

LORNE

Independent

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No 275 October 2024

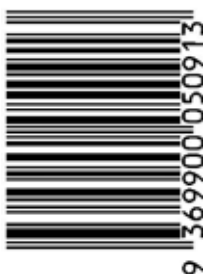
Produced as an independent newsletter by Lorne Independent Inc.

OPENING OF THE GRAND PACIFIC

P6,7

Dolphins win Final P8-11

Council Voting P25,26



Lorne Independent Inc.

Published by Lorne Independent Inc.

No. A0041756Y

ABN: 54 724 981 550

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Contribution deadline: 25th of the month.**Subscription charges.**

A yearly electronic subscription \$40.

A yearly hard copy subscription mailed \$75.

A yearly electronic and mailed hard copy subscription for discounted \$90.

You can pay electronically: BSB 633 000 Acc 198 744 542

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IN THIS ISSUE

P3 Doug and Mary Stirling Award

P5 Editorial

P6 Opening of the Pacific

P8 Sorts briefs

P9 Football

P12 Lorne Gardeners Conference

P14 Rats

P15 Join the Shed

P17 Arts in Lorne

P18 Louttit Loop

P21 Op Shop Buzz

P22 Poteroo

P23 Body Snatchers

P25 Leon for Council

P26 Libby for Council, elections

P27 Lumps

P29 councillor Gary

P30 Commodore

P33 Letters to the Editor

P35 Men of the Shed Keith Miller

P37 SES

P38 Historical Answers from GORCAPA

P41 Cooked

P42 Estuary Floods

P43 Lorne Water with Doug Stirling



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DOUG AND MARY STIRLING CUP PRESENTATION

By Wendy Hutchison.

The Committee for Lorne lunch held at Stribling Reserve on Friday was a joyful, emotional, celebration of Clive and Lesley Goldsworthy's immense contribution to the Lorne Community with tears and laughter along the way.

Clive and Lesley were present when the piper played Mull of Kintyre for Doug Stirling, then Clive and Lesley's entrance into the Stribling Pavilion was similarly heralded. This was followed by a delicious lunch with speeches and toasts to this impressive pair.

It was a very deserved award so that their contribution was at last recognised. Clive served for 8 years as the Lorne Councillor on the Surf Coast Shire Council. When he finished his role and was able to pass the baton to Gary Allen it was just as we were locked down for Covid, so there never was any formal community recognition of his long-lasting contribution. As Pete Spring outlined in his speech about Clive, it was because of Clive's initiatives and ongoing commitment that the Stribling Reserve Pavilion was realised along with other initiatives such as the Men's Shed and resurrecting the Senior Citizens Building to be transformed into Community Connect. Clive's financial acumen has turned around many struggling community organisations in his role as treasurer for so many organisations. Clive was a voice for Lorne on the council, which Gary has been able to continue, (so hopefully our small community can continue to be represented if Leon Walker can be elected in the coming election).

Very importantly Lesley is a driving force supporting Team Goldsworthy. Clive, perhaps, has a more visible role in the community, initially as shire councillor for 8 years but now as the Lorne Treasurer, (given all the clubs he works with). Lesley is Clive's greatest asset, providing support, acting as a sounding board, always the "people person" putting people at ease and ensuring they feel included and considered. She helps to make Clive's enormous service to the community possible, underpinning Clive's extensive roles. Just one small example: this Team were the drivers of food supplies for the trapped working travellers during the Covid lockdown. This was distributed through Community Connect.

Lesley is like a breath of fresh air when she enters a room. She is such a genuine, unpretentious and warm personality. She brings positivity wherever she goes. She is a very special person, a special friend to many, but also a friend to the community at large. The word inclusive is thrown around a lot but Lesley actually knows what it means and enacts it. She is one of the most inclusive people I know, always thinking of others. She constantly goes out of her way to make people feel comfortable, to connect new people to others in town, including people at events and social occasions. She can be quite exhausting in her infectious enthusiasm to get people together!

Perhaps the best example of this is her initiative to start the Snappers, the monthly get-together at the Aquatic Club



on a Friday at 5.30... This was her idea to provide a way of particularly connecting the women in town, especially newcomers. I understand Keith and Ian particularly enjoy the extra volume of laughter and chatter that comes with the Snappers events.

I never cease to be amazed at how Lesley can be charming to a whole room of people, actively showing an interest in everyone she meets. She tells me this skill comes from her time living as an Expat where she learnt what it was like to not know anyone in a community, so she had to motivate herself and others to become involved.

This ability to connect people is constantly shown in her roles as president and now vice captain of the Lorne Womens Golf Group and the president of Lorne Community Connect. Lesley is a warm and kind personality who willingly contributes to the Community at large. She exemplifies that saying "If you want a job done well, ask a busy person". She is constantly on the go while being so reliable and able to do anything she does, well.

For the last 3 Years Lesley has been the president of the new community organisation Community Connect. Often people don't realise the hours of work and commitment that goes into heading up such an organisation, particularly as a volunteer. In her role as president, Lesley has turned her skills to public speaking, writing newsletters, press articles, venue and events management. She is an excellent organiser. Importantly she has listened to and guided the committee, helping us shape the direction and extend our vision in pursuit of supporting creative endeavours in Lorne.

Continue page 4

From page 3

This has taken time and energy and Lesley has led with patience, and commitment, as well ensuring there is joy and coffee along the way.



Among the best words to describe Lesley, are genuine, gracious, and humble: these are reflected in her kindness and sincerity, her quickness to acknowledge others' contributions as she down plays her own and her ever ready warm sense of humour. She is very quick to jump in to help people in need, offering people the most valuable gift of all, time.

Here is a list of all the organisations Clive and Lesley have volunteered with in the 14 years they have lived in Lorne:

Lorne Aquatic Club
 Lorne Bowls Club
 Lorne Community Connect
 Lorne Country Club
 Lorne Cultural and Philanthropic Trust
 Lorne Football, Cricket and Netball Clubs
 The Lions Village
 Lorne RSL

Clive and Lesley are to be congratulated for the recognition brought by this award. It is hoped that we in the community can continue to benefit from their infectious enthusiasm, positivity and good humour.



Lorne RSL Sub Branch

Remembrance Day Service

11th November 2024

10.45am to 11.15am

Please join us at
 ANZAC Memorial Park
 Mountjoy Pde, Lorne

*They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old:
 Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At
 the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will
 remember them.*

Lest we forget.



EDITORIAL *By Janet Goud*

Well, what a huge month this has been. I arrived back from balmy South America to be blown inside out! Huge rain events, huge trees falling, and hugely enjoyable things happening in our little town. SES to the rescue! Great stuff!

Firstly, the Lorne Gardeners on the last August weekend staged a fabulous Regional Gardening Groups Conference. Many famous and knowledgeable people spoke to us and the general consensus was we all learnt a lot which is a great measure of success. It was also a social success, and Barb Barber with her talented team showed off Lorne despite the dreadful weather.

The ever elegant Qdos reopened its doors for its great breakfasts, coffee and lunches. I was so happy to see my favourite calamari back on the menu! Gillian and Graeme are trialling some new dishes when Graeme stops talking of his many recent Oriental Adventures.

Then the new/ old Bowls Club opened their bar and eased into meals at weekends. Food is delicious and lovely chef Simon is trialling some new pasta dishes. There will be live music and barefoot bowls for the families this summer too!

The award for the Mary and Doug Stirling Cup was announced. Lesley and Clive Goldsworthy were a very popular choice as almost everyone in our community has been helped (sometimes inadvertently) by one or other of these energetic pair. It is good to see equal recognition for a combined effort to help in the community.

In many of our childhoods the public recognition went to the male always, while the support enabling this went unremarked and taken for granted. Of course, Lesley is a force in her own right, but I am glad to see equality slowly creeping into these public acknowledgements.

Next the local Football team under the able guidance of their new coach Ed Curnow (lately from Carlton- that little team in Melbourne) won their way through to the final FINAL! Buses and Cars streamed to Colac for the Granny!

They were not disappointed! A great victory over a tough team! See our photo montage tribute!!

And finally, to begin October with a Big Bang! At last, the gorgeous White Grand Pacific, over 150 years old, is back to give us fun days drinking in the sun, music, great food and happy memories for another generation of Lorne lovers.

On a different note, readers will be saddened to hear of Lillian's moving away from Lorne and therefore leaving the Independent Team. I personally wish to thank her for her reliability, her humour and her firm views on many things!

We were always waiting to find out which story was the right one whatever was current chatter. The Lorne Independent team will give her a proper send off but I urge you all to contact her and show your appreciation.

You have known her much longer than I have and I know Jo valued her very highly for her close ties with the community.

The Op shop also valued her as the successor to Peggy as Queen of the books.

Thank you Lillian/Sue for all those columns and all those words. You have a big fan base in Lorne! Enjoy the next chapter of your life story!

We also say goodbye and thanks to Gary Allen, our councillor for the last terms when we have the opportunity of our own Lorne voice in council.

That's about to change with a more general representation happening in these new elections. There are two hopeful councillors advertising in this paper. Please read and vote for the most helpful to Lorne!!

Gary has as he mentioned, followed closely in his local forebear's footsteps dedicating his time to the community. I can't see him slowing down any time soon, and I'm sure he will pop up in a leading role in town somewhere else.

For now we will just say Thank you Gary for all that work, those many car trips to Torquay and Geelong, the abusive phone calls at odd hours, the speeches written and delivered, and the innumerable hours spent talking and writing on our behalf!

On behalf of the Lorne Independent Team
And the Lorne Community we wish you all well
May all the new Beginnings in October go Swimming!!



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It's Happening!

THE OPENING OF THE GRAND PACIFIC!

By Janet Goud

Our beloved Grand Pacific Hotel is opening its doors to us once again!

From Wednesday 2nd of October, the Grand Dining room and the very much loved Fishos Bar will be open for business. Even the Fishos sign has been carefully reproduced using the original font. With its Stellar location above the pier, The Grand will be back serving gorgeous food and drink. (note the variety of beers on tap). The beautiful, polished wood bar is a testament to the skills of the local Will Butler of Deans Marsh.

The renovators and new licensees Maryann and Matt Humphries got the keys in November last year after months of discussion with owner Josh Rudd. He wanted to be sure he had the people with the “right” instincts to revive this old and tired icon of Lorne. After all she was built in 1879....and has overseen the tourist, timber and fishing industries develop this little town. Back when a flag on the roof signalled to a passing sailing ship there were people to pick up in Louttit Bay, the Grand Pacific, fashionably just out of town, was a Mecca for local people. (for more history of the Grand Pacific Hotel see John Agar's article in the April Edition No. 269 of the Lorne Independent.). So those chosen to renovate had to show a duty of care for its history being respected and the knowledge of running a slick modern and efficient pub.

