



Corop News

"The Call of the Broilga"

Issue No. 15 August 2005.

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CCAG Update AGM

The Corop Community Action Group continues to grow, evolve and develop, with official membership now at 17. At the Annual General Meeting held in June, previous incumbents in the positions of President, Secretary and Treasurer all vacated their positions.

Bob Bartlett has been President of the CCAG since its formation, nearly five years ago, providing strong and active leadership for the group. His local knowledge has been invaluable and his ability to 'get the job done' legendary.

Ian Clark has also held the position of Secretary since the group's formation in 2000. Ian has also provided strong and clear leadership for the group. His energy and ability to turn his hand to many things has been much appreciated. In particular, Ian single-handedly did most of the renovations work to the Corop Tennis and Community Centre, including tiling the toilets, painting all the interior of the clubrooms and with the help of Alan Edwards, restoring the beautiful Kauri-pine long table in the clubrooms.



Pat Kennedy, Ian Clark & Bob Bartlett

Needless to say, both Ian and Bob have been very active participants in the numerous projects and working bees in Corop. Their extensive contributions have been very much appreciated.

Pat Kennedy has been in the role of treasurer for approximately three years. Pat has provided very detailed accounts of the CCAG's finances at the monthly meetings. So talented is she that we are all in awe at the array of figures presented on the spreadsheet in front of us each month. However, Pat reassures us that it all makes bookkeeping sense! Thanks Pat for your dedication and patience.

We welcome into the new positions Clem Furphy as President, Bob Bartlett as Vice-President and Bill Fell as Treasurer. The role of Secretary will be shared by Carmel Pearson, Jo Fell and Katrina Hall. Congratulations to all the new executive and we wish you success in your roles.

CCAG always welcomes new members. In particular, we wish to welcome Paul Stewart who has recently joined the group. For further information about the group, contact: Carmel Pearson 5484 8205, Jo Fell 5484 8131 or Katrina Hall 5484 8101.



We're on the Web!

Corop Community Action Group now has its own website! Three of the CCAG members attended an online training program held at Rochester Library in June with a follow-up session in mid-July. This program was run specifically for members of local community groups to enable them to establish a website and to have a presence on the internet. Our online address is <http://mc2.vicnet.net.au/home/coropcag/web/index.html>

The site is a "work in progress" and has a facility for input of ideas from anyone who is interested – all suggestions gratefully received!

It also has a link to the Corop Cemetery Trust. The training program was provided by the Victorian Government and VICNET.



Community Plan

Corop is on the waiting list to start the process of community consultation with the Shire of Campaspe with the view to developing a community plan.

As you may have already heard, many other towns throughout the Shire have already come on board. The response has been so successful that Community Development Officer Marie Q has been struggling to keep up with the demand. Marie is currently waiting to hear whether more funding has been approved to allow the Shire to continue this process with other interested communities throughout the Shire.

The benefit of participating in the Community Plan process is that it encourages input from all sectors of the community, allowing everyone to have a voice and to identify the issues that are most important in Corop. From this a committee is formed and an action plan that sets very clear goals, priorities and time-frames is developed.

The community plan is formed in conjunction with the Shire with key stakeholders identified. The Shire has a copy of each community's plan and everyone is clear about the community's priorities and goals. It should help streamline processes with the Shire and help mobilize resources more efficiently.

At this stage, Marie Q is hopeful that Corop will be able to begin the "community plan" process within the next couple of months. We encourage everyone to have input into this process that will be facilitated by the Shire. It's a chance to have your say and put forward ideas about your vision for the future and development of Corop.

Working Bee

The last CCAG working bee held on the 21st May had a good turn-out with two groups, one working on the walking track, the other on the north side of the highway.

Twenty-three people attended the working bee in the morning. One group worked on tidying up the garden beds and replanting shrubs along the highway in Corop (a big job!), while the other group installed a fence and gate along the start of the walking track (where the degazetting of the road reserve has finally been passed) and installed posts etc to mark out the car parking area.



Finally the end of the road

Thanks for everyone's efforts on the day; the roadside in Corop now looks much more presentable and the walking track is closer to completion.

We are waiting to hear confirmation from Gerard Shead at the Shire of Campaspe (Parks and Gardens) as to whether Corop has been allocated funding to help maintain the town. It would certainly be a fantastic step forward and help lighten the workload of CCAG members.



Andrew & Carmel Pearson replanting on highway

Corop Cemetery Trust

On Saturday the 6th of August, a group of ten willing workers added around 400 trees, shrubs, native flowers, etc to the under-storey in the cemetery's "back paddock."

