



# Corop News

"The Call of the Brolga"

Issue No. 23 April 2008

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## The Corop Masters – Dry Lake Classic

The dry Lake Cooper, although interesting to observe, is indicative of the harsh times our rural environment and its people are suffering.

On Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup> of April over 30 locals gathered to socialise, many to have a hit of golf and all had quite a few giggles for the inaugural Corop golf day.

A 36 par, nine-hole golf course was laid out in one giant sand-trap, namely the dry bed of Lake Cooper.



**Bobby on the first, tees up for a monster drive**

Local legend, Bob Bartlett had the privilege of being the first to tee-off. Ten year old Brayden Kerlin showed promise in completing the challenging layout, along with his father Ric and Uncle Brian. Beth "Jack Newton" Oakley played with only her left hand and completed all nine holes with one club!

Many said they had not played for many years and yet really enjoyed the day.



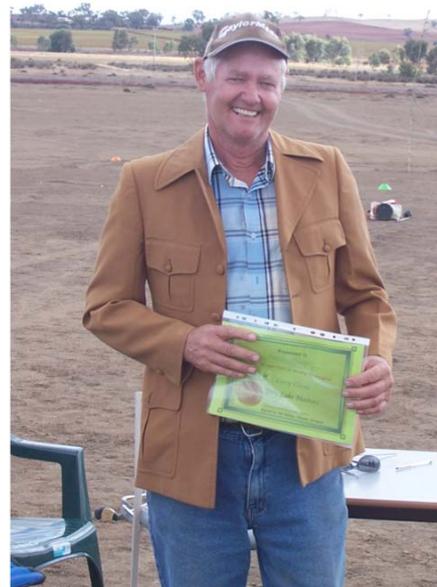
**Left to right: Graeme Whitehead, Geoff McCarty, Bob Bartlett (Note: holster club-bag) and Geoff Spencer**

Long-time resident, Mrs Joyce Speers took the role of Chief Judge and presented the prizes.

Geoff McCarty won "Nearest the Pin" on the grueling 144 metre ninth-hole.

Graeme Whitehead came second with his "three over 39". It's important to note here that all scores are "off the stick". When you have a line up of fantastic players and in championships, we don't use the handicap system.

Overall winner was Geoff Spencer with an awesome score of 36 – EVEN! Geoff had a birdie and an eagle in his inspired round. Geoff received a certificate, two bottles of Lake Cooper Estate wine and the coveted "Lake Cooper Brown" Corop Classic – Dry Lake Masters Jacket.



**Champion, Geoff Spencer looking resplendent in his "Masters" jacket – CONGRATULATIONS**

Thanks to Gerry and Geraldine McHarg for their continued generous support of the Corop Community with the donation of the bottles of wine awarded to our three prize-winners.

A BBQ lunch was a great opportunity to analyse the game and to generally "catch up".

Thanks also to those responsible for this great event and hopefully it will become an annual fixture. Equally we hope that the event will not be played in Lake Cooper next year unless played using periscopes and snorkels.



**Brayden and Ric Kerlin**

## The traffic stops in Corop

We all know that Corop is rapidly becoming a thriving metropolis and has really been “put on the map” in recent years but surely not enough for traffic lights.

Well here they are! As part of the upgrades taking place on the Midland Highway between Elmore and Stanhope, it has been necessary to limit traffic to one lane across the Waranga Channel whilst the bridge is widened.



## Old shotguns found in Lake Cooper

Two double barrel shotguns have been uncovered in the ever-changing dry bed of Lake Cooper in recent times.

The first is a hammerless and was found by Bernie Burke and is on display at the Colbinabbin Hotel.



The old shotgun at the Colbinabbin Hotel

The second is a hammer-mechanism and is now devoid of its barrels. Geoff Spencer found the decayed remains of the gun during the golf day.

