



Corop News

"The Call of the Brolga"

Issue No. 21 September 2007

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Corop Photo competition

Do you like taking photos? Have you recently taken a photo that reflects something of Corop? Then we'd like you to consider entering our photo competition. The prize-winner will receive \$25 and have their photo presented in a Corop 2008 calendar to be issued through the Christmas edition of *Corop News*.

The \$25 has been offered by the combined Stanhope, Corop and Girgarre, Citizens Advisory Group. There will also be runner-up prizes for second and third. So get out there and start clicking!

The calendar is supported by Justin Cleary at the Caltex Service Station, Rochester – THANK YOU Justin.

Please forward photos with your name and contact details to Bill Barkla via the Corop Store or you can email your photos to Bill at: bbarkla@rochsec.vic.edu.au



CCAG UPDATE

Road upgrades in the Corop region

With the upgrade to the Heathcote-Rochester Road now complete, it is with pride and joy that we are all now able to drive on a much safer and smoother road into Rochester. It is wonderful indeed not to have that sense of trepidation and wariness on each hill, wondering if a large truck was coming over the rise and whether a quick detour onto the unsealed shoulder could be safely executed! Our appreciation to the Shire of Campaspe roadworks staff for completing the work and to Vicroads for funding the upgrade.



A section of the recently completed dual carriageway.

While we are on roads, it seems that things have gained momentum around Corop as Vicroads have now announced funding of \$422,000 to upgrade the two intersections where the Heathcote-Rochester Road meets the Midland Highway west of Corop township.

In addition to this, Vicroads will improve the safety of the Midland Highway bend near Neilson's Rd after a number of accidents there over the past few years, and the bend near Lake Cooper Estate winery. The rough pavement between the two Heathcote-Rochester Road intersections on the Midland Highway will continue to be monitored by Vicroads.



"Neilson's Rd Corner"

Thanks to Trevor Speer for initiating the action on this with support from Paul Weller (Member for Rodney) and members of CCAG who have been advocating for these improvements. It's great to see that our concerns are being heard and addressed.

Widening of Midland Highway

Vicroads are currently undertaking road widening and the sealing of shoulders between Elmore and Stanhope. As this process will require the removal of some trees, another 1400 trees have been allocated to the Corop area to offset their removal. Vicroads will organize contractors to plant these trees in consultation with local community groups and weather permitting.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Sept 29 th | Grand Final Day @ Lake Cooper Estate |
| Sept 30 th | Corop Working Bee – meet at the shelter @ 9.30 am |
| Oct 6 th | Recharge in Rochester |
| Oct 6 th & 7 th | Heathcote Wine & Food Festival |
| Oct 21st | Lake Cooper Estate's "Day on the Hill" |
| Dec 16th | Christmas in Corop @ 6.30 pm |

CCAG - AGM

The Corop Community Action Group held its AGM on the 18th July 2007. The newly elected executive consists of:

- President: Clem Furphy
- Vice-President: Brian Kerlin
- Secretary: Jo Fell
- Treasurer: Bill Fell.

The Corop Community Action Group now holds its monthly meeting in conjunction with the Corop Community Plan meeting, held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm. Anyone is welcome to attend either of these meetings.

Corop Community Plan Group

The Corop Community Plan has recently been revised to update priorities and further streamline the document.

The current focus is on extending the Tennis and Community Centre to incorporate a larger meeting and recreation area, improve kitchen facilities and create some storage space. A draft plan has been prepared and will soon be available for community review and comment.

The Eco-Living grant criteria require us to demonstrate the environmental and energy efficient aspects of the project and to show how this will benefit the local community through: education, role modelling and evaluating its effectiveness. For further information on this project you can contact either Clem Furphy or Carmel Pearson.

Lights on in Corop!

Following an incident last year and a request by the Corop Cemetery Trust, the Shire of Campaspe has recently installed new lighting outside the Corop Tennis and Community Centre. This will enable people to return safely to their cars when attending evening meetings or functions held at the centre. Our thanks to Shire of Campaspe Council, for their attention to this matter.

Storage Shed

CCAG has now purchased and erected a small storage shed on site at the Corop Tennis and Community Centre. A concrete floor will complete the construction.

