

# CONNECTING COBDEN

COMMUNITY



NEWSLETTER

EDITION No 7

April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012

## Characters of Cobden - Marie Osborne

Marie Osborne is adamant she would not change anything about her life, and who would blame our 78 year-old community champion? Marie has contributed thousands of hours to her community and family over many years and, obviously, she is a contented person. As she says with a smile ...

### “I’M HAPPY WITH MY LOT”

Born in the Cobden Hospital in Parrott Street (now Heytesbury House Bed and Breakfast) on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 1933, Marie spent her childhood a couple of blocks up the street towards the factory – where electrician Chris Walsh and his family are living.

Marie was the fourth child in Tom and Dorothea Bourke’s family of ten – she had seven brothers and two sisters! The oldest was Ted (now deceased) who was followed by Jean Fussell, Frank, Marie, Len, Edna Murfitt, Ray, Ron (Stump), Bernie and Tom.

“We all had our chores,” Marie said. “Dad was the local baker so we had to help Mum with the cows, housework and younger family members. It was a busy life but we still had time to mix with friends.”

Marie conceded there were times when she didn’t let on she knew her father. You see, he was the local bookie so, if strangers hit town looking for Tommy Bourke, “Never heard of him” was the stock answer.

Health, Nature Study, Knitting and Sport were Marie’s favourite subjects at Cobden Primary School where she did all her schooling. “They were good days,” she said.

Her favourite Cobden memories include the pictures on Wednesday and Saturday nights at the theatre, now Cobden Kitchens, and Rocky Speed’s shop which is now Martins’ Home Hardware.

Marie’s eyes lit up when she remembered the meeting spot for the town’s young people under the streetlight on the corner of Parrott and Dover streets. “All the parents knew where to find us,” she said.

“Then, on Sundays, my parents would go for a drive and everyone would head to Bourke’s paddock for a rodeo. It got huge – people would just turn up – but, one Sunday, Mum and Dad returned early and that was the end of that. Mum knew there was something going on because the cows’ milk always dropped off on Sundays.”

Sundays also saw the Railways Rovers playing the Town Tigers in footy matches in the paddock or on the Curdie Street vacant block, now occupied by builder, Gerard Loving. “Again, they were wonderful times and our parents knew where their kids were.”

As we all know, behind every good woman is a good man, and Marie Osborne is no exception. She met husband Jim

in 1958 at a football tea at “The Zoo” (Bill Richards’ hotel). Marie was not sure if it was love at first sight – “I just needed a ride home,” she said. Who proposed? “Not sure, maybe it was me!”

Their marriage, celebrated at St Brendan’s in Cobden on August 19<sup>th</sup>, 1961, produced four children – Kevin, Lynette Oldham, Barb Semmens and Anthony – and six grandchildren, “who keep me young.”

Marie’s advice to young people in a relationship: “Talk, listen and believe in one another.”

And her advice to young people generally: “Always tell the truth – we always find out – and always be careful!”

Marie says the two things that have given her the most satisfaction are her family and her football teams. Her family and Cobden Football Netball Club we can understand and applaud but many people may question her allegiance to Collingwood. Why Collingwood?

“Well,” Cobden coach Jack Murphy told us: “You will never be bored. They are always about and newshounds thrive on them. They keep the footy world talking.”

“Then Thorold Merrett joined them so what choice did I have?”

#### MARIE’S COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Fund-raising for our hospital – “Darby and Joan, Jimmy ‘Hutchy’ Rohan and me. It was great time – not much rest but very enjoyable.”
- Scribe for Cobden Golf Club ladies for many years. Marie has been a fair golfer in her time. Major Cobden Golf Club trophies include two C grade championships, a silver spoon, two monthly medals and a Barrett Shield win.
- The Supporters Club was formed in 1950 to raise money mainly for the Footy Club’s under 18 team. “After the first year, we got more involved with more general fund-raising.”
- 1986: “The players asked if I could do Thursday night teas. Twenty-three years later, Lisa Dickinson and a group of friends took over so 2012 will be the 26<sup>th</sup> year of teas.”
- Marie still sells lotto and raffle tickets, and never misses sitting on the door on Thursday nights and Saturdays, as well as doing afternoon teas for the club’s home



Marie with Ron Barrassi at the 2008 Brownlow Medal.



