



Corop News

"The Call of the Brolga"

Issue No. 19 December 2006

This issue:

- * Miss Inland Waters
- * Honour board go ahead
- * Corop Cup
- * Christmas in Corop
- * Day on the Hill
- * Traveller to Peru
- * Road upgrade

YES IT IS A VERY BELATED GREETING AND COROP NEWS. Many factors have held us up – please read the note at the end of this newsletter.



Season's Greetings
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CCAG UPDATE

Another year has flown by and amidst the frantic lead up to Christmas we stop to reflect on our events and achievements in Corop over the past 12 months.

This year has been marked by the following events:

- Completion of the Lake Cooper Walking Track;
- Completion of the Corop Shelter;
- Erection of signage, including historical information for each of the above;
- Official opening of the Shelter and Walking Track by Member for Murray, Dr Sharmon Stone;
- 'Lake Filler' Dinner Dance held in May;
- The mighty Corop Cup held in November;
- 'Neighbours and Friends Night' at Lake Cooper Estate;
- Lake Cooper Estate's 'A Day on the Hill' in October with CCAG catering;
- Successfully lobbying for the widening of the Heathcote-Rochester Road with Vicroads;
- Commencement of the Community Plan process with the Shire of Campaspe;
- The planting of 8000 trees on the southern, western and northern aspects of Lake Cooper;
- Successful application for the restoration of the Honour Board;
- Public meeting with GMW over the Greens Lake access road – which has now been turned into a gravel rather than a sealed road;
- The Corop CFA has been very active increasing its membership, running training days, first aid courses and a Bushfire Survival information night;

- The newly formed Viticulture and tourism group along the Mt Camel Range to include Corop and Colbinabbin;
- The continuing drought;
- And still no water in Lake Cooper!

There have of course been numerous discussions about a variety of other matters that affect Corop both through the CCAG, the Corop Community Plan, Cemetery Trust, CFA and informal conversations along the way. In particular there have been discussions about shared community facilities and erecting a storage shed for the CCAG's equipment. There will be further information and consultations about this in 2007.

It has been an interesting time becoming part of the Campaspe Shire's Community Plan initiative. Continuing both the CCAG and the Corop Community Plan group simultaneously has presented benefits as well as challenges. We are hoping this will become smoother and clearer over the next year.

Following attendance of a community development presentation 'Building Stronger Communities' to community groups at the Shire by Professor Jody Kretzman the CCAG is keen to undertake one of his suggestions which involves doing a skills audit of people in our community. With this approach we can better utilize and appreciate the multitude of skills, knowledge and interests that exist within our own community.

The Campaspe Shire has held up Corop as a shining example of what a small but vibrant community can achieve. Corop is different to many other towns that have joined the Community Plan process in that Corop is very small and has no remaining public institutions. Because of this the CCAG has developed such a broad focus, attempting to address a wide range of issues. In order to continue to move forward and achieve many of our goals we rely on the continuing input and support of locals, old and new. Being open to new ideas and new ways of looking at old problems is essential in ensuring we remain a vibrant community.

MASSIVE WIN FOR COROP RESIDENTS

The announcement of the \$1.5 million upgrade of the narrow section of the road into Rochester WAS NOT something that just happened.

Members of the Corop Community Action Group had been lobbying Vicroads, local council and councillors, politicians and ministers for some time.

The need for the road upgrade was also a high priority in the Corop Community Plan.

Word has it that the road will be widened in 2007 and the surveying of the works has been completed.

We congratulate those involved for their action. Corop residents and many other travelers will soon be able to traverse the road in greater safety.

The Corop Cup '06

The fourth annual Corop Cup was a great success. Around sixty people attended at the Victorian Water Ski Clubrooms at Lake Cooper on Melbourne Cup Day.

Antipasto platters preceded a chicken and salad luncheon, a smorgasbord of sweets, followed by tea, coffee, cakes and slices, mostly provided by the Corop Community Action Group with the assistance of Lynz-Bar, many locals and some shire funding.

The day started at noon and many revellers stayed on until seven. A large raffle gave 10 prizes to lucky winners, first being six bottles of local wines. Many give-aways were handed out and more wine given to the first three places in the hotly contested men's and women's fashions on the field.

Many sweeps were held on the Melbourne Cup but the highlight was definitely the three local races. The Flashing Fillies of Corop, was won by Perfect Pat and The Corop Colts was taken out by Able Al. Prior to the running of the Corop Cup, the actual cup was unveiled with great reverence and ceremony by connections of the three past winners: Bold Bobby, Melodious Cate and Classic Clem.