Heritage Grant

The CCAG has been successful in obtaining a \$500 Heritage Grant from the Shire of Campaspe. This money will be used to purchase acid-free photo albums, archival boxes for storage of old photographs and to reproduce copies of photographs on loan to the group. The remaining funds will be used towards a display and storage cabinet.



Katrina receives the cheque from Cr Marion Riley

Carmel Pearson and Katrina Hall attended the afternoon tea presentation held at the Rochester Town Hall in the refurbished meeting room upstairs. Councillor Peter Williams hosted the event, while Councillor Marion Riley presented the cheques and congratulated each group on their successful grant.

Christmas Decorations funds

The Shire of Campaspe has funds available for Corop to use on Christmas decorations or events and promotional material. Plans so far are to erect poles with banners that can be interchanged at the entrances to Corop. If you have any other suggestions please contact Katrina Hall on 5484 8101 or Jo Fell on 5484 8131.



Dinner Dance

The Corop Dinner Dance that was scheduled for June was cancelled due to insufficient numbers. Two issues emerged from this – one was the problem with people not booking their tickets by the RSVP date; the other regarded feedback from people about the cost of the event.

The Dinner Dance cost was \$30/head for a three-course meal and live music. The committee felt that the cost was reasonable and compared very favourably with the cost of other similar events held in Rochester and Colbinabbin around that time. The decision was made to out-source the catering to allow CCAG members to relax and enjoy the evening, as distinct from all other social events organised by CCAG.

The event was intended to be a fund-raiser for the CCAG. In the past the group has actively sought to attract grants or donations to provide social events free of charge. These grants have enabled us to provide food and/or live music at minimal or no cost to people. However, it is becoming more difficult to attract these funds, especially for regular events. It is crucial for CCAG to be able to fundraise to continue the broad ranging work and projects that they have been providing to Corop and surrounding residents. We appreciate your understanding on this matter and look forward to your support in the future.

Melbourne Cup Day in Corop

This year the CCAG will not be holding its Melbourne Cup Day luncheon due to the MC and key organiser, Bill Barkla being unavailable. It is hoped that Corop and Colbinabbin could alternate running the Cup Day luncheon in the future.



Girgarre Farmers' Produce Market

The following article was written by Jan Smith (Girgarre Farmers Market):

August 12 saw another very successful market day at Girgarre. The farmers produce market was established two and a half years ago and commenced business with great hopes many people and nine stall-holders. From this small beginning the market has steadily grown to the market it is today where forty stalls with an amazing variety of regional produce are in attendance.



Produce, like all manner of vegetables from the pumpkins grown amongst the rows of bulbs at our fledgling bulb farm, to the cauliflowers planted by a local farmer's son that he tends after school and at weekends and picked the night before, farm fresh oranges, mandarins, and avocados grown up on the Murray, crunchy apples from Kyabram, nuts from Howlong, freshly dug potatoes, free range eggs and last but not least locally grown pork that is a taste delight. This wonderful fresh food is complemented with delicious home made cakes and slices, jams, honeys and sauces, olive oil products, emu oil products, lavender products and when you have finished shopping many taste treats are available either for an early lunch or a late breakfast.

As is apparent there is a huge scope for producers to slot into our and other markets and to be able to value add to their own businesses or like wise start growing on a local level, the farm fresh produce that the customers so very much desire.

Our local pork producer is a great example of value adding to his product. Not only is he presenting customers with a fresh farm gate product but he is also showing people how to cook and present this product in a quick tasty way for the family – and all at a price that is far in excess of what he can command in the market place, yet a price that is much under supermarket prices.

In our desire to promote local production of fruit and vegetables that people so desire, the market committee is planning to conduct workshops to inform people on how to get going.



Jo Fell, Carmel Pearson & Beth Oakley stocking up on fresh produce at Girgarre Farmers' Produce Market.

Young People Making a Difference to our Local Environment.

Our thanks to Andrew Pearson, Waterways Vegetation Officer for the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GBCMA), for this inspiring article about his recent work involving school children around the district. Andrew's dedication to the environment is well known and he takes great satisfaction in children's growing awareness and concern for the world around them.