Enter Maryann and Matt. Maryann grew up in Lorne and like many of her age, worked summers at the Grand Pacific Hotel. She and her husband have had a long period running the Halls Gap Hotel, so they really know what they are doing. They have won many tourism awards. They feature local produce and are using some of the same sources from Halls Gap on their menu like the excellent Hopkins River Beef. They have brought many of their former kitchen staff with them.

Most of the staff will stay upstairs at the hotel. Renovating the gorgeous bedrooms is another project for the future, following the on-going present renovations of the former Ballroom.

The Grand Pacific Hotel is thrilled to announce its highly anticipated MENU, carefully curated by renowned Chef Michaelangelo Hindmarch. This exceptional dining experience promises to captivate the senses.

Inspired by his international expertise and Melbourne's culinary scene, Hindmarsh's Italian-infused menu showcases:

- Delectable small plates perfect for sharing with friends and family
- Artisanal pasta, crafted on-site with love and care
- Elevated pub classics, (such as parmas, fish and chips) refined with finesse
- Hopkins River Premium beef steaks (Southern Grampians)
- Decadent desserts to satisfy any sweet craving
- To complement the menu, the Grand Pacific Hotel's extensive beverage list features:

Continued page 7



From page 6

- A curated selection of local and international wines
- Expertly crafted cocktails
- Fine beers

Michaelangelo's menu perfectly captures the essence of our hotel – timeless, sophisticated, and deeply connected to the region.

Opening weekly Wednesdays to Sundays

11.30 am till Late

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: Lunchtime and Dinner Service

Weekends : All day food.

Booking details are on the website

So we have a new place to wine and dine ourselves, our friends and families. See you there!!!



SPORTSBRIEFS *By John Ford*

The Road to the Finals

The Dolphins' Senior Football Premiership capped off a remarkable season for the football club. The Grand Final is won or lost on one particular day, but to get the privilege of being there it takes a whole season of skill, determination and hard work.

Throughout the season Alvie and Lorne were the two top teams with only percentage separating them. The teams met in Round 8 at Alvie, with Lorne managing a hard-fought win. The season continued with Alvie and Lorne at the top of the ladder and Irrewarra-Beeac and Colac Imperials occupying third and fourth on the CDFL Ladder. Lorne and Alvie next met at Lorne on August 17th with Alvie finishing strongly over Lorne after the Dolphins had held a good lead for the majority of the match.

From there Lorne met Alvie in the Second Semi Final and remarkably won after trailing by 23 points at three quarter time. Credit is given to inspired coaching moves by Casey Tutungi and Ed Curnow to revitalise the Dolphins who kicked six goals to two in the final quarter. Two last quarter goals from James Hughes and a long goal from Alex Addams put Lorne ahead by three points just before the final siren.

This win sent Lorne straight into the Grand Final and most supporters would have thought that the two teams would meet again in the Grand Final. However, Alvie were defeated by Irrewarra-Beeac in the Preliminary Final which was played on a very windy day in Colac. Inaccurate kicking was the keynote of Alvie's loss whereas Irrewarra-Beeac kicked six goals in each of the two quarters where they were favoured by the wind. This win sent Irrewarra-Beeac into the Grand Final even though they had spent most of the season in third place on the ladder. This set the stage for a Grand Final meeting that most supporters would not have foreseen, as Alvie and Lorne had been the dominant teams throughout the season.

On the Thursday night dinner at Stribling Reserve before the Grand Final Club President Carly Enticott spoke of how proud she was of the club irrespective of whether the team was to win or lose. Many volunteers were recognised for their ongoing efforts over many seasons, and coach Ed Curnow when reading out the team paid tribute to those players who had helped the club make the Grand Final but had missed out on selection for the big day.

The Grand Final

The Grand Final was played on Saturday 21st September at Colac Recreation reserve, and as on many years Colac served up windy weather and the ground surface was slippery. In the first quarter Irrewarra-Beeac kicked to the end favoured by the blustery wind, but Lorne started really well and in fact outscored them for the quarter kicking 3.4: 22 to 2.0: 12.

Lorne was able to assert pressure during the second term setting up pathways for quality scoring opportunities, though kicking goals was difficult even when kicking with the tricky wind. Jackson Bright and Xavier Huxtable were offering

great movement while Lorne's midfield restricted their opponents, creating opportunities for the forwards to kick three goals. The half time score showed Lorne 6.5: 41 to 2.1: 13. This seemed to be a very handy lead although Irrewarra-Beeac would have the benefit of the wind in the third quarter.

Steady rain fell during half time and continued for much of the third quarter making ball handling and scoring difficult. The match really tightened up and it became a contest of tackling and pressure right across the ground. Lorne's rotations allowed the players some respite in the difficult conditions. James Hughes and Fraser Balderas were getting on top in the ruck contests, but Lorne could not always capitalise with clearances. The Dolphins were outscored during this term and at three quarter time the lead was reduced to 6.6: 42 to 4.3: 27.

The narrow lead of fifteen points meant that the team to kick the first goal in the last quarter would gain a great advantage. Both teams continually pressed forward but scoring goals was so difficult. Lorne finally did manage a 'sealer' and went on to win 7.8: 50 to 4.8: 32. Lorne had only managed one goal after half time, but it was a strong win built on pressure and endurance in very difficult conditions.

In wins like this all players have contributed in so many ways and it is almost unfair to name best players. Most judges named Sam Torpey, Jackson Bright, Ted Middleton, Xavier Huxtable, Corey Przystek, James Hughes and Fraser Balderas as the best players. Goalkickers were: Jackson Bright 3, Ted Middleton 1, James Hughes 1, Sam Torpy 1, George Curnow 1. It was noticeable that Lorne players had more tackles, smothers and shepherds than their Irrewarra-Beeac opponents, with these aspects being so vital in a low-scoring match. A great effort by all players, coaches, match committee, medicos and volunteers to have had such an impressive season culminating in Lorne's fourteenth Premiership!

While we are so excited about the Dolphins' win, credit must also go to the Irrewarra-Beeac team who contested very hard, with the result not being decided until the very end. On a day where the match would have been difficult to umpire, the officials all did a very good job. The CDFL are to be praised for conducting a very high standard Grand Final Day in difficult conditions. Well done to all involved.

Cricket is Back!

New Cricket Club President Peter Bracken advises that cricket training will begin during the week straight after the football Grand Final – that means NOW. Intending players can contact Peter on 0447 194 600, or by email at louttitbaygardenservices@gmail.com Peter will happily answer any questions that you might have on cricket matters, especially regarding membership and player registration. The club is thrilled to announce the signing of popular player Conan Roos for another season, and the infusion of some younger players into the team. Lorne were runners-up last season to Tomahawk Creek in the Grand Final played on the very hot Labour Day weekend.

Continued page 11





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From page 8

The season fixture will be confirmed soon with the first one day match to be played on Saturday October 19th. The committee has plans to upgrade the training nets which are in poor condition at Stribbling Reserve. From a social point of view the club is hoping that the very successful Thursday night meals will resume on October 10th. I look forward to seeing you there.

The Lorne Bowls Club *By Don Baldwin*

During September the Lorne Bowls Club held, over three weeks, the Community Cup sponsored by the Bendigo Community Bank. There were ten teams entered, comprising a combination of experienced and novice bowlers. It provides a gentle start to the season, and it promotes the game to a wider cohort. From this year's competition the Club has recruited three new members.

Congratulations to Keith Lugg, David Wyles and Duncan Leckie for winning the Cup. Although the last round was cut short by the heavy rain, much fun was had, with Rod Van Ingen winning the best dressed award. Thanks to Caitlin McCombe and Karen Heathcote who organised the 80's theme and bravely awarded the prizes.

Again, a big thank you to the Bendigo Community Bank for sponsoring the event. The pennant season starts in October.

September Women's Golf Report

And so the wild and windy weather has impacted our golf comp for the first month of spring. September is always windy - but - wow!!

The LCC has recently implemented Miscore for our club, which is a fantastic tool/App when playing golf comps, both at our home club, and at the many regional clubs where we compete. It has not gone without a hitch, but thanks go to the valiant and persistent efforts of Rex Neill in assisting the women's groups over the last few Tuesdays as we log on and enter our club competition, and with the determined effort of our Captain and Vice Captain, we are progressing! We are all very excited about the app's functionality and look forward to using it without all the hiccups!

CLUB Golf:

- August monthly medal winner (played in Sept due to weather!) was Rose Wyles
- September play off for the last Monthly Medal is next week, following which there will be a play off for all the 8 medal winners to date. WTS!
- Sept 10th - President's vs Captain event. This was a Par comp with 14 players in the field, divided across the 2 teams. This was our first comp. day using Miscore - so we were a little delayed whilst trying to work out what to do!! The competition was close, with Noela Rollinson the overall winner for the 18 hole competition, and Sue Neill for the 9 hole comp, and with the Captain's team being victorious.

We have our annual Women's golf trip away in early October - this time back to Camperdown and Terang courses. More on this next month!

SWGA events:

- Sept 3rd. We had a women's 4 person Ambrose team play at Portarlinton Golf Club at one of the events over their week long carnival of golf. This was the day after the crazy wild, windy and wet Monday - so we were so lucky to have a clear, calm day - perfect for golf. It was an enjoyable day, with a lot of laughs! - though we did not challenge the leaders who were all Portarlinton players.

Thanks to the women who have represented the Lorne Country Club at these events!

- Sept 16th - Mandy Buckley women's Foursomes event at Portarlinton - Chris Angus and Sue England flew the Lorne flag
- Sept 13th - Ocean Grove Women's Open - Chris, Wendy and Lesley represented us and found it a long day out!

We are a friendly group of women, at all different levels of golf skill and experience, and we love to welcome new members/ golfers to our group, and also welcome back those that may be "lapsed" golfers! If you are interested in joining our group this year, whether new to golf or with some Golfing experience, or if you have any questions, please call Sue Neill on 0418 674 062, or Chris Angus on 0439 008 167. Happy Golfing. Danni De Bon.

Lucky Lorne Netball Club!

The Lorne Football Netball Club is thrilled to announce that they are the proud recipients of a \$3,000 prize as part of the Surf Coast Community Footy Tipping contest. This generous award is thanks to Matisse Higgins, who secured 2nd place overall in the competition and chose the Lorne Football Netball Club as the beneficiary of the Community Group prize.



