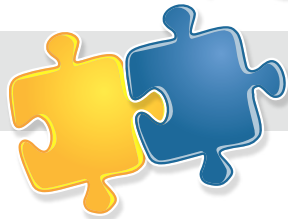


# CONNECTING COBDEN

COMMUNITY



NEWSLETTER

EDITION No 5

February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012

## PLAYING TO LEARN ~ LEARNING TO PLAY

### COBDEN PLAYGROUP

by Sherree Unwin

Cobden Playgroup's aim is to provide a safe and supportive environment for participants to build friendships and social supports, and to allow children to learn and develop through play.

Equally important is the opportunity it gives parents to exchange ideas and parenting experiences!

The Playgroup offers many inside and outside activities suitable for pre-schoolers, such as painting, craft activities, working with play dough, plus a large sandpit, a trampoline and cubby house.

The organisation was established approximately 30 years ago by a group of mothers who were looking for activities for their pre-school children.

Last year there were about 50 families involved with Playgroup.

It is open to all families with children aged five and under. There is also a discount for those families with a health care or pension card.

Playgroup meets every Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 10am behind Cobden Health Services. It is sign-posted out the front.

The Playgroup offers an excursion each term, usually a trip to Kids Kingdom, Cudgee Wildlife Park and numerous other local ones.

There is also a wonderful Christmas party at the miniature railway park which the children enjoy greatly and is included in the cost of membership.

Office bearers:

President: Jean Huth (Ph: 0423 332 565)

Secretary: Sara Keating

Treasurer: Jodie McKenzie



"Playgroupies" Chett (left) and Sindel Sporne at Cudgee where they enjoyed the wildlife.

## THE MEN (AND WOMEN) FROM CURDIES RIVER

### COBDEN & DISTRICT PONY CLUB

The Cobden & District Pony Club was established in December 1969 when the rallies were held at the Cobden Racecourse. The main people involved in the commencement of the club were Ted Bennett, Harry Trigg, Ray Wilson, Ted Bourke, Jack Beaton, Rita and Frank Nelson and Fay and Kevin Smith.

Ted Bennett, Jack Beaton and Rita Nelson have been made life members with Rita still being an active member of the club.

The aim of the club is to encourage and instruct young people to ride and to learn to care for their horses. We also promote sportsmanship and the enjoyment of all approved types of sport connected with horses and riding.

There are currently 21 junior riding members with thirteen families involved. Rallies are held at the Cobrico Recreation Reserve on the third Sunday of the month with either one or two instructors attending.

To assist with the general running of the club, a monthly meeting is held. Current office-bearers are president, Chris Blake, secretary/treasurer, Cheryl Oates and district commissioner, Janine Box.

For more information please contact either Janine Box, 5594 5223 or Cheryl Oates, 5595 1706 or email [gcoates4@bigpond.com](mailto:gcoates4@bigpond.com).

**Cheryl Oates**



Pony Club members at the Christmas Dress Up Day Rally, December 2011.

Front: Jade Norman (left), Jacoba Henderson, Kim Henderson, Morgan Nelson, Claire MacDonald, Connie Blake, Ella Baynes and Indee Henderson.

Back: Shannon Oates, Carla Box, Rory Coverdale, Brendan McKenzie, Sarah Matthews and Hayley Norman.





# Landcare in Action

## Elingamite-Cobrico Landcare Group



*Ken Farquharson (left) and Jeff Wakeling recording a piezometer (water table bore) reading, which has been done every month since 1991. Inset: Sign erected on the site of the 15th anniversary roadside plantation.*

The group was formed in 1991 on the suggestion of Nabil Badawy, a soil scientist from Warrnambool. Nabil had identified salinity as the cause of low productivity on an area of the van de Wouw property at Elingamite North.

Meetings at the angling club rooms at Lake Elingamite began an education process whereby members learned to recognise salinity signs and explored ways to combat it.

Piezometers (water table bores) were installed in 1991 and are still being read monthly by group member Ken Farquharson, with the figures being sent to a data base in Bendigo.