One can only assume they were once part of the armoury of two of the many duck hunters who frequented the lake in duck season and were unfortunate to lose them overboard . . . although maybe it was fortunate for the ducks.



Geoff Spencer with the remains of a very decayed shotgun

## CCAG Update

Work has been ongoing relating to putting down a slab for the storage shed and anchorage points for the banner poles in the town. Soon there will be a shed to store the community’s various implements and machinery safely and in one location. We will also see banners flying at the eastern entrance to Corop where several banner poles are being erected thanks to funding from the Shire.

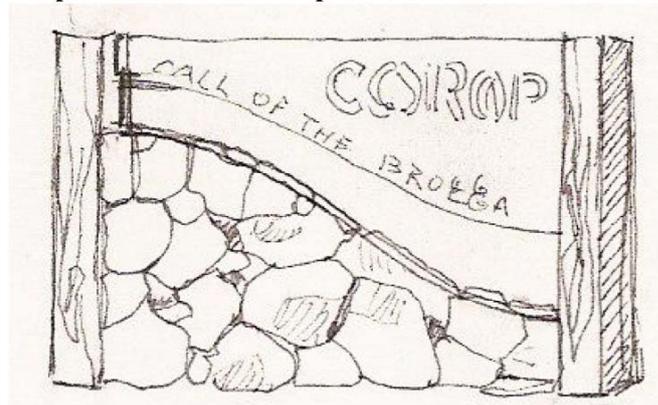
A sub-committee was formed to nut out the design for town entrance installations. This is another Shire initiative and the resulting concept sketches are included below and will be available for viewing and comment from interested community members.

The group has also been instrumental in designing a more comprehensive and user-friendly website for Corop and has met at Rochester Secondary College recently to look at various websites for ideas.

As reported in previous newsletters, the group put in an application for funding for the refurbishment and extension of the local Tennis and Community Centre. Unfortunately the application for the sustainability fund was unsuccessful. The group is exploring other funding sources for this project.

Various social events have been planned for community involvement and enjoyment, which have been enlarged upon elsewhere in this newsletter.

### Corop “town entrance” Proposal



Sketch Jo Fell

**NOTE: The other sketch is located on the last page of this edition of the Corop News.**

Plans are in progress to design a town entrance and complete the streetscape along the Midland Highway through the town.

Our theme is the Brolga and our place in the area at the base of Mount Camel Range.

Jo Fell has sketched two options, which were on display at the Friends & Neighbours night; we hope you were able to look at them there. They are now on display at the notice board near the shop. Please have a look and express your preference by voting at the Corop Store.

The aim of our town entrance and streetscape is to show the brolga in its natural setting and to do this we plan to have several sculptured brolgas placed in various positions along the highway. To create their natural setting we plan to have them positioned in cane grass and bog settings complete with the native vegetation they enjoy.

The concepts are on the “community noticeboard” and feedback can be given to Jo on 54848131 or email [wfell@bigpond.com](mailto:wfell@bigpond.com) or at the Corp Store.

By the way the brolga are continuing to survive through this extremely dry period. Twelve or more can be seen regularly along the Wanalta Corop Rd in the paddocks south of the Wallenjoie Rd.

## Bob Bartlett's Classic Photos

Bob has collected many photos over a long period of time and we have particularly enjoyed these "latest" five gems. (Below and centre pages)

The photo below is the first double-deck truckload of lambs that were transported to the Bendigo Market. Mr Hubert (Hub) Wileman made the historic trip in his 1920s British Bedford (the same truck as the hare shoot) from Wanalta in 1933.

When Bob first showed us the "picnickers" photo we were amazed at its quality and content. Upon subsequent viewing and discussion we have further appreciated the "time capsule" in terms of the shot capturing the lost social outing of the family all going bush for a picnic and a "cuppa" in china cups. One can only imagine getting out the blankets and baskets, a small fire being lit by the menfolk to "boil the kettle"(pictured at front wheel) as the women prepared the scones. Hopefully, a few of us can continue the thermos tradition a little longer. Maybe cars no longer having running-boards to be used as makeshift seats helped the demise of the family picnic.