Participants in the footy tipping contest had the opportunity to nominate their Favourite local community group to receive a share of the \$10,000 prize pool. Matisse's decision has provided a significant boost to our club, and we are incredibly grateful for this support. We encourage everyone to keep an eye out for next year's footy tipping competition—it's a fantastic way to support your community group while enjoying the excitement of the footy season!

Remember to tell us who you would like to see in Sportsbriefs! Articles to John Ford at 35 George St, or email to byswerdi2@bigpond.com.

39TH WESTERN REGION GARDEN CLUBS' CONFERENCE, LORNE 2024

By Lou Davies

In 2023 The Lorne Gardeners were asked by the Melton Garden group if they would like to host the next Western Region Garden Group conference. Wow! There was an idea! What do we do?? The Western Region stretches a long way to the South Australian border and up to Ballarat.

After awhile a few of us thought we could manage this event and were keen for the Lorne township to benefit from attracting many visitors to our beautiful unique village.

So, towards the end of 2023, we began our journey of planning this event.

We were a small sub committee but very keen and prepared for hard work and organization.

The date was set at the 31st August 2024. Speakers were booked, the local venue and caterers were booked, pamphlets were designed and produced and sponsors sort. We were very fortunate to get the wonderful support of the Bendigo Bank, Great Ocean Road Real Estate and The Lorne Angling club plus many other local supporters who donated money and prizes for the raffle.

The day eventually came. The night before Lorne and many parts of Victoria experienced a very wild storm, so we thought many delegates might not turn up!!! But thankfully we had a full house of the pre booked 85 people. Gardeners are not afraid of the weather.

Our MC for the day was Lyn Davies, a member of the LGG. He managed the day very well with humour and kept us on time.

Gary Allen, councillor for the Lorne Ward, welcomed guests to our Country and talked about his long association with Lorne as one of the founding families and his grandparents garden here.

Our first speaker was Michael Robinson owner of Otway Greening. Australian Native Plant Nursery. Michael gave a very informative address on propagating natives and how he and Wendy started their business with native trees.

They specialise in growing local indigenous plants and agro forestry, collecting the seeds and propagating the plants.

Our next speaker was Heidi Martin, owner of Van Loons Nursery in Wallington.

She discussed how she manages her nursery and described the seasonal development of the nursery and how the plants are ordered months ahead and colour coordinated for each season. She is also on the Weekend Breakfast gardening show on 3AW. In 2022, she led a tour to France and the UK including Chelsea Flower show. Heidi has a passion for including children in gardening and brought along many give away trees for children to plant. We then had the much waited for cup of tea/coffee and yummy muffins.

Vasili Kanidiadis, host of Vasili's Garden show encouraged us to create healthy soils and inspired us with his regenerative garden practices. He was a very vibrant and energetic speaker who is also on the 3AW garden talk back show.

Vasili was a hard act to follow but we then had the western Region Garden reports where those clubs who wished to, reported on their year's activities and things coming up. So much happening in our region!!

Then it was a welcome lunch break and time to purchase home made goodies from our Lorne Group stalls. There were two plant stalls from outsiders. Matt Vincent with his hydrangeas and waratahs and Sue Davies from Lovely Banks with her succulents.

Perry Mills, our next speaker, runs his own local design and landscape architecture business. He stated that he designed gardens that were creative and functional. He discusses his suggestions with his clients ensuring that his environmentally friendly proposal meet the clients wishes. He enhanced his presentation with many power point photos of his designs. Anne Sutton's sister, Lorraine Phelan, was unable to attend due to illness, but she organized for 2 very good deputies Graham Possingham, President of the Geelong Field Naturalists and Jenny Possingham, a botanist.

Continued page 13



From page 12

They talked a lot about Lorraine and her wonderful botanical art. Lorraine is an active member of the Geelong Field Naturalists Club and calls herself a “citizen scientist”. Her love is for the flora of the Volcanic Plains, and she uses botanical art to illustrate this love. With her photographic skills she shares her information online and to environmental groups. Lorraine is creating a long paper mural of drawings of the flora of this area. At this stage the mural is about 25 ft long and she will continue her drawings on her roll of paper, for many years to come. It is a truly beautiful on going scientific artwork.

Our last speaker for the day was Sally White from Angair (Anglesea and Aireys Inlet Society for the protection of flora and fauna) Former journalist Sally White has nurtured a bush block at Bells Beach since immediately after the Ash Wednesday fires of 1983.

Her ‘gardening’ consists of light maintenance of the bush and a fairly productive vegetable garden that she has tended since moving permanently to the Surf Coast 12 years ago.

She has been actively involved in Angair, one of Victoria’s oldest community environmental organisations since that move. A regular Angair weeder and member of the Angair propagation group she has just finished three years as Angair President and remains on the society’s Committee of Management. She edits two of their highly regarded publications, Angair News and Angair Quarterly.

We finished the day with the drawing of our raffle. A local Winchelsea man won the first prize. This was a beautiful floor rug donated by a member. We had 15 very good prizes thanks to Bunnings, Lorne Bookshop, Lorne Pharmacy, Lorne BWS wines, Tastes, Lifestyles Lorne, Lorne Hardware, Beach House Gifts and Gazman, Lorne.

We were very fortunate to have 2 beautiful flower-arrangements supplied and created by Luke Morgan. Also, free advertising and information in the local Lorne Independent Newspaper.

Everyone who attended enjoyed the day. It was full of information and the items for sale were very local (grown or made) and of high quality.



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1-31 October

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An action-packed October awaits!



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surfcoast.vic.gov.au/PositiveAgeingMonth
 or call **5261 0600**.

RATS THE GOOD AND THE BAD By E. J. Youl

On Sat 31 August I attended the excellent Western Region Garden Clubs Conference hosted by the Lorne Gardeners at Stribling Reserve.

While waiting for the conference to start, a participant asked me if I had any trouble with bush rats. I said something had eaten my cucumber plants but I hadn't seen any burrows.

At the conference held at Stribling Reserve, there were six excellent speakers and my favourite was Michael Robinson-Koss, the founder of Otway Greening Nursery, growers of Australian native plants. I was taken with how they select plants that are suited to the different conditions for this region whether it be clay soils, coastal winds, etc.

My next favourite was Sally White from Angair (Anglesea, Aireys Inlet Society for the Protection of Flora and Fauna). It was during this talk that Sally showed a photo of 'her' bush rat. I overheard someone say "I poison the burrows". The trouble with poisons is that they upset the natural ecosystem. I decided that it is timely to provide you with some information to understand the importance of caring for our native bush rats.

All rats are rodents. This means they are mammals that have a single pair of continually growing incisors (teeth) in each of the upper and lower jaws. Beavers are rodents and after seeing beavers in Canada, I can understand why they need those teeth!

In Australia we have introduced rodents such as the black rat, the brown rat and the house mouse. But we have over 40 species of rodents including the rakali, also known as the water rat. Some people see them swimming and mistake them for platypus.

All rats are of the same genus, *Rattus*. The bush rat is *Rattus fuscipes*. One of the main misconceptions is that people think bush rats are marsupials. They are not. They are placentals. Placentals, like humans, nourish their foetus via a placenta rather than in an egg or in a pouch.

Native Bush Rats are protected under the National Parks and Wildlife Act (1972). Wildlife Victoria and other internet sites explain the difference between introduced rats and the native bush rat. The shape of the head is different and introduced rats have a longer tail.

There are seven distinct bush rats that are adapted to a variety of habitats. They are omnivores and by eating seeds help disperse native plants.

Around Lorne our bush rats are adapted to heathlands and forests. They prefer to live in short burrows under logs or rocks and line their nests with grass.



They are not as brazen as their introduced cousins.

Bush rats are difficult to find because they are nocturnal. Owls and Tawny Frog Mouths are also nocturnal and are the main natural predator. Hence rat poisons ultimately kill other animals in the food web.

Human settlers in Australia seem to think they are more important than the Peoples and nature that were here before us. I have seen a fur made of rakali fur and it was worn by a white woman in the late 1800s. Bush rats are threatened by humans, undergrowth clearing, foxes and cats. We have to learn to coexist.

THE LORNE MEN'S SHED

AN OPEN INVITATION TO NEW MEMBERS.

By Garry Fenton

Come and visit us and see how much fun these blokes have every week!

It took almost three years of work, planning and building before it was open for business on 16th June 2016....eight years ago. Over that time, we have had 180 paid up members and average about one hundred every year. About forty are regular attendees, another forty have a home in Lorne and drop in for a coffee when down and the rest are good supporters who believe in the principal and support us by paying their annual membership. As past history has shown, many of this group attend more after they retire from fulltime work. Men's Sheds have been acknowledged as one of the most powerful tools in addressing health and welfare for older generation men.

There is a pre-conceived idea by some, that the Shed is only for men who are good with their hands and workshop tools.

This could not be further from the truth! Quite a number of our regular members infrequently enter the workshop area. Those boys are very supportive of those who are involved in 'making and repairing stuff and working on larger projects', but prefer to mingle in the social room, and have a chat about local, world or football matters and enjoy each other's company, whilst enjoying some of the best coffee in Lorne made by some highly trained

barrister's, along with a Boston Bun that Jo, Mary and Alfonz from Grandma Shield's Bakery have donated three days a week for eight years. Wow, how supportive is that!

We have excursions to interesting destinations and venues and interesting guest speakers several time each year. The Men's Shed also happens to be the best 'value for money' club in Lorne or anywhere else for that matter.

Our inaugural President, Allan Walls, likes to explain it like this. "Membership was \$50.00 for the first seven years, but with inflation, membership is now \$55.00. For that if you attend regularly, which many do, you have the opportunity of a free coffee and some bun. Value \$8.00. Three times per week multiplied by 52 weeks, equates to \$1248 per year". How is that for return on investment?

And you can't put a price on fellowship, good banter and achieving things for the community. There is an ethos that members leave their egos at the door and that may be the reason there has not been a single cross word in the Shed,.....ever!

Come and see for yourself, and if you like what you see, pay your membership and join in the fun.

The Annual Meeting this year is on 25th October, at The Shed at 11.00 am. A good place to start. You will be most welcome.



Get your trees trimmed in preparation for the Christmas season!



If you are considering having your trees cut or gardens cleaned up before Christmas, now is the time to do it. Our team at Tree Watch experiences high demand in the months leading up to the holidays, so act promptly to secure your spot! Trees that are cut in October get a chance to recover before Christmas and will look their best for the peak season.