Members were also very keen to establish native trees, so we learned how to collect and propagate seed by both direct seeding and tube establishment. Three members completed tree growing courses. At our six-weekly meetings we listened to speakers on many subjects from foxes to underground water to travelling in Chile.

The group adopted an ibis design for its logo before the Corangamite Shire also chose an ibis logo.

A plan was initially developed to create a wildlife corridor from Lake Elingamite to Lake Cobrico. This was later extended to become the Rail Trail to Mt Emu Creek Link. Many thousands of trees have been established although there are still some gaps which should be filled.

We have been given enormous support over the years by the Heytesbury and Corangamite Shires, the Corangamite and Glenelg-Hopkins CMAs, whose borders our area straddles, the Department of Agriculture, Greening Australia, Parks Victoria, the Heytesbury District Landcare Network, gas companies, scout and school groups.

After fifteen years, the group's achievements were celebrated in 1996, with a district tour, a dinner, planting a commemorative tree at Lake Elingamite by Cr Geoff Smith and 2000 trees on the Cobden-Warrnambool Road at Elingamite. In July last year a dinner was held to celebrate the twenty year milestone.

Our original aims have been achieved to a large degree, and meetings are now only held about three times a year, with attendance still consistently twelve to fifteen people. In recent years the focus has been more on roadside blackberry and pampas grass control. Current office-bearers are: president, Jeff Wakeling, secretary/treasurer, Barbara Cowley.

Anyone is welcome to join at \$10 per property per year, with membership being necessary for access to grant assistance.

**Nola Farquharson**

## WHO AM I?

- When were you born?** 1990s.
  - Which schools have you attended?** Cobden Primary and Technical Schools.
  - Your AFL team?** North Melbourne.
  - How do you relax?** Listening to music.
  - Favourite holiday destination?** Love to see the sights of Sydney.
  - Your favourite television show?** Two And A Half Men.
  - Best thing about your school?** My mates.
  - Four people you admire?** Ricky Ponting, Brent Harvey, Mum and Dad.
  - Best book you've ever read?** Captain's Diaries 2009.
  - How many brothers and sisters do you have?** One brother.
  - Who provided the best piece of advice you have ever received? What was it?** Just be yourself - from my parents.
  - One thing about yourself that might surprise our readers?** I love to play golf.
  - Your worst habit?** I don't like doing the dishes.
  - Cobden's best feature?** Cobden people are very supportive.
  - Your favourite subject at school?** PE.
  - Current clubs or organisations?** Cobden Football Netball Club and Bellarine Athletics Club.
  - Your proudest achievement so far?** Representing Australia in athletics on two occasions - Darwin (May 2011) and Italy (September 2011).
  - What do you want to do when you leave school?** Radio sports commentator and working with children.
- The name of this Cobden identity will be revealed in the March edition of Connecting Cobden.*



### VERY IMPORTANT SCHEDULING

It is planned to cover the following organisations in Connecting Cobden over the next seven months. The March and April groups have already received invitations to submit their contributions. Other invitations will be sent at least two months before material is needed. It helps everyone if organisations are well-prepared and "ready to go" when the time comes.

**MARCH:** Cobden Uniting Church, Cobden and District Historical Society, Cobden Primary School, Cobden Football Netball Club, Cobrico Fire Brigade, Progressing Cobden.

**These contributions needed by February 29th for the March 21st edition of Connecting Cobden.**

**APRIL:** Cobden Red Cross, Cobden Cemetery, Bostocks Creek Fire Brigade, Cobden Technical School, Cobden Golf Club, Cobden Miniature Railway Park including mini-golf.

**Contributions needed by April 4th for April 25th edition.**

**MAY:** Cobden CWA, Cobden Artists, Cobden Junior Football and Netball, Cobden Sports Club, Cobden Civic Hall, Elingamite /Glenfyne Fire Brigade.

**Contributions needed by May 9th for May 30th edition.**

**JUNE:** Timboon-Camperdown Rail Trail, Glenfyne Hall, Cobden Aero Club/Airstrip, Cobden Pioneer Dairy Park, Cobden Quota Club, Cobden Anglican Church, Cobden Indoor Bowling Club.

