



Busy Sue Lyons says “Life is too short so make the most of it.”

Cobden man-about-town and connoisseur of fine football teams John Longmore had no hesitation when asked to describe his home carer: “She is fantabulous,” he said.

For the past 25 years, Sue Lyons has worked as a home carer, first with the Heytesbury Shire and then with the Corangamite Shire before the service was taken over by Timboon and District Health Services about two years ago.

Sue is a great believer in the home care program because it allows elderly people to stay in their own homes longer. Currently, she is caring for thirteen clients in the Cobden area with duties including showering, cleaning, taking them to the street or just being a companion.

“I enjoy the work. You have to earn their trust and respect and confidentiality is always an issue. I know a lot of people and that makes it easier,” she said.

Until four years ago, Sue also worked part-time with Lees and Ritchies IGA as a weekend manager. “Yes, I’m not one to sit around. Watching too much television drives me nuts,” she laughed.

Cobden’s caring community tag certainly suits Sue’s style. She enjoys great relationships with her clients and she is obviously proud of her family. The daughter of Vera and Ted Crow, Sue is the oldest sister of Ian, Sandra Smith and Glenda Holland who all live locally, Peter (Mt Gambier), Pauline Whelan (Coffs Harbour) and Gary (dec).

Her parenting philosophy? You have to be there for your children and you should support them in any way possible. That has certainly been the case with her own children – she and hubby Greg have raised a family of three – Sharon, 39 (Somerville), Rebecca, 36, who is studying aged care and Brendan, 33, a concreting subcontractor in Warrnambool.

And, now, the Lyons have been rewarded with seven “beautiful” grandchildren – ranging in ages from 14 to three months, four girls and three boys . . . “and they all tell me they have finished,” she said with a laugh.

Sue says she is looking forward to seeing her family grow and be happy. “My family has been my greatest support so I’m keen to return the favour.”

Similarly, Sue treasures time spent with friends. She remembers fondly two holidays in particular – a trip to Tasmania with Alan and Belinda Bellman and a family holiday to Merimbula with Neil and Joan Alexander.

I’ve enjoyed lots of holidays. “I love going away . . . but I love coming home too,” she said.

“I am very lucky to have had a wonderful life filled with great memories and sharing it with my family and friends.”

Sue has had an extremely busy life. Born in Port Fairy on June 22nd in 1952, her parents were farmers before her father became ill and took up hay contracting and wood chopping. The Crow family moved to Brucknell and, then Cobden, but Sue always enjoyed returning to Port Fairy to visit her grandparents.

Her school-life began at Timboon PS, moving on to Cobden PS and Camperdown High before doing a business course at Stotts College in Melbourne – despite being inspired by a high school science teacher called Mrs Post.

Sue said the best thing about school was “socialising” and the worst aspect was “being told what to do. I am a lot older and wiser now though.”

After graduating from Stotts, Sue worked for three years in the office at Vogue Party Time (Moorabbin) and Ray Pak which made heated swimming pools in South Melbourne. Back to Cobden, Sue joined Robertson, McKean and O’Neill in Camperdown for four years before retiring to start her family. Some casual work, particularly around tax-time, was also undertaken.

In Melbourne, she had been able to follow St Kilda Football Club more closely. Sue joined the Saints cheer squad and cultivated her interest in the footballing talents of her hero Carl Ditterich who she claims, “went a little feral when he joined Melbourne Footy Club.”

Her days in the Big Smoke also saw Sue meet up with Greg Lyons, a former primary school acquaintance, who had moved to Melbourne for work. They married on December 2nd, 1973, at Cobden’s Presbyterian Church (where Mrs Nellie Pekin currently resides) on the southern corner of Victoria Street and Rix Avenue. Sue smiles when she recalls, “Greg’s idea of being romantic during our courting days was taking me out with all his mates in tow.”



With iron in hand, Sue Lyons certainly “im-presses” John Longmore.

After her time in Melbourne, working, barracking for the Saints and playing tennis, our busy lady came home to Cobden to raise her family and get involved at the local kindergarten and primary school, with the brownies and guides, in mixed netball, squash and badminton.

