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COMMUNITY SILENCED?

What Happened to the Copley Community News?Continued

Dear Editor,

Im trying so hard to work out why some of the people in Leigh Creek or Copley seem to be squabbling about the Copley News website.

So far I have found it very informative. I really do love Di Starick's work. There has been an enormous effort put into what she does. Last time I looked I got a wonderful insight to peoples lives in the district and no longer think of it as a small dusty town.

So many people are really trying to have a genuine shot at greening the area which would not be easy with the shortage of water in the country at present. I also spotted some amazing guides for watering that we can even try down here in the city.

Dear Kate,

Thank you for writing. You will find that the Copley News website is up and running again. The community members have rallied together and pooled resources in light of funding not being suitably accessible to assist with this community service.

After enquiries such as yours and some correspondence with Copley community members and other organisations it seems that there is an ongoing community confusion over water issues and other ongoing communication problems with the Town's representative body who are responsible for maintaining services in the town.

The Copley community has previously had limited communication which is why the community created a newsletter website.

The Outback Areas Community Development Trust are holding workshops at present to assist communities with the protocols and responsibilities involved in conducting Association Inc. bodies effectively and fairly.

Generally as you will know, able bodied residents in small communities are volunteers for everything. Those who nominate for positions on a governing body are also volunteers and there is much to learn and keep abreast of. It does appear that the squabbling you speak of is related to issues with the constitution and a dispute over non Copley community individuals voting at AGMs or holding office at some stage.

Whether it was necessary to have community consultation in order to achieve these changes is a matter for Corporate Affairs.

Residents in Copley have expressed concerns that residential water prices have recently been raised to equal that of the business sector.

I really enjoyed the recipes and recommended they do a book of them I even sent some by email myself. I used to live in Carrickalinga and we had a New Years Eve pageant where we raised money by all the town sending in recipe's for a cook book. It was a run away seller and it could happen up there as well and be a great way to raise money for the community.

I sure hope the News site will be continuing in the future as my friends in Canada were enjoying the Australian Outback connection.

Im also shocked about the degrading of the hospitals in the outback. I sure hope in the future there won't be some big mining disaster. It seems very short sighted.

Regards, Kate Lawrence
Adelaide

Who is responsible for WATER in Copley?

It seems clear that residents would simply like to understand more and be able to attend meetings. The governing body claim that they inherited a messy set of books and many answers are still not available.

As the financial year has passed everyone will be having their AGM's so it's probably a good time to tidy up the books in committees and revisit constitutions to check that they are in fact sound and reflect benefits for the whole community.

You have some very good fund raising ideas Kate.

Thank you. Ed.
Try: <http://copley.rhapsodica.com>

Other Enquiries:

RE: Enquiries about reporting procedures since the recent flooding in Copley along with other water related matters: Firstly water in SA is sourced in several different ways.

Copley is in the State seat of Stuart and the Federal Electorate of Grey. **Aroona Dam** is the water source for Leigh Creek, appearing to be controlled through the Leigh Creek Coal Mine which is metred upon entering Copley. The Aroona Dam water supply is dependent on rainfall and runoff, unlike the Roxby residents who use free water from the **GAB**. Leigh Creek residents also receive free water but unlike their Roxby cousins were/are not allowed swimming pools. Any water which has allegedly been coming into some areas of Copley, a Babcock & Brown representative at Leigh Creek has denied responsibility for.

Some members of the Copley community have already installed water purification systems possibly due to coal dust, with Leigh Creek being

THE COMMUNITY QUESTIONS - FLINDERS RANGES WATER

Leigh Creek Coalfields

South Australia Generates about 40% of it's electricity from Leigh Creek Coal and on an almost daily basis the mine fills a 2.8 km long train with nearly 10,000 tonnes of brown coal for the Port Augusta Power Station. A tour of the mine is available if minimum numbers of 6 passengers are booked in. Inquiries can be made at the Leigh Creek Regional Visitor

Information Centre 08 8675 2723. If a tour is not for you there is a viewing area for visitors to be able to overlook a section of the mine and read the information boards.

