



# Objection 329

Colac Otway Shire Council

59 pages

**From:** Clare Wright  
**To:** [FedRedistribution - VIC](#)  
**Cc:** [Cr Joe McCracken](#); [Robert Dobrzynski](#)  
**Subject:** Colac Otway Shire Council Objection - Victorian Federal Redistribution  
**Date:** Friday, 4 May 2018 11:49:46 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)  
[Colac Otway Shire Council - Signed Submission - Props~I Electoral Divisions in Victoria - Redistribution Secretariat for Victoria AEC.pdf](#)

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Good morning Redistribution Secretariat for Victoria,  
Please find attached the Colac Otway Shire Council objection to the Victorian Federal Redistribution.

Kind Regards,

**Clare Wright**  
**Executive Officer to the CEO, Mayor & Councillors**

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COSlogo\_CMYK



***"Please consider the environment before printing this email."***

3 May 2018

Redistribution Secretariat for Victoria,  
Australian Electoral Commission,  
Level 1 Urban Workshop,  
50 Lonsdale Street,  
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Email: [FedRedistribution-VIC@aec.gov.au](mailto:FedRedistribution-VIC@aec.gov.au)

## Proposed Redistribution of Federal Electoral Divisions in Victoria

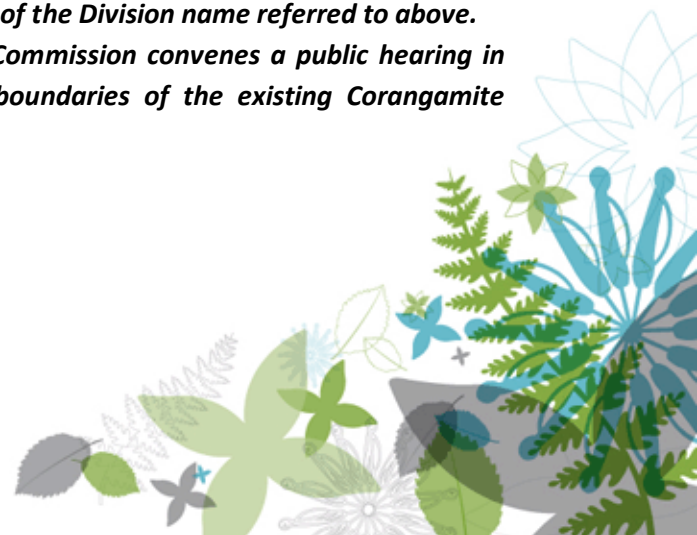
The Colac Otway Shire Council (the Council) makes this submission respectfully, but nonetheless strongly disputing the proposed redistribution changing electoral boundaries and the naming of the existing Electoral Division of Corangamite.

In particular, the Council submits an alternative proposal for consideration changing the boundaries proposed by the Redistribution Committee for the existing Division of Corangamite and the retention of the name *Corangamite* as a Federation Division of substantial history and cultural significance.

At a Special Meeting convened of the Council held on May 2, 2018 the Council determined as follows:

***That the Council makes submission in response to the Redistribution Committee's report "Proposed Redistribution of Federal Electoral Divisions in Victoria" indicating:***

- 1. The Council's strong objection to the transfer of 12,041 electors in Colac and Colac Region from the existing Division of Corangamite to the Division of Wannon.***
- 2. An alternative proposal for consideration by the Augmented Electoral Commission indicating the boundaries of the Division of Corangamite which retains Colac and Colac Region and meets the number of electors requirements of the projected enrolment quota within the deviations provided for in the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918.***
- 3. The Council objects to the name change of the Federation Electoral Division of Corangamite proposed to be re-named Cox and seeks the retention of the Division name of Corangamite as a Federation Division of history and significance.***
- 4. The strong community support as evidenced by media and the Public Meeting held which supported the alternative proposal and retention of the Division name referred to above.***
- 5. The Council seeks that the Australian Electoral Commission convenes a public hearing in Colac prior to determining a decision on the boundaries of the existing Corangamite Electoral Division.***



## KEY INFORMATION

As soon as practicable after the redistribution commences, the quota of electors for a State or the Australian Capital Territory shall be determined by the Electoral Commissioner by dividing the number of electors enrolled in the State or Territory by the number of members of the House of Representatives to be chosen in the State or Territory at a general election to gain the quota of electors.

In making the proposed redistribution, the Redistribution Committee:

1. Shall, as far as practicable, endeavour to ensure that, if the State or Territory were redistributed in accordance with the proposed redistribution, the number of electors enrolled in each Electoral Division in the State or Territory would not, at the projection time, be less than 96.5% or more than 103.5% of the quota enrolment.
2. Subject to (a) above, shall give due consideration, in relation to each proposed Electoral Division, to:
  - community of interests within the proposed Electoral Division, including economic, social and regional interests;
  - means of communication and travel within the proposed Electoral Division;
  - the physical features and area of the proposed Electoral Division; and
  - the boundaries of the existing Divisions in the State or Territory.

The current map of the Electoral Division of Corangamite is shown hereunder:





## Redistribution Committee Proposal:

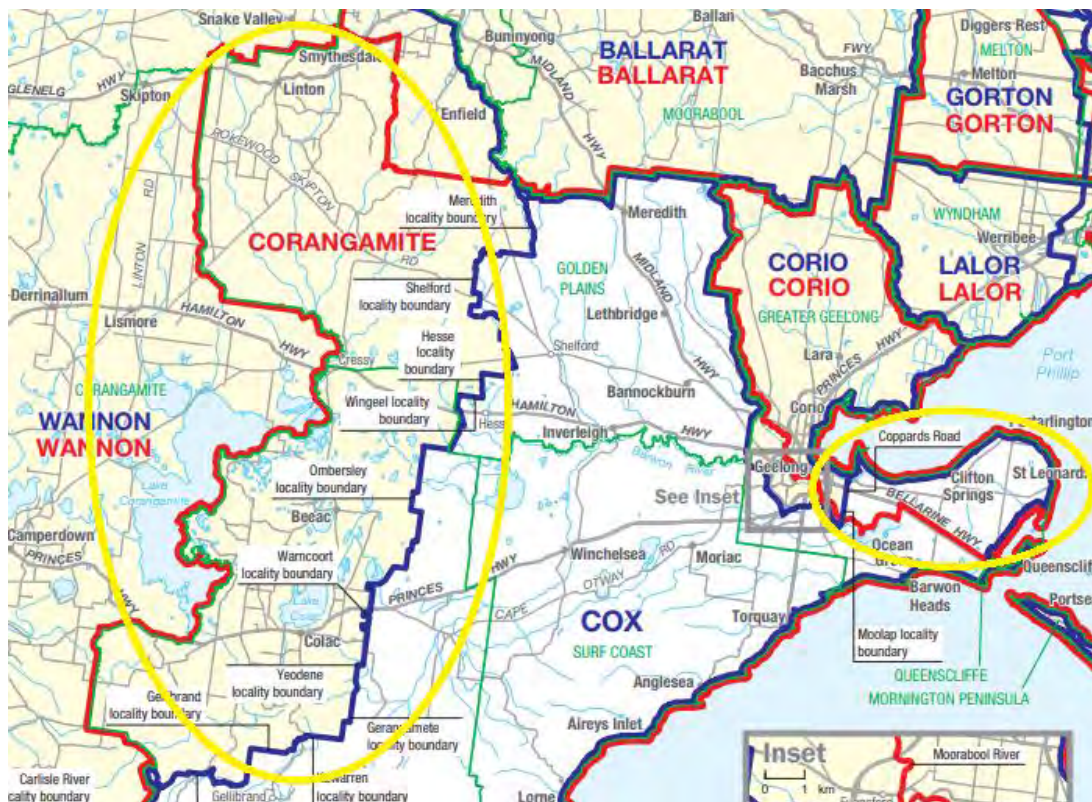
The electoral boundaries in the renamed Electoral Division of Cox proposed by the Redistribution Committee include the following changes to existing arrangements in the Electoral Division of Corangamite:

- (i) Transfer from Corangamite of 14,918 electors from the western part of Golden Plains Shire and northern parts of Colac Otway Shire to the Electoral Division of Wannon.
- (ii) Transfer of 29,848 electors in Moolap and all localities east on the Bellarine Peninsula from the Electoral Division of Corio to Corangamite.
- (iii) To balance (ii), transfer of 25,553 electors in the localities of Batesford, Belmont, Fyansford, Highton and Wandana Heights from Corangamite to the Electoral Division of Corio.

The changes proposed by the Redistribution Committee to the electoral boundaries of the Electoral Division of Corangamite are represented on the map below:



## Where is the change?



### Alternative Proposal:

At the public meeting held on the evening of Thursday 19 April, an alternative proposal to that proposed by the Redistribution Committee was presented incorporating the following changes to the renamed Electoral Division of Cox proposal put forward by the Redistribution Committee:

- (i) Reinstate Colac and Colac region within the Electoral Division retained name of Corangamite, retaining the entire Colac Otway Shire within the Electoral Division. Adds 12,041 electors to Corangamite.
- (ii) Retain the localities of Newcomb and Moolap proposed to be transferred to Corangamite within Corio. Reduces electors within Corangamite by 1,234 electors.
- (iii) Transfer from Corangamite to the Electoral Division of Wannon the localities of Bannockburn and Golden Plains –south, so that the northern boundary of Corangamite is the Hamilton Highway. Reduces electors within Corangamite by 9,045 electors.

Summarising the outcomes arrives at the following:

1. Taking into consideration the tolerances of elector numbers available to the Redistribution Committee in applying the quota of electors across Electoral Divisions, the maximum electors figure is 114,235 electors and the minimum electors figure is 106,509 electors.
2. The alternative proposal for the Electoral Division of Corangamite (proposed Cox) results in a projected enrolment for the electoral division of 110,967 electors.
3. The alternative proposal for the Electoral Division of Wannon results in a projected enrolment for the electoral division of 109,761 electors.
4. The alternative proposal for the Electoral Division of Corio results in a projected enrolment for the electoral division of 110,737 electors.



Colac Otway Shire Council's alternate proposed Electoral Boundaries for Corangamite are represented on the map below:



At the Public Meeting convened by the Mayor on Thursday 19 April, the meeting determined the following position:

- 1. We the members present at this Public Meeting strongly oppose the proposed electoral boundary changes as put forward by the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) on the following grounds:**
  - i. The proposed changes do not meet the AEC's own criteria with regard to the 'community interest' in that we have little or no affinity with the communities to our west as we currently do to our east, in particular Geelong.**
  - ii. All our government services, including important areas such as health and education, are linked to Geelong with which we will soon have a completed duplicated highway from Colac which will enable a vastly improved commuting between the two towns.**
  - iii. We are currently well served by our hard-working Member of Parliament who has recently opened a second electoral office in Colac. We will not have ready access to our Federal Member if we are isolated in the far south-east corner of the approximately 36,000 square kilometre electorate of Wannon.**
  - iv. The proposal will split the Colac Otway Shire in to two different electorates creating the need to negotiate such things as funding for the Shire's needs with two different Federal Members of Parliament. This situation will create a 'them and us' situation which is not at all desirable.**

**I therefore request the Colac Otway Shire Councillors to convey these concerns and our total objection to these unacceptable boundary changes to the Australian Electoral Commission.**
- 2. We further request that the Colac Otway Shire Council seeks the retention of the name Corangamite for the Division as a Federation Seat which reflects a greater affinity to the nature of the Electoral Division than the name of Cox.**
- 3. That this meeting determines its strong endorsement of the Alternative Proposal for Electoral Boundaries for Corangamite presented to the meeting by Colac Otway Shire Council.**

## **Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918 Provisions:**

Having satisfied the numerical imperatives set out in section 66 (3) (a) of the Electoral Act (the Act), the Augmented Electoral Commission which is established by section 70 of the Act to consider objections to the Redistribution Committee's proposals must pursuant to the requirements of (3) (b) of section 66 take into due consideration community of interest, means of communication and travel, physical features and boundaries.

Colac and district has a well-established and deepening community of interest with the Geelong region. The inextricable linkages span economic, commercial, cultural, educational, sporting, advocacy and regional development areas.

Colac Otway Shire is an active member of the G21 Strategic Alliance of Councils which has been enormously successful in advocating priority projects and issues for the broader region. The Council also participates in the Barwon Regional Partnership which has strong linkages into the State Government in establishing priority areas of activity where government support is sought to promote the prosperity, sustainability and quality of life, in addition to addressing specific social issues.

The current upgrades of the Princes Highway to National Highway standard will draw the two centres of Colac and Geelong closer. This is in stark contrast to the C class road connections between Colac and Hamilton and the lack of any discernible affinity between the communities of Colac and Wannon.

Whilst the numerical considerations of average elector numbers enrolled at the projected date are a significant consideration, the Redistribution Committee would be in error not to take into serious consideration the undeniable strong relationship between the Colac area and Geelong and the almost total absence of any tangible relationship with the Electoral Division of Wannon.

In light of the Alternative Proposal delivering the elector numbers at virtually the median between maximum and minimum requirements, it is considered reasonable and indeed compelling that the Augmented Electoral Commission endorse the Council's objections to the Redistribution Committee's proposal for Corangamite and endorse the Alternative Proposal the Council puts forward.

## **Name Change Division of Corangamite:**

The Redistribution Committee proposes changing the name of the Electoral Division of Corangamite to Cox in honour of May Cox (1883-1953), for her lasting legacy in teaching swimming and lifesaving to Victorians.

The contribution of May Cox to Victoria and Victorians is not in dispute. However, the Redistribution Committee does in its own words indicate within its report the significance of Corangamite as a Federation Division name and that strong consideration would need to exist to substantiate a change from a Federation Division name. The Redistribution Committee report, with respect does not prosecute a case that would substantiate a change of such historical consequence.

The Council supports the motion passed at the Public Meeting and strongly objects to the Redistribution Committee's proposal to change the name of the Division of Corangamite to Cox.

### **AEC Public Hearing in Colac:**

As part of its submission, the Colac Otway Shire would respectfully request the Australian Electoral Commission to convene a public hearing in Colac in order to hear firsthand from the community the very serious concerns and anxieties regarding dislocation, fragmentation and disengagement felt by many in the community regarding the proposals to remove Colac and parts of Colac District from the seat of Corangamite and into the seat of Wannon, thereby splitting communities surrounding Colac and Colac itself into two different Electoral Divisions, notwithstanding the strong economic, social, cultural, educational and recreational ties between those communities that currently reside within the seat of Corangamite.

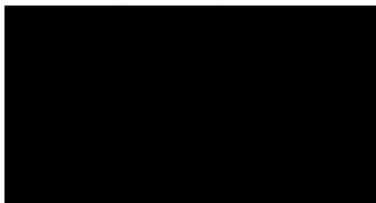
### **Conclusion:**

While the Council's submission objects to the proposals contained within the Redistribution Committee's report **Proposed Redistribution of Federal Electoral Divisions in Victoria** specifically a number of the changes proposed for the existing Electoral Division of Corangamite, the Council does offer a viable alternative proposal. The changes submitted by the Council to the Redistribution Committee proposals comply with parameters set for projected enrolled voter numbers and reasonably give cognisance to the significant community of interest, means of communication and travel and physical features that exist within the current Division of Corangamite.

The proposal put forward by the Council fulfils the critical benchmarks set within section 66 of the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918.

The Council commends its submission to the favourable consideration of the augmented Electoral Commission.

Yours sincerely



**Cr Joe McCracken**  
Mayor



# MP fighting boundary changes

by Alison Martin

**Corangamite MP Sarah Henderson says she "will fight tooth and nail" to keep Colac and district in the Corangamite electorate in an upcoming redistribution.**

"Since 2013, I have proudly represented the people of Colac Otway Shire, an integral part of the Corangamite electorate," Ms Henderson said, arguing that Corangamite supported the interests of rural communities including Colac.