Marie at her familiar and regular position in Curdie Arcade.

matches. She is a familiar and friendly face in the Cobden arcade most mornings of the week.

- Marie reported on football and netball for the Cobden Times between 1994 and 2010.

#### WELL-DESERVED RECOGNITION

In 2007, the Hampden Football Netball League acknowledged Marie’s enormous contribution to the sport by nominating her, through the VCFL, for the 7<sup>th</sup> Worksafe Annual Awards in Melbourne. To win this award when there were 880 clubs involved was a huge surprise to her – “I was stunned,” she said.

Then, in 2008, Marie and husband Jim were shocked to be invited to the Brownlow Medal at Crown Casino. In the lead-up, Channel 10 filmed in Cobden for three days which provided great promotion for the town. The couple was accommodated at Crown and the Cobden Football Netball Club won \$10,000 when Marie was announced the “Community Volunteer of the Year” in the 150<sup>th</sup> year of Australian football. “It was a night we will long remember,” she said.

Well done, Marie!

Story and main photo: Kelvin White

“Red Cross is helping people around the world and across the road.”



## Cobden Red Cross

### CONTINUES THE CALLING

The Cobden Red Cross Unit opened at the start of World War 2, and closed at the end of the war, in July 1946.

At that time adult membership was 133 with five junior members. With the minutes of meetings probably destroyed, and the war over, it was thought Red Cross was no longer needed.

On August 3<sup>rd</sup> 1972, a special meeting was held at the Methodist Hall in Adams Street to re-form the Cobden Red Cross Branch. Although it had been running informally for the preceding year, there hadn’t been enough members to fill all the office-bearer positions.

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Cobden Unit Emergency Services Registration Team activated to the Skipton floods in January 2011:

Joyce de Koning (left), Helen Chivell, Leanne Amooore (standing), Jeanette Swayn (Team Leader), Diane McClurg.

# Cobden Cemetery Trust ~ A Grave Undertaking

by  
Jo Beard

**Shenfield, Tarrant and Silvester ... these famous Cobden family names are etched in our local history as the first serving members of the Cobden Cemetery Trust, a trust that is still going strong after more than 125 years.**

In some ways it has been difficult to put pen to paper to talk about our beautiful cemetery - the final resting place for many of our loved ones. Some days we wish there was no such place, some days we visit to mourn, and some days we visit to enjoy its peace, solitude and its memories.

Yes, there is an inevitability about death, and our cemetery trust members are intent on providing an environment that makes the burial experience as pleasant as possible for grieving family members and friends.

In saying that, cemeteries don't look after themselves and, at Cobden, we have a trust formed many years ago not only to maintain the grounds but also to take care of the record-keeping and administration that has taken our cemetery to what it is today. Currently, our trust consists of eight members, and we manage the cemetery on behalf of the Department of Health, Cemeteries and Crematoria Unit.

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

**Many people don't realise that Cemetery Lane is not the only address that has had the Cobden landmark situated on it. The current Corangamite Shire depot in Clarke Street was part of the site of the original Cobden Cemetery.**

In 1897 the Trustees at the time purchased the three acre block originally known as Carter's Paddock on Craig's Lane (now Cemetery Lane) as a more suitable site for burial purposes. So, from 1898, burials began at what is now the Cobden Public Cemetery.



**Trust members Neville Robertson (left), Geoff Mitchell, Denise Robertson, Alan Rantall, Jo Beard, Arthur Matheson, Trevor Roberts. Absent: Mark Roberts.**

To this date we have had approximately 2217 recorded interments. We currently average about 25 burials a year and our Trust members are all volunteers.

