

Progressing Cobden Inc A0033175Y

ABN 77 963 102 154

All correspondence to:
P.O. Box 37
COBDEN Vic 3266

Chair: Ron Greagen
Secretary: Kelvin White
Treasurer: Frank Martin

MINUTES – Monday 8th April, 2024, Heytesbury Room, 7pm

PRESENT: Gary Kimber (phone), F Martin (phone), Ron Greagen, Ewen Robbins, Heather Walsh, Jennifer Kripp, Judith Gribble, Milton Parlour, Adam Higham, Bec Huth, Dana Wood, Aregawi Chivell, Kelvin White

APOLOGIES: Wendy Matheson, Frank Martin, Barb Cowley, Jo Beard, Ashley Ryan, Eunice Dawe

- 1. CONFIRMATION OF MARCH MINUTES:** Moved H Walsh/M Parlour CARRIED
- 2. FOR ACTION (from previous meeting, correspondence and reports)**

A. Melbourne Cup Tour

Gary Kimber's idea to invite the Melbourne Cup to come to Cobden during its pre-cup tour was discussed and thought to be worth trying for. He saw the town's connection with the former Racing Club, the Racecourse Reserve and the groups using the reserve so creatively as a positive in the application process.

Moved R Greagen/H Walsh that PC writes a letter of support for the application. CARRIED

B. Star Event

Tammy Young and Samantha Fox (Corangamite Shire) outlined the proposal regarding a Shire-led Cobden festival on some part of the weekend of May 18-19 involving many district groups, businesses and activities. Feedback and ideas were taken from nearly 30 people present. Details about a 'Star' theme, and who and what was already booked were shared. Further consultation with various organisations and council staff will take place before final decisions are made.

Update

Katy White (Corangamite Shire): "An action was to confirm if the proposed date of 18th May clashed with other events. Our team confirmed the CFNC has activities planned for that date, with the hotel already booked for dinner for the players and their families . . .

As such the decision has been made not to go ahead with an event on that date, as having two events on the same date would put attendance numbers at risk. As yet, we have not confirmed a reschedule date. However, in the future, we may look at an alternative event date."

The meeting discussed the Shire update. The feeling was PC would welcome being involved from the outset, not only regarding the date but also in planning the nature of the event. Happy to help where we can.

C. Geocaches

Some have been positioned around Cobden. PC decided to contact Mark Towner to seek an update.

D. Christmas on Apex (2023 Committee)

When the full financial result of Christmas-on-Apex 2023 is known (if a reasonable profit is forthcoming), a committee will be sought to embark on work on celebrating Cobden's festive season. No action yet.

E. Lake Cobden (Committee)

A meeting with the Acting Director Works and Services Jarrod Woff and Sports and Recreation Coordinator Jane Hinds was held on Tuesday 5th February. It was decided that a comprehensive list of issues would be collated by the committee members and sent on to the Shire whose representatives were responsive and looking to assist. As soon as a reply is received, a meeting of the core committee will be held to decide the next steps.

F. Free Camp (Reference Group):

The sealing of Bond St would reduce the dust issue for campers, residents and users of Circuite de Savage Has situation been discussed by Free Camp Reference Group? Not as yet.

Progressing Cobden will write a letter asking for Shire consideration of this request.

G. Friends of

In preparation for our AGM in August that PC considers setting up additional membership groups eg Friends of Lake Cobden, Friends of the Pioneer Park, Friends of the Historical Society . . . to be decided this meeting. Minimal fees of \$10 per friend. The meeting thought this concept was an excellent idea and will formally launch it at PC's AGM.

3. CORRESPONDENCE (from/to PC, CBN or any PC committee)

3.1 Inward correspondence: From . . .

- Ashley Ryan (new Shire Municipal Emergency Management Officer): Apology for April meeting. Available for May.
- Corangamite Shire E-News
- Great Ocean Road Regional Tourism (March): Do you want this forwarded to you?
- Cobden Story: Input for boards and communications with Shire, Public Records Office, Star Printing, GreenCon
- Rotary Club Newsletters
- Dan Tehan MP: Newsletter
- Social Media Workshop in Camperdown on March 14th (G Moorfield for Kellie Duynhoven from Corangamite Shire)
- Katy White (Corangamite Shire): Re Star event – see on page 1
- Bec Huth (via Barb Cowley): Availability of Are-able grants. Close April 12th. Discussed in General Business.
- Australian Government: Mobile Service Centre coming to Cobden on Thursday 18th April – 9am to 2.30pm near Community Bank. Will be distributed with minutes.
- Gary Kimber (Rotary Club): Polio awareness night on Thursday 18th April with two visiting fund-raising cyclists at 6pm
- Gary Kimber (Rotary Club): PC letter of support required towards grant for verandah/covered way at mini-golf park
- Gary Kimber (Rotary Club): Idea to invite Melbourne Cup tour to Cobden – see Action A, page 1

3.2 Outward correspondence: To . . .

- PC distribution list: March minutes
- PC distribution list: Social Media Workshop in Camperdown on March 14th (G Moorfield for Kellie Duynhoven)
- Corangamite Shire: Request for assistance to deal with graffiti on Camperdown Rd town entrance sign
- Corangamite Shire: Thanks for assistance with graffiti
- Cobden Story: To Public Records Office, Corangamite Shire, GreenCon and Star Printing
- Corangamite Shire: From Lake committee re needed precinct maintenance
- Rotary Club of Cobden: Letter of support for covered way at mini-golf facility.

