887 and in the 1920s was moved to Darlington then relocated to Timboon in 1935.

The present red brick church opened in 1936. Prior to this being built Mass was held in the Hibernian Hall directly behind the present church, as was religious instruction for the children and all the social events such as kitchen teas and the annual Christmas tree. Up until the late 1920s people would arrive in their horse drawn vehicles. By the early 1930s some had acquired cars.

St Brendan's Church has been well-served by the Diocese of Ballarat and the priests of the Camperdown Parish for most of its years except for a short time in the late 1980s when it was annexed to the Simpson Parish. It was during this time that the present facade was added making the church building much more functional. Two long serving organists have been Mrs Edna Scanlon and Miss Sheila Power.

Presently Mass is celebrated every Saturday evening at 6pm and usually on Wednesday at 10am. Over the years many have been through the sacraments at St. Brendan's - many have been baptised in this church as well as many marriages and funerals held.

There is an active branch of the Catholic Women's League as well as a Conference of St. Vincent de Paul. New members would be most welcome into either of these groups. We like to support the functions of the other church congregations in Cobden.

The current Parish Priest is Father Matthew Thomas.



Pictured in front of St Brendan's are Kieren (left), Ella and Joseph Gleeson with parish priest Fr Matthew Thomas.

Bringing Christmas Cheer



Helen Watts (left) and Beth Hose in front of St Brendan's Christmas tree

Each December, the Cobden churches and service clubs join together in a project to bring a little Christmas cheer, in the form of a hamper of goodies, to those within our Community who find that the festive season can bring added pressure to budgets already under stress.

Just before Christmas, the Committee make up and distribute the hampers throughout the town. Those bereaved during the previous twelve months are also remembered and they receive a gift of a box of chocolates.

The Catholic Church shares in this project by parishioners taking a gift tag from their Christmas tree and donating the items listed on the tag.

COBDEN CHRISTMAS SERVICES

	Dec 24	Dec 25
Christian Reformed Church		10.00am
St Brendan's Catholic Church	6.00pm	9.00am (C'down)
St Mary's Anglican Church		10.00am Eucharist
Cobden Uniting Church	7.00pm	9.30am (C'down)

WHO AM I?

When were you born (or in which decade)? I was born in 1930.

Your AFL team? What's that????

How do you relax? Gardening, Crosswords and Sudoku.

Your favourite holiday destination? Western Australia - wildflowers and the Kimberleys.

How many children do you have? Four.

Your favourite television show? Mother and Son.

The best thing about your work? Retirement! (Only joking). Developing our farm over 40 years.

One thing about you that might surprise our readers? Handling a team of eight Clydesdales pulling a six furrow plough.

Four stimulating and interesting dinner guests? Politics, war and peace - Bob Menzies and Bob Hawke. Adolf Hitler and Ghandi. (Well, maybe not!)

The best book you've ever read? Perhaps "Treasure Island" in my youth.

Your worst habit? Impatience with some types of car drivers.

Cobden's best feature? The ability of the people to get things done ie Cobden Tech School, Warm water pool etc.

Your favourite subject at school? Arithmetic.

Your proudest achievement so far? Marriage to my wife and our family. (Or else, learning to turn a computer on, then off again!)

Who provided the best piece of advice you have ever received? What was it? Dad. "Faith without works is dead."

Which schools did you attend? Peechember West State School and Wesley College.

The name of this Cobden identity will be revealed in the next edition of Connecting Cobden.

Corangamite Youth Mayor Taylor Rock reviews her year

When I started the year as Junior Mayor, I felt confident because I had great support and a brilliant team. The youth councillors always put forward their opinions because we became very close and comfortable with each other. Initially, this is what I was worried about, missing out on people's views because they were shy but, in the end, that was not a problem.

We wanted to work on many projects and some people had particular interests so we broke up into three sub-groups. An Events Group contributed to the "Dance After Dark" event with overwhelming success, and a Youth Space Group worked on producing youth spaces within the Corangamite Shire. This group successfully opened up a pilot Youth Space at the Terang Community Health Centre; this will help us gauge the needs of youth in the district. The third group was known as the K.E.V.I.N. Group which was an acronym for 'Keeping Everyone Vitrally Informed Now'; K.E.V.I.N. aims to keep young people up-to-date with news and events.

Youth Council is progressing well as there are young people who are dedicated to making it so. I think we have already proven that we will be making a difference for the youth of the Corangamite Shire for years to come. The one challenge we are currently facing is people not understanding what we do or what we are trying to initiate so we are working on promoting ourselves.

"Taylor has been a valuable member of the Youth Council since its inception and is a passionate and enthusiastic Youth Mayor who is well respected by her fellow Youth Councillors." Katie McKean, Shire Youth Development Officer

My advice for future youth councillors would be to stick to what your gut tells you - if you want something in the Shire, there is a high probability that many others would want the same, or a similar, thing. Make sure you voice your opinions and, also, have fun and grab every opportunity you can because you will remember the time you spent with the Youth Council and you will make friends who could become very close to you.

