

CONNECTING COBDEN

COMMUNITY



NEWSLETTER

Edition No. 10

August 15th, 2012

Louise Pitman meets mother and daughter, Elva McIntyre and Fran Warden.

CENTURION ELVA and NEVER-HOME FRAN **~ a couple with character!**



Fran Warden and Elva McIntyre

Elva McIntyre has achieved something we all want to achieve but few of us do - she has turned 100 years-old!

Not only did she receive 'the letter' from the Queen but, at her grand age, Elva opened and read the letter herself, and understood its importance. To reach 100 years of age is one thing but, to still be in good health, is quite another.

Elva is a resident at Heytesbury Lodge and I caught up with her at the home of her daughter, Fran Warden, for a cuppa and a chat.

Born on May 22nd, 1912, Elva was the third of seven children to Amy and Albert Clarke. Elva grew up on a dairy farm in Tandarook, going to school at Cobden until grade 3 and then to Jancourt.

"I remember my very first day at school," recalls Elva. "My older sister took me to my classroom, put me inside the door, closed the door and left. I was so frightened. All I could see was a hundred eyes looking at me. The teacher tried to get me to talk but I was too

timid to reply. This forced the teacher to ask her pupils if anyone knew me. I had a cousin in the classroom and he told the teacher who I was. The teacher was so nice; she let me sit with my cousin for the whole day." During her time at school, one teacher in the classroom of around 30 students taught all subjects to all year levels up to grade 8.

As it turns out, daughter Fran wasn't much happier on her first day at school many years later. Fran was taken to school on a pony and she hated it so much she walked (through the bush) home at recess. Unfortunately for Fran, her grandpa and uncle were delivering their cream to the Tandarook Factory that afternoon and dropped an unhappy Fran back where she belonged!

Back in Elva's day, pupils had to attain their merit certificate in grade 8 to begin high school. Elva got her merit at about 13 years of age when she became ill and was unable to continue her education.

After being diagnosed with a leaking heart valve, Elva spent the next couple of years at home helping her mother and living a quiet life under doctor's orders.

During her later teen years, Elva learnt to play the piano and received her certificate in music from the ALCM (Association of London College of Music), which enabled her to teach piano to local children over the years.

Elva met husband Bill at a dance at the Tandarook Hall. Bill grew up in the Colac area where he was a cheese-maker at the Cororooke Factory - for those who know the Colac area, Macs Creek is named after Bill's family. Bill had moved to Tandarook to continue his work as a cheese-maker.

MARRIAGE, MOVING AND MILKING

When Bill and Elva first married, they moved to Irrewarra where they share-farmed. They lived in the servants' quarters of the Irrewarra Homestead, where Elva says they were quite comfortable.

During their time at Irrewarra, Elva remembers the polio outbreak. She looked after six children from her area one day a week while their parents went to Colac to do their shopping. During this outbreak, children were not allowed into Colac. This rule was strictly enforced by the police who were placed at town entrances to check vehicles for hidden children.

After Irrewarra, Bill and Elva share-farmed at properties at South Purrumbete and Pomborneit before buying their own dairy farm at Kennedys Creek around 1940-1942, during World War II. Bill and Elva milked about 20 cows in their dairy which had a double bail and a single bail. The double bail was used for milking while the single bail was used as a playpen for Fran and sister Wilma.

The milking took two hours. When I told Elva I milked 300 cows with one other person that morning in the same amount of time, she just laughed. Mind you, I had all the 'mod cons' - electricity for starters!

The cream from their cows was collected three times a week. With the cream can left at the gate to their property, Elva would put her shopping list. When the can was returned, her shopping was inside it. Elva and Bill didn't go to town (Cobden) very often and, when they did, it was quite an adventure. A trip to town meant that either Bill or Elva could go - one of them had to stay home because they never knew how long the return trip would take, and someone had to milk the cows.

Continued on page 2

ALBERT MOUNSEY ~ with no time to scratch himself!

Albert "Scratchy" Mounsey is passionate about his family, his friends, his sports and his community.

One of eight children, Alby was born and bred in Cobden where he has lived all his life, and he has no desire to be anywhere else. This town is where his family and friends are, and they are paramount to this man and his wife Maureen.

Alby will never have to worry about painting his living room because its walls are covered in framed photos of their family. Under glass on their dining room table are photos of family and friends - mementos of special events, achievements and times-gone-by, ensuring he and Maureen are constantly surrounded by their loved ones.

Alby is one of five boys who all have lived in Cobden (one of his brothers is deceased), and three girls, all living in Geelong. His parents Jim and Florence migrated to Australia from England, and it was during that journey his older brother was born. Jim worked for the State Rivers for 42 years. His wife Florence tended the home and children until tragically killed in a car accident when she was in her early 40s.

Jim was a life governor of the Cobden Bush Nursing Hospital. Along with Dave Wedge and Bert Scouller, Jim was responsible for getting the bush nursing hospital established. Alby remembers his father's many trips to Melbourne trying to get it going.

Alby attended Cobden State School until he was 14 years-old when he left for his first job - cutting posts out of timber in the Jancourt forest for Lance McKay. He worked from 5am until 3pm, cutting their quota of fifty to sixty posts per day. His boss insisted work finished at 3pm - being the hottest part of the day.

Continued on page 4



Louise Pitman talks with another character of Cobden, Albert "Scratchy" Mounsey

The story behind the . . .

CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF COBDEN

The Christian Reformed Church of Cobden is part of a greater network within the Christian Reformed Churches of Australia. Perhaps a question you're already asking is 'Reformed from what?' By no means are we claiming to be a new faith, religion or Christianity. Rather, as Christian Reformed, we are a church that finds its heritage out of the Reformation of the 16th century.

The 'reform' of this period brought about a radical return to the church's original roots of the 1st century – the times of the New Testament. Thus, as part of the Christian Reformed Tradition, we are a church built on scripture alone, Christ alone, faith alone, grace alone and God alone.

During the 1950s, the Christian Reformed Church of Cobden was established. This was initiated at large by the van Leerdam family.



Hannah and Anthony van Bommel with their baby daughter Macey Jean at her baptism on May 27th this year.

Inset: Church building.



In 1968, after previously holding meetings in family homes, the services began being held at the Cobden Anglican Church on Sunday afternoons. Students and ministers from the Geelong Church and the Reformed Theological College led the services. Afternoon tea was always held at Jozina van Leerdam's home (or Opoe as she was known to everyone). The conversation was always around cows and the students had quite an education in dairy farming!

In the early 1970s, a block of land was bought at 103 Curdie Street and later the old betting shed from the Cobden Racecourse was acquired and eventually moved onto the block. Much work was done to convert a former betting building into a church!

The opening service was conducted by Rev Keith Warren on June 10th, 1978. The church continued to be under the care of the Christian Reformed Church of Geelong.

The years following have seen a combination of called ministers (both home missionary elders and ordained ministers) and visiting ministers. January 4th, 1986, was particularly significant for the church when David Groenenboom was ordained and installed as the first minister. However, it was not until February 19th, 1994, that the Cobden Church was instituted as a church in its own right – independence was gained.

Since then, God has been gracious to us as a congregation. We have enjoyed the encouragement and teaching of many other employed and visiting preachers. Recently, we welcomed Anthony van Bommel and his family to Cobden where he is now serving as home missionary elder.

Fresh out of college, Anthony recently graduated with a Bachelor of Theology after studying for five years at the Reformed Theological College in Geelong. Originally from Perth, he has found the cooler Victorian weather quite an adjustment! Anthony worked five years in civil construction as a pipe layer, operator, form worker, plastic welder and scaffolder. Not considering himself the 'academic sort', study and the transition into ministry has been both challenging and exciting.

Last year, Anthony married Hannah Bedford who is from a farming community northwest of Nhill. Hannah also moved to Geelong for study where she graduated with a Bachelor of Primary Education. In May this year, they were blessed with their first child, Macey. The family is appreciating Cobden, particularly the relaxed country atmosphere and friendly community.

