



# Cororooke Hall Newsletter.

**Feb. 2026**

We are disappointed that a forecast of 40 plus degrees & proposed total fire ban caused us to take decision to cancel Australia Day weekend market.

It probably would have been an unpleasant day to be out for stall holders & shoppers but was also a wise decision as many of our committee members are also fire brigade members and were totally committed to many long days fighting & assisting with control of the Otway's Fire. Expecting more hot weather into March we are presently considering sometime in April but will confirm as soon as we know.

Our Brolga Festival last November was a great success & we were pleased to have a number of new & varied stalls. There were the usual popular craft, sewing & knitting stalls but there was also a butcher, smallgoods, vegetables, plants fudge & some very tempting chocolate stalls. Also a very entertaining "stall" – chook lotto which was raising funds for cancer (we didn't charge a fee for this one.) We have also introduced free tea & coffee (located in the Hall) for stall holders – also a free raffle for stall holders (winning it gives a free site for the next market that they wish to attend – Gary Riches was the inaugural winner).

It was pleasing to have 4 Schools participate in our colouring competition – St.Brendan's, Alvie, Beeac & Colac Special School. We had a placegetter from each School.

Raffles were very successful with the wood being the most popular but closely followed by the shopping vouchers. With voucher winners choosing their own places to shop the choices were: Colac Market, Garden of Eden & Coles.

Seeing the Hill in all its greenery the Warrion Hill bus trip was also very popular and kept Rod Stephenson busy & out of mischief for the day (just in case he had any thoughts of it).

**Next planned activities are:**

**Trivia Night – Sat.24<sup>th</sup> July** (just waiting on confirmation of availability of MC)

**Halloween Spooky Night Market – Sat. 31<sup>st</sup> October.** Indoor & Outdoor stalls and spooky entertainment for the kids.

**Brolga Festival Market – Sat.28<sup>th</sup> November** – kids colouring & Christmas activities (we have invited Santa – he thinks it may be a bit close to Christmas to bring his reindeer as they are getting fit for his Christmas run – he hopes the fire truck might be free to transport him).

We are hoping to add more activities through the year & will be happy to take suggestions or volunteers to create draw card happenings.

It has been particularly pleasing to have several new committee members this year (they have been rather "thin on the ground" in the past). If you are interested in joining our Hall community perhaps just to help on the odd occasion or you have special skills you could use to support us, we would love to hear from you. Just use any of our committee contacts to reach out to us.

Our Hall has been part of our community since it was first built in 1901 at, what is now Old Cororooke, near the School of the time which opened in 1887. With the opening of the butter factory the Hall was moved to its present site in 1913 to become part of a growing town community.

The Hall has had a few changes over the years & we are planning quite a few more which will make it a more attractive & more useable building. We plan for it to be suitable for a wide variety of events, parties, and entertainments & accessible to a greater variety organisations.

We have had it surveyed & had a master plan drawn so that we can achieve these aims. One of our aims is to have it as a respite from "unfriendly" weather conditions with the installation of reverse cycle air conditioners when the solar installation has been finalised.



Above: is an artist's view of the back & Northern side of the Hall. It shows the planned deck with barn door access from within the Hall as well as ground access from the deck. The deck and its roof will continue around to include the present invalid access. Apart from adding to the usability of the Hall for larger functions it will also provide greater cover for students waiting for School bus. On the southern side a new kitchen will be built at ground level making it safe for events with major catering (presently an upstairs kitchen is unsafe for carrying hot items). We are also adding an invalid toilet with baby changing facilities & putting an additional hand basin in the ladies toilets.

All these things will not happen at once we need to get our hands on quite a bit of money to achieve all this. Our markets and other activities only allow us to maintain the Hall & do minor repairs. For this project we are chasing grants and hopefully some corporate sponsorship. Whatever the means we are well & truly committed to the "new" Hall. When all these are achieved we have a little "icing" on the "cake". We have an historic stained glass window which came from the Alvie Hall to replace the front facing window on the back section of the northern side.



**L. Moving from Old Cororooke in 1913 using a steam engine.**

**If you have skills or ideas which may help us with the upgrade of this Historic centre of our community please catch up with us.**