We have had some very funny moments during Youth Council meetings. However, as the old saying (sort of) goes: What happens in the council chamber, stays in the council chamber.

Doing Year 12, being President of the Cobden

Technical School SRC, fulfilling the role of Youth Mayor, actively involving myself in other community events, having a part-time job, dancing and still maintaining a social life was a lot to handle this year but I enjoyed everything I did and everything I was part of. I had friends and family supporting me the whole way and, at the end of the day, I knew I was doing the things I wanted to do for myself because I enjoy and love them all.

I plan to go to Deakin University next year and do a Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in Psychology and Health Promotion. I also plan to continue working part-time so I can travel to all the places I have ever dreamed of.

Being Youth Mayor has made me realise I would love to work with young people later on in my life so I can encourage them to take up opportunities and develop skills that I have had the privilege of developing. I was always unsure of what I wanted to do later on in life but, now, I'm sure that wherever you may see me in ten years, I will have something to do with the development of youth skills/projects or the education of youth.

For the young people around Corangamite, the limited access to such things as events and concerts; transport to get from one place to another as we are a very spread-out shire; and, education at a university level as, for most of the youth of Corangamite, if they want to go on to further study after the completion of their secondary schooling, they have to move from home to do so, which can be a big jump for some people and financially impossible for others.

Do older Australians listen to our young people enough? It's not that older Australians don't listen to young people, it's that we all need to work together to create a better future for everyone. In the long run, it's not 'Older Australians vs Younger Australians', it's about working together to produce and create things that people of all ages need and want. It's a more beneficial and effective way of thinking that, if we work together, no matter the age difference, all parties can come out with what they wanted.

If I was Prime Minister I would give more power to young people - within reasonable and responsible boundaries. And I would legislate to ensure that Collingwood wins the premiership . . . at least every second year!



Taylor Rock

Walking into Health

The Cobden Walking Group came into being sixteen years ago when a group of us wanted to get healthier by walking and were looking for company while we did it. Some of those people are still walking with us – Doreen Sullivan, Jo Smit, Carmel Merrett, Dawn Reed and myself.

In the beginning we were happy to walk around Cobden but that became a bit limiting. We have had new life breathed into us with the local Community Bus, driven by our honorary member, Tracey Mitchell, taking us out of town usually once a month. Among places we have visited for the day, are Queenscliff, Port Campbell and Port Fairy.

Once a year we will have an overnight visit, giving us more time to explore the townships we are visiting - such as Daylesford, Cape Otway Lighthouse and Halls Gap.

We are also ardent believers in the Cobden Bus service, using it whenever we can. Recently

ten members hopped on board for a trip to Camperdown, with Barry taking us to the top of the Mount and we walked down the trail, did a tour of the footy ground, then made our way into the shopping centre to look over the shops and enjoy a cuppa and cake, before catching the bus home again.

We are readily recognisable in our red tops, red so that we are easily seen, also handy to find each other in shopping centres. Sometimes the glare from a crowd of walkers can be a bit much!

So that is the Cobden Walking Group, always on the look-out for like-minded energetic people, you will always be welcome if you decide to join us. On Tuesday and Thursday mornings, we walk for one hour from 9.30am leaving the Cobden Senior Citizens Hall. Look forward to seeing you!

Report by Joyce de Koning
(Phone 5595 1175, mario117@bigpond.com)



Back (left): Jo Clarke, Joyce de Koning, June Garner, Sharon Oates, Betty Hallyburton, Clare Malady, Jenny Wheaton, Leanne Marchant, Gwen Rawlings, Lorraine Barlow, Tess Merrett, Helen Chivell, Dawn Reed.

Front (left): Tracey Mitchell (CDHS Regional Health Services Coordinator) Doreen Sullivan, Jean English, Anne Veenstra, Jo Smit.
Photo by Helen McLaren.

LETTER to the EDITOR

OPEN THEM MORE OFTEN

Unfortunately, I have to agree with the "experts" that the idea of "tourism" and "Cobden" are not a good fit!

The reason is pure and simple - of the so-called tourism attractions particularly the "Big Two," namely the Cobden Miniature Railway with its mini golf and the Cobden Dairy Park, are simply not open each week or more often. Both of these attractions are staffed by volunteers who simply don't have the time or want to commit their time to operating these really wonderful tourism attractions!

Like everything else, to get a really good tourism rating, any tourism attraction simply must operate at least weekly, on weekends, public holidays and/or school holidays to make it a viable proposition and provide a "service" to the public passengers they are supposed to serve.

