

CONNECTING COBDEN

COMMUNITY



NEWSLETTER

Edition No. 9

June 27th, 2012

Inside ... Cobden Characters

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Alex

McCann



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Marj and

Peter Rankin

COBDEN CELEBRATES ITS CARING COMMUNITY



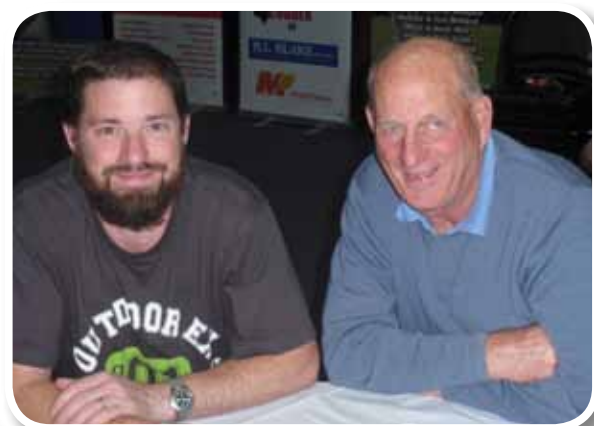
Above: Sheryl Bond and Judi Hosking (CDHS Op Shop). Below: Ann McDowell, Raelene Munro and Lin-Rose Reissenweber (Rotary Club).



Progressing Cobden hosted the recent Combined Service Clubs' Dinner at the Cobden Sports Club.

Nearly 100 people heard quick reports from 22 organisations, enjoyed a "Cobden Story" presentation by Cobden Technical School students, asked injured Swan Gary Rohan some probing questions and tried Janet van Leerdam's tough trivia test. Lisa Dickinson and Cloe Cole provided a delightful three-course meal. Overall, a wonderful night!

Below: Technical School students Chelsea Mason (left), Rebecca Rohan, Stephanie Simmonds and Chloe Healey (front).



Above: John and Bob Wason (South West Model Engineers). Below: Bruce McGauchie and Glenice Coad (Rotary Club).



Service clubs celebrate at the Cobden Sports Club.

FOCUS ON FAITH ... ST MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH IN THE MISSION DISTRICT OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI



St Mary's Anglican Church was established in about 1866 as St Mary's Anglican Church of England in Australia – so it has been around for a long time.

Father Hayden has a very large area to care for pastorally with the Mission District encompassing not only Cobden but also Terang, Timboon, Peterborough, Simpson and Camperdown. He and his family live in Terang.

St Mary's has a warden and guardian elected by the worshipping parishioners each year as well as an active guild of four dedicated parishioners. Our current worshipping membership is very small with attendance each Sunday being between six and eight although we have a pastoral roll of 65.

We meet three Sundays a month at 11.30 am and one Saturday night when we have a service and then a meal and movie to which everyone is welcome. Stalwart Joyce Roberts, our organist, is also our guild president with secretary Margaret Hinkley providing support. Although small in active members, the guild was still able to hand over a substantial sum of money to our Mission District Council last year.

We became a Mission District in 2003-2004 after being the Parish of Holy Apostles. At that time, both Camperdown and Cobden parishes were not able to afford a full-time priest so we came together to make better use of our resources. That is why you will see Mission District of St Francis of Assisi on all sorts of things we put out.

The building, now used as the church hall, was the very first church with the beautiful brick building coming nearly 40 years later.

WORSHIP TIMES

First Sunday 11.30am Eucharist;

Second Sunday is Saturday night 6pm Eucharist then a bring and share meal and movie;

Third Sunday 11.30am Eucharist;

Fourth Sunday 11.30am Morning Prayer - led by a licensed lay member of the congregation.

Father Hayden can be contacted on 0439 336 955.

We are blessed to be able to meet in a great building that has been standing in the same place for 101 years, having celebrated last year the Centenary of Consecration in February of 2011 with 150 people attending. This was a wonderful time of celebration of God's presence for our small congregation.

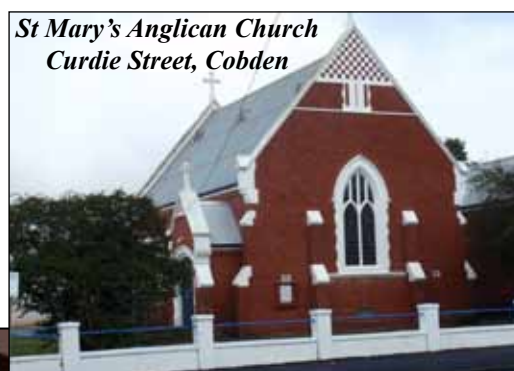
As we are totally self-funded, one of our major fund raisers is our fete in November. We have it on a Saturday morning and it lasts for about three and a half hours, not like in 1911 when it went for three nights. That year, it was necessary to continue the fete into Monday evening when all the goods left were auctioned. The result of the enterprise of the committee was highly satisfactory with about £140 being taken – when expenses were taken into consideration, it left about £100 for the building fund.

Principle prize winners were Mrs. W Cook who secured ten fat sheep, Mr E Stacey, a heifer and Mr Taylor, a cow. Perhaps our fruit, Christmas box and Christmas cake are more suited to today's prizes?

This year we have had two teddy bear picnics bringing together the very young and perhaps the not-so-young in an informal setting to show that we love them and that church is not so daunting.

We may be a small faith community and, while our doors may not be physically open all through the week, they are open to the people who attend services each week. All you need to do is speak to one of the members of the congregation and they will endeavour to help you.

In conjunction with Anglicare, we provide a Cobden casserole bank. If you have someone who is ill and needs help with meals, we have the facility to help. Contact Kaye Hanks on 5595 1210 and she will be able to help with a few casseroles.



St Mary's Anglican Church
Curdie Street, Cobden

by Kaye Hanks



Val Green (left) Kaye Hanks, Doreen Sullivan, Joyce Roberts and Father Hayden.

1866: Church meeting at Cobden - On Saturday evening last, a numerously attended meeting of those interested in the erection of an Episcopal Church in Cobden took place at this usually quiet locality.

Plans were submitted by Mr Moreland of Cobden for a neat wooden building with Gothic windows, the price being £1.50 for timber and labour and the carting of material to be defrayed by the committee. The dimensions of the new church will be 26 ft by 15 ft and it is anticipated that for some time to come this will meet the requirements of the members of the Church of England. 3rd November 1866.

"The first church in Cobden probably would have been the Church of England in Australia, which was open for worship in July 1867." And the first recorded baptism was in the same year!

"WHO AM I?"

When were you born? 1930s.

Which schools have you attended? Herwen primary and secondary schools.

