



Corop News

"The Call of the Brolga"

Issue No. 17 May 2006

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CCAG UPDATE

Sharman Stone to visit Corop

Sharman Stone is scheduled to visit Corop in June for the official opening of The Corop Shelter and the Lake Cooper Walking Track, which were projects CCAG completed under the federally-funded, Regional Solutions Program. A date is yet to be confirmed, however we anticipate it will be a Sunday afternoon. The CCAG will provide wine and cheese afterwards, thanks to the generous donation by Tim and Debbie Orr, and Gerry and Geraldine McHarg.

May 'Lake Filler' Dinner Dance



Get your dancing shoes on and your wet weather gear ready for the *Lake-filler Dinner Dance* to be held on Saturday May 20th. After the success of last year's dinner dance, the CCAG decided to run this event again, however this time it will be a fundraising event.

Members of The Vince Ryan Band will be providing the music that had everyone up and going last year. It will also be at the same venue, Camp Curumbene, with a 3 course hot meal provided. BYO drinks. Tickets \$35 each, \$30 concession. Tickets must be purchased at the Corop Store by Friday May 12th for catering purposes. Enquiries to Jo Fell on 5484 8131 or Katrina Hall on 5484 8101.

Corop Community Plan

The Corop community has recently come on board with the Campaspe Shire's Community Plan initiative, following a public meeting held on Monday the 6th March at the Corop Tennis and Community Centre.

The meeting was facilitated by Marie Q, Community Development Officer at the Shire. Other Shire representatives in attendance were Wayne Harvey (CEO), Councillors Marion Riley and Murray McDonald.

Presentations were given by local community groups, including Corop Community Action Group (CCAG), Corop Cemetery Trust, Cornella Local Area Plan & Implementation Committee (CLAPIC), Southern Campaspe Rural Group, Corop CFA and Heathcote Wine Growers Association. These presentations indicated the level of activity and diversity of progress within the Corop region.



Some members of the new Corop Community Plan group

Some of the key issues identified by Corop residents through the Community Plan process that evening included advocating for the widening of the Heathcote-Rochester Road; completion and maintenance of town beautification and walking track works; change-rooms and a meeting room at the Corop CFA; strengthening community through social events.

Participants afterwards enjoyed the chance to mingle, discuss issues and sample the delicious supper provided by LynZbar in Stanhope.

The next Corop Community Plan meeting will be held on Monday 8th May 7.30 pm at the Corop Tennis and Community Centre. For further information contact Marie Q at the Shire.



Marie Q and Clem Furphy discuss the plan

Along the Track

The trees up at the Lake Cooper Walking Track are looking fantastic and even though there's no water in Lake Cooper, it's still a great walk with picturesque views of the Mt Camel Range. Sunsets up there are pretty spectacular. It really is worth a visit if you still haven't got around to checking out what will become a popular place for visitors and locals alike.

Picnic benches have been installed at the start, finish and midway points of the track. If walking the whole 4 kilometres sounds a bit daunting just aim for the first kilometre where you will see the progress of the trees, track and the beauty of the range.

We are working to finish the walking track in time for the official opening. There have been delays on several fronts with the track, especially with the drought, de-gazetting of the road, contractors, weed control etc. A new section of the track has been formed at the start so as to separate the track from the pre-existing road.

In our future planning we will be exploring how to attract funding for the ongoing maintenance of the track.

Corop Shelter

It's great to see and hear that people have been making good use of the new Corop Shelter. The finishing touches will soon be completed with historical information boards to be placed inside the building and a sign out the front.

A board will also be erected opposite the Corop Store with information on things to see and do in the Corop district. This will complete all planned works through the Regional Solutions grant.

A lot of time and effort has gone into producing these signs so if you're passing through we hope you will take the opportunity to stop and have a look.



The Corop Shelter

Town Entrances

CCAG representatives participated in the Campaspe Shire's Town Entrances Congress held on the 6th February in Echuca. The keynote speaker, Peter Kenyon provided an interesting and humorous presentation on ideas and considerations when planning town entrances or signs. While there was agreement that there needs to be some uniform Campaspe Shire logo on the signs, it is now up to each individual community to come up with their own ideas on what they want for their town. People were encouraged to be creative and demonstrate to the public what was unique about their town.

This is something both the CCAG and Community Plan groups are interested in pursuing. If you have any thoughts or ideas on this, please contact Jo Fell on 5484 8101.