Plants were provided by Andrew Pearson and types included: Drooping She-Oak, Gold-Dust Wattle, Black Anther Flax-Lily, Slender Goodenia and box trees.

It was fantastic that Mrs Joyce Speers was present to regale the group with stories from the past during rest times. A BBQ lunch was enjoyed and work continued until four.

Thank you to Neil Lucas for coming down from Queensland for the planting. Thankfully, Neil managed to fit in some other activities during his stay.



Neil Lucas, Di Speers and Geoff Speer

The trust is developing its own web site in conjunction with the CCAG and has magnificent photos of native flowers and plants that can be found at the cemetery.

Cellar Door Opening

Gerry and Geraldine McHarg, of Lake Cooper Estate, are very busy preparing for the opening of their Cellar Door on October 16th. The vineyard, winery and cellar door will be hard to miss on the Midland Highway, on the hill above Corop, especially when all plans come to fruition.



Geraldine and Gerry McHarg

The day promises to be a large one on the social calendar for several reasons; with an expected crowd of five hundred, the magnitude is one not often seen in the district.

For a \$10 entry fee, a commemorative glass is yours for several wine-tastings. The 2004 range of reds such as shiraz, merlot, cabernet will be available for tasting and the first release of Lake Cooper Estate chardonnay is sure to be a winner. Beer and soft drinks will be available.

An enjoyable day is guaranteed for the whole family. Free activities for children include face painting, a jumping castle, a clown and much more. Musicians have been engaged to play in the new rotunda and a variety of food will be available to complement the fine wines.



Corop Drought-Buster Dinner Dance

A very successful dinner-dance was held by the Corop Community Action Group, on Saturday the 21st May, at Camp Curumbene near Lake Cooper. Approximately 70 guests attended the evening and by all accounts had a thoroughly enjoyable time, eating a hearty hot meal and dancing the night away until 12.30 a.m. to the Vince Ryan Band.

The Corop Drought-Buster Dinner Dance began at 6.30 pm with guests greeted at the door and welcomed to a blazing log fire to relax and mingle as other guests arrived. Gourmet plates of savouries were prepared by Denise Acocks and placed on each table. The delicious hot meal prepared by Jim and Joan Tanner of Elmore and family was served at 7.30 pm. This consisted of the choice of two roast meats, an array of hot vegies including chat potatoes with sour cream and a selection of breads. Dessert consisted of a selection of pavlovas, trifle, fruit salad and icecream. The meal was nicely finished off with the provision of tea, coffee, slices and after-dinner mints also provided by the caterers.

The CCAG feels that this was extremely good value for money and very efficiently handled by the caterers. It also freed up the CCAG members to mingle and socialise with the crowd and allowed them to enjoy the evening without being tied up in the kitchen all night.

The local band from the Elmore district played a great variety of music that certainly pleased the audience. The dance floor was well used all night. It was especially jam-packed with the Pride of Erin dance. This demonstrated that people in our area were particularly appreciative of the chance to attend a dance with a live band without having to travel to Echuca, Shepparton or Bendigo.

It was evident that people obviously enjoyed the opportunity to socialise with their family, neighbours and friends.

Some concern was expressed about the cost of the event, especially for families. We are aware that the event did not cater for families with younger children. We have taken this feedback on board and will certainly take it into consideration when planning future events. However, we accept that not all events are going to suit everybody.

The CCAG did not make any profit from running this event. We merely covered costs and did this in an expeditious way. There was much donated and in-kind work – special thanks must go to Roz and Ian Clark at Camp Curumbene for providing their venue and equipment.

Thanks must also go to Tim and Debbi Orr of Ormon Hill vineyard for generously donating nine bottles of wine for a raffle on the night, raising over \$200.

The night's entertainment also included a surprise auction by Ian Clark where the goods in question were unknown to the audience. Bob Bartlett tried to steal the show, bringing in Clark's family pets to auction. There was much mischievous banter and laughter throughout the auction. As the bidding rose to \$50 Ian decided he had better close the deal, accepting his wife's bid when Bob Bartlett was thrown in as part of the prize! Roz Clark, the lucky winner, discovered she had bought their four roosters that Ian was desperate to part with! Oh well, next stop for the roosters will be the Girgarre Market chook auction!

CCAG wishes to thank the Social Drought Recovery Committee for providing \$500 in support of this event and to all those who attended, supported and contributed to the event.