Your favourite subject at school? Mathematics.

Your AFL team? Cats - an avid supporter!

How do you relax? Playing bowls - indoor and outdoor.

Favourite holiday destination? I've been lucky to travel extensively overseas.

How many children do you have? Four.

Your favourite television show? News and 7.30 (ABC), also documentaries.

The best thing about your work? I'm retired but help my sons when required.

Who provided the best piece of advice you have ever received? What was it? My father and father-in-law. "Live within your means."

Current clubs or organisations? St Vincent de Paul, Cobden Bowling Club, Probus, also Cobden Football Netball Club.

Four stimulating and interesting dinner guests? Richard Attenborough, Jack Green (dec), Jeff Kennett, Tim Costello.

Best book you've ever read? "Gone With The Wind" and "The Last Hunt" (about buffaloes),

Your worst habit? No bad habits - but I do snore.

Cobden's best feature? A caring community, especially in time of illness.

Your proudest achievements so far? Being successful in farming and my family, children and grandchildren.

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

COBDEN ART GROUP

"NO QUALIFICATIONS NEEDED"

says Marilyn Kimber



Nola Slater (left), Valerie Coverdale, Merrilyn Giblett, Wilma Fagan, Chris Kruse, Gwen Benallack. Absent: Marilyn Kimber, Val Sweatman, Jean Wallace, Linda Castello.

Cobden Art Group, which meets every Thursday in the education room at Cobden District Health Services, aims to provide a relaxed and social environment to foster interest in art.

The activity was established in 2004 when a group of interested people wanted an opportunity to work with others keen to develop artistic abilities.

Members have an opportunity to develop new skills, new art styles and new friendships - definitely, no qualifications are needed. The gatherings are purely social. Whilst no formal instruction is provided, group members are very willing to help each other and share their knowledge.

Presently, there are nine members in the group. The cost of becoming a member is \$20 per term - BYO lunch with tea and coffee provided. The sessions go from 10.30am to 2pm and members attend for as long as they like during those times.

Pastel, water color, acrylic and pencil are just some of the mediums used. Members provide their own art materials.

Every two years, the art group has an exhibition. The money raised is donated to the Cobden District Health Services. With the help of the Cobden Men's Shed, the group has made display boards which they utilize at their shows. These are made available for other organisations to hire.

The group encourages residents from the health services with an interest in art to join them. New members are most welcome.



In the near future a LinC Corangamite will be commenced.

LinC stands for ...

Love in the name of Christ.

It was started by World Vision and now there are several affiliates throughout the nation.

LINC is a network of churches that are "Coming together in love... to serve our Community!" Churches and service agencies in this region will be working in co-operation to link human needs with human resources through a phone referral centre run by volunteers.

LINC PROVIDES A NETWORK TO GIVE SUPPORT FOR ...

Single parents
Families in need
People living alone
Young people
Elderly
Disabled

LinC is important because many needs are not met by existing agencies. There are many caring people within the churches who would like to help others but do not know how. There is also a need to uncover untapped community resources.

Janet van Leerdam

ALEX McCANN (1922 -)

Much loved local identity Alexander 'Scotty' McCann will celebrate turning 90 years young on 18th July. The Depression, the bombing of Darwin, a flood, a drought and taming the local land couldn't keep this Scotland-born Western District-bred larrikin from his greatest achievement of finding true love, raising seven children and the happiness his family has brought him over the years.

Here Alex talks about his amazing life and contribution to the community with one of his 21 grandchildren, Becky McCann.

From BEEAC to BULLAHARRE, and BEYOND!

"I remember going to school at Beac when I was 11 years-old. In 1933, I walked 15 head of cattle with my uncle Jock McCann from Beac to Apollo Bay to set up a dairy farm at Tuction Hill. It took us three days. We had to go because of the Depression. I'd walk the eight mile round trip to school in Apollo Bay and back every week-day, plus Sundays.

From there, I spent a year at Larpent. I'd ride a horse to round up kangaroos for sightseers on their way past. Then I went to Eurack milking cows before ending up at Bostocks Creek in 1936 with my family, as a 14 year old. I milked cows for the Bodeys before moving over the hill to Pat Hickey's (Alan Hickey's grandfather) - now Peter Morrissey's farm. There used to be lots and lots more water in the creeks back then, plus eels.

I played football for Bostocks Creek. Our colours were blue and red stripes - same as Port Melbourne. The oval was on top of the hill to the east of the road. We'd get changed in a cowyard. The club won four premierships in a row from 1924-1927, but not while I was there. We'd travel

as far as Mortlake by horse and push bikes to play.

One game I sprained my ankle and Paddy Dalziel, my future father-in-law, worked on it at his place - the old Traveller's Rest Hotel. Patricia 'Enid' Dalziel, Paddy's daughter, bought me a cuppa and some raisin bread. And that's how I met my wife of 65 years. I had picked up the best girl in the world.

In 1942 I was enlisted into the army and went to the Northern Territory. I was granted leave on September 4th 1943 to marry Enid in Melbourne. I missed the train from Watsonia but a chap in a Chev truck was on his way to the city and he picked up me and my best man and dropped us off at Elizabeth Street. We got married in the big church up the hill.

We watched a VFL footy final after the wedding - Carlton versus Fitzroy at Princes Park. I had two days leave before Jack and I went back to the Territory. I remember the bombing of Darwin - I was at Adelaide River. It was pretty rugged.

We were transferred to Queensland, ready to go to Japan when the war ended in 1946. I went back to milking at Hickeys before moving to the in-laws to start milking our own cows. My first two daughters, Wendy and Carol, were born in Camperdown. I played footy at Cobden as a rover, winning the 1948 reserves best and fairest.

We moved to Burrupa to sharefarm in 1950. We were there a fortnight when the Gellibrand River flooded like it never had before. The flats flooded for six months - we had to leave after 12 months. I coached the Princetown footy team and our third daughter, Dianne, was born at Camperdown while we lived there.

We moved to Bullaharre in 1951, purchasing 162 acres from the Rural Finance Corporation under the soldier settlement scheme. It was a hard life - three-quarters of the property was bush and native grasses. I put aside some of our land for a road - now known as McCann's Rd.

The last four children - Russell, Trudy, Penny and Shane - were born at Camperdown while we lived at Bullaharre.

All our children went to the Tandarook South Primary School and Camperdown High School (there was no secondary school at Cobden).

I helped convert the old milk depot into the South Purrumbete Hall, and became president of the hall committee for two to three years. I was president of the Tandarook South Primary School for 20 years and on the South Purrumbete Football Club committee too.