But experts are predicting Colac and the Otways will move from the Corangamite federal electorate to Wannon in the electoral boundary

redistribution currently underway by the Australian Electoral Commission.

The move would see the Colac district lose its "marginal" seat status and become part of the Wannon electorate, a safe Liberal seat with Veterans Affairs Minister Dan Tehan as MP.

The shift would be the result of a booming population on the western outskirts of Geelong and the Surf Coast which has significantly increased the number of voters in Corangamite.

Corangamite had 113,637 enrolled voters at June 30 this year, while Wannon had 99,940 voters.

Victoria had 4,039,180 enrolled voters at June 30, which would

mean an average of 106,294 voters in every electorate, with Victoria to have 38 seats under the redistribution.

Deakin University politics lecturer Geoffrey Robinson, who has been forecasting for four years that Colac and the Otways could move to Wannon in this year's electoral redistribution, said he had also expected the Liberal Party would "do their best" to argue against a boundary change.

Prof Robinson said redistribution was generally about enrolment but the Liberal Party could use the "community of interest" factor, arguing that Colac was part of the Geelong region and should stay in Corangamite.

"But then I would think that the commission would say Colac was still a country town and fit with Wannon," he said.

"It's that problem as rural populations shrink the electorates get bigger."

But Prof Robinson, who has even more interest in the expected boundary shift because he is in the process of moving to the Colac district, said moving Colac to Wannon would be "disappointing" for residents because living in a marginal seat had benefits.

"I have no doubt that being a marginal seat helps attract the attention of politicians.

"It will benefit Labor substantially if Corangamite lost Colac;

there would be pressure on Sarah Henderson next time but she would have access to substantial resources at the next election," he said.

Prof Robinson said major parties would continue to see Wannon as an even safer Liberal seat with Colac and the Otways within its boundaries, which would limit the resources and interest directed at the Western District electorate.

"But Dan Tehan seems to be a young up-and-comer which could be advantageous if he continues to have a high profile within his party."

Learn more about the redistribution process of federal electorate divisions at [www.aec.gov.au/redistribution](http://www.aec.gov.au/redistribution)



## EDITORIAL

# Benefits in being marginal

**It would be a shame if Colac was to move into a safe federal electorate and lose its marginal status.**

It's no secret that marginal electorates seem to attract more funding and attention from governments and opposition parties, especially at election time.

Colac and district has benefited from this in the past decade, attracting hundreds of millions for roads and other projects.

But an upcoming redrawing of the boundaries could remove Colac and district from the marginal Corangamite electorate.

In order to give everyone an equal vote, the Australian Electoral Commission tries to shape the electorates so every seat in the state has roughly the same number of voters.

But rural electorates have shrinking or steady populations, while electorates in urban fringe areas have growing populations.

Colac is likely to move into the safe Liberal electorate of Wannon, because Wannon doesn't have enough voters and Corangamite has too many. This could make it harder for Colac and district to attract funding.

Wanting to remain in Corangamite is not a judgement on the value of Wannon or its MP. It's just a pragmatic acknowledgement of the realities of politics.

Voters will be able to have a say on the proposed boundary changes, when the Australian Electoral Commission calls for submissions on its plans. People with a passion for this region should seriously consider making a submission.

# OPINION

## Mayor set to fight boundary change

**I'm getting ready to fight, and I want you to join me, in the fight to stay in Corangamite.**

There's a risk that the Colac Otway Shire could be moved out of the Corangamite electorate in the upcoming boundary changes, and that's bad news for our community.

Now before I go further, I want to take party politics right out of this.

My opinion has nothing to do with the Liberals or Labor or any other party.

It has everything to do with who we are as a community, and where we want to be.

The Corangamite electorate is marginal and there is no doubt that marginal electorates are where the at-

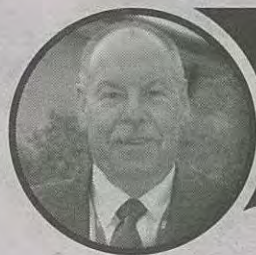
tention and the money are.

But that's not the only reason we want to stay in Corangamite.

Colac Otway's fortunes have long been linked with the Geelong region and we have forged strong and successful partnerships with our eastern neighbours.

Gaining funding for the Princes Highway duplication was not just an example of how effective we are as a region when we lobby together; it's a tangible, physical link between our communities.

The extra train services recently secured is another example of how important our connection is to Geelong for workers, university students, people accessing medical care



### MAYORAL MATTERS

COLAC OTWAY SHIRE  
Mayor Chris Potter

and sports lovers.

Have you noticed how many Geelong supporters there are in Colac?

The G21 councils backed Colac Otway in our bid for funding for Bluewater, the Central Reserve and the CBD upgrades – and believe me, a chorus of united voices gets much more attention than a lone council.

The G21 councils are also supporting our drive to secure funding for the Apollo

Bay Harbour precinct, recognising it as a key asset along the Great Ocean Road.

The fact is while we have strong partnerships to the west and the east, our community gravitates to Geelong for sport, work, further education, entertainment, specialist healthcare, the list goes on.

This is my position, and I'll be discussing it with my colleagues when we make a submission into the proposed boundary changes.



# Colac must fight to stay in Corangamite

by Alison Martin

**"It will be very detrimental for Colac to be severed from the Corangamite electorate."**

Corangamite MP Sarah Henderson is urging Colac and district organisations and residents to fight for Colac and the Otways to remain in the Corangamite electorate, as political parties turn on the Colac community and suggest the city should become part of the Wannon electorate.

The Australian Labor Party, The Nationals and the Greens have all made submissions to the Australian Electoral Commission recommending it redistribute voters by moving the boundaries of the Wannon and Corangamite

electorates, moving the Colac region into Wannon.

There are currently just under 115,000 people in Corangamite and the electorates of Wannon and Mallee have less than 100,000, which has the ALP, Nationals and Greens suggesting varying changes but all pushing for Colac to become part of Wannon.

Corangamite became a marginal seat after the election of Labor's Darren Cheeseman in 2007 and has attracted millions of dollars of federal funding for the Princes Highway duplication, Colac sporting and leisure facilities, and other significant projects since becoming a close seat.

Ms Henderson said the Colac district community had until

December 1 to tell the AEC why Colac needed to remain the heart of Corangamite and reject the arguments put forward by the three political parties.

"Colac is the only city in Corangamite in its entirety and is a critical part of our agricultural and tourism industries," she said.

"The proposal by Labor and the Greens to remove Colac from Corangamite would be a terrible outcome for the community and the rural character of our electorate.

"Even the Nationals have got this badly wrong and I am very proud to be standing up for the people of Colac as I have done since I was a candidate and since elected in 2013.

"Politics aside it demonstrates

they have no respect for Corangamite, our agricultural and tourism industries and our history," Ms Henderson said.

"Corangamite is a federation seat and Colac has been the centre of the electorate since 1901."

Ms Henderson said the AEC would take into consideration "communities of interest" in deciding any changes to electoral boundaries in the redistribution process.

"The community of interest between Colac right through to Geelong is very strong; to sever that community of interest would be very detrimental," she said.

"When I'm advocating for passenger trains, I've gone in to fight for Colac through to Geelong

because intrinsically these communities are interconnected.

"Representing Colac and the Otways is a large part of my job, whether it's advocating for improved mobile coverage or the highway duplication, and I do it with great pride," Ms Henderson said.

"It would be heartbreaking to see Colac removed from Corangamite and I am calling on the community and interested groups to make a submission and explain why it's important to keep Colac in Corangamite."

Public submissions close on December 1 and more information is available at [www.aec.gov.au/Electorates/Redistributions/guidelines-for-submissions](http://www.aec.gov.au/Electorates/Redistributions/guidelines-for-submissions)



# Redistribution concerns mayor

by Alison Martin

Colac Otway Shire's mayor says Colac and district groups and residents need to tell the Australian Electoral Commission that Colac must stay in the Corangamite electorate.

Colac looks certain to move into the Wannon electorate, a safe Liberal seat where Warrnambool is the major centre, unless the Corangamite community tells the Australian Electoral Commission of its "communities of interest" with Winchelsea, Deans Marsh, Lorne and the Surf Coast area.

The AEC is currently completing a redistribution which looks at the number of voters in each federal electorate.

Growth in the Geelong-Surf Coast area has pushed up Corangamite's population and with more growth forecast, boundaries must move to ensure electorate populations are similar.

The Nationals, Australian Labor Party and the Greens have also made submissions suggesting the boundary between Corangamite and Wannon should move, pushing Colac and the Otways into Wannon.

But Cr Joe McCracken said all community groups and residents who want to see Colac stay in Corangamite and funding commitments from



**FUTURE:** Colac Otway Shire councillors, including Cr Chris Potter, mayor Cr Joe McCracken, Cr Kate Hanson, Cr Stephen Hart and Cr Jason Schram are concerned the Australian Electoral Commission is considering moving the Corangamite electorate boundary.

major and minor parties in the future should make a decision before December 1.

Cr McCracken said Colac had strong links with the Geelong area, rather than Warrnambool, and being in a marginal seat had been vital in attracting funding for multiple projects from the Princes Highway duplication to Colac's Central Reserve.

"The biggest reason for Colac to stay in Corangamite is that's where our community of interest is; all our links are with Geelong," he said.

"There's a duplicated highway going to be between Colac and Geelong, a lot of Colac students go to Deakin uni in Geelong, and we are mem-

bers of G21," Cr McCracken said, referencing Colac Otway Shire Council's involvement with City of Greater Geelong, Surf Coast Shire Council and Borough of Queenscliffe in the Geelong Region Alliance.

"Apollo Bay Harbour and the Great Ocean Road are priority projects for G21 because they are regional issues and we are in a much better bargaining position to put our case forward for funding because they are important to the whole Corangamite electorate.

"And from a political point of view it's always better to be in a marginal seat because it helps us advocate for projects with major and

minor parties, and if we were in Wannon we wouldn't be such a strong position.

"I'd encourage all community groups to make a submission because everyone has a vested interest; we're all in Corangamite and have all benefitted from projects because we are in a marginal seat."

Public submissions close on December 1 and more information is available at [www.aec.gov.au/Electorates/Redistributions/guidelines-for-submissions](http://www.aec.gov.au/Electorates/Redistributions/guidelines-for-submissions). People can email their submission about the importance of Colac staying in Corangamite to maintain its community of interest to [FedRedistribution-VIC@aec.gov.au](mailto:FedRedistribution-VIC@aec.gov.au)



## HUGE BIRTHDAY SALE

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# Event supports mental health

A lunch and garden tour in Colac has raised money for a community initiative to help people with mental health issues.

Polwarth MP Richard Riordan hosted a lunch and garden tour on Monday last week to help raise money for Let's Talk which aims to reduce the stigma of mental health issues and encourage people to seek help.

"I feel that we should all be vigilant and promote the communication skills that will encourage people to come forward for help before the situation becomes critical," Mr Riordan said.

"As a community, we need to be able to respond when someone is struggling and ask the right questions," he said.

"Organisations like Let's Talk, Lifeline and Beyond Blue are all



**HELPING:** Polwarth MP Richard Riordan with Judy Blackman and Helen Marris toured a county garden to help raise money for a mental health organisation.

there with guidance and support so we can offer help to anyone in our community who is struggling."

The Country Gardeners group toured gardens around the Western District on Monday.

"The Western District garden and farms

are definitely enjoying one of the best springs we have seen in a long time and it was a pleasure to meet some of the passionate gardeners in our region," Mr Riordan said.

If anyone is experiencing mental health issues they can call Lifeline on 13 11 14.

# Uncontrolled burnoff causes fence damage

A burnoff that got out of control at Coragulac has damaged fences on surrounding properties.

Colac Country Fire Authority District Six Duty Officer Colin Reid said CFA crews were called to a property at Coragulac Lake Road, Coragulac, on Thursday about 3.30pm.

"It was a burnoff, which had spread to some grass; the caller stated he was burning some timber which got away into the grass; Nalangi, Cororooke and Colac crews all responded," he said.

Mr Reid said the burnoff caused damage to fences of neighbouring properties.

Mr Reid said Thursday had been

busy for CFA crews, with a number of call outs, many being false alarms.

"If people are going to conduct a burnoff prior to the fire danger period being enforced, they need to ring the burnoff hotline to record that," he said.

"Prior to burning off it's important that they do that, because that stops any false alarm callouts, we had a couple of false alarms, where people had seen smoke and it was a legitimate burnoff but because it wasn't recorded to the 1800 number, we had brigades responding unnecessarily."

People can call 1800 668 511 to register a burnoff.

# PRE CHRISTMAS SALE

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Men's & Ladies' Wear Department

152 Murray Street, Colac P 5231 2040



# Labor candidate wants Colac in seat

by Alison Martin

**Labor Party candidate Libby Coker says Colac should remain in the Corangamite electorate and she hopes to be the new Member for Corangamite after the next federal election.**

Ms Coker is hoping it will be third time lucky, having stood for the state seat of Polwarth and the seat of Corangamite at previous elections, and she said she was ready for the challenge of standing against MP Sarah Henderson again.

The Australian Electoral Commission is currently considering whether Colac will remain in the Corangamite electorate, with an electoral boundary redistribution underway.

The Liberal Party supports Colac staying in the marginal seat of Corangamite, and the ALP, Greens and Nationals want Colac moved into Wannon, but Ms Coker says she wants Colac to remain part of Corangamite.

"Personally, having stood for Polwarth for the ALP and federally, I'm very fond of the people of Colac and I would be disappointed to see Colac removed from Corangamite," Ms Coker said.

"It's too early to be mak-



**CAMPAIGN TRAIL:** ALP candidate for Corangamite Libby Coker, second from right, has already been visiting voters at Birregurra including supporters Anne Egan, Geraldine Gartland, Paul Durr and Greg Slater.

ing any judgement on the redistribution, but I will be in Colac a great deal and am looking forward to speaking with businesses, people at sporting clubs, in schools, on farms and down the street.

"I will also be holding local forums to discuss local issues in the lead-up to the next federal election.

"The people need a bet-

ter voice in parliament; someone who understands that people in regional areas are hurting because while cost of living and energy bills are rising, wages are at a historic low," she said.

"I will fight for change – to improve the wage structure and get rid of the gender pay gap."

Ms Coker, a qualified

teacher and mother of two, is also passionate about education and said she would push for fully funded education "so that kids in Colac stay at school and secure Year 12 qualifications".

"Locally, we must also look at the rail system, get more freight off the road, and look at ways to help local business and

industry to enable local employment," she said.

"I am ready for the challenge ahead; the time for change, change for the better, is now."

Ms Coker, with a background in journalism and teaching, is a Surf Coast Shire councillor and former mayor, and has been an Aireys Inlet resident for 30 years.



# Have your say on proposed electoral changes for Corangamite

Published on 30 April 2018

## Proposed AEC electoral boundary changes / Corangamite

The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) has issued its report on the proposed boundary changes to the Federal Electoral Divisions impacting on Colac Otway Shire.

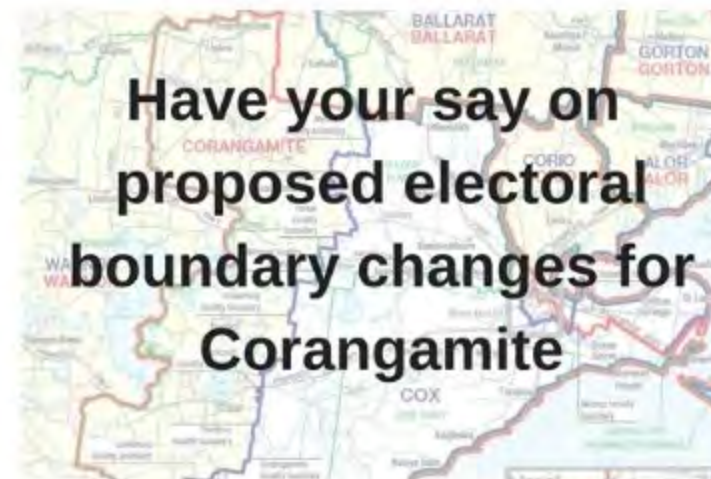
The report can be viewed at <https://www.aec.gov.au/Electorates/Redistributions/2017/vic/index.htm>

The AEC has invited public comment on the proposed changes relating to the Division of Corangamite which impacts on Colac Otway Shire.