## QUARTERLY MEETINGS

**We have quarterly meetings (which is regulation) and we meet on the last Tuesday at 7.30pm every three months. At these meetings, we discuss the general actions taken out at the cemetery, future works and finance matters. Our trust members are all dedicated to the preservation of our wonderful cemetery, and are always finding ways to improve it.**

We employ a gravedigger, Bill Nelson, who is assisted either by Trevor Roberts, our chairman or other available members. We also have our lawns and surrounding grounds attended to by Theo's Gardens who do a wonderful job. We are lucky that community members take it upon themselves to help us dispose of old flowers left at gravesites. Our trust stands alone in the caretaking of the cemetery, we take full responsibility in its management and monitor the grounds at least twice weekly.

One of the biggest jobs over the past few years was surveying and recording all the gravesites on a computer program from burial records dating back to late 1800s - thanks to the many hours spent doing this by our members at the time Mr Alan and Mrs Marilyn Rantall (Marilyn's grandfather Mr Charlie Body also served as a member). We now have great records and also a plan that

provides our cemetery visitors with locations of all gravesites - this is situated inside the gazebo at the cemetery.

Current works at the cemetery include new drainage and upgrades to the driveway. We are also adding a designated car park area, particularly needed on funeral days and recently our Niche Wall was renovated. None of these projects could occur without the work of our trust members.

## BURIAL PLANS

**Over the years there has been a lot of media surrounding pre-paid funerals and suggestions made to people to think about having burial plans. Our trust also encourages these discussions as this is a service we provide. It is amazing how many people use this service and there are people who would rather not think about it. This is completely understandable. Sometimes, we never like to think about the worst and, the moment we do, we could jinx it.**

This topic is so personal but, to many, it is peace of mind - they have done all they can do to assure they not only get their wishes taken care of, but also the concern is taken away from the people they are leaving behind. It is not something we advertise but we do encourage with care, dignity and discretion. If anyone is wanting to know more or just have a chat please don't be afraid to give me a call.

It's funny. People wonder and joke about the Cemetery Trust and what we do but, on a serious note, it is a fact of life that we need cemeteries and people to take care of them, and Cobden is no exception. I am a fourth generation Roberts to serve the Cobden Cemetery. My grandfather, Joseph, began our contribution way back in 1935. Since then my Pop, Bill Roberts, served for over 30 years including time as chairman and secretary, then followed my Dad Trevor, who joined back in 1994. He has held the chairman position for the past fourteen years, so it was inevitable that myself and now my brother Mark carry on the family tradition.

I took over the role as secretary from Marilyn six years ago and Mark was only elected on to the trust last year. It is quite special to have the trust as part of your family's history and something I know I am proud of.

## LONGEST-SERVING MEMBER

Mr Arthur Matheson is our current longest-serving trust member - 32 years. He has held executive positions but is now more than happy to come along and enjoy being a



*The recently renovated niche wall.*

general member. We often laugh that he only joined to represent the Heytesbury Shire but now he loves us so much he can't leave! We do know how lucky we are to have his wise thoughts and all the memories he can recall. We certainly enjoy having him around so he is stuck with us, whether he likes it or not.

We have the husband and wife team of Neville and Denise Robertson who have given dedicated service to the Cobden Cemetery over the years. Neville joined in 1994 along with Trevor and has been our treasurer for the past twelve years. Denise joined in 2000. Not only do they bring great humour to our get-togethers but they are also responsible for the ordering of the bronze plaques on the headstones. They are often the first port-of-call following interments for the families during what can be a very difficult and emotional time. I can't imagine any two people more suited to helping organise these lasting memorials.

Then we have our other wise men! Geoff Mitchell JP and Alan Rantall. They joined in 1998 and are an integral part of our trust. They have both done many hours of volunteer work within the cemetery grounds and, like our other members, are responsible for its attractive appearance.

**Our trust is proud to acknowledge that we currently have three serving life members - Arthur, Trevor and Neville. They have been recognised for a combined total of 68 years service by the Department of Health, and their contribution goes on!!!**

One of my dreams for the Cobden Cemetery Trust, and one that I'm sure that I share with my fellow members, is to have our famous rabbit invasion under control but, more importantly, one day to have the living population of the Cobden community greater than the population of our cemetery.