In 1967-68 there was a big drought and I worked as foreman on the Heytesbury Shire's RED scheme, undertaking maintenance work. This scheme helped we farmers and Cobden survive the drought.

In 1968 I worked on the Heytesbury settlement scheme for a couple of years, while Enid milked the cows and looked after the little ones. I started out on a seed sower and ended up on a dozer. There were no buildings at Simpson before the scheme - only kangaroos and the big grass-tree plain.

We farmed at Bullaharre until 1977 when my eldest son Russell married Helene and took

over the farm. Enid and I moved to the cottage at Wurrong to become caretakers for Dr John Menzies' property. Wurrong became our second home.

Today, every second Boxing Day, the McCanns and Menzies get together at Wurrong for our own Boxing Day Test. It's one of the best days and it's always so much fun.

In 1988 we moved to the corner of Dover and Silvester in Cobden. I've been involved with the RSL at Cobden for a number of years too, and was the president for a few years.

In late 2006, Enid and I moved to Sunnyside House in Camperdown before Enid moved into Lovely Banks and me into Heytesbury Lodge in 2008. I lost my wife, the love of my life, in 2008. Seven weeks later I lost our eldest daughter, the dashing Wendy, to cancer.

Enid and I were married for 65 years and, although we faced lots of hard times together with our children and their families, we've had many, many great times that I'll never forget and treasure always."



Above: Alex McCann, 90 on 18th July, with granddaughter and scribe Becky McCann.

Right: Alex with a collage of his grandchildren made by granddaughter Kirsty Green.



'PAYING IT FORWARD' at Cobden Creative Health

Creative Health
(by Helen McLaren)

When Elaine Dryburgh and I made the decision to open Cobden Creative Health as a "not-for-profit" volunteer-based enterprise in June 2010, we didn't know if it would be accepted in our small community.

After being diagnosed with a serious life-threatening health condition in 2003, my life was turned upside down. What I learned as a result of that illness was invaluable and, together with my good friend Elaine, we decided we wanted to "give back or pay it forward" to others we knew or were even yet to meet.

Everyone today has challenges and, by opening Cobden Creative Health, we hoped to offer a "soft place for people to land" even if only for five minutes. Whether it's to do with health, loneliness, isolation, fear or rejection or you just want to see a smiling friendly face, you'll be welcomed.

"The Happy Shop" is what one person calls it. There's always a smile and a hug available for those who want one. Call in for a free cuppa and chat, join a meditation session or attend a monthly guest speaker presentation and learn something new.

Cobden Creative Health is creating awareness of local health and healing practitioners by having them as guest speakers and keeping a supply of informational brochures and business cards available to pass on to those who ask.

This year we have showcased our own particular healing modalities of Pranic healing and art therapy. I learnt Pranic healing in 2004 to use daily on myself to alleviate pain and accelerate my own body's healing abilities. Elaine is an art therapist, a skill she used widely in her work as a primary school teacher and is also a civil celebrant.

Eighteen months ago we discovered the amazing healing properties of therapeutic grade essential oils. We use the oils in our healing and, anytime upon entering our relaxing environment, you will experience the different embracing and soothing fragrances of the oils being diffused. These oils can be used aromatically, topically and internally, as they have many healing properties.

Many people are coming to realise they need to take responsibility for their own health as there is no "magic pill" to fix them. Cobden Creative Health has plenty of information and we'll encourage you towards your goal of good health.

At the suggestion of friends and supporters, we have created an 'annual membership' opportunity where individuals or businesses who appreciate the service we provide can contribute to the running costs to enable us to continue in our quest.

This, in turn, gives you the benefit of free access to the lending library of books, DVDs and CDs, and

discounts on products and services. Currently financed out of our own pockets, we volunteer our time each week to be there for you.

Two years on, we now have regular attendees who come from Timboon, Camperdown, Colac and even Warrnambool and Koroit to attend meditation, guest speakers and workshops or share a cuppa. New people who move to Cobden and surrounding areas find it a great place to be introduced to locals and find out what is available in the way of clubs and organisations in town.

It's a wonderful thing to walk down the street and be greeted with a smile and acknowledged by name in a town of strangers. It's often taken for granted if you were born and raised here. It's up to you to take the first step inside our door, you might be pleasantly surprised.



Helen McLaren (left) and Elaine Dryburgh.

COBDEN PIONEER DAIRY PARK - PRESERVING OUR HISTORY

The Cobden Pioneer Dairy Park was originally established on the racecourse reserve in 1998 to preserve the district's past history for future generations.

We were out to gather old memorabilia, machines and antiques in order to display them for all to see. Dennis Walsh and Keith Van Leerdec (dec) decided to approach the shire for land, which was successful, and it also provided an old railway goods shed as our starting point.

The generosity of Jack and Alice Eaton and Bob Foran who cut all the timber and the Bunkle family who provided the timber was greatly appreciated. Donations of old buildings from around the district also helped. Two large grants from State and Commonwealth Governments saw us off and running.

Volunteers included Heather Walsh, George and Betty Millard, Jim Simper (dec), Jimmy Drewitt (dec), Neil and Darren Gass, Sue Ralph, and members of Cobden and District Historical Society. Others have come and gone over the years and, due to the passing of some members, we have a small membership base so an influx of new people would be most welcome.

Qualifications needed? Well, if you can use a hammer or basic tools, even a paint brush, it would be helpful! If you can't, we can always find another task for you. So long as you enjoy yourself. Even an hour to dust would be appreciated.

We meet on the third Sunday of the month, come rain, hail or shine - 11am to 3pm or open by appointment - gold coin donation.

In the past, two large grants enabled volunteers to build five significant buildings. The Harold Lamb buggies, donated by the Lamb family, are a hugely popular display in the park. After 14 years the park is 90% complete.

We need a significant grant/sponsorship/ donations of cash to erect our last building - an entrance/office/display building costing approximately \$80,000. When built, this will enable the park to be open every day as a tourist attraction. We also need to expand the car park area to accommodate increased car and bus usage.

Our biggest event to date was the official opening of the park and catering for it. Anyone who had donated anything was invited back as a thank you.

All our volunteers enjoy a relaxed, humorous atmosphere - plenty

of work, lunch and jokes together. Our members are all interesting characters. The Gass boys are hoarders of everything, also Brooks (Ron Brooks).

Our current office bearers are Dennis Walsh (manager 5595 1524, email djwalsh5@bigpond.com), Heather Walsh (treasurer/secretary). Committee - Sue Ralph (co-ordinator), Neil, Darren and Lachlan Gass, Ron Brooks, Jim and Eunice Dawe, Colin and Melva Morton, Lisa Ponting and Shirley and Bill Rohan. Any community members interested in joining us would be warmly welcomed. Come along and enjoy the convivial company.