Colac Otway Shire Council convened a public meeting held on Thursday 19 April 2018 to gain feedback from the community on the AEC report.

At the Community Meeting the Colac Otway Shire Council presented an alternative to the boundary proposal which Council will vote on at a Special Council Meeting on Wednesday 2 May 2018

The alternative proposal may be viewed here: [Colac Otway Shire Council - alternative to AEC boundary](#)

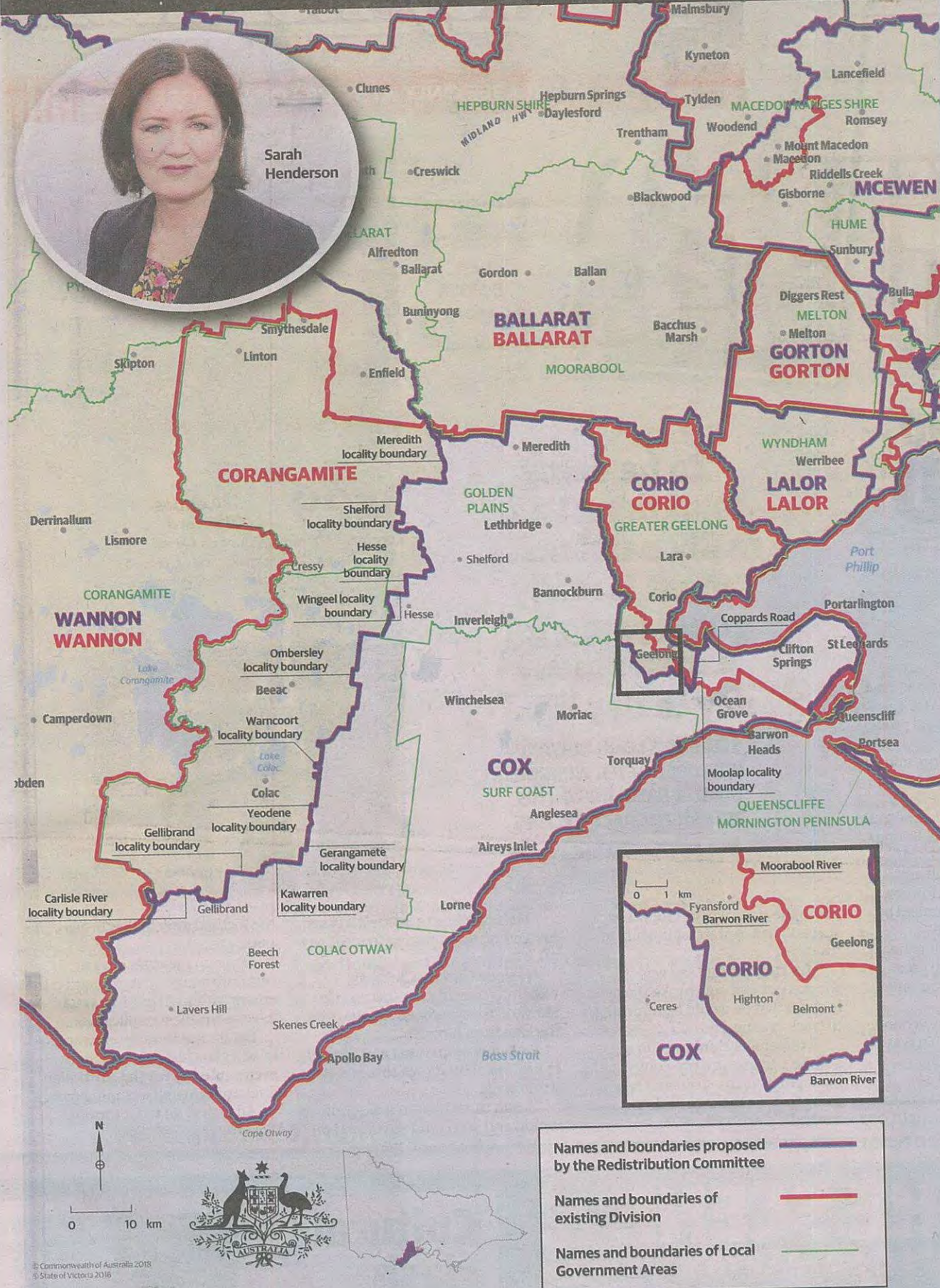


## Related Information

- [Australian Electoral Commission](#)
- [180419-Colac-Otway-Shire-Council-presentation-regarding-proposed-solution-to-boundary-change-Community-Meeting.pdf](#) (PDF, 678KB)
- [180419-Motion-voted-and-carried-at-Community-Meeting-19-April-2018.docx](#) (DOCX, 15KB)
- [180420-Ways-to-lodge-documents-with-AEC.pdf](#) (PDF, 268KB)
- [180420-Map-of-alternative-to-proposed-AEC-boundary-changes.pdf](#) (PDF, 3MB)



# PROPOSED ELECTORAL BOUNDARY REDISTRIBUTION



## Corangamite name change

# Colac out in border shuffle

ALEX SINNOTT

THE federal seat of Corangamite is set for a name change and boundary shuffle for the next election.

The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) yesterday flagged 'Cox' as the new name for Corangamite, which is currently held by Liberal MP Sarah Henderson.

Ms Henderson's seat is also set to lose Colac but gain parts of the Bellarine Peninsula in the draft redistribution plan.

Political analysts say the Geelong seat alteration and other proposed electorate changes now threaten the Turnbull Government's majority.

Much of Corangamite's western territory including Colac, Beeac and Cressy will become part of Wannon, held by Liberal MP Dan Tehan.

Almost all the Bellarine Peninsula will be part of the new Cox constituency, which will also include Lethbridge, Bannockburn, Inverleigh and Winchelsea in the hinterland and extend down to Apollo Bay in the south.

"I am, of course, very disappointed by the draft boundaries and the proposed change in name of the Corangamite electorate," Ms Henderson said.

"There is a very strong case for Colac to remain in the electorate which, in many respects, is the heart and soul of this federation seat.

"Early indications are that the Colac community shares my

disappointment.

"It is also a blow that so much of Geelong has been removed from the electorate."

Objections to the proposed boundary changes can be made from now until May 4, with Colac community leaders particularly keen to remain in Corangamite or its replacement Cox constituency. Cox is named after education pioneer May Cox, who has links to Queenscliff.

Corangamite was held by the Coalition on a 3.1 per cent margin at the 2016 election, when Ms Henderson went head-to-head with Labor candidate Libby Coker.

Ms Coker was re-endorsed as the Labor candidate for the next federal election, set to take place between August 2018 and May 2019 at a time of Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull's choosing. Ms Coker was unavailable for comment yesterday.

Based on the 2016 polling booth figures, the new electorate of Cox is too close to call with a 50-50 two party preferred split between Ms Henderson and Ms Coker.

Deakin University political expert Geoff Robinson said the Cox electorate would be a "must-watch constituency" on election night with the result hard to predict.

"This new electorate will be one of those must-watch seats, key for whichever party forms government. You could say its almost notionally Labor with the loss of the Colac region and suburbs such as Highton."

## WHO WAS MAY COX?

UNLESS you're an enthusiast

## A new mix, but Marles still safe

ALEX SINNOTT

"It would be an honour



# REGION SPLIT

## Proposed electoral changes draw objections

**Colac Otway Shire mayor Joe McCracken and Corangamite MP Sarah Henderson say they will object to the Australian Electoral Commission's proposal to split the shire across two federal electorates.**

The AEC is proposing to move Colac and northern parts of the shire into the electorate of Wannon.

But Apollo Bay, Birregurra and other towns would remain part of the electorate of Cox, formerly called Corangamite.

"I'm bitterly disappointed that parts of the Colac Otway Shire could potentially be moved into the Wannon electorate as part of the proposed electoral redistribution," Cr McCracken said.

"With all due respect to

our friends in the west, this proposed change will have a serious detrimental effect on our community," he said.

"Our social and economic interests are inextricably linked with Geelong and the Surf Coast. Almost all of our shire's strategic and collaborative partnerships are to our east, including the G21 network of councils."

Colac and district has benefited in recent years from being part of Corangamite, which is a marginal electorate. Wannon has been a Liberal Party stronghold since 1955.

Corangamite MP Sarah Henderson said she would object to the draft boundaries and the re-naming of the Corangamite electorate.

"There is a very strong case for all of Colac Otway

Shire to remain in the electorate," she said.

"The city of Colac, in many respects, is the heart and soul of this federation seat. The communities of interest between Colac and Geelong, including the social and economic links, are exceptionally strong.

"Severing Colac from the electorate would leave the city isolated from the many organisations and communities it services, particularly in the agricultural, tourism, health and education sectors.

"It has been an honour to serve the people of Colac Otway and I hope I can continue to do so.

"As a federation seat, the electorate takes its name from Lake Corangamite, an aboriginal word meaning

"salty lake". Maintaining this aboriginal heritage and history is so important."

Colac Otway Shire Council will also lodge a written objection to the redistribution report.

"We won't just stand by and let Colac be transferred into the political wilderness," Cr McCracken said.

"We will strongly resist this proposed boundary change, because it is clear that Colac Otway's economic interest and indeed its economic future is in the booming Geelong region," he said.

Cr McCracken said both Colac Otway and parts of Geelong had high levels of socio-economic disadvantage, needing strong and clear political advocacy.

"This proposed redistribution effectively cuts the

Colac Otway Shire in half and severs our electoral connection with Geelong," he said.

"This will make advocacy on behalf of our most vulnerable residents so much more difficult and complex."

But Cr McCracken said the council was pleased that Apollo Bay and Lavers Hill could remain in the Cox electorate.

"This will enable us to continue to nurture those partnerships that have secured transformational funding for projects such as the Princes Highway duplication and upgrades to the Great Ocean Road," he said.

"However this doesn't change the fact that I think that cutting the Colac Otway Shire in half via this boundary review is ludicrous."



# Proposed changes impact all

**The Australian Electoral Commission's plan to move Colac into the Wannon electorate is ill-conceived and dangerous.**

The commission is supposed to set the boundaries based on communities of interest. The commission has failed in this regard.

Colac's communities of interest are with the neighbouring towns of Colac Otway Shire, as well as Surf Coast and Geelong.

It's ludicrous to place Colac in the same electorate as Stawell, Halls Gap and Casterton, rather than with Gellibrand, Birregurra and Winchelsea.

Wannon is six times the size of Cox, and Colac will be at its edge. And it's the wrong edge, considering that Colac and district residents radiate towards Geelong in the east, rather than to Wannon in the west.

Basic government services come via Geelong, not Hamilton. Health services are at Geelong. Education too.

Colac will go from having an MP with an office at Waurin Ponds with a secondary office in Colac, to having an MP working from an office at Hamilton with a secondary office at Warrnambool.

This will restrict the average person's access to visit their MP when they need representation.

The move is also geographically unreasonable. Link roads such as the Colac-Forrest Road and the Colac-Lavers Hill Road would traverse two different electorates.

Residents of towns like Gellibrand and Birregurra often use community and health facilities in Colac, yet they would now live in a different electorate.

This move would damage Colac's ability to attract political attention and funding to our needs.

Concerned people can lodge objections to the commission's proposal.

Objections are due on May 4 by email to FedRedistribution-VIC@aec.gov.au; by regular mail to The Australian Electoral Commission Redistribution Secretariat, GPO Box 768, Melbourne 3001; or fax on 02 6293 7664.

# MP set to fight name change

ALEX SINNOTT

A BARRAGE of double entendres has prompted Sarah Henderson to fight an electorate name change which would see her become the 'Member for Cox'.

The Australian Electoral Commission proposed major changes to the Corangamite electorate on Friday, including the name change, as part of an overhaul of divisional boundaries within Victoria.

The new electorate is named after physical education pioneer May Cox, who helped create the long-running school program now known as Vic-Swim.

However, the surname's double entendre prompted a slew of *Are You Being Served?* style jokes on social media following the commission's announcement.

Even ABC election analyst Antony Green noted the name's "nudge-nudge, wink-wink" potential.

Ms Henderson said as a federation seat, the constituency was named after Lake Corangamite, an Aboriginal word meaning "salty lake".

"I am concerned that the proposed new name (Cox) has already prompted some ridicule on social media," the Liberal MP said.

Labor rival Libby Coker said it made sense to change the

name from Corangamite given the eponymous lake no longer formed part of the constituency.

"While it's sad to lose the name Corangamite, the new electorate will be far more coastal and there needs to be a name that reflects that," the Labor candidate said.

"I'm open to discussion about whether the electorate will be called Cox or Barwon or something else."

The electoral commission revealed Victoria's new federal electorate boundaries last week, with Cox set to include nearly all of the Bellarine Peninsula but not Highton and Belmont, which will become part of the Corio constituency.

Objections to the proposed boundary changes can be made from now until May 4, with the Liberal Party confirming it would seek to amend draft proposal.

If the proposal is confirmed, the Cox electorate would come into operation following the next federal election.

Ms Coker said while she was broadly supportive of the boundary changes, it was also disappointing that Colac would be cut out of the new electorate.

"However, I can understand the need to have an electorate which is more focused on the coast and Bellarine, and then another seat which brings in all of Geelong," she said.





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## Response to proposed Australian Electoral Commission's new boundaries for Victorian electorates

### Quotes can be attributed to Mayor Joe McCracken

- I'm bitterly disappointed that parts of the Colac Otway Shire could potentially be moved into the Wannon electorate as part of the proposed electoral redistribution. With all due respect to our friends in the west, this proposed change will have a serious detrimental effect on our community. Our social and economic interests are inextricably linked with Geelong and the Surf Coast. Almost all of our shire's strategic and collaborative partnerships are to our east, including the G21 network of councils.
- We won't just stand by and let Colac be transferred into the political wilderness. We will strongly resist this proposed boundary change, because it is clear that Colac Otway's economic interest and indeed its economic future is in the booming Geelong region.
- The Colac Otway Shire has high levels of socio-economic disadvantage and strong, clear political advocacy is vital for representing the needs of our constituents. The Geelong region, particularly the northern areas of Geelong, also shares this challenge. To that end we have forged a very successful partnership via the GROW project, which tackles joblessness among our most disadvantaged residents. This proposed redistribution effectively cuts the Colac Otway Shire in half and severs our electoral connection with Geelong. This will make advocacy on behalf of our most vulnerable residents so much more difficult and complex.
- We are pleased that our coast, including Apollo Bay and Lavers Hill, will potentially remain connected to the Geelong region via the newly-named Cox electorate. This will enable us to continue to nurture those partnerships that have secured transformational funding for projects such as the Princes Highway duplication and upgrades to the Great Ocean Road. However this doesn't change the fact that I think that cutting the Colac Otway Shire in half via this boundary review is ludicrous. I won't stand by and watch this redistribution dilute our ability to represent our residents and ratepayers. Council will be lodging a written objection to the report.
- Whilst we respect the recognition of May Cox and her contribution to swimming and life-saving, removing the name of the federal seat of Corangamite is significant; especially as it takes away the namesake of Lake Corangamite, a significant and historical natural landmark in our region.

### Enquiries -

**Sarah Osborne**

P: (03) 5232 9521

E: [sarah.osborne@colacotway.vic.gov.au](mailto:sarah.osborne@colacotway.vic.gov.au)

# What you said online...

## ...about Colac moving from the Corangamite electorate into Wannon?

This can't be allowed to happen, it will be disastrous for Colac! Plus splitting a shire into two different electorates would be crazy!

