

Progressing Cobden Inc A0033175Y

ABN 77 963 102 154

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

Chair: Barbara Cowley
Secretary: Kelvin White
Treasurer: Frank Martin

AGENDA – Monday 6th May, 2024, Heytesbury Room, 7pm

PRESENT: Eunice Dawe, Heather Walsh, Jennifer Kripp, Judith Gribble, Wendey Matheson, Barbara Cowley, Lenny Dobbins, Aregawi Chivell, Jo Beard, Bec Huth, Milton Parlour, Ashley Ryan, Kelvin White

GUEST: Ashley Ryan (Corangamite Shire Municipal Emergency Management Officer) – see General Business

APOLOGIES: Frank Martin, Ron Greagen, Catherine Jenkins (CBN), Helen Smith, Ewen Robbins, Dana Wood

1. CONFIRMATION OF APRIL MINUTES: Moved H Walsh/W Matheson **CARRIED**

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

2.1 Inward correspondence: From . . .

- Jane Hinds (Corangamite Shire): Postponement of Racecourse Reserve meeting
- Jarrod Woff (Corangamite Shire): Notice of above meeting on May 15th
- Cobden Story: To Public Records Office, GreenCon and Star Printing
- Dean Finlayson (Corangamite Shire): Tandarook Park signage
- David Faraday (Dept of Jobs, Skills, Industry & Regions): Re Digital Jobs Business Information session on May 1st
- Wendy Williamson (Corangamite Shire): PC's public liability certificate of currency please
- Consumer Affairs Victoria: New reporting requirements for incorporated associations
- Kathryn Stubbings: Information about 'Kidding Around Cobden'
- What's Happening at Fonterra? newsletter

2.2 Outward correspondence: To . . .

- PC distribution list: April minutes and Information about 'Kidding Around Cobden'
- Cobden Story: To Public Records Office, GreenCon and Star Printing
- Dean Finlayson (Corangamite Shire): Tandarook Park signage
- CBN: David Faraday session – see above
- Frank Martin: Wendy Williamson's request – see above

Receipt of inward/endorsement of outward correspondence: Moved E Dawe/M Parlour **CARRIED**

3. TREASURER'S REPORT (F Martin): FINANCIAL POSITION AT 4th May – see attached

(i) FINANCIAL REPORT

The attached financial report shows our bank balances for all Progressing Cobden accounts. Overall, our financial situation is sound. Of special note is that we now are acting as trustee of the Cobden Airstrip Fund-raising Committee funds since the committee has ceased to exist. \$23555.35 of funds has been transferred into our account during the past month. Progressing Cobden Inc will need to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Airstrip Committee to formalise this arrangement.

No further progress has been made with Bendigo Bank in recovering the fraudulently withdrawn funds belonging to the Historical Society despite replying to their letter and further phone calls.

(ii) AIRSTRIP FUND-RAISING COMMITTEE FUNDS

As noted above, Progressing Cobden needs to enter into an MoU to formalise funds management for the committee. **RECOMMENDATION:** That the MoU as presented be executed by Progressing Cobden Inc and forwarded to the other parties to sign. Moved E Dawe/H Walsh **CARRIED**

(iii) SECURITY OF ACCOUNT TRANSACTIONS

The process of tightening up on our payment approvals continues to develop. Further information will be provided to the June meeting.

(iv) 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. The process of acquittal is in hand and will be completed by the Council deadline.
- b. New Grants**
- i. We have applied for FRRR and Jones Foundation grants for the Historical Society over the past few weeks and are awaiting outcomes.
 - ii. Further applications on behalf of the Historical Society have been lodged with Wannan Water “Ripple Effect” and with Are-able.
 - iii. Corangamite Council grants are now open. Closing date is 13th May. Four grants are being proposed as follows:
 1. A Berrybank Project grant application has been lodged for major exterior refurbishment of the old Chocolyn Hall, home of the Historical Society.
 2. A Community Grant application will be lodged for Christmas on Apex on behalf of Progressing Cobden.
 3. An application is being prepared by Misty Angus on behalf of the Pioneer Park committee. She has had discussions with the Council Events co-ordinator – it is not yet clear under which grant category this application will be lodged.
 4. An application is being considered for the Kidding Around school holiday program and the organisers are looking at having this auspiced by a third party other than Progressing Cobden. Information is awaited on progress with this application.
 - iv. 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.
- Treasurer’s report received on the motion of F Martin (in absentia)/L Dobbins **CARRIED**

4. OTHER REPORTS

4.1 Cobden Technical School students (L Dobbins):

1. ANZAC Memorial Service: We recently participated in the ANZAC memorial service at the cemetery, where 100 flags were raised as a symbol of reverence and commemoration. About 50 citizens, with representatives from both Hampden SS and the Technical school, attended.

