

# COBDEN TECHNICAL SCHOOL

47 McKenzie Street, Cobden Vic 3266 P ◆ 5595 1202

Committed to Students, Committed to Success

Be sure to check out the website for our school

E ◆ cobden.ts@education.vic.gov.au

https://www.cobtech.vic.edu.au/

Term 4 Week 3 October 2025

We are committed to find and celebrate successful outcomes for students, whether that is in the pursuit of high-level academic achievement, or the development of specific vocational skills.

The values we strive to develop and promote through our interactions with students, parents and other members of our community are Honesty, Excellence, Accountability, Respect and Teamwork - HEART

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School Council Parent: Anita La Franchi • Rebecca Armistead • Fiona Dobbins • Amanda Weel • Simone Hayes • Greg Suter

In the spirit of reconciliation, Cobden Technical School acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of this country the Djargurd Wurrung and Kirrae Whurrung peoples of the Eastern Maar nation. We pay our deepest respects to the Elders past, present and emerging, for they hold the memories, the tradition, the culture and identity of the Indigenous peoples of Australia.



## Principal's Desk

#### Narelle Holliday - Principal

#### **Good Luck to Our Year 12 Students**

Our Year 12 students have officially begun their VCE exams preparations ready for their exams next week. We wish each of them the very best as they complete their studies. Take a deep breath, do your best, and remember that your teachers and the whole school community are behind you.

## Congratulations, Max!

A huge well done to **Max P** receiving the **SWTAFE School-Based Apprenticeship Award** for his excellent work in Automotive at Colac Holden. It was a pleasure to share this award ceremony with Max and his parents last week.

#### **State Athletics Success**

Congratulations to **Rhys S** and **Riley B**, who represented Cobden Technical School at the **State Athletics Championships** on Monday. Competing at state level is a remarkable achievement - well done!

## **School Rebuild Update**

Tenders for the **school rebuild project** have now closed, and the review process is underway. During the next few weeks, we will find out the successful builder and then we will soon receive the timeline for the beginning of the works. With this in mind, we may have some days where there is no power or water onsite. If this is to be the case, we will use this time for report writing and staff professional development that we will do at a different venue. I'm sorry that the dates are not yet available. As soon as we know we will share this information with families.

#### School TV

Have you checked out the articles on School TV? There is a link on the school site and in each newsletter. There are great articles for all members of the family. At present the articles about exams may be helpful, especially for families with first time year 12 students.

## **Upcoming Pupil-Free Days**

- Tuesday 4 November (Melbourne Cup Day)
- > Friday 28 November will be a pupil-free day for staff first aid training.

## **Assistant Principal Report**

Sarah Cook - Assistant Principal

#### **Student Achievements**

We held our celebration assembly last Tuesday, recognising students that have regularly displayed our HEART values — Honesty, Excellence, Accountability, Respect and Teamwork. Specific congratulations to Cooper B (Year 7), Kai C (Year 8), Milly E and Nurul S (Year 9), Olivia B (Year 10) and Connor J and Adam J (Year 11) for achieving the most positive merit points last term.

It always makes me proud when students come to share their achievements outside of school or something extra that the student has done and I hope you enjoy reading about some of these in the newsletter. If your student has success, we would love to hear about it and share with the wider community, please let us know!



## **School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS)**

We will be continuing our work teaching expected behaviours to students and focusing on consistent and predictable routines. You can help by checking your students' timetable in the morning, discussing what classes they have and what they might need or if there are any changes such as excursions or staffing, PE uniform for PE and maybe a container for cooking. Regularly check Compass, discuss the chronicles made positive, minor and major and see what you can do to support. Is there something the school can do further to support?

Creating a positive school environment where all students feel supported starts with working together—teachers, staff, families, and students alike. By fostering open communication, understanding and consistent expectations around behaviour, we can help students develop self-confidence, respect and responsibility.

## **Programs to support students**

We are incredibly grateful to One Day Studio for running such an engaging and impactful hands-on program tailored to support our students at Cobden Technical School. Our students participated in small groups carefully developed to support inclusion, collaboration and positive engagement. Whilst participating, we have noticed a remarkable shift in our students' attitudes—they consistently display respectful behaviours and genuinely look forward to each session. The presenters, Gareth and Maiya, truly stood out with their kindness, empathy and genuine connection to our students, creating a safe and inspiring environment where every student felt valued and heard. To celebrate the end of term and the students' achievements we visited the one Day Studio site at Fletcher Jones last week of term.