Don't throw anything old out - contact us first please - once it is

gone, it cannot be replaced. It is up to us to preserve our history in order to educate and entertain those who follow us.

To current volunteers, thanks to all who have given aid and assistance in the past - without your help, we would not have been able to achieve what we have. We look forward to the park being open every day, hopefully bringing tourists to our town - for the benefit of all.

Heather Walsh

Pictured below:

Heather Walsh (left), Sue Ralph aboard a McCormick-Deering tractor, Dennis Walsh and George Millard.



The Quota Club of Cobden certainly boasts a wonderful list of credits. Evelyn Grayland outlines the history of our local club and its . . .

IMPRESSIVE QUOTA OF SERVICE AND ACHIEVEMENT

Service is the heart of Quota - working together to improve the lives of other in our community.

With the motto "We Share", Quotarians are known for their work with speech, hearing and disadvantaged women and children. Club-to-club world service enables Quota to give directly to projects in places like the Philippines and India.

More locally, Quota initiated meals on wheels in Cobden in November 1977 under the guidance of Elsie Denney, Dulcie Roberts and Sheila Power. Responsible for the rosters was (Miss) Joyce Roberts. We still do the rosters, and we thank all volunteers who deliver the meals for this great community service.

Another significant local project was the Tandarook Park gazebo built by Cobden Technical School students under the guidance of Kevin Johnston. The gazebo, which was handed to the Shire of

Heytesbury on Quota's 21st birthday, was recently renovated by the Men's Shed.

Quota also contributed to the information rotunda at Cobden cemetery and, with Rotary, the Cobden Connection rotunda and picnic table. Over the years, it has provided assistance for Cobden's health services, state emergency service unit, fire brigade, airstrip, scouts, schools and kindergarten.

Quota was responsible for the formation of the Cobden Garden Club and the local safety house branch, and has coordinated Royal Children's Hospital appeals and carols by candlelight evenings. Members and friends have knitted hundreds of trauma teddies.

Probably, our single biggest achievement though was catering for the South West Model Engineers Convention over Easter in 1997.

Quota International, founded in Buffalo New York on February 6th

1919 by Wanda Frey Joiner, was the first international women's service organisation. Wanda, who was invited as a guest to a Kiwanis Club ladies night, was so inspired by the fellowship and service opportunities enjoyed by the men that she decided to form a similar club for women.

In 1933, Sydney Quota was the first Australian club. Slowly, the service club spread through New South Wales and Queensland and, then in 1959, the Melbourne club was chartered - the first in Victoria.

Cobden club was chartered on July 4th 1970 with 25 members.

After 43 years (in July) we still have one charter member - Val Maynard. Two other members Kate Daffy and Evelyn Grayland have both served 35 years. Our club has had five district governors over the years. We have just hosted District 43 Conference at which Val was elected as lieutenant governor.

As with all organisations, fund-raising and membership is becoming harder. We meet at 7.30pm at the senior citizens room on the second Wednesday each month for a business meeting and on the fourth Wednesday we have a social night with a variety of activities. We would welcome anyone who would enjoy the friendship and fellowship that a service club can give.

Some of our fund-raising (and social) activities include garden parties, fashion parades, Caulfield Cup days, upstairs-downstairs and stalls - whatever it takes to make money.

Our current office-bearers are president Annette Mulholland, vice president Nola Farquharson, secretary Sue Robertson and treasurer Heather McDowell.



Cobden Quota's charter members: Back (left): Val Maynard, Shirley Langley, Norma Cook, Dulcie Roberts, Jean Sartori, Jean Smith, Heather Frusher; Middle: Nancy Blair, Edna Alexander, Dorrie Blake, Jessie Vagg, Dorothy Ibbs, Jean Willingham, Ede Robertson, Jan Raleigh, Alison Rix; Front: Gladys Condie, Mick Luker, Elsie Jordan (Denney), Yvonne Jenvey, Margaret Clementson, Joyce Roberts, Fay Crowley.



Current Quotarians: Evelyn Grayland (left), Annette Mulholland, Fran Warden, Sue Robertson, Heather McDowell, Val Maynard, Kate Daffy.

Ranking Marj and Peter highly



A few weeks ago I met with some of the Connecting Cobden team members to see if I could join them in putting together this edition of the paper. Having warned them that I had no experience in journalism, I was willing to 'give it a go'.

Well, my first assignment was to meet with a couple of 'Cobden characters' and write a story. "What? Actually go to the home of people I have never met before, with notebook and pen in hand and interview them . . . are you serious?" Yes they were!

I put the task off until the very last minute (even dreaming about doing it in my disturbed sleep), and finally rang Marj Rankin to see if I could I visit her and husband Peter to do the interview. A friendly, female voice answered my call and checked with Peter before confirming our appointment. Now there was no turning back.

Peter and Marj Rankin in their productive and beautiful garden.



Unbeknown to me, Marj and Peter had been informed I was quite nervous about the whole thing. Marj thought she would put my mind at ease and, at 88 years of age, suffering from 'a cold', this charming lady stood outside on her front verandah waiting to welcome me into their home and, indeed, their lives. What on earth was I worrying about?

From the get-go, I knew Peter was a very private person, and very uneasy about doing this interview. He said he was caught at a weak moment when he agreed to do it. If you don't already know them, as I suspect many locals do, this is a snippet of the lives of Marj and Peter Rankin.

Peter (92 years of age) was born in Highton, Geelong, where he grew up with his parents and brother. The family later moved to Carpendeit where Peter's father purchased a block of bushland. Marj has lived all her life in Cobden, growing up with her parents and her older two sisters and five brothers.

Peter remembers his first job, working in the garden at Geelong Grammar, where he was often mistaken as a student. Some of his other

jobs included cutting wood, spreading fertiliser and working with the Forestry Commission. A reliable source has told me that Peter still cuts up kindling for her today, and is very generous in sharing the produce from his impressive vegetable garden, some of it coming via preserves made by Marj in the Rankin kitchen. It was through a cousin of Peter's that Marj and he met, at a football match in Cobden, going quite some years back. It took Peter many years to pluck up the courage to ask Marj out – and in his own words, "Once was enough, I was satisfied with my choice."

At the age of 21, Peter enlisted and fought in the Middle East, Papua New Guinea and Borneo for three years. While Peter was away, Marj was a switchboard operator on the telephone exchange at the Cobden Post Office where she worked for approximately 15 years.