**Pat**

Perhaps Colac's move to Wannon may help to create a more swinging electorate for Wannon – we need more support for roads, train services beyond Colac!

**Jan**

I think it's good. We have more in common with the region west of us than Geelong... who we've played second place to for a long time.

**Juggy**

Wannon is a massive electorate though, so there would also be far more area to compete with for funding of projects.

**Emma**

Leave it alone.

**Julie**

The reason for the change is because you can have only so many people living in a certain electorate so every now and then there needs to be a shuffle around or have new electorates added. As towns add new developments and housing, electorates will have to change.

**Caitlyn**

## ...about the proposal to rename the Corangamite electorate as Cox.

Yet again ideas that will WASTE money that can be better used on healthcare, education etc... Just ridiculous.

**Cindy**

Name the new electorate Barrabool after the beautiful Barrabool Hills.

**Adrian**

**Speak up in  
On The Street for  
a chance to win a  
\$500 account from**

Winner drawn  
Friday, June 29, 2018.



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# Will Cox get the chop?

ALEX SINNOTT

ALTERNATIVE names for the controversial new Cox electorate have been suggested following a slew of double entendres on social media.

Five replacement monikers have been suggested to the *Geelong Advertiser* — Barwon-Otway, Austin, Street, Kirner and Harrison — as being more reflective of the potential constituency's heritage.

The Australian Electoral Commission released the draft boundaries for Victoria's federal electorates last week with the existing Corangamite set to be abolished.

The Colac portion of the electorate is set to be fused to Wannon while a chunk of Geelong's southern suburbs is set to be connected to Corio.

Corangamite's rump — encompassing Portarlington in the north, Queenscliff in the east, Winchelsea in the west and Apollo Bay in the south — is set to be rebranded as Cox.

The two likely contenders to be the first "Member for Cox" — Liberal MP Sarah Henderson and Labor candidate Libby Coker — have conveyed misgivings about the name due to its double entendre potential.

The AEC chose the electorate name for May Cox, a physical education pioneer who never lived in the region but hosted swimming carnivals in Queenscliff in the early 1900s.

Barwon-Otway broadly describes the new AEC region labelled Cox, in that it covers districts in the north and east of the electorate around the Barwon River as well as most

of the Otway Ranges in the south.

The AEC has pressed for more female historical figures to be represented in the redistribution and two figures have been canvassed: Austin and Kirner.

Winchelsea pioneer Elizabeth Austin lived at the heart of the electorate and was a noted philanthropist for the region's needy in the late 1880s.

Like May Cox, former Labor leader Joan Kirner has little connection to the region, but a number of submissions called for Victoria's first female premier to be recognised with a federal electorate in her home state.

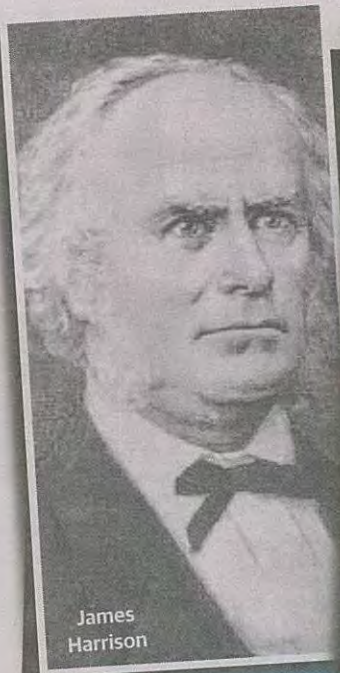
A suggestion from the Coalition side is Street for Geoffrey Street, a Gallipoli hero who was Corangamite's MP between 1934 and 1940.

His son Tony Street, now 92, was Foreign Minister in the Fraser government and also served as Corangamite's man in Canberra from 1966 to 1984.

*Geelong Advertiser* founder James Harrison is also a contender but his legacy is more associated with the area now covered by the Corio electorate.

Deakin University politics expert Geoff Robinson said out of all the names canvassed, Austin was the most promising given it had both a local connection and recognised a female historical figure.

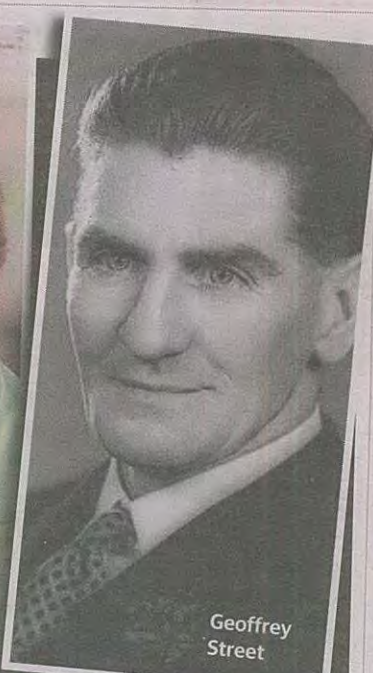
"There have been times when the AEC have issued new electorate names and they've gone back to the drawing board but it happens only occasionally," Dr Robinson said.



James Harrison



Joan Kirner



Geoffrey Street

## ALTERNATIVE ELECTORATE NAMES

**BARWON-OTWAY:** Much like Eden-Monaro, a NSW electorate that covers the names of two geographic entities, the name Barwon-Otway would neatly fit into the AEC's boundaries for the Cox electorate. Alternatively, either names could be used and still adequately identify the geographic location of the constituency.

**AUSTIN:** Named after Elizabeth Austin, a benevolent member of the Western District squattocracy based at Winchelsea. Mrs Austin was one of colonial Victoria's great philanthropists and helped establish what is now known as Austin Hospital. Potential drawback is the Austin family's link to bringing rabbits into Australia.

**STREET:** Named after Geoffrey Street, the Member for Corangamite from 1934 to 1940. He was recognised with a Military Cross for his courage during the Gallipoli campaign in the World War I. His son, former foreign minister Tony Street, also served as the Member for Corangamite from 1966 to 1984.

**KIRNER:** Named after Victoria's first female premier Joan Kirner. While the former Labor leader never lived in the Geelong region, neither did May Cox. Mrs Kirner was a keen advocate of

conservation programs along the Great Ocean Road during her time as environment minister during the 1980s.

**HARRISON:** Often referred to as the father of refrigeration, James Harrison is one of the Geelong region's great historical figures. He represented the city in both houses of the colonial Victorian parliament and arguably his greatest achievement was founding the *Geelong Advertiser*.



MP Sarah Henderson and Colac mayor Joe McCracken have concerns about the changes.

"The AEC have also trended away from geographic names, so that makes Barwon-Otway or a variant less likely. Austin recognises both a female historical figure and has a stronger local connection than Cox, so there's some potential there."

He said concern over the double entendres on social media would do little to sway the AEC.

"An example over naming concerns I can think of is the opposition to naming an electorate after the industrialist Thomas Mort. Some considered the name Mort too gloomy but that was dismissed (by the AEC), so I doubt they'll take the Cox jokes into consideration," he said.

Ms Henderson has a campaign under way to retain the Corangamite name, with the

AEC objections period set to end on May 4.

The Corangamite electorate has existed since Federation but the AEC opted for a name change given Lake Corangamite will no longer form part of the new constituency.

However, Werriwa in Sydney's southwest was named for a lake near Canberra but over time has moved from than 200km from its namesake.

## Innovative Australian medical wristwatch

GRANT McARTHUR

AN AUSTRALIAN-developed watch that can monitor and help overcome the symptoms of Parkinson's disease is being rolled out for patients around the world.

The Global Kinetics Corporation device has already been taken up by 25,000 people in 17 countries, but could be set for a wider reach following the \$7.75 million backing of the Australian Government's Biomedical Translation Fund to be announced today.

The wristwatch can monitor Parkinson's disease symptoms and provide clinical reports to patients as well as their doctors to help plan their care. It can also sound reminders when medication needs to be taken, as well as registering that the treatment schedule has been followed.

To mark World Parkinson's Day today, the Michael J. Fox Foundation and Shake It Up Australia Foundation will collectively provide \$250,000, while Parkinson's Victoria will provide \$100,000, for a global clinical trial to evaluate whether the wearable device can aid treatment.

Health Minister Greg Hunt will announce the federal support today to accelerate the development life changing health technologies.

"The companies receiving BTF investments are modern day pioneers bringing hope to Australians suffering with diseases, disorders and allergies," Mr Hunt said.

"Our biomedical industry is expanding, and businesses like Global Kinetics put Australia on the world stage.

"I look forward to seeing more of their products helping to improve the lives of Australians, and people around the world in the future."

Innovation Minister Michaelia Cash said the investment would help Global Kinetics Corporation to expand in the US in particular, the world's largest market for medical devices.





# Make sure objections are valid

BY JACKSON GRAHAM

**Objections to moving Colac into a different federal electorate might be invalid if they focus on wanting to stay in a marginal seat, a business leader says.**

Colac and District Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Ernie Andres said the Australian Electoral Commission's proposal, which would see 12,000 voters move from what is currently the electorate of Corangamite into Wannan, would be "detrimental" for Colac.

But he said residents' desire to retain Colac's location in a marginal seat – perceived as contributing to an increase in federal funding for projects – was unlikely to sway the commission's planned redistribution.

"I don't think they'd look at it favourably; by saying we're a marginal seat because we're only out to get something by being a marginal seat. It's the wrong way to approach it," Mr Andres said.

Corangamite will



**OPPOSITION:** The Colac and District Chamber of Commerce and Industry board will oppose the AEC's proposed boundary changes. From right, Alan Pittard, Kane Leerson, Alex McKenzie, Ernie Andres, Heather Reid, Darren Milverton, Peter Shaw and Michael Menzies.

be renamed Cox under the proposal and have its boundaries significantly redrawn, no longer including Colac or Beac.

Liberal MP Sarah Henderson won Corangamite by a narrow margin of 3.9 per cent at the 2016 federal election. Dan Tehan won Wannan, considered

a safe Liberal seat, by 10.1 per cent in 2016.

Mr Andres said the Colac and District Chamber of Commerce would instead submit an objection based on Colac's strong economic and community ties to Geelong and the Surf Coast.

"The people who don't shop here go to

Geelong. They don't go to Warrnambool to shop," Mr Andres said.

He said Warrnambool was "its own regional centre" that "looks after itself".

"If anything happened, they're not going to worry about Colac," Mr Andres said.

"We are connected with G21, with Geelong

and all the associations there, and I think that will be in jeopardy if this happens."

He said Colac's ties with tourism assets like the Great Ocean Road and the Otway Ranges was another strong reason to remain in an electorate with the popular destinations.

"We have such a

huge asset with the Otways and we have to be consulted on a lot of things," Mr Andres said.

"If you have a look on the map, we've got the biggest part of the Great Ocean Road in our shire."

A previous objection by the chamber to the entire Colac Otway Shire moving into

Wannan was among objections considered the AEC's proposal.

Mr Andres said the chamber would not object to Colac moving into Wannan.

"Overall the board agrees that we should be moved away."

The AEC says written objections are due on May 4.



## New boundaries are 'ridiculous'

I wish to object in the strongest possible terms to, what I consider to be, a ridiculous change to the electoral boundaries affecting the current Corangamite electorate.

Our affiliation has always been, and should remain with Geelong and the Surf Coast Shire for access to the numerous government services including the very important areas of health and education.

Towns like Birregurra and Gellibrand use health and education services in Colac but, with this proposal, would be in a different electorate to Colac.

We have no connection whatsoever with towns such as Hamilton, Stawell,

Halls Gap, Casterton etc. and it is ludicrous to place us in a "no-man's land" that this change would generate.

The Federal Government is currently spending many millions of dollars duplicating the Princes Highway between Colac and Geelong to enable quicker and easier commuting between the two locations and now this proposal would put us in an unwanted affiliation with towns to the west.

We currently have ready access to our Federal MP, Sarah Henderson, (who I might add has been doing a great job for the citizens of Colac and surrounds), via her Wauran Ponds office and her secondary office here in Colac. Why take this away from us?

The move would seriously damage our ability to at-

tract political attention and funding for our needs. We do not deserve to be arbitrarily shunted off into the wilderness.

With no disrespect to Ms Mary Cox, no-one I have spoken to has even heard of her.

I can see no good reason to change the name of the electorate from Corangamite but would reluctantly accept that if deemed necessary, but I, and I'm sure the majority of Colac citizens, am/are not willing to accept the proposed farcical changes to our electoral boundaries.

Philip Edge,  
Colac

## Grants available to reduce harm

The Victorian Responsible Gambling Founda-

The Colac Herald asked residents what they thought of Colac's potential shift from the Corangamite federal electorate into Wannon, and changing Corangamite's name to Cox.

Speak up in  
On The Street for  
a chance to win a  
\$500 account from



**SLM Law**  
LAWYERS & ADVISORS

Winner drawn  
Friday, June 29, 2018.

**La Trobe**  
financial



"I'm against it because we really need Geelong. I'd rather we stay with Geelong and the towns we've already got."

**Jenny Bourguignon,**  
Colac  
180123JG08



"I think Cox is an inappropriate name and doesn't have relevance to most of the area."

**Merilyn Sutherland,**  
Coragulac  
161026TB41



"I'd prefer to be in Corangamite, we've been in it for such a long time."

**Pamela Felekos,**  
Colac  
160608TB0019AA



"I can't accept change; we're all familiar with Corangamite and with Sarah Henderson achieving things for us here. I worry we'll get lost if we go that way."

**Clare Williamson,**  
Colac  
180411JG01



# Public meeting on new boundary

BY OLIVIA REED

**Colac district residents can have their say about a proposal to shift areas of Colac Otway Shire into the Wannon electorate at a community meeting on Thursday.**

Colac Otway Shire Council is hosting the meeting in response to the Australian Electoral Commission Redistribution Committee's proposal to remove northern parts of Colac Otway Shire, including Colac and Beac, from the Corangamite electorate.

Colac Otway Shire mayor Joe McCracken said the community meeting would inform council's formal position on the electoral redistribution.

"We're having a special meeting on May 2 where council is going to adopt a formal position on the matter, so

we think it's vitally important that we talk to our community and they have an opportunity to put their voices forward so we can listen to them and take it on board in time to adopt a position," he said.

Cr McCracken said he was concerned that the Australian Electoral Commission had failed to properly consider the community of interest criteria for moving an electoral boundary.

"I'm just concerned that this decision hasn't fully been considered with the weighting of the community of interest criteria which is one that the AEC must consider," he said.

"We're also going to try and get a representative from the AEC along just so they can explain from their point of view why they've done what they've done and so they have

"I'm just concerned that this decision hasn't fully been considered with the weighting of the community of interest criteria which is one that the AEC must consider."

**COLAC OTWAY SHIRE MAYOR JOE MCCRACKEN**

an opportunity to hear some of the concerns as well."

Under the proposed changes the former Corangamite electorate would be renamed Cox because the electorate's boundaries would no longer include Lake Corangamite.

If the proposed changes are approved Cox would be 5286 square kilometres in size, while Wannon would comprise 33,574 square kilometres.

"When we're so well connected to the Geelong region it doesn't make sense for us to really go into an electorate which is mainly a Warrnambool and Hamilton seat," Cr McCracken said.

"This is a forum that is open to anyone in the public we're not showing fear or favour between different community groups."

The community meeting is at 7pm on Thursday at Colac's Civic Hall, COPACC.



Colac Otway  
SHIRE

## Maternal and Child Health - Open Day

New parents are invited to come along and seek advice from Maternal and Child Health nurses on any development and behaviour concerns, new born/toddler general health along with other information on services within the shire. A speech therapist will be attending on the day plus Janelle Lloyd from Small Talk.

When: **Wednesday 18 April**

Time: **9.30am to 4pm**

Where: **Maternal and Child Health Centre, 49 Queen Street, Colac**

For more information call: **5232 9400** or visit <http://www.colacotway.vic.gov.au>

## Ordinary Council meeting

The April 2018 Council meeting will be held on **Wednesday 18 April, 4pm at COPACC, Gellibrand Street, Colac.**

Please note, due to Anzac Day falling on the fourth Wednesday of the month, the Ordinary Council meeting is being held the week prior.