The Road from Corop to Rushworth

Continuing our series on sights to see in the local area, especially if looking for somewhere to go for a Sunday drive or to take visitors. This edition we head south-east from Corop through the wetlands and on to Rushworth.

We start in Corop at the newly erected town shelter with its splendid new picnic benches and seats and head east along the Midland Highway towards Shepparton. After driving for about 3kms, we turn right into Darrigans Road, just before the turnoff to Green's Lake. Depending on the season, you may see brolgas within the first few kilometres along this stretch of road. About 1.3kms from the highway, Camp Currumbene appears on the right. The camp is run by Ian and Roz Clark for School Camps and Group Holidays and backs onto the dry bed of Lake Cooper. Further along we come to Skewbridge Road, which is an alternative access to the Lake Cooper walking track and has a great view across the lake to the Mt Camel Range. A further 6kms on, the landscape changes slightly as we approach Gaynors Swamp, a State Game Reserve and a bird watcher's wonderland (when it has water in it). The swamp covers a huge area. Continue to follow this road alongside the swamp, with a dog-leg taking you into Weppner Road. A short time later, we turn right into Clarkes Bridge Road and then left into Osment Road. As you head down this road, looking carefully to the right, it is possible to catch glimpses of the Colbinabbin Homestead through the trees (see photo elsewhere in this newsletter).

Finally, we reach the Bendigo – Murchison Road just to the east of Colbinabbin township and turn left towards Rushworth. Further on at the corner of Groves Weir Road on the right hand side, we see one of the historical markers, part of the Colbinabbin Historical Plaque Trail. This particular plaque depicts one of the sites of the Wanalta State School, now just a quiet farm paddock. For more information on this Trail, contact the Colbinabbin Store for a brochure. Further along, just after Harvey Road on the left hand side is another historical plaque pointing out the now derelict Wanalta Hotel and Post Office. The Post Office was established at the Hotel in 1879 and only closed in 1980. Ghosts of the past surely inhabit this place.



The Old Wanalta Hotel and Post Office

Further along the road we at last come to the town of Rushworth, population 1000. Rushworth is an historical town. The Information Centre is found in the newly refurbished Old Courthouse further up the hill at the top of the main street. This is open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 11am until 3pm and is chock full of interesting information, photographs and brochures about the town and the surrounding areas. The old Shire Hall a little way down the

hill has also recently been renovated. The streetscape presents lovely old buildings and shop fronts most of which have remained unchanged from a bygone era. We had lunch at The Rushworth Provender, tasting a delicious assortment of dips with warm Turkish bread and coffee. The Provender, run by April English and Andrew Parker also gives wine tastings and sells wines from all around Australia. April and Andrew plan to set up a pizza place out the back of The Provender in the courtyard. Add to this the wine, food and the occasional live jazz nights - which they have now - and the place will be buzzing! The Rushworth Provender is open from Thursday to Sunday from about 11am till late.



The Rushworth Provender

The Possum Walk is another attraction in Rushworth, held on the first weekend of each month. All manner of enjoyments are offered on these nights, including gourmet food, wine and entertainment at the Provender; history walks and ghost tours in the street; acts such as opera singing by the Buskin Tuscan; Blues music at the Rushworth Hotel after 9 pm; local art gallery displays including sculptures and photography. For enquiries phone: 5856 1731.

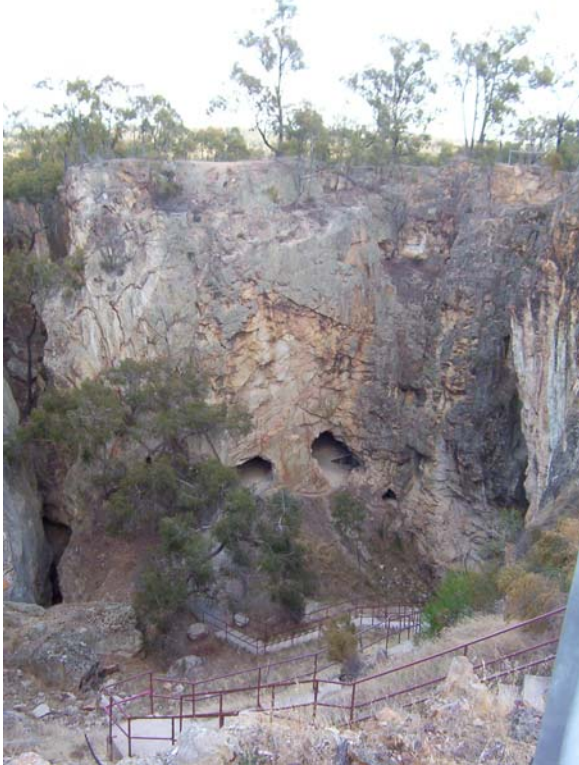
Other inviting stops in the town include the Nuggety Hill Antiques Shop which is full to the brim with items you never knew you needed; Fossickers Gallery run by Elizabeth Finch, with many works of art painted by local artists; and Gallery L'Uccello with sculptures and artworks created by the prolific local artist Angie Russi and photographs, calendars and cards made by Soc Hedditch.



Part of Rushworth's picturesque streetscape

After a casual stroll along the main street, we drive up to the Lookout, which - after climbing the many steps - affords a great view of the town and the surrounding area, including the vast Waranga Basin. More information regarding the Basin and the many internment camps built around it during the war can be found at the Information Centre in town. From here, we drive back to the main street and out the other side of Rushworth towards Whroo and the Balaclava Mine.

Whroo is included in The Gold and Ironbark Trail and the name is thought to have come from the native word *wooroo*, meaning lips. The enormous amount of gold found at Balaclava Mine saw Whroo develop from a village to a township but afterwards, as gold discovery declined, Whroo became a ghost town. Now there is nothing left but the diggings, which can be seen all through the towering ironbark trees along the road, and the deep Balaclava mine with its tunnels disappearing into the precipitous rock walls. There is also the Whroo Miners Retreat information centre, the Aboriginal rock well, the remains of the puddling machines and the quiet solitude of the old cemetery with graves dating back to the middle of 1800. Be sure to stop and read the many signposts of the Gold and Ironbark Trail to discover and relive the history through personal accounts of the people who lived and worked in the area at the time.



The Balaclava Mine

Coming out of Whroo, we turn left to follow the road to Nagambie for a couple of kilometres and then right into Tait Hamilton Road. We follow this road all the way back to the Heathcote – Rochester Road, stopping just across the Cornella Creek for a bit of afternoon tea and a lovely vista of huge gums and a paddock full of grazing cockatoos. The landscape changes from forest to blond grass paddocks along the way and opens up a long view of the Mt Camel Range and Mt Burrumboot. For a slight diversion along the way, we turn into Plain Road then Cornella Church Road and stop to have a look at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Eventually we drive out onto the main road just west of Colbinabbin and make our way back to Corop along the Heathcote – Rochester Road and the Midland Highway.

CLAPIC (Cornella Local Area Plan) Update

The Mission Statement of the Plan is to establish a sustainable sound environment by identifying and overcoming land and water management problems through community action.

Current Works Program Status along the Cornella Creek

The waterways sections of the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority have commenced earth and rock works at several strategically identified sites along the Cornella Creek at Lady's Pass. Several rock chutes and silt traps will help to slow down water flows and limit the amount of silt that is lost from this site. These remedial measures will help to limit erosion and the amount of silt being deposited at the other end of the catchment in Lake Cooper.



Erosion in the Cornella Creek catchment 15' deep

Incentives available

Landholders along the Cornella Catchment are eligible for a variety of environmental incentive grants for work such as tree planting, direct seeding, fencing, dryland Lucerne, and Farm Forestry. Many environmental repair works have been completed over the last 20 years within the Cornella catchment.



This photo shows an area that did have similar erosion problems to that of other parts of the Cornella Creek catchment area (above).

Landholder, Roger Kemp of Pook Road, has achieved this remarkable renewal through erosion work and a clear revegetation plan.

We can only keep working towards the future health of the Cornella Creek and Lake Cooper

Neighbours working together

The Cornella Local Area Plan is helping to co-ordinate these works with the generous co-operation of enthusiastic landholders and the various government agencies. These landholders and agencies have a vision to create a more sustainable environment in which to live and to leave for their children.

Local Contacts

John Hicks Lady's Pass 54 33 2246; John Avard, Colbinabbin 54 32 9215; Tait Hamilton, Cornella/Corop 54 848206;

Andrew Pearson, Corop 54 84 8113 / 0407092851 (Local Area Plan Co-ordinator).

They sure are fertile soils in Corop

Les and Maria Butt were amazed when their Corop vegetable plot sprouted two enormous pumpkins. Nickee Freeman is pictured checking out the size and contemplating many hearty meals to come.



Criminal damage is NOT acceptable

The following article was supplied by: Marlow Hillman, Youth Project Officer, Crime Stoppers Victoria

At Crime Stoppers Victoria, we are currently fighting the ever-growing problem of criminal damage with our new educational material, which aims to educate the community on what criminal damage is, how to prevent it and what to do if you see this crime being committed.

Criminal damage can range from vandalism to graffiti to simply breaking branches off a new tree. These crimes are common in most communities and need to be recognised and prevented. The people who commit these crimes have NO sense of community pride or respect for property, which is extremely disappointing.



www.crimestoppers.com.au

In order to prevent and detect such crimes, people need to be aware of activities that occur in their area. If a new bus shelter is erected, individuals should note this and ensure that it is not vandalised in any way. If you do notice that a particular area has sustained criminal damage, discuss it with other members of the community and try to identify who might have been in the area at the time. The incident should be reported to police for investigation. If you do have any information on this criminal activity, you should report it to your local police station or call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000, where you do not have to leave your name.

Anything that exists in a public area is there for the entire community and visitors to enjoy; the pleasure we take in picnics, playing sports or going for a run should not be dampened by criminal damage.

Hope for this cropping season

As we drive around the district it is very heartening to see healthy crops. With a great start – if not a little late – to the season, there is much quiet optimism regarding a better year for most farmers.

Unfortunately, the situation for irrigators on some systems is not looking so promising at this stage but hopefully that will soon be remedied.

Gobarup Players

The local theatre group, Gobarup Players have commenced rehearsals for their next performance. Under the direction of Clem Furphy the talented group will present “Opportunity Knocks”, a musical comedy by Judith Pryor.

Set in an opportunity shop, the hilarious antics of those running the shop combined with a variety of clientele will amuse audiences around the region.

Watch for further information about what will be a great night out from community groups regarding tickets, venues and show-times closer to November.

Australian Grown

The recent protest by Tasmanian farmers against multi-national corporations in Australia not using Australian products, stopped in Corop.

The convoy of tractors has driven through Tasmania, Victoria and New South Wales and created much publicity rumbling through the streets of Melbourne, Sydney and Canberra.

Quite a crowd gathered in Corop to support the cause and the convoy stopped at the store to chat with the locals about the difficulties faced by farming communities such as ours.



Part of the protest convoy

The Corop Cup

Keep the 1st of November free for the third running of the highly prestigious Corop Cup. It would appear that the Melbourne Cup may also be run on this day but a strong field of local talent will assemble for the glory of the Corop Cup.



This newsletter was compiled by Carmel Pearson, Jo Fell, Pat Kennedy, Bill Barkla and Katrina Hall. Graphics are provided courtesy of Jo Fell and Katherine Weeks. Thanks to everyone who contributed articles and photos and to the Rochester Secondary College for its ongoing support in reproducing this newsletter.

Contributions or enquiries should be forwarded to: kenagri@mcmedia.com.au Corop News, c/- Stevens St, Corop 3559 or PH: (03) 5484205

Times Change

Through our constant quest for local history, we came across the following article that we hope that you too find amusing.

Excerpt from "*The Elmore Standard*", Saturday, September 18, 1920.

HOUSEWIVES' FEDERATION

"Sisters Whitham & Jennings at Elmore There was a moderate attendance only of ladies and men at the Athenaeum Hall on Wednesday night, when Sister A. A. Whitham, president of Housewives' Federation, and an excellent speaker, delivered an address on the aims and objects of the federation. Mrs Jennings (secretary) presided. The speaker dwelt interestingly on the high cost of living and the proposed problems for its abolition. The housing problem which was very acute just now, particularly in the Metropolis, was also dilated on, also the desirability of the wives of workers being granted the right to vote as to whether strikes, and then the consequent unemployment arising through industrial disputes should be allowed. The Housewives' Federation had decided to vote for "continuance". The speaker's arguments on this burning question affecting the welfare of the nation weresurprising from a housewives' point of view, and not, as Sister Whitham contended, a "commonsense" one. The speaker contended that when drink was abolished in America harmful drugs were introduced in its stead. The revenue that would be lost if the hotels were closed would have to be made up somehow. In America instead of courts for intemperates they had MORGUES for the dead bodies of men who took spirits and drugs because they could not get wholesome drink. She advised all men and women to vote "continuance" on State election day. Wholesome liquor dispensed from an hotel was preferable to poison obtained in a sly-grog shop. Mrs V. Jennings, the secretary of the Federation, also spoke."