Receipt of inward/endorsement of outward correspondence: Moved J Kripp/D Wood CARRIED

4. TREASURER'S REPORT (F Martin): FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 8th APRIL 2024

	Accounts	Total	
Progressing Cobden/CBN	\$27,860.55		
	\$973.40		Debit card account
	\$7,320.27		Investment account
	\$30,000.00		Term deposit
		\$66,154.22	
Pioneer Park	\$8,235.49		
		\$8,235.49	
Historical Society	\$12,430.00		
	\$0.00		Investment account - CLOSED
		\$12,430.00	
VIC 3266	\$733.53		
	\$4,781.02		Tyro EFTPOS account
TOTAL CASH POSITION		\$92,334.26	

TREASURER'S REPORT CONTINUED:

(i) FINANCIAL REPORT

The attached financial report shows our bank balances for all Progressing Cobden accounts. Overall, our financial situation is sound. Notably there has been some recovery of funds into the Historical Society account – of the original fraudulent withdrawals of \$4995 and \$8995 the bank has recovered \$4995 and \$4500. Bendigo Bank has advised that they are unable to recover the remaining \$4495.

(ii) SECURITY OF ACCOUNT TRANSACTIONS

In view of the recent fraudulent activity on bank accounts – particularly on the Historical Society account, but also on personal accounts for much larger amounts, and an attempted fraudulent withdrawal on a Rotary Club account, we need to introduce a more rigorous approval process on all Progressing Cobden accounts.

The process of fraudulent withdrawals has been characterised by the scammer impersonating the authorised signatory giving the withdrawal transaction the appearance of legitimacy, which in turn means that the second signatory believes the withdrawal is authorised correctly.

In order to guard against this, we need to ensure that ALL payments from any Progressing Cobden account are presented to a regular meeting of PC before they are approved. The person who will raise the payment (the first signatory) needs to provide justification for the payment (invoice or voucher of some sort) before the bank transaction is created so that the second signatory can be sure that it is legitimate. There must be no approval of payments because they “look right”.

Adoption of this process means that all account payments – PC/CBN, Historical Society, VIC, Pioneer Park – will need to be consolidated into a monthly report to the Progressing Cobden meeting.

(iii) GRANTS

(a) Past Grants

We have a number of Council grants from last year which need to be acquitted before we can be eligible for grants in the current round. These include Christmas on Apex and the Community Festivals grant which provided the funds for the November Fun Day and the Kidding Around event this week. To acquit these grants, copies of invoices with proof of payment for both events are needed by 15th April.

(b) New Grants

- We have applied for FRRR and Jones Foundation grants for the Historical Society over the past few weeks and are awaiting outcomes.
- Corangamite Council grants are now open – Festivals, Community, Facility and Berrybank. Closing date is 15th May. We need to decide whether we want to apply for any grants for PC and its subsidiaries and, if so, what for. Given the work required to prepare and submit applications we need to decide TONIGHT (8th April) what grants we would like to go for.
- Ready Now grants are also available, and there is about \$11000 of funds still available in this year's pool. Maximum is \$500 and there is no requirement to match the funding.

Report received on motion of F Martin/A Higham

CARRIED

5 OTHER REPORTS

- 5.1 **Cobden Technical School students (E Robbins, L Dobbins):** Rohan Keert appointed to new Warrnambool Technical School principal position. Narelle Holliday is acting principal from May. Plans are underway for the Anzac service on April 24th at 11am at Cobden cemetery. Hampden school upgrade was planned to start today. Inter-school sports were held pre-vacation.

Camperdown College students (D Wood, A Chivell): Raised funds for Beaufort fire victims. Purple day for epilepsy held on last day of term. Researching The Umbrella and LGBTQIA+ Month for future fundraisers. More than \$500 raised through the Indonesian Study Tour Bake Sale. Six Year 9 Leadership students completed their nine-week program and are now looking at restoring the school's cricket nets. Year 7 info evening on April 23rd. Indonesian trip at the end of June.

- 5.2 Racecourse Reserve (R Greagen):** Next meeting May 3rd
- 5.3 Pioneer Park (H Walsh):** Had a successful month. Last Sunday was our most successful open day. Open again yesterday. Paid \$80+ for repair of mower. Hope we get a grant to upgrade it and repair the barn wall.
- 5.4 Mini-Festivals & Events:** 'Kidding Around in Cobden' this coming Wednesday 10am-2pm at the Civic Hall. Volunteers needed.
- 5.5 Cobden & District Historical Society (J Kripp/J Gribble):** Have been kept busy with queries around family history research. Have changed the window at the old newsagency – building to Anzac to honour veterans of all wars since settlement. Worth a look. Our group was invited to Bob and Eunice Maskell's Cobden house to hear Bob talk about their families who settled there five generations ago. We have been promised the bass drum from the Cobden Pipe Band to add to our collection which we are very excited about. Two members attended the unveiling of the two war memorial boards in the Timboon Public Hall – 1914-18 and 1939-45 – on Saturday 6th April. We have been opening the hall during the school holidays each Sunday, not just the normal third Sunday of the month.