During the war Marj remembers having to hang specially cut pieces of plywood on the windows of the post office, and covering the lights with jam tins to dull the glow. She also recalls helping train Dad's Army how to operate the switchboard during this period of time. Also known as the Home Guard, these were gentlemen unable to enlist who helped the war effort from their hometowns.

After the war and during their courtship, Peter won a raffle at a fund-raising dance in Cobden. The prize was a large canister with three more stacked inside. He gave his prize to Marj who still has it in her kitchen cupboard today. Peter eventually asked Marj's father for his permission to take his daughter's hand in marriage. Marj laughed, telling me she reckons her father said yes with glee – glad to be rid of the last of his children.

During their 58 years of marriage, Marj and Peter had three children, Ann, Andrew and Stuart who was tragically killed after being hit by a motorist when he was walking home from school at the age of six.

Ann, a teacher, and her husband live in Manangatang on a cropping property. They have two children, Cole (currently studying to be an electrician) and Eden who is studying her VCE.

Their son Andrew lives in Illowa where he is a carpenter working in Port Fairy. Andrew has two children - Zoe is studying acupuncture

in Melbourne and Wylie who is training in carpentry.

When I asked Peter what has been the most satisfying thing he has done, he replied, "being married to Marj". It was a quick, honest response, needing no thought or hesitation. My heart went pitter-patter and Marj just beamed - I think she knew what his answer was going to be. I told Peter he was sure to get a nice home cooked dinner tonight after a comment like that He chuckled, replying, "Yeah, if I get it myself!"

Over the years, Peter and Marj have been involved in many activities in their community including delivering meals on wheels, the Uniting Church op shop, the garden club and the football club, (where Peter used to play) to name just a few. The pair said that Cobden is a very friendly, quiet little town, nicely situated, offering everything they need.

It is so obvious that these two 'Cobden characters' love their family, their community and their garden. Their advice to younger people today is to treat others as you want to be treated, a standard by which I am certain they live themselves.

Story and photos - Louise Pitman

Introducing Louise ...

Hi I'm Louise Pitman, (nee Morey). I grew up with my four sisters on a dairy farm at Brucknell, before 'relocating' to Glenfyne 12 years ago, when my husband Gary and I purchased our own dairy farm. We have four sons scattered between home and Melbourne.

Doing some 'work' with the Connecting Cobden team, I thought would get me out of some farm work. As it turns out, what I've done so far for the paper has been 'do-able' after or in between milkings! On the positive side, I've met some terrific people.....some have even given me presents.

Yep, some lemons and plant cuttings out of Peter and Marj's garden – I do sometimes have 'green fingers' (thanks to the cows), but can't for the life of me keep anything in the garden alive! However, I will do my very best to get my new plants up and growing as my moment of writing the story on the Rankins.

FINAL CONNECTING COBDEN COMING UP

Under its present funding arrangement, the final Connecting Cobden will be published on Wednesday 15th August.

We are finishing off with a bang. Like the last two editions, the final one will also be eight-pages! We have discovered it is far more economical to do bigger versions than just four pages!

Organisations asked to contribute to the final Connecting Cobden are the Cobrico Hall, the Rotary Club of Cobden, the Senior Citizens, the Orchid Club, the Reformed Church, Bostocks Creek Hall, Cobden Bowling Club, the Garden Club, the Jehovah's Witnesses, Cobden Cricket Club, Dance Struck, the Aero Club and the Airstrip Committee. Maybe, the paper should be twelve pages long!

Please have your contributions to kelvin@swllen.net.au before July 25th. Also, let us know if we have missed your organisation in all the excitement.

If you have any ideas about ways or reasons to continue our great little community read, drop a line to Kelvin White (5595 1700 or the above email) or Barbara Cowley (5595 4243 or barbaracowley@bigpond.com). We will be interested in your thoughts.

DOES IT HAVE TO BE THE LAST?

COBDEN CALENDAR

Saturday 30th June: Valuation Day, Cobden Uniting Church Hall. 9am-4pm. \$5 - 1 item, \$10 - 3 items (maximum). Written current market values. Refreshments available.

Monday 2nd July: Progressing Cobden meeting, 7.30pm.

Monday 9th July: Cobden Sports Club/ Recreation Reserve, 7.30pm.

Monday 16th July: CopRice Cobden Spring Festival meeting, 7.30pm.

Sunday 5th August: Lake Cobden working bee.

Monday 6th August: Progressing Cobden AGM, 7.30pm.

19th-21st October: CopRice Cobden Spring Festival.

CLAIMING THE DATE

Friday 12th October

Rodney Vincent

at Cobden Golf Club

Proceeds to aid upgrading of airstrip

Inquiries: Eunice Dawe



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Albert Rantall went to Naroghid State School where his favourite subject was maths.

He relaxes by going fishing and he and wife Jean have seven children and 18 grandchildren. The youngest Charlotte, seven months, is pictured with him.

Albert likes to watch test cricket on TV and finds the best thing about being retired is that he can go fishing whenever he wants to.

He belongs to both Cobden and Boggy Creek angling clubs.

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Sally Seabrook finds the best thing about her work (at Cobden Pharmacy) is helping customers to live healthy lives.

She follows Geelong in the AFL and belongs to Cobden Football Netball Club.

Sally's interesting dinner guests would be Jimmy Bartel and Michael Clarke, and she lists her worst habit as eating too much.

She relaxes by sleeping and the best piece of advice she has received is, "You live, you learn."



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Belinda Savage went to Timboon Consolidated and Timboon High School.

Her favourite subjects at school were physical education and sport!

Belinda follows Essendon in the AFL and her favourite holiday destination is Lake Louise, Banff, Canada.

Her favourite television show is "The Amazing Race" and she has two brothers and two sisters.

Belinda's favourite Cobden features are the walking track, Cobden Lake and surrounds.



JANCOURT BRIGADE STILL FIERY . . . 65 YEARS ON!

At a public meeting held at the Tandarook Cheese Factory on September 8th, 1947, Mr A Hill put forward a motion that the districts of Jancourt and Jancourt East form a fire brigade to deal with the many fires occurring in the district, mostly caused by land clearing to create farming enterprises.

The motion was seconded by Mr A Matheson, and the Jancourt Fire Brigade was formed.

The brigade's original office-bearers were captain Mr A Hill, 1st lieutenant Mr A Matheson, 2nd lieutenant Mr Charlie Pitkethly, 3rd lieutenant Mr Bill Finlayson and secretary/treasurer Mr Arthur Havard. After 65 years, Mr Arthur Matheson is still a valued and current member of the Jancourt Fire Brigade today.

The first equipment provided by the CFA included twelve knapsacks which was later followed by Furphy tanks, pumps and trailers purchased by the brigade itself.

