

# 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

## MINUTES – Monday 3rd June, 2024, Heytesbury Room, 7pm

**PRESENT:** Milton Parlour, Frank Martin, Eunice Dawe, Heather Walsh, Wendy Matheson, Cath Jenkins, Barb Cowley, Aregawi Chivell, Dana Wood, Adam Higham, Kelvin White

**APOLOGIES:** Judith Gribble, Jennifer Kripp, Ron Greagen, Jo Beard

1. **CONFIRMATION OF MAY MINUTES:** Moved W Matheson/F Martin CARRIED

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

### 2.1 Inward correspondence: From . . .

- Kellie Duynhoven (Corangamite Shire Eco Development): Newsletter and upcoming events
- Corangamite Shire: Re Cobden Development Forum, Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June, Civic Hall 6.30-8pm
- Narelle Holliday (Cobden TS): Notice of Education Week and Open Day
- Heather Petrie: Congratulations to Cobden Story team
- Dean Finlayson/Jo Beard (Corangamite Shire): Tandarook Park signage
- Alex Sinnott (Weekly Times): Fonterra diversification strategy and request for PC/CBN photo
- Ashley Ryan (Corangamite Shire): Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC)  
Two community members wanted – see details 4.6.3
- Chelsea Hatherall, David Noy, Alan Hart, Robert Irvine, David Spedding: Contributions to Tourism Committee
- South West Community Foundation: Grant for Cobden & District Historical Society
- are-able Foundation Community: \$2598 grant for Cobden & District Historical Society
- Volunteering Victoria Awards: See details 4.6.4
- Dan Tehan MHR: Wannon Newsletter
- Corangamite Shire: Response to Bond St seal request – for Free Camp/Circuite de Savage users. Not this year.

### 2.2 Outward correspondence: To . . .

- Australian Financial Complaints Authority re Historical Society Bendigo Bank account scam
- Public Records Office – finalisation of paperwork for Cobden Story
- Dean Finlayson/Jo Beard (Corangamite Shire): Tandarook Park signage
- Corangamite Shire: Request to seal Bond St to lessen dust for Free Camp and Circuite de Savage users
- Progressing Cobden DL: Minutes etc and support for CTS Education Week/Open Day
- Progressing Cobden DL: Tourism committee agenda and papers

Receipt of inward/endorsement of outward correspondence: Moved C Jenkins/H Walsh CARRIED

## 3. TREASURER'S REPORT (F Martin):

### (i) FINANCIAL REPORT

I have reached the point where both a **Balance Sheet and P&L to 31 May 2024** are again available.

In summary our **bank balances and cash assets total \$112,019.99** with minimal liabilities. This is a healthy position, even though it includes \$23,555 of Airstrip Funds.

There is still a substantial expenditure to occur on the Story Board project with GreenCon to be paid for a considerable amount of work in setting up frames around Cobden.

Notably, we are now in a position with CBN where no significant grant funds remain to be expended – all government and other external grants for the Business and Economic Development project have been fully acquitted. CBN still has a handy pool of funds to continue working on Cobden's economic development.

Our Profit and Loss Report shows a higher level of activity across a number of our business elements as detailed on page 2 –

**Administration Operating Account** – we are in surplus of \$1960, almost solely due to a maturing Term Deposit. This will roll over into an at-call Trust Account which requires ratification . . .

Moved C Jenkins/W Matheson that it be invested in a 90-day-at-call account.

CARRIED

**Our Festivals (Sunday Funday, Kidding Around and Christmas on Apex)** better than broke-even with an overall surplus of around \$800.

**Phoenix Project** has been closed out, transferring into private NFP management of Alderwood Manor.

**Cobden VIC 3266** has operated at a small deficit so far this year of around \$2600, although \$1900 of this is expenditure which was fully funded in 2022-23. Sales have been 30% higher than last year which is a plus, however maintenance and equipment have been higher than expected.

**CBN** has also operated at a deficit of around \$9100. This relates to funds being spent which were derived in 2022-23. An operating balance of around \$25,000 remains for CBN activities.

**Cobden Pioneer Park** has an operating surplus in excess of \$3900 for the year – largely due to a greater level of activity recognised through donations and grants.

**Similarly, Cobden & District Historical Society** has achieved a greater level of activity and support. Donations and memberships are growing every month and grants of over \$21,000 have been received to support the activities of the Society. The Society has an operating surplus of \$13,200 for the year to date. During the month, because no further progress had been made with Bendigo Bank in recovering the fraudulently withdrawn funds belonging to the Historical Society, the matter was referred to the Australian Financial Complaints Authority (AFCA) for resolution. To date, the Bank has again refused any further action on our complaint and AFCA has appointed a case manager to continue the discussions with the Bank.