As a part of the Cobden community, the Christian Reformed Church enjoys being involved in numerous programs. Many members are volunteers in Christian Religious Education, Kids Hope and 'Explorers' programs. Kids Hope is a mentoring program run at Cobden Primary School where

additional support and encouragement is provided to children through one-on-one time. 'Explorers' is an after-school program initiated by the Uniting Church where children are given the opportunity to learn Bible stories during fun games, craft activities, food and drink.

The church also helps to cater for senior citizen luncheons. As well, once a month, the church conducts afternoon services at Lovely Banks, an opportunity to enjoy fellowship with the elderly by singing songs and encouraging each other. Currently, with other churches in the community, we are establishing a LINC program which is intended to assist various needs within the Corangamite Shire – keep an eye out for this in the near future. We are also involved in ecumenical services at Easter and the Spring Festival.

Apart from our endeavour to be active in the community, we are committed to regular gatherings. Every Sunday at 10.30am, we meet for worship services and, twice a month, we gather during the week at a family home. This is a relaxed and informal time of encouragement and friendship. Soon to commence is a young people's group where we will explore Christianity through the Bible and our own Christian roots.

While not large in membership, we have a good group of people covering all ages. Our doors are always open to the community and we love to have people join us as we strive to know God and serve Him. Whether you are a believer or whether you are curious to know a bit more about Jesus, God, or even us as a Church, we would love you to pop in and get to know us.

For further inquiries feel free to contact: Our Pastor, Anthony van Bommel on 5595 1185 or email tones.vb@gmail.com or one of our elders, Fred van Leerdam on 0428 334 007 or email webtizedmedia@bigpond.com.

Contributors to this article included Janet van Leerdam, Fred van Leerdam, Hannah and Anthony van Bommel

FORMER MINISTERS

| | |
|-----------|--|
| 1979-1980 | John Zandt (Home Missionary Elder) |
| 1981-1982 | Barry James (Vicar) |
| 1985-1986 | Malcolm Crowe (Vicar) |
| 1986-1989 | David Groenenboom |
| 1989-1996 | Ray Rus |
| 1996-1999 | Rodney Leenman |
| 2000-2005 | John Peet (Home Missionary Elder) |
| 2006-2010 | Nigel Cunningham (Home Missionary Elder) |
| 2012- | Anthony van Bommel (Home Missionary Elder) |

CENTURION ELVA and NEVER-HOME FRAN

~ a couple with character!

Continued from page 1

Fran agreed a trip to town was a real adventure. During the wetter times, chains were fitted to the wheels of their vehicle to help prevent them from becoming bogged. Fran said it was nothing to be bogged three or four times a trip. The road condition wasn't the only peril of this trip to town. One also had to avoid a vast and varied amount of wildlife, fallen trees and goodness knows what.

Fran remembers asking her father on one trip why he was chasing those 'big chooks' along the road. She said emus and kangaroos were in large numbers. While I can imagine Bill and Elva loathing the travel component of these trips, from how Fran described it to me (absolutely beaming), for two little girl passengers, it was an extremely, exciting day.

CLEVER ELVA MAKES HER POINT

To have some much-needed maintenance done on their road, Elva invited a shire councillor to lunch one day. She said he turned up in his suit and lovely polished shoes . . . or that's how he would have looked when he set off on his trip. Elva said he was more than a bit dishevelled when he arrived and, not long after their lunch date, three truck loads of stones were delivered to the site. Elva is still quite proud of her ingenious plan, and chuckled telling me about it.

Lavers Hill was the closest school to the McIntyre family. Due to the treacherous drive, the school bus had had quite a few accidents. While nobody had been hurt, Bill and Elva didn't want to risk the lives of their children so they sold their farm and moved to Cobden for Fran to begin her schooling. Until now, Fran had been a bit of a novelty. She was the only 'little kid' in Kennedy's Creek and received quite a bit of attention. Going to the Jancourt school proved to be difficult for her, having to socialise with other children but, once she went to school in Cobden, she was much more content.

During this time, Elva and her daughters stayed with her parents at Jancourt while Bill worked at the saw-mill in Kennedy's Creek, (where he stayed in a little hut on the mill site) spending the weekends at Jancourt with his family. Elva says Bill was a great housekeeper, and became the cook for quite a few men working and living at the mill.

Once they settled in Cobden, Bill worked for the shire, building bridges and maintaining roads. Their new home had a quarter acre

block attached to the back where Bill rotary-hoed and planted potatoes. The pair produced the bulk of their own fruit, vegetables and eggs most of their lives. Elva actually lived in that same house for 61 years before going to Heytesbury Lodge.

Fran remembers a neighbour purchasing the first television in their street in 1956. Whenever there was a show on the 'telly' that anyone wanted to watch they would all go to this particular home.

Fran and her husband Alan also settled in Cobden when they married. In fact, Fran has lived quite close to her mother all her life, knitting a lovely bond between the two. Fran has three children - a son Paul and twin daughters Lynda and Karen. When the twins were babies they were quite unwell and Bill and Elva would go to their daughter's home and provide support. Bill occupied Paul, and Elva cuddled one of the babies while Fran fed and bathed the other. Now, Elva has five grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

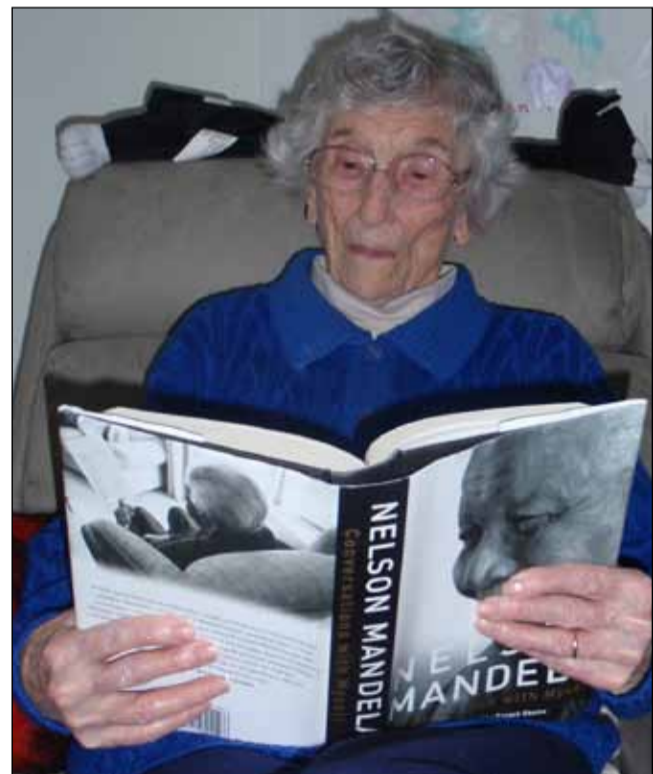
'THE BEST PEOPLE'

Elva says her neighbours were 'the best people'. Everybody helped and looked after each other - like one extended family. She told me she is very happy at Heytesbury Lodge where she has been for 12 months. She does all sorts of activities and gets out and about on trips here and there and lunches with family and friends. Her daughter Wilma lives in Bendigo and rings Elva every day. Elva is particularly happy that the new town librarian visits the facility and our avid reader borrows a couple books each week. Elva is currently in the middle of the Nelson Mandela autobiography.

Fran and Elva both agree that while Cobden is lacking in an acute care hospital, it certainly has great facilities for the elderly. With Tandarook House, Heytesbury Lodge and Lovely Banks, the elderly are well-catered for, and very lucky.

Elva attributes her longevity to, "hard work, helping and being good to other people, living a quiet life (which I had to do due to my heart), making our own fun, eating a lot of home grown food and . . . it must be in my genes." All six of Elva's siblings have reached their 90th birthdays!

While Elva lived a quiet life, her daughter Fran is quite the opposite. Her children call her 'never-home-Fran' and joke that they have to make an appointment to see their mother. It's not surprising because she is involved in a lot of community voluntary work.



Elva is an avid reader.

She is the Cobden area manager of the Royal Children's Hospital Appeal with the Quota Club and she is one of the organisers of the roster and 'volunteer finder' for meals on wheels which can require her to deliver meals three times a week if there aren't enough volunteers available. As well, Fran has been a volunteer with the Cobden Adult Day Care for 20 years. Wow!