Agenda items include:

- Great Ocan Road Taskforce Issues Paper Response
- Lake Colac Coordinating Committee Membership
- Australia Day Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

Copies of the agenda will be available today at [www.colacotway.vic.gov.au](http://www.colacotway.vic.gov.au)

Council meetings are open to the public and interested people are welcome to attend.

## Community Meeting

Council seeks the community's views on the proposal put forward by the Australian Electoral Commission Redistribution Committee for Victoria to take areas of the Colac Otway Shire (including Colac and Beeac) out of the Corangamite federal electoral division (proposed to be renamed Cox) and place within the Wannon electoral district.

Information will be provided at the meeting with an opportunity for the community to ask questions.

When: **Thursday 19 April**

Time: **7pm**

Where: **Civic Hall, COPACC, Colac**

Acting Chief Executive Officer  
Robert Dobrzynski





# Community Meeting

Published on 16 April 2018

Colac Otway Shire Council have called a community meeting as an information session regarding the proposed electoral division changes.

Council is seeking the community's views of the proposal put forward by the Australian Electoral Commission to take areas of the Colac Otway Shire out of the Corangamite electorate, and placed within the Wannon electoral district.

We encourage interested community members to come along to the meeting to ask questions and find out more about the proposed changes.

When: Thursday 19 April

Time: 7pm

Where: Civic Hall, COPACC located at 95 - 97 Gellibrand Street, Colac

Further information may be found regarding the Victorian redistribution at <https://www.aec.gov.au/Electora.../Redistributions.../index.htm>



## Related Information

[Australian Electoral Commission](#)





# Fires and redistribution

It's been a busy few weeks around the district.

We've had the fires that impacted Corangamite Shire to our west, and I'm proud that Colac Otway staff were there helping to support the bushfire recovery efforts.

We've had the magnificent achievement of Ken Hansen and his gold medal at the Commonwealth Games.

Congratulations Ken, we're very proud of you and look forward to celebrating your victory on your return to Colac.

We've seen the seasons change from the balmy to the blistering cold.

We've also had a change in the political landscape with release of the draft federal redistribution boundaries.

Like many in the community, I have concerns about what this will mean

for Colac Otway Shire.

The Australian Electoral Commission must consider a number of criteria in order to make boundary change recommendation, the most significant one for Colac Otway is "community of interest" which effectively means clumping communities of a similar interest together.

Under the current proposal, we see Colac Otway Shire effectively split between two electorates. Colac, Beeac, Cororooke and surrounds would be sent into Wannon; while Apollo Bay, Birregurra and Gellibrand would be placed into the new seat of 'Cox'.

For the life of me, I cannot see how this conclusion was reached when considering "community of interest".

It is clear that Colac has much more of an affinity towards the Geelong area than with Warrnambool or Hamilton.

The highway duplication strengthens community, industry and business the links with Geelong. Not to mention the strategic partnerships and organisations our shire regularly engages with, all based around the Geelong region.

G21, Barwon Water, Corangamite Catchment Management Authority, Great Ocean Road Tourism, Wathaurong Aboriginal Cooperative.

Many of our key economic drivers, like the Avalon Airport bring tourists to our region through the Geelong area. Many of our students attend Deakin University.

The list could go on. There are other disadvantages to shifting Colac into Wannon, a safe Liberal held seat.

And although the Australian Electoral Commission can't take these matters into consideration, they



## MAYORAL MATTERS

COLAC OTWAY SHIRE Mayor Joe McCracken

are still significant.

Being in a marginal seat like Corangamite has provided leverage for Council to be successful in seeking funding for projects, such as the \$2.5 million for Central Reserve, \$20 million toward necessary infrastructure and improvements to the Great Ocean Road, or millions spent on duplication works along the Princes Highway.

And as much as we don't like to say it the likelihood of successfully gain-

ing funding is reduced in a safely held electorate.

I'd like to invite interested members of the community to an information session tomorrow night at COPACC, 7pm, at the Civic Hall.

You can ask questions and share your views on the proposed boundary changes.

I think it's vitally important we come together as a community and stand against these proposed boundary changes, because the changes will be significant and have long term consequences.

## THREE-DAY WEATHER OUTLOOK

### WEDNESDAY



Min 7 - Max 18  
Mostly sunny  
Sunrise: 6.55  
Sunset: 5.55

### THURSDAY



Min 10 - Max 18  
Partly cloudy  
Sunrise: 6.55  
Sunset: 5.55

### FRIDAY



Min 13 - Max 18  
Sunny  
Sunrise: 6.55  
Sunset: 5.55

## RAINFALL

3.6mm reported hours to 9am, T

## HAVE YOUR SAY IN THE COLAC HERALD

Have your say in Herald. Send letters to Box 21, Colac 3260 to news@colacherald.com.au or fax 52311943. Herald prefers type of 250 words or less. Priority will be given to letters. We reserve the right to edit letters and space requirements. All letters must include writer's full name and daytime contact. Letters without false names considered for publication. The Colac Herald publishes anonymously.

## CONTACT

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Friday  
8.30am to 5.00pm

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Grandlee Drive,

# Council congratulates gold medallist

Colac Otway Shire Council has offered Colac's Commonwealth Games gold medallist Ken Hanson a civic reception but the lawn bowling legend has declined the offer.

Warrion's Warren Riches, a former councillor and mayor, called on the council in Monday's Herald to host a civic reception to recognise Hanson's achievement.

Colac Otway mayor Joe Mc-

Cracken said he called Ken to congratulate him and extend an invitation for council to host a civic reception in his honour but the event would not be going ahead.

"Ken, being the gentleman he is, unfortunately declined the offer with thanks and gratitude," Cr McCracken said.

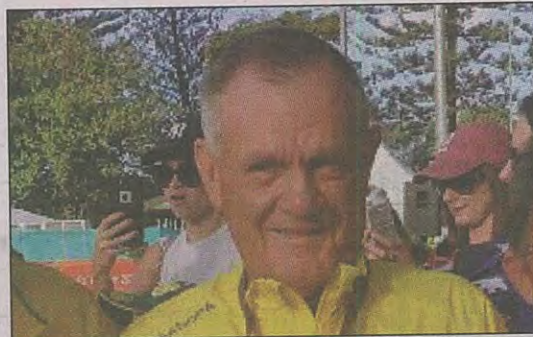
"Colac Otway Shire Council is extraordinarily proud of Ken and his recent achievement of winning a gold medal represent-

ing Australia at the Commonwealth Games," he said.

"There's no doubt that this sentiment is well and truly echoed throughout Ken's home town of Colac and the wider Colac Otway community.

"Acting CEO Robert Dobrzynski and I look forward to celebrating Ken's achievement with him at an evening at the City Bowls Club."

• Turn to page 20 for the full story.



Ken Hanson

## CROSSWORD



### Across

- 4 Tomb
- 8 Model of excellence
- 9 Maintains positively
- 12 Thick
- 14 Perform
- 15 Uncompounded
- 18 Monkey
- 20 Flowers
- 22 Extreme fear
- 24 Write music
- 25 Curve
- 26 Takings
- 27 Sanction
- 29 Temperature unit
- 31 Concretion of naacre
- 34 Fuss
- 35 Strong and brave persons
- 38 Fitting
- 40 Chemical compound
- 41 Bears witness to
- 42 Lift
- 43 Cried out

### Down

- 1 Arachnid
- 2 Birds
- 3 Concurs
- 4 Trap
- 5 Colouring matter
- 6 Smart and fashionable
- 7 Holiday period
- 10 Auctions
- 11 Heavenly body
- 13 Slim
- 16 Figure
- 17 Make amends
- 19 Carrier
- 21 Followed orders
- 23 Rues
- 24 Younger son
- 28 Cosy retreats
- 29 Harm
- 30 Farm animal
- 31 Like better
- 32 Starry
- 33 Food cupboard
- 36 Indian state
- 37 Undulated
- 39 Fruit skin

## SOLUTION IN CLASSIFIEDS

The Commonwealth Games have ended but the hype continues as Colac welcomes back gold medallist Ken Hanson. The Colac Herald asked people what sport they would enter if they could participate in the next Commonwealth Games.

Speak up in  
On The Street for  
a chance to win a  
\$500 account from

Winner drawn  
Friday, June 29, 2018.



"I would play netball; it's fun and it would be good to be part of a team."

Sophie Richardson,  
Beeac  
180413RO0140



"If I could do horseriding I'd do that because horses are my passion."

Carlie Barry,  
Tandarook  
180413RO0015



"I'd do running to keep me fast and fit."

Shantelle Finn,  
Colac  
180413RO0021



"I would do long jump."

Jai Gnacinski,  
Colac  
180413RO0141

# FUEL PRICE WATCH

## WHO WILL STAND UP FOR COLAC MOTORISTS?

\*PRICES ON APRIL 17, 2018

### COLAC

Unleaded Petrol  
149.9 cents per litre

### WAURN PONDS

Unleaded Petrol  
126.9 cents per litre

### CAMPERDOWN

Unleaded Petrol  
149.9 cents per litre



## RUNNING SHEET

### Public Meeting – Federal Boundary redistribution

DAY: Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> April

TIME: 7.00pm

Venue: COPACC

|                                 |                                 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>MC</b>                       | Mayor Joe McCracken             |
| <b>Location</b>                 | COPACC Civic Hall               |
| <b>Staff contacts at COPACC</b> | Jill Sharp and Natalie Atherden |

| Time   | Event/person involved  | Details                                 |
|--------|--|---|
| 6.25pm | Tea and coffee set up in the Civic Hall foyer  | COPACC staff                            |
| 6.30PM | Working party arrive – set up<br>(Equipment: 4 x cordless microphones and front table with seating for 8;<br>set up for Powerpoint presentation, test of AV equipment) | COPACC staff and<br>Joe McCracken       |
| 7.00PM | Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Introduce councillors, Acting CEO</li><li>- Go over ground rules</li><li>- Purpose of the meeting/agenda</li></ul>     | Joe McCracken                           |
| 7.05PM | Outline of boundary changes <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- AEC guidelines</li><li>- Current map and proposed map (highlighting changes)</li></ul>             | Joe McCracken                           |
| 7:10PM | A possible solution to the redistribution<br>-   | Robert Dobrzynski                       |
| 7.15PM | Questions/comments from the floor (equipment cordless microphones to<br>be made available to those speaking from the floor)  | Notes to be<br>recorded by COS<br>staff |
| 8.20PM | Statements from Libby Coker & Sarah Henderson  | Joe McCracken and<br>Sarah Henderson    |
| 8.25PM | Wrap up and thank you  | Joe McCracken                           |
| 8.30PM | Close  |   |





Colac Otway  
SHIRE

# Community meeting

## Federal Boundary Redistribution







# Welcome





# Agenda

- Overview of the proposed boundary changes
- A possible solution?
- Questions/comments from the floor





# Crunching the numbers

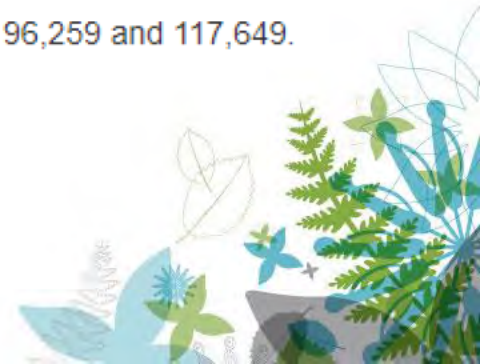
- When considering each federal electorate
- Each electorate must have

as far as practicable, the number of electors enrolled in each electoral division in Victoria at the projection time would not be more than plus 3.5 per cent, or less than minus 3.5 per cent, of the [projected enrolment quota](#) (paragraph 73(4)(a) of the Electoral Act)

- As far as practicable, the number of electors enrolled in each electoral division in Victoria at the projection time of Sunday 25 August 2019 must be between 106,509 and 114,235.

the number of electors enrolled in each electoral division in Victoria would not be more than plus 10 per cent, or less than minus 10 per cent, of the [current enrolment quota](#) (sub-section 73(4) of the Electoral Act)

- The number of electors enrolled in each electoral division in Victoria must be between 96,259 and 117,649.





# Boundary changes

- What criteria can the Australian Electoral Commission consider?

A Redistribution Committee must develop a set of proposals for dividing each state or territory into a number of electoral divisions equal to its entitlement in the House of Representatives. In developing its proposals, the Redistribution Committee must remain within the numerical quotas for the current and projected enrolment. The Redistribution Committee shall also give due consideration to:

- community interests within the proposed electoral division, including economic, social and regional interests
- means of communication and travel within the proposed electoral division
- physical features and area of the proposed electoral division, and
- existing boundaries of divisions in the state or territory.



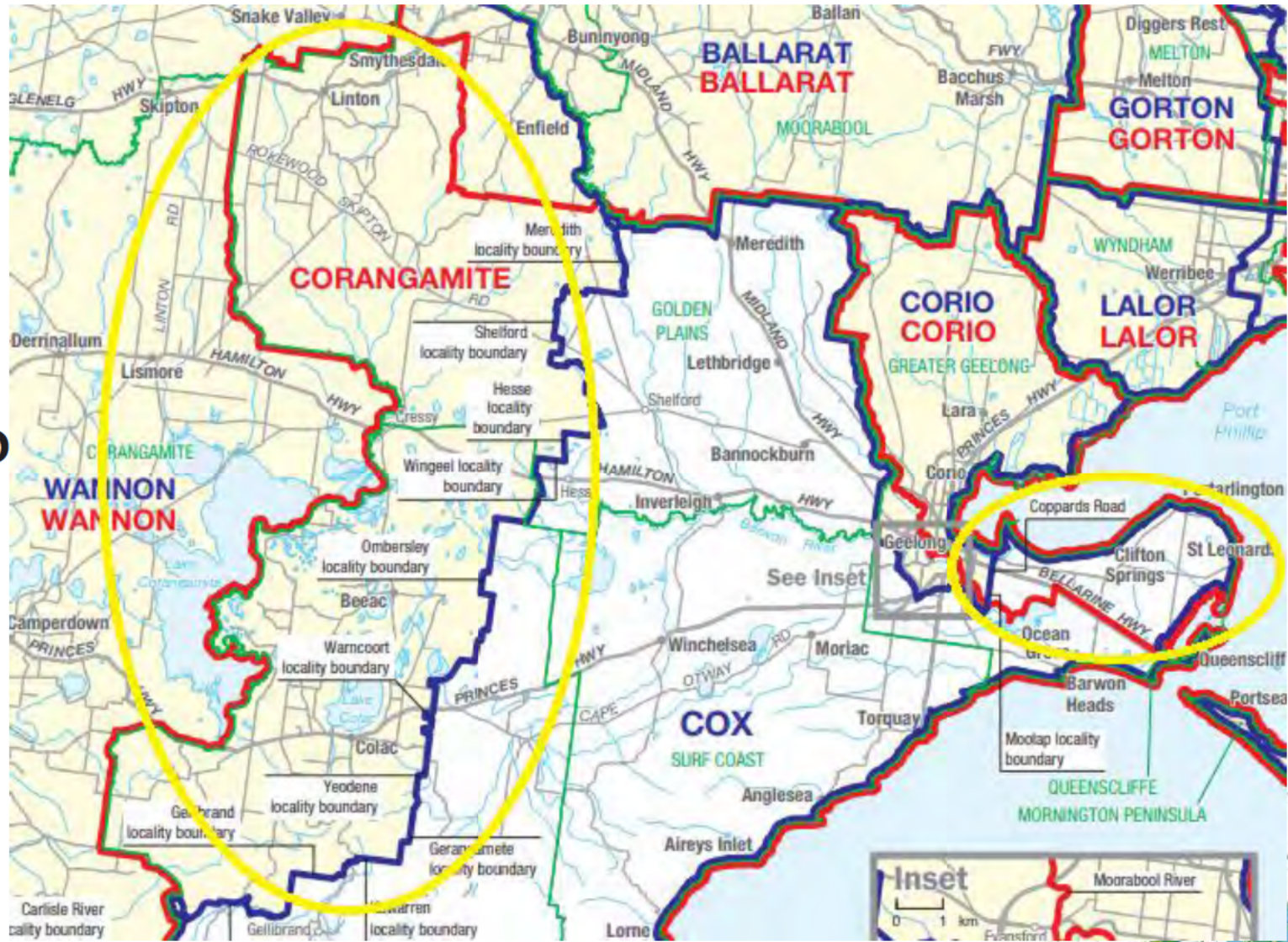


# Current map of the seat Corangamite





Where is the change?