5.6 TWENTY 20 VISION ACTION GROUPS:

5.6.1 Tourism/Grand Tourism Plan:

- **Free camp on Golf Club land:** See Action F on page 1.
- **Dump Point (K White):** Pleasingly, nothing to report.
- **Cobden V.I.C. 3266 (H Walsh):** Going well from both perspectives – sales and service
- **Building Cobden's Tourism Capacity (K White):** Have all Shire permits for Cobden Story. Placement of stands has begun – eight already
- **Jo Beard's gig on 1134 3CS:** Every second Thursday morning at 7.40-ish. Please contact her with anything you would like promoted.

5.6.2 Town Appearance

- > **Streetscape (J Beard):** No further update as awaiting final components to occur, however new plants have been ordered to continue on with replanting of outstands as previously reported.
- **Lake Cobden (K White):** See Action E on page 1.
Signage: Current signage regarding Fonterra's significant work at Lake Cobden precinct to include contribution towards BBQ shelter.

5.6.3 Facilities, Infrastructure and Services (FIS)

- > **Cobden Aerodrome Community Asset Committee (J Beard):** Last meeting held Wednesday 3rd April. Members discussed ideas for tourist Information signage board, required directional signage for taxiway so visiting planes don't access HEMS transfer pad, fence replacement and repairs required near club rooms, aircraft parking area extension options and maintenance.
- > **Tandarook Park (J Beard):** Designs for the existing shelter to be upgraded and extended have been completed, quotes for furniture, painting, and BBQ have also been quoted and just awaiting a final costing for concrete. Replacement of front park entrance sign has been provided and will be completed – like-for-like, or new wording. Start works later in the financial year. Funding submission has been put forward for the path through Tiny Towns (2024/2025 financial year).
- > **Cobden Community Safety Team (J Beard):** Awaiting next meeting. Neighbourhood Watch passed on an inquiry as to whether the new organisation had a role in this group. Idea for local police to provide awareness training to community member/groups on online scams. Feedback is welcomed to Jo.

5.6.4 Volunteers and Organisations (VO): See 'Kidding Around in Cobden' – item 5.4

Also: A positive discussion regarding difficulty in finding volunteers arose out of the recruitment of 'Friends of' for our various committees and groups. The conversation swung to young people and how fortunate PC had been to find students from local schools willing to get involved with us. Best practice in how to recruit and communicate with potential volunteers was discussed.

5.6.5 Cobden Business Network (Cath Jenkins): See 'Kidding Around in Cobden' – item 5.4

6 CORANGAMITE SHIRE (J Beard):

Reminder that new purple lid bins will start rolling out for kerbside collection between 8th and 19th April. Put simply, your current red lid bin needs to be out to get lid replaced with a purple one. Your red lid will then be put onto a complete new bin at the same time. Best way to help the contractors with the new bins is put your red waste bin out as normal and leave out, even if emptied, do not bring back in until additional small bin provided and lids have been changed. This may take up to two weeks to complete. Any questions please call shire office.

EOI currently open to try and attract new provider to operate from Timboon Childcare, following recent announcement from Kardinia. In saying that, options for childcare facility in Cobden are still progressing, and a priority.

Newly appointed Works & Services Director Shaun Broadbent has commenced, as has Manager of Governance & Civic Support Chris Asenjo.

7 GENERAL BUSINESS:

Signage: Adam Higham raised the issue of the lack of signage around the rail trail area – difficult for walkers and riders to know how to navigate the trail through and out of town – or even into town to use facilities and businesses. Grant funding needed to provide this type of information.

Are-able: Bec Huth talked about grant money available for projects through her organisation for community groups, sporting clubs and not-for-profits to make a difference. Applications close on April 12th. More details are available from Bec or on the Are-Able website.

Town intersection: It was noted that the Peter St-Rix Avenue intersection is below-standard, particularly with more visitation to the lake area along Peter St, the bowling green along Rix Avenue and the Cobden Connection rotunda between the lake and Neylon St.

Grants: With opportunities for grants presenting, the meeting brainstormed ideas for application writing – pre-eminent were the Christmas event and decorations, the SWAP meet in November, a new mower and barn repair for the Pioneer Park, painting of the Cobden & District Historical Society hall, signage around the rail trail and various tourism projects – the use of numerous cows, milk cans and bicycles to encourage trail-users and tourists into town. An idea raised previously – the Cow on the Butterbox (akin to the Dog on the Tuckerbox at Gundagai) – was discussed at length and it was decided to revisit the concept at the next PC meeting and, then, at a Tourism committee meeting convened for that purpose.

8 CLOSE MEETING: 9.35pm

9 Next monthly meeting: May 6th – 7pm