

Progressing Cobden Inc A0033175Y

ABN 77 963 102 154

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

Chair: Bec Huth
Secretary: Kelvin White
Treasurer: Frank Martin

MINUTES – Monday 2nd September, 2024, Heytesbury Room, 7pm

PRESENT: Andrew Stubbings, Helen Smith, Bec Huth, Dana Wood, Aregawi Chivell, Frank Martin, Milton Parlour, Ron Greagen, Adam Higham, Colin Kerr, Delia Kerr, Kelvin White

APOLOGIES: Pat Robertson, Heather Walsh, Barbara Cowley, Haydn and Sharron Howard, Wendy Matheson, Cath Jenkins, Jo Beard, Ewan Robbins

The usual August PC meeting date was taken up with a REVIEW of Progressing Cobden led by facilitator Adam Jenkins. More than 40 people attended and provided feedback from which recommendations were drawn for discussion at tonight's meeting.

The process to follow up the REVIEW was discussed by tonight's meeting – see General Business.

1. **CONFIRMATION OF JULY MINUTES:** Moved F Martin/R Greagen Carried

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

2.1 Inward correspondence: From . . .

- Adam Jenkins: Tiny Town grant round. Up to \$50,000, closes October 23rd 2024
- Rotary Club of Cobden: Unlimited mini-golf and Lego – Racecourse Reserve – 1.30pm to 3.30pm, September 25th
- Great Ocean Road Tourism: Deloitte is conducting a survey of tourism businesses
- Cobden Rotary Newsletters
- Public Records Office: Community History Awards open – they close October 2nd 2024
- Adam Jenkins: Data from PC Review with recommendations
- 1st Cobden Scout Group's 2024 Annual Awards & Presentation Night.
- Corangamite Shire E-News
- Dan Tehan Newsletter
- Corangamite Shire: Christmas grant of \$1000
- Business Corangamite
- Volunteer Victoria: Thanks for entering Partnership section (Cobden Story)
- Fonterra: What's happening at Fonterra?
- VicHealth: Victoria Walks

2.2 Outward correspondence: To . . .

- Aaron Moyne: PC request for support for signage along Princes Highway
- Various media releases regarding PC Review
- Various media releases regarding Are-able grant to Historical Society
- Invitations to PC Review
- Adam Jenkins: Planning for PC Review
- Garry Moorfield: Planning for PC Review
- David Spedding, Jo Beard: Re inquiries about east-west strip at aerodrome
- PC: 1st Cobden Scout Group's 2024 Annual Awards & Presentation Night.
- PC: Review notes from Adam Jenkins with recommendations

Receipt of inward/endorsement of outward correspondence: Moved A Higham/R Greagen Carried

3. TREASURER'S REPORT (F Martin):

1. FINANCIAL REPORT

Up to July 31st, our bank balances and cash assets total \$120,957.30 with Net Assets of \$118,838.25. The value of cash holdings in trust for the Airstrip is \$23,586.

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.

Our Profit and Loss Report for the first month of the 2024-25 financial year shows a Net Surplus of \$7788, with the following levels of activity –

Administration Operating Account – we are in surplus of \$642.

Cobden VIC 3266 has operated at a surplus of \$1697.

CBN has also operated at a surplus of \$1317.

Cobden Pioneer Park has broken even for the month.

Similarly, Cobden & District Historical Society has received its FRRR grant of \$4121. During the month, the Australian Financial Complaints Authority (AFCA) has been asked for an update on progress with our claim. To date, the Bank has refused any further action on our complaint and AFCA has appointed a case manager to continue the discussions with the Bank.

2. MEMBERSHIP

For the current financial year (one month) we have 25 memberships of both CBN and Progressing Cobden.

3. GRANTS

a. New Grants

i. We were successful with our application for a FRRR (Gardiner Foundation) grant for the Historical Society.

ii. Corangamite Council grants closed on May 13th. 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. This was unsuccessful.

2. A Community Grant application has been lodged for Christmas on Apex on behalf of Progressing Cobden. This was successful.

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.

4. INSURANCE

As of August 29th, I have been advised that our Underwriter (LCIS) may be unable to provide Public Liability insurance to cover the Free Camp due to their insurer (QBE) deciding to pull out of insurance for camping activities. This is under discussion, but I have initiated discussions with another NFP underwriter, AON, to see what they are able to provide.