Last night when I went to bed, my washing machine washed my clothes, my dishwasher washed my dishes and my vacuum cleaner cleaned my floors. This morning while I had breakfast I had my turn at scrabble (on my mobile phone) with my friend in Darwin. Elva has spent a good deal of her life using a washboard to do her laundry, no electricity, no phone – let alone ever owning a mobile phone or computer. But she did tell me laughing, she always had an automatic dishwasher . . . her name was Elva.

Cobden Garden Club

"A seed sowing success story"

The Cobden Garden Club sprouted in August 1986, after the Quota Club sowed the seed by calling a meeting with the idea of forming a club for gardening enthusiasts.

Unfortunately the minutes of the early cultivation of the club were destroyed in a fire, so their details have to be harvested from memory, but we do know the inaugural president and secretary were Edna Alexander and Gwenyth Steele.

Evening meetings were held in St Mary's Anglican Church hall on the first Tuesday of each month, except January and June, and also December when we had our Christmas Dinner.

There was usually a guest speaker and points were awarded, for the best single and double flowers for an aggregate prize at the end of the year. For readers who knew Dorothy Baynes when she had her beautiful garden at Cobrico, suffice to say that Dorothy was a worthy winner of many prizes!

For many years our club maintained the rose garden at Tandarook Park and working bees were held where, with secateurs poised, the roses would have their annual pruning, mulching or

feeding (sometimes with horse manure from local stables). In 2001 the garden was handed over to the shire and they now maintain the rose garden.

From 1988 to 1999, we held an annual flower show in the Civic Hall, and Max Marriner and Eddie Middleton from Colac, would judge the variety of entries over many sections. After the morning spent in judging, the afternoon would be open for the public to admire the entries, and to enjoy afternoon tea.

In the early show years Mr Jack Rantall was instrumental in helping the club and, following his death, his sister donated a trophy in his memory with the Jack Rantall Memorial Trophy being awarded annually for a container of mixed roses.

In 2000 we decided to scale our flower show down and hold a rose show in St Mary's church hall instead.

As it often happens in the garden, there comes a need to replace what is not growing or blooming well, to bring new life, energy and growth.

So from 2003, instead of the evening meetings and the rose show, we now have garden walks on



Club members Ruth Butterfield and Graeme Woodmason at the August meeting where guest speaker Yonie Tiljak talked on frogs of the south west and brought along "Romeo", a green tree frog, pictured above on Sharon Oates' shoulder.

seven months of the year, both local and further afield, with any business needs discussed over a BYO lunch, and in August a plant swap, guest speaker and lunch, (a month where many plants are still in hibernation).

We still have our shared casserole and sweet dinner in July, (combining it now with our annual meeting), the Christmas dinner break-up in December and a twilight garden walk and BYO tea at a member's garden in February.

These changes have brought in new membership growth and enthusiasm into our club (plus lots of eating)!

Current president and secretary/treasurer are Barbara Cowley and Gloria Walker and new members (both "brown" and "green thumb") are always welcome. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Barbara on 5595 4243.

- by Marj Rankin and Barbara Cowley

Club secretary Lin-Rose Reissenweber informs the community about the Rotary Club of Cobden and the balance at meetings between business and fellowship.

INSIDE THE ROTARY CLUB OF COBDEN



The Rotary Club of Cobden has 21 members who meet regularly on a Thursday night at the Civic Hall in Silvester Street.

The Rotarians amble into the hall at around 6pm, and spend time with fellow Rotarians for general discussion, jokes or even to ask advice on many and varied topics.

Our current members range in age from late-30s to mid-90s, and come from professions such as teaching, farming, the dairy industry, local government, social work and the media. Some are small and large business owners and some are retired.

Many of the members, both male and female, are busy outside of their Rotary commitments, and are part of more than one community organisation within Cobden and surrounding district.

The club has a dinner-meeting whereby members pay \$15 for a three-course meal which is seen as good value. During dinner, fellowship continues and generally the hall is filled with lively conversation and laughter.

Meetings consist of brief weekly reports from president (Ronnie Reissenweber), finance (Frank Martin and Kathryn Stubbings) secretary (Lin-Rose Reissenweber) and attendance officer (Andrew Stubbings).

Rotary clubs all over the world focus on international, local and community projects which are looked after by committees. Directors for Cobden for the 2012-2013 year are:

- Community Director: Bruce McGauchie
- International and Foundation: Garry Ross
- New Generations: Lin-Rose Reissenweber
- New Year's Eve: Neil Podger
- Vocational Director: Raelene Munro
- Welfare and Membership: Raelene Munro and Gary Kimber
- Fellowship Events: David Steel

During weekly meetings, directors have the opportunity to feed back new information to the members or provide updates on programs for views and feedback.

Some of the high profile local community projects supported by the Rotary Club of Cobden are the miniature railway, mini golf and the New Year's Eve extravaganza. These projects take many months to organise and are supported by partnerships including Partners of Rotary members, Friends of Rotary and other local community volunteer organisations.

The club incorporates into each meeting fundraising for international projects via the use of a "fines" session. This session is always fun, and generates lots of laughs as well as being a great fundraiser for projects.

The Rotarians have had a great range of guest speakers from both the community and afar. The

speakers have informed Rotarians of community initiatives or projects outside the region or about their fantastic holidays eg to Antarctica. Stories and photos have been shared with the club on numerous occasions.

The meetings at Rotary are balanced between the operations of the organisation and simply having a pleasant evening with good company. This year, the club is introducing a fellowship evening on the first Thursday of every month when current members can introduce new community people to the club in an enjoyable and relaxed atmosphere.

The weekly meeting generally finishes at around 8pm, and is concluded with the national anthem, a tradition of the club since its beginning in 1966.

As you have read, you can be any age to be a

Rotarian, you can work full-time or be retired, you can be involved in more than one community service organisation or volunteer group, you can be interested in international issues and concerns, or just want to support your local community.

If you would like to attend a Rotary meeting, or if you are interested in assisting with any of the community projects or if you would like further information, please contact president Ronnie Reissenweber on 0414 893 274.



Above: Judi Hosking (left), Jo Beard and Ann McDowell at the recent handover dinner.

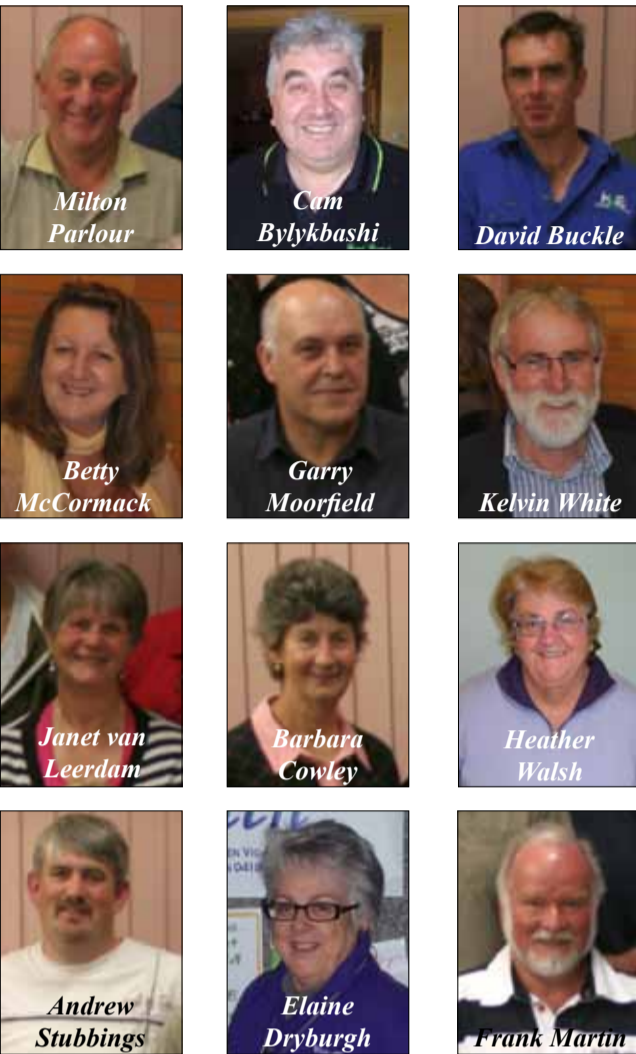
Left: President Ronnie and secretary Lin-Rose Reissenweber.