## CLARIFICATIONS - Primary School History

In our March edition, Connecting Cobden used extracts from Cobden Primary School's 125 year celebration booklet, "Building on the Past". Local historian Alma MacDonald has since pointed out that the name of Mr Allison, the head teacher appointed in 1933, was left out of the booklet and that Mr Hedley Jobling was actually appointed head teacher in 1935, not 1933. Alma was a pupil at the school from 1935 until the early 1940s - not in the 1920s as claimed in the booklet.

If you have a copy of "Building on the Past", you might like to amend the following:  
Page 36: Miss Porch (not Miss Pach) was a teacher who objected to the state of Alma and brother Fred's shoes after their two-mile walk to school.  
Page 19: Caption under first photo should read, "Staff members - 1936" (not 1931).

## MORE MEMORIES OF COBDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

- When we went to Melbourne to have a look over the "Oransay" ship. We had David Cooper as a teacher and we were built up to the occasion by making passports etc. It was an exciting time. *Gwenda (Roberts) Quarrell.*
- Captain of Curdie House. Loved sports day, especially swimming, and being a member of the school choir. *Kelly Meade.*
- The day Miss Porch left. Playing in the trenches. Mr Jobling as our head teacher. *Fred Wilson.*
- Going on camp to Sherbrook, canoeing down the river, nice and quiet and calm, until Mr Woodcock hit the water loudly with his oar and yelled "crocodile." I nearly leapt into a tree!! *Lyn Parker (1975-80).*
- Appearing in the production of the "Flying Pieman," and going on camp with Lyn Parker. *Anita (Quarrell) Chivell (1975-1981).*
- Any time that I walk into a classroom, or out into the yard, the children happily wave and say hello. That's something that makes working at Cobden PS very special. *Peter Lee.*

## Cobden Red Cross CONTINUES THE CALLING

At the meeting the following office-bearers were elected: president Mrs Y Reid, secretary Mrs F Burge, treasurer Mrs D Watts.

Sixteen members were present at the first meeting on October 6th, 1972, when a Field Officer from Headquarters, Mrs Fairbairn, spoke of the relief available for burnt-out families, which continues to this day. Families were also able to purchase \$20 of groceries to enable them to carry on!

In the early days, Red Cross members provided afternoon teas for Corangamite Shire Council meetings. From November 1974, lunches were provided at a cost of \$3 per head for a three-course meal, cheese biscuits and coffee. This continued for many years.

Cobden Red Cross Unit is still as hard-

working as ever, being well-trained for any call-out that they receive, at any time of day or night. They were very active to assist at the Skipton floods last year, and we have been lucky to not have any emergencies to attend over the past fire season.

Red Cross Calling has kept our branch and other willing community members busy by collecting donations for people in need. Members would like to thank all those who have once again shown their support for Red Cross with their contributions. They realise that helping Red Cross could one day help the people they love.

The old saying about Red Cross still stands, "Red Cross is helping people around the world and across the road." Red Cross is guided by seven fundamental principles, which mean we are totally committed to helping anyone who needs help, regardless of race, culture, religion or political beliefs.

We would welcome anyone who would like to join us in our good work. Please contact Helen Chivell on 5595 1364.

Joyce de Koning

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## BOSTOCKS CREEK FIRE BRIGADE

# VOLUNTEERING IN ACTION

**Bostocks Creek Rural Fire Brigade is a community organisation responding to critical incidents including fire, road accidents, and emergencies as required.**

**Also we are involved in training programs for new brigade members and schools.**

The inaugural meeting was held on January 11th 1950, at the Bostocks Creek Hall, for the purpose of forming a Rural Fire Brigade.

Mr J Clarke, Regional Officer of Colac, was present to form a brigade and explain the duties of office-bearers. The meeting was chaired by Mr G Wiltshire, and twelve others present were R Bateman, J Garner, W Clingin, C Bateman,



*Brigade captain Lance Robilliard (left) and 3rd lieutenant Rob van den Eynde.*

A Bateman, H Hickey, John P Hickey, R Cook, R Robilliard, J Mansbridge, C McInerney and W Fisher. The annual membership was five shillings.