This term small groups of students will again have the opportunity to participate in One Day Studio, Bands continue with Mr Gill and Liam is also supporting students in Music Therapy.

#### **Racism**

Racism in schools remains a serious issue that affects students' well-being, academic success and sense of belonging. It can appear in many forms—name-calling, unfair treatment, or biased discipline—and often goes unchallenged. Creating an inclusive and respectful environment requires ongoing education, open conversations, and a commitment to equity from everyone in the school community. Together, we can ensure all students feel safe, valued and empowered to thrive.

We will not tolerate racism or religious discrimination in our school communities.

We encourage you to report incidents if your child has been the target of religious, racial discrimination or abuse or has seen others experience racism or religious discrimination.

You can report the incident to the Report Racism hotline if you are:

- not comfortable reporting to the school
- not happy with the school's response

The Report Racism hotline is available 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday (excl. public holidays) on 1800 722 476.

#### Thunderstorm Asthma - be prepared this pollen season

Grass pollen season, which typically runs from October to December each year in Victoria, brings an increase in asthma and hay fever symptoms. It also increases the risk of <u>thunderstorm asthma</u>. For people with asthma or hay fever, especially those who experience wheezing or coughing with their hay fever, thunderstorm asthma can be sudden, serious and even life threatening.

Cobden Technical School will implement a range of measures to keep our school community safe as the risk of thunderstorm asthma increases.

Many of our staff are trained in asthma first aid. We will monitor the Vic Emergency app to receive thunderstorm warnings and provide students with indoors spaces at break times when weather forecasts identify greater risk.

If your student may require allergy medication, please contact the office to discuss the process for providing medication at school.

## Careers & Senior Subschool Report

## Jason Beveridge - Career Coordinator & Senior Subschool leader



The year seems to speed up as we enter Term 4. VCE, VCE VM and VET classes are all rapidly approaching completion for 2025. VCE VM students have completed most formal classes and are in the process of entering the workforce or seeking employment, whilst, VCE students are finishing their last few classes before we enter the exam period and are putting in the hard yards as they do their best to make sure they are prepared. VET students are completing projects and making sure they have completed all modules. The Year 12 class had their final assembly and a day of celebration to recognise their efforts in completing 6 years of secondary education and to acknowledge their contributions to our community at Cobden Technical School. Parents and family joined our final assembly and shared morning tea to join us in celebrating the achievements of our Year 12 students.

Meanwhile, the rest of the school keeps charging towards the finish line. Year 9 students have undertaken the first 2 of 3 "Future Me" sessions delivered by Deakin University. The sessions are tailored to inform students about the opportunities for employment that exist in the Corangamite Shire and to educate students about employability skills to help prepare students for life after school. Students attended Deakin University for the second day of this program and joined with students from other schools to participate in learning games and workshops to solidify the knowledge that was introduced in the first session.





Our Student Voice Committee has been working extremely hard over the past months. Students have been participating in a program entitled "Teach the Teacher" supported by Vic SRC. The program has seen the students participate in workshops and work together to identify an area for improvement within our school. Students then developed a class presentation that they will deliver to the teaching cohort. Tuesday night saw the culmination of their efforts as teachers participated in classroom directed and managed by the Student Voice body. Teachers and students found the session informative and believe the program will help to develop a dialogue between staff and students that will foster a culture of collaboration as we strive to continually improve our school. Vic SRC will return on the 6/11 to conduct a reflection session.

The Student Voice Committee also represented our school at the Corangamite Youth Summit. Students met with students from other schools across the region in order to identify issues confronting young people in the Corangamite Shire and propose solutions to these issues. Students worked together to generate information and suggestions to be delivered to the Corangamite Shire Council to be used to inform their decision making. Our students represented our school with pride and should be proud of the manner in which they conducted themselves.