**Contributions needed by June 6th for June 27th edition.**

**JULY:** No edition.

**AUGUST:** Cobrico Hall, Rotary Club of Cobden, Cobden Senior Citizens, Cobden Orchid Club, Cobden Reformed Church, Jancourt Fire Brigade.

**Contributions needed by July 11th for August 1st edition**

**SEPTEMBER:** Bostocks Creek Hall, Cobden Bowling Club, Cobden Safety House, Cobden Garden Club, Cobden Cricket Club, Jehovah's Witnesses.

**Contributions needed by August 15th for September 5th edition.**

Have we left out your organisation? If so, please contact Kelvin at 5595 1700 asap. We want to include everyone!

### "WHAT'S ON IN COBDEN?"

You may have noticed that "What's on in Cobden?" is no longer appearing in the Cobden Timboon Coast Times.

It was never guaranteed that this "free space" could be provided in every week's CTCT which became rather frustrating, although understandable. Rather than Progressing Cobden paying to guarantee the space every week, we thought we could utilise Connecting Cobden's "Calendar" to provide the same service.

We realise the time frame is not so convenient - Connecting Cobden will be published every five weeks - but there are other advantages eg we will provide more space for details about your event.

**Please note our deadlines as above.**

Information can be sent via email to kelvin@swllen.net.au, left at David Falk Real Estate or phoned to 5595 1700.

## COBDEN CALENDAR

- Thursday 16th February:** Cobden Probus Club 10th Anniversary, Cobden Sports Club.
- Saturday 18th February:** Cobden Cricket Club Fifties Night, Cobden Sports Club.
- Sunday 19th February:** Dairy Park, Historical Society, Miniature Railway and Restoration Group, Racecourse Reserve.
- Monday 20th February:** CopRice Cobden Spring Festival meeting, 7.30pm, Heytesbury Room.
- Tuesday 21st February:** Pancake Day, Cobden UC, from 11.30am. Pancakes \$2 each.
- Sunday 25th February:** South West Kart Club Day, Racecourse Reserve.
- Sunday 26th February:** Country Music Afternoon, Senior Citizens' Hall, 1.30 pm, \$5, afternoon tea provided. Contact Irene Wyles 5595 1850.
- Wednesday 29th February:** Give It A Go Week, Boxing for Fitness, 11 am for adults, 4 pm for children aged between 8-16 years. Bookings essential, phone 5595 3100.
- Friday 2nd March:** World Day of Prayer. 7pm Cobden Reformed Church.
- Saturday 3rd March:** Hoy! Cards at Senior Citizens' Hall, 1.30 pm, bring a small gift.
- Saturday 3rd March:** Health checks and freebies at the Heytesbury Show.
- Sunday 4th March:** Clean Up Australia Day, Lake Cobden Project Team.
- Monday 5th March:** Progressing Cobden Twenty20 Vision Action Group meeting, 7.30pm, Heytesbury Room.
- Thursday 8th/Friday 9th March:** Sunspot Checks, phone 5595 3100.
- Monday 12th March:** Lake Cobden Project Team meeting, 7.30pm, Heytesbury Room.
- Sunday 18th March:** Dairy Park, Historical Society, Miniature Railway and Restoration Group, Racecourse Reserve.
- Monday 19th March:** CopRice Cobden Spring Festival mtg, 7.30pm, Heytesbury Room.
- Friday 23rd March:** Ageing Well Expo, Senior Citizens' Hall, 10 am-3 pm. Contact Lyn Russell or Tracey Mitchell 5595 3100.
- Sunday 25th March:** Country Music Afternoon, Senior Citizens' Hall, 1.30 pm, \$5, afternoon tea provided. Contact: Irene Wyles 5595 1850.



# WHO AM I?

**When were you born?** During the 1960s.

**Which schools did you attend?** Timboon P12, Cobden Tech.

**Your AFL team?** Carlton.

**How do you relax?** What is that? Still learning.

**Your favourite holiday destination?** Still have not found it, but holidays are good.

**Your favourite television show?** Bones, Water Rats, Action Shows.

**the best thing about your work?** The variation of jobs, always doing something different.

**Who provided the best piece of advice you have ever received?** What was it? Your reap what you sow - from the Bible.

**One thing about you that might surprise our readers?** Life is full of surprises and you never know what is around the corner. I don't know a family that hasn't experienced pain of some sort in life. Live every day to its fullest, respect God and your fellow neighbour, and God will take care of the rest.