2. Senior Luncheon: On Thursday, we had the pleasure of treating 42 seniors to a lunch, skilfully prepared by our students. The menu featured delicious lasagna and trifle, which received glowing reviews from our guests. These events involve us in the community and help us to get to know locals, which is great for all.

3. Sports Achievements: Heartfelt congratulations to our boys' netball teams on their recent success! Advancing to the next level in both intermediate and seniors, the teams continue to train during lunchtimes.

4. Interschool Cross Country: Today marks the interschool cross country event in Camperdown. While results are yet to be announced, we congratulate all students who successfully made it to this level.

5. Education Week – Open morning: Wednesday 15th May

The community is invited to visit us during Education week – school tours at 9.45 am and whole school morning tea at 10.50am. Please come along and see what’s happening at the Tech.

Camperdown College students (A Chivell):

- Senior Campus Live Performance of Mona ON SALE NOW.
- Over 100 students attended YR 7 Information Evening.
- School Captains delivered speeches and laid a wreath with many families in attendance
- Students have progressed onto Regional Cross Country after successful runs on Monday 6th.
- SRC raised money for Anzac appeal through selling biscuits and badges.

4.2 Racecourse Reserve (R Greagen): Next meeting May 15th

4.3 Pioneer Park (H Walsh): Patrons still coming. Volunteers keep Park looking terrific. Many thanks to our small numbers for the time they put into maintenance. Dray donated to Park by Thow family. Thanks.

4.4 Mini-Festivals & Events: ‘Kidding Around in Cobden’. Congratulations on another successful event.

4.5 Cobden & District Historical Society (J Kripp/J Gribble): Our group hosted Cobden Rotary to a dinner in the hall – a pleasant evening. Family history queries are still being dealt with, and our membership list is growing. Our account scam is still being discussed with the Bendigo Bank. We had a former factory worker visit and we recorded his memories. The Anzac display in the hall proved very popular, and our members attended the Cobden Anzac Day service on the 25th and laid a wreath.

4.6 TWENTY 20 VISION ACTION GROUPS:

4.6.1 Tourism/Grand Tourism Plan:

- **Free camp on Golf Club land:** Letter written re Bond St dust problem. W Matheson reported the camp was being used constantly, there are very few nights without occupants. Sometimes a tight fit – some lines needed to maximise capacity. Wikicamp reviews have been fantastic. Golf club has benefited immensely, as have other businesses in town.
- **Dump Point (K White):** Another hiccup shortly after last month’s meeting. Okay since, touch wood!
- **Cobden V.I.C. 3266 (W Matheson):** Mothers’ Day promotion in raffle happening, all building maintenance is being carried out by our volunteers – a list is being maintained, Emily Whiteside is doing pet portraits at the centre on the first Friday of every month, many thanks to Cliff Cobbledick for repairing blind, many tourists visiting looking for pamphlets etc, Justice of the Peace attending centre on Tuesday mornings, Long morning tea being held on June 4th with the help of Jenny Bongers.
- **Building Cobden’s Tourism Capacity (K White):** Still about 35 to mount on frames and walls.
- **Jo Beard’s gig on 106.3:** Every second Thursday morning at 7.40-ish. Please contact her with anything you would like promoted.
- **Signage required in Rail Trail precinct to get users into town:** Referred to PC Tourism committee which will be re-convening shortly
- **Geocaching progress:** Report from Mark Towner (Rotary Club) may provide up-to-date information

4.6.2 Town Appearance

- > **Streetscape (J Beard):** Final works are progressing – to be completed by end of June. Local contractor was engaged to design concept for feature seats at main roundabout corners, and has the job – super-exciting and unique. Garden outstands are also awaiting replanting, line-marking for designated gopher parking still to be completed, bike stands to be reinstalled along with a new bin surround near Reichas.
- > **Lake Cobden (K White):** A comprehensive list of issues needing attention has been 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 decide the next steps. Jo Beard to follow up with Jarrod Woff at Shire.