Tree plantings have been occurring around the local countryside lately after reasonable winter rains. At Colbinabbin, two Rushworth P-12 College students, Olivia McEvoy and Laura Tait, organized a planting day on the Cornella Creek at the McEvoy farm. With environmental funding received for the plants, the girls organised the Grades 2 – 6 pupils from the Colbinabbin Primary School to plant over 500 trees along drainage lines of the creek. Ray McEvoy had prepared the ground in advance and there was adequate soil moisture to give the plants a good start.

Species such as Grey Box, Yellow Box and a mixture of Golden, Goldust, Mallee and Varnish wattles were selected for the site. The children enjoyed a barbecue lunch back at the school to celebrate their achievement.



Evie and Carmel

In September Stanhope Primary school children will plant 200 trees at Mansfield Swamp, Corop. The activity will be supported by funding from Parks Victoria. Murchison Primary School, funded by the Waranga Land Care Group and Parks Victoria has also chosen September to plant 200 trees around the picnic area at Doctors Swamp, Murchison.



Tree Planting at Colbinabbin

The Regional Environment of Employment Program (REEP) has provided a group of 8 young people aged 16 – 18 years to assist with plantings along the Cornella and Yallagalrah Creeks. Plantings for this project include: 1200 trees on Carl and Dea Brown's land adjoining the Yallagalrah Creek; 2000 trees on Roger and Colleen Kemp's land along the Cornella Creek; 1000 trees on Paul and Janice Tait's land along a badly eroded drainage line into the Cornella Creek. Young people are making a difference to our local environment and their legacy will endure for future generations.

The Neilson Family

Thanks to Herb Neilson for providing the following information about his family.

Herbert Neilson Snr was born in 1892 and came to Corop in the 1920s when his parents William and Suzanne Neilson purchased 900 acres on the old Elmore Road. Herbert Snr managed the farm including the 900 Corriedales. With a neighbour he established a contract shearing team in the property's two-stand shed which he built from local timber he cut himself. The team sheared about 11,000 sheep a year. During this time he married Ethel Salter and together they raised their family of four children - Emily, Jim, Herb and Alan.

As reported in *Stock and Land* 23 October 1980,

Mr Neilson has been shearing since 1908 when his father first shoved a blade in his hand and told him to finish off the last sheep in the shed.

By 1914, aged 22, Mr Neilson was shearing in a 24-stand shed at Willaura Station, NSW, every year, and working on a contract team throughout the shearing season.

"In those days we earned 22 shillings and sixpence for a hundred head shorn and had to pay the cook out of that," Mr Neilson reminisced. "Shears then cost two shillings and sixpence a pair with combs sixpence each. Today you can't buy a handpiece for under \$150 and combs cost \$8 each - it's just amazing." Mr Neilson said.

In later years the cropping and general farm work was shared by Herbert's three sons but he would always be in the shed at shearing time to help out and shear the odd sheep or two each day. Herbert was 92 years old when he used the shears for the last time. He died in 1990 aged 98 acclaimed as Australia's oldest shearer.

The *Bendigo Advertiser* Dec 3, 1979, featured Herbert Neilson Snr in an article entitled "Old-timers breathe life into dying crafts".

One person who still practices a craft more than a hundred years old is keen to keep it going. Herbert Neilson, 87, still shears sheep with hand clippers and he is teaching his son the art.

Herb was the star of the afternoon. After 73 years on the boards, he took up hand clippers first used more than 100 years ago to shear a cantankerous "kicker" in nine minutes. And then with all the agility of a man half his age, Herb straightened and proceeded to gather the wool.

Herb is teaching his son Herb Jnr, also a shearer, the craft of using hand shears to ensure the art will not die.

He is worried that the words of the immortal "Click Go the Shears" will mean nothing to the next generation of Australians.

(Neilson story continued next page:)



Herbert Neilson Senior (Born 19th October 1892: Died 31st December 1990) - Blade shearing.

Neilson family continued:

Herb Neilson (Jnr) still farms the original property in Corop where he and his wife Dot live today. Herb remembers the skills he developed working alongside his father on the farm. He recalled his father's involvement in the newly formed Corop West CFA where he served as captain until he was 75 years old. Before the CFA came into existence the local Progress Association became the volunteer fire brigade during the summer and resumed normal activities during the winter months.