Colac Otway  
SHIRE

# A possible solution?





# Setting the Voter Number for each Electoral Division

Enrolment quota at the projection time set by the Electoral Commission as of 25 August 2019:

- Maximum number of electors 114,235
- Minimum number of electors 106,509





# Challenges for AEC

- i. Victoria's population increase indicates an increase in House of Representative seats from 37 to 38 requiring a redistribution.
- ii. Number of electors in Division of Cox (existing Corangamite) are above the maximum number of projected electors permitted, requiring a reduction of at least 5,593 electors, or up to 13,319 electors.
- iii. Number of electors in Division of Wannon below minimum
  - Gain required of at least 6,447 electors, up to 14,173 electors.
- iv. Number of electors in Division of Mallee below minimum
  - Gain required of at least 6,635 electors, up to 14,361 electors.





# Proposed AEC changes to Division of Cox

- i. Transfer 14,918 electors from the western part of Golden Plains and northern part of Colac Otway Shire to Wannon.
- ii. Transfer from Corio 29,848 electors in Moolap and all localities east on the Bellarine Peninsula to Cox.
- iii. To balance ii., transfer from existing Division of Corangamite 25,553 electors in the localities of Batesford, Belmont, Fyansford, Highton and Wandana Heights to Corio.





# Alternative Proposal for Division of Cox

- i. Include Colac and Colac region within the proposed Division of Cox, retaining all of Colac Otway Shire in the Division.  
+ 12,041 electors
- ii. Retain the localities of Newcomb-Moolap proposed to be transferred to the Division of Cox within Corio.  
- 1,234 electors
- iii. Transfer to the Division of Wannon the localities of Bannockburn and Golden Plains – south from Cox. Proposed northern boundary of Cox to be the Hamilton Highway.  
- 9,045 electors
- iv. A net reduction of electors is required in Cox of at least 5,593 electors or up to 13,319 electors.





# Summary of Outcomes

- i.
  - Maximum number of electors 114,235
  - Minimum number of electors 106,509
- ii. Alternative Proposal for Division of Cox 110,967 electors
- iii. Alternative Proposal for Division of Wannon 109,761 electors
- iv. Alternative Proposal for Division of Corio 110,737 electors





# Proposal for the new seat of 'Cox'







Colac Otway  
SHIRE

# Questions/Comments







Colac Otway  
SHIRE

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Council

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TONIGHT - Colac Otway Shire Council have called a community meeting as an information session regarding the proposed electoral division changes.

Council is seeking the community's views of the proposal put forward by the Australian Electoral Commission to take areas of the Colac Otway Shire out of the Corangamite electorate, and placed within the Wannon electoral district.

We encourage interested community members to come along to the meeting to ask questions and find out more about the proposed changes.

When: Tonight, Thursday 19 April

Time: 7pm

Where: Civic Hall, COPACC. 95 - 97 Gellibrand Street, Colac

Further information may be found regarding the Victorian redistribution at <https://www.aec.gov.au/Electora.../Redistributions/.../index.htm>

**COMMUNITY  
MEETING**



# Voter questions 'Cox' as proposed name

Is it a joke or a deliberate attempt to make the Corangamite electorate a laughing-stock to propose a new boundary and changing the name to 'Cox'.

When addressing or reporting on the 'Member for Cox', I hope the next verbs in the sentence aren't 'comes, came, withdrew, rose, stands, released, grew, entered, engaged, exposed, exploded, expelled, extended, handed and gave' for example, as I would find that rude and offensive.

Debra Chant  
Birregurra



LETTERS

### Time to think about the Australia's future

As we approach another Anzac Day I think we should think about what we do both now and in the future a bit more.

It is all very well to go along to the dawn service and hear the Last Post played and everyone say "lest we forget", and take part in the march.

But are we really honouring the sentiment "lest we forget", I think not.

If we were able to go back in time and ask my grandfather in the trench in Northern France or my uncle in Burma, or any of our Anzacs how we could make sure their efforts were never forgotten, then I am fairly sure they would have said "never let this happen again".

But time and time again our leaders commit our troops to fight in theatres of war that have nothing to do with Australia.

The best way we can remember our forebears who fought wars on foreign soil is to agitate for a complete change of thinking regarding Australia's commitment of personnel and finance to defence.

I think we should cement the word defence into the thinking of Australian politicians and commit our defence forces into defending Australia only, and not be at the service of a rabbit of a real estate salesman, and probably a crooked one at that, in America.

Everyone agrees we are living in a vastly different world now and we need to think differently.

We could even re-introduce national service for all school leavers to defend our country both from acts of foreign aggression and extreme weather events.

So instead of turning up at the dawn service and paying lip service to "Lest We Forget" and patting ourselves on the back for being patriotic,

I urge everyone to think about what sort of Australia we want to nurture in memory of the people we are supposedly "not forgetting".

Neil Hayes,  
Coragulac

### Voter questions 'Cox' as proposed name

Is it a joke or a deliberate attempt to make the Corangamite electorate a laughing-stock to propose a new boundary and changing the name to 'Cox'.

When addressing or reporting on the 'Member for Cox', I hope the next verbs in the sentence aren't 'comes, came, withdrew, rose, stands, released, grew, entered, engaged, exposed, exploded, expelled, extended, handed and gave' for example, as I would find that rude and offensive.

Debra Chant  
Birregurra

### 'Full support' for plan to legalise cannabis

I write in full support of the Green's proposal to legalise the growing and use of cannabis.

The plan would make cannabis a legal and regulated substance like alcohol and tobacco.

You can grow your own like a homebrewer, within limits, or purchase from an authorised outlet but as with other legal drugs you cannot sell it to anyone or give it to minors.

Such actions would remain illegal. The THC levels of cannabis can therefore be controlled and the purity ensured. But smoking is unhealthy I hear people say.

This is true, it does come with some health risks but at least the user will have confidence in the pu-

rity of the drug.

This is not currently the case for cannabis purchased from criminal dealers.

And there is always the option to make cookies.

The legalisation will undo the business plan of the dealers and syndicates which currently rely on the cannabis market to help fund their other illegal drug operations.

Jeff Cooke,  
Colac

### Angst over decisions responding to fire

Some months ago the Colac Herald (9/10/2017) reported on the ongoing State Government and council fascination for overlays, this time bushfire overlays.

Our public agencies and community leaders were in furious agreement that more lines on the map and even more building standards would improve "resilience" to bushfire attack.

There is plenty of evidence to the contrary and also real world evidence of what happens when systems of vegetation and fuel management that work are replaced with systems that don't.

Victoria's forests now have the highest state fuel levels ever.

This, we're constantly informed, in one the most fire-prone landscapes in the world.

So the bark, twigs and leaves will continue falling and exceed their decomposition rate and we'll all get busy deceiving ourselves that thicker glass in more expensive windows is a game changer.

We also convince ourselves that Biggles firefighting will save us while our trusted authorities clearly go on failing to exercise their legislated fire prevention responsibilities.

Not that any of this seems to worry the state coroner.

After 21 years of fire we can down the creek fire service any investigation.

By the way, it happens to be "Shire and n Shire" as it says on the map.

Maybe someone should draw a wrong map?

### Campaign our mental health

Research from the Institute of Health Services has shown that as little as a 10% increase in mental health care can protect against depression, anxiety and other mental health issues.

Depression is a health issue that affects 1 in 5 Australians.

We also know that 1 in 5 of the population doesn't undertake regular physical activity, which increases the risk of depression.

The Black Friday bushfire exercise Your Health is a 30 to May campaign.

Statistics show that Australians are losing fitness by taking less exercise.

Though it is a first step, our goal is to encourage people to take up the goal of exercising more each week.

If they are up to the goal, their health will improve.

Prof  
Blair

### ON THE STREET

### THE

Is the pension enough money to meet rising living costs?

Speak up in On The Street for a chance to win a \$500 account from

Winner drawn Friday, June 29, 2018.



SLM Law  
LAWYERS & ADVISORS

La Trobe  
financial



What you said or

...What do you think about The Greens' plan to legalise cannabis in line with northern Canada and South Africa? Couldn't care less, also





### **Proposed AEC electoral boundary changes / Corangamite**

The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) has issued its report on the proposed boundary changes to the Federal Electoral Divisions impacting on Colac Otway Shire.

The report can be viewed at <https://www.aec.gov.au/Electorates/Redistributions/2017/vic/index.htm>

The AEC has invited public comment on the proposed changes relating to the Division of Corangamite which impacts on Colac Otway Shire.

Colac Otway Shire Council convened a public meeting held on Thursday 19 April 2018 to gain feedback from the community on the AEC report.

At the Community Meeting the Colac Otway Shire Council presented an alternative to the boundary proposal which Council will vote on at a Special Council Meeting on Wednesday 2 May 2018

The alternative proposal may be viewed here on the Colac Otway Shire Council website – alternative to AEC boundary proposal.

The public meeting determined the following motion:

### **Motion passed at Community Meeting convened by Colac Otway Shire Council on 19 April 2018**

1. We the members present at this public meeting strongly oppose the proposed electoral boundary changes as put forward by the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) on the following grounds:
  - i. The proposed changes do not meet the AEC's own criteria with regard to the 'community interest' in that we have little or no affinity with the communities to our west as we currently do to our east, in particular Geelong.
  - ii. All our government services, including important areas such as health and education, are linked to Geelong with which we will soon have a completed duplicated highway from Colac which will enable a vastly improved commuting between the two towns.
  - iii. We are currently well served by our hard-working Member of Parliament who has recently opened a second electoral office in Colac. We will not have ready access to our Federal Member if we are isolated in the far south-east corner of the approximately 36,000 square kilometre electorate of Wannon.
  - iv. The proposal will split the Colac Otway Shire in to two different electorates creating the need to negotiate such things as funding for the Shire's needs with two different Federal Members of Parliament. This situation will create a 'them and us' situation which is not at all desirable.

I therefore request the Colac Otway Shire Councillors to convey these concerns and our total objection to these unacceptable boundary changes to the Australian Electoral Commission.

2. We further request that the Colac Otway Shire Council seeks the retention of the name **Corangamite** for the Division as a Federation Seat which reflects a greater affinity to the nature of the Electoral Division than the name of **Cox**.
3. That this meeting determines its strong endorsement of the Alternative Proposal for Electoral Boundaries for Corangamite presented to the meeting by Colac Otway Shire Council.

Moved by Phil Edge

Seconded by Keith Armistead

**Carried by vote at the Community Meeting – Thursday 19 April, 2018**





Members of the public wishing to comment on the AEC report proposal for the seat of Corangamite, including the name change to Cox, are urged to make a submission to the AEC at <https://www.aec.gov.au/Electorates/Redistributions/2017/vic/index.htm>

Should any further information be sought on the AEC proposal or the alternative proposal to be considered by Colac Otway Shire Council at a Special Meeting on Wednesday 2 May 2018 please contact Council on 5232 9400.

**Enquiries -**

**Sarah Osborne**

**P:** (03) 5232 9521

**E:** [sarah.osborne@colacotway.vic.gov.au](mailto:sarah.osborne@colacotway.vic.gov.au)





**DISCUSSION:** More than 40 Colac Otway residents attended a meeting in Colac to discuss the impact of the AEC's draft electoral boundary changes.

# Opposition to boundary change

BY JACKSON GRAHAM

**More than 40 Colac Otway Shire residents attending a public meeting in Colac last week supported a motion to oppose electoral boundary changes proposed by the Australian Electoral Commission.**

The meeting brought together politicians, business owners, and shire residents to comment on the boundary changes.

The AEC's proposal would see parts of Colac Otway Shire currently in the federal electorate of Corangamite, including Colac, move into the electorate of Wannon.

Colac resident Phil Edge moved a motion to oppose the change, arguing that the AEC's communities of interest category had overlooked Colac's ties with Geelong.

"All our government services, including important areas such as health and education are linked to Geelong with which we will soon have a completed duplicated highway," Mr Edge said.

Colac Otway Shire mayor Joe McCracken, who chaired the meeting, said Colac shared no common interests with Wannon.

"The only proposal that could possibly be worse is if all of Colac Otway Shire was shifted into the seat of Wannon," Cr McCracken said.

"None of our shire would have a community of interest with places like Warrnambool, places



**ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES:** Colac Otway Shire Council mayor Joe McCracken, centre left, chaired a meeting in Colac last Thursday to discuss the AEC's draft electoral boundary changes. He's pictured with, from left, Cr Chris Smith, council acting chief Robert Dobrzynski and Cr Stephen Ha

like Hamilton, even as high up as Stawell."

Cr McCracken said Colac's location in Corangamite, currently a marginal seat held by Liberal MP Sarah Henderson, was "something that's weighing quite heavily in the community."

But he said voters' desires to remain in a marginal seat was not a view the Australian Electoral Commission could take into account when determining the boundaries.

Helen Paatsch, a former City of Colac councillor and Colac Otway Shire mayor, said the proposal risked undoing hard-won relationships with Geelong.

"The old City of Colac and then the Colac Otway Shire have worked vigorously to strengthen the ties between Colac and Geelong," Ms Paatsch said.

"What commonality of interest is there between Colac and the South Australian border?"

Residents from towns such as Winchelsea and Birregurra, which would remain tied to Geelong in the proposed new seat of Cox, also opposed the change.

"The community of interest is very much more with Colac rather than going over to Hamilton or Warrnambool," Birregurra resident Peter Falkiner said.

But Larpent's Ian Osmond opposed the motion, and said the AEC's proposal should go ahead. "Colac is part of the Western District, it is not part of Geelong," Mr Osmond said.

"The Colac population was put into Wannon to keep a buffer on a dwindling population further

west, which is a good reason to keep it the way it is."

Corangamite MP Sarah Henderson said it was "possible that we can see a reversal", citing communities in Murray opposing a redistribution by the AEC in 2010.

"The boundaries put forward on the draft document can vary substantially from what comes out in the final document," Ms Henderson said.

Ms Henderson encouraged members of the community opposed to the changes to make a submission to the AEC.

"They need to see that this is a very deep, significant issue in this community; that this is going to cause deep-seated impact if this goes ahead," she said.



**OPPOSED:** Colac resident Phil Edge, pictured with Corangamite MP Sarah Henderson, is opposed to the AEC's draft electoral boundary changes.

# Fire restrictions remain in place until May 1

BY RUBY MANSON

**"It's been a long summer, and we're still dealing with fire so we don't want firefighters to be jumping on their trucks to respond to people doing the wrong thing."**

Country Fire Authority district six operations manager Dean Manson is urging Colac district residents to be diligent with their fire activities before and after authorities lift fire restrictions next month.

"Restrictions will stay in until the first of May, and then fire restrictions come off on the first of May for Corangamite and Colac Otway shires," Mr Manson said.

He said people needed to recognise their responsibility in planning for and carrying out burnoffs, even after the fire danger period ends, which included monitoring wind conditions for the days before and following a burn.

"It's important to remind people that the responsibility and the onus is on people, even though the fire danger period has finished, to do the right thing and register their burnoffs on 1800 668 511," he said.