In the big race international entrant, California Deb got away to an excellent start and was never headed. The 'flighty' filly stood proudly in accepting her trophy and will fight hard to retain her position in next year's event.

Those in attendance were thrilled with the day and look forward to the next Corop Cup Meeting. Thanks to the generous donations of goods, prizes and wine from Lake Cooper Estate, Tim and Debbie Orr, Rathjens of Whistling Eagle Estate, Clem Furphy, Barry & Ronnie Sands, The Tatura Racing Club, Garry & Merle Newman and many others.

Corop Community Plan

The Corop Community Plan has been formally completed and is now a very professional looking and colourful document thanks to Mari Q and Genevieve Tehan at the Shire of Campaspe. The Community Plan document has been circulated amongst Community Plan members, however it is available for anyone to have a look at or obtain a copy. The aim is for this to be a living document that will change and develop as action occurs and as the community re-defines its wants, needs and priorities. If you wish to obtain a copy please contact Mari Q at the Shire of Campaspe or contact one of the Community Plan members (as listed in the last edition) to view a copy. We will also look at leaving a copy at the Corop Store for interested people to view.

Honour Board

Denise Acocks from the Corop Community Action Group has been notified by Dr Sharmon Stone, Member for Murray, of her successful application for funding to renew the Honour Board in Corop. The Honour Board project aims to remember those from the Corop region who served abroad and at home during wartime.

Earlier in the year we asked for assistance to compile a list of the names of those servicemen and women who were not acknowledged on the Corop State School WW1 Honour Board. We do have an extensive list from The Boer War through to the conflict in Vietnam.

The proposed list was published in the August edition of the Corop News. We have received a few more names from as far afield as Tasmania and call for any final additions before the restoration begins early this year. Please contact Denise Acocks on 5484 1070.



Corop CFA News

Fire Ready Evening at Station

An insightful presentation by CFA member, Garry Kenyon from Euroa was recently held at the Corop CFA headquarters. There were 71 people in attendance and a BBQ meal was provided. It was pleasing to see members of neighbouring CFAs in attendance.

The Fire Ready presentation was about preparing your property in the event of a fire. The main point is to have a comprehensive plan in place to protect your property or to leave your property before the fire encroaches. Information packs were distributed and are available from the Corop CFA.



Garry Newman(secretary), Trevor Speer, Paul Weller and Garry Kenyon(guest speaker)

The evening was also a “smoke-screen” to ensure particular personnel were present. New National Party MP, Paul Weller and his wife Christine had their first official function, presenting Certificates of Appreciation to the following:

Trevor Speer	43 years service
Ian Johnson	43 years service
Andrew Freeman	20 years service
Brian Kerlin	20 years service
Des Pearson	10 years as secretary

Congratulations to these men for their contribution and service to the community. Congratulations also go to the brigade for the informative and hospitable evening.



Ian Johnson is congratulated for 43 years of service by “new” State MP, Paul Weller

First Aid Course

The first round of courses was very successful. They were opened to the wider community and all participants passed. The brigade may be offering more First Aid courses in the near future, so watch the community noticeboard at the Corop Store if interested.



The first group of First Aid graduates

Big Fire in North East Victoria

As most readers would be aware, a massive bushfire is still burning in Victoria and has been for over a month.

On Tuesday 12th Dec 06, five members of the Corop CFA departed Corop at 5.00 am and travelled to Whitfield fire for day shift.

The magnitude of the fire and the inaccessibility of the terrain was amazing to behold and difficult to comprehend. Members toured around the region in the fire truck, put some water out on the fire and returned home 13/12/06 at 1.40am

Thanks to the following members who answered the call:

Brain Kerlin Andrew Freeman Cliff Monahan
Sandy Spencer Garry Newman



Captain Brian Kerlin(centre) surveys the action near Whitfield

General Notes

The CFA is considering re classifying the Corop Brigade to include low structure fires which means we will be taught how to fight house fires

Since the last newsletter we have recruited 9 new people into the Brigade, they will be trained in Feb of 2007.

REMEMBER, we are in the summer fire season, **fires are not permitted in the open**, gas or electric BBQs may be used, as long as the area around them is cleared to bare earth for a distance of 5 metres. **NO** fires or BBQs are permitted on days of Total Fire Bans. The use of angle grinders, welders etc is also **banned** on such days and heavy machinery such as tractors and harvesters should only be used when absolutely necessary.

