

# Progressing Cobden Inc A0033175Y

ABN 77 963 102 154

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

Chair: Milton Parlour  
Secretary: Kelvin White  
Treasurer: Frank Martin

## MINUTES – Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2024, Heytesbury Room, 7pm

**PRESENT:** Milton Parlour, Aregawi Chivell, Helen Smith, Cath Jenkins, Jo Beard, Barb Cowley, Andrew Stubbings, Kathryn Stubbings, Frank Martin, Brian O'Shannessy, Misty Angus, Denise Robertson, Heather Walsh, Delia Kerr, Eunie Dawe, Donna Edge, Colin Kerr, Sharron Howard, Haydn Howard, Kelvin White.

**APOLOGIES:** Ron Greagen, Sandra Timmins, Bec Huth, Dana Wood, Betty McCormack, Adam Higham, Wendy Matheson

1. **CONFIRMATION OF SEPTEMBER MINUTES:** Moved D Kerr/F Martin CARRIED

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

### 2.1 Inward correspondence: From . . .

- Cobden Rotary Newsletters
- Support letters (D Kerr, J Beard) and collage (B Cowley) for Community History Award
- Corangamite Shire E-News
- Dan Tehan Newsletter
- Business Corangamite
- Great Ocean Road Regional Tourism
- Historical Society: Invitation to launch of William Orton Negative Collection on October 6<sup>th</sup>
- CBN letter to PC re Review
- Camperdown Courthouse Info Centre – coming to Cobden in February to learn about district offerings
- Rail Trails Australia Committee – grant application re signage has been successful - \$1093 for two signs

### 2.2 Outward correspondence: To . . .

- Various media releases regarding PC Review
- Membership notices
- Public Records Office: Community History Award entry
- PC members: Invitation to launch of William Orton Negative Collection at Historical Society on October 6th
- PC Distribution List: Coming up in Cobden summaries

Receipt of inward/endorsement of outward correspondence: K Stubbings/H Smith CARRIED

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

### (i) FINANCIAL REPORT

Up to 30<sup>th</sup> September, our **bank balances and cash assets total \$115,010.21** with **Net Assets of approximately \$90,000**. The value of cash holdings in trust for the Airstrip is \$23,616. Reduction in Net Assets is significantly due to \$21,150 to be paid to GreenCon for expenditure on Cobden Story.

Our **Profit and Loss Report** for the first quarter of the 2024-25 financial year shows a **Net Surplus of \$2416**, with the following levels of activity. Allocations and transfers have yet to be made for some costs (notably insurance) so precise levels are not available at the time of reporting –

**Administration Operating Account** is in deficit.

**Cobden VIC 3266** has operated at a small surplus.

**CBN** has also operated at a surplus.

**Cobden Pioneer Park** is in surplus due to grant monies received and not yet expended.

**Similarly, Cobden & District Historical Society** has operated at a small surplus. A response has been received from the Australian Financial Complaints Authority (AFCA). They advise that they now believe no further funds should be forthcoming from the Bank.

Current bank account balances at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024 are –

Dairy Park Cheque Account	10,552.64
PC CBN Account	18,412.00
Prog Cobden Cheque Account	34,028.98
Debit Card Account	992.47
Prog Cobden Investment Account	7,344.79
PC V.I.C. 3266 Account	768.22
PC Sandhurst Managed Fund	30,074.35
PC Historical Soc Account	7,631.17
VIC Cash Drawer	200.00
Tyro EFTPOS Holding Account	5,626.87

**(ii) MEMBERSHIP**

For the current financial year (three months) we have 55 memberships of both CBN and Progressing Cobden and 4 members of Progressing Cobden only.

**(iii) GRANTS**

We were successful with our application to Rail Trails Australia for a small grant for signage to assist rail trail users to navigate their way into Cobden. A grant application has been submitted on behalf of the CDHS to the Community Bank to digitalise the Cobden Times and its predecessors.

**(iv) INSURANCE**

Further to my last report, I can now confirm we have been able to extend our Public Liability insurance cover without any variation to the Free Camp activities.

**(v) NFP SELF-REVIEW**

Moved that we adopt and submit the NFP Self-review results. F Martin/K Stubbings CARRIED

Moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. F Martin/A Chivell CARRIED

## **4. OTHER REPORTS**

**4.1 Cobden Technical School students:** No report

**Camperdown College students (A Chivell):** From a young person's perspective, Ari is pleased about the Review work being carried out for the future of Progressing Cobden.

**4.2 Racecourse Reserve (R Greagen):** Next meeting is October 16<sup>th</sup> 2024. PC's tourism group is encouraging 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. Thoughts to be submitted in writing so they can be included on Racecourse Reserve meeting agenda.

**4.3 Pioneer Park (H Walsh):** Stepping up planning for SWAPMeet happening on November 17<sup>th</sup>. Been open for school holidays with plenty of patronage – despite being very wet underfoot.

**4.4 Mini-Festivals & Events:** Christmas-on-Apex or similar. To be looked at next meeting.

**4.5 Cobden & District Historical Society (D Kerr/C Kerr):** Launch of 47 Orton negatives yesterday attracted 25 people including Lynette Blake (Ortin) and Leigh Blake. Alan Hart presented life memberships to Jennifer Kripp, Judith Gribble and Elizabeth Wilson.