Those pictured at the picnic are all Wilemans and are: Front Left, Edith; Front R, Lil; Middle R, Jean. Left to right at the back: The first two men are not recognisable to Bob, the other three are Don, Cliff and Fred.

The car is a 1928 Plymouth tourer and the picnic probably took place in the Wallenjoe Swamp area.

Bob's third classic photo is the men preparing for a hare shoot, circa early 1920s. Far left is Hub Wileman; centre is possibly Bob or Phil Stewart and far right is Don Wileman.

Bob also gave us the following harvest photos. The first is Bob in a heavy wheat crop in 1958. He's driving a 1956 Fordson tractor and stripping with a ten-foot No.6 McKay header.

The second photo is Bob on his "new" John Deere 7700 auto-harvester with a 24-foot cut. Again Bob is in a

heavy wheat crop, this time on the lunette of Lake Cooper. The lake in the background is full and the northern end of the Mt Camel Range is also visible.

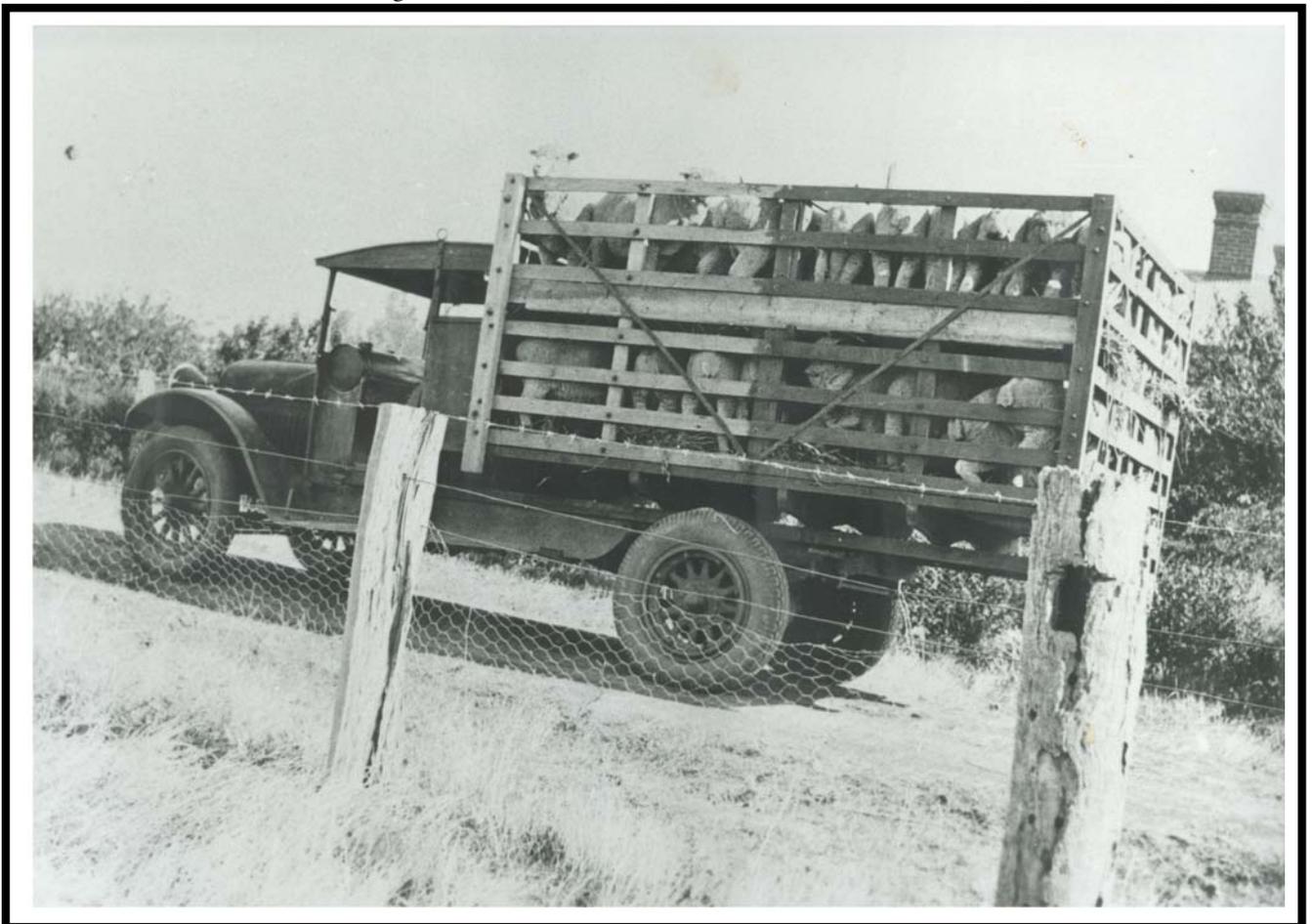


**Bob Bartlett stripping wheat in 1958**



**Bob harvesting in 1980**

We would appreciate further information on these great photos. We welcome contributions of historical Corop photos and have some funds to copy and catalogue photos.



## Corop Dinner Dance

We are planning for a dinner dance to be held at Camp Curumbene on the Saturday night of the 12<sup>th</sup> of July.

Grants to cover most of the costs are being applied for to enable "Coropites" to have a night out without the financial burden during this harsh period.

It is envisaged that we will have a two or three course sit-down meal and a live band.