There is no doubt whatsoever that the businesses that do open on weekends would fare even better if the above-mentioned tourism attractions and the others mentioned in your deliberations were open regularly in conjunction with the "Big Two!"

When I was a member of the South West Model Engineers, I often stressed the importance and need to have the railway operating every Sunday, public holiday and school holiday to make it a true tourist attraction for Cobden! But I was always met with stony silence.

Having come from the Diamond Valley Railway in Eltham South in Melbourne where I was a life-time member for over 45 years, I enjoyed going every Sunday and often on many other days to oversee its development similar to Cobden to one of Melbourne's best-loved "must see" places for kids and adults alike!

The Diamond Valley Railway has blossomed into one of the best regular every Sunday miniature passenger-hauling railways in the world! They think they are going bad if they don't carry at least 2000 passengers on a nice Sunday!

Even if Cobden only got half that number every Sunday, that's at least 1000 passengers in the town every week and that in turn will have a "snowball" effect for everyone who is serious about making Cobden a real tourism place to see!

So, unfortunately, Cobden will never become a true tourism town unless it offers regular tourist attractions the visiting tourists expect and demand for their tourism dollars.

"Tourism" and "Cobden" at present are not a good fit! And they won't be unless we are prepared to make it happen with more commitment and time!

Ronald May, Cobden

- Welcome to Cobden - What do you think?

Welcome to
COBDEN



A Caring Community

A priority project emerging from Cobden's Twenty20 Vision Plan is the construction of new town entry signs. The Tourism and Town Appearance Action Group has been working to develop a specification so that new signs can be erected at three entrances to Cobden in the new year.

Current thinking is to put up 'Welcome to Cobden' signs bearing photographic images of the town (see left), possibly incorporating the current message of 'a caring community'. Other ideas have been collected, including at the Urban Design Forum held at the Golf Club on 31 July 2011, but they remain unresolved.

It is also planned to erect old-style wooden 'T' signs further out from town on all five entrances, bearing the word 'Cobden' in black on white, along with Cobden's population count. Installation of new signage will also involve the taking down and possible relocation to the Rotunda of current signage bearing the logos of service clubs and organisations.

Before finalising its recommendations to Progressing Cobden, the Town Appearance Action Group would welcome any further suggestions or feedback on the current proposal.

Please contact action group members Julie Finney, Milton Parlour, Jo Blake, Ron Greagen, Garry Moorfield, write to Progressing Cobden at PO Box 37, Cobden 3266 or email kelvin@swllen.net.au.



Fitness can be fun

Taking a well earned break at their Christmas function after a year of exhilarating exercising are members of Cobden District Health Services fitness groups.

Brian Polkinghorne and Belinda Savage have again been inspiring leaders of the exercise classes.

Pictured at the Sports Club bar with Brian (left) are fitness group participants Maureen Clements, Jenny and Terry Binder.

If you would like to be involved next year, contact the CDHS office (phone 5595 3100).

COBDEN CALENDAR

Friday December 16: Red Hill Hall Christmas Tree, 7pm. BYO shared tea, \$5 family. Santa will arrive with gifts for all primary school age and younger children. Inquiries: Margaret Finlayson 5594 6217.

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

Sunday December 18: Carols by Candlelight, Cobden Civic Centre, 7.30pm, following Christmas Celebrations in Apex Park.

Saturday December 31: Fonterra and Cobden Rotary New Year's Eve Family Fireworks Extravaganza at Miniature Railway Park. From 5.30pm. \$10 adults, \$5 children. Fireworks 10.15pm.

Michael Merrett reports . . .



Successful junior anglers at the opening of the jetties were from left: Jack Guthrie (430 gm eel), Sam Clarke (260 gm rainbow), Sophie Hickey (500 gm eel), Matthew Clarke (240 gm redfin), Christina Venie (190 gm redfin) and Abbey Robbins (180 gm rainbow).

COBDEN ANGLING CLUB LURES YOUNG LADS AND LASSES TO TAKE THE BAIT

Cobden Angling Club is an organisation that provides for the needs of the angler through regular meetings, competitions and by providing a forum to discuss relevant angling and environmental issues.

A key objective of our club is to promote junior angling, and encourage fishing as a family sport.

The club is actively involved in local events like the CopRice Spring Festival. We also conduct junior activity days and junior competitions at Lake Cobden.

We also hold a White Elephant Sale every two years, the next one being in February 2013.

The club is involved in maintaining the clubrooms and foreshore at Lake Elingamite.

Established in the 1920s, we have maintained our commitment to anglers. Currently, the membership is more than 100-strong. We have adult (\$10), junior (\$5) and family (\$20) membership categories.

Monthly meetings are held at the clubrooms on the second Tuesday of each month, commencing at 8 pm. Guest speakers and card competitions are often on the agenda which ensures that both business and laughter are the focus.