4.6.3 Facilities, Infrastructure and Services (FIS)

- > **Cobden Aerodrome Community Asset Committee (E Dawe, J Beard):** Large cypress tree removed from near clubrooms. Next meeting on June 5th.
- > **Tandarook Park (J Beard):** Meeting today discussed content on new big sign to be erected as part of rejuvenation. Also works about to begin on the upgrading of the BBQ shelter area.
- > **Cobden Community Safety Team (J Beard):** Next meeting currently being organised. PC members discussed Good Sam app <https://www.ambulance.vic.gov.au/goodsam/> and how the Safety Team could drive its promotion and how it benefits community. Plus a defibrillator location map for Cobden which Jo has already raised this as a potential project with Rotary. Online scam awareness was also discussed.

4.6.4 Volunteers and Organisations (VO): No specific report.

4.6.5 Cobden Business Network (Cath Jenkins):

- >Welcome to new members: Are-able, Cobden Health and Thommo’s Hotel.
- >Monthly dinners are occurring every 4th Wednesday of the month at Thommo’s Hotel from 6:30pm. These are to encourage networking and an opportunity for business updates
- >We are conducting an online survey - all those businesses interested in participating, please click on the link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VHZMVWL>

>The meeting was told that businesses have noted that many employees are parking on Curdie St making it difficult for customers to get to shops and services. Could the CBN follow this up please?

5. CORANGAMITE SHIRE (J Beard):

Purple-lidded glass bin roll-out still underway. Reminder to leave red bins out until 5pm on collection day until changeover has occurred.

Council elections in October – ‘Stand for Council’ info sessions in Warrnambool on Thursday 27th June.

<https://www.corangamite.vic.gov.au/Council/News-and-Media/Latest-News/Passionate-locals-encouraged-to-stand-for-council>

The Shire is also preparing an Agricultural Strategy: The Grow Corangamite: Sustaining our Agricultural Future, and feedback is sought please. Drop-in information sessions available and closest to local residents is at Simpson Recreation Reserve on Thursday 15th May, 10am to 1pm.

<https://www.corangamite.vic.gov.au/Council/Have-Your-Say/Grow-Corangamite-Sustaining-our-agricultural-future>

An increase in timber plantations has prompted Corangamite Shire Council to also weigh up the effect on valuable agricultural land. Community also invited to please take the time to read the following and also provide feedback.

<https://www.corangamite.vic.gov.au/Council/News-and-Media/Latest-News/Council-seeks-community-input-on-timber-plantations>

6. GENERAL BUSINESS:

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. Jo Beard will follow up.

Cow on the Butter-box (or similar): Various tourism projects were raised at the April meeting – 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 raised again. A Tourism sub-committee meeting on these topics will be convened in the next weeks.

Progressing Cobden’s statement of purpose: Bec Huth asked if PC had documents concerning its purpose as an organisation. Members discussed historical aspects of how and why it took its present form. Efforts will be made to locate relevant information. This could lead to a review of PC and its membership. The important role of younger people was emphasised.

Tatty flags: It was noted that the flags hoisted on the poles opposite the Cobden Roadhouse were in need of attention or replacement.

Presentation: Corangamite Shire’s Municipal Emergency Management Officer Ashley Ryan explained his important community engagement role as follows. . .

“Colleague Kate Felsovary and I both work in the Emergency Management Team coordinated by Belinda Bennett. Our community-facing part of the role is to work with townships around preparedness for adverse events, at the household level and the town level. I look after Cobden, Timboon and Lismore.

The team also provides 24/7 on-call service as per the state emergency management arrangements. Seasonally we do fire prevention inspections across the Shire and work with landowners to reduce risk when unplanned fires occur.

When the Cobden Safety Group meets, I will attend to listen to where things are at for community level planning and to discuss ways Corangamite Shire Council can facilitate household preparedness.”

7. CLOSE MEETING: 9.10pm

8. Next monthly meeting: June 3rd 2024