Moved F Martin/A Chivell

Carried

4. OTHER REPORTS

4.1 Cobden Technical School students (L Dobbins/E Robbins): No report
Camperdown College students (D Wood/A Chivell):

4.2 Racecourse Reserve (R Greagen): Next meeting is October 16th 2024. PC's tourism group has encouraged the committee of management to examine ways to have applications 'ready to go' when grant opportunities present – the main aim of which is to increase the general capacity of the great facilities and groups involved at the Reserve.

4.3 Pioneer Park (H Walsh): Still getting patrons coming through. SWAP Meet arrangements are happening. Sue is worried it will be wet for it. Cheers from hot Darwin.

4.4 Mini-Festivals & Events: Rotary Club of Cobden: Unlimited mini-golf and Lego – Racecourse Res – 1.30pm to 3.30pm, September 25th

4.5 Cobden & District Historical Society (D Kerr/C Kerr): Back room has been refurbished. Social media posts continue to receive positive feedback.

4.6 TWENTY 20 VISION ACTION GROUPS:

4.6.1 Tourism/Grand Tourism Plan:

- **Tourism Committee:** Emphasis on signage, particularly off rail-trail into town at Bond St. F Martin has submitted grant application to Rail Trails Australia. Approach to shire has been made as well.
- **Free camp on Golf Club land:** See Insurance under Treasure's Report

- **Cobden V.I.C. 3266 (W Matheson):** Sales have been consistent with this time of the year. Volunteers have stepped up with extra days, while some are away. Many thanks to them for holding the fort. Government contractor upgraded our downlights, free of charge. Thanks to F Martin for arranging.
- **Building Cobden's Tourism Capacity (K White):** Cobden Story – two boards to mount. Strong winds have tested the boards with one casualty – half of heading on scoreboard.
- **Community History Awards (Public Records Office):** Closes October 2nd. Submit Cobden Story project.

4.6.2 Town Appearance

- **Lake Cobden (M Parlour):** Council has sprayed weeds at the lake precinct. B Huth reported the are-able organisation has people who could provide valuable assistance to projects like this.
- **Median strip poles and flags: (M Parlour):** Decision made to apply to the Community Bank for funding to replace tatty flags. Also to check organisations/businesses that might be looking for promotion.

4.6.3 Facilities, Infrastructure and Services (FIS)

- **Cobden Aerodrome Community Asset Committee (E Dawe, J Beard):** Two community spots on the committee are vacant and being advertised. AGM on October 1st.
- **Tandarook Park (J Beard):** New footpath project not underway yet but work has started on the barbeque area as per Master Plan.
- **Cobden Community Safety Team (J Beard):** A new Corangamite Shire Safety Team is being established on the back of Cobden's successful model.

4.6.4 Volunteers and Organisations (VO):

Our Cobden Story partnership nomination has been submitted for Volunteering Victoria award.

4.6.5 Cobden Business Network (C Jenkins):

- Cobden Retailers very happy with the Winter Warmers event held in late July. Thanks to all those businesses involved and for the local community for their support
- Next Retail event will be Christmas late night shopping from 21st November. Retailers will be organising Christmas decorations for their own windows, including Christmas trees. More updates will be provided as the date gets closer.
- Several CBN members attended the Corangamite Shire Business Breakfast in Terang last week, and heard from renowned retail consultant Martin Ginnane
- Our last monthly dinner (last week) was well-attended with different types of businesses in attendance. Jo Beard gave an update on the progress of the Cobden Structure plan, including an update on a proposal for a Childcare Facility to be developed.

5. CORANGAMITE SHIRE (J Beard):

- Upcoming Council elections info. Nominations are from Mon 9th Sept until Midday Tues 17th September. Caretaker begins Tuesday 17th Sept – Election Day on Saturday 26th September.
- Continue to follow social media for various events.

All reports were received on the motion of A Stubbings/A Chivell

Carried

6. GENERAL BUSINESS:

Tiny Town grant round. Up to \$50,000 available, closes October 23rd 2024. Check our previous submission re mural in town centre and consider other options.

PC revitalisation/review: Much discussion took place about the best way to take the process from here. After considering the recommendations drawn from the Review data, it was decided to distribute PC's Rules of Association (Constitution) for the consideration of all. These may need re-writing or just tweaking. Are there by-laws that can be written to complement the PC constitution and accurately reflect current and new best practices? Communication with PC's market is always an issue –so more ideas on this topic are welcome as well. Those who attended the Review and any other interested people are encouraged to attend our October meeting to assist in finalising this process.

7. **Close meeting:** 10.15pm

8. **Next meeting:** Monday 7th October 2024