#### (ii) **AIRSTRIP FUND-RAISING COMMITTEE FUNDS**

As endorsed at our last meeting, Progressing Cobden needs to enter into an MoU to formalise funds management for the Committee. Other arrangements are in place, including a redirection of Ritchies Community Benefits to the Airstrip Funds held by us.

#### (iii) **GRANTS**

a. **Past Grants** – all Council grants from 2022-23 have been successfully acquitted.

##### b. **New Grants**

- i. We have applied for a FRRR (Gardiner Foundation) grant for the Historical Society. The Society has been invited to a Gardiner Foundation event on 17<sup>th</sup> June, so we are hopeful of good news.
- ii. We also applied successfully to the Jones Foundation grants and received \$3000 towards a \$6000+ project.
- iii. Further applications on behalf of the Historical Society have been lodged with Wannon Water “Ripple Effect” and an answer is awaited.
- iv. An application to Are-able Foundation was successful for a grant of \$2598 for adjustable furniture.
- v. Corangamite Council grants closed on 13<sup>th</sup> May. Four grants were 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 has been 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. I am not able to report anything further.
  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. I have no further information on this application.
- vi. Ready Now grants are also available, and about \$11000 is still available in this year’s pool. Maximum is \$500 and there is no requirement to match the funding. Surprisingly, there were no applications submitted to the May Council meeting.

Treasurer’s Report received on motion of F Martin/M Parlour.

CARRIED

## 4. **OTHER REPORTS**

### 4.1 **Cobden Technical School students (L Dobbins/E Robbins):** No report

**Camperdown College students (A Chivell/D Wood):** Busy few weeks on the sporting front – intermediate netball, Tri-sports involving local primary schools with years 9/10 umpiring soccer, football and netball and our soccer team made it to the next level. One primary and two secondary students will be running in the State-level cross-country competition.

National Reconciliation Week was celebrated with activities on the anniversary of National Sorry Day, survivor story from the Stolen Generation, anniversary of the 1967 Referendum, Torres Strait Islander Flag Day, Mabo day and Native Title.

Staff participated in Morning Tea for Culture.

Our second transition taster is scheduled for Thursday – Science and Robotics.

Education Week with author-in-residence Alice Pung and a visit from Jordan Gould (author Wylah) Junior campus – emphasis on STEM with families visiting, demonstrations and lunch-time activities.

Tickets on sale for ‘Moana Jnr’ – see website and contact office

**4.2 Racecourse Reserve:** Awaiting minutes from meeting on May 15<sup>th</sup>

**4.3 Pioneer Park (H Walsh): Good numbers coming through** – Fonterra field services last week, M Angus successful in gaining a \$1500 grant from Dan Tehan’s office last week. Park will continue to run as usual in winter months including the school holiday Sundays.

**4.4 Mini-Festivals & Events:** Mostly covered in the Treasurer’s Report.

**4.5 Cobden & District Historical Society (J Krripp/J Gribble):** No report but obviously still very active.

**4.6 TWENTY 20 VISION ACTION GROUPS:**

**4.6.1 Tourism/Grand Tourism Plan:**

- **Tourism Committee:** Reconvened on May 28<sup>th</sup> – see report attached. Enthusiasm apparent, emphasis on signage, particularly off rail-trail into town. Sandra Timmins brought our attention to the Rail Trail Australia grants. We decided to join that organization to make us eligible for these grants. Frank Martin to discuss with Andrew Stubbings who has volunteered to do some rail-trail signage planning work. Note change of date for the next meeting – now Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June due to Cobden Development Forum on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> – note change of date.
- **Free camp on Golf Club land:** Information sign at western end to be moved closer to entrance gate. Area is still being used nightly. Perhaps a sign off Grayland St would be beneficial to users?
- **Cobden V.I.C. 3266 (W Matheson):** Sales steady, plenty of visitors coming in for maps, Juli Dwyer is retiring at the end of June. Thanks Juli for all your work over eight or nine years. Wendy has volunteered to co-ordinate the centre with the support of all on the committee. Thanks Wendy.
- **Building Cobden’s Tourism Capacity (K White):** Cobden Story – about 25 to mount on frames/walls. Pamphlet(s) being prepared for those who wish to follow the storyboard trails.
- **Jo Beard’s gig on 106.3:** Every second Thursday morning at 7.40-ish. Cobden Story to be featured next. A session on Cobdenhealth was suggested as a worthy topic for the popular segment.