The year of 1976 saw the arrival of the brigade's first tanker - a Willys Jeep which the CFA passed on from the Kawarren Fire Brigade. All the

brigade's equipment was housed on members' properties until required.

In 1978, land was leased by the CFA and a Tudor shed was delivered in kit form to be constructed by brigade members. The old Willys was replaced in 1984 by an International C1310 4x4 - a hand-me-down from the Dadswell Bridge brigade. It wasn't until March 28th 1992 that the Jancourt Fire Brigade received its first new tanker - a Hino 2000 litre 4x4. This tanker is still being used by the brigade today.

The brigade currently has 43 members able to attend call-outs and incidents that occur both in and out of the area. Both the tanker and several members have attended significant fires close to home and around Victoria and interstate. Some of these include the major fires around the area in 1951 which surrounded Cobden and Jancourt Forest, beginning on January 27th and continuing every day until Easter Monday! A copy of the daily fires and locations is situated in the Cobden Historical Society Building, at the Cobden Dairy Park.

The Jancourt Fire Brigade and its members have

attended many other major fires including:

1983: Ash Wednesday - fought at Glenfyne, Brucknell and Ecklin

2000: Sydney - fought at Colo Heights and Kurrajong Heights

2003: Ovens - fought at Mt Buffalo, Delegate NSW, Swifts Creek

2009: Black Saturday - fought at Pomborneit, Alexandra, Marysville and Narbethong

The Jancourt Fire Brigade is fortunate to have many long-serving members who have held positions within the brigade, including Jack Finlayson (21 years captain and 2 years lieutenant), Ray Holloway (18 years captain and 19 years lieutenant), Arthur Matheson (12 years captain and 20 years lieutenant), Les Sumner (43 years secretary/treasurer) and Bill Baker (10 years secretary/treasurer and 38 years communications officer).

Today the brigade is fortunate enough to have a new fire station, erected on the disused tennis courts next to the Red Hill Hall. The station is much larger than the old one and comes



The new Jancourt Fire Station, officially opened on June 17th.

equipped with modern facilities providing a safer, more improved and pleasant venue for brigade training and incident management.

Each of our brigade members is to be commended for volunteering his/her time and selflessness to help others.

If you are interested in joining the Jancourt Fire Brigade or any other brigade in the area, please contact the CFA Brigade Support Officer, Jenna McMeel, on 0400 603 404.

Les Sumner

NEW STATION OPENED

The cold and rainy weather could not dampen the spirits of the Jancourt and Jancourt East communities when they gathered to officially open the newly-constructed Jancourt Fire Station on Sunday June 17th, 2012.

The station, costing \$220,000 and positioned alongside the Red Hill Hall, is an asset to the community, and its enhanced features will improve the training and incident management capabilities of the Jancourt Fire Brigade.

CFA Board Member, Robert Spencer officially opened the fire station, alongside long-serving member, Arthur Matheson, one of the original office-bearers when the brigade was first formed at Tandarook Cheese Factory in 1947.

During the opening ceremony six brigade members were thanked with the presentation of service awards, with the combined service of a massive 285 years, a credit to the people concerned, and to their families, for their dedication and loyalty. Medal recipients were Jim Donald, 40 years, Neville Bond, 45 years, and Jack Finlayson, Merv Holloway, Les Sumner and Frank Whiteside with 50 years each. An enormous effort by all!

Special mention goes to the Red Cross for preparing the BBQ lunch on the day, and to the Jancourt Fire Brigade members for a wonderful event!

Jenna McMeel
CFA Brigade Support Officer



Top: Arthur Matheson and brigade captain Andrew Chivell. Below left: Brothers Paul and Garry Finlayson. Below right: Dulcie Sumner and Luise Wagner.



“WHO AM I?”

When were you born? 1948.

Which schools have you attended? Cobden State School and Camperdown High School.

Your favourite subject at school? Lunch (ha ha), sport.

Your AFL team? Geelong.

How do you relax? Read, swim, talk.

Favourite holiday destination? Will be travelling Australia, with my husband.

How many children do you have? Two.

Your favourite television show? Football shows.

The best thing about your work? Retirement.

The best piece of advice you have ever received? “Treat others as you would like to be treated.”

Current clubs or organisations? Progressing Cobden, Cobden Pioneer Dairy Park.

One thing about you that might surprise our readers? I think deeply.

Four stimulating and interesting dinner guests? The Queen, Cher, Andre Rieu, Gary Ablett Jr.

Best book you’ve ever read? Biographies.

Your worst habit? Laziness.

Cobden's best feature? The lifestyle.

Your proudest achievements so far? Still being here and using the computer.

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

CAMPERDOWN-TIMBOON RAIL TRAIL HAS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

(by Pat Robertson)

As a result of a public meeting and letters of support from individuals and community groups to both State and local government bodies, the Camperdown-Timboon rail-line was reserved as an area for public recreation in the mid-1990s.

It was transferred to the Department of Sustainability and Environment and a committee of management was appointed in 1999. In 2007 the Rail Trail Committee also took over the management of the Glenfyne Hall which has recently been repainted inside and out, a new kitchen installed and re-opened 60 years after its first official opening.

Since its establishment, the Rail Trail Committee has secured significant funding for track construction, bridge-building and the restoration of the Curdies Bridge. Much of the work has been done by volunteers with grants being used to help cover the cost of materials and use of machinery.

The committee sees its role as developing and maintaining the 34 kilometres of trail for environmental, historic and recreational use. This includes protection of endangered fauna like the yellow bellied glider and flora such as the rare lime fern. The trail is used regularly by walkers, horse riders and cyclists.

Despite recent rumours the committee does not release snakes on the trail! Although they are seen occasionally, it is more common to see koalas, wallabies and deer along the track and the variety of birds is amazing. There are many surprises for those doing a quiet walk along the rail trail.

The committee has a membership of nine with representatives from Camperdown, Cobden and Timboon. Their experiences are varied with members having skills including plant identification and protection, construction of environmentally sensitive walkways, identifying tourism potential and grant submission writing. Most importantly, they are all committed to the rail trail's protection and promotion.

Although there is no longer a formal “Friends of the Rail Trail”, the committee is keen to get the community involved in working bees to maintain the track, clear fallen vegetation, repair bypass bridges and make furniture for the trail.

Local schools have been and continue to be involved along the trail. Mercy Regional College

students constructed a replica of the old Naroghid Station and Cobden Technical School has built a number of structures. Timboon P-12 and Camperdown College have been involved in revegetation. In more recent times Gnurad Gundidj and Camperdown College have had overnight camps near the Glenfyne Hall.