You may recall that last year a dinner-dance was planned and organised but due to lack of numbers, unfortunately, it had to be cancelled. We hope that this year's event will be heavily booked or we would have to assume that our local community do not want social events of this nature.

Please start to organise groups for when bookings open as seating is limited to the legal capacity of the function room. Maybe you could also brush up on your dance moves and polish your dancing shoes.

Nearer the date, information will be available in the Corop Noticeboard and distributed with the mail.



## Honour Board Information

Having just remembered Anzac Day it is timely to think about those commemorated on our recently restored memorial plaque, which is now on display at the Community Centre. It would be wonderful to be able to have some background to add to each name to add to our historical records. Could any reader who knows anything of these soldiers, eg life before the war, age when enlisted, where they served, type of service they saw and life after the war, please pass on the information to Denise Acocks, PO Box 37, Rochester 3561 or email: [forresbonn@bigpond.com](mailto:forresbonn@bigpond.com)

The list of soldiers on our Honour Board:

### Names on Honor Roll State School No.1021 Corop

D.Watt	M.Murphy	O.Watt
W.Fitspatrick	J.G.Stokes	W.Pearson
J.S.B.Lucas	A.Bunker	R.J.B.Lucas
W.Bunker	T.Dooley	H.R.Hicks
J.J.Murphy	W.Brandner	C.King
E.Davey	M.Besleyne ???	B.Davey
W.Davenport	H.Logan	T.Ryan
	H.G.Beckwith	

### Boer War

J.Conway	A.G.Morton	C.H.Stevens (Snr)
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### WW1

C.Adams	C.King	E.Davey
A.Manning	A.E.Dutton	R.Miles
W.East	A.Pearson	H.G.Furphy
W.Pearson	A.Gallop	W.Robinson
W.Nolan (killed & Buried in France)		F.Godden
C.Harrison	Maj.Michael Ryan	H.Hicks
J.Stokes	L.B.Taylor (Military Medal)	F.Howe