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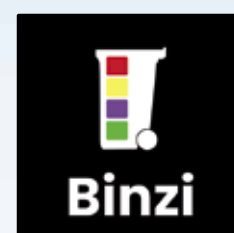
For details go to: surfcoast.vic.gov.au/calendarcomp



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ARTS IN LORNE



Lorne Community Connect was excited to announce their last art exhibition showcasing local artists and curated by Cinnamon Stephens of Cinnamonsart Consultancy.



This diverse and well-hung exhibition was worth popping into visit, as many in Lorne did. Many local artists were represented and many sold art works. Cinnamon was also an exhibitor as an artist herself. She has a business with her husband, Rowan, helping people curate and hang their art. They have over 30 years of experience in this niche area and if your art collection needs

curating, these people are just the ones to call. Many collectors in Lorne could benefit from this expert and experienced know how to show their art to its best advantage.

(Try Cinnamonsart-0400436408 or www.cinnamonsart.au to chat about Art spaces, sculpture, painting and jewellery.)

Here Cinnamon is standing with her art mirror in the recent successful exhibition at Community Connect wearing a sea glass necklace made by herself, an eco dyed scarf by Deb Elliot, and a eco dyed and repurposed vest by Melissa Laffy.

If you missed this exhibition ensure you see the next one.

Community Connect is providing a exciting contemporary Art Space in our town. We need to support and encourage their efforts so they can continue to educate us all. *Janet Goud*

Qdos

Until Oct 12th

The feature artist:

IAN PARRY, celebrated award winning Tasmanian artist.





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His recent oil on canvas works depict a sense of the 'journeyman; Ian is a solo sailor in his handcrafted Huon pine boat. He has crossed the 'Tasman' a number of times. His artworks display distance and horizons navigated with a master's touch of a contemporary painter.

Ian is widely collected within the institutional art world and private collectors here and aboard.



Rodney & Stevens Vaughn, send a warm hug & kisses to all their Lorne friends... The closing days of the IRON TREE Exhibition in Jindezhen China.



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THE LOUTTIT LOOP

Congratulations to Lesley and Clive Goldsworthy for being awarded the Doug and Mary Stirling Cup for 2024 for services to the Lorne Community. The lunch was charged with emotion as Clive's great buddy Peter Spring was rather emotional passing on his memories of when this active couple first came to Lorne from living and working overseas for ages. Clive was driving a beautiful BMW. Now he has a Toyota! Mind you with one or two extras! And blow me down if dear Clive didn't well up as he responded to Pete's beautiful words. Such a special friendship.

I want to recommend that in this town one doesn't need to book a table to ensure good company at these very very Lorne events. My neighbour and I knew no-one on our table but after a short time we did around the table name drop and found that the beautifully dressed couple next to me lived up the top of "my" hill, and the next couple round looked familiar – his name was Neil ("Hillard?" I asked. "Yes – how'd you know that?" "Dunno, live here long enough and names go together I guess!" And Helen befriended the sweet couple next to her and Doug welcomed her to go to the Men's Shed any Saturday to get broken things repaired! Six new friends!

Congratulations to our Seniors Footy Team for winning their 14th Premiership, this time under our new fabulous coach Ed Curnow! A thrill for everyone after a big year of putting in. Ed has had a big influence on the town and his presence here is appreciated and enjoyed. Well, done also to our President – Carly Enticott!

Lorne was very proud to host the annual Western Regional Gardening conference at Stribling Reserve at the end of August. Top notch speakers, panels and even weed experts put on a great show. Congratulations to our local Garden Group for stepping up and making it happen HERE!!

The McIl Dowrie and Holloway families have opened their new In the Skies Restaurant at the Bowls Club and the praise is bubbling all round the town! Wonderful. They are the right group of locals to continue the club's proud history of being a friendly accessible restaurant, bar, function venue and sporting facility for the local and regional community!

Hey, can you imagine the shock and horror of being just about to enter the Deans Marsh roundabout and slowing to let a car coming from the Marsh into the flow – only to observe it proceed to the right and go round the circle on the wrong side!!! Shudder.

The Surf Coast will receive an influx of Police Officers for the summer, just in time for schoolies! Good. Our team need help!

It was very sad to hear of the passing of Morgan Walsh Howling. Big love to the family and apologies that so many Lornites were committed to the footy Grand Final in Colac. RIP dear Morgan. You will long be remembered – especially for the time you skateboarded down the middle of the GOR with a big queue of traffic honking and carrying on. RIP.

Those who walk dogs (or even just themselves) on the "little plover" beach over the last five or six weeks will have noticed a tiny orange tent camped above the high tide mark! Some idiots reckoned it was quite legal! As if? The camper was occasionally spotted walking to the toilet, or the supermarket! And then the tent was gone! But – not so fast – on our return walk under the divine cypress trees we spotted it! Just moved back under the bushy trees away from the big tides.

Quite strange lately to be verbally abused in that area wouldn't you reckon? But on spotting a very active bird-chasing dog belting back and forwards along the back of the beach and even dashing into the bush, and back again, I quietly and politely asked the dog's owner if he'd mind popping the dog on a lead in this area as we have a precious little pair of plovers on the beach? Did that ever release an angry rant from said owner! "I'll put my dog on the bloody lead when you put your dog on a lead!" "Well, my dog is playing in the sea" says me. More loud sentences extolling his degrees in environmental science etc. Backing away, I mentioned that I was so glad that I had spoken to him of the danger his dog was to our plovers, and walked away to shouts of "Put your b. dog on its lead! Etc. Struth. Hope his friends were as shocked as I was.

And a lovely guy was walking his little Yorky Jeb or Jed along under the cypress trees, as one does, and a car slowed and stopped and the driver yelled at him to put the dog on a lead! Shock horror. Turning paradise into a war zone!

If you live on a gravel road in the Surf Coast you can apply for the dust suppression program for unsealed roads. But be quick, as the closing date for applications has closed, but surely you would get a sympathetic ear.

Local senior lady totally frustrated at her attempts to get through to GORCAPA decided to make a visit to their office. Went to Torquay and had no luck finding it, asked a guy coming down some stairs who explained that the office was indeed up said stairs – but no-one was there! That'd be right!

How very sad to read that Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority is now in control and taking over parks, public spaces and landmarks on the Coast and even took over management of the lighthouse at Aireys Inlet. Tours have previously run by Eco-Logic and now risk being taken over by GORCAPA!!!!!!

GORCPACA was set up in December 2020 by the state government and if you want to see a horrific example of their work, drive to the Swing Bridge café and observe the result of some crazy idea to rid Lorne of its ti-tree! A third of the trees were left behind after much community protest and GRASSES were planted. And our divine little secret walk from the Café back to the camping ground is exposed and ugly now. Very depressing. And the situation is even worse in Apollo Bay where the town's magic little golf course is rumoured to going to be repurposed by ?? You got it. GORCAPA. The whole town is up in arms. Pray for the next State election to save us all.

Having a coffee at Café Ha recently we observed a huge cloud of pollen drop from a cypress tree! Weeks later I notice that some of the lower branches are still laden with pollen waiting for a bit of wind to dump it on the area below!

Continued page 20

From page 19

A gamekeeper was called to deal with a rogue golden eagle which had attacked three kids in Oslo. Researchers theorised that the eagle may have been fed by humans. So – please stop feeding our cockies or they may bite you!!!

Beautiful report on Jo Barrett in The Age. Since leaving Lorne Jo and her business partners have launched WildPie – a range of pies, sausage rolls and dim sims made with wild game meat including sambar venison (Vic), boar (S.A.) and goat (NSW & Qld). They work with a wild game company – Discovered Wildfoods – one of the few suppliers licensed to shoot wild animals for human consumption. The pies are shipped frozen, and Jo is very proud of the product. They are already available at Tanswells Hotel in Beechworth, Petrel Hotel in Geelong West and Holbrook Hotel north of Albury, NSW. Well done Jo, you are a legend. We miss you !

Lil

Ed Note: We might be losing the lovely Lillian who is moving out of town. If you have enjoyed her insights into the inner workings of Lorne over the years now might be a good time to tell her. I'll pass on any messages if you send them into the paper or you could post directly to our Face book page. (or send her a card or note in snail mail as my grands call it!

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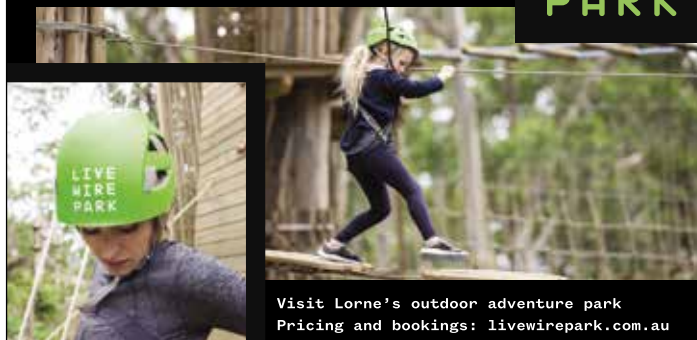
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OP SHOP BUZZ *By John Ford*

Lorne P-12 College staged their annual play in the last week of Term 3. The theme this year was 'Pilkip', which was an excellent play about a threatened amphibious species found in Lorne.

The students of every level were involved in all aspects including: writing the script, costume design, makeup, filming, playing and singing, and performing a very entertaining play.

Local features, characters and identities were portrayed including our Op Shop volunteers, councillors, waitresses, reporters, fishermen and surfers, in what was a truly hilarious display. A great achievement that the school should be very proud to have conducted. We were lucky to get some front row seats due to our help with the costumes.

Recently one of our hardworking volunteers, Marie Bannister, delivered her seven hundredth home-knitted beanie to the Op Shop. Most of these beanies are pure wool, although some are synthetic for ease of laundering.

The beanies, along with about three hundred homemade tea cosies have been great sellers in the shop for many years and we see many locals wearing them in this cold weather. A really outstanding achievement from Marie. Well done!

The Grand Pacific hotel is about to reopen for business after wholesale renovations. The new management team have very kindly donated a considerable amount of crockery, cutlery and glassware which will appear in the shop soon.

These items are all in excellent condition and will be among the bargains snapped up by keen shoppers.

The Lorne Op Shop Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 31st October at 11.00am following the normal monthly meeting.

The meeting will be held at the Lorne Community House and followed by a delicious lunch, the details of which are still being finalised. See you there!





From the Deck THE POTOROO

By John Agar

‘Potoroo’ is a common name given to a small, very endearing marsupial that is closely related to kangaroos, wallabies, and the kangaroo-rat, the latter being a misnomer, for they are not rats at all.