Coming up:

- → Future Me Day 3 Year 9 (31/10)
- $\rightarrow$  ADF Visit Years 9, 10, 11 (6/11)
- $\rightarrow$  Upgrade week for Years 10 and 11: (17/11 21/11) compulsory
- → Careers week Years 10 and 11: (24/11 27/11) compulsory
- $\rightarrow$  Work Experience Years 10 (compulsory) and Year 11 (optional): (1/12 5/12)

## **VCE VM News**

#### Stacey Gladman - VCE VM Teacher





In the final weeks of Term 3 the VCE VM students dressed up in a variety of fancy dress days to celebrate their final weeks at school. The group worked as a team to decide on themes - including The Addams Family. The students all looked fantastic, with more than a few Wednesday Addams appearing on the day.

I would like to take this opportunity - as one of their VCE VM teachers - to wish each and every one of the graduating class of 2025 all the best in their future endeavours. The group have worked extremely hard across the year and I am proud to have spent the year not only teaching them, but getting to know them as individuals.

In the words of Eleanor Roosevelt "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams". I look forward to hearing of the many successes that I am sure will come the way of these students as they begin to chase their respective dreams in life.

## Junior Subschool Report

#### Jen McLennan - Junior Subschool leader



#### A warm welcome back to Term Four!

Once again, we have lots happening this term, including our much anticipated Year 9 Melbourne Camp. There's plenty of excited chatter about activities, transport, and (of course) who students will be sharing a room with. DOXA always puts on an incredible camp experience for our students and we are grateful for the opportunity to explore our capital city.

It has been wonderful to see students across all year levels participating in the various shows around the districts. Well done to everyone who entered and congratulations to those who received a place; your efforts are something to be proud of!

Our *Hearts Award* focus for this newsletter is **Excellence**. We demonstrate excellence by wearing our uniform with pride, attempting all set work and striving to do our best. It's fantastic to see how many students are receiving merits for their work ethic in class - something all students can aim for.

Remember, our best can change from day to day; we all have good and bad days. Excellence isn't about being perfect - it's about doing our best and continuing to improve. Here are some ways we can all pursue excellence every day:



- Set goals Know what you're working towards and break big tasks into smaller, achievable steps.
- **Be consistent** Show up, try your best and give effort even on the days when it's hard.
- Seek feedback Listen to teachers and peers and use their advice to grow.
- Take pride in your work Present tasks neatly, meet deadlines and aim for quality in everything you do.
- **Support others** Excellence is also about helping your classmates succeed and contributing positively to your school community.
- Reflect and improve Ask yourself, "What went well?" and "What can I do better next time?"
- Maintain a positive attitude Believe in your ability to learn and improve and stay open to challenges.

## Camperdown Show - Muffins Extravaganza!

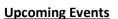
Ten students from across various year levels had the opportunity to produce and enter carrot muffins into the Camperdown Show. The results were delicious!

Congratulations to Kaylee M who received 2<sup>nd</sup> place and Audrey W who received 3<sup>rd</sup> place. The two girls received medals and a gift voucher for their efforts - well done!



## **Sports Report**

Belinda Savage - Sports Co-ordinator



Monday Oct 27<sup>th</sup> South West Middle Years Clay Target (Lake Gillear)

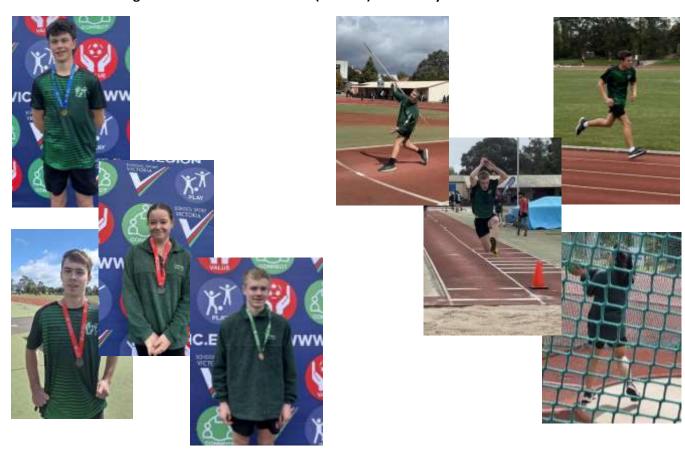
Monday Dec 1<sup>st</sup> Summer Sports Day (Years 7 -9)

## Greater Western Region Track and Field Athletics (Ballarat) - Thursday October 9th

Congratulations to our students who qualified and attended the Greater Western Region Track and Field Athletics in Ballarat on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October. Very windy, wintery conditions but some outstanding results from our students.