### WW2

J.Arnold	N.Munro	R.Arnold
Padre C.H.Padmore	B.D.Brown	F.J. Speer
W.Dawson	K.R.Speer	T.L.Freeman
N.M.Speer	C.R.Furphy	P.T.Speers
H.G.Furphy	C.H.Stevens (Snr)	N.Stuart
I.W.J.Harris	C.H.Stevens (Jnr)	A.C.Hicks
J.H.Hicks	R.J.Stuart	R.Hicks
W.H.Stuart	E.B.Johnson (now Edwards)	
Capt.W.M.Taylor	R.Watt (killed overseas)	
S.Leith	M.W.Weeks	R.T.Knight
A.W.A.Lucas	C.West	W.I.J.Lucas
N.West	H.R.G.Lucas	D.L.Wileman
K.J.L.Lynch	F.H.Wileman	K.D.Munro
L.C.Johnson		

### Vietnam

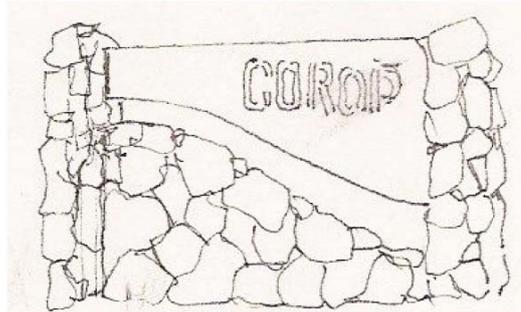
D.J.Corbett	W.C.Hill	R.M.Lucas	A.J.Johnson
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## Did you notice?

Did you notice the improved quality of our Christmas newsletter? With the assistance of Rochester Secondary College we continue to make advances in our processes, which in turn gives a better product.

We were also pleased to receive a deal of positive feedback on the calendar that was the final result of our photo competition. We plan to run the competition later this year and look forward to our readerships' many entries.

## The second sketch of the proposed town entrance



Sketch: Jo Fell

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**May 22 – CCAG Meeting: town entrances**

**July 12 - Dinner Dance @ Camp Curumbene**

**November 4 – Corop Cup**

Watch your letterbox for further details.

This newsletter was compiled by: Carmel Pearson, Jo Fell, Pat Kennedy, Bill Barkla and Katrina Hall, with photo page by Kate Weeks. Thanks to everyone who contributed articles and photos and to the Rochester Secondary College for its ongoing support in copying this newsletter. Contributions or enquiries should be forwarded to: Corop News c/- Bill Barkla 1627 Midland Hwy Corop or email [bill.barkla@rochsec.vic.edu.au](mailto:bill.barkla@rochsec.vic.edu.au) or PH: (03) 5484 8101.

**DONATIONS:** Recently we have received several generous monetary donations to the Corop News. We are grateful for any support given, as our work is voluntary and the costs incurred in producing, printing and circulating 250 newsletters – including over 80 by post three times a year are substantial. Donations and contributions can be sent to the above address.

## 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.

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## Rochester Hospital History and Upgrade

*(Written by Gail Kerlin.)*

The existing Rochester War Memorial Hospital was officially opened on Sunday 10th August 1952, the result of eight years planning and fundraising by the Building Committee of Advance Rochester Association. With assistance from the then Hospital Charities Committee (HCC) the building was debt free on completion - a first for the commission and also the first complete hospital to be opened in Victoria following the end of World War II. A great deal of support was given by the Rochester Sub Branch of the Returned Services League. The Government contributed 62,000 pounds for the building with 20,000 pounds raised locally, and 7000 pounds was raised specifically for furnishings.

“This hospital was erected as a memorial to the men and women of Rochester district who gave their lives and service in World War 1939 – 1945” is engraved on the foundation stone. In the 56 years since it was opened the hospital has served the district well. With major advances in Health Care in recent years, changes in the way health care is delivered and the high standards required in the 21st century, the building was unable to adequately meet today’s standards and cost of maintenance had become an issue.