"The other thing is that there is the responsibility on the owner or the occupier of the property where the burn is going to take place, that there is an adult in attendance at all times the fire is

burning, and that they would still be liable for damage that a fire that escapes their property does to another property."

Mr Manson said it was important that residents continued to observe fire restrictions until May 1, and after restrictions were lifted, consider the implications on their community of being irresponsible with fire.

"We just want people to realise that even though restrictions are off, you can't just light up whenever you want and not be responsible, not registering burns, not having something on hand to deal with anything that might escape," he said.

"Given the activity that we've had, the

firefighters in their communities are tired, fatigued; we're still dealing with the fire in and around Cobrico and Elingamite, so we don't want them to be jumping on their trucks to respond to people doing the wrong thing cleaning up around their properties.

"There's a lot of stuff to burn post the fire, and the wind event that caused the fire; a lot of trees came down, a lot of debris, so there's a lot of piles of heavier fuels sitting around in paddocks so we're going to be seeing a lot more of those heaps to be burnt.

"We don't want to restrict people from doing that, but it is going to cause us some issues if people don't do the right thing."



**DILIGENCE:** Country Fire Authority district six operations manager Dean Manson is reminding Colac district residents to be aware of their responsibilities with fire until and after the fire danger period ends.



# NEW PROPOSAL

## Council plan would see shire remain in electorate

BY JACKSON GRAHAM

**Colac Otway Shire Council has proposed an alternative to the Australian Electoral Commission's draft electoral boundary changes that would balance voter numbers and keep the entire shire in the same federal electorate.**

The AEC released draft changes to Victoria's electoral boundaries last month, which move parts of the shire, including Colac, Beeac and Coragulac, from Corangamite into the western electorate of Wannon.

But at a public meeting last week, Colac Otway Shire Council acting chief executive Robert Dobrzynski unveiled a proposal to keep the entire shire inside an electorate shared with

the Surf Coast and parts of Geelong.

"There are other alternatives that can be considered," Mr Dobrzynski said.

The AEC says boundary changes are required to accommodate a new electorate set for Melbourne's western suburbs and to keep numbers in each of the state's electorates between 106,509 and 114,235 voters.

Geelong's growth corridor and declining population numbers in the state's west have caused the changes drafted for Corangamite, which the AEC proposes will lose part of its north west and include part of the Bellarine Peninsula.

But the council's proposal would see the western boundary of Corangamite, renamed "Cox" by the AEC draft, maintained as far

north as Cressy.

The council suggests the new electorate's northern boundary would follow the Hamilton Highway.

To maintain about 110,000 voters in each electorate, Mr Dobrzynski said the council's proposal required Greater Geelong's Newcomb and Molap to stay in the electorate of Corio.

He said the AEC could balance Wannon's voter numbers by extending its boundary further east to include areas of Golden Plains Shire such as Inverleigh and Bannockburn.

"That's consistent with a number of parts of Golden Plains Shire that are already proposed to be in Wannon," Mr Dobrzynski said.

Councillors and business leaders opposed to the AEC's proposal have argued that

Colac shares stronger ties with communities to its east, pointing out the AEC's communities of interest criteria.

But Mr Dobrzynski said "arguing community of interest" would "only get us so far", and instead suggested the council's alternative proposal to balance voter numbers would hold more sway.

"At the end of the day the dilemma that the AEC has got is it wants to make the numbers stack up," he said.

"These figures are paramount, because they drive the process."

Councillors are yet to formally adopt the council's proposal and will vote on it at a special meeting on May 2, two days before submissions on the AEC's draft are due.

But Cr Chris Smith en-

couraged members of the public wanting to oppose the AEC's draft to use the council's proposal as a basis for their own objections regardless of the councillors' final vote.

"I trust it will, but it may not end up being ratified at that meeting. If you believe in that, regardless of what council does on the second, you can still say that's what you would prefer," Cr Smith said.

"My concern is, if you wait until the second, you may not hear the result of that until the following day and you've got 24 hours. And what will happen is many people who have very good intentions will forget to do it."

Turn to page 2 for more on the community meeting.



**COURTHOUSE  
UPGRADES  
SET TO START**

Page 3



**CONCERN  
AS RIVER  
RUNS DRY**  
Page 5

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## Old dog teaches shelter new tricks

MEET Eddy the red heeler.

In dog years, he is an incredible 119 years old. In human years, he's 17.

Despite being in the twilight of his life, Eddy found himself on the search for a new home after coming into the care of Geelong Animal Rescue last week.

But in the space of three days, this wiley old canine broke two records for the group — becoming the oldest dog in its care, and the quickest to be adopted.

Director Jordan Barker said it was not uncommon for senior dogs to be surrendered to the group, but she said Eddy was unlike most.

"We thought he was coming into our palliative care. His walking was pretty shady and he had this lump on his head," she said.

"But with a bit of TLC he's literally bounced back. He's got a lot of life back in him."

Geelong Animal Rescue cares for various animals and is run entirely by volunteers.

Anyone interested in adopting an animal, or supporting the group, can visit

[geelonganimalrescue.org.au](http://geelonganimalrescue.org.au)  
RUSTY WOODGER



BREAKING RECORDS: Geelong Animal Rescue director Jordan Barker pictured with Eddy the red heeler, who is 119 in dog years. Picture: MIKE DUGDALE

## Take Bannockburn, says Shire Colac push to stay put

ALEX SINNOTT

BANNOCKBURN and surrounding towns should form part of Wannon, the Colac Otway Shire has advocated.

A meeting was held in Colac last week to push for the shire to be retained in Corangamite, with the electorate under threat of abolition due to the Australian Electoral Commission's redistribution.

Under the commission's proposal, Colac and surrounding towns would become part of the neighbouring Wannon electorate, while the Surf Coast and Apollo Bay district would form part of the new Cox electorate.

Colac Otway Mayor Joe McCracken said part of the Golden Plains Shire was already proposed by the commission to form part of Wannon.

"In most cases around regional Victoria, whole councils form part of an electorate and are rarely separated because it creates too much confusion for voters," he said.

"The proposed boundaries from the AEC already have part of the Golden Plains Shire. We have suggested that the Colac Otway Shire remains undivided and that the Cor-

angamite or Cox northern boundary runs along the Hamilton Highway which would mean the southern part of the Golden Plains Shire would be in Wannon."

More than 50 people attended the Colac meeting and Cr McCracken said there was "95 per cent support" for retaining the city in the Corangamite electorate, or its replacement Cox constituency.

Colac is located 106km from Wannon MP Dan Tehan's Warrnambool electorate office and 169km away from his Hamilton office.

However, Bannockburn is even further away from both regional centres. Objections to the proposed boundaries close on May 4 with the Liberal MP Sarah Henderson keen to retain the Colac region, which contains a number of strong Coalition booths.

Her main rival, Corangamite Labor candidate Libby Coker emailed ALP members last week requesting they make submissions to the AEC in support of the Colac region forming part of Wannon.

The email states that: "Colac and the South West have much in common with the seat of Wannon — agriculture is the key economic driver."



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Colac Otway Shire mayor Joe McCracken said.

Constable Justin Taffs of Colac police said the list of stolen items included river red gums, an apple tree, a black sheoak, succulents, felicia and an acorn banksia.

He said he believed the thefts were occurring between 7pm and 6am, with police recording the first thefts in March.

The gardens, established in 1865, are one of Victoria's largest regional gardens and are of historical and aesthetic significance to the region.

gardens beautiful for everyone to enjoy."

Cr McCracken said the council would replant plants stolen from the Colac Botanic Gardens but said some varieties were difficult to source.

"We are aiming to replant the same or very similar plant type to what was there previously," he said.

"Some of the plants are difficult to source, council's parks and gardens department will continue to try to source plants of similar varieties to what was taken."



APPEAL: Colac police are appealing for public information about multiple thefts of plants from Colac Botanic Gardens. Pictured is Constable Justin Taffs.

180426R00039

# Opposition to electoral change

BY ALISON MARTIN

**Corangamite residents have until Friday to have their say on the Australian Electoral Commission's proposed electoral boundary change which would see Colac move into Wannon.**

A redistribution committee's redistribution report proposes to move the Wannon boundary east to include Colac, Beeac, Cressy and Barongarook in the seat currently represented by Dan Tehan, whose main electorate office is at Hamilton.

The proposal also includes moving Wimmera city Stawell into Wannon, and moving the Bellarine out of the Geelong-based seat of Corio and into the electorate currently recognised as Corangamite, but renaming it Cox.

Colac business leaders and community members are calling on residents and business people who want to retain Colac's ties with other parts of the shire and Geelong to sign an online petition.

AKD chief Shane Vicary, Spence Construction director and Colac Tigers president Matt Gibson, and local resident Phil Edge are asking Colac and district residents to help them oppose moving the Wannon boundary east and telling the AEC to "Keep Colac in Corangamite".

Meanwhile, Colac Otway Shire Council will host a special meeting on Wednesday, with its submission to the AEC included on the agenda.

The council will formally vote on making a submission to the Australian Electoral Commission "objecting to the proposals for the Division of Corangamite".

The recommendation includes an alternative boundary change that would see the entire Colac Otway Shire remain in the Corangamite electorate, the entire Golden Plains Shire move into Wannon, and Corangamite would retain its name as "a federation division of substantial history and significance".

The proposed submission would express "the council's strong objection



to the transfer of 12,041 electors in Colac and Colac Region" to Wannon.

Councillors will also vote on telling the AEC that there is "strong community support as evidenced by media and the public meeting held which supported the alternative proposal and retention of the Division name".

See Wednesday's *Herald* for more on the community-led push to Keep Colac in Corangamite; and sign the petition at [www.change.org/p/australian-electoral-commission-keep-colac-in-corangamite](http://www.change.org/p/australian-electoral-commission-keep-colac-in-corangamite)

# Nine-month order for teen

**A 16-year-old boy involved in stealing about 400 sheep which had a value of about \$78,000 will complete a youth attendance order.**

The boy attended a sentencing hearing at a children's court relating to charges including

not reflect the seriousness of the situation.

"What has occurred over the last 20 days has given me no confidence whatsoever," he said.

"You engaged in significant offending over a period of time including the theft of livestock,

that the accused had started his "criminal career" in a significant way.

"I'm telling you today what the expectations are; do your nine months and don't commit any offences," he said.

The magistrate sen-

## THIS WEEK'S SPECIALS

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T-Bone Steaks \$19<sup>99</sup> KG

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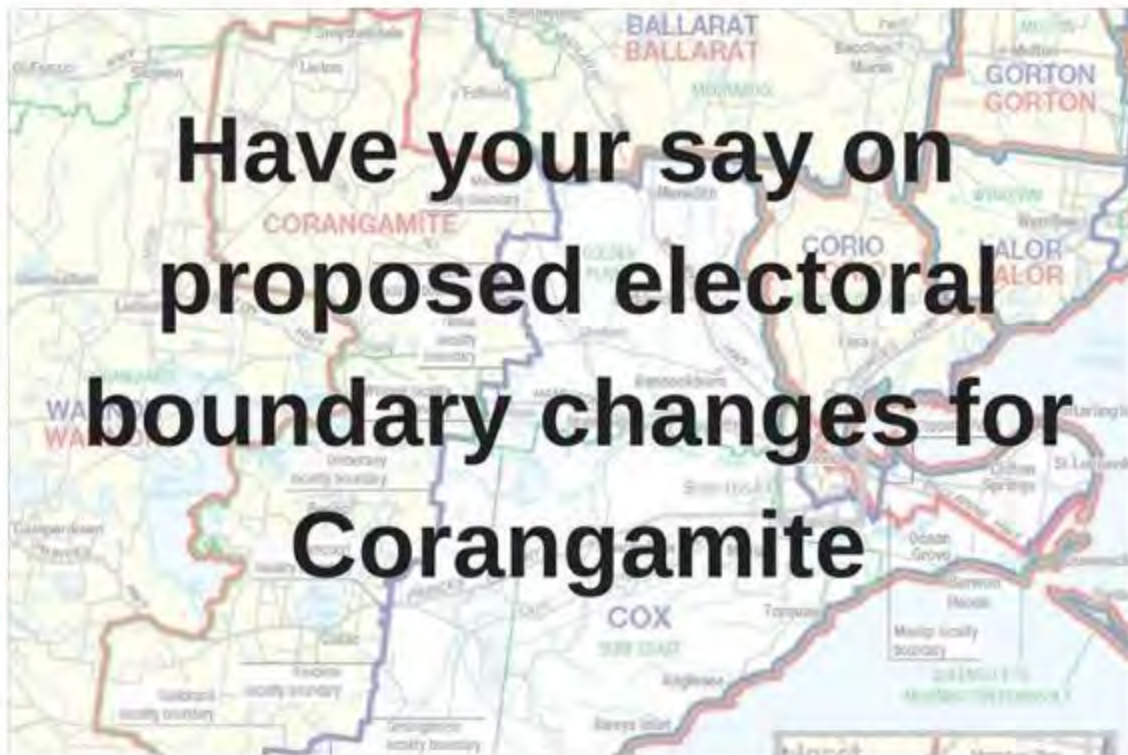
Colac Otway Shire Council

Published by Sarah Osborne [?] · 3 hrs ·

Make sure your up to date with the proposed electorate boundary changes for Corangamite.

For more information visit <http://www.colacotway.vic.gov.au/.../Have-your-say-on-propose...>

Colac Otway Shire Council will vote on an alternative boundary proposal which received strong support from the community at a public meeting in April. The Special Council Meeting is on Wednesday 2 May 2018 at COPACC at 4pm. Anyone who's interested is welcome to come along.





## Electorate concern

Colac and district's business group says Colac's "past and more importantly our future lies being strongly connected with the Geelong region, an undeniable 120-year relationship".

Colac District Chamber of Commerce has joined Colac Otway Shire Council, business owners, sporting groups and other community groups in opposing Colac's move from the Corangamite electorate to Wannon.

CDCC president Ernie Andres has made a detailed submission voicing the chamber's concern over the Australian Electoral Commission's proposal to extend the Wannon boundary east to include Colac, arguing the city's interests were to the east.

"The profile of our region has drifted away from the mainly wool growing area of Hamilton and the Wannon electorate in general; our industry segments are growing and mainly facing east," he said.

"With the Colac Otway Shire and the electorate of Corangamite being part of one of the main growth areas of Victoria, with industry, tourism, population growth, closeness to large centres of Geelong, Melbourne and Ballarat, all closer to Colac than Hamilton any change of electorate can only harm both electorates," are among the issues raised by the chamber.



HONOUR: Colac's Wayne Armstrong will make a presentation at an equine conference in Dublin next month.

Colac Music Teachers Association presents  
**3 Music Concerts**  
 Saturday May 5th 2018  
 COPACC Civic Hall  
 Featuring: local student performers & past adjudicators *Jonothan Cox & Claire Patti*.  
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 Vocal & Instrumental: 3.00pm – 4.45pm

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# Colac carriage driver shares skills overseas

BY OLIVIA REED

Colac's Riding for the Disabled Association's Wayne Armstrong will represent Colac at the 16th International Congress of Equine Facilitated Programs in Dublin next month.

"It's a worldwide conference for Horses in Education and Therapy International and I'm doing a poster presentation and I think there are about 90 people presenting," Mr Armstrong said.

Association president Brendan Scanlan said Mr Armstrong was "the only carriage driver selected worldwide for the conference in Dublin in June".

"He'll be making a presentation on a young fellow from Colanda, Mark, who he's almost got driving the carriage himself now," he said.

"Mark has Mobius syndrome which affects the nerves in the face, so he can't blink, he can't smile, he can't show any emotion and he can't talk," Mr Armstrong said.

"I've been working with him for about 18 months and I'm trying to get him to drive the horse on his own so he has contact with the reins and can actually steer the horse," he said.

"I sit alongside him in the carriage and we have two sets of reins and Mark's just started to drive on his own without me holding that second set of reins."

