

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 – Tuesday 6th February, 2024, Heytesbury Room, 7pm

PRESENT: Willoughby Perriss, Barb Cowley, Ron Greagen, Judith Gribble, Heather Walsh, Adam Higham, Jennifer Kripp, Eunice Dawe, Frank Martin, Kelvin White

APOLOGIES: Cath Jenkins, Jo Beard, Milton Parlour, Helen Smith

1. CONFIRMATION OF DECEMBER MINUTES: Moved A Higham/H Walsh **CARRIED**

2 FOR ACTION (from Correspondence and Reports)

A. RDV is currently running a **Tiny Towns grant program**. This program is for projects in towns with a population up to 5000 people so community enterprises/groups from all of Corangamite's towns are eligible to apply. The Tiny Towns program provides funding for community infrastructure projects including physical infrastructure and planning projects (eg feasibility plans) and community capacity building activities.

Grants between \$5,000 and \$50,000 are available for each project with applicants required to make a co-contribution to the project. Applications close on **25 February 2024**, and projects would need to be completed within 18 months of any grant agreement. Refer Tourism Plan?

ACTION: Moved B Cowley/H Walsh that PC investigates applying for a Tiny Town grant to produce a significant mural with a Cobden historical theme.

CARRIED

B. Cobden community projects (Willoughby Perriss)

Geocaches – Geocaching is a popular activity in that involves individuals and teams to search and locate hidden items or 'caches' in unique places. This activity provides active communities with a flow of new visitors (and paying customers to shopfronts) to the town. Participants engage by searching using an app where the location of the items are and are often drawn to new places to discover them. However, this activity is a niche as it is done in secret. The aim of geocaching is to locate the cache without arousing suspicion of public and those unaware of the activity (also known as muggles). Once located the participant marks their name in the logbook hidden in the geocache and returns it to its original position.

Globally there are more than 3 million geocaches hidden in 191 countries in a variety of locations including city, suburbia, rural and remote. Ranging from populated cities to isolated landmarks the activity invites travellers and adventure seekers. I only recently discovered the activity and instantly knew it could benefit tourism, hopefully you guys can see that too!

Benefits:

Brings passive tourism to towns.

Install caches in historical landmarks and town centre to bring people into town and to businesses.

Appeals to a unique but diverse audience of ages.

It is fun and exciting.

Gets people active and outside.

Notes

Monitor caches includes checking off logbooks and maintaining the cache' location.

\$60 annual account/shared or sole admin role.

*Cobden is one of the few towns in the south-west not participating. *

ACTION: Moved W Perriss/A Higham that Progressing Cobden enthusiastically supports this initiative.

CARRIED

Indigenous mural at school – Suggested last year that an indigenous art installation in the schools could provide a community project which would bring together a variety of groups and create ties with education and our areas' indigenous history. I was in contact with an indigenous artist last year. NO ACTION – Willoughby ultimately decided his energies would be directed towards the mural project as discussed in A above.

Starlight Superswim fundraiser – Willoughby will be swimming in this year's Superswim, aiming to swim 40km in February to raise funds for the Starlight Foundation. I've invited the community fitness centre to support me, and I have reached out to Fonterra for a possible contribution. If the PC page could support this fundraiser on Facebook that would be much appreciated.

ACTION: By consensus, PC committed to supporting Will and the Starlight fundraising program.

C Christmas on Apex (2023 Committee)

If the 2023 event realises a profit, the committee felt any funds could be used to purchase/construct Christmas decorations to bring some joy to our town in 2024. Also, that steps could be taken to try to recruit a new committee to lead this project over the next 12 months.

ACTION: The full financial result of Christmas-on-Apex won't be known until March but the meeting accepted the recommendation of the 2023 committee (if a reasonable profit is forthcoming).

D Lake Cobden (Committee)

ACTION: To achieve important maintenance within the lake precinct, Progressing Cobden should convene a meeting with representatives of Corangamite Shire, GreenCon (with R L Blake & Son) and the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority to plan a strategy around dealing with weeds and reeds primarily but also paying attention to the stagnant/shallow area adjacent to Neylon St.