Tennis and Community Centre

Shed - CCAG has over recent years accumulated various pieces of equipment that require secure storage. In the past we have had to store items at different members' homes and sheds. We are grateful to Councillor Marion Riley who has agreed to fund a storage shed being placed at the Tennis and Community Centre.

Kitchen - For some time now CCAG has been aware of the need to upgrade the kitchen facilities in the Tennis and Community Centre. We have recently had a community member offer to donate and install a set of kitchen cupboards. Thanks must go to Les and Maria Butt for this generous offer. This will be a great finishing touch to the internal renovations the centre has undergone over the last couple of years and will hopefully continue to serve the community well into the future. Several groups use the facility in addition to the CCAG and hope one day we'll see the Tennis Club playing again.

Town Beautification

The Corop community has been very happy to see regular mowing of the town streetscape taking place, now that we are officially on the Campaspe Shire's Parks and Gardens roster. Unfortunately, this does not appear to extend to weeding of any garden beds so the CCAG and other volunteers joined in another couple of working bees on the 2nd and 9th April to attend to this. Thanks to those who were able to assist. We are hoping to have the town looking presentable for the official opening of the Walking Track and Corop Shelter.

Corop CFA News

The Brigade is travelling quite well at the moment. We have recently purchased a portable radio, six helmet lights and a quick fill portable fire-fighting pump. These purchases have cost the brigade in excess of \$4,000. The purchases were only possible **with the generous support of our community**, and the purchases will enable the members of the Brigade to perform their duties in a more efficient and safe manner.

During the past 3 months, three members of the Brigade have completed their Crew Leader Courses. Completion of this course enables the members to lead a team at a fire/incident and to assume control at minor fires/incidents. The persons who completed the course are the Brigade Captain Brian Kerlin, the Brigade Secretary Garry Newman and Brigade member Cliff Monahan. All enjoyed the course and learned many valuable skills that can be used to protect our community.

The membership of the Brigade continues to grow with seven people in the past eight weeks enrolling in the Brigade. In due course these people will attend a Fire Fighter's Course. The Brigade also has openings for those people who would be interested in supporting the Local Brigade, but who because of age or injury, may not be fit enough to turn out to fires/incidents, but who would be quite welcome to assist with the numerous jobs around the Fire Station. These jobs are quite important for the efficient functioning of the Brigade.

If anyone is interested in joining the Brigade feel free to call the Captain Brian Kerlin on 54848210 or the Secretary Garry Newman on 0407834006.

In the next issue we hope to have some photographs of our new equipment. In finishing the Brigade would like to thank those who have assisted during the previous few months and to those who have been quite generous in donating to the Brigade the proceeds of sales of scrap iron to Sims Metal.

Contributed by Garry Newman, Corop CFA Secretary

Henry Family History

The following account was submitted by Mr Ian Henry. Ian grew up in Corop and retains a keen interest in the area. He now resides in Echuca.

My father, Thomas James Henry was born in Coleraine, County Derry, Northern Ireland on 26th August, 1906. His parents owned a corner shop in Coleraine. Dad had two sisters and two brothers. When he left school he worked as a brick layer's apprentice.

He came to Australia in 1921 on the *Jervis Bay*, docking at Fremantle. He made his way to Melbourne and started work on a dairy farm for the Moore family at Darraweit Guim, a few miles west of Wallan. In early 1926 he moved to Canargo in NSW to work on a sheep station called Puckawiggie, for the Darcey family. A short time later part of the station was sold to Otaway Falkiner Bonoke Station.

Dad married Mary Jane Aitken in 1927. Then they went to Coolamon to live. Dad worked on Cowabbie Station as farmhand. Each year he and another hand pulled a wheat grader to farms by two horses to grade oats and wheat ready for sowing.



Tom and Mary Henry

They had 4 children: Ian, Joyce, Ernest and Victor. Early in 1931 Mum and Dad moved to Corop to Harrison's, just south of the Lucas home between the lake and the channel. Vic was born here in 1933. We moved to Caswell Hill's farm at Colbinabbin three miles north of town between the channel and Cornella Creek on a share farm milking cows and growing pigs for market.

Early in 1936 the stock was sold and Dad bought the property of Herb Stevens south of Corop between the lake and the channel where Mum and Dad milked a few cows. Dad worked for some years with the State Rivers and Water Supply. He also spent time cutting wood for SRWSC and from local farms, then would cart it to the Colbinabbin Rail for transport to Melbourne for firewood.