Below: Rotarians and friends farewell Gwen and Don Rawlings (centre, middle row). Vale Bob Anderson.



MORE HANDS WOULD MAKE LIGHT(ER) WORK

Some of Progressing Cobden's active members:



Milton Parlour

Cam Bylykbashi

David Buckle

Betty McCormack

Garry Moorfield

Kelvin White

Janet van Leerdam

Barbara Cowley

Heather Walsh

Andrew Stubbings

Elaine Dryburgh

Frank Martin

Over the years, between 1840 and 1956, quite a few groups were set up to improve the roads and living conditions in Cobden and district.

These included the Heytesbury Farmers and Property Union, the Cobden Residents and Ratepayers Union, the Heytesbury Progress and Traders Association, the Cobden and District Progress Association and the Cobden Traders.

In 1956, the Cobden Chamber of Commerce was formed with 66 paid-up members attending the annual meeting. It was this civic group that lay the foundations for the current Progressing Cobden.

When the chamber of commerce was first established, Mr Jim Gleeson was the president and Mr Reg Rix was foundation secretary.

Between 1956 and 2002, the chamber had its highs and lows. It was instrumental in key projects that made a big difference to Cobden's fortunes - the establishment of Cobden Technical School, the investigation to build an airstrip, the first moves towards a community bank, the introduction of spring festivals and Christmas celebrations . . . to name a few.

In March 1985, the chamber organised the sesquicentenary (150 years) in Cobden in the form of a successful country fair. In the late 1990s, a change was made to include interested residents, not just business people, in the group.

PROGRESSING COBDEN IS BORN

In 2002, Cobden Chamber of Commerce became Progressing Cobden with president Mr J L Walsh handing over the reins to Mr Milton Parlour in 2003. Five years later, in 2008, Progressing Cobden decided to use a leadership group model with several executive members sharing the responsibility of convening meetings and taking minutes.

The last few years have seen much progress with well-attended

meetings. The Twenty20 Vision Community Action Plan, designed to take Cobden through the next ten years, has the potential to develop our tourism strategies, upgrade our entrances and our town appearance generally and make our residents more aware of the need to support local businesses so we remain viable.

Cobden is endeavouring to remain attractive to newcomers and our young people as a place to learn, work and live. Action groups are endeavouring to "maintain the rage".

The Lake Cobden project has been a real feature of our voluntary work in recent years with much effort being put into turning our good, old dam into an elegant lake with jetties, solar lights, more appropriate vegetation and, hopefully, a wonderful path on both sides of the lake to improve access.

Other Progressing Cobden activities include the annual CopRice Spring Festival, the Christmas Celebrations, the Pioneer Dairy Park and, more recently, the production of the publication you are currently reading - Connecting Cobden.

It would be fantastic to have even a few more members involved in our action groups, our project teams and our sub-committees. Thankfully, Progressing Cobden gets a lot of encouragement from district people but a few more willing hands would help share the load.

Progressing Cobden meets in the Heytesbury Room (Civic Hall) on the first Monday of every month - 7.30pm. We would love to see new faces, young and older, business people or students, retired people, newly arrived people, farmers, anyone with an interest in making Cobden and district an even better place to live.

Contact Frank Martin, Milton Parlour, Jo Beard, David Buckle, Janet van Leerdam, Harry Timmermans, Garry Moorfield or Kelvin White if you're interested.

- by Alma MacDonald and Kelvin White

CopRice Cobden Spring Festival 19 - 21 October, 2012
cobdenspringfestival.com.au

ALBERT MOUNSEY ~ with no time to scratch himself!

Continued from page 1

To finish at this time, the posts cut the day before would be loaded onto the truck first thing in the morning so, when it came to 3pm, the pair could get out of the heat and drive back to the yard.

Following his stint with Lance, Alby worked for Stan Adams who had a contract to cart the cheese, butter and casein from the Tandarook factory to the railway yard in Cobden. Stan also freighted fertiliser, wheat and other farming essentials around the district, as well as goods to town businesses like Pauls, Swintons and Peters. Alby also spent time working as a 'grease monkey' with Howard Smith, Gordon Beaton and Digger Gaut at the local garage. Dr Barrett's Oldsmobile was one of the cars he worked on during that time. Alby remembers the vehicle's shockers as being 'had it'!

Alby spent the next five years living in Carpendeit, working with the State Rivers before moving back to Cobden. During his 37 years with the water commission, Albert drove trucks delivering gravel and carrying out repairs to the track that ran alongside the pipeline to the catchment areas. He would travel anywhere from Weeaprounah, Lavers Hill, Camperdown, Terang, and Framlingham to make these repairs. In the Simpson area, the pipeline track was the only road that the general public had to use, which wasn't too much of a problem, until the Heytesbury Settlement opened up.

With the extra trucks and traffic now using this route, it fell into disrepair quite quickly which necessitated the building of roads for the general public, keeping the pipeline track for its intended use. It wasn't only the tracks that Alby had to repair but the pipeline itself. According to Alby, OH&S would have had a field day back in his time with the State Rivers. He had to drive, dig and work in some very unsafe places. Some holes he worked in were well over his head in an unstable environment and without safety equipment.



Maureen and Alby Mounsey

Alby remembers ...

Once the Cobden Bush Nursing Hospital was operational, one of its first doctors was Dr Alf Barrett who was known to walk the railway line between Cobden and Timboon to treat his patients.

Alfie owned an Oldsmobile car, and he and Allan Gale - proprietor of the Cobden newspaper shop - would occasionally race their vehicles from Cobden to Timboon. Apparently, Alfie 'raced' everywhere he went!

At this time Cobden had a policeman named Jim Lougheed - more commonly known as "The Bomber". Standing at approximately

5'10" and weighing around 22-23 stone (140 kg), he made great use of the power behind his size 13 boot.

Surprisingly, for his stature, this man could outrun the youths who chose to make a 'run for it' and, when he did catch them, he could lift their feet higher off the ground than what they thought possible! Many misbehaving lads suffered the impact of "Bomber's" boot up their backsides.

Today this punishment would be unlawful - back then, it was the done thing and it worked a treat. All the locals knew the "Bomber" and knew to behave.....or to be careful!

PASSION FOR SPORT

Since the day dot, Alby has been involved in sport. He always played football - five years with Purrumbete, followed by many years with Cobden. He just celebrated the reunion of the Cobden 1955-1956 reserves premierships teams. He not only played cricket but umpired for many years - earning himself the name "Dickie Bird" from his mates. Somewhere amongst all that, he played volleyball and is a keen angler.

Alby's passion for sport has seen him do a great amount of fundraising and volunteering over the years. When the Cobden Football Club was trying to become established and recruit players, funds were needed. He and other club members would go and collect mallee roots, beer bottles and do rabbit drives around Foxhow and Lismore, to raise money. In later years, Alby was a trainer for the under 16s for 27 years, and head trainer with the seniors for many years. He also spent much time as a member of the Cobden Recreation Reserve committee and is a life member of the under 16s club, as were Ted Howard, Jimmy Hammond and Bill Andrews (all deceased).

Surprisingly, Alby doesn't barrack for an AFL team. He says he doesn't want to support a team that he can't go and watch each week, so he sticks with his home team. His wife interjected here and said she barracks for Collingwood, and Alby supports any team he thinks will beat the Pies!

As well as the time and energy Alby has freely given to his sport, he has also fundraised for the Red Cross and spent a few years collecting for the Royal Children's Hospital (of which daughter Veronica is an honorary life governor). Alby drove Veronica around each year to collect for the Royal Children's with many donors saving their monetary gifts for this little girl and her father to collect. If a house was missed, Alby would be in trouble, because the money was to be collected by his daughter before anyone else!

Alby may have inherited his passion for fishing from his father Jim who was a life member of the Cobden Angling Club and secretary for many years. The Mounsey Memorial Trophy is named in his honour. Alby loves surf fishing but, due to his health, now enjoys his fishing from a boat. He currently donates his time to the upkeep of the lawns around the angling club.