**Rochester’s “old” hospital as it stands today**

The catalyst for the current Redevelopment was the inability of the operating theatre to meet standards and a full study of the facility resulted in a recommendation that not only did the theatre and acute area need to be rebuilt but 80% of the buildings including the 30 bed Nursing Home needed to be replaced or refurbished. Recommendations were put to the Government of Victoria with the result that 21.7M was granted for the Redevelopment of all buildings with the exception of the Rochester Hostel which required minor work. Unlike the long process for the original hospital building the current project has progressed very quickly. The funding was approved in May 2006 and by December 2007 work had commenced. During that period working parties were set up among staff and community groups to assist with ideas and suggestions for inclusion in the design. Architects had already drafted initial plans, which were altered as was deemed appropriate.

Because the redevelopment was to involve 80% of the existing building, a staging program was developed to minimise disruption and to allow most departments to continue to function. Three stages were proposed with stage one being a new canopy for the Hostel entrance, a new High Care Facility and Support Services department which includes kitchen, stores and laundry and also a rainwater harvesting project. Completion of this first stage is imminent.

Stage two will include refurbishment of the current Nursing Home as the new Acute Care facility, new administration and staff areas, new theatre and Accident and Emergency room. Stage three will incorporate a medical Clinic, with Primary Care department and includes x-ray, Counselling, Podiatry, Physiotherapy and also Planned Activity Group. This group has been relocated to the Salvation Army Hall since September 2007 and will not return until completion of the project in late 2009. Architect for this project is Tectura, the builder is Kane’s Construction and Project Manager is Atkinson’s a division of Connell Wagner. The project has been fully funded by the State Government but the Hospital Auxiliaries and others have assisted by contributing to the cost of some of the furnishings.

The entire garden design is by Kevin Walsh from Garden Design of Castlemaine. The new Main Entrance, which will be off Village Drive, will incorporate a modern, minimalist theme in keeping with the style of the new front entrance. The gardens around the Acute and Aged Care areas will have plants that are familiar to residents such as lavenders, roses, rosemary etc. The emphasis has been on drought tolerant plants to meet the challenge of reduced availability of water into the future. Planting will begin in winter to allow plants some time to establish before summer. The new facilities have been designed to be environmentally friendly with the following inclusions-

- Narrow building lines – allowing light penetration
- Skylights for natural light
- Use of ecoply cladding which has thermal properties
- Individual positioning of sunshades to prevent glare and protect from direct sunrays
- Air conditioner that can be adjusted individually and a system that allows warm and cold air to be exchanged from one side of the building to the other reducing power requirements
- Solar panels for the Support Services building to reduce costs and power use
- Sensor lighting in staff and storage areas – automatic on/off when entering/exiting room
- Skylights in ensuites – reduce electricity
- Timer settings for ensuite lights, heaters and fans to go off automatically
- Light colours to reflect heat
- Estimated that there will be major reductions in power usage and major reduction in our environmental footprint



**Part of Rochester’s new health complex during construction**

The final opening will be a very exciting day for Rochester and surrounding districts after a great amount of work by Board of Management, Community Members and REDHS staff. It will be a wonderful achievement to have these fresh new facilities with state of the art equipment.

## Friends and Neighbours Night

A fantastic night was held at Lake Cooper Estate for the fourth "Friends and Neighbours Night" on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> of April. Approximately 80 were in attendance to enjoy the excellent music courtesy of "The Frawley Brothers" – Maurice and Brendan. A sumptuous feast was provided by the patrons on a "bring a plate to share" basis and there was an abundance of delicious dishes. It was great to see some "new faces" and feedback about the night, venue and the event was very positive. Costs for the evening were covered by a gold coin donation and a hamper raffle.

Gerry and Geraldine launched their 2006 Reserve Shiraz and 2007 Sparkling Chardonnay – their first such variety. Many availed themselves to the complimentary tastings and comments were glowing. Thanks to Lake Cooper Estate for their unwavering generous support of our remarkable "little community" and to those that contributed to the night.

**Watch your letterboxes for the next "Friends and Neighbours Night".**