The current brigade membership is 29 and all members are trained and accredited volunteer firefighters. Monthly meetings are held, at 8pm on the first Tuesday, between October to May at the fire station.

Our current fire truck was presented to captain Leo Scanlan in 1988 at a cost of \$60,000. It was the first such vehicle to be issued for Region 6 and it replaced a 1965 Austin truck.

We held our first Service Awards on 23rd October, 2010, at the Cobden Golf Club.

- **5 years service** - M Coverdale, D Loomans, A Rethus.
- **10 years** - G Alexander, C Clark, J Fallon, J Knowles, B Robilliard, L Ansalde, T Heckenberg, R van den Eynde.
- **15 years** - S Bateman, L Clark, T McMeel, D. Wall.
- **20 years** - P Corneby, C Davis, R Downs, D Hallyburton, C Logan, L Rethus, P Rowan.
- **25 years** - G Rethus.
- **30 years** - C Bodey, P Bodey, D Howard, P Morrissey, L Robilliard, B White.

We held the opening of our new meeting room on December 4th, 2011, with a bbq lunch which was attended by 48 past and present landholders and volunteers of the brigade. The meeting room was funded by the CFA, a Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal Grant (FRRR), Suncorp and donations from our members and landholders.

We do enjoy some lighter moments. One of our volunteers

(David Hallyburton), who lives approximately ten kilometres from the fire shed, attended one of our monthly meetings. When he returned to his vehicle to go home, to his amazement he found the garden hose from his home attached to his vehicle. He had run over the hose and dragged it all the way. Apparently it still holds water!

A group of volunteers went to the Sydney fires, and were on night duty for three nights in a row. They were all very tired. On the last night they were going back to their accommodation in a double decker bus. All were in the top deck. One volunteer asked where the bus driver was? (He was in his seat in the lower deck).

The brigade welcomes new volunteers. Contact person Christine Clark, phone AH 03 5593 2104.



*Story by Christine Clark.*

### Bostocks Creek Fire Brigade Officers

- Captain: Lance Robilliard
- 1st Lieutenant: David Hallyburton
- 2nd Lieutenant: Betty Robilliard
- 3rd Lieutenant: Rob van den Eynde
- 4th Lieutenant: Matt Coverdale
- Communications Officer: Betty Robilliard
- Secretary/Treasurer: Christine Clark
- Equipment Officer: Leon Clark
- Training Officers: Betty Robilliard, Anthony Bodey

## “WHO AM I?”

**When were you born?** 1963.

**Which schools have you attended?** Barongarook Primary, Colac Tech.

**Your favourite subject at school?** Didn't like any.

**Your AFL team?** Geelong.

**How do you relax?** Sleep.

**Favourite holiday destination?** Mermaid Beach, Queensland.

**How many children do you have.** Two, aged 14 and 13.

**Your favourite television show?** On the Buses.

**The best thing about your work?** Meeting people.

**Who provided the best piece of advice you have ever received.** What was it? "It's not what you earn, it's what you save" - ex workmate.

**Current clubs or organisations?** Cobden squash and tennis clubs.

**One think about you that might surprise our readers?** I have two road motor bikes.

**Stimulating and interesting dinner guests?** John Laws, Dick Smith, Gerry Harvey.

**Best book you've ever read?** I don't read.

**Your worst habit?** I procrastinate on a problem for too long.

**Cobden's best feature?** Mini trains and Tandarook Park.

**Your proudest achievement so far?** My marriage.

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

### COMPETITION WINNER

The winner of last month's competition to find words from the letters of "Connecting Cobden" is Barbara Porter of Naroghid.

Her prize was kindly donated by Ritchies IGA.

## Cobden Miniature Railway and Mini Golf Park

The park has been open since June 1994 and is a joint venture of the South Western Model Engineers and the Rotary Club of Cobden. Both clubs are not for profit organisations made up of volunteers.