Aroona Dam

Built in 1955 to supply water to the township of Leigh Creek and the area surrounding the dam was declared a sanctuary in 1996. The sanctuary is located south and to the west of Leigh Creek.

A colony of Yellow-footed Rock-wallabies have been reintroduced in to the area. A spectacular walking trail has been established over the last few years. Take your camera... No fishing, shooting, swimming or powered boating is allowed in the area as it is a sanctuary and the water from the dam supplies Leigh Creek residents. A variety of scenic and relaxing canoe trips can be arranged.

Copley

Founded in 1891 as the railway station for old Leigh Creek, Copley has grown into a town in it's own right because of the importance of rail transport for the isolated mines and stations scattered through the Northern Flinders. Accommodation is available.

General store, caravan park, service station and hotel plus the famous Copley Bush Bakery.

Information from OACDT website

only 6 kms from the Copley township. It seems that a larger water purification system had been suggested for Copley at some stage. Noone is sure if this is to purify grey water or purify the existing water or whether it will be installed or not. Many people in the area seem to have respiratory and other health related problems.

We understand that the member for Stuart is investigating who is responsible for overseeing water in Copley and it's possible misuse, that some have expressed concerns over, in light of the drought in pastoral areas and other areas of the country.

Copley had a reliance on the neighbouring Coal Mine at Leigh Creek for water, which is currently managed by the Babcock & Brown group. It is unclear to Copley residents if water is managed by **Babcock & Brown, Flinders Power, Generation Lessor Corporation, or ETSA**. It seems there is an arrangement or a contract which allows the Leigh Creek coal mine to manage the Aroona Dam water resource which is known locally as "Flinders Power".

We understand that the Babcock & Brown board have not provided satisfactory commentary on recent water concerns. At date of print a governing body had not been located who was responsible for supervision of water in Copley. Suggestions of a possible "free for all" water area have been implied but not confirmed. There is a confirmed existence of at least one operating water metre near the Copley township.

Members paying for services in communities need to be kept informed and also understand

Some of the issues impacting decision making on investment in the network in 2010-2015 and beyond include:

- maintaining reliability performance, safety and security of the network
- catering for the changes and growth in the SA economy and in patterns of demand from residential and business users
- undertaking the long-term task of renewing South Australia's ageing network infrastructure - much of which was constructed in the 1950s and 1960s
- ensuring network assets are able to cope with increased weather-related stresses due to a changing climate

how our countries most precious commodity - Water, is monitored and supervised and which accountable body to report suspected misuse of water to.

In an area surrounded by mining, the **Greening Copley** program along with rehabilitation attempts in the Flinder's Sanctuary is valiant and would seem necessary due to a dependence on tourism, being part of the historic rail route they exist on. It does seem unfair that mining thrives while communities and nature dies.

RE: Threats referred to: It is not yet clear why this has not been satisfactorily attended to, both past and present in Copley. It could appear from enquiries, that more communication on this subject would be an advantage to members of remote communities.

Hope some of this is helpful to date. Ed.

accommodating generation alternatives such as solar and wind
ensuring ETSA Utilities is able to compete for and retain skilled employees in a highly competitive job market and to equip them for the tasks ahead.

Copies of the paper are available on line at www.etsautilities.com.au

ETSA Utilities releases major consultation paper

Feedback should be provided by 26 September

ETSA Utilities has released a major discussion paper on the future management of the State's electricity distribution network.

ETSA Utilities' is preparing a submission to the Regulator for the 2010-2015 regulatory period.

ETSA manage an essential community asset. As we prepare our regulatory submission, there are a number of complex issues with a great deal of uncertainty impacting how we manage the South Australian electricity distribution network into the future.

The consultation paper reviews the challenges, directions and priorities for managing the network in this period of complexity, change and uncertainty.