



## Business of the Month February/March

### COBDEN VETERINARY CLINIC



Vet Will Bredin (left), office manager Christine Ovens and CBN chair Trevor Clarke

**Business name:** Cobden Veterinary Clinic

**Ownership:** Dr Andrew McKenzie, Dr Greg Darcy, Dr Lauren Harrison, Dr Will Bredin and partners

**Manager:** Christine Ovens

**Business:** All veterinary services and products for large and small animals including injured wildlife.

**Background:** The business began from humble beginnings in a garage at 78 Victoria Street, Cobden, by Dr Jim Pitney in 1966. After the business outgrew the garage, it moved to an office at Malcolm Roberts Accountants (now Duncan Morris and Associates) and to the main clinic at 1 Leura Street, Camperdown. More staff was acquired to help with the growing business. The present Cobden location, 4 Curdie Street, was purchased from the TAB in 1988 and services like consults and vaccinations continued in the town. Local farmers could collect their mastitis treatments and other products from the Cobden Clinic instead of having to travel to Camperdown.

#### What you might not know about Cobden Veterinary Clinic . . .

- It is one of the oldest businesses in Cobden – in fact, it is 50 years-old this year!
- The original vet Jim Pitney was followed by Fred and Helen Funston.
- A variety of partners and staff have worked in the business including many local farmers' sons who have become veterinarians. These include John Penry, Paul Kavenagh and, current business partners, Andrew McKenzie and Greg Darcy.
- Many local people have managed the business – including Pat Wilson (11 years), Wilma Fagan, Carol Bennett and Christine Ovens (nearly 11 years). For the last two years, the very capable Shannon Oates (a daughter of a local farmer) has filled in occasionally for Christine.
- The clinic is open Monday to Friday between 1pm and 4pm for small consults and vaccinations (which must be booked in prior to the consult).
- All things veterinary are supplied. If stock is not available, it can be obtained overnight for pick-up the next day.
- Graduating from Melbourne University in 1980, Andrew McKenzie came straight to Camperdown Veterinary Centre where he worked for five years. In 1985 Andrew lived and worked in the UK for 12 months before returning to Camperdown.
- Greg Darcy has a 150 beef cow farm at South Purrumbete, follows the Geelong Football Club passionately and supports his family with their sporting pursuits. He plays the odd game of golf.
- Will Bredin was born in Wales in 1982 which might explain his interest in farm animals. He is the middle child of three brothers, raised in the British Army spending the first decade of his life in South East Asia.
- Lauren Harrison grew up on a sheep and cropping family farm at Willaura. Now at Derrinallum, she lives with her husband, Scott, baby Annabelle and Hungarian Vizsla, Walter Henry. In her spare time Lauren loves to socialise, eat good food and drink yummy wine, as well as support her beloved Melbourne Demons.

**Business contact:** Christine Ovens. **Phone:** 5595 1534

~ Connecting Cobden ~ A Progressing Cobden Twenty20 Vision Project.  
Websites: cobden.org.au, cobdenbusinessnetwork.org.au,  
cobdenspringfestival.com.au. Facebook: Cobden Community.  
Registered email: community@cobden.org.au.

# THE RE-LAUNCH OF COBDEN'S STORY - coming to a walking track near you!

A few years ago, our Twenty20 Vision community planning process identified the need for a Cobden tourism product.

Something that would complement our other features – our golfing facilities, our parks, our miniature railway, our restoration group, our lake, our dairy pioneer park . . .

Something that would bring visitors to the town, and families back to town . . .

Something that we could all get involved in and be proud of!

Progressing Cobden's Tourism Action Group came up with the **COBDEN STORY** concept.

What does it entail? Up to 100 interpretive panels and plaques placed along our eight walking tracks telling stories of past characters, past and present buildings, organisations and events.

Our adage is simple: "There's a story on every corner!"

So far, the action group has enjoyed the support of Cobden and District Historical Society and our primary and technical schools to gather material for the first plaques.

We are already looking forward to displaying the stories behind Thompson's Hotel, Cobden Home Hardware, Cobden Police Station, Cobden Bakery, the old Cobden Theatre and T.S McQuinn and Sons along Curdie Street so we can get our project up and running.

#### YOUR INVITATION

We are inviting organisations, families, business and individuals to participate by providing suitable material for interpretive panels to be placed along walking tracks at appropriate spots.

If you have an idea for a panel or a plaque, let us know and we'll work with you to get it done. Obviously, we will be using similar designs and colours for each panel to show they are part of the Cobden Story project.

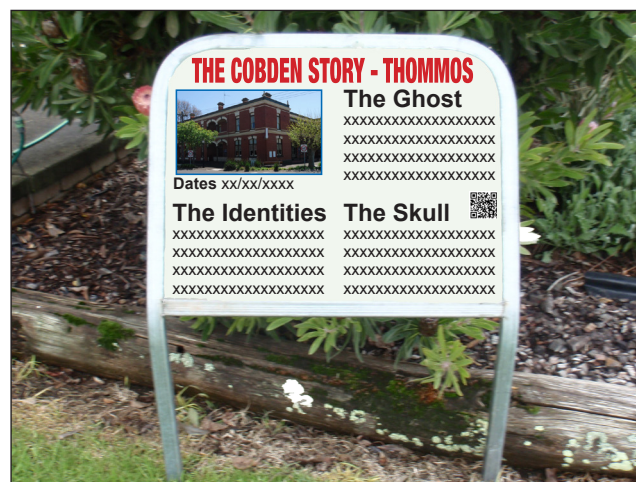
Photographs, both colour and black and white, will be used with text that will explain a short history and provide the odd quirky story associated with the subject of the panel. A full background of each panel subject will be available on the Cobden Story page, on the Cobden website - a barcode using smartphone technology will enable easy access to this.