**The best book you've ever read?** The Five Love Languages.

**Your worst habit?** Smoking.

**Cobden's best feature?** The lake area.

**Your favourite subject at school?** Can't remember, it was not reading.

**Your proudest achievement so far?** To be able to help people in the jobs I do and see the joy on people's faces when they are happy with your work.

**To which clubs or organisations do you currently belong?** Christian Reformed Church of Cobden.

**How many children do you have?** Five fun children.

**Names?** Mate, Abbey, Zoe, Pip and Scout.

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

# A COUNTRY PARADISE

by Claudia Bouma

"So, what do you think of Cobden?"

It didn't take you locals long to figure out that I am a new face in town, and with three little people trailing behind me everywhere I go, I am apparently quite the sight.

Let me rephrase the question before I attempt an answer and



**The Bouma family at Indarri Waterfall, Lawn Hill NP, Qld. Chris (left), Shannon, Claudia, Chantelle and Hannah (back).**

head into dangerous territory. The right thing to ask is, "What do I think of the people in Cobden?" Now, that's an easy question to answer!

Friendly Joy at the newsagency went home and tracked down an older copy of Caravan World after I told her that one of my travel articles was in it but that I had been unable to back-order this particular issue.

My kind neighbour Diane always makes time for a cuppa and a chat, and my three kids adore her (admittedly the toys at someone else's place are always nicer but that's beside the point).

Elaine from Creative Health lives just up the road and has made me feel right at home, assuring me that I can knock on her door if something unexpected happens. Talk about community spirit!

Andrew from the newsagency generously gave me a huge pile of newspapers when I ran out of paper to start the wood heater (thank goodness we have gas-ducted heating now).

Our back neighbours shared the overflow from their veggie garden. There's nothing like fresh veggies we discovered.

I could go on and on about you friendly locals, the community spirit in this small town and the fact that I, along with my husband Chris and three kids, love being a part of this country paradise. The bottom line is that the people of a town determine what a town really is like and Cobden is filled with friendly people who look out for each other.

Thanks for making us feel at home in this country paradise!

Claudia Bouma moved to Cobden with her husband Chris and three children Shannon (6), Chantelle (4) and Hannah (3) in October 2010. She is a professional writer and proof-reader who has her own business, A Way With Words. Her travel articles have been published in ten different magazines in three different countries. Currently she is finishing her first novel.

A Way With Words, 80 Clarke Street, Cobden VIC 3266

Mob: 0420 933 913, Email: awaywithwords@bigpond.com



**Drew (left), Rob and Barb Semmens with Cr Jo Beard.**

## Cobden's Australia Day

**Margaret Jepson and Trevor Roberts.**



**Helen Begely (left), guest speaker Neil Roberts, Geoff Fagan and Biddy Weel.**

# Around the circuit with the Kart Club



**Foundation and life member Russell White with Nadene Jones-Sexton at the last club day of 2011.**

**Top: (left) Warren Ponting, (right) Aerial view of the Kart Club circuit.**

The South West Kart Club is based at the old Cobden Racecourse and was formed in August 1992 by local members who previously had raced at Geelong and Ballarat.

At this first meeting a decision was made to build a first class bitumen track specifically for go kart racing and so a plan was drawn up with the track being 966 metres in length and eight metres in width.

After a lot of hard work from members and the local community who got right behind the project from the start, the track was finally ready for racing on in March 1996 and has since had rave reviews about its plentiful passing positions, great layout, long straights and the ability to cater for large fields.

Club membership is either single or family and we currently have 53 karters plus family members. To register with the AKA (Australian Karting Association) for a racing licence karters must be a member of a licensed club. There are various classes and types of licence available. More information can be obtained from the Victorian Karting Association website [www.vka.asn.au](http://www.vka.asn.au).

Closed race meetings for members are held once a month from February through to November each year. Club days are held on the last Sunday of every month and two open meetings are held as per the Victorian Karting

Association calendar. Our open meetings for 2012 are on September 15th and November 17th -18th. Club members travel around the state and interstate throughout the year attending other race meetings.