The farm became a full time job. Up to about 1950 our transport was a T-model Ford red utility which travelled hundreds of miles on power kerosene when petrol rationing was in use during war time. In 1950 we then bought a new Commer 30 cwt (hundredweight) tray truck for the farm and transport.

Mum passed away on 20 May 1981 and Dad passed away on 6 May 1993."

More on Corop West's Historic Buildings

Information on Corop West's Marktree Hotel has been given in previous editions of the Corop News. In short, it was built in the 1800s, had its second storey removed in 1923 and was demolished in 1967. Up until now we had not uncovered a photo of the hotel with both storeys. Thanks to the Dobell family for their photo.



Marktree Hotel



Old Dairy

After a lead from local resident, Tom Dutton, we have visited this remarkable building (above) from the pioneering days. Reputed to date back to the very early days of white settlement in Corop West (possibly pre 1880) and to have initially been a dairy, the building is a time capsule of our forefathers' legendary ingenuity and improvisation.

The previous photo shows the size of the building (approx. 4.5x3m) of mud and stone construction, with a small "lean-to" front verandah. Quite small stone has been mortared with mud for the lower two-thirds of the wall and mud brick for the remainder. Bush poles have been squared with an adze for the doorway. The adze marks are still evident.



The hand hewn bush-pole lintel

The internal walls have been white-washed and the floor appears to have always been earthen. Latter changes have been long bolts the width of the building to stop the walls spreading and of course the galvanized iron roof. It is likely the original roof was bark or split wooden shingles.



Most recent use has been a lighting plant shed – probably in the 60s. External walls have also had some concrete rendering to stop further weathering of the mortar and mud brick.

Lake Cooper Quarries

Thanks to Mawsons for information contained in the following article. The company newsletter Mawse Code also provided us with further interesting details and photographs on recent developments.

The Lake Cooper Quarries are a part of the Mawson Group of Companies. The foundations of the Mawson Group were laid in 1912 when Edward Bernard Mawson established himself as an independent contractor in Cohuna with a single horse and dray. Always ready to look forward, Edward Mawson expanded his business, and with irrigation developing in Northern Victoria, the business prospered as he carried out earthworks and built the roads required for a growing population. Today the Mawson Group activities embrace quarrying and ready-mixed concrete plants throughout Northern Victoria.

In the 1940's Ted Eckberg and his father had operated a quarry at Mt Burramboot, Corop, but had found the stone too hard to work. The Country Roads Board had also abandoned their first attempt to quarry the site for the same reason so the quarry fell into disuse. By 1960, an opportunity had presented itself to re-open the site to service the growing requirements of the Country Roads Board, leading to Mawsons and Ted Eckberg entering into a joint venture. Equipment brought from the Kiewa hydroelectric project was reassembled to establish Lake Cooper Quarries.



Pugmill and blending bins

Ted Eckberg eventually disposed of his interest to Mawsons who continue to operate the quarry to this day, servicing an area between Echuca and Shepparton and into southern N.S.W. Modern technology and better crushing

equipment now allow the tough diabase to be worked effectively.

In 2004 Lake Cooper Quarries took delivery of a 65 tonne Hitachi Excavator to replace the 45 tonne Komatsu. The machine was supplied by Emeco Australia. The Excavator loads shot rock into two Komatsu dump trucks at the face. Faster loading times and increased digging capabilities have helped to meet increased production needs at Lake Cooper. So far the machine has met all expectations.

2004 also saw the initial stages of construction of the new wet mix plant at Lake Cooper. The plant is capable of processing 400 tonnes plus per hour. The plant will utilize P.L.C. control and ultrasonic level control to ensure consistency and high production levels.

A recently installed telescopic, radical stacker unit is linked to a new pugmill and blending bins that allow controlled mixing and wetting of various crushed rock products. These products can now be stacked in separate piles which are spread automatically by the programmable stacking conveyer unit. This means less handling of materials, quicker production, less chance of segregation, better loading conditions and safer traffic flows. The Thor Stacker is made in Canada but the rest of the gear is local. The bins and conveyors are yet another example of Mawsons' in-house skills in plant design and construction. Ray Crellin, Adrian Bull, Phillip Wright, Joe McArdle, Mick Coobs and the Delcam crew worked in conjunction with Hocking's Electrical to build the plant. Further landscaping, catwalk improvements and a new cement silo will complete the project.

The large number of quarry trucks seen on the roads around Corop is indicative of the continuing success of the enterprise which began at Mt Burramboot so many years ago.