Alby recently bowled in the 2010-2011 Cobden division 4 grand final. Certainly, he is a man of many sporting talents.

Alby and Maureen go to all sporting events their grandchildren

are involved in. Maureen says sometimes it gets a bit tricky trying to be in two places at once to lend their encouragement and support. If Grandpa doesn't make it to netball he has to have a very good excuse. I'm thinking he doesn't miss many games. Alby has even coached night netball and is, in fact, the only male life member of the Cobden association.

Where does the nickname "Scratchy" come from? Years ago when Alby was a boundary umpire, at a football game he knew the ball was going to bounce close to the line. As he ran to the spot he scratched his head knowing it was going to be a close call. A spectator spotted his hand action and shouted, "The ball was out, "Scratchy" and the name stuck. Not only does Alby get called "Scratchy" but so do his children, even daughter Veronica.

In October this year, Albert and Maureen (nee Reed) will celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary. The pair has three children - Darren, David and Veronica. Darren and his wife Judy live in Cobden with their three children, Demi, Tess and Noah. David lives in Ballarat with his wife Leonie and their two children, Damon and Taylor, and Veronica, husband Pat (Hickey) and their two children Sophie and Macey also live in Cobden.

Alby and Maureen advise today's younger generation to "take care of yourselves and don't be afraid to work hard. If you work hard in life you will succeed". A philosophy they live by!

Alby at the Angling Club's award night, held recently.



JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

"Ordinary, everyday people"

By Gary Clissold

Our aim is to share the good news of God's Kingdom with as many people as possible. This is the work that Jesus gave his disciples to do

(Matthew 24:14). Our name gives a clue as to what we do.

Jehovah – The God of the Bible has a name ie Jehovah. Witness – A witness is someone who testifies or tells someone else what they know.

Therefore we tell others what we know about God and, to do this, we follow Jesus and the early Christian congregation's example and speak with people from house to house. We offer a free, no obligation, home Bible study course that allows individuals to come to an accurate understanding of the Bible, subject by subject. Many people also read our two monthly magazines – the "Watchtower" and "Awake".

The local congregation currently has 25 active members who share regularly in this preaching and Bible education activity. We do this on a completely voluntary basis, no-one receives any payment for their work. We cover an area that extends from Lismore and Mortlake and south through Pirron Yallock and Garvoc to the coast between Port Campbell and Peterborough.

On a world-wide scene, there are over 7.5 million active Jehovah's Witnesses preaching in 236 lands with up to 20 million attending our meetings.

The local congregation was established in the early 1960s and has been active in preaching and teaching since then. It was founded by

early visiting ministers who spoke to various locals who saw the truth in the Bible and joined together to worship God, thus a congregation was formed. It originally met in Camperdown but, because Cobden was central for most members, our meetings were later held in the Civic Hall in Cobden. In the mid-1980s our current meeting place, the Kingdom Hall, was built.

Our congregation members are just ordinary, everyday people. The person who knocks on your door could be (or may have been) a gardener, truck driver, farmer, housewife, shopkeeper, nurse or some other profession. We come from all walks of life but, because of our love of God and love of neighbours (Matthew 22:37-39), we endeavour to share the knowledge of Jehovah God and his kingdom by Christ Jesus. We want people to understand what it will do for mankind, especially considering the times we live in.

We have two meetings per week at the Kingdom Hall located at 1183 Camperdown Road, Cobden – Tuesdays at 7.30pm congregational Bible study and Sunday 10am public talk and "Watchtower" study.

For further information, contact: Gary Clissold (5593 2336).



Kingdom Hall

"WHO AM I?"

One thing about you that might surprise our readers? Unlike other boys my age, I am a very well-mannered young gentleman!

Which schools have you attended? Cobden primary and technical schools.

Your favourite subject at school? Physical education.

Your proudest achievement so far? Passing primary school.

Your favourite holiday destination? Gold Coast in Queensland.

Your favourite television show? "Packed to the Rafters".

What else do you like watching? "In Between Us".

How do you relax? Sleeping.

The best thing about your school? Trade areas.

Cobden's best feature? Its people.

To which clubs or organisations do you currently belong? Cobden Football Netball Club and Cobden Cricket Club.

Four people you admire? Nana and Pa, Mum and Dad.

Your worst habit? Having an untidy room. It can get pretty disgusting.

Your AFL team? St Kilda.

How many brothers and sisters do you have? Two, aged 11 and 9.

When were you born? December 12th, 1997.

The name of this Cobden identity is revealed on page 8 in this edition of Connecting Cobden.

COBDEN SENIOR CITIZENS INC

New ideas and members wanted!

Indoor bowls challenge: John van Duynhoven (left), Graeme Woodmason, Betty White, Joyce Roberts, Monica Noy and Vi Ovens watch Albert Pegg and Betty Roberts.



Cobden Senior Citizens was formed in 1967 and our hall, which is in the midst of a badly needed renovation, was officially opened in 1980.

Our activities include weekly meetings where our members play indoor bowls and cards from 1pm to 4pm every Monday and cards at 1pm to 4pm each Thursday and Saturday. On the first Saturday of each month, the card game Hoy is enjoyed from 1.30pm and a luncheon and speaker provide further entertainment on the first Thursday of each month.

Over the past two years, several very successful country music afternoons have been conducted on the last Sunday afternoons in each month. Our outgoing president Irene Wyles has been responsible for the success of these events - her pleasure and knowledge of this type of entertainment is greatly appreciated.

We also arrange bus tours during the year, both day trips and accommodated yearly holidays.

It would be wonderful to have new ideas, more members and participants in our activities.

The new office-bearers are president, Val Murfitt; vice president, John Cadby; junior vice president, Joyce Roberts; secretary, Alma MacDonald; treasurer, Jim Donald.

Our contact is president Mrs Val Murfitt (club 5595 1099 or home 5595 1693).

- by Alma MacDonald



John Cadby (left), Alma MacDonald, Jim Donald, Val Murfitt, Jack Eaton and Louis Toth enjoying a game of cards in the Senior Citizens' Clubrooms.

COBDEN ORCHID CLUB GROWING BEAUTIFULLY

by David Staggard



Orchid Club members Denise Robertson (left), David Staggard, Neville Robertson, Lindsay Rethus, Leanne Rethus, Marj Staggard in front of their award-winning "Most Creative Stand" at the Country Club Challenge in Warrnambool.

The overall purpose of the Cobden and District Orchid Club is to understand the culture of growing orchids, and to appreciate the actual beauty of so many types of orchids.

We hold meetings on the second Friday of each month. Sometimes, we have a guest speaker who talks about orchids and has plants for sale as well. We also organise and attend orchid shows with regular bus trips to nurseries and shows out of town.

Our club was established on March 2nd, 1988 after a meeting was advertised in the Cobden Times. Acting chairman Cr Arthur Matheson opened the get-together at the Church of England Hall. Eleven people attended and there were five apologies.

A motion that a club be formed was moved by Dirk van der Hied and seconded by Arthur Lorrinan. A call for office-bearers saw Jeff Hester elected president, Wilma van der Heid appointed secretary with Dirk van der Heid taking on the treasurer's role.

In 2012, the club has 35 members with no member qualifications at all to join—just an appreciation of orchids. Meetings are still held at 8pm at the Church of England Hall where the doors are always open on meeting nights—everybody is welcome. We would love to have some younger members.

Each year for the last 13 years, the Cobden club has been a member of the Country Club Challenge in which eleven clubs have a 10ft x 8ft stand to show their plants and compete against each other for points and creativity. While we have not won the challenge with the most points at any time, we have proudly taken out the Most Creative Stand six times now. As well, quite a few of our members have had plants awarded which is a very good achievement.

Our members have a great time on trips and doing various activities but we are not about to share any of these incidents — 'what happens on the bus stays on the bus.'

Our current office-bearers are Lindsay Rethus (president) and Eunice Dawe (secretary/treasurer).

Please contact David Staggard (davidstaggard@gmail.com, phone 5595 1346) with any inquiries.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Cobden Aero Club Inc

LIKE TO FLY HIGH?