Child Carer available

Registered child carer, Sonja Scammell of Nanneella has vacancies for child care.

The school bus stops at Sonja’s and she is qualified to care for children from 0 – 12 years of age.

Contact Sonja on 54845300.

Perfect Pat Peruses Peru



Pat Kennedy on the track

A phone message from out of the blue started me on a fantastic adventurous holiday. "Pat, Tim has just been offered a teaching job in China would you like to come with me on our planned trip to Peru?" I had to replay the message several times before the reality set in.

On Saturday 19th August I set off with a group of 11 members of the Ballarat Bushwalking club on a three and a half week trip covering many areas of Peru from the Andes to the Amazon Jungle.

There were many highlights but I will focus on a couple. The first thing that struck me after arriving in Lima was the heavy grey sky, you think it is dry here at the moment, it hasn't rained in Lima for 35 years but despite that and the extreme poverty of many of the people there is a contented feel to the city and a great appreciation of the tourist industry which is the second highest income earner in the country after mining.



Some of the Inca ruins of Machu Picchu

We soon headed south along the coast to Nasca to be greeted by another shock, the terrain was like a moonscape relieved only by the water courses from the Andes, along these streams and springs every type of corn and potatoes - two of the staples of the Peruvian diet - and a great variety of vegetables were grown. The Nasca lines which represent bird and animal shapes have been the centre of much speculation and research. They are thought to date from 100 BC to 200AD.

As we ascended in altitude many of us experienced headaches etc but with time these ceased and we were able to appreciate the beautiful Andes, with the crafts of the local people always available from wayside stops far from any settlements, to the up-market Alpaca boutiques of the cities.

Lake Titicaca, the highest inland lake in the world, allowed us to experience a homestay on one of the many islands. The home was humble with no running water or electricity but the welcome was warm and friendly. The people speak Quechuen rather than Spanish so communication was made possible by a list of words and much sign language and laughter. We were taken to a dance that night. Imagine if you can being squashed into a traditional costume of a beautifully embroidered blouse, red full skirt all tied together with a corset like embroidered belt, add to this the altitude and top it all off with a vigorous dance with plenty of hip swinging. Needless to say we slept well that night.

The Machu Pichu walk covered 40 kms and took four days. We were assisted by two local guides and many porters. While we gasped along to altitudes of over 4000 metres these porters almost ran past us carrying packs of up to 20 kgs including kitchen and dining room tents, gas bottles, food, our tents and sleeping bags and much more. We were certainly appreciative of their efforts. The scenery in this area was beautiful not to mention the Inca ruins which was the climax of our walk.

The Amazon Jungle at Puerto Maldonado was also breathtaking, a real Garden of Eden with lots of fruit growing there - bananas were 4 for 30 cents and plentiful in many parts of the country. Our lodge was another surprise. One wall of each room was open to the jungle. We were protected in bed by a very secure mosquito net so survived unscathed although my friend Wendy did hear something flying around the room one night. We heard monkeys calling out in the morning and fireflies buzzing through the jungle like miniature torches. We also saw Macaws, woodpeckers and weaver-birds with their weird hammock-like nests.

Before we knew it we were back in Lima but we had one last visit to make. I had made contact with a friend with whom I had been to school, she is a Josephite nun and has lived in Lima for 11 years. When I showed Margaret's address to our tour leader she was quite concerned and insisted we leave passports and excess money at the hotel and almost had us convinced that we wouldn't return safely.

Undaunted we set off on what ended up being an hour and a half taxi ride into the outskirts of Lima. The conditions there were very poor but neither Wendy nor I felt threatened although it was a little disconcerting when the driver locked all doors and told us to stay put while he went looking for a phone to ring for directions.

We were relieved to see Margaret waving at us as we approached a bus stop - the taxi driver was also thankful to unload his strange passengers who had wanted to move outside the safe tourist area of Lima. We had lunch with Margaret and she told us about the work she is doing with these poor people of outer Lima. The people move into these very basic houses with no water or power and have little hope of improving their lives, no matter how hard they work. She works with them teaching the children to read and generally giving them hope.

Peru is a wonderful country to visit with such variety of terrain and interesting and ancient cultures.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb 12

CCAG Meeting 7.30pm

Feb 16

Greens Lake CFA

A major social event may be held early 2007

Watch your letterbox for further details.

South Campaspe Rural Group

Over recent months members of the South Campaspe Rural Group have been in contact with a group of Iraqi women who now live in Shepparton. The idea was born out of the desire to reach out in a spirit of friendship and understanding in an attempt to help break down the barriers of prejudice and mistrust.