The new telescopic, radical stacker

The Road from Corop to Stanhope and Girgarre

With thanks to Lyn Emmett (Lynzbar), Trish Hancock (SBC) for information regarding Stanhope; Phillip Kirk and Stewart Mann for information about Fonterra; and Jan Smith for info about Girgarre.

Travelling east from the Corop township on the Midland Highway, we commence our journey with a detour north, turning left up Taylor Road. The drive up to the Waranga channel provides a comprehensive view of the west side of Greens Lakes. Once over the channel the road is unsealed; we follow this down to the first main intersection and turn right into Jeffrey's Road. To our left is the immaculately presented and newly named Freeman's Bridge Vineyard (formerly Ormon Hill).

We continue along Jeffrey's Road, admiring the views of the northern end of Greens Lake and residences dotted along there. The large cream brick building on the lake's foreshore is the pumping station for Goulburn Murray Water. We continue in an easterly direction until we reach a T-intersection and turn right into Irving Road, which will take us back to the Midland Highway and complete our tour of the

lake. There are some great trees and interesting land-forms along this part of the road and the area is dotted with swamps that abound in birdlife and native flora in the wet seasons. We rejoin the highway just past the Corop/Wanalta Road. Turning left towards Stanhope, we pass Mansfield Swamp on the left, and Wallanjoe Swamp on the right.

About 17km from Corop in this direction is the town of Stanhope. A place that started out as a 32,000 acre estate built in 1867. New selectors came to the area under the Closer Settlement Commission Scheme. Following World War I, Soldier Settlers began farming in the area. Today, the most imposing landmark of this buzzing little metropolis is the Fonterra factory (see future newsletters for an interesting article on this company), which can be seen from as far away as the hills of Corop itself. The factory, previously Bonlac Foods, is home to several well-known brands of dairy products and takes delivery from dairy farms locally and up to a 200km radius. The site has well-manicured gardens and presents a tidy face to the passers-by on the highway.



What was the Bonlac factory is now owned by Fonterra.

Those travellers who think that the sum of Stanhope can be seen from the highway, miss out on a delightful small rural town with lots to offer. Further along the highway itself before exploring the town proper, we see the swimming pool and caravan park on the left and on the right, the Primary School and the Recreation Reserve where the highly successful Stanhope Field Days are held every April. Into the town behind the highway the Lions' Club Park has tennis courts and a bowling green and towards the main shopping street, we pass the CFA and the Police Station.



McEwen Square

A saunter down the main street reveals a little park in the centre of town called McEwen Place, named after Sir John McEwen, briefly Prime Minister of Australia after the demise of Harold Holt. Sir John McEwen was one of the first Soldier Settlers who arrived at Stanhope in 1919. The Development Committee is currently installing a memorial to him in the

park. The Stanhope War Memorial can also be seen in this park. Stanhope is well serviced with a pharmacy, giftware, hairdresser, newsagent, rural traders, hardware store, butcher, greengrocer, garages and a small licenced supermarket. For those looking for a bite to eat, the Garden Café/Bakery does the job for bread and pastries, and LynZbar is the place for a tasty lunch or supper with superb wines from the region.



LynZbar in Stanhope

The Stanhope Business Centre, a recent addition to the town, was an initiative of the Stanhope and District Development Committee and provides access to comprehensive business administrative services as well as night classes, book club and various workshops, and has recently opened a branch of the Bendigo Bank. It also offers a Centrelink access point, room and equipment hire and a social gathering venue for the youth of Stanhope.

Travelling north out of Stanhope on the C348 through productive dairy country, we arrive at Girgarre. We come into the town along Curr Road and note the prodigious labour that has been utilised in the beautification of the town. Native trees have been planted wherever space allows, ensuring a shady future for Girgarre residents. Bird life abounds and several different species were spotted.



Girgarre Town Hall

Girgarre is well-known for its monthly Farmers' Market where one can buy fresh fruit and vegetables, preserves, cheeses, wine, honey, eggs and plants. Some fabulous gifts can also be found at the adjoining craft market in the newly renovated Memorial Hall, as well as a chook or two at the regular chook auction. The citizens of Girgarre have planned a Heritage Walk around the town to take in the sights and to stand as a memorial to families of yesteryear.

We leave Girgarre from the direction in which we came and through Stanhope turn right down Blamey Road, which presents us with a lovely tree-lined country byway back in the direction of Corop. Turning left down Geodetic Road, we reach the highway and head for home, retracing our steps.