Of the three known species of potoroo, one [*P. platyops*] has not been seen since 1875; another [*P. gilbertii*] is critically endangered, while the most common, the long-footed potoroo [*P. longipes*], is nevertheless on the endangered species list ... its primary threats being introduced predators ... and especially man.

Potoroos should be of particular interest to everyone who lives along the Surfcoast, in the Otway ranges, or in the Otway basin. Why? ...

[1] Our Otway forest and its ecosystems form a central plank in the dwindling Victorian range of the potoroo ... other remaining ecosystems include the Grampians, Western Port, Wilsons Promontory and East Gippsland.

[2] The Great Ocean Road has a remarkable wildlife sanctuary and research facility—Wildlife Wonders just outside Marengo <https://wildlifewonders.org.au/>. Opening in 2020, this scientifically focused free-range park covers some 80ha of natural eucalypt forest, fern gullies, and open grassland, with a carefully designed fence to keep out all predators. Importantly, the on-site eco-laboratory has developed a particular expertise and conservation interest in the potoroo, with a number happily at home in the free-range park. If lucky, you might even see one during a guided tour at dusk as it hops past with its little front paws held close to its chest like a chubby miniature kangaroo. As bandicoots are also in the Sanctuary, your guide [you must have one] is best placed to help identify one from the other, as they can be confused. For those who have visited Rottnest Island off-shore from Perth and have seen its Quokkas, the potoroo can be a little reminiscent of but is quite different from the Quokka, which, apart from being considerably larger, appears to perpetually smile.

The potoroo-specific section of the Wild Life Wonders website <https://tinyurl.com/2c8npeev> describes the potoroo [author abridged] as follows:

Long-nosed potoroos are small reddish-brown to grey marsupials from the kangaroo family. They have a characteristic long, tapered nose and a sparsely furred tail, which may sometimes be white-tipped—like a Rakali’s tail [see Lorne Independent, p7, August 2024].

Long-nosed potoroos live in the low, dense vegetation of coastal and forest woodlands, where they make nests from grass, mosses and bark and can hide from their predators. They forage at night to find food—bulbs, tubers, roots, fruit, and invertebrates—but there is no question that fungi are at the top of their shopping list, with some fifty different fungal



Credit: B. G. Thomson @ <https://tinyurl.com/k3n6jy5v>

species known to be on their menu. But symbiosis goes two ways. As an ecological quid-pro-quo, the potoroo plays an important role in distributing the fungal spores for regrowth.

Once a potoroo has sniffed out a possible food source, it then uses the long, curved claws of its front feet to dig it up.

Mark Le Pla and his fellow researchers from the University of Melbourne have been working from the Conservation Ecology Centre at Wildlife Wonders to develop an innovative first-ever tracking potoroo program. They have successfully placed tiny GPS trackers on forty in-the-wild Otway Forest long-nosed potoroos that track the potoroo range and provide useful information on their habitat and behaviour. By better understanding these special but very timid little animals, they seek to ensure the species’ survival into the future. <https://tinyurl.com/bdhvcate>.

I wish I could say that I have seen a potoroo pottering by the roadside and feasting on a sprout of fungi on a fallen log ... but I have not. Nor is it likely that I will. They are timid little creatures, dislike noise, and are skilled at hopping off into the undergrowth, firmly believing that ‘out-of-sight, out-of-mind’ is a good protective mechanism. Moreover, they are nocturnal, and as few of us walk or drive the deeper bush tracks of the rainforest after dark, they are rarely seen unless specifically sought. So, while I live in hope, hope springs eternal!

One may well ask ... why all this fuss over a small-enough-to-fit-in-a-backpack member of the macropod family? Well, once upon a time, potoroos were very common. Indeed, many early settlers complained bitterly that they were so numerous that they were damaging their crops ... though with the fleet of small marsupials, bedongs, bandicoots, and native rodents across Eastern Australia, it was clearly unfair to blame the potoroo alone.

For so many of our native species, European settlement was akin to Armageddon—as their habitats were cleared, their food chains were disrupted, introduced species [rabbits] successfully competed for their food, and they proved defenceless against the introduced predators [foxes and feral cats] that were now prowling their domain. To make matters far worse, the government gazetted pelt and vermin bounties, while croppers encouraged wholesale trapping and eradication programs.

Continued page 23

BODY SNATCHERS By Doug Williams

By now many of you will have heard about the tomato brown rugosa fruit virus (ToBRFV) which has surfaced in South Australia where it is having a devastating effect on the five-billion-dollar vegetable growing industry. Capsicums and peppers are also prone to this disease.

Speaking with a family member who works in horticulture recently I learned that the Department of Agriculture will expect crops to be totally eradicated, and soil treated on a very wide scale in an attempt to control this virus. It spreads rapidly, so will inevitably reach us here in the Otways in time. Affected fruit will look unappealing and would not be moving off greengrocer's shelves on appearances.



They are discoloured, pitted and misshapen. I am told though that they are perfectly edible still and are not harmful to humans so I guess we will just have to close our eyes and put them in our mouths and eat them as though they were the healthy looking specimens we have been used to. To avoid getting infected stock into your home garden though I urge you to get plants from a reliable source.

Another visitor to your vegetable garden might be the vegetable caterpillar moth. This curiosity has turned the natural order skewiff because though many animals and insects feed on fungi, this fungus feeds on caterpillars which inadvertently ingest the spores which then proceed to develop inside its body.

The ghost moth caterpillar in particular unwittingly takes in any spores lying on leaf litter before it goes underground as part of its reproductive cycle. Inside the body cavity of the caterpillar the fungus grows by feeding off its host, totally consuming it from the inside, eventually forming a shell around the body and mummifying it.

This makes me shudder and I think of some well remembered sci-fi movies. Some time later the fungus produces a stalk or stoma which pushes up through the soil, releases its spores, the caterpillar wanders past and consumes some and the whole cycle begins again.

Species of this caterpillar are harvested in Tibetan alpine grasslands for use in Chinese medicine as an aphrodisiac. It sells for sixty-five thousand dollars a kilogram, making it the most expensive fungus in the world.

Here in Australia while there are laws protecting plants and wildlife when it comes to foraging for fungus it is a grey area since the Fungi kingdom is rarely protected by law.

In New Zealand the ink from the fungus is used for Maori moko tattoos.

Although they are called the vegetable caterpillar moth they are less likely to be found in the veggie garden than out in the bush around the base of gums and wattles. At the end of the day, it is a misnomer to call this interesting organism a caterpillar. It is not really one at all - it is classified as a fungus.

From page 22

It is always easy to be glib, look back at yesteryear, nod sagely, and say: '...they knew not what they did'. Yet, as the same mistakes continue, it seems that '... we still know not what we do'.

History can never be rewritten, nor can it be revised—it is what it was—but as our understanding of the behaviour and needs of our unique wildlife slowly improves, perhaps we can learn to conserve better in the future. Certainly, the conservation programs at the Wildlife Wonders Sanctuary, Marengo, seek to ensure this.

While it is too late for all the unique species that have slipped to extinction—or are destined soon to join the long list of 'the disappeared'—our developing conservation programs may mean that species, like the potoroo, may just squeak through. But the potoroo is only one of many threatened animals ... like the Tasmanian Devil [their threat is facial tumour disease] or that stalwart of Easter, the bilby. And I fear for the koalas and the platypus ... for the loss of either [or both] would be too hard to bear.

Meanwhile, the potoroo now has strong support in the Otways ... and long may that remain true.



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315 Deans Marsh Road, Deans Marsh

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With off-street parking for up to three cars and filtered views of the nearby beach, Wahgunyah promises a relaxing getaway. The property's serene atmosphere and prime location make it the ideal place to unwind and enjoy the coastal lifestyle.

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From the team at Great Ocean Road Real Estate

MEET LEON WALKER

Independent Candidate for the Otway Range Ward in the Surf Coast Shire 2024 Elections

I am proud to announce my candidacy for the upcoming Surf Coast Shire elections as an independent candidate representing the Otway Range Ward. For over 25 years, I've made my home in the stunning township of Lorne, nestled in the Otway Ranges with my wife and 2 boys.

As a sustainable small business owner, my wife and I operate a beachside café and surf shop, where we connect with our community daily over coffee, food and conversation. I understand the joys of running a small business, but I also recognize the challenges we face. We need advocacy for better support and resources for small businesses.

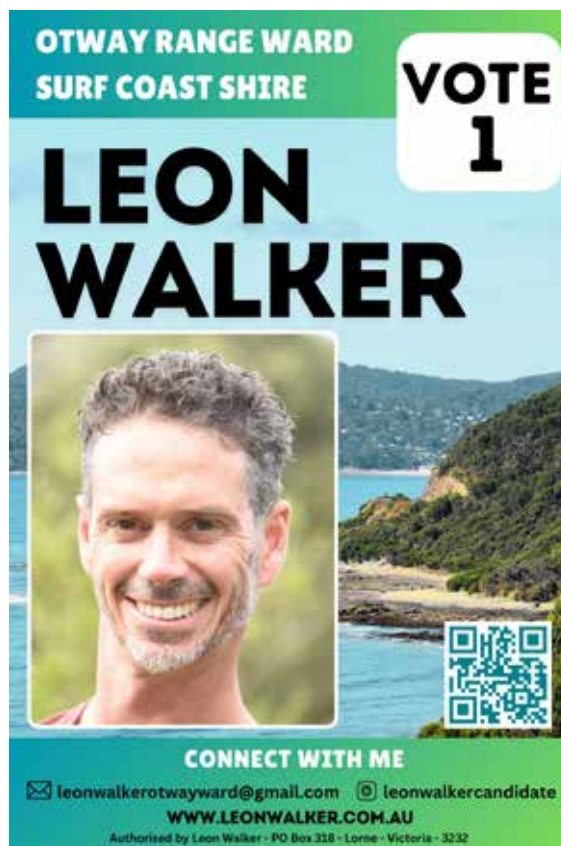
Raised in Bellbrae, my roots run deep in the Surf Coast region, with my family having lived in Torquay and surrounds for generations. My grandfather was a well-known figure, establishing the first butcher shop and supermarket in Torquay, with my dad and uncle, where community members gathered and connected. I spent countless hours in our family business, stacking shelves with my siblings and enjoying the beaches between Torquay and Bells Beach and exploring the Otways.

My connection to the area continues today as my parents reside in Bellbrae, where I visit regularly. I love where we live and I know the Surf Coast.