Cobden held the 2007 Victorian open titles and we have held Victorian closed titles in the past as well. We also regularly hold a round of the Victorian Country Series and in 2012 we are hosting the final round of the series.

The club is continually developing the track facilities and they are now some of the best in the state. In 2011 we opened our new amenities block, which includes toilets and showers, stewards' rooms and a first aid room. This new block is attached to our large clubrooms including bar facilities and a fully equipped kitchen.

These facilities are available for hire to members of the public and over the years many functions have been held there.

Track opening times are Wednesday-Friday 12-5pm. Weekends and public holidays 11am-6pm. Closed Christmas Day and Good Friday. Visitors are most welcome on club days and during the open meetings. There is no charge for spectators.

Current office-bearers are:  
President: Steve Jones-Sexton  
Vice-President: Chad Sullivan  
Secretary: Lana Clarke  
Treasurer: Ian White

**Steve Jones-Sexton**



# COBDEN SQUASH IS ALIVE AND KICKING

## BUT GIRLS, WHERE ARE YOU?

The first balls were pounded around Cobden Squash Club's new courts on July 30th, 1978.

The building, instigated and privately owned by Jeff and Delys Hudgson, was built by Murray Kelson assisted by apprentice Les Wilson. The brickwork was done by sub-contractors Greg Lyons and David Teal.

The Hudgsons owned the next-door Cobden Hotel, which is now the Grand Central Bed and Breakfast.

The first office-bearers were Geoff Halden (president), Delys Hudgson (secretary), Paul Daley (treasurer) with Max King, Kevin Duffin, Ken Taylor, Cliff and Sandra Cobbledick as committee members.

In 1978, we had 73 senior members and 33 junior members.

Back then, there were fewer sporting options for juniors, and mixed pennant squash was played on Monday and Tuesday evenings, ladies had eight teams of four playing Tuesday mornings and afternoons, and there was racquetball on Fridays. Thursday nights were popular for die-hard (and try-hard) practice.

Many toddlers happily attended the Tuesday sessions with their mums battling it out on court.

Interclub squash was played with Terang, Lismore and Camperdown, and monthly tournaments were held with Warrnambool, Naracoorte, Stawell, Port Fairy, Colac, Hamilton, Camperdown and Casterton clubs.

At the height of its popularity, junior squash was strong. Many of today's members started as juniors, may have had a break or played elsewhere but, like Lance Finney, are back playing with renewed energy.

Cobden Squash Club has three life members – Greg Chessum, Jeff Hudgson and Dawn Baxter. Dawn and her husband Greg, actually ran the club for three years, and there have been other owners as well. The courts are for sale at the moment.

Be assured, Cobden squash is alive and kicking. Over the last few years, we have averaged 50 members with three pennants being played every year.

The club prides itself on being very friendly and family-orientated with new members very welcome – beginners of any age, or those wanting to return to the sport after a break. Average cost is \$8 to \$10 a game with pennant seasons over ten to twelve weeks – no breaks for school holidays!

Discounts are usually offered if more than one family member is playing.

The club's two pennant nights are Monday and Wednesday. Summer pennant is getting underway – just turn up to have a look or bring suitable clothes and shoes. You may get a game straightaway! In the early years, white or light uniform rules were strictly adhered to but a few of us now like to wear more "dark and slimming shades."

Our starting time is 6.30pm, especially for school-age people, with later matches beginning between 8pm and 8.30pm. Unlike the old days, 10pm is now considered very late!

Coaching for all, especially younger players, is available from the more senior members.

Unfortunately, the courts are not easily accessible on a daily or weekly basis to student-age people but we do encourage them to get involved through friends or family. Our members come from all walks of life – farmers, factory workers, electricians, plumbers, teachers, even doctors – and ages range from 12 to 50+ (or 50++ if your name is Russell O'Shea).