Moved K White/B Cowley

CARRIED

E Free Camp (Reference Group)

To address the dust situation on Bond St near the Free Camp, Progressing Cobden should approach Corangamite Shire for advice and assistance –

ACTION: Cr Jo Beard wrote to PC explaining she has the Shire's works department scoping up the task of sealing Bond St through to Grayland St – and that she will work further on a business case to put up a budget bid.

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

3.1 Inward correspondence: From . . .

- Willoughby Perriss: Geocaching, Indigenous Mural, Starlight Superswim fundraiser
- Chelsea Hatherall: Wind-up of Phoenix Project – Deed of Agreement
- Frank Martin: Thanks for Jocelyn's tribute
- Katy McMahon (Corangamite Shire): Tiny Towns grant closes February 25th
- Award winners: Zaya Howard (CPS), Zoe Meade (HSS), Ryan Armistead (CTS)
- Corangamite Shire E-News
- Great Ocean Road Regional Tourism (December/January)
- Cobden Story: Input for boards and communications with Shire, Public Records Office, Star Printing, GreenCon
- Rotary Club Newsletters
- Dan Tehan MP: Newsletter
- James Green (GreenCon) re Lake Cobden
- Positive response from schools re sending representatives to PC

3.2 Outward correspondence: To . . .

- PC distribution list: December minutes
- Chelsea Hatherall: Wind-up of Phoenix Project – Deed of Agreement (F Martin)
- Christmas-on-Apex sponsors, supporters: Thanks for work and contributions
- Cobden Story: To Public Records Office, Corangamite Shire, GreenCon and Star Printing
- Frank Martin and family: Vale Jocelyn Martin
- Christmas-on-Apex publicity
- Local secondary schools: Invitations to attend Progressing Cobden meetings

Receipt of inward/endorsement of outward correspondence: F Martin/R Greagen

CARRIED

4	TREASURER'S REPORT (F Martin): FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JANUARY 2024 CASH SUMMARY	Moved F Martin/A Higham	CARRIED
	Accounts	Total	
Progressing Cobden/CBN	\$29,059.98		Savings account
	\$254.57		Debit card account
	\$7,305.73		Investment account
	\$30,000.00		Term deposit
		\$66,620.28	
Pioneer Park	\$8,235.49		Savings account
		\$8,235.49	
Historical Society	\$693.00		Savings account
	\$0.00		Investment account - CLOSED
		\$693.00	
VIC 3266	\$1,354.79		Savings account
	\$3,700.46		Tyro EFTPOS account
		<u>\$5,055.25</u>	
TOTAL CASH POSITION		\$80,604.02	

5 OTHER REPORTS

5.1 **CTS Students:** No report

5.2 **Racecourse Reserve (R Greagen):** Restoration Group was approached to go to Camperdown Show for the first time, Labour Day weekend looking big for all, not only those at Rally Park. Movie night not going ahead – equipment not available. Circuite de Savage lights being utilised. Good Sundays at trains with January being the best-ever January. New Year's Eve was really good. Mini golf also reported good participation, many private bookings and Rotary caravan has been sold so shed is housing other equipment. Kart Club hosting first round of Country Series Jan 2, 3 and 4 – this will see hundreds of participants and support people in attendance, lots of work being done up there recently. Still awaiting CFA's improvements to equipment container in quick-fill area. Cyprus trees along Hallyburton's Rd an issue if new hangars are to be constructed. More Tech involvement encouraged at meetings. Positive comments about Marilyn Kimber's social media work.

5.3 **Pioneer Park (H Walsh):** Had a successful opening on NYE. Opened Sunday of School holidays was also supported by patrons. About to start organising Swapmeet for Sunday November 17th.

5.4 **Mini-Festivals & Events: Cobden Christmas-on-Apex** – Thanks to all who supported this event on Sunday 17th December – attendees, major sponsors (Adams Bikes, Community Bank, Corangamite Shire, Hewitt and Whitty, GreenCon, Cobden Tools and Trailers, Duncan Morris, Cobden AB) minor sponsors, stallholders, entertainers, helpers, committee – see recommendation C on page 2.

5.5 **Cobden & District Historical Society (J Kripp/J Gribble):** Historical Society's pop-up displays in our hall are proving popular, we will continue with different themes. Changed the shop widow display. On-line site bringing in remarks from former residents and family history queries. Waiting for glass negatives to be processed in Melbourne. Found it successful opening over school holidays.