GLENFYNE GOLD	TANDAROOK RED	SHENFIELD BLUE
Ryan B	Chloe M	Riley B
U13 Boys Javelin - 22.70m 2 <sup>nd</sup> place	U13 Girls Discus - 12.56m 5 <sup>th</sup> Place	U16 Boys 800m – 2:14.34 <b>1</b> <sup>st</sup> <b>Place</b> U16 Boys 1500m – 5:03.84 <b>6</b> <sup>th</sup> <b>Place</b>
Xander W		
U15 Boys 1500m - 5:19.50 <b>10</b> <sup>th</sup> Place		Alanna W U15 girls Discuss – 21.32m 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place
Harry R		
U14 Boys 100 m 12.95 m – <b>5</b> <sup>th</sup> <b>Place</b>		
U14 Boys Discus – 25.45m <b>3</b> <sup>rd</sup> <b>Place</b>		
U14 Boys 200m – 27.42 m – <b>5</b> <sup>th</sup> <b>Place</b>		
U14 Boys Long Jump – 4.80m – <b>6</b> <sup>th</sup>		
Place (rebroke his CTS record)		
Rhys S		
U15 Boys 100m 11.98 <b>2</b> <sup>nd</sup> <b>Place</b>		
U15 Boys 200m 24.92 – 1 <sup>st</sup> Place		
U15 Boys 400m ( <i>Did not participate</i> )		

## Greater Western Region Track and Field Athletics (Ballarat) - Thursday October 9th



## School Sport Victoria State Track and Field Athletics (Melbourne) - Monday, Oct 20th

Congratulations to Riley B and Rhys S, who successfully represented not only CTS, but also Hampden Division and Greater Western Region, at the School Sports Victoria Track and Field Athletic Championships in Melbourne on Monday.

Riley B competed in the U16 boys 800m, achieving a commendable 5th place finish and setting a new CTS record. Rhys S participated in the U15 boys 200m, securing 7th place. Well done to both students on their outstanding effort and achievement in competing at the state level.







## **Victorian Off-Road Championship**



Year 9 student, Luke P, has been competing in his 2<sup>nd</sup> year of Victorian Off-Road Championship. His class is called J2 which is 85cc big wheel (bike size) and the championship has 12 rounds in it with 2 rounds per weekend. Racing consists of either 1.5hr cross country, 45min moto's or sprints which rider, rides against the clock. Rounds have been competed all over Victoria. Luke has podiumed every round either 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup>. Competing against up to 45 other riders each round.

Luke won his class as well Small Junior outright. Which combines all small junior classes. 65cc, 85cc boy and girl classes.

## Wellbeing

## Kayla Horan (Wellbeing Coordinator)



#### **Leadership Summit**

We took 13 students to Camperdown's Theatre Royal on 16<sup>th</sup> October to attend a program that inspired students to use their voice and present issues that are relevant to youth in our community. They participated in team building exercises that promoted leadership roles and built an understanding of what leadership is and why it is important.

Students explored topics: Climate change, social media ban, road conditions in Corangamite Shire, lack of youth activities beyond sports & poverty and cost of living in rural communities.

#### **Green for Gastrointestinal Cancer Awareness**

Alyvia and Hayden, Year 11 VCE VM students, organised a day for students to come out of uniform with a touch of green to increase awareness of Gastrointestinal Cancer and recognise those who are living with rare cancers. They took orders for a variety of milkshakes, and jelly cups and provided them to students at recess on the day.

Gastrointestinal cancer refers to gastrointestinal cancer, which is a group of cancers affecting the digestive system, these include cancers of the esophagus, stomach, liver, pancreas, gallbladder, bile ducts, small intestine, colon and rectum.

The students would like to thank the following local business for supporting the fundraiser event:

- Fonterra
- Triple F Foods
- Cobden Ritchies IGA

Also, a big thanks to CTS students and staff that took the time to help and donate. Massive thankyou to Max and Alan for helping on the day.

"We really enjoyed organising this event and we learnt some valuable skills including teamwork and organisation. We are really glad we got to spread awareness and let others know about this organisation." Alyvia and Hayden









#### **Mental Health Month**

October is Mental Health Month, and this year's theme is "Start the Conversation." It's a time to break the silence, reduce stigma, and remind each other that mental health matters just as much as physical health.