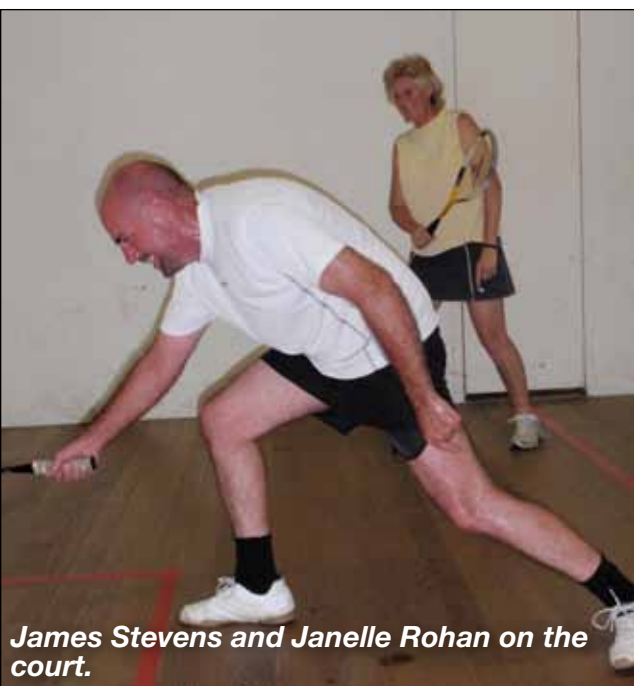
We would like to increase the number of female players – so come on, girls, where are you?

Our current club president is Camperdown identity Richard Narik with me (Jenny Baker) as secretary/treasurer. With James Reynolds, Lance Finney and anyone who can spare the time, we also make up the seedings committee.

Cobden squash – alive and kicking!

My phone number is 5595 1154.

Jenny Baker



James Stevens and Janelle Rohan on the court.

### YOU HAD TO BE THERE!

A few years ago, we thought it would be fun to have dress-up night at the squash club, and finish off with pizzas for supper. As people arrived in wigs and bright attire totally unsuited to squash, it was evident we were in for a very funny evening.

One member marched up the street in his blonde wig to order the pizzas. You can imagine the looks! On returning to pick up the pizzas the same member had swapped his wig for an afro variety. The lady behind the counter was wondering what was going on in town!

Settling into our pizzas and still laughing about trying to play in the most ridiculous outfits, the newest Cobden police member strode up the stairs. He looked at us and we looked at him. I wondered if he was going to call for back-up. We could read his face – "Where did you all escape from?" As quickly as he appeared, he descended back down the stairs.

We reckon he took every rego number of every car parked outside the courts!



Jenny Baker and Richard Narik in front of the Squash Club's honour board.

### December's "Who Am I?"

Page 2

**Fred Wheaton** likes to relax by gardening and solving crossword and sudoku puzzles. He is a retired farmer whose favourite holiday destination is WA and the Kimberley. Fred went to school at Peechember West State School and Wesley College where his favourite subject was arithmetic.



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**Cherine Benallack** likes to relax by listening to country music and sewing and she follows Geelong in the AFL. Cherine has four children and her favourite holiday destination is Port Fairy. She enjoys watching "Better Homes and Gardens" on TV and lists her proudest achievement so far as her family.



### Connecting Cobden Wonderword

by Barbara Cowley

All the words/phrases have a Cobden connection! They can be found in all directions.

- |               |                    |
|---------------|--------------------|
| Doctors       | Gymnasium          |
| Nurses        | Meals on Wheels    |
| Schools       | Airfield           |
| Kindergarten  | Fire Brigade       |
| Play Group    | SES                |
| Rotary        | Dairy Park         |
| Quota         | Lake               |
| Swimming Pool | Veterinarians      |
| Police        | Tandarook Park     |
| Churches      | Lovely Banks       |
| Shops         | Mens Shed          |
| Football      | Parks              |
| Cricket       | People             |
| Squash        | Seats              |
| Tennis        | Basketball         |
| Mini Trains   | Skate Park         |
| Golf          | Kart Club          |
| Roundabouts   | Recreation Reserve |

S I N N E T A I T P A R K S E L G K  
 Q W P E O P L E O T I I U K F L Y A  
 U A I R F I E L D E Y C A I N L M R  
 A K H M E G I N L K T L R N T A N T  
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