Herb Neilson Jnr using blades to shear. (1983)

Looking out over Lake Cooper, which has been dry these past 6 years, Herb remembers his father telling him that in 1920 the lake was 12 to 14 feet deep. Some 25 years later Herbert Snr, with other local men, buried hundreds of large codfish which had been stranded as the water receded. Later that year Herbert drove his horse and gig across the dry lakebed to attend a clearing sale.

Today Herb Neilson carries on his father's tradition of blade shearing and is in demand for demonstrations and charity events. "Click Go the Shears" remains a reality today thanks to shearers like Herb Neilson.

WANTED

We strongly urge YOU to contribute to the *Corop News*, in particular family histories or photos of historic interest.

Rochester Community House

Rochester Community House has recently released their Spring Program. These low cost courses range from Health, Wellbeing & Fitness; Arts, Crafts and Games; Cooking; and Computers.

The Community House also offers many other services. For further information phone: 54843600 or pick up a program from the Corop Store.

Gobarup Players – ‘The Last Resort’

The Gobarup Players are rehearsing a comedy – “The Last Resort”, which will open in Lockington on November 1st.

Local thespians are still laughing after two months of rehearsal, and the show promises to lay them in the aisles. Set in a retirement village, the script is unashamedly ageist, and the cast of ten are busy learning lines, practising songs, and even line dancing.

The show will travel to Colbinabbin, Tatura, Murchison, Elmore, Girgarre, and Rochester, over two weekends. Directed by Clem Furphy, the show features all the usual suspects who have been stalwarts of the Players, some for more than 20 years. Don't miss it. It's a hoot! Show dates: **1/11 Lockington, 2/11 Colbinabbin, 3/11 Tatura, 4/11 Murchison, 8/11 Elmore, 9/11 Girgarre, 10/11 Rochester.**

FREE Recharge Carnival in Rochester

A free event that has varied activities, including live music by the fabulous Real Sisters, will be staged at the Recreation Reserve in Rochester, on Saturday the 6th of October, beginning at 11 am.

Free BBQ lunch and refreshments, pony rides, pampering, face-painting, jumping castle, give-aways, displays, jewelry and model making, and much more.

This Rochester and Districts community event is about Recharge @ NO charge.

Enquiries to Allannah Jenkins on 58520000 or Sonia Martin on 54843083.

Slow Food Movement

Members of the South Campaspe Rural Group gathered at Cate Furphy's last month to have lunch and hear about the Slow Food Movement. Joy, Mary, Simone and Diana from the Central Victorian Slow Food Convivium (group) emphasized to us that we and in fact many country people who cook their own meals are actually using Slow Food principles.

Slow Food is a non-profit, eco-gastronomic organization, which was founded in Italy in 1989 to counteract fast food and fast life. The objectives are to:

- Celebrate the pleasures of the table, the family Sunday roast is a prime example;
- Promote taste education, e.g. the development of the school garden at Rushworth P-12;
- Defend biodiversity through seeking out foods at risk of disappearance;
- Connect producers and consumers through such events as 'A Taste of Slow' held in Melbourne as part of the Melbourne Food and Wine Show. Next year it will be from 22nd February to the 8th March 2008.
- Feeds the mind through an appreciation of cultural diversity.

(Taken from "There are a Thousand Reasons to Join" by Slow Food).

To join Slow Food or to find out more about the organization the web site is:

www.slowfoodcentralvictoria.org.au or
www.slowfood.com and email
admin@slowfoodcentralvictoria.org.au



Friends and Neighbours Night

Once again the Neighbours' and Friends' Night held up at Lake Cooper Estate Vineyard and Cellar Door on 8th September was a raging success. A fine spread of casseroles, salads and sweet dishes tempted all those present and barely a scrap was left over for the chooks! The food was washed down by the always-delicious Lake Cooper wines from the bar.

Geoff Speer, Geraldine and their band of helpers set up the Cellar Door to receive the guests in a warm inviting atmosphere with foot tapping music in the background. Friends met friends and neighbours met neighbours to celebrate the promising spring rains and talked up a storm, if not literally, then certainly figuratively!

Greenhouse Gas – What can I do?

It is now widely accepted that greenhouse gases generated by human activity are accelerating climate change. The most significant greenhouse gas is carbon dioxide and human activities cause millions of tonnes of this gas to be released every year. Energy consumption of the average Australian household generates 14 tonnes of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere per year.