ORGANISATION ESTABLISHED

A number of pilots from the Cobden area were members of the City of Warrnambool Aero Club when it was suggested by the instructor of the day, Andrew Hinde, that Cobden should consider forming its own club.

A meeting was called for December 4th, 1991, to see if there was sufficient interest in establishing a club. The meeting was held at the Cobden Technical School, and a steering committee comprising Kevin Norris, Garth McLennan, Joe O'Connell, John McInnes and Duncan Morris was appointed.

The original clubrooms were quite unique given it was a double

decker bus. For those who adjourned upstairs, it was a case of tilting your head or back as you made your way to a seat. The second storey was great as it offered uninterrupted views of the whole strip with any dodgy landing noted.

A few years later the club was upgraded to a house, kindly donated by Bonlac, thanks to the efforts of club member Peter Skene. The diversity of skills possessed by club members has enabled works to be carried out at little or no cost whenever alterations or repairs have been made.

ORGANISATION'S AIM/PURPOSE

Cobden Aero Club was formed to promote aviation in the local area. In addition, it generates a gathering of pilots who meet on a regular basis to share experiences and to discuss all things with an aviation slant. The clubhouse (Bonlac House) has been a portal for flight training and theory lessons over the past 20 years creating many new pilots in that time.

ACTIVITIES

The club and its sister club, Warrnambool, have supported each other over two decades through flying competitions and fly-aways. Club competitions serve as a good opportunity for pilots to hone and maintain flying skills achieved through focusing on different areas of a pilot's formative training. This also assists pilots to meet currency requirements. The social aspect can't be forgotten either with the clubs' competition venue alternating monthly between Cobden and Warrnambool.

An activity enjoyed by club members is fly-aways. Over the years, we have experienced gliding, the most natural form of flight, at Tocumwal. It is an amazing experience that interested people should try at least once in their lives. The diversity of landscape from lush green undulating pastures to barren flat wastelands under the influence of drought have emerged from the horizon on an air adventure to Birdsville for the races.

Airshows from as far as Temora to Avalon and Tyabb have been a staple of club activities. Predominantly, these are the only venues where you will witness rare aircraft from World War 2 to later military types in flight.

OFFICE BEARERS

President, Paul O'Rourke; vice president, Paul Moloney; secretary, Chris Bodey; treasurer, Duncan Morris; committee, William Woodmason, Garth McLennan, Warren Ponting.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

Former Cobden instructor Geoff Brockie left the area in late 1994 to become an army helicopter pilot. Geoff went on to become captain of the black hawk helicopter based out of Townsville. During his training years with the army, he proclaimed he would bring a black hawk to Cobden.

In 2002, Geoff was true to his word when he and his crew arrived at the Cobden airstrip in a black hawk, greeted by a large community reception. The crew was pleasantly overwhelmed by the number of locals in attendance. People were allowed up close to inspect the helicopter and chat to the crew. Naturally, this sort of event is rare.

In the second half of February, 2013, the club will host a fly-in as it

has done in previous years. The club recently received a community grant from the Corangamite Shire which will go towards adding some zest to next year's fly-in. Tyabb identity, Judy Pay, will bring her military trainer Trojan aircraft to Cobden for the community to inspect.

In addition, application will be made for the RAAF to put on a display – watch out for other announcements. A bus tour of the area showcasing local produce and vistas will be available to participants who fly-in for the weekend. We would also like to tie in neighbouring theme parks to make a day out for the family. It is a great opportunity to show out-of-towners what this area has to offer complemented with good old country hospitality.

I encourage any students and adults with an interest in aviation to contact a member of the aero club or me on 0427 422 478 to discuss how you can assist with this day. It will get you up close to the action. If any business proprietors have ideas that could be incorporated in the weekend, I would be very interested to hear from you.

Flight training has been missing from the aero club for a while now. This is the lifeblood of any club because it generates new members. If any individuals are interested in a trial instructional flight, the club can organise it for you if we can guarantee a minimum number of students to a flight training organisation. I urge you to contact the club.

MEMBERSHIP

Cobden encourages anyone with an interest in flying to become a member and participate in club events. Our constitution caters for two types of members – a full member and a social member. To be a full member and be entitled to vote at meetings, one has to have flown solo. Full membership costs \$50 while social membership costs \$20 plus an initial fee of \$5. Currently, the club consistently has 30 full members and four social members.

- by Paul O'Rourke

Right: Part of the new sealed section of runway.



Garth McLennan (back), long-time aviator and member of Cobden Aero Club and Cobden Airstrip Management Committee and Bill Woodmason with his Australian designed-and-built two-seat Jabiru aircraft made in Bundaberg, Queensland.



Back in the 1990s South West Aviators had a young blonde female instructor who came to Cobden every Wednesday to conduct flying training. The blokes were like a looney tunes cartoon character with eyes bursting out of the head at first sight.

Every so often, Tony 'Pies' Malone would catch a lift back to Warrnambool in the aircraft so he could renew acquaintances with a loved one. It was very convenient for him.

One day he rocked up on a motor scooter and asked if he could put it in the back of the aeroplane for the return trip to Warrnambool. She didn't know what to do because she didn't think it would fit, not realising Pies was just gagging. On another occasion she had trouble deciphering thirty minutes and half an hour.

She now flies a large passenger jet.

J L WALSH - the mover and shaker behind the COBDEN AIRSTRIP

Our brilliant airstrip was a project initiated by Progressing Cobden or, as it was known in the early 1980s, the Cobden Chamber of Commerce.

A public appeal was launched in 1982 to raise funds for the airstrip to be built on land at the Cobden Racecourse. The Heytesbury Shire, which fully supported the project, had purchased the land from the Cobden Turf Club for \$10,000.

The task of establishing the airstrip was halted for some time in 1983 when the Ash Wednesday fires brought devastation to the area. The aftermath of the fires absorbed all voluntary and Heytesbury Shire labour and plant.

However, the project was still completed by February, 1984, thanks to the cooperation of the shire, local contractors, service clubs and many volunteer helpers.

The shire council appointed a member of its engineering staff and pilot, Garth McLennan, as secretary of the management committee and he duly called a meeting at Cr John Blake's home. Other members of the committee were shire representatives Cr Blake and Cr Frank Howard, Chamber of Commerce representatives Jim Walsh and Graham Parlour, Cobden Rotary's

Stan Coad, Cobden Apex Club's Des Pekin (who is the current president), Cr Arthur Matheson (Cobden Bush Nursing Hospital), Lyal Couch (Timboon Lions), Gary Hibberd (Timboon Apex) and Garth McLennan (shire staff and involved user) as secretary.

At the meeting, Jim Walsh was naturally appointed president as he had been the main mover and shaker behind the project.

On investigation by the secretary, it was found that the airstrip had been put down in good faith but was not wide enough to meet Department of Aviation standards so, once again, the public came good with further donations to complete the job. Luckily, the shire had its own soils laboratory and a suitable amount of red gravel and scoria was supplied.

At the September, 1985, committee meeting, it was reported the air ambulance had made 53 visits in the previous twelve months.

On March 14th, 1988, the Cobden airstrip was officially opened by Air Commodore R R Tayles AFC who dedicated the project to Mr J L (Jim) Walsh for his services to the community.

Over the ensuing years, maintenance

has been carried out by the committee and volunteers. Flying schools, Staywood Air and Rudi's Aviation operated from the strip, and many pilots from all over the district have qualified in both general and recreational aviation.

Many corporate, tourist and crop-dusting planes have utilised the airstrip to benefit the area. The Cobden Aero Club has made very good use of the strip and conducted fly-ins with all shire accommodation being booked out. A local sub-committee under the coordination of Pip Robertson has raised thousands of dollars for improvements to the strip.

After Jim Walsh retired, the management committee was headed by Kevin Norris who later handed the reins over to Kevin Osborne before Des Pekin assumed control. Our airstrip has certainly been a wonderful asset to Cobden and district, and its full potential remains unlimited.

So much has happened over the years with regard to the airstrip to benefit the shire and its ratepayers - I have found it difficult to summarise it in a few words.

- by Garth McLennan



Left: Airstrip plaque in recognition of the late J L Walsh's service to the community.

Right: J L Walsh.