'Top of the Range'

Sunday March 12 was "Top of the Range" day at Lake Cooper Estate. Visitors to the Lake Cooper Estate cellar door were entertained by 'Bazza' singing the hits of the 60's – 90's. They enjoyed cheese platters, sausages and hamburgers whilst sampling the range of fine "Heathcote" wines. Gerry even treated his guests to a pre-release tasting of Lake Cooper Estate 2004 Reserve Shiraz, which is certain to be a sell-out just like the 2003 vintage.



Lake Cooper Estate Cellar Door

Another recent event at Lake Cooper Estate included an engagement party. On Sunday March 5th Naomi Bamford and Tim Watson celebrated their engagement at Lake Cooper Estate. Their guests enjoyed the relaxing ambience of the Cellar Door area – many of them locals who were unaware of the amazing views. It was an extremely hot day so the chilled Chardonnay and Sparkling Shiraz were very popular.



Naomi Bamford & Tim Watson cutting the cake, Graeme Watson in background.

"In Vino Veritas" Mt Burrumboot Estate New Release Picnic 2006

Cathy and Andrew Branson of Mt Burrumboot Estate, Colbinabbin, held their second New Release Picnic on Sunday the 23rd May. Despite the chilly wind deterring some people there was a very positive response to the wines, with not many patrons leaving the cellar door empty handed.

Children were well entertained by Crackles the clown, kite flying and climbing hay bales, while the adults indulged in their favourite wines, social intercourse and very tasty Spanish food or souvlakis. A mixture of blues and country music added to the ambience of the day.

"In Vino Veritas" – In Wine Lies the Truth – the motto behind the day: Cathy and Andrew state that they base their wine-making philosophy on "traditional, non-interventionist viticulture and winemaking", aiming to protect the integrity of the original grape. This is achieved by processing small parcels of the grapes; plunging by hand; regulating the temperature; selecting oak barriques; avoiding unnecessary additions.



Blues guitarist entertains the crowd

As Cathy explains, "*This allows the wholly estate grown grape to fully express itself with huge bramble fruit, intense, inky colour and fine, integrated tannins which give layers of complexity and a long ageing ability, whilst being soft enough to approach young. The wines are handled gently and are not filtered, so that what you taste in your glass is the truth – you are tasting the season, the vineyard, the Heathcote terroir, the weather...so that we can really say that in our wines lies the truth!*"

Of course, there is also the well known fact that a little bit of wine can reveal the inner truths about the drinker! Many of us know people who show their true colours after a drink...not to mention how incredibly witty, clever and amusing we really become after a bit of liquid lubrication...perhaps the less said about this side of "In Vino Veritas" the better!"

Mount Burrumboot Estate wines have been winning gold, silver and bronze medals at international wine shows including London, San Francisco and New Zealand as well as at home. The winery is rated 4½ stars by James Halliday. If you missed the day, make sure you check out their wines, or call in at their cellar door open on weekends and taste the quality for yourself.



Daryl Rathjen, Ella, Eric and Sue Kerlin



Food and Thought Mela

A Mela [me 'la] is a sanskrit word meaning a large gathering or fair, especially one held in connection with a festival. On Friday 24th and Saturday 25th February five members of the South Campaspe Rural Group attended a food and thought mela in Hamilton. It was coordinated by the RMIT Globalism Institute, part of RMIT University.

During these two days we were treated to a variety of talks and workshops, which covered such topics as:

- *Food Diversity and Taste* - which looked at variety based on regional and seasonal food.
- *Connecting Young People and Food* - Speakers such as Stephanie Alexander spoke about connecting children with the source of their food. The project she heads – The Kitchen Garden Foundation - has established a garden at Collingwood P 12 College where students grow prepare and cook their own food.
- *Eating and Buying Locally* - the speakers dealt with the advantages to the local community of buying food produced in the area and the growing success of Farmers' Markets where the producers of the food reap the financial benefits and the purchasers are able to talk to the people who grow their food.
- *Local to Local Learning* – people who are selling at Farmers' Markets spoke about the positive experience. We also learnt about Community Gardens and Markets in such places as the high rise flats in Collingwood and the Baxter Detention Centre.

The Keynote Speaker Helena Norberg – Hodge spoke about the transportation of food around the globe and the inherent costs involved. She gave the example that Danish butter cannot be bought in Denmark, which raised the question as to who benefits from food constantly being shipped around the world.

However the highlight of the two days was the international feast, which was prepared by International students from the surrounding schools and the university. We feasted on many interesting and tasty combinations of meat, vegetables and spices.

Pat Kennedy, South Campaspe Rural Group.