My background includes experience in local government in Visitor Information Centres and tourism management, where I worked alongside dedicated volunteers and community to promote sustainable tourism in our backyards. I've witnessed the potential for positive change within local government and am committed to embracing the good while striving for improvement.

As an active community member, I volunteer on the school council and have chaired tourism and traders associations and engage with various local organizations and stakeholders, including sporting and social clubs and emergency services. Engaging and giving back to communities is essential to me.

The Surf Coast is a place I hold dear, and as an avid all year surfer and nature enthusiast, I am dedicated to preserving our natural environment. I advocate for educating our youth about sustainability, including joining them in paddle out initiatives to protect our coastline from seismic testing and fossil fuel mining and hosting and experiencing surf and sustainable movies and event. We can learn a lot from our youth and together, we can foster a brighter future for our planet.



In addition to my business and community involvement, I am a passionate professional photographer, capturing the beauty of our region and covering local stories and events.

With years of experience in tourism, hospitality, business, and community engagement, I understand the need for improved communication and collaboration among the various agencies and stakeholders of the region.

I believe art is vital to our culture, having been involved in the Lorne Sculpture Biennale since its inception in 2005, and I actively support our amazing vibrant arts and music scene.

I am committed to advocating for sustainability in communities, tourism and businesses and addressing pressing issues like the housing crisis and cost of living. Despite being involved in years of discussions and workshops, we must refine our planning and implementation strategies to make real progress.

Encouraging healthy, active, and connected lifestyles is essential. Our region needs accessible services, reliable and better public transport, safer regional roads and improved amenities to meet the diverse needs of all of the community, especially our youth and older generations. I see firsthand the issues of our youth, while support and increased opportunities can see them engage and flourish in the community.

The new Otway Range Ward encompasses Lorne, Deans Marsh, Aireys Inlet, Anglesea, Bells Beach, and Jan Juc, and the land between, with three council positions open. There are 4 worthy candidates standing.

These particular town and communities of the Otway Range Ward are very similar, we live in them because we love where we live, surrounded by nature. The physical borders of these towns may not or cannot expand, but our communities can grow and sustain internally.

Running for local council was a natural decision for me. I am committed to advocating for the best future for all residents— young and old—of this incredible region. I invite you to engage with me about our community's challenges and opportunities and open up the conversation.

So, Vote 1 for Leon Walker! As your Otway Range Ward independent councilor, I will strive to engage and represent the Surf Coast communities with transparency, integrity, and advocacy to ensure we leave our community better now and for future generations.

Connect with me www.leonwalker.com.au

STAPLETON SEEKS COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR RE-ELECTION

Current councillor and former Mayor Libby Stapleton has confirmed she will re-contest the upcoming local Council elections, nominating for the Otway Range Ward in Surf Coast Shire.

With the expansion of the ward to include all coastal communities from Jan Juc to Lorne, and inland to Pennyroyal and Deans Marsh, Libby says she is well placed to represent the diverse needs of each township.

“I’ve worked hard over the past four years as a Councillor, including two years as Mayor, to represent the values and voice of the entire Surf Coast community,” Libby said.

“With my proven leadership record, my dedication to achieve the best outcomes for community, and my ability to provide strong strategic direction and governance, I am ready to hit the ground running.

“I have led Council in a positive and collaborative way, focusing efforts on climate change action, housing affordability, stronger support for the arts and local community groups, First Nations reconciliation and preserving coastal township character.

“The final sign-off of the 50-year lease for the Aireys Inlet Affordable Housing project is testament to my ability to advocate and work closely with community, so we can get things done,” she said.

“If I’m re-elected, I’d like to continue the conversation with our community about what’s most important, whether that be more action on affordable housing and delivery of improved infrastructure, or protecting our natural landscapes and township character, or focusing on sustainable tourism,” she said.

Curator of the Aireys Inlet Market, Libby has been strongly connected to the Surf Coast for 45 years, and moved to the Shire permanently 22 years ago, where she has raised her three children with husband Mic.

In addition to her time on Council, she has volunteered extensively in various community roles and worked with a number of local businesses.

“I understand our community, and I want to ensure that Council’s direction continues to align with local values and priorities,” Libby said.

You can follow Libby’s election campaign on social media @libbystapleton.surfcoast or contact her directly for a chat on 0494 110 012.

Libby Stapleton - Candidate for Otway Range Ward, Surf Coast Shire. Authorised by Libby Stapleton, PO Box 459, Aireys Inlet 3231

NOMINATIONS ARE IN FOR OCTOBER LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Following the close of nominations and ballot draws for this year’s local council elections, 2231 candidates nominated for 646 council vacancies in 466 separate elections.

The number of candidates this year is higher than the 2186 candidates who nominated for 622 councillor vacancies in 298 separate elections at the 2020 council elections.

The number of nominations for this year’s Melbourne City Council elections is higher than in 2020. This year, there are 11 teams competing for the Leadership Team of Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor (compared to 9 teams in the 2020 election) and 58 nominations for the 9 councillor vacancies (compared to 59 in 2020).

As of the close of nominations, 42 of the 466 individual elections are uncontested, where the number of candidates is equal to the number of vacancies. All wards in Yarriambiack Shire Council were uncontested, which means the general election for that council is entirely uncontested. Voters in these uncontested elections will not be required to vote.

The final list of candidates in ballot paper order for all councils holding elections, except Melbourne City Council, will be available after 5 pm at vec.vic.gov.au/voting/2024-local-council-elections

Over 4.6 million enrolled for local council elections

Over 4.6 million people have enrolled to vote ahead of the 2024 local council elections.

All Victorian councils, except for Moira Shire Council, will have elections in October.

Following the close of the roll on Wednesday 7 August, 4,613,421 people had enrolled to vote. This includes 4,494,630 state-enrolled and 118,791 council-enrolled voters.

Ballot packs will be mailed out from Monday 7 October to enrolled voters.

A breakdown of enrolment figures by council and ward is available at vec.vic.gov.au/enrolment/electoral-roll-statistics

WHAT LUMP IS THAT ? By Liz Brown (Local Vet)

A common reason for owners to become alarmed is the discovery that their pet is growing extra bits that weren't there last time they checked. This may mean there's more of their pet to love but more often than not it causes stress so hopefully a vet can help.

Information that is useful to bring to the consultation, along with basic age and breed, would include duration and rate of growth. A way of marking it prior to arrival helps too as often much time is spent in the consulting room just trying to find the offending object.

Lumps are either on the skin, cutaneous, or under the skin, subcutaneous. Just feeling them will only tell you that there is a lump which everybody already knows. A fine needle aspirate of the lump can be performed in the consulting room as it is only a mildly uncomfortable procedure. The contents extracted will be stained on a slide and examined under a microscope to provide enough information as to the next step.

The definitive way to know what a lump is to send either a biopsy or the entire lump to a laboratory for histopathology. These procedures are usually performed when your pet has been anaesthetised so this is a much more involved and expensive undertaking.

Most cutaneous lumps stay cutaneous with a few exceptions. The most common of these would be hamatomas, those delightful warty growths that adorn many a poodle's skin. These benign growths only need to be removed if they irritate the dog, causing them to chew on them, or if they irritate the owners, because they are unsightly.

White dogs that enjoy sunbathing may be prone to skin cancers like humans get but they rarely metastasize, spread to internal organs. They do ulcerate though and can bleed. Not such a good look on a white dog. Haemangiomas are little blood spots that are more common on dogs that lie with their bellies in the sun.

Rapidly growing round masses on dogs 1-7 years of age that appear especially on the head and limbs are often histiocytomas, button cell tumours. They are part of the



immune system and usually rapidly disappear as fast as they appeared. Unfortunately they can look like mast cell tumours which are more problematic so it's worth getting them checked out properly. There are new drugs to remove mast cell tumours without needing surgery but my experience with mast cell tumours is that they often eventually spread inside to the liver and the prognosis is grave.

Subcutaneous tumours can be many and varied. Lipomas, fatty lumps, found on many labradors, are mainly a problem if they grow in areas that will affect the dogs ability to move.

They can grow to enormous sizes that can be heavy to lug around so perhaps consider surgery before they get that big. Rarely there is an invasive form of lipoma which surgery can't treat. Sebaceous cysts cause lumps under the skin which can be uncomfortable. Sometimes they burst on their own but as they are caused by blind ending sacs they often recur and need to be surgically removed.

Some breeds, such as Boxers, are prone to nasty lumps so they should have every lump examined thoroughly. Cats and rats are in the same category.

The smaller the lump the easier it is to remove and the quicker the recovery so if your dear pet is sprouting extra bits that are worrying you then perhaps you should seek some professional advice.

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FROM OUR COUNCILLOR

For the Lorne Ward - Cr. Gary Allen gallen@surfcoast.vic.gov.au 0438 637 274



As I am not seeking reelection, this will be my last contribution to the Lorne Independent as your councillor. During the past four years I have strived to represent the interests of both the Lorne Ward residents and attend to shire-wide responsibilities, it is for others to judge how effectively.

My extended family have a history of involvement in local government, my father's cousins Abe and Len both served as councillors on the Winchelsea Shire. I was raised in a loving family, my parents Norm and Kath had few material possessions, but plenty of love and a sense of community commitment. I hope that I have inherited that sense of compassion and commitment.

I am particularly proud of my role in the declaration of a housing and accommodation emergency for essential workers at the start of the term. Whilst it is not a major responsibility of local government, it is a vital part of our township prosperity and vitality, particularly in our coastal communities. Also very important to the health of residents has been the growth in artistic and creative endeavor that this council achieved. Finally, I believe that the Surf Coast Shire, over two terms, has handled the transition of the Council's aged care services to external providers extremely well. Through the Positive Ageing Advisory Committee we monitored the transition and we retained the regional assessment responsibility for as long as it was allowed by the federal government.

It has been a privilege to be a part of the Surf Coast Shire where the overwhelming number of councilors and officers dedicate their working time for the benefit of the residents and are wonderful people.

Thank you to all the people who have supported me over the last four years.

Council Elections

Residents will receive a ballot pack in the mail after October 7. Voting by return mail closes at 6pm on Friday 25th of October.

The Doug and Mary Stirling Cup

On Friday the 20th of September close to 120 people met for lunch at the Stribling Reserve Pavilion to honour Clive and Lesley Goldsworthy, as they were presented with the Doug and Mary Stirling Cup. It was a fitting occasion to give our thanks to a couple who have given, and continue to give, so much to enrich our community.