**Funding:** We have been fortunate to receive a \$6000 seeding grant from the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities to get us underway. The Twenty20 Vision process has seen fit to allocate a further \$20,000 to the Cobden Story, endorsing its standing as a tourism project of significant importance.

Therefore, \$26,000 is immediately available to the project but we hope that some money can be recouped from sponsors, organisations, businesses and families who become involved in the Story.

Each plaque/panel will cost between \$500 and \$600 to produce and erect.

It is envisaged that the panels will be mounted on steel frames along our eight walking tracks - See Thommo's Hotel example below. The images will be displayed on white aluminium composite panel - outdoor vinyl and anti-graffiti laminate.



The walking tracks have been tentatively named:

- Circuite de Savage – around the golf course, technical school and industrial estate
- The Town Circuit – Victoria, Parrott, Lord, Curdie, Silvester, Shenfield streets

#### COBDEN CALENDAR

**June 6th:** 7.30pm Progressing Cobden action group meetings. (FIS followed by TAT), Heytesbury Room.

**June 12th:** Cobden Football Netball Club Silver Circle, Civic Hall.

**June 17th:** Cobden Community Bank 10th Anniversary Celebrations, Sports Club.

**June 20th:** 7.30pm CopRice Spring Festival meeting, Heytesbury Room.

**June 21st:** 7.15am for 7.30am start Cobden Business Network breakfast meeting, Cobden Golf Club.

**July 2nd:** 7pm Dad's Army Relay for Life Trivia Night, Miniature Railway Park. \$10 per person, tables of six. Bookings 0455 748 985.

- The Hill Walk – Peter, Smith, Rix, Stirling, Scott, Victoria streets
- The Back Straight – the old Cobden Racecourse
- Tannery Falls – from Health Services, along Clarke, Vagg and Curdie streets
- Lake Cobden – circumnavigating the lake
- Cobden Rail Trail – between Cobden-Terang Rd and Smiths Rd
- Camperdown Road Loop – Stirling St along Camperdown, Cemetery and Smiths roads.

While we already have a list of 50-plus subjects for our boards, we are looking for more ideas and input from interested people. Please contact Kelvin (0429 921 876) or Alma (5595 1162) to chat about the Cobden Story project.



## Business of the Month April/May

### CW ELECTRICAL PTY LTD



Nicholas Kemp (left), Matthew Coverdale, Chris Walsh and Thomas Leishman

**Business name:** CW Electrical Pty Ltd

**Ownership:** Chris and Brooke Walsh

**Management:** Chris (Managing Director) and Brooke (Office Manager)

**Business:** All electrical works including solar, security and data, seven days a week.

**Background:** Husband and wife team, Chris and Brooke established CW Electrical in 2006. Chris has worked in the electrical industry since he left school in 1993.

He completed his apprenticeship with local electrician David Dickinson. After 13 years with David and Lisa, when daughter Julia was born, Chris and Brooke opened CW Electrical. At first, the business operated out of a shed behind their Parrott Street home before graduating to a shopfront at 50 Victoria Street in 2014.

Matthew Coverdale, who was employed in 2008, and Tom Leishman (2009) are now A grade electricians, while apprentice Nicholas Kemp joined the firm in 2015. Under Brooke's watchful eye and the Positive Choice banner, Chris and his employees strive to provide prompt and quality service for all their clients.

#### What you might not know about CW Electrical and its staff . . .

- Chris and his employees – Matthew, Tom and Nicholas – all attended Cobden Technical School.
- Solar and LED displays are a feature of the Victoria St shopfront.
- The shop is open on Wednesday mornings or by appointment.
- Chris was inspired to become an electrician by his father, 'Plumber'.
- CW Electrical proudly sponsors Cobden Football Netball Club, Simpson Football Netball Club, Cobden Bowling Club, Cobden Cricket Club, Lismore Bowling Club and Cobden and District Kindergarten.
- All the firm's tradies are keen sportspeople – former footballer and cricketer Chris is president of Cobden Football Netball Club, Matthew plays volleyball and is president of the Cobden Swimming Club, Tom plays football and lawn bowls at Simpson and Nicholas is a bowler and footballer with Cobden.
- CW Electrical is a founding member of the Cobden Business Network.
- Chris and Brooke have four children – Julia 9, Edmund 8 and Leonard 6 who attend Cobden Primary School and Clement 4 at Cobden Kindergarten.
- Local solar installer call for quotes while government grants are still available.
- Provide a 7-day 24-hour on-call service to its valued customers and new clients.

**Business contact:** Chris Walsh 0418 529 997

**Email:** cw.electrical@bigpond.com