Monthly competition notices are posted on windows at the Cobden Post Office, Martin's Home Hardware and Cobden Outdoor Power Equipment.

Current office-bearers are Greg McGlade (president), Les Blake (secretary) and Greg Trener (treasurer). Did you know the first president in 1926 was the legendary Dr A H Barrett?

New members are welcome. For further information, contact Les Blake (5595 1136).

Save Our Sportsground

Continued from page 1

important numbers. We meet on the second Monday of each month at 8.30pm at Cobden Sports Club.

Achievements over the last 40 years include:

- New changerooms - 1960s
- Major ground upgrade in late 1970s – trees removed – ground drained and resurfaced – tennis courts x 10 upgraded – new grandstand and canteen
- Toilet and scoreboard upgrades were Cobden Technical School projects
- Major building upgrade in early 1980s with new social rooms upstairs and improved changerooms downstairs
- Netball changerooms - late 1980s
- Major ground development early 1990s – turf wicket
- Major ground development mid 1990s – four light towers – best in country Victoria
- Canteen and umpires room upgrades late early 2000s
- Ground underground watering loop mid-2000s
- Perimeter fence upgrade mid-2000s
- Gate-keepers' shelter and netball changeroom enlarged mid 2000s
- Ground naming rights sponsorship – Cobden & District Community Bank – late 2000s
- Playground development – 2010
- Ground surface upgrade – 2010

One of our stalwarts has been Joyce Roberts, a long-serving community volunteer who joined the committee in 1978 and has been treasurer since 1987

Current office-bearers: President Harry Uwland – Vice President vacant since 2009 - Secretary vacant since mid-2010 – Treasurer Joyce Roberts

Report by: Harry Uwland 0408 529 929, Email: harry.uwland@tasweld-eng.com.au

WORTH A THOUGHT?

This idea came out an office chat somewhere in town. A small group of ladies were commenting on how good it was to do some shopping in Cobden after hours. They all attended the VIP night at Cobden Pharmacy's fundraiser for the Lake, and a couple ventured to Reichas' night from 6 pm to 8 pm. How good and busy it was! "For people like us it's great to have the opportunity to do some shopping in Cobden for an evening prior to Christmas," was the sentiment. Is this something for Cobden's retailers to consider doing two or three times a year? Start the day later and finish later. Worth a thought?



1



2



3

South West Local Learning and Employment Network (South West LLEN) and the Corangamite schools recently acknowledged district employers who supported work placement programs during 2011.

School-based apprentices/trainees and VCAL/VET students from all district schools presented certificates to their employers at an annual celebration attended by 120 people at the Cobden Sports Club.

Further highlights were motivational talks given by 3CS/MIXX FM Station Manager Cathy Jubb and successful businessman and champion triathlete Deiter McDonald.

1. Drew Semmens with Claire McVilly (Cobden PS)
2. Guest, triathlete and plumber, Deiter McDonald
3. Ashlea Spokes thanks Darren Mounsey (WestVic Staffing Solutions)

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

WHO AM I?

When were you born (or in which decade)? 1971.

Your AFL team? Geelong.

How do you relax? Listening to country music and sewing.

Your favourite holiday destination? Port Fairy.

How many children do you have? Four.

Your favourite television shows? Better Homes and Gardens, Farmer Wants a Wife and Keeping up the Jones.

The best thing about your work? The customers.

Who provided the best piece of advice you have ever received? What was it? My Mother-in-law. "Spend time with your children, the house work will wait."

One thing about you that might surprise our readers? I love country music.

The best book you've ever read? "Open" Andre Agassi's autobiography.

Your worst habit? Bloodymindedness.

Cobden's best feature? The people.

Which schools did you attend? Cobden Primary and Tech Schools.

To which clubs or organisations do you belong? Cobden Junior Football.

Your favourite subject at school? Physical Education, Home Eco or having Harry as my home group teacher.

Your proudest achievement so far? My family.

The name of this Cobden identity will be revealed in the next edition of Connecting Cobden.



TANGLE TEST

by Gwenyth Steele

UNTANGLE THESE STREETS AND DISTRICTS IN OR AROUND COBDEN



- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| 1. MEETNIGAIL | 7. GLISTIRN |
| 2. BROCCOI | 8. FYNNEGEL |
| 3. ORJUNCAT | 9. ICTIVARO |
| 4. RIDUCE | 10. UNRARBOY |
| 5. FLISHDENE | 11. DRAGYNAL |
| 6. RESTIVELS | 12. CELLMITH |

Answers

10. Boundary, 11. Grayland, 12. Mitchell
5. Shenfield, 6. Silvester, 7. Stirling, 8. Glenlyne, 9. Victoria, 4. Curdie, 1. Elingamite, 2. Cobrico, 3. Jancourt, 2. Cobrico, 3. Jancourt, 4. Curdie,