### SOUTH WESTERN MODEL ENGINEERS

The South Western Model Engineers have been a club for about 40 years. John Wiggins, John Riches and Ian McArthur were the original members and they set up a portable track that was built to fit on a trailer and they'd go to markets, school and hospital fetes, footy family days etc. They also used to take the track to the Koala Motel and truck stop in the Stoney Rises. As they grew, five members had tracks going around their yards!!

In the early 1990s they decided they needed a more permanent track that could be set up and used whenever they wanted. John Wiggins started looking around for a place where the track could go. At the time John and Alan Hart were members of Cobden Rotary and they discussed setting up a partnership.

Around this time the Cobden racecourse was closing up and it was handed over to the Heytesbury Shire to be used for recreation purposes. The Shire was approached and plans were drawn up and the Railway Park was born.

The South Western Model Engineers have hosted three National Conventions of the Australian Association of Live Steamers (AALS) at Railway Park. These have been major events for Cobden bringing hundreds of visitors and their locomotives to Cobden for Easter. No other national conventions of the AALS have ever been held away from a State capital city, so the success of the Cobden conventions showed Cobden's ability to deliver a high standard event.

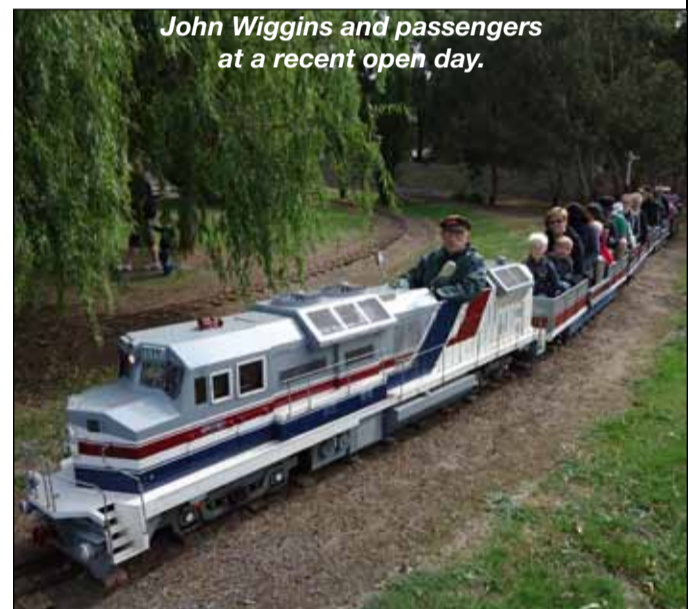
### ROTARY CLUB OF COBDEN

Cobden Rotary supports the operation of the Railway Park through administration of the activities and advertising its events. The Mini Golf course is operated by Rotary and Rotary undertake the major work of organising the New Year's Eve family event.

### RAILWAY PARK

The park is open every third Sunday of the month and every Sunday during the school holidays (11am to 4pm). It is also available for private functions from September through to the end of April each year.

Two special programs for the park are the Cobden Spring



*John Wiggins and passengers at a recent open day.*

Festival in October and the Family Fireworks Extravaganza on New Year's Eve.

From its early days as a very short ride around a single loop of track, the park has developed significantly. Over the years there have been additions such as an 18 hole miniature golf course, adventure playground, tearooms, under-cover barbecue area, signal box, enviro-tunnel, a huge engine shed, the trestle bridge and, most recently, the tunnel.

All buildings and grounds work have been completed by voluntary labour from the very generous people of the Cobden district and the members of the two clubs. The main buildings and the track were funded by loans which were fully repaid from the operation of the park. Other features have received grants from local, state and federal governments.

Since its inception the park has won numerous awards and is now a renowned family affordable tourist attraction in South West Victoria.

All the engines and carriages that you ride on when you come for a ride are privately owned by members who are happy to use their trains for taking the visitors around the almost 2km of tracks within the railway park.

After having a ride why don't you go up and talk to the train drivers, guards, train staff or the signal men - they are passionate about their trains and happy to have a chat. They appreciate your interest and support.