#### This month is about:

- Raising awareness about mental health conditions like anxiety, depression, and burnout.
- Encouraging open conversations between students, teachers, friends, and family.
- Promoting support resources, both in and outside of school.

## For extra support:

- Kids Helpline 1800 55 1800 (24/7)
- Lifeline 13 11 14 (24/7)
- Or visit your school wellbeing team.



#### **Substance Use & Addiction**

Substance use and addiction are complex issues that can affect young people in many different ways. While some may experiment out of curiosity or peer influence, others may use substances as a way to manage stress, anxiety or emotional pain. What may begin as occasional use can sometimes become a pattern that impacts mood, motivation and wellbeing. The developing teenage brain is particularly vulnerable to the effects of alcohol, vaping and drugs, making early use more likely to lead to harm.



For many families, understanding substance use means looking beyond the behaviour to what might be driving it. Risk-taking is a normal part of adolescence, but for some young people, it can also be a signal that they are struggling to cope. Substances can offer temporary relief, but they can also mask underlying issues such as loneliness, low self-esteem or poor mental health. When left unrecognised or unsupported, substance use can interfere with school performance, relationships and emotional development, leading to more serious challenges later in life.

This edition of SchoolTV guides families to help young people develop resilience, self-awareness and the skills to make healthy, informed choices that protect their wellbeing into adulthood.

Click here for the edition https://cobtech.vic.schooltv.me/newsletter/substance-use-addiction-au

## **Neil Porter Legacy**



The Neil Porter Legacy are putting careers at the heart of secondary education. As parents are the biggest influence on their children's education and career choices, we've created the NPL Parent Newsletter to assist you to guide your children into rewarding careers. The first edition features tips on guiding young people through subject selections, simple explanations of senior school acronyms, VET DSS options (another acronym we explain), a spotlight on the dairy industry and the DemoDAIRY Foundation, a guide to the education, training and youth supports in our area, a jobs and opportunities section, and upcoming careers information sessions, including two from the Australian Defence Force.

The team at the Neil Porter Legacy are very excited about the NPL Parent Newsletter. The newsletter is aimed to be a resource to assist parents to guide their children into rewarding careers. The newsletter can be found online at <a href="https://neilporterlegacy.com.au/parentnewsletter/">https://neilporterlegacy.com.au/parentnewsletter/</a>





# COBDEN TECHNICAL SCHOOL

## School preparations for the bushfire season

Each year, to prepare for bushfires and grassfires, schools and early childhood services complete a range of activities.

The Department of Education runs an annual fire risk assessment of schools and early childhood services. They are allocated a category of risk (categories 0 to 4) and are published on the Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR).



All schools and early childhood services listed on the BARR and Category 4 list will also close when a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast in their fire weather district.

When the Bureau of Meteorology provides public fire danger rating forecasts or fire weather warnings, they use fire weather district areas. In Victoria, there are 9 fire weather districts, which are based on Local Government Area boundaries. Our school is in the **South West fire district**.

As part of preparing our school for the fire season, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan and conducted regular maintenance of vegetation around our site.

#### What does this mean for our school?

Our school has been identified as being at risk of bushfire or grassfire and is a Category 4 school.

Our school will close on a day forecasted as Catastrophic fire danger rating in the South West fire district.

## What is the department's policy?

The department's <u>Bushfire and Grassfire Preparedness Policy</u> requires all schools and early childhood services on the BARR and the Category 4 list to close when a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast in their fire weather district. All school bus routes which travel in or through a district with Catastrophic fire danger must also be cancelled.

## When will our school be closed due to Catastrophic fire danger?

Our school will close on a day forecasted as Catastrophic fire danger rating in the South West fire district.

Closure of the school due to a forecast Catastrophic day will be confirmed on the day prior and we will provide you with advice before the end of the school day. Any information regarding potential or confirmed Catastrophic fire danger days will be communicated to you by Compass, SMS, CTS website and letter sent home with students.

Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, even if the weather forecast changes. This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child. It is also important to be aware that:

- No one will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Catastrophic day.
- · All bus routes that travel through the Catastrophic area will be cancelled.
- School camps will be cancelled if a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast for fire
  weather district in which the camp is located, or if the travel involves passing through areas
  that have Catastrophic fire danger.

Families are encouraged to action their Bushfire Survival Plan on Catastrophic fire danger rating days. On such days, children should never be left at home alone or in the care of older children.