The current office-bearers are chairman Pat Robertson (5593 1104) and secretary Heather Matthews (5595 0135). Alternatively if you have any comments, suggestions or able to assist in anyway you can email: wombidowns@gatewaybbs.com.au.



One of the trestle bridges between Curdies River and Glenfyne.



COBDEN TECHNICAL SCHOOL



'Education Week' was a time to reflect on and celebrate the involvement and achievement of our wonderful young people and dedicated staff, both teaching and non-teaching, along with the amazing community support that we receive.

I am constantly amazed at the energy around our school. Some of this is undoubtedly due to the incredible range of activities/events that our students and staff get involved in, along with the positive atmosphere and fantastic classroom programs that I feel and see as I walk around the school.

A lot of this involves staff in programs and activities well 'above-and-beyond' the call of duty...after school, at lunchtimes, on weekends and certainly when involved in camps and excursions, in both curricular and extra-curricular areas of the school.

Without any doubt, the establishment of the technical school at Cobden was due to the dedication and hard work over many years of Keith Charles Errey. Although he had the support of the chamber of commerce and a hard-working technical school committee, Keith carried out the bulk of the hard work and was able to entuse people and organisations to assist. He can rightly be called the 'father' of the Cobden Technical School . . . I'm pretty confident that he would be very happy with the place that the school now occupies in its 44th year of operation.

It is undoubtedly still a strong community school, with vital roots to its 'technical' heritage; but it also now meets the diverse needs of the young people who undertake their secondary education at Cobden, whether that be academic, sporting, artistic, vocational etc.

Cobden Technical School strongly believes that a great education is one of the foundations of life. Our vision, and the values that flow from it, reflect this belief and guide our every action. So, it is a place where minds are inspired, characters are formed and the traditions and values of the past are the foundation for the future.

It is a place where 44 years of young people have been taught that success is more than academic results, employment opportunities gained, or high profiles . . . it should be measured by the contribution we each make to our society. At Cobden Technical School, our goal is to educate young people and have them experience strong and vital values so that they go on to make a difference to the lives of others.

One of the great developments of 2012 has been the opening of our new science centre. As a part of the Federal Government's 'Building the Education Revolution' program, secondary schools were provided with the opportunity to

'competitively' apply for funding for a science centre. Our students and teachers are revelling in being able to undertake their studies of all science areas in state-of-the-art facilities, comfortable, open, light and aesthetically very pleasing, utilising the highest level specialised equipment.

The facility does not just provide wonderful teaching and learning spaces but, also includes the most modern environmental building features. The building includes a 'weather wall' with an interactive screen allowing students to monitor such things as the water storage in the associated tanks, the rainwater being used to flush the toilets in the facilities.

There are three separate sensors which detect carbon dioxide levels in the building, as well as a weather station on the roof providing a raft of climate information to the regulation of the building, including wind direction; when the carbon dioxide levels reach a certain point, which can cause drowsiness for students, electronic louvres are opened to enable appropriate airflow. The building also has full temperature control, the louvres again opening and closing to regulate the climate, or switching on or off the heaters and air conditioners to optimise the environmental conditions.

Educational research has clearly demonstrated that the quality of teaching experienced by a student is the prime factor in improving their educational outcomes. However, there is no doubt that the quality of that teaching, and the learning that results, is even further influenced positively by the quality of the learning environments . . . with the high quality of the science teaching staff at Cobden Technical School, accompanied by this magnificent new facility, the sky's the limit for what our new young scientists will be able to achieve!

And, with the science centre in full operation, we've now turned our attention to the other 'learning environments' of the school and commenced planning for their development and modernisation over the next two years.

It gets you, this place we call 'The Tech'. I look back at the almost 27 years that I have been involved closely with this school and wonder, not only where did that time go so quickly, but why do I love it so much...and I mean love!



Snapshots: 1. Principal Peter Rock; 2. Emily Duynhoven and Jessica Marshall; 3. Tegan Rohan, Rebecca Noonan and Jess Sadler; 4. Melanie Nelson; 5. Nick Duynhoven; 6. Trent Reed and Darcy Selten; 7. Teacher Ali Wigg and Luke Pekin; 8. Ailie Rohan (left), Julia Rosolin, Ashlee Wright, Shane McMaster, Kayla Pouw and teacher Jim Burrell; 9. Megan Finlayson and librarian Colin Venn; 10. Brayden Maslin and teacher Colin Brown; 11. Wendy Pillar and Jessica Rohan; 12. Parent Angela Kemp and canteen manager Denise Robertson; 13. Hayden Sartori and Kenny Hellier; 14. The open spaces of the new science centre; 15. Teacher Sarah Oakley; 16. Emily Henriksen and Danielle Hellier; 17. Maths/science teachers Luke Perriss and Jess Niblett.

COBDEN INDOOR BOWLS CLUB JUST KEEPS ROLLING ALONG

(by Joan Hammond)



Highly-decorated indoor bowlers Betty White (left), Keith Simmonds and Betty Roberts.

The aim of the Cobden Indoor Bowls Club is to provide a friendly environment for people both young and old in the community to play indoor bowls – especially over the winter months.

According to our records, the club has been active since the 1950s when indoor bowls was referred to as carpet bowls. The club has been very competitive over its many years, entering pennant teams in the Colac association from the 1950s until 1994 and in the Heytesbury association from 1960.

The club today has approximately 30-35 senior and two junior members with five pennant teams competing. Pennant is played Wednesday nights, travelling all around the district from Glenormiston to Wiridjil. Social bowls is held at the clubhouse every Tuesday evening from March to September at 7pm.

The late Mrs Hazel Beasy held the position of secretary/treasurer from 1986 until 2007. She was in many pennant-winning teams and was the life of the club, especially when it came to end-of-season break-ups and dress-up parties!

In fact, we have had great past members involved since the club's inception in the 1950s. They have been very active in our local community, and won many club championships between them - Dorrie Orton (7), G Spall (5), Bill Roberts (4), Alan Hallyburton (4), Jim Hammond (2), Cyril Clarke (3), Wilson, McConachy, Denney, Nelson, Mitchell, Underwood, F Roberts, E Roberts and Vagg, many of whom got this wonderful club going and, to this

day, it is still going very strong.

The late Bill Hester was involved since 1974 winning nine club championships while foundation member Keith Simmonds was an active playing member during the 70s and 80s, winning the club championship five times.

Another foundation member, Betty Hucklebridge, better known now as Betty Roberts, has held many positions within the club over the years and is still an active playing member today. She has won four club championships, ladies, and played in many pennant grand finals. The flags are displayed in the clubhouse.