Mr Scanlan said Mr Armstrong was "very talented" at teaching people with disabilities how to drive carriages.

"We're extremely lucky to have Wayne Armstrong because he's been

to Equitana a couple of times," he said. "He'll be representing the Colac group of the RDA."

Mr Armstrong said "I probably more enjoyment out of the RDA than the people that attend".

"We also have a special carriage that takes a wheelchair as well and they feel the air in their face," he said.

The association has helped people with disabilities gain confidence and have fun while learning to ride horses for more than 30 years.

"We're one of three groups in Australia that have three forms of carriage driving, horse riding and equestrian," Mr Scanlan said.

"It's all about enriching our clients. Seeing the smiles on the clients' faces makes it very rewarding."

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 Phone 5232 2077  
 TIMES FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 2 TO TUESDAY MAY 8, 2018

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>I FEEL PRETTY</b><br/>                 (M) 110 mins<br/>                 THU, FRI 10.45am, 6.00pm<br/>                 SAT, SUN 4.00pm, 8.45pm<br/>                 MON, TUE 1.45pm, 6.15pm</p>   | <p><b>ISLE OF DOGS</b><br/>                 (PG) 101 mins<br/>                 THU, FRI 3.45pm<br/>                 SAT, SUN 11.15am<br/>                 MON, TUE 4.15pm</p>   |
| <p><b>MARY MAGDALENE</b><br/>                 (M) 120 mins<br/>                 THU, FRI 3.45pm, 8.30pm<br/>                 SAT, SUN 2.00pm, 6.15pm<br/>                 MON, TUE 11.15am</p>  | <p><b>A QUIET PLACE</b> LAST WEEK<br/>                 (M) 90 mins<br/>                 WED 4.30pm, 8.45pm<br/>                 THU, FRI 2.00pm<br/>                 SAT, SUN 4.15pm<br/>                 MON, TUE 4.00pm, 8.30pm</p> |
| <p><b>AVENGERS: INFINITY WAR</b><br/>                 (M) 149 mins<br/>                 WED<br/>                 11.30am, 1.15pm, 6.00pm, 8.15pm<br/>                 THU, FRI<br/>                 11.00am, 1.00pm, 5.45pm, 8.15pm<br/>                 SAT, SUN<br/>                 11.00am, 1.15pm, 6.00pm, 8.30pm<br/>                 MON, TUE<br/>                 11.00am, 1.30pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm</p> | <p><b>BLOCKERS</b> LAST DAY<br/>                 (MA) 102 mins<br/>                 WED 11.15am, 6.15pm</p>   |
| <p><b>PETER RABBIT</b> LAST DAY<br/>                 (PG) 95 mins<br/>                 WED 4.00pm</p>   | <p><b>RAMPAGE</b> LAST DAY<br/>                 (M) 107 mins<br/>                 WED 2.15pm</p>  |

## Warning to drivers in fog

Colac police are encouraging drivers to be mindful when driving in foggy conditions after two vehicles crashed in separate incidents this week.

First Constable Robert Ashton of Colac Police said a driver of a Toyota utility vehicle failed to stop and skidded through the intersection of Drapers Road and Colac-Forrest Road, east of Colac, Monday morning.

He said that the driver of the utility then witnessed a light-weight truck with a trailer also skid through the intersection and hit a fence on Colac-Forrest Road.

Const Ashton said it was possible that weather conditions made the surface of the road slippery.

He said both vehicles received minor damage but were

driveable from the scene.

Const Ashton said it was lucky there were no motorists travelling on the Colac-Forrest Road at the time of the crashes and that it was important motorists slowed down and drove to conditions as the region experiences thick morning fog. "If you can't see that far ahead I'd suggest that you slow down," he said.

Const Ashton encouraged motorists to use headlights or fog lights when driving in hazardous weather conditions and reminded the community that motorists must slow down to 40 kilometres an hour when approaching emergency vehicles.

Drivers must slow down to a speed that would allow them to stop safely when approaching and passing enforcement, emergency or escort vehicles that are stationary or moving

"If you can't see that far ahead I'd suggest that you slow down."

CONSTABLE ROBERT ASHTON

slowly less than 10 kilometres an hour and have either red and blue flashing lights or magenta flashing lights or alarm sounding.

Motorists must not exceed 40 kilometres an hour when passing the vehicle or vehicles. They should not increase their speed until they are at a safe distance from the scene.





TAKE A STAND: AKD chief Shane Vicary, resident Phil Edge and Spence Construction director and Colac Tigers president Matt Gibson are asking the community to have its say.

# Electorate proposal worries community

BY ALISON MARTIN

**Colac businessmen and local residents have joined forces to keep Colac in Corangamite, launching an online petition to demonstrate the community opposition to a proposed electorate change.**

An Australian Electoral Commission committee has proposed moving Wannon's boundary east to include Colac, Beeac, Cressy and Barongarook, and renaming Corangamite "Cox".

The proposed electoral redistribution would meet the population requirements for federal seats, with Wannon's population declining and Corangamite's voter numbers continuing to increase.

But AKD chief Shane Vicary, Spence Construction director and Colac Tigers Football Netball Club

president Matt Gibson, and community activist Phil Edge say a "cookie cutter" approach to balancing numbers is unacceptable when it could impact Colac's future economically and as a community.

Mr Vicary said Colac's interests were to the east, from business ties to sporting affiliations.

"All our large employers, ALC, AKD, Bulla, our large construction companies, do business to the east and down to the coast," he said.

"Colac's sports clubs have affiliations with Geelong; Colac Tigers, Geelong Falcons, cricket, baseball and other sports all have governing bodies based in Geelong.

"Our community ties, our geographic ties, our sporting ties, are all to the east of Colac," Mr Vicary said.

"And we can't have Birregurra,

Apollo Bay and other towns in the shire all split from Colac."

Mr Vicary said their community campaign to keep Colac in Corangamite was about fighting for their community and the disadvantage Colac faced if forced into Wannon.

"Colac is a town on the rise,"

he said. "There's been a lot of planning in place over a long time; we have the highway duplication, low unemployment, and all because of our link to the region to our east.

"This could be an impediment to Colac's growth."

Mr Gibson agreed, explaining Colac was "just starting to kick some goals".

"Colac has worked extremely hard as a community to start to gain some momentum in our town with vibrant industry and

low unemployment and with the impending dual-lane highway due for completion, which is a natural link with our eastern partners," he said.

Mr Gibson said all the strategic planning with lobby group G21 "focussed on a future with Geelong".

"They need to consider economic and community benefit, not a cookie-cutter approach where it's all about balancing numbers."

Retired policeman and Colac resident Phil Edge said he also had concerns with the proposed size of the Wannon electorate if Colac and Stawell were included and how an MP would logistically represent residents.

"When we want to see our MP or visit the electorate office, Sarah Henderson has just opened an office here in Colac or we get

on a train to Waurn Ponds," Mr Edge said.

"The Wannon electorate office is in Hamilton, how are we getting down there?"

"Colac Otway Shire Council would also have to negotiate with two MPs for federal funding," he said.

"Corangamite has been an electorate since federation and recognises our indigenous community; it would be another piece of history that's taken away, it should be a heritage-listed name."

Business and community leaders are urging people to sign an online petition at [www.change.org/p/australian-electoral-commission-keep-colac-in-corangamite](http://www.change.org/p/australian-electoral-commission-keep-colac-in-corangamite)

"We aren't connected politically, it doesn't matter who you vote for, we're just saying this will be bad for Colac," Mr Vicary said.

**INSIDE TODAY** DUBLIN CALLS COLAC CARRIAGE DRIVER Page 2 COLAC OTWAY'S DRAFT BUDGET Page 3 APOLLO BAY BECOMES TRANSITION TOWN Page 7

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# Final day for submissions

BY ALISON MARTIN

**Colac Otway Shire Council has requested the Australian Electoral Commission call a meeting in Colac before making a decision to move the Corangamite electorate.**

The council unanimously agreed at a special meeting on Wednesday to make a submission "strongly" objecting to a redistribution committee's report which proposes moving the Wannon electorate's boundary east to include Colac, Cressy, Barongarook, Irrewarra and Beeac and other shire communities.

Today is the final day for submissions responding to the AEC's proposal which would see Colac Otway Shire split into Wannon and the proposed electorate of Cox.

The detailed council submission objected to the boundary change and proposed an alterna-

tive boundary realignment which would leave the entire shire in Corangamite.

Mayor Joe McCracken said the council's proposal made more sense, still allowed for the desired number of electors in each of the seats and protected the council's strategic alliances.

"Our council and the communities have strong, undeniable relationships with the Geelong area and almost no tangible relationship with the Wannon electorate to our west," he said.

"It is our view that splitting Colac Otway Shire across two diverse and contrasting electorates would introduce unnecessary complexities in terms of our work to advocate for the prosperity of our communities.

The submission explains the council's objection to the proposed name change of the Corangamite electorate to Cox because of the "histo-

ry and significance" of Corangamite as a federation seat.

Councillors also supported acting chief Robert Dobrzynski's suggestion of asking the AEC to "convene a public hearing in Colac prior to determining a decision on the boundaries of the existing Corangamite electoral division".

Cr Chris Smith said at this week's meeting that the council needed "to give it our best shot to get the best outcome for our community".

He said there had been "a significant crowd" at the council-hosted community meeting to discuss the redistribution proposal, which was the first public meeting in Colac in 16 years.

Councillors Chris Potter, Jason Schram, Kate Hanson, Stephen Hart and Terry Woodcroft spoke of the need for the entire shire to remain connected to the Geelong region, arguing Colac's communities

of interest were to the east.

"It makes no sense that we should look to the west; I hope the AEC listens to the community," Cr Potter said.

Cr Hart said while people in other areas, Gellibrand, Birregurra, throughout the Otways and down to the coast, would be in the proposed electorate of Cox, he urged them to support staying in the same electorate as Colac.

Cr Hart joined other councillors in thanking the Colac and district community for its support in the fight to keep Colac in Corangamite.

People who oppose almost 12,000 voters from the northern part of Colac Otway Shire, including Colac, moving from Corangamite into Wannon, which stretches to the South Australian Border and as far north as Stawell, have until 6pm today to make a submission.



**Lodge objections and comments on objections via the AEC website at [www.aec.gov.au/vic-redistribution](http://www.aec.gov.au/vic-redistribution)**  
Objections and comments on objections can also be submitted:

- by email to [FedRedistribution-VIC@aec.gov.au](mailto:FedRedistribution-VIC@aec.gov.au)
- in person, during business hours, to Redistribution Secretariat for Victoria, Australian Electoral Commission, Level 1 Urban Workshop, 50 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne
- by fax to 02 6293 7664.

## More than 430 people sign online petition

**An online petition to "keep Colac in Corangamite" has attracted more than 400 signatures in three days.**

Retired policeman and Colac resident Phil Edge started the petition with AKD's Shane Vicary and Colac Tigers Football Netball Club's Matt Gibson, and said he was "pleasantly surprised" by the support.

"Everyone I see in the street, I say 'have you signed

the petition yet,'" he said.

"I think we'll get a lot more."

The change.org petition opposing the Australian Electoral Commission's plan to move Colac into the federal electorate of Wannon had 434 signatures when the Colac Herald went to print yesterday.

Formal objections to the AEC's draft are due today, but Mr Edge said the AEC

would receive the petition sometime before May 18 and encouraged residents to continue to sign after today's cut-off date.

The petition also opposes the name change of the federal electorate of Corangamite to "Cox" by the AEC's draft.

"It will be great if they do retain the name but the bigger issue is to get them to take a step back on the proposed boundary changes and keep

Colac in the Corangamite electorate," Mr Edge said.

He said "people of all political persuasions" had signed the petition.

"I think it's just a general concern of the possible disadvantage to Colac by going into Wannon."

The petition is online at <https://www.change.org/p/australian-electoral-commission-keep-colac-in-corangamite>

## Call to lock vehicles after thefts

**Forensic police are examining a car potentially used in multiple thefts across Colac and are calling on the public to lock their vehicles.**

Sergeant Jonathan Parish of Colac police said unknown offenders stole a white 2005 Ford Falcon vehicle from a property in Kemp Street on Tuesday night and that 10 vehicles were targeted throughout the district, with offenders stealing items from cars and damaging vehicles.

He said the stolen Ford Falcon vehicle was potentially connected to a series of thefts which occurred throughout the region on the same night.

"We had seven thefts from motor vehicles reported, all relating to unlocked vehicles around the Colac area," he said.

Sgt Parish said the offenders searched through vehicles and stole "various items" but believed the offenders were mainly looking for money and cigarettes.

He said police located the stolen vehicle later Tuesday morn-



**LOCK UP:** Constable Sam McDonald, Constable Nate Vidot and Senior Sergeant Ken Slingsby are encouraging people to lock and remove valuable from their vehicles after a spate of thefts in Colac.

ing in a residential laneway in Colac.

"Police would like to speak to anyone that was in the Moore Street area in the early hours of 1am to 5am, or may have seen the vehicle to contact Colac police."

Senior Sergeant Ken Slingsby said that during the same night unknown offenders damaged three other vehicles by throwing rocks at vehicle's windows causing them to smash.

Sen Sgt Slingsby

encouraged residents to park vehicles off streets if possible, or park vehicles in well-lit areas if off-street parking was unavailable.

He also reminded people to remove valuable items from vehicles. Sgt Parish said po-

lice "just want to reinforce the message to car owners to lock their vehicles".

Anyone with information can contact Colac Police Station on 5230 0000 or call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

**Christian's Bus Co.**

**PERFECT GIFT IDEA FOR Mother's Day, OR Birthday's. GIFT VOUCHERS AVAILABLE. DAY TRIPS**

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Jul 26 – Black Cat Cottages & Truffles, Dep Camperdown 8.30am ..... | \$135 |
| Jul 28 – Craft & Quilt Fair Melbourne .....                         | \$79  |
| Oct 18 – Tramcar Restaurant, Melbourne.....                         | \$158 |

**THEATRE TRIPS**

**THE WIZARD OF OZ Jun 6, Jul 11**  
– Regent Theatre, Dep 9.15am..... A \$135/ Ch \$115

**BEAUTIFUL THE CAROLE KING MUSICAL HURRY!**  
Jun 19 – Her Majesty's Theatre, Dep 9.15am .....
 \$140 |

**GRETA BRADMAN CONCERT**  
Jul 1 – St. Mary of the Angels Basilica, Geel, Dep 11.15am.....
 \$130 |

**DISNEY ON ICE – 100 YEARS OF MAGIC**  
Jul 5 – Hisense Arena, Dep 11.15am .....
 A \$96/Ch \$86 |

**TAYLOR SWIFT (B RESERVE)**  
Oct 26 – Etihad Stadium, Dep 3.30pm.....
 \$270 |

\*ALL DEPARTURE TIMES ARE FROM COLAC

**EXTENDED TOURS**

**Aug 20 – Flinders Ranges..... 6 days \$1620pp**  
Highlights: Burra – Historic Mining Town, Peterborough, Meldonfield – Miniature Display, Cazneaux Tree, Stokes Hill Lookout, Flinders Ranges, Brachina Gorge, Wilpena Pound, Wangara Hill Lookout, Bungaree Station, Annie's Lane Winery, Chateau Barrosa Antique Museum.

**Sep 4 – Silo's Art Trail..... 3 days \$869pp**

**FULLY ESCORTED TOURS**

**Jun 29 – Cape York & Horn Island .... 10 days \$5750pp**  
Highlights: Cape Tribulation, World Heritage Daintree National Park, Bloomfield Track, Cooktown, Lakefield National Park, Split Rock – Aboriginal Rock Art, Musgrave Telegraph Station, Weipa, Bramwell Station, Fruit Bat Falls, Thursday Island, Cape York – Most Northern Tip of Australia.

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V140108M \* Conditions apply to all trips \* Colac & District