Airstrip Management Committee vice-president Chris Bodey (left), president Des Pekin and council-appointed executive officer Ray Farrell with long-time committee member Alma MacDonald.

... lives on

Following negotiations with Western District Newspapers managing editor Mr Stewart Esh, we are pleased to announce that Connecting Cobden will continue to bring you Cobden and district stories.

As you know, our Twenty20 Vision funding through the Corangamite Shire expires with this edition so we were looking at either seeking advertising, sponsorship or donations to continue the four and eight page formats that had proved very successful over our ten editions.

We discussed with Stewart the possibility of continuing Connecting Cobden as part of the Times on a monthly basis with us procuring some sponsorship and having some control over the content.

So we were pleased to receive a phone call from Western District Newspapers that invited us to contribute one page every three weeks under the Connecting Cobden masthead. - at no cost to us, just our time and energy.

We have gladly accepted the gracious offer, pleased that we will be able to continue the popular Characters of Cobden stories and other Cobden-specific features. Local contributions will remain important to us and our ace lay-out person Barbara Cowley will continue doing the page set-up!

We are grateful to Stewart Esh and his staff who have been helpful and cooperative over the past twelve months. It has certainly been a harmonious relationship. We made everyone aware before we started Connecting Cobden that we did not want to compete with our local newspaper for advertising and content. For the most part, we have achieved that!

At this point, Barbara, new recruit Louise and I would like to thank everyone who contributed articles, photos, anything that helped us put Connecting Cobden on the streets. It could not have happened without your assistance. We also appreciate the positive feedback received from our readers.

We hope that we have gone some way to achieving our stated aim - promoting the district's organisations and encouraging people to get involved in some way. There is no doubt we have many unsung heroes in and around our town! And how many clubs and groups do we have? There are lots of options - something for everyone!

If you have a small amount of time, and you would like to get involved in one of our organisations, don't hang back. You may not be a meeting person but you will certainly have ideas, and skills that would benefit a group in our district.

Organisations, please be inclusive and creative when it comes to recruiting. Do things differently, rather than the way you've done them for the past twenty years. Meeting times, durations (half an hour may be more effective than two hours), venues, themes, door-knocks, bring a friend, our schools and their students, telephone conference calls, skype . . . lots of different ways to approach your tasks.

Finally, Connecting Cobden will help in any way we can.

Contact us:

Kelvin White: 5595 1700 (B), 5595 1183 (H); 0429 921 876, kelvin@swllen.net.au

Barbara Cowley: 5595 4243 (B), 0427 954 216, barbaracowley@bigpond.com

CONNECTING COBDEN WORD PUZZLE

The puzzle combines scrambled words and word matches.

You are asked to unscramble each word then match the words in the column on the left to the words in the column on the right.

The theme of the puzzle is physical activities or venues in and around Cobden.

By Barbara Cowley

| | |
|------------|------------|
| ASUSHQ | AKLE |
| EORTARNICE | ARLTI |
| GALNING | SLSECAS |
| AKLE | NMIGALETEI |
| OBLTFAL | SEVREER |
| IALR | LSPPO |
| ENSTIN | COTRUS |
| ENSITFS | BCLU |
| SGIIWMMN | TCRSOU |
| OENCBD | EANLTBL |

Solution

Squash-Courts, Recreation-Reserve, Angling-Club, Lake-Eltingamite, Football-Netball, Rail-Trail, Tennis-Courts, Fitness-Classes, Swimming-Pools, Cobden-Lake.

COBDEN CRICKET CLUB INC. - EXCITING TIMES AHEAD!

Cobden Cricket Club has a proud history and an exciting future!

- Two developing senior teams – division 2 (maybe division 1 in 2012-13) and division 3.
- Two exciting junior squads – under 16 and under 14.
- A great Milo in2cricket program – for primary school age children.
- The youngest president in South West Cricket – Cameron Beaton.
- The youngest senior list in South West Cricket.
- Last season, our under 16s won their third premierships in four years.
- The club has a turf wicket, one of only three in South West Cricket.
- It has the best social rooms in South West Cricket.
- Since 1979, the club has won 24 senior premierships, 13 division 1, five division 2 and six division 3.
- Since 1975, the club has won 13 under 16 premierships.

The club has produced some wonderful cricketers during that time. We have seen periods when association teams have consisted of nine or ten Cobden players.

These include Colin Gaut, Graham "Crab" Hunter, Neal Simmonds and Wayne Walsh who were four of the best batsmen to play cricket in our area during the last fifty years. "Gauty" and "Crab" even took on the might of England on the Reid Oval, Warrnambool, in 1974.

Rob Connoley was the best spin bowler, Michael Hinkley, Graeme Fagan, and Shane Garner were among the best fast bowlers and Phil Roche and Alan Pell (who could also bat very well) are the best wicketkeepers to play cricket in our area since 1978.

Looking at other categories, Alan "Sarge" Hart was the lowest-right arm bowler to play cricket in our area since 1985. He often skun his knuckles on the stumps as he ran past. As he got older, his arm got lower and lower until he was actually bowling under-arm.

Jimmy "Pockets" "Have-a-chat" Dalziel talked the most of any cricketer on the ground during his career which started in "1904". His fellow-fielders had to wear ear-plugs!

Rob Connoley and Michael Hinkley were easily the most mild-mannered bowlers ever to play for Cobden – never angry, never swore, always clapping batsmen who played a lucky shot or two.

Ken "Dutchy" Holland, Greg "Herbie" Merrett and Adrian "Slash" Kelly had simple batting philosophies – block the first ball, hit the next one for six, block one, hit the next one for four, block one, hit the next one for six. Seemed to work pretty well too.

The club is supported really well by the community which ensures it remains financially secure. As chief sponsor, Thompson's Hotel provides a popular venue for the Friday night "competition" between 6pm and 7.15pm. Supporter Albert Mounsey oversees this fundraising activity.

The club's annual general meeting will be held at the Sports Club at 7.30pm on August 22nd. It is hoped a big attendance of past, senior and junior players, parents and supporters will attend to make some important decisions about the club's plans for the season.

SPONSORS

Thompson's Hotel - Seniors
GreenCon - Juniors
Cobden AB Co-operative
Coprice Cobden
Cobden Motors
Chris Blake
Camo Jerseys
Cobden Floors & Furniture
McQuinns Plumbing
Webber & Chivell
Sewells Finance
SLM Law
Hampden Vet Clinic
L & S Walsh Plumbing
CW Electrical
Curdie Car Care
Brendan Hickey Electrical
Landmark
Stirilo's Quality Meats
Cobden Newsagency
Cobden Bakery
Cobden Golf Club
Cobden Post Office
Cobden Men's Hair Room
Cobden Takeaway
Cobden Gifts & Sweets
Cobden Pharmacy
Cobden Home Timber & Hardware

SECRETARY
Brendan Hickey
5595 2093
0439 983 060

Right: Our young cricketers of the year (left to right): Brendan Cook (division 3), Ryan Simmonds (division 2), Jake Reed (under 16s).

Below: Club president Cameron Beaton has won the club person of the year three years in a row.



"WHO AM I?"

When were you born? 1930s.

Which schools have you attended?

Tandarook South State School, Camperdown High School.

Your favourite subjects at school?

Sewing and cooking.

Your AFL team? None in particular.

How do you relax? Gardening.

Favourite holiday destination? I've enjoyed many trips, but really Fiji, years ago.

Your favourite television show? I don't watch TV much.

How many children do you have? Three children and twelve grandchildren.

Current clubs or organisations? CWA, UCAF, Probus, Garden Club.

Best book you've ever read? The biography of Hazel Hawke.

Your worst habit? Not being able to sleep at night.

Cobden's best feature? Friendliness.

One thing about you that might surprise our readers? This interview interspersed with lots of laughter.

The name of this Cobden identity is revealed on page 8 in this edition of Connecting Cobden.

Rix Avenue – home of the . . . COBDEN BOWLING CLUB

In 1946, Reg Rix received a letter from the Victorian Bowling Association about the possibility of establishing a bowling club in Cobden so a public meeting was called with W J Blake as chairman and Reg Rix provisional president.