[The South Campaspe Rural Group meets monthly usually on a Friday. Contact Pat Kennedy for further information on 5484 8293.]

Revegetation Links Officers visit Corop Area

On Thursday the 20th of April, 30 Revegetation Officers and Catchment Management Officers from the Mid Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (MGBCMA) visited the Corop area. These people came from Wangaratta, Benalla, Broadford, Seymour, and Alexandra. We also had staff from Bendigo (North Central CMA). They were taken on a bus tour, which included the Rushworth State Forest (Tait Hamilton Rd), Cornella Creek works at Paul Tait's, drainage line works at Tait Hamilton's Chinamans Bend Vineyard and various other sites across the region.

The scale of works and the number of interested landholders were what really impressed all on the tour. The participants were able to see the effects of many works on increasing land productivity, controlling water tables and the improvement in water quality along streams.

Time was spent looking at the changing agricultural activities along the Mount Camel Range; the change from the traditional Wheat /Sheep farms to Vineyards has been beneficial in conserving existing vegetation and planting more native vegetation. Protection, enhancement and planting of native revegetation has been given a high priority by many of the large companies, such as Fosters/Seppelts, Shelmerdine, Mawsons, Brown Brothers and also by many of the smaller local landholders vineyard enterprises, such as Mount Burrumboot Estate, Ormon Hill and Lake Cooper Estate vineyards.

A delicious gourmet lunch was provided by LynZbar from Stanhope and a meeting concluded a very successful day. Thank you to the Victorian Water Ski Association for the use of their Club Rooms on Lake Cooper.



Site inspection on Tait Hamilton's property

“Rural Women Linking Arms”

Are you a woman?

Do you live on a farm, or in a rural community?

If yes, come along to “Rural Women Linking Arms”, a free get together for rural women during Rural Health Week.

Listen to our down to earth guest speakers including Cathy McGowan, Rien Silverstein, Cath Marriot, and Jenny Reuther.

Share your stories, value yourself and your rural community.

Gather information on rural women's groups.

Build links, discover options.

Indulge in yummy food and drinks. Have fun.

Invite a friend, neighbour or someone new to your community.

Have a night out, you deserve it!

May 16th, Shepparton Senior Citizens Hall, Welsford St

May 17th, Tatura Senior Citizens Hall, Flanagan Place.

7.00pm – 10.30pm

More Info / RSVP – Paula Way, Rural Development Officer, COGS, 5832 9857.

This newsletter was compiled by Carmel Pearson, Jo Fell, Pat Kennedy, Bill Barkla and Katrina Hall. Graphics are provided courtesy of Jo Fell. 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 or bbarkla@rochsec.vic.edu.au or Corop News, c/- Stevens St, Corop 3559 or PH: (03) 54848205

<http://mc2.vicnet.net.au/home/coropag/web/index.html>

Vale: Bernard (Bernie) James Kerlin
(19/07/1912 – 30/04/2006)

Bernard Kerlin died at Rochester on Sunday 30th April.

Bernie Kerlin was born, raised, lived and farmed in Corop for a lifetime. His grandparents, Patrick and Margaret Kerlin, originated from Ireland and owned a hotel in the township called Kerlin's Hotel. The remains of the kitchen of that establishment still stand.

Patrick's son, James, built the house (Millewa) on the Heathcote – Rochester Road, where Bernie lived in his childhood and later with his wife, Betty.

Bernie was a keen sportsman and over many years played football and cricket. Until recent years, Bernie enthusiastically followed Rochester Football Club, never missing a home game and often driving to away matches to support his beloved Tigers.



Bernie in his younger days

Bernie attended the Corop Primary School until 1925, when he transferred to the Marist Brothers College, in Bendigo. Bernie had his heart set on returning to the family farm at Corop. He did return and farmed for many years with his brother, Lennie. After Lennie's death in 1991, his sons Brian and Eric Kerlin have continued the family farming tradition in Corop.



Mr Bernie Kerlin at the Luncheon on the Lake
25th April 2003

In 2003, Bernie was a guest of honour at the Luncheon on the Lake, which was held on the dry lake-bed of Lake Cooper. He in fact was the first to man the shovel to cover the time capsule. Along with others such as Reg Mara, Norm Weeks, Jack Freeman, Doug Pineo and Joyce Speers, he represented an important era in Corop's history.

REST IN PEACE dear Bernie, you will remain in the heart and history of Corop forever.



Percy Johnson, Clive Speer, Bernie Kerlin and Jack Freeman
with Corop's "new" fire truck