**4.6.2 Town Appearance**

- **Streetscape (J Beard):** No report
- **Lake Cobden (F Martin):** Shire’s Parks and Gardens looking at our submission. Re water-side, the CCMA not being co-operative. Land-side, hopefully work will begin the replanting of the street is completed.

**4.6.3 Facilities, Infrastructure and Services (FIS)**

- **Cobden Aerodrome Community Asset Committee (E Dawe, J Beard):** Meeting on June 5<sup>th</sup>. No further update on fence that needs repairing. All required phone numbers have been collected for the notice board. A lady collapsed just recently and four ambulances including a paramedic ambulance were called to the airport from where she was taken to Geelong.
- **Tandarook Park (J Beard):** No report but work is progressing
- **Cobden Community Safety Team (J Beard):** The Corangamite Shire Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC) is seeking expressions of interest to fill two community member places. Go to [MEMPC Expression of Interest - Corangamite Shire](#), the closing date is Sunday 30 June 2024. For further information, people can contact Ashley Ryan ([ashley.ryan@corangamite.vic.gov.au](mailto:ashley.ryan@corangamite.vic.gov.au), 0418 331479 or Kate Felsovary on 03 5593 7100.

#### 4.6.4 Volunteers and Organisations (VO):

Showcasing excellence by individuals and organisations, the Awards are run by Volunteering Victoria with the support of the Victorian Government. Nominations close July 22<sup>nd</sup>. It was suggested that the Cobden Story project could be entered into the Volunteering Partnerships section of the Organisation awards. Kelvin White to investigate. There are online information sessions – see at end of minutes.

#### 4.6.5 Cobden Business Network (Cath Jenkins):

- Monthly dinner held on 22nd May with approximately 15 people in attendance. With an update from Cobdenhealth.
- Next monthly dinner scheduled for June 26th with Corangamite Shire to provide an update and discussion around small business.
- Looking for ideas around programs and guest speakers we can have at dinners and events.
- Encouraging business community to attend the Cobden Development Forum on 19th June.
- We are conducting an online survey - all those businesses interested in participating, please click on the link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VHZMVWL>

#### 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 27<sup>th</sup> June.

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

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>

**All reports received on the motion of D Wood/A Chivell**

**CARRIED**

#### 6. GENERAL BUSINESS:

**Peter St-Rix Avenue intersection (J Beard):** No report but has been looked at.

**Progressing Cobden’s statement of purpose:** At our May meeting, 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. The important role of younger people was emphasised. F Martin brought a copy of the PC Rules of Association. This could lead to a review of PC and its membership

**Tatty flags (M Parlour):** Mr Dan Tehan’s office has informed us we cannot have any more flags this financial Year but we are booked in for next year – meanwhile the Technical School is trying to repair them. The shire has repaired the median strip pole outside the supermarket. We need to start on grants to buy new banners for Curdie St – Christmas and Shop Local.

7. **CLOSE MEETING:** 8.45pm

8. **Next monthly meeting:** July 1st 2024

See next page . . .



# The Volunteering Awards

**Nominations** **OPEN**

The Volunteering Awards are an opportunity to recognise and thank Victorian volunteers for the incredible contributions they make to our state and local communities. Showcasing excellence by individuals and organisations, the Awards are run by Volunteering Victoria with the support of the Victorian State Government.

**There are eight categories open to nominations:**

## **Individual Awards:**

- Young Volunteer
- Volunteer Commitment
- Volunteer Leadership
- Volunteer Impact

## **Organisation Awards:**

- Inclusive Volunteering
- Volunteering Partnerships
- Volunteering Innovation
- Grassroots Volunteering

The Volunteer of the Year, the **Dame Elisabeth Murdoch Award**, will be selected from outstanding candidates in the individual volunteer categories. The winner will also receive a \$10,000 donation to a not-for-profit organisation of their choice.

The Volunteer-Involving Organisation of the Year, the **Volunteering Excellence Award**, will be selected from outstanding candidates in the organisation categories.

Finalists will be invited to attend a special Awards Ceremony in early 2025.

## **Nominate today!**

For further information and to submit a nomination, please follow the link below.

Nominations close **Monday 22 July 2023 at 5pm**.

If you have questions or are needing support in submitting a nomination, Volunteering Victoria will be holding online information sessions:

- **Wednesday 5 June**, 2pm - 2:45pm
- **Tuesday 11 June**, 1pm - 1:45pm
- **Wednesday 25 June**, 2pm - 2:45pm
- **Tuesday 2 July**, 1.30pm - 2:15pm

Register on the Volunteering Victoria [website](#), via the link above.