At 91 years of age, Betty White remains a very active member and bowler with the club. She has held positions of president and secretary and has won seven club championships. With her late husband Jock, Betty began bowling in 1970. Albert Pegg, also in his 91st year, is still indoor bowling with the club.

The club's only life member, the late Alan Hallyburton, began his involvement in the 1970s. He won four club championships, and was made a life member in October 1993. Unfortunately Alan passed away before the actual presentation was officially made to him.

Other points of interest: Allie Long, president from 1996 until 2010, won his first club championship in 2011 and Ron Hill won eight club championships and represented Victoria.

In 1959 at a July meeting of the ladies, it was decided that they

would play carpet bowls on Thursday afternoons. In 1962, it was changed to Saturday afternoons.

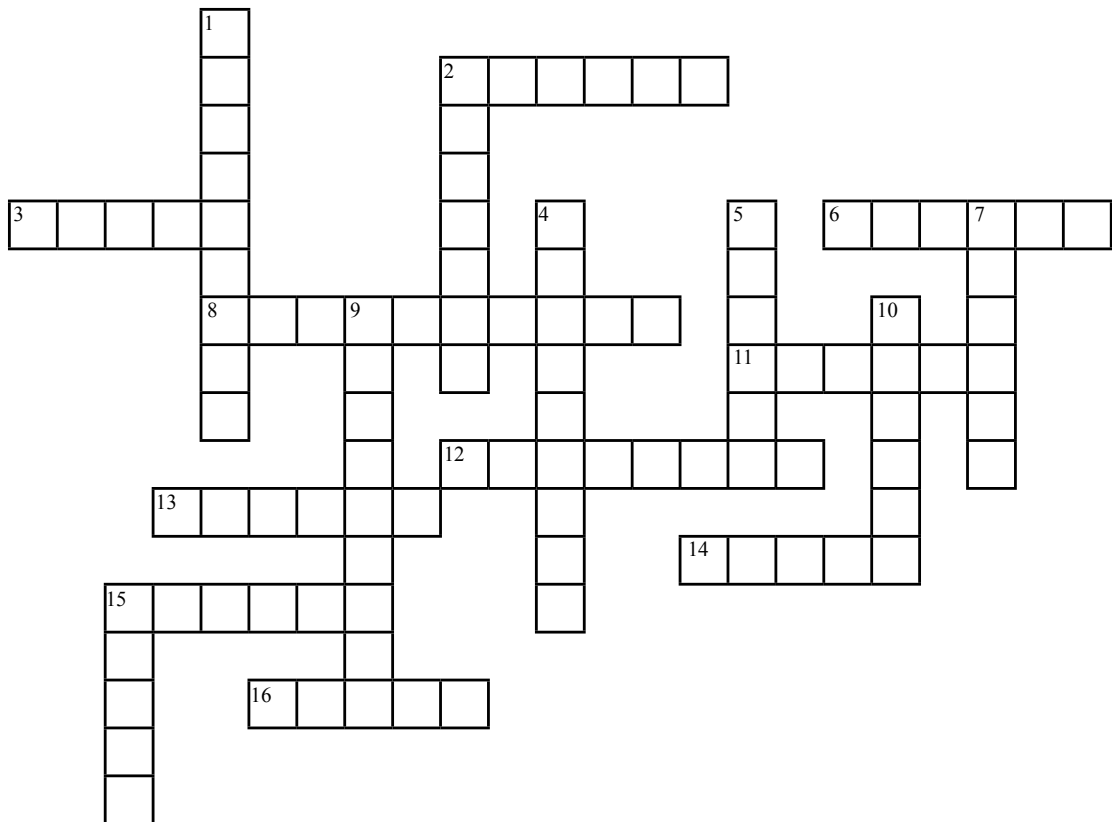
Lady foundation members of indoor bowls: L Underwood, D Orton, M Nelson, M Wilson, G Spall, M Cowley, J Elliott, A McCallum, L Wilson, M Rankin, E Roberts, M McKenzie, G Mitchell, E Flanner, B Hucklebridge, P McConachy, Miss Dunfold.

The club has always used the Cobden Bowls Club facilities in Rix Avenue, and is very grateful to be able to do so. New members are welcome to come along on Tuesday evenings or you may wish to contact association secretary/treasurer Claire Reynolds via email: clairere@bigpond.net.au

Our current executive: president – Alan Armistead, secretary/treasurer – Joan Hammond, assistant secretary/treasurer – Claire Reynolds.



Cobden Primary School teacher Tom McKenzie, brother of Melbourne Football Club player Jordie, was offered the opportunity for the school students to form the guard of honour for the Demons at a recent night match at the MCG. Forty children, teachers and parents made the trip. Pictured left to right are: Ally Jeffery, Brooke Hallyburton, Grace Howard and teacher Emma Saunders; Tobi Mason, Jordan Dentith and Caleb McLean.



Connecting Cobden Crossword Puzzle

The answers to this month's crossword puzzle are the surnames of the owners of Cobden businesses.

ACROSS:

2. A minor financial matter
3. Colourful construction
6. This material girl is all patched up
8. Always enjoys the curtain calls
11. Tools for the trade
12. Silver service meets expectations
13. Gives us a soft landing
14. Joins the pieces together
15. A fashionable business
16. Setting a permanent style

DOWN:

1. What's black and white and red all over?
2. Black boxes keep vital information safe
4. Generally speaking, it's good to practice
5. Home sweet home
7. Satisfying a sweet tooth
9. Servicing with a smile is good for business
10. Has the answer for a cool drink
15. A spreading enterprise that is on the up and up

by Barbara Cowley

ANSWERS

ACROSS: 2. Morris (Duncan Morris & Associates); 3. Green (GreenCon Australia Pty Ltd); 6. Haynes (Stitch-It Quilts 'n' Crafts); 8. Cobbledick (Lakeside Curtains); 11. Thorne (Cobden Tools & Trailers); 12. Stirling (Stirto's Quality Meats); 13. Steele (Cobden Floors and Furnishings); 14. Suter (Cobden Kitchens & Joinery); 15. Reicha (Reicha's Drapery); 16. Pekin (Natalie Pekin Hairdressing).
DOWN: 1. McConachy (Cobden Authorised Newsagency); 2. Mounsey (Cobden Post Office); 4. Griffiths (Curdie Street Clinic); 5. Martin (Martins Timber & Hardware); 7. Nowell (Cobden's Country Gifts & Sweets); 9. Benallack (Cobden Motors); 10. Brewer (Kooler Dairies); 15. Rohan (Rohan Flying Services).