Many people feel overwhelmed by the consequences of climate change that are already becoming apparent and ask the question 'What can I do?' The actions of one individual or household is small in the big picture, but when all households take action the total result will be very significant. Successful changes by one household will be followed by others in the community and eventually will become the norm.

Action can be taken in two general ways - physical changes to the house and contents and changes in behavior.

Physical changes will vary in cost and effectiveness. The most cost effective means of reducing energy consumption will pay for themselves in the shortest time. Some examples are:

- * replacing incandescent light bulbs with low energy bulbs;
- * effective insulation in all areas of the house, particularly ceilings;
- * choose new appliances that are energy efficient and match your needs;
- * effective draft-proofing of the house with opening windows for ventilation;
- * installing solar hot water panels (with government rebates).
- * double glazing windows in living areas;
- * planting of deciduous trees, shrubs or vines to shade the east and west sides of the house from summer sun and allow winter sun in;
- * ensuring eaves or verandahs on the north side of the house allow the winter sun in and exclude summer sun;
- * shelter the south side of the house from cold winter winds (e.g. trees, shrubs);
- * consider installing photovoltaic cells or buying green energy.

Behavioral changes may involve some lifestyle changes and can also save money. Some examples are:

- * switch off appliances at the power point when not in use;
- * switch off lights when not in use;
- * walk or cycle short journeys rather than drive;
- * use public transport when possible;
- * take shorter showers;
- * put on a jacket or pullover instead of turning up the heating;

Some useful web sites:

www.sustainability.vic.gov.au

www.greenhouse.gov.au

Heathcote Wine and Food Festival

After humble beginnings in the back yards of The Emeu Inn and Heathcote Winery, the Heathcote Food and Wine Festival has gone from strength to strength.

Fred and Leslie Thiess and Steve Wilkins were the brains behind the first festival and since then many people including locals Cathy Branson and Geraldine McHarg have been actively involved in the organisation of the festival to make it the success it is.

Now in its sixth year the event will be held on 6th & 7th October at the Heathcote Show Grounds from 10:30am – 5pm both days. As well as tastings of local wines, including some from Corop and Colbinabbin producers such as Lake Cooper Estate, Mount Burrumboot Estate, Galli Estate, Henning's View Vineyard, Shelmerdine and Kennedy Vineyards, there will be a great variety of foods to try.

Musical and children's entertainment will be provided, so come along for a great weekend or day out. Entry is \$20 per person or \$35 for a weekend pass. Non-drinkers \$10 and children under 18 are free.

A Day On The Hill



**SUNDAY
21ST OCTOBER
2007
11AM – 5PM**



Music by: 'MADLIPS'
The Sensational Covers Band



Entry: \$10
Includes souvenir glass
& tasting card
Under 18 free



2006 Vintage Release
Food, Wine, Music,
Local Produce
& Family
Entertainment.

Wine Tastings Gourmet BBQ Soft Drink Beer & Mixed Drinks Koonoomoo Ice-cream Dutch Poffertjes Cheese platters Espresso Mobile Café Pud for all seasons Goldfield Gourmet Preserves	Heathcote Olive Grove Mount Ida Lavender Live music Jumping Castle Petanque Manny the Clown: *Face Painting *Balloon Shapes *Magic Show
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NO BYO FOOD, ALCOHOL OR PETS PLEASE

Please Note that this is also CCAG's major fundraiser.

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.

History of the Corop Tennis Club

Corop's first tennis club was formed in Mara's Hotel in January 1912. After the committee was formed they purchased four tennis racquets.

The minutes of June 21st 1913 showed a meeting called, "to arrange a settlement of the tournament. Owing to Miss Goldsworth not playing, Mr AH Stewart was left without a partner. Mr W rose on behalf of the players, offered mr Stewart his pick of the first four ladies who were defeated in the tournament, or Mr H Stevenes would give him his partner (Miss B welsh) and take one of the four himself. After a good deal of discussion Mr Stewart decided not to play at all." (Source: *Campaspe Valley News*)

The current Corop Tennis clubrooms were built in 1967. Concrete courts in 1979. Had a historical display of club and town.