The South Western Model Engineers are always looking for new members. If you're interested in becoming a member then please contact President Graham Ralph 5595 1664. Bookings for the park can be made with Gary Kimber on 0409 951 275.

**Gary Kimber**



# GOLF CLUB HAS COME A FAIRWAY OVER 100 YEARS

**Cobden Golf Club celebrated its centenary on April 26th, 2008, with the opening of three new holes, and it is hoped six more holes will be added in the near future to provide a full complement of 18 holes for members and visitors.**

While the club's main activity is providing high standard golf facilities (ladies competition on Wednesdays and men on Saturdays), it also offers lunch and evening bistro meals from Tuesday to Sundays, TAB facilities, a pool table, bingo (Mondays), darts (Tuesdays) and free poker (Wednesdays). A function

room can be used for everything from small meetings to weddings.

The club has 430 members who extend from "full golf" to "house" members. There is also a "non-competition membership" for those who might like to try out the sport, as well as a junior membership. Fees range from \$290 to \$25.

Cobden's main competition is in February for eight days when players come from all over Victoria and from as far as Queensland.

Current office-bearers: President Gary Rix, Vice President Colin Hammond,

Finance Director Trevor Gardner, Golf Captain Stuart Dawson, Ladies Captain Evelyn Grayland, Course Director Geoff Davis, Director Daniel Beard.

A Christmas function is held on the Saturday before Christmas when all are invited to attend to enjoy the evening. Features include rides for kids, Santa comes during the evening, a live band and bbq. This is one for the calendar.

Friday night is the members' draw with raffles available.

Phone: 5595 1393

Email: cobdengolf@tca-online.com.au

## BITS AND PIECES FROM THE 21<sup>ST</sup> HOLE

- Four times British Open winner and Australian golfing legend Peter Thomson visited the club in 1956. Organised by Neville Vagg and Norm Clarke, it gave the club a great boost with membership numbers increasing significantly. Thomson played a four-ball with Cobden's Alan Blake, Jack Spinks from Lismore and Colac's George Stuart.
- In the old days, the clubhouse was on the site of Steeles' (now Bennetts') home in Rix Avenue. The first tee was nearby so golfers had to hit over the old stock route (now Neylon Street) and trimmed cyprus trees to the green near the current clubhouse.
- When Neylon Street was constructed by the shire in the late 1960s, a new clubhouse was built, and the old one was moved over the road to become a machinery shed.
- Up until the mid-1960s, the golf season began at the end of March and finished in August, September or sometimes October – it all depended on the weather!
- The introduction of water to the course in the 1960s was welcomed. About that time, a set of Ransomes fairway mowers were purchased.
- The club had to employ part-time staff to do the work. Course staff (some paid, some voluntary) included Judd Rasmussen, Leo Findlow, Ron and Clarrie Murfitt, Ken King, Russell Brown, Max King, Stan Leek, Don Anderson and Jack Keighery.
- During 1956-57, the first supervisor of the Heytesbury Settlement Scheme Bill Melrose parked his caravan next to the clubhouse until his home was built at Simpson. He was charged £1 per week for water, power and the yard.
- Pennant began for Cobden in 1935 against Camperdown (at Manifolds, Talindert), Terang (at Blacks, Mt Noorat) and Lismore – usually 36 holes (two matches) a day. Barry English helped out when the team was short, won his matches 9/8 and 8/7 and was dropped the next week! Frank Hodgson enjoyed only 30 minutes sleep after a kitchen tea when he was dragged out of bed by Dr Bill Barrett – to play in the snow at Lismore!
- "Dr Bill" often had to leave the course to deliver a baby or attend an emergency. It happened once during a