Contact with the group was facilitated by Fatima al Karaqi who is a Multicultural Officer working from the Cutting Edge, an agency of the Uniting Church based in Shepparton. Fatima is also a representative of the women from the Iraqi network.

The first meeting between the groups took place at Cutting Edge over a relaxed and enjoyable lunch prepared by the Iraqi women. There were eighteen Iraqi women and about twenty pre-school children and babies in attendance on that day. The company was warm and inviting and with Fatima acting as an interpreter we began the process of getting to know each other. Some time was spent discussing Islam and we were encouraged to ask questions and offer comments. In spite of some language difficulties it was an interesting and helpful discussion. It was generally agreed that we should meet again. The women expressed a wish to be invited to our homes and agreed they would love to have a day out to visit us.

This happened in November when the women and little children traveled by bus for a visit to Denise and David Acocks' farm at Rochester. It was good to see them again to offer hospitality and to continue the conversations. Lunch was a feast and included some delicious dishes of traditional Iraqi food provided by our guests.

Time passed all too quickly with limited opportunities for in-depth discussion. However the indirect communication was rich in mutual enjoyment, understanding and acceptance.

It is our hope that a supportive friendship between the two groups will continue to develop throughout 2007 and beyond.



Members of the South Campaspe Rural Group enjoying the ambience of the Wetland Café at Tahbilk Winery

The final event for the year was a bus trip and luncheon at Tahbilk winery near Nagambie. A relaxing and enjoyable day was held by all in addition to the lovely wines that were tasted and purchased. In addition to the new Wetlands Café overlooking the Wetlands area, Tahbilk winery now also has a Wetlands boat tour or walk for visitors to enjoy.

Christmas in Corop

Another very enjoyable Christmas Party was held at the Corop Tennis & Community Centre. Over 70 were in attendance despite some concern that the change from the usual Sunday evening to the Saturday night might stop some revellers.



A few of the "new" faces at the Corp Christmas

Much thanks must go to Trevor "The BBQ King" Oakley for cooking the feast and to all comers for their contributions to the meal. Thanks also to Don and Denis for the evening's music.

Unfortunately, vice-president of the CCAG and regular of the celebrations, Bob Bartlett only put in a brief appearance but luckily Santa was able to attend and spread joy and goodwill among the happy throng.



Santa brings the Christmas spirit to Lachlan Kerlin

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: Corop News c/- Katrina Hall & Bill Barkla 1627 Midland Hwy. Corop or email bbarkla@rochsec.vic.edu.au , or PH: (03) 5484 8101. <http://mc2.vicnet.net.au/home/coropcag/web/index.html>

NOTE: Feedback has always been positive about our efforts and newsletter. After over five years and 19 editions of the *Corop News*, we find with family, work and community commitments the need to once again ask for your support. We would like people to increase the number of written contribution of articles to our valuable community newsletter. Please contact us.

Interesting snippets from the past

An advertisement for **Williams the Shoemen** from *The Bendigo Advertiser*, Thursday, February 21, 1901.

BARTER, BAMBOOZLE, AND BUSINESS.

If you have a thousand pounds of fruit, and your neighbour a cow, and you “swap,” that’s **BARTER**. If your neighbour has no cow, and you take his word for the cow, that’s **CREDIT**. If he hands you a ten-pound note, that’s **CASH**. **GENTLE READER**, cash is the transaction that stands for business in these days of **FIERCE COMPETITION**. Quick sales and small profits. **BARTER IS OBSOLETE**; credit is on the wane. **CASH IS HERE**, the enemy of hard times, the **BLOOD** of **BUSINESS** and prop of empires. Williams the Shoemen trade on the **SPOT CASH** principle and sell **GOOD BOOTS**, bought for cash, sold for cash – no barter, no credit – just good **HARD CASH** and a heap of satisfaction all round, and Co-operative Coupons into the bargain!

A letter to the editor of *The Elmore Standard* Friday, February 26, 1897

NOXIOUS WEEDS

Sir, Please permit me through your valuable columns to ask what is the use of private persons trying to keep their land clean, when all the streets and scores of private allotments are literally nurseries for propagating a fine variety of noxious weeds? Is it the duty of the Shire, or “any other fellow” to look after their eradication; or must one appeal to the Department of Agriculture for redress? The damage to street trees through wandering horses and cows still continues unnoticed.

Yours, &c., VIGILANT.