5.6 TWENTY 20 VISION ACTION GROUPS:

5.6.1 Tourism/Grand Tourism Plan:

- **Free camp on Golf Club land:** Trevor Gardner and Golf Club carried out clean-up work very promptly on request. New concern – dust created by traffic – see recommendation E on page 2
- **Dump Point (K White):** Users remain critical of grate across opening. Another blockage occurred on Sunday and was cleared yesterday by T S McQuinn & Son. Thanks Greg.
- **Cobden V.I.C. 3266 (J Dwyer):** Re-opened mid-January. Busy lead-up to Christmas.

- **Building Cobden's Tourism Capacity (K White):** Meeting Cobden Story deadline is a priority for people involved. Awaiting permits from Shire, hopefully early February. Cycle map of town should be seen as a priority – should link in with Cobden Story walks when established.

5.6.2 Town Appearance

- **Streetscape (J Beard):** Final stages not yet completed, including replanting of outstands and designated gopher parking still to be installed.
- **Lake Cobden (K White):** December 6th lake makeover again disappointing with only 6 or 7 attending. Need to settle on strategies to deal with future maintenance of lake precinct eg apportion areas to various organisations and/or businesses, (fund-raise to) pay for work, re-negotiate agreement with Shire, hold even more working bees or . . . immediate concerns are weeds on bank and reeds in water, and area beside Neylon St. A Cobden business has offered to assist to reign in the weed situation in the first instance – see recommendation D on page 2.

Cobden Scouts, via Secretary Lauren Wiseman have requested to plant low-maintenance natives on the top garden edge of 'Connie'. I said I would come to PC to see what funding, if any, was available to help with the purchase. Plants include Heart Leaf flame pea, Hairpin Banksia and Spiny Saltbush – Cr Jo Beard.

Signage: Discussion between Cr Beard and Fonterra about possible sign to be placed on south-facing wall of bbq shelter acknowledging Fonterra's contribution. Frank Martin to meet with Cr Beard regarding background behind the shelter and the wall added later-on – costings and works.

5.6.3 Facilities, Infrastructure and Services (FIS)

- **Cobden Aerodrome Community Asset Committee (J Beard/E Dawe):** Meeting on Feb 7. Car event on March 20 so airstrip closed. Committee discussion about landing fees taking place.
- **Tandarook Park (J Beard):** Still awaiting quotes for first stage of works where money allocated in current budget. This related to BBQ shelter, signage and general tidy up.
- **Tandarook House (J Beard):** No further updates. Contractors are on-site.
- **Cobden Community Safety Team (J Beard):** Awaiting next meeting once Sgt Jenkins back from leave.

5.6.4 Volunteers and Organisations (VO): Congratulations Chels Hatherall, Val Maynard, Joyce Roberts, Megan Pringuer and Phoenix Project for receiving Corangamite Shire Australia Day awards at Skipton.

5.6.5 Cobden Business Network (Cath Jenkins): CBN welcomes new members: CBS Cooking and Travel Managers Tanya Campbell. Planning is underway for the year ahead and looking at sourcing some funding to ensure project/ programs can continue in 2024/25.

6 Digital Media Group/Marketing:

- (i) Podcast production (Cobden – Now We're Talking): NA
- (ii) Cobden Media Opportunities sub-committee: No report

7 Corangamite Shire (J Beard): Boundary Road will now be getting full sealing done, rather than gravel shoulders. This is due to safety and increased traffic use. This will be done this budget. Jarrod Woff is Acting Director of Works & Services as role is advertised after Brooke Love took up new position at Warrnambool.

8 Cobden's Indigenous Heritage (K White): No report

9 Any other GENERAL BUSINESS:

Representatives from three Cobden/Camperdown secondary schools have been invited to attend PC meetings to report on school activities and participate in discussion on Cobden district issues. An encouraging response at this stage. Hopefully, we will have an influx at our March meeting.

Neighbourhood Watch group holding a community event at Tandarook Park on March 3rd

10 CLOSE MEETING:

11 Next monthly meeting: 7pm, Monday 4th March 2024