**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 submitted successful grant application to Rail Trails Australia. Approach to shire has been made as well.
- **Free camp on Golf Club land:** Insurance – see Treasurer's Report
- **Cobden V.I.C. 3266:** See correspondence – Camperdown Courthouse sending ambassadors to Cobden in February to see what the area has to offer. Cobden V.I. C. to coordinate visit.

- **Building Cobden's Tourism Capacity (K White):** Cobden Story – two boards to mount – CPS and Running Rail. Strong winds have tested the boards with one casualty – half of heading on scoreboard and Golf Club. B O'Shannessy from SWDRG helping with access to running rail site.
- **Community History Awards (Public Records Office):** Submitted Cobden Story project. Thanks to D Kerr (CDHS) and J Beard for letters of support, also B Cowley for collage.

#### 4.6.2 Town Appearance

- **Lake Cobden (M Parlour):** Council's weed spray is working. Meeting with Council's Jane Hinds at lake this Wednesday at 10am. 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 to apply to the Community Bank for funding to replace tatty flags. Also to check organisations/businesses that might be looking for promotion. Should poles be re-located to avoid trucks backing into them?

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

- **Tandarook Park (J Beard):** ) Upgrades to BBQ shelter commenced, old park sign has been replaced with fancy new one, and other stage works awaiting to begin, specifically the new pedestrian paths inside the park as per Master Plan.
- **Cobden Community Safety Team (J Beard):** Successful awarding of the Blue Ribbon, Spirit of Sport medals and overall winners presented at both Cobden FNC and Simpson FNC. New Corangamite Ambulance PCSC (Paramedic Community Support Coordinator) Nelly Joseph has hit the ground running. Great get for our area and is already committed to getting to know as many locals as possible and strengthening the response of our area. Nelly is up to speed on the potential co-location hub project with SES. Next Safety Team meeting will be held in coming month or two.
- **Cobden Aerodrome Community Asset Committee (E Dawe, J Beard):** AGM took was on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Committee elected David Roberts (Community rep) as chair, and Brad Paton (Industry/CFA rep) as deputy. Recommendation from committee to remove a Cobden Health rep from TOR due to that position not being as relevant as it was previous years. This will reduce the total number of members required to eight. The committee is still in search of filling a vacant Community member position. Another round of advertising to occur after no nomination was received the first round. Request for PC to also review their commitment whilst TOR was reviewed. Waiting on quotes to repair fence near clubhouse. Has been a while coming.

**4.6.4 Volunteers and Organisations (VO):** Corangamite Shire community awards open until Oct 25<sup>th</sup>.

#### 4.6.5 Cobden Business Network (C Jenkins/H Smith):

Membership steady. Annual auto renewals working well. Monthly dinner meetings at the hotel are successful. Looking out for grants to support extra activities. Next retail event will be Christmas late night shopping on 21st November. Perhaps a longer time frame? Retailers will be organising Christmas decorations for their own windows, including Christmas trees.

## 5. CORANGAMITE SHIRE (J Beard):

Council in caretaker mode since Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September – Tandarook Ward contested, ballot pack posted out as of 7<sup>th</sup> October (Postal Voting Only) and Election Day on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October. FREE Youth Lifeguard and First Aid training on offer, limited spots but school students should check out ASAP. Introduction for residents to Library eResources and Tech Help drop-in sessions at Cobden Library on Wed 16<sup>th</sup> October. Council officers in process of preparing application to Planning Minister for the amendment process for Grow Corangamite: 'Sustaining Our Agriculture Future'. This will most likely now occur start of New Year. Thanks to all who contributed to this process thus far. Nominations now open for 2025 Community Awards, noms close 5pm Oct 28, and award recipients announced Camperdown Theatre Royal on Jan 26<sup>th</sup>. Kerbside GREEN bin collection now weekly until Jan 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

All reports received on motion of B Cowley/E Dawe.

CARRIED

## 6. GENERAL BUSINESS:

**Podcast equipment:** K White looking for opportunities to make best use of this technology maybe with news scripts and schools. Ideas welcome. M Angus suggested the Primary School leadership group could be involved.

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

**PC revitalisation/review: From correspondence:** CBN letter re review.

It was decided last meeting 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? After further positive discussion, a working group of seven – **Haydn and Sharryn Howard, Misty Angus, Cath Jenkins, Cath Stubbings, Delia Kerr and Frank Martin** – volunteered to look at PC's prime governance document and re-draft and tweak next Monday night – after taking into account the review's raw data. A short statement of purpose for Progressing Cobden and terms of reference for PC's sub-committees were also seen as likely and useful outcomes of the group's deliberations. It was pleasing to see a good number of people who attended the review also at tonight's meeting.

**Newsheet:** Heather Walsh reported that Betty McCormack had offered to do a regular short newsletter for distribution to local residents. Betty's contact details: 0428 280250. It would be available from Cobdenns@outlook.com and also, perhaps for a 20 cent donation at IGA, the Information Centre and the Pharmacy.

**Fishing event:** Local angling clubs coming together at Lake Bullen Merri this Sunday. Free entry for some great prizes sponsored by Victoria Fisheries.

7. **Close meeting:** 8.58pm

8. **Next meeting – the AGM followed by a quick General Meeting  
7pm, Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024**