Lorne P-12 College Production

I attended the school production of "Save the Pilkip" presented by the students of the Lorne P-12 College on Tuesday 17th of September. What a wonderful production. It was a sharp and topical script generated by the students. I am still consulting my lawyers. Congratulations to all the students, staff and parents involved, you should be justifiably proud.

Celebrating Positive Ageing Month in Lorne

Preventing Falls in the Community with Great Ocean Road Health Lorne

Tuesday 2 October, 11am to 1pm

Lorne Community Connect

An interactive workshop led by allied health staff to keep people safe in their homes and enjoying the activities they love. Exercises and education will improve strength and balance and reduce risk of falls.

Morning tea provided. \$5 cash only.

Bookings required.

Great Ocean Road Health Community Reception
5289 4360

Lorne Village Play Date for All Ages

Thursday 10 October, 12.30pm to 2.30pm

St Cuthbert's Hall, Lorne

A free intergenerational event that welcomes all community members to an indoor petting zoo. Pop in any time, visit the baby animals, indulge in some animal crafts, and meet other community members. Lorne kindergarteners will perform their Acknowledgement of Country, and you will need to be quick to savour one of Becky's scones!

Alane 0402 030 342 or Lorne Community House
5289 4383

Understanding Dementia Workshop and Lunch

Monday 14 October, 11am to 2pm

Lorne Community Connect

This interactive workshop led by Dementia Australia will provide an introduction to dementia, including an overview of different types of dementia, diagnosis, planning ahead and how to support someone living with dementia. Great Ocean Road Health allied health staff will talk about nutrition and its importance on brain health, followed by a cooking demonstration and shared meal.

Bookings required. \$10 cash only.

Great Ocean Road Health Community Reception
5289 4360



Keith Miller LACC
Commodore



Club News

Spring has sprung but no one told Mother Nature. Spring and Winter have swapped places. At least the days are getting longer and it's a tad warmer.

Anyway, it makes no difference to us at the club with our new marquees fitted with clear walls and a heap of gas heaters. Everyone is warm and cosy. The only thing that's cold is our beer and it's still the coldest and best beer in the world.

Of course we also have a great selection of wines and mixed drinks all at the lowest prices anywhere.

Our Redevelopment Sub Committee met with GORCAPA last week and the latest stumbling block is now the requirement of a sea wall to protect the area. Apparently, we will be underwater in about 60 years. More on that with Ric Addison's report below.



*The very attractive
rusting pylons
holding up our
magnificent pier.*

The bloke who built the pier was at our club recently and I asked him why he used plain steel filled with concrete. He said that was what he was directed to do and the idea of it was that the steel would rust away and fall off. He said he was surprised it hadn't already happened.

Upcoming Events

Free Live Music

Friday 11th October, student band Side Effects will be performing. They performed at the club last year and were so good, we've invited them back. Mark it in your calendars, more details to come.

Recent Events

Our Afl Footy Tipping Comp Presentation.

Local Identity and much-loved member Sue Balderas was presented with her \$1080 winnings by our sponsor and long-time member David Baldry of Smyth Real Estate.

Second was Sean Doyle who received \$450 and a third was Brad Weetman \$270.

Ever feel like a drink on a Friday night with a bunch of friendly women?

Join THE SNAPPERS on the first Friday of the month at The Aquatic Club 5 pm.

For further information contact Lesley Goldsworthy - 0437028169. You can also join The Snappers on Facebook

Congratulations Ed

Ed Fry, aka 'MACHIN won his third gold medal in a row (a hat trick) in the annual Special Olympics up at Mt Buller. Ed is a regular at the club and occasionally helps Hutch out with jobs around place. Congratulations from us all at the club Machine.

Donations

Our latest donation was to the Western Region Garden Clubs Conference which was held in Lorne recently. Our local Garden Group contribute to our community in many ways. Ray and Anne Sutton who are regulars and great helpers at our club being presented with our donation by our raffle Queen, Jody.

Winter Cup Fishing Competition Number Four Sponsored By Surf Coast Gardening - Rob Dalziel

This was our final Winter Cup for 2024. The weather wasn't conducive to boat anglers so all the fishing was done from the pier and rivers. Considering the conditions, we had a good turnout with some great fish weighed in. Unfortunately, the junior anglers didn't have any luck.



*Senior Winner Andrew Clarke being
presented with his prize by Ray Sutton who
caught a nice Bream in the Erskine River
earning 2772 points.*

Senior Second Place our Pier Fishing Salmon King Steve Arundell with, guess what? A Salmon! 2256 points.

Senior 3rd David Manfreda also with a salmon off the pier, 2129 points.

From page 30

Point Grey Redevelopment

This is a very much overdue update on the Point Grey Redevelopment.

On Thursday 12th September we met with GORCAPA and the main focus of the meeting was on the required Coastal Adaptation Plan. This is what the effect of the sea has on the coastline and what needs to be done to confirm that a development can be completed at Point Grey.

GORCAPA explained and demonstrated with diagrams that the existing rock wall, which extends 120 metres along the Point Grey site, will require work done. Exactly what type of work is still to be determined and that this work will be extremely expensive.

It was said that the project would depend on this costing, but GORCAPA expressed their confidence that all should be ok. The downside to the above happening is that it is going to take considerable time for GORCAPA to determine what needs to be done, have it designed, costed and have all of the required authorities approve it against the project costs. We were advised that nothing can proceed until the above works are approved. Any design works are paused at this time. This will extend the current building programme beyond the proposed completion date of June 2026. Our next meeting with GORCAPA is scheduled for approximately 4 weeks time. Following that meeting we will provide you all with a further update.

Ric Addison - Vice Commodore

Fishing Report

BOAT: it is typical Spring weather with lots of wind and only one or two half calm days each week so there's not a lot to report. The Flathead are still biting well, Snapper are still scarce, as are the Whiting. There's been the occasional Gummy and School Shark being caught. Plenty of Salmon in close but that's about it.

PIER: I was out on the Pier last week and came across a couple of blokes catching heaps of mullet. They were using a technique I haven't seen for 40 years. A lot of you more mature members will remember that last century the Italians and Greeks used to fish off the Pier with extremely long bamboo poles with no fishing reel. They just tied the line to the tip of the rod and the line was the same length as the pole so when they lifted the pole the hooked fish would swing in at hand height where they quickly grabbed them.

They nearly always used a small float with one or two hooks below and slightly weighted with a bit of split shot to keep the bait down. They always had a big bucket full of white bread minced into a paste with water and sometimes fish oil which they continually ladled into the water near their bait. Some of them would screw big cup hooks into the old wooden pier where they would hang their rod over the water to save their arms. I can remember how successful they were and always caught more fish than anyone else.

Well these two blokes were doing the same thing only their rods were telescopic fibreglass ones and were much shorter and lighter than the old bamboo ones but they were catching all the fish.

Apart from the Mullet there's been good numbers of Trevally, Salmon, Grass Whiting and the odd Snapper and King George Whiting.

This is the 'Love Boat', our one and only pro fishing boat left. It's operated by father and son Steve and Kaide Love. Steve drops Kaide off at the ladder on the pier where he climbs up, walks back to the beach and backs the tractor into the channel to load the boat.

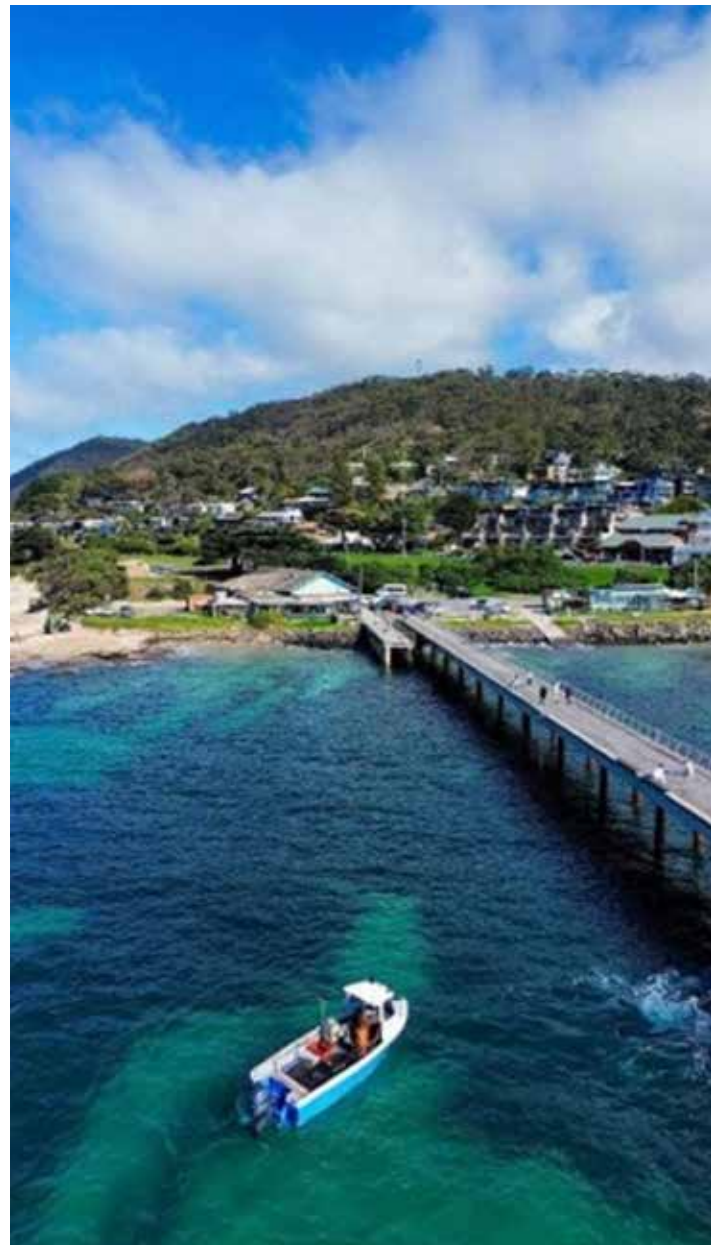


Photo thanks to Ella Murnane.

COFFEE

Jason is back Fridays to Mondays serving his world-famous Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate and bickies.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

Re: Advertisement by GORCAPA Seeking More Respect

It is disappointing that the Board Chair and the CEO of the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority (GORCAPA) felt the need to take out a full-page advertisement in the Lorne Independent – page 20 of the September edition. The advertisement asks for more respect to be shown to GORCAPA officers and staff!

However, respect needs to be EARNED and also needs to be shown to the public by the leaders and staff of GORCAPA. Many residents give countless hours volunteering on committees, advisory panels and working bees.