Not surprisingly, Sue has come under notice at the Cobden Rotary Business Awards, picking up several nominations. Modestly, she concedes she is good at her job . . . “but I’m good at being there for my family too.”

She is certain about one other thing – “Life is too short so make the most of it.”



Leigh Walsh (centre) with his staff Matt Unwin (left), Tom Spokes, Sam Mason and Darcy Leishman.

Ten things you may not know about Leigh, Sarah and their business . . .

1. Fully trained to do everything from leaking taps to leaking pipes, from detecting carbon monoxide to servicing pumps and windmills, from solar pump and dairy installations to drain cleaning. Also skilled at replacing old iron and tiled rooves with corrugated iron as well as yard blaster installations.
2. Servicing windmills is an interest and is something his father Peter “Plumber” Walsh was well-known for.
3. The business started in Scott Street, Cobden before moving to new premises in Old Port Campbell Road.
4. Leigh believes the Victorian plumbing system is the best in Australia with appropriately high standards of work. Paperwork is a “pain” but it means that means everyone is protected.
5. Great supporter of work experience and work placement programs, which has resulted in full-time apprenticeships for several young people.
6. Employs two Cobden footballers - Matt Unwin (plumber) and Tom Spokes (4th year apprentice) and two Simpson footballers - Darcy Leishman (3rd year apprentice) and Sam Mason (1st year apprentice).
7. Sarah Walsh - the real boss - does the bookwork and is also a qualified nurse. She is experienced in intensive care and emergency work and works occasionally at South West Healthcare Warrnambool.
8. Leigh and Sarah married in 2003 and have three children, daughter Jessica (6) and sons Parker and Campbell (both 5, they’re twins continuing the Walsh family tradition).
9. Leigh was a premiership player with Cobden Bombers in 1997 and in the runners-up team in 2007, before taking up coaching Simpson with twin brother Chris (2008-2011). He has also played in an A grade cricket side for Cobden, he is the current Cobden division 1 skipper and he won the cricketer of the year award in the season just finished.
10. Leigh supports the Brisbane Lions in the AFL but Sarah prefers North Melbourne.

COBDEN BUSINESS NETWORK’S Business of the Month

Name: Walsh Plumbing
Owners: Leigh and Sarah Walsh
Business: Plumbing and Gas Fitting

Leigh started as an apprentice in his father’s business ‘Walsh and Molan’ in 1993 where he worked until Leigh and Sarah began their own business in 2005. They currently employ four full-time staff.

Previous Business of the Month winners have been . . .

September 2012

Name: Cobden AB Co-operative Ltd
Manager: Rhonda Howard
Business: Artificial insemination, semen sales, merchandise, dehorning and freezebranding etc.

November 2012

Name: Cobden Bakery
Owners: John Carlin and Andrea Ross
Business: Bakery supplying fresh breads, pies, cakes and sandwiches daily.

February 2013

Name: Mora Mechanical Services
Owners: Steve and Tania Mora
Business: Truck, 4WD and car services and repairs.

May

COBDEN CALENDAR

Monday 6th	7.30pm: Progressing Cobden meeting. All welcome Heytesbury Room, phone 5595 1700.	Monday 13th	7.30pm: Lake Cobden Project Team meeting, Heytesbury Room.
Tuesday 7th	10am-noon: NAB Biggest Morning Tea. Gold coin for Cancer Council, phone 5595 3400.	Wednesday 15th	Cobden and District Health Services Forum.
Monday 13th	1.30pm: CWA Mothers’ Day High Tea, Uniting Church Hall, Bruce Lowenthal, “Antiques” \$8. All welcome.	Saturday 18th	11am-2pm. CDHS Family Arts Display at Miniature Railway Park. Free train rides, bbq lunch, face-painting and more. Ph 5595 3100.
	7.30pm: Cobden Sports Club.	Monday 20th	7.30pm: Coprice Spring Festival meeting, Heytesbury Room. All welcome.

Have you completed your **COBDEN BUSINESS NETWORK** Consumer Survey? Go to cobden.org.au/survey or drop your copy into the box outside Cobden Newsagency, and, to keep up-to-date on Facebook, “LIKE” our Cobden Community page!

Connecting Cobden - a Progressing Cobden Twenty20 vision project.
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