For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the Country Fire Authority (CFA) advises that when Catastrophic days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Catastrophic day.

What can families and the school community do to help us prepare?

- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers.
- Keep in touch with us by checking COMPASS or checking our website.
- Make sure your family's bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care
  arrangements in the event that our school closed due to a Catastrophic fire danger. Further
  information can be found on the <a href="CFA's website">CFA's website</a>.
- Action your family's bushfire survival plan if your own triggers are met. Our school community
  may be spread out across many areas and some families may be at higher risk than others.
  Your family's safety is critical, so please let us know if you are actioning your bushfire survival
  plan and if your children will be absent on these days.
- If your child is old enough, talk to <u>them about bushfires</u> and your family's bushfire survival plan.

You can find more information on emergencies, warnings and preparedness actions here:

- VicEmergency app that can be downloaded on your android and iOS mobile devices
- VicEmergency Hotline (1800 226 226)
- Website https://emergency.vic.gov.au
- Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/vicemergency)
- Twitter (https://twitter.com/vicemergency)
- ABC local radio, Sky News and other emergency broadcasters

TERM 4 2025				
WEEK 4	DATE	EVENT		
Monday	27 Oct	<ul> <li>Lake Gillear Clay Target Shoot (middle years)</li> </ul>		
Friday	31 Oct	Future Me Day (Year 9)		
WEEK 5	DATE	EVENT		
Tuesday	4 Nov	> Melbourne Cup PUBLIC HOLIDAY		
Thursday	6 Nov	> ADF Visit (Year 9, 10 & 11)		
WEEK 6	DATE	EVENT		
Mon-Wed	10-12 Nov	> Year 9 Melbourne DOXA Camp		
Friday	14 Nov	> Last day of formal classes (Year 10 & 11)		
WEEK 7	DATE	EVENT		
Mon - Fri	17 -21 Nov	> Upgrade Program commences (Year 10 & 11)		
Thursday	20 Nov	> Valedictory Dinner		
WEEK 8	DATE	EVENT		
Mon-Fri	24-27 Nov	> Careers Week (Year 10 & 11)		
Thursday	27 Nov	> Final Day for Year 11 students		
Friday	28 Nov	> Student Free Day / PDD for staff		
WEEK 9	DATE	EVENT		
Mon-Fri	1-5 Dec	➤ Work Experience Year 10 (compulsory) & Year 11 (optional)		
Monday	1 Dec	➤ HSSSD Summer Sports Day		
Friday	5 Dec	➤ Final Day Year 10		
WEEK 10	DATE	EVENT		
Tuesday	9 Dec	> State Orientation Day		
WEEK 11	DATE	EVENT		
Wednesday	17 Dec	> Presentation Afternoon		

# Cubby houses for sale

Made by the Building and Construction class.

They are 2.7m long, 1.4m wide and 2m high.

Cost - \$1,200.

Please contact our General Office on 2 5595 1202.















Purrumbete, Camperdown and Cobden Angling Clubs

Are holding a FAMILY FISHING DAY

At Lake Bullen Merri on

#### SUNDAY NOVEMBER 9TH

From 10 am to 2 pm

Bank fishing at South Beach only

Free BBQ and some soft drinks available

REGISTRATION at the Camperdown Clubrooms -

some equipment available.

PRIZES for Heaviest Brown, Rainbow & Tiger Trout, Chinook Salmon and Bass.

Over 18s must have a fishing licence.

ENQUIRIES: Craig 0447573705

Wayne 0417312512



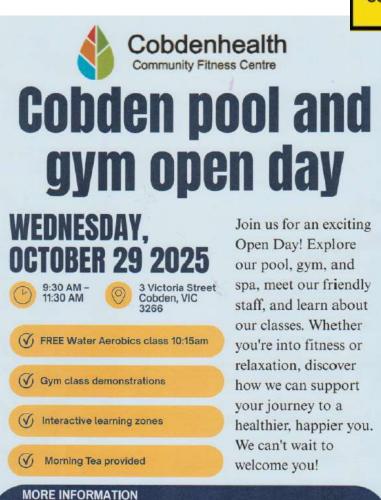




For more information please contact Julie in the Office 5231 2530







☑ FITNESSCENTRE@COBDENHEALTH.ORG.AU

COBDENHEALTH POOL AND GYM

5595 3150