Sometimes these are led by and joined by paid GORCAPA staff. Volunteers are frequently frustrated by attempts to have input, or at least a voice to be heard. However, too often more notice is taken of highly paid consultants, who, it seems, do not always know the history of the sites.

There are occasions when constructive hand-delivered letters have not been acknowledged by GORCAPA, and details requested at meetings have not always been made available.

This does not engender respect from the public! All communication should be courteous, but this also needs to be shown by the leaders of GORCAPA.

There are serious delays in the following: the Point Grey redevelopment, the million-dollar toilet overhaul near the swimming pool, and fitting of basic ‘cocky-proof’ lids on the bins at the foreshore.

Advising the public of the progress/delays of these projects may help GORCAPA win back some respect!

Those who defend GORCAPA suggest that they are not sufficiently funded by the State Government and are understaffed.

Well perhaps the very existence of this coastal authority needs to be rethought. When is the State election?

Respectfully, John Ford, Lorne.

Dear Editor,

I did enjoy reading John Agar's piece on Toadies (see attached).

Yours Sincerely, Graeme Thompson

A very fine article by John Agar “Where do the Toadies go in winter?”.

To “Burminate or not to Burminate”, that is the question.

And yes John got right down to the essence of the existential question that all of us in Lorne have been ruminating upon. No longer do we have sleepless nights on this important topic. To “Burminate” just the very word gives me indigestion. There will now be lively discussion on this topic at the Men’s Shed. Thank you John for an erudite and informative piece.

Dear Editor.

As owners of an 11-month-old puppy we are always trying to keep him away from food scraps around the rubbish bins on the foreshore.

A few weeks ago he raced back from his walk remembering rubbish was strewn all around the bins and along the road – cockie attack again.

It didn’t help that the bins were full of people's household rubbish. Luckily our puppy only gobbled up some carrots but it could have been worse.

My question is why don’t we have cockie proof lids on these public bins as we do on our household ones???????

Not just a load of rubbish, surely?

Respectfully, Wendy Jarratt

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Where everybody counts

Men of the Men's Shed

KEITH MILLER

By Garry Fenton

Keith was born and lived most of his life in Colac. He went to Colac West Primary School then Colac Technical School. In Keith's own words, "The principal 'invited' me to leave school when I was only fifteen, because I was a shocking student and looking back, I am embarrassed about how bad I was".

Keith started work at Repco when they were reconditioning engines, changing over cylinder heads and changing over brake shoes and a range of other stuff. He had four years at Repco and loved every minute and actually learnt a lot.

Keith's grandfather started a farm machinery business in Colac and his father was running it. Keith didn't think he could work with his father and took a promotion to Repco in Geelong. But his father desperately needed a spare parts bloke and offered Keith more to come back to the family business, Swayn & McCabe, where he was for the next thirty-five years. There were nine on the staff when Keith started but when he retired at fifty-four there were eighty staff members.

Keith has been coming to Lorne since he was a 'little kid'. He used to come down and camp with his grandfather and the family had a regular two-week holiday in Lorne every year. They stayed at the Kia-Ora Caravan Park from when it first opened. The family always planned to live in Lorne eventually.

The family moved to Lorne and lived in a shed for twelve months while they built their home. The attraction to Lorne of course was his love of fishing. "I just loved fishing and got on the committee at the Anglers Club and have been running the show for the last six years," Keith commented with his well-known 'larger than life' smile.

The Lorne Anglers & Aquatic club is very successful with just over two thousand members.

Keith did have some idea about what Men's Sheds were about as he came from Colac and that Shed started in 2005 and relocated in 2016 after receiving the same Government grant as Lorne. Keith was supportive of the Lorne Shed and came on the Committee whilst the building was still under construction.

Keith claims he painted most of the social room and the workshop floor but did admit he had quite a bit of help! "I was reasonably good with my hands, I guess you could say I was a 'Jack of all trades but master of none.' Keith became very involved until he found his commitments at the Anglers Club as Commodore, limited his time, so he stepped off the Committee, but he drops in for a coffee and is very supportive.



Keith remembers the "Grand Opening" as a very special day with a huge crowd turning up, which was a huge credit to Allan Walls and the Committee. Keith was instrumental in naming the Social Room after Allan and having the plaque installed. I did that because as you know Wallsy, could get blood out of a stone and he did that to everyone and because of that we ended up with a quality result. He even talked me into paying for the air-conditioning unit."

Keith well remembers the angst the protesters caused. "They made a terrible fuss.. We were quite threatened by them, and we were concerned. They actually threatened to protest at the Opening, but fortunately it fizzled out quickly after the huge crowd support which came on the day".

When Keith was asked about the quality of the coffee he fired up. "When Allan Walls started making the coffee, I stopped coming. That was terrible. I did try to give him some coffee making advice. That was a No, No, No.! I have known Wallsy for many years and I know you can't ever give him advice!"

Lorne Accounting Group

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136 Mountjoy Pde, Lorne
M: PO Box 58, Lorne VIC 3232
P: 03 5289 4277

Highton: 1st Floor,
2A Bellevue Arcade,
Highton VIC 3216
P: 03 5245 8949

E: admin@hlgaaccounting.com.au

Barwon Water Community Update

Barwon Water is Victoria's largest regional urban water corporation.

We have a proud history of contributing to regional prosperity by providing water and sewerage services that support community health, sport and recreation, gardens and agriculture, the economy, cultural values and the environment.

Learn, share, and get involved! We're working together with the community to enhance our region.

Learn more and have your say on our projects and activities. Scan the QR code to find out more.



Lorne: Water, Your Say

Get involved and learn how you can contribute to a sustainable, resilient water future for Lorne.



We're here to help

If you're concerned about your water bill, we offer support to suit your situation. Get in touch to find out how we can help.



Be waterwise every day

Learn more about how you can be more waterwise in your home or business. Plumbing programs, grants, advice and resources are available to support you.



VICESSES LORNE UNIT

By Chris Jones

Floods, Storms, Landslides and all that Jazz that keeps the Lorne SES moving at a quick step

When the end of the financial year came and went, I wrote that we had a quiet end to the year. Little did I know that the silly season was starting early. Unseasonably, the Lorne unit found itself issuing severe weather warnings with great titles and enthralling reads-encompassing:

- Severe weather warning – strong wind gusts
- Severe weather warning – damaging winds
- Severe weather warning – damaging locally destructive winds
- Severe weather warning – damaging winds and strong rainfall
- Severe weather warning – localised flooding
- Watch and act prepare to take shelter

The weather patterns causing the warnings ended up in requests for assistance. The following is but a sample of the calls we received:

- Tree down - traffic hazard - branch over road - deans marsh lorne small
- Landslide with hazards - soil and rocks - deans marsh lorne road
- Vehicle stuck on embankment great ocean rd eastern view / noel rd tree down - restricting access only
- 3-4m tall tree blocking driveway - also st lorne
- Tree down - traffic hazard - tree down blocking the road - corner kennett rd/great ocean rd kennett river
- Tree down restricting access driveway benwerrin mount sabine road
- Tree down powerlines involved – large tree over road kennett river
- Tree down traffic hazard – blocking whole road 2kms south intersection beech forrest road - forrest apollo bay road
- Assist police with grid search
- Pr1 – assist ambulance with extraction patient great ocean road wye river / harrolds track
- Landslide with hazards – small landslide causing traffic hazard fairhaven slsc great ocean road fairhaven
- Tree down - traffic hazard – skenes creek
- Tree down threatening to fall – large branch threatening to fall over property belvedere terrace lorne
- Tree down - traffic hazard – large branch on road cemetery road reserve dalway street lorne
- Tree down - traffic hazard – tree down blocking one lane northbound – deans marsh – lonre road / five mile track



- Tree down traffic hazard – tree branch across road and cable hanging down – across from lorne hospital albert street
- Tree down -power lines involved hopetoun terrace lorne
- Tree down – restricting access austin court lorne
- Tree down hanging over the corner of great ocean road and wallace street, wye river
- Tree down -tree branch has fallen on to concrete water tank lynn court lorne
- Tree down - traffic hazard – tree down blocking whole road – deans marsh – lonre road benwerrin mount sabine road
- Animal incident bird stuck in fishing ne in water erskine avenue lorne (did not attend)

This series of storm events saw our members out 24 /7, day and night, in highly inclement weather. We fronted into wind gusts from 65 km to 115 km per hour.

During these wild weather storm events, please stay alert when driving, primarily through forest-lined roads.

Traditionally, September through December are incredibly challenging for the SES to respond to Requests for Assistance. So there is more to come.

After the Storm, there is.....

Eat, Sleep, Replenish Supplies, Maintain Equipment, Write up Incident Reports, Wash Vehicles and Repeat (Attend Requests for Assistance).

Continuous Training and Competency Development

Congratulations to Lorne SES Unit's Katja, Ray, and Vinnie on completing Crew Member Level 2 training and certification. After achieving this qualification, these members are now eligible for a wide selection of courses.

Continued page 37

NEW...

For Spring



Lorne  TerryWhite
Chemmart.

TALES OF THE RAPIDS As told by Doug Stirling to Vicki Norton

Lorne resident Doug Stirling has some tales about adventures had at the Lorne Erskine River Rapids. He is concerned that not a lot of people are aware of the rapids upstream on the Erskine River. He wishes there was some signage to this area, as when, after heavy rains, there is so much water and the rapids are a wonderful sight and a great attraction.

He remembers spending many happy times skinny dip sliding down the wet rocks as a boy of 9-10 years. When any girls approached, he and his mates would jump into a bath sized pool to hide their nudity. If during the slide down the slippery rocks, they veered off course, they would slide into dry rocks that felt like sandpaper.

He remembers going up above the rapids in February and filling a sugar bag with white bait that travelled up the river to spawn at this time. His mother would then cook them up in batter for their tea. The boys also caught trout above the rapids with fishing rods, but also told of 'tickling' trout amongst the wet rocks. They knew that trout would hide under the rocks, so they placed their hands under the rocks and feel the length of the fish until they were near the fish's gill and then grab them. One day Doug remembers catching 27 trout this way. They also caught Mountain trout further upstream above the Sanctuary.

One day, Doug, was with his friend Wilfred Norton, who carried a small axe, walked up above the rapids and noticed a lot of bees drinking from the surface of a pool. They trailed the bees back to a tree and they could see a hive up in the branches. Will cut the tree down and split the hive open and they retrieved the honeycomb to take home for a special sweet treat. Now Will had come prepared, he had one of his mother's curtains and covered his head and body with the curtain to reduce the stings, but he still came away with many stings on his