Although numbers weren't great at the meeting, a sub-committee was formed to recommend a site for a club. Executive, finance and construction committees were formed using the expertise from around the town and the Shire of Heytesbury.

A month later at another meeting, Leo Thompson and Reg Rix donated blocks of land in Smith Street and another was purchased from L K Brown. The last block of land to complete the site was purchased in 1970.

Seventy five foundation members paid £3.3.0 (three pounds and three shillings) to join. The membership list included many businessmen and farmers, and quite a few members didn't bowl at all.

The green was being played on by 1947 and the club affiliated with Colac and District Bowling Association. One pennant team was entered to compete against players from Colac, Colac Central and Camperdown bowling clubs. The association now has 15 clubs. Clearances from the Camperdown club were given to Wattie Clingin, Alec Munro and Reg Rix so they could play for Cobden.

In 1949, although the clubhouse had not been started, it was suggested by the VBA that the clubhouse be extended twelve feet and a sanitary system be installed. A string of lights were put up in 1948 illuminating half the green with another string added in 1957 to light all the green. It seems these night tournaments were largely run to raise money for the Bush Hospital and Blind Auxiliary. There was night pennant as well but, by 1981, the light standard on the roadside was removed after being condemned and eventually the lights were disconnected in 1986.

The clubhouse was completed about October, 1950, although it was being used for meetings from about May, 1950. Both the clubhouse and green were officially opened on January 27th, 1951, with eight officials from the VBA attending as well as representatives from other clubs and the Cobden Pipe Band. A weekend of celebrations took place.

Improvements were made to the clubhouse in 1974. Then, in 1979, the Presbyterian Church annexe was purchased for \$300 and added to the western end to become the men's room. 1989 saw proposals put forward for a new clubhouse which didn't eventuate until 1999.

When the old clubhouse was demolished and the possum residents evicted to terrorise the neighbours, it only took three months to build the new clubhouse with the usual volunteer labour under the guidance of Trevor Roberts assisted by

Cliff Cobbledick and Gerry Sullivan plying their trades. The spirit and enthusiasm around the club was a great experience.

With the purchase of more land in 1970, another green was built and opened in 1979 with Bill McIntyre delivering the first bowl. In 1991, "A" green became synthetic which was replaced in 2003, and "B" green became synthetic in 2006. This saw the demise of greenkeepers as such and, now, the greens committee attended to all necessary maintenance.

A bar was built in 1986 and operated with a limited licence. Before this, it was the men's room offered refreshments on a Saturday. For tournaments, a booth was usually set up by one of the local hotels. In 1981 a major step was taken in that the lady associates could be invited to take refreshments in the men's room on suitable occasions.

We have had many outstanding bowlers over the years, too many to list in any detail but, on the women's side, Elaine Harrison has won the club championship eleven times as well as many association events. Doreen Coverdale has won the club championship nine times and the highlight of her career would have to be runner-up in the Victorian State Championships at Bendigo in April this year.

On the men's side in the early years, Keith Grinham won many championships and John Blake was also very successful representing Victoria on a couple of occasions. Several flags have been won in pennant competition.

Bingo has been one of our major fundraisers in recent years starting in 1988 and still going strongly thanks to Joyce Roberts who took over the running of the event in 1992, along with Kevin Hinkley, Allie Long and callers Bazil Hammond, Elizabeth Fryers, Evelyn Grayland and Elaine Harrison.

Another fundraiser is our five nights of traders' pennant which has been going since 1994 with full rinks each night and great meals supplied by our ladies - it has been a great success! We have had many members come from these ranks and, this last season, the younger members took over the running and did a fantastic job.

The ladies' section, originally formed to fundraise, have contributed thousands of dollars over the years as well as looking after the cleaning until three years ago. A roster system is in place over the season mainly to cater for men's pennant and bingo sandwiches.

Our present office-bearers are:

- President – Bazil Hammond
- Secretary – Norm Denny
- Treasurer – Heather Lydford
- Lady president – Lorraine King
- Lady secretary – Heather Lydford

- by Heather Lydford



Corangamite Bowling Association 1982-83 Division 2 Premiers – Back (l-r): Cyril Clarke, Lindsay Harrison, Max King, Bill Hester, Keith Simmonds, Basil Pekin. Middle: Russell Johnston, Cliff Cobbledick, Bill Warren, Alan Hallyburton, Greg Chessum, John Blake. Front: Clem Hose, Bill Roberts, Cliff Biesse, Warwick Johnston, Harold Errey.

Over the years we have inducted several life members all of whom have done exceptional work to earn the honour:

- 1955 – Jack Dunford established and grew all the plants for the gardens in the early days and completed many odd jobs.
- 1960 – Reg Rix – well, he did everything to establish the club from finance to tending the green and will be long remembered with Smith Street from Neylon to Victoria streets being renamed Rix Avenue in his honour.
- 1972 – Alison Rix, wife of Reg, ladies' treasurer for 36 years and hosted many people over the years. Dorrie Orton, ladies' secretary for 27 years as well as other positions at association level.
- 1976 – Jim Wilson served on committees for many years and was one of our first umpires.
- 1978 – George McConachy, president for two years, secretary for eight years as well as at association level. Tom Underwood, president and committeeman travelling from Cowley's Creek.
- 1983 – Merle Wilson, ladies' secretary for eleven years, association treasurer for 26 years and life member.
- 1987 – Ralph Wheaton on many committees and worked on the greens.
- 1988 – Jock White served on many committees and was an odd jobs specialist. Bill Roberts was a president, committeeman and on Sunday match committee for many years.
- 1992 – Cliff Biesse served as president, secretary and treasurer for many years, as well as receiving association life membership. RVBA councillor.
- 1993 – Lorna DeClercq - our only surviving foundation member who did many unheralded jobs around the club. Bill Marwood, committeeman, greenkeeper and responsible for advising and setting up greens for clubs.
- 2001 – Gwen Niblett, president, secretary on many occasions as well as at association level. Basil Pekin, president and on all committees as well as setting up winter pennant.
- 2004 – Cliff Cobbledick, secretary for 14 years, treasurer for six years and still serving.
- 2006 – Kevin Hinkley has served on many committees and been a long-time helper for bingo.
- 2011 – Betty Roberts, one of our longest-serving members doing many jobs around the club in that time. Betty White has served on all committees and long-term match committee person.

All mentioned are justly deserving of the honour of being made life members of the Cobden Bowling Club. Their input has made this club strong and we trust the next generation will follow in their footsteps.



COBDEN CALENDAR

- Monday 20th August:** Spring Festival meeting, 7.30pm Heytesbury Room, Cobden Civic Centre.
- Wednesday 22nd August:** Cobden Cricket Club AGM, 7.30pm, Cobden Sports Club.
- Friday 31st August:** Cobden CWA Fete, Uniting Church 11am, soup and sandwich lunch, all the usual stalls.
- Sunday 9th September:** Cobden Quilters Sit and Sew Day at Senior Citizens' Hall, 10am-4pm, \$2. BYO lunch. Tea and coffee supplied.
- 19th-21st October:** CopRice Cobden Spring Festival.
- Saturday 20th October:** "Big Night Out" with "The Gents", Cobden Golf Club. \$15, bookings 5595 1850. Music 8pm-midnight. Meals \$15, bookings 5595 1393.
- Sunday 25th November:** Fundraiser for defibrillator for CDHS. Artist Amber Joy Poulton \$20. Cobden Golf Club. Contact Irene 5595 1850.

Page 2, June
Bill Noy



Bill attended Herwen state and secondary schools where his favourite subject was mathematics. He is an avid supporter of AFL club Geelong and enjoys playing both indoor and outdoor bowls. Bill's favourite TV shows are the ABC's "7.30" and documentaries and he is currently a member of St Vincent de Paul, and Cobden's bowling, probus and football netball clubs.

Page 5, August
Jack Hutt



Page 6, June
Heather Walsh



Heather attended Cobden state and Camperdown high schools, where her favourite subject was sport. She follows Geelong in the AFL and relaxes by swimming, talking and reading, with her favourite books being biographies. Heather finds Cobden's best feature is the lifestyle and she is a member of Progressing Cobden and the Dairy Park committee.

Page 7, August
Betty Hallyburton