**pennant match when his opponent waited patiently for his return . . . only to be beaten!**

- Frank Hodgson once caught an eel in the creek on the third hole with a three iron!
- With the greens fenced off, local butchers rented the course in the off-season to run sheep. The course was often burnt to remove any long grass and, according to Neville Vagg and Graem Rix, one fire nearly took out Cobden. To make matters worse, the fire truck refused to start.
- Top aces: Roger Barlow has scored three holes-in one while Sam Bamford has two to his name. A total of 38 aces have been recorded, 26 of these on the fourth hole.
- The men's record for the old course was 66. It was shared by Frazer Brown (Clifton Springs) and M Kingston (Warrnambool). The women's record of 67 for the old course was held by Debbie Rix.
- Matt Hinkley's 65 on February 18th, 2012, is the best men's score recorded on the new course while a 73 carded by Debbie Rix is the best women's score.
- Life members: Samuel Kerr, Alan Blake, Reg Rix, Frank Northeast, Frank Hodgson, Bill Barrett, Geoff Steele, Gwen Spall, Alison Rix, Glad Condie, Dulcie Roberts, Dorothy Ibbs (all deceased), Graem Rix, Ewart Mounsey and Miss Joyce Roberts.
- Debbie Rix has been an outstanding golfer and ambassador for the club. Apart from winning the women's club championship eight times, she has also represented Victoria at junior and senior level, won the Commonwealth Golf Club championship, won Victorian and South Australian state titles and played in Australian championships. In the early 1980s, Debbie played a foursomes event at Cobden with Jane Lock, Sue Smith and Di Pavich.
- Champions: Gary Rix has won the men's A grade championship an amazing 17 times! Current women's champion Fay Rundle has won the A grade title on ten occasions!
- The club's most successful pennant season occurred in 2005 when three men's teams and two women's teams reached the finals – three of the teams won!
- Long-standing office-bearers: A E George was president for 21 years from 1919 to 1941, Ewart Mounsey was treasurer for 17 years between 1981 and 1996 with Margaret Finlayson holding the secretary/ treasurer's job since 1999 until the present day.

Sources: A Taste of 100 Years of the Cobden Golf Club, and Club manager George Readings.



Tyran Dowell (above) on the practice putting green and Lachlan Green (below) on the first tee.



### COBDEN CALENDAR

- Saturday 28th April:** Cobden & District Kindergarten's Baby & Kids' Market. Cobden Civic Hall, 9am-1pm. Entry by gold coin donation. Contact: Fiona Hanks 0429 797 418.
- Sunday 29th April:** Country Music Afternoon, Senior Citizens' Hall, 1.30pm, \$5, afternoon tea provided. Contact: Irene Wyles 5595 1850.
- Tuesday 1st May:** Spring Festival meeting 7pm, Heytesbury Room, Cobden Civic Centre.
- Monday 7th May:** Progressing Cobden, 7.30pm, Heytesbury Room, Cobden Civic Centre.
- Sunday 20th May:** Dairy Park, Historical Society, Miniature Railway and Restoration Group, Racecourse Reserve.
- Saturday 23rd June:** St Mary's Anglican Church Guild is holding a stall at 9am till sold out, all donations very welcome. Kaye Hanks 5595 1210.

### Connecting Cobden Logic Problem

### What grows in which Cobden park?

Parks		Tandarook	Apex	CWA	JH Vagg Memorial
Bulbs	daffodils				
	jonquils				
	nerines				
	freesias				
Flowers	pansies				
	dahlias				
	roses				
	petunias				
Trees	gum				
	wattle				✓
	bottlebrush				
	hakea				

Using only the seven clues provided, identify a bulb, a flower and a tree for each Cobden park in the table.

1. The wattle grows in JH Vagg Memorial Park.
2. The gum grow to the right of the petunias.
3. The jonquils grow directly to the left of the roses.
4. The daffodils grow to the left of the petunias.
5. The nerines grow to the right of the jonquils.
6. There is one park between the gum and the hakea.
7. There are two parks between the roses and the dahlias.

by Barbara Cowley

## March's "Who Am I?"



**Page 3**  
**Dorothy Double** enjoys needlework and likes reading Catherine Cookson novels and watching English drama shows on television. Dorothy's favourite Cobden feature is its caring people and she belongs to the Uniting Church and Cobden Garden Club. She enjoyed visiting Norfolk Island and lists her proudest achievement so far as reaching 80.