



Corop News

"The Call of the Brolga"

Issue No. 29 August 2011

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CCAG UPDATE



The 'new' Corop Community Centre in progress

Corop Community Centre

The Corop Community Action Group has been busily focused on completing the re-developed Corop Community Centre over the past six months. Since the builders finished, there has been a lot of volunteer labour to complete tasks such as painting (inside and out), tiling the kitchen, installing floorcoverings, constructing additional cabinets, landscaping with pavers, pebbles, plants, cleaning and the list goes on.

The CCAG wishes to thank all those people who have given so much of their time, labour and in some cases materials to the cause. Particular mention must go to Trevor Oakley and Ian Clark who have put in many long hours.

We are also very grateful to CCAG President, Clem Furphy who has worked closely with the Shire Project Officer, Shane Stacey throughout the whole process to bring this building to fruition – we appreciate his expertise and experience in overseeing this project.

Official opening of Corop Community Centre

Campaspe Shire Mayor, Neil Pankhurst officially opened the 'new' Corop Community Centre on Thursday 14th July. He complimented the Corop Community on its vision and drive to undertake such a project.

Clem Furphy was acknowledged for his amazing efforts to oversee the project from the community's perspective; The Mayor was also impressed by the community's ability to contribute to a large proportion of the project with a broad range of skills.

Mayor Pankhurst complimented all those involved, with the project completed on time, as planned and under budget.

Clem Furphy (CCAG President) congratulated the community as a whole for their many achievements over the past decade. In particular, he was proud to be involved in a

group that had the determination to build a useable space that is for the whole community.

Carmel Pearson was thanked for her involvement and passion for all things Corop. Carmel's foresight in seeing the need for a Centre and her contributions to ensure it coming to fruition.

Corop Community Gathering at the centre

The first social gathering at the Corop Community Centre had to be something out of the ordinary.

What better could be done than to have, not one but two, international artists perform?

Grace Lawry and Catherine Seitkiewicz both self-taught singer/songwriters performed three sets of mostly original songs. Both young ladies hail from Auckland NZ and have been releasing CDs and performing in Melbourne. They also 'squeezed' Corop in between a recent tour of New Zealand and before Cate travels and Grace goes to Cairns to work on a new album.

Those in attendance on the evening of July 30th were very complimentary of the music and the new centre. As usual food was in abundance and a good night was had by all.

We thank Cate and Grace for giving freely to Corop and wish them well for their respective careers.

Thanks to a generous local for contributing cash to the musicians, Katrina and Bill for accommodating the ladies along with their 'roadie' Eryn and to Kennedy Vittners for donating bottles of their new rosé for the presentation.

Clem Furphy thanked the community for their support in seeing the centre come to fruition. In turn, Clem was thanked for his enormous efforts, which were also acknowledged with a bottle of Rathjen's Whistling Eagle Reserve Shiraz.

We are also grateful to Councillor Marion Riley for being in attendance and for her presentation of \$5000 towards chairs for the centre.



Musos (L to R): Grace and Catherine with 'roadie' Eryn

Equipment & Grants

Following an unsuccessful application to FRRR for a grant to purchase chairs for the new centre, Councillor Marion Riley was kindly able to assist CCAG with a \$5000 cheque. Cr Riley presented the cheque to Clem Furphy (CCAG President) at the Corop Community Gathering.

Councillor Frank Oliver was also able to assist with a \$250 cheque to help fund tables, in addition to a donation by the Speer family. CCAG is very appreciative of their support.

The CCAG has been able to secure \$529 through the Shire's Community Assistance grants program that will be put towards the cost of a water filtration unit. A filtration unit is required because both the town water and tank water are considered non-potable, i.e. non-drinkable and as a public facility we are required to provide suitable drinking water. We are grateful to the Girgarre Development Group and Jan Smith for auspicing the grant application on our behalf.

CCAG has also applied for a Volunteers Small Equipment grant to fund the purchase of a double door fridge, crockery and cutlery.

We are waiting on the installation of split system air conditioners from the Shire that will provide heating and cooling for the building.

CCAG welcomes donations to help complete the necessary equipment required to make the community centre functional. If you are able to assist, contact Clem Furphy on 5856 7223 or cheques can be written out to CCAG and sent to CCAG, C/- Corop P.O.



Marion Riley present CCAG President Clem Furphy with cheque

Hall Committee

The Community Centre is something that is for all the community to use, not just the CCAG. A Hall Committee has been established to develop protocols, rosters, etc. and to maintain and manage the centre. Bookings for private functions will need to be made through this committee. There will be a small fee charged for use of the building to help the CCAG in meeting the costs of maintenance, insurance, cleaning etc. Please contact Bill Barkla on 5484 8101 or Denise Acocks on 5484 1070 if you wish to book the venue.

Volunteers needed

We are looking for people to assist with the cleaning and mowing at the centre. We are establishing a monthly roster with two volunteers rostered on each month. If you think you may be able to assist, even once a year would be fantastic. If we can all share the load around it will help make it light work. Contact Denise Acocks if you can assist on 5484 1070.

AGM

The Corop Community Action Group will be holding their Annual General Meeting on the 12th September. All positions will be declared vacant. All interested persons are most welcome.

Historical Memorabilia

The CCAG is hoping to purchase or build display cabinets along one wall in the new centre to display some of the historical material that has been donated over the years. We have also copied, framed and mounted on the walls several old photos of Corop, including the old Corop Store.

Farewell to Jo and Bill

The CCAG wishes to acknowledge the departure of Jo and Bill Fell from Corop. They are now residing in Dunsborough in Western Australia taking up a very healthy lifestyle and career change. We wish to thank them for their significant contribution to the CCAG with Bill as Treasurer and Jo as Secretary the past few years. Jo assures us they will be back! We look forward to their return.



Bill Fell, Tim Orr, Deb Orr, and Jo Fell at a working bee

Social events

Now that we have a community centre to call our own the CCAG is hoping to host regular events to provide local people with the opportunity to get together. At this stage we plan to hold something on the first Friday evening of the month.

For the month of September this will be a Movie and Pizza night. There will also be the Corop Cup on Melbourne Cup day and the Corop Christmas function in mid-December. If you have ideas, or would like to be involved, please contact Bill or Katrina on 54848101, or any CCAG member.

Corop Cup – it's on again for 2011!

The renowned Corop Cup, held on Melbourne Cup Day, is back on again this year. We have secured the prestigious Corop Community Centre venue and already highly regarded trainers are lining up their chargers to enter in the race. Competition will be fierce.

The Cup Day luncheon kicks off at 12 noon, Tuesday 1st November. A sumptuous lunch will be provided and all that is expected is a gold coin donation. BYO drinks.

Wagers will be taken on the Corop Cup field as well as the two local preliminary races. There will also be the traditional Melbourne Cup sweeps.

So pull out your springtime fashion pieces in readiness for Fashions on the Field and make it a great day out at the Corop Cup!



Movie and Pizza Night

As part of the program to hold more social events in Corop we are having a Pizza and Movie Night on Friday 2nd September from 6.30 pm onwards, at the new Community Centre.

The movie will be a new release (yet to be determined) that is appropriate for a broader audience and will be projected onto the wall being used as a large screen.

Prior to the movie commencing at 8pm, we will share a pizza meal together - orders need to be in by 7pm or to have been ordered through Bill and Katrina ph.: 5484 8101.

Help make this event a success - the first of our 'First Friday of the Month – Social Nights in Corop'. Let's take the opportunity to get together and socialize and enjoy the company of our neighbours and friends. BYO snacks and drinks and money for your pizza order.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Corop Lakes Action Committee / CLAPIC

The Cornella Local Area Plan (CLAPIC) and Corop Community Action Group (CCAG) have combined forces with local water and government authorities to address flood management issues in the area. This was an initiative undertaken by the CLAPIC group.

They have met with the Flood Study Group, which consists of the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GBCMA), Goulburn Murray Water (GMW) and Shire of Campaspe to discuss issues and develop a plan.

The aims of the group are to address recent 'overflow' events, including issues of maintenance, communication and management. The group is about acknowledging the local knowledge and expertise of farmers and residents and together coming up with an action plan that is implemented.

The group has held discussions with the Minister for Agriculture, Peter Walsh and also with local member, Paul Weller. Paul is taking a keen interest in the progress of this initiative, keeping informed with regular updates and responding accordingly. He is in touch with the committee regularly and is following up issues at a local and state level.

If you would like to contribute to or be involved in this group, contact CLAPIC President, Tait Hamilton on 5484 8206, Clem Furphy (CCAG) on 58567223, or John Avard on 5432 9215.

Men's Shed

A Men's Shed group is being established in Colbinabbin at the old Shire Depot shed. The group consists of Colbinabbin, Corop and district residents interested in woodwork and men getting together socially. It is still in early stages of forming the group and establishing infrastructure, equipment, funding etc. to get things going.

The group meets on the second and fourth Thursday of the month at the Depot shed from 10.30 a.m. to 3.30 pm. BYO BBQ lunch. Contact John Avard 5432 9215 or Alan Edwards 5484 8200 if you are interested in joining in the fun!



Day on The Hill to finish

Gerry and Geraldine McHarg of Lake Cooper Estate have advised that they will not be continuing to hold the Day on the Hill event that the Corop community, along with many others, has enjoyed for the past six years.

We wish to thank Gerry and Geraldine for running this fantastic event, which has generated much interest in our area and local wines. Thanks to their generosity and support many of the local community groups were able to fundraise at this event, including CCAG, Corop CFA, Rochester Cricket Club and others.

Lake Cooper Estate will continue to host their Friends & Neighbours nights and the traditional Grand Final Day for those who wish to join in on the fun at the Cellar Door.



Geraldine & Gerry McHarg

Victorian Ski Association

Fran Hynes, of the Victorian Water Ski Association reports that they are pleased to finally have water back in Lake Cooper. It has created enthusiasm for the water-skiing fraternity. The caravan park area is looking good and there has been renewed interest from the membership and others in the park. Fran is looking forward to another busy ski season on the lake.



Friends and Neighbours Night

Another great night was had on Saturday 20th August at Lake Cooper Estate. Lots of good food, laughter, chat and cheer.



Some of the locals in attendance at the Friends & Neighbours Night

Corop Community Centre



The 'new' Corop Community Centre



The luxury of having a kitchen in the community centre is one long awaited.



CCAG President Clem Furphy and Shire of Campaspe Mayor Neil Pankhurst open the centre.



Part of the crowd of over 60 at the first gathering at the 'new' Corop Community Centre

NOLAN FAMILY HISTORY

The Nolan brothers established several of the businesses in the early settlement of Corop. The following is an edited version of an article by Phillip McCumisky.

Philip Nolan was born 24 May 1829 Killenaule, County Tipperary, Ireland. He was the eldest child to William and Margaret Nolan. They produced two more sons, John and Michael Nolan.

It is well documented that the conditions in Ireland were generally appalling at that time, including before Philip's birth, unemployment of a quarter of the population. Tenant farmers were subject to English law, which forbade them keeping any more food than their family needed. All other crops were surrendered to the landlord. The potato blights of the 1840s and 1850s meant that a staple food was no longer available; famine ensued and millions died. It is not surprising that the Nolan brothers sought to leave the woes of Ireland and make a new start.

Philip left Ireland in 1854 aged 25 years and was followed soon after by his brother, John. Their parents remained in Ireland. The brothers mined for gold at Sandhurst and must have been successful in their search, as they were then able to finance other ventures. The last and youngest Nolan brother, Michael, came to Australia in 1863 at the age of 18 years together with a cousin. Their journey on board the *Landsborough* took 140 days.

Philip met Anne Ryan at the goldfields. They were married at St Killian's Church, Bendigo on the 15th November 1860. At the time of their marriage they were recorded as living at Axedale, where Philip was a partner in a hotel, store and butchering business with Patrick Drake. The partnership dissolved shortly after Philip and Anne's wedding, but the butchering business was retained by Philip, who also worked on the Ryan's family farm after the death of his father-in-law.

In 1864 Philip disposed of the businesses at Axedale and moved to Echuca with his wife Anne, her mother Margaret Ryan and his two daughters Margaret born 1861 and Mary born 1863. They had seven more children in Echuca: William, John Thomas, Philip, Ann, Michael James, Adeline Elizabeth and Francis Gregory. Ann Nolan died in childbirth in 1885 and together with the child they were buried in the Echuca cemetery. Philip remarried in 1888 to Anne Summers. No further children were born.

The Nolan family business empire in Echuca was established and prospered during the early years the family was in Echuca. These businesses were in butchering, cattle and sheep, farming, hotel and retail shops.

The Nolan businesses also expanded to **Corop**, which at the time was the last overnight stage coach stop on the old highway from Melbourne. In its heyday there were eight hotels and many other services to supply the needs of the community. Philip Nolan's youngest brother, **Michael**, had opened the Lake Cooper Hotel at Corop, plus a butchering business. Together with Philip and his cousin John Patrick Nolan, Michael also established a sheep buying and selling trade and had a saleyard, as well as a farm at Corop.

John Nolan was on the goldfields until 1860 and then took up farming in the Echuca area, later becoming involved in business in Corop. John Nolan was a storekeeper and ran the Shamrock Hotel in Corop. He married Honora Taylor in 1865 of which there were no descendants. John was a respected and involved member of the community. He died in 1913 and is buried in the Echuca cemetery with his wife.

Michael Nolan married Ellen Hennessey in 1869. They had four children: Margaret, born 1870 at Rushworth, William born 1872 at Corop, as were the last two children,

Edward in 1874 and Michael in 1877. Michael was as successful in commerce and civic life as his older brother, Philip. Michael was a great promoter of rowing and he sponsored the annual regattas on Lake Cooper at Corop. He was also involved in local government around Corop. Unfortunately he died at the age of 39 from Rheumatic Fever in 1878. His wife Ellen died in 1882 from epilepsy at the age of 29 years.

Philip Nolan was elected as the Representative for the northwest riding of the Shire of Echuca in 1865. He was a Councillor until 1896, including 3 terms as Shire President and was also Mayor of Echuca. Philip was a Justice of the Peace so he undertook many long distance trips throughout the district, riding to attend to the administration of justice as needed. The area was extensive reaching almost to Albury, Seymour, through to Heathcote and Rochester. Another passion of Philip's was the establishment of the Echuca Racing Club. He was the founding President, an office he held almost continuously until he requested that he be relieved of the position due to failing health.

Philip's eldest child Margaret married William McCumisky in 1893; He was a chemist from Richmond, Melbourne. They had two children, Angela and Philip. Philip had a long and distinguished career as a Collins Street surgeon. He also played football for Carlton Football Club and became the team doctor and Honourary Life Member.

Mary, the second eldest, married Patrick Monahan. One of their sons, Sir Robert Monahan had a distinguished legal career including a Supreme High Court Judgeship in Melbourne.

Philip Nolan jnr was a well-regarded wool classer with Elders. He married Mary Coates.

Anne and her sister, Adeline Nolan entered the Brigidine Order of Nuns. Anne entered in 1894 at age 22 and became Sister Bernard; Adeline entered the convent in 1897 aged 20 and had the name Sister Brigid. They both became well known as music and English teachers within the Order.

Michael James Nolan inherited the Nolan family business. He married Catherine Flemming and had seven children.

The youngest child, Francis Gregory left Echuca in 1904/5 shortly after his father's death. He went to Perth and married Henrietta Neilson and they had six children.

Philip Nolan passed away in 1903 aged 75 years. He is buried in the Nolan family grave in Echuca.



**Philip Nolan - Echuca Pioneer
1829 - 1903**

Vale Victor Norman Henry (4.7.1933-18.5.2011)

Corop residents were saddened to learn of the death of Vic Henry in May. Vic was a strong family man and a generous friend to many people in the district. Vic was highly regarded by all who knew him and will be fondly remembered and greatly missed. We are grateful to the family for supplying the following memories of Vic.

Victor Norman Henry was born in Rochester on the 4th July 1932 and lived in Corop all his life. Vic married Pat Rivett on the 12th January 1963. They had five children: Michelle, Michael, David, Craig and Leanne. Later on, Colin – a son-in-law – and grandchildren Holly, James and Patrick joined the family.



Vic worked for the Country Roads Board as a grader driver. He left there to work for the Waranga Shire so he could be home more often. He then worked for the Rochester Shire, first as a truck driver and then as a grader driver until his retirement in 1992 for health reasons.

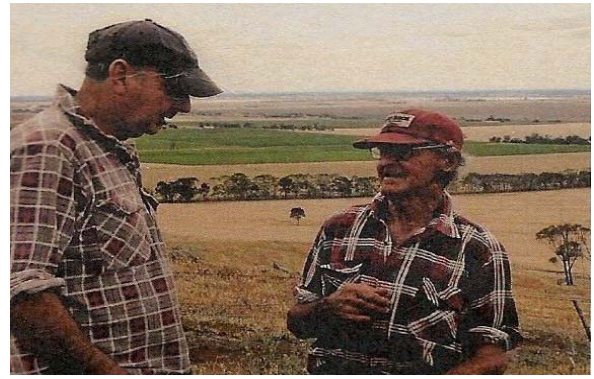
Vic was involved in many things throughout his life. He was a Life Member of the Echuca Speedboat Club and a member of the Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol. In this capacity he worked at the Southern 80 Ski races, Red Cross Marathon and VWSA Water Ski meetings at Lake Cooper.

He was a water skier himself in his younger days, even winning ski-jump competitions. Vic also helped form the Hill Climb for the Stanhope Car Club.

Vic's great passion was the Rushworth Speedway. He gave his services to help keep the track in fine racing form. He had an amazing talent as a grader driver and truly loved every chance he got to maintain the track.

Vic was also a long-time and much valued member of the Corop Fire Brigade.

Vic and Pat enjoyed several trips around Australia where he got to do a lot of fishing and fossicking for gemstones, both things he loved to do. He even learnt how to facet and got to cut the gemstones they had found. In earlier days he enjoyed collecting bottles, even digging them up to add to his collection.



Reg Weeks and Vic up on Mt Camel Range

The family used to holiday every year down at Apollo Bay and then later in Peterborough with both the kids and grandkids. In the last year, a real light in his life was Patrick, his 20-month-old grandchild, who constantly kept him on his toes and always brightened his day.

Everyone will remember his or her own stories and special moments about Vic. There are just so many that could be mentioned. He was a good man who did many good things.

The Brolga Saga – Ron Grinter

In the Corop News, 16th December 2005, I reported on a pair of brolgas that nested in our dam, aptly named 'Brolga Dam'. In the year 2005, two brolgas tried four times in one season to raise a family – four different nests, same birds.

On the 19th November 2005, their fourth nest yielded one chick and the parents led it across Grinter Road towards the Wallenjoe every day to feed. One day, the three were on the road, I made a noise similar to the sound they make when danger is around (hawk or human). The chick froze, as a rabbit does. It allowed me to pick it up, the only time this has happened. At this time, the chick was a month old. It was around for another week, then gone. A fox is suspected to have enjoyed this bird.

Since that time no more brolgas have nested on our land, even though water was there last year – maybe this year?

At last, on 25th April this year, my son Matthew and I spotted three brolgas on a swampy area on the east side of Deviation Road. One of these birds appeared to be different from the other two, though nearly as big. We called Rolf from Tatura DPI, who likes to know when brolgas are about. He came and identified one of the birds as a juvenile. Great news – one that escaped the foxes! We watched these birds for a few weeks until they disappeared, no doubt as soon as the juvenile could fly. We will be watching this area closely in the spring hoping that they return.

How wonderful it is to see Lake Cooper full again, after the sight of walking track tables and some fencing covered with silt blown from the lakebed by strong south-westerly winds.

'The Wet' that filled all the swamps has certainly transformed the landscape. Rolf from DPI remarked on the health of the nardoo growing on the north side of Wallenjoe Swamp bedside the Midland Highway.

A duck shooter in a kayak told me he found a colony of ibis and spoonbills in the south-west of the swamp. Azure kingfishers are also here after a long absence. The one thing noticed has been the shortage of tiger snakes. Scarcely saw one last summer and very few brown snakes. Not that it worries me, after having been bitten four times previously by tiger snakes (my carelessness on each occasion!).

That's all for now,

Magpie (Go Pies!) and Tree Hugger, Ron Grinter.

AFL Grand Final Day



at



SATURDAY 1st OCTOBER
1pm ONWARDS

Come along to Lake Cooper Estate and enjoy that *'one day in September' (which is now in October)* with your neighbours and friends.

Tipping competitions
Handball competition
Goal kicking competition

Bring your favourite footy food
Drinks at bar prices.

Heathcote Wine and Food Festival

This highly regarded festival gets bigger each year and is certainly one to have on the calendar – October 8th and 9th. Many of the local wineries exhibit here and it is a great day out.



Corop Cemetery Trust

The Corop Cemetery Trust has had a mixed past few months.

The Trust has received a deal of positive feedback from visitors regarding the condition of the cemetery and the services provided.

At the same time, trust members have had to spend working bee time and precious funds on the restoration of several graves after senseless attacks of vandalism, as well as clearing rubbish dumped in close proximity.

The trust holds several working bees per year and welcome any support given.

Phone The Secretary, Denise Acocks Ph.: 5484 1070 for further detail of information regarding the Corop Cemetery.

Call for Volunteers at Elmore Field Days

The Corop Community Action Group is in need of locally raised funds. Particularly, due to the amount of resources that have gone into the centre and for us to continue to provide quality social events and service to the Corop Community.

We have volunteered our services to the Elmore Field Days and they will in turn contribute funds to the CCAG.

We would like to hear from those who could donate some time at the Elmore Field Days for the group. Our task is to be at a designated station to conduct surveys. Please contact Pat Kennedy on 54848293.

The field days are on: October 4th, 5th & 6th.

Locals star in Alice in Wonderland

Local youth, Dominique Atley and John Medina starred in Rochester Secondary College's production, Alice in Wonderland (a Maverick Musicals production). Dom had the roles of Door mouse and Mock Turtle and sang a solo – The Lobster Quadrille.

John Medina played the role of the Mad Hatter. His energy and comic timing captivated the audiences throughout the three shows.

Well done John and Dominique. We look forward to more 'Coropites' attending next year to see our budding stars.



Dominique as Mock Turtle



Mad Hatter – John Medina

Corop Rural Fire Brigade Update

Corop Fire Brigade has had a very quiet winter, with some members busy with training, Tanker Maintenance and up keep of the Fire Station. We have also had our Bi-Annual Election:

Darren Bloomfield – Captain
Brian Kerlin - 1st Lieutenant
Cliff Monahan - 2nd Lieutenant
Andrew James - 3rd Lieutenant
Sandy Spencer - Comms Officer
Tim Orr - Secretary
Kylie Bloomfield - Treasurer

We are also happy to have signed two new members and ask that the community be mindful of the up-coming fire season and prepare early.

Corop RFB thank you for your kind support.

Captain - Darren Bloomfield 0417391128

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Working Bee @ Corop Community Centre – Sunday 28th August 9.30**
 - **Pizza and film night – Friday 2nd September**
 - **CCAG AGM - 12th September @ the centre, 7.30**
 - **Corop Cup – Tuesday 1st November**
 - **Christmas in Corop – mid December**
- **Watch your letterbox for details**

Newsletter now online:

- Please note past editions of Corop News are now available on the Corop website: www.corop.com.au

This newsletter was compiled by: Bill Barkla, Katrina Hall, Carmel Pearson and Pat Kennedy. Thanks to those who contributed and to the Rochester Secondary College for its ongoing support in copying this newsletter.

Contributions, enquiries or donations can be forwarded to: Corop News c/- Bill Barkla 1627 Midland Hwy Corop or email katnbill@hotmail.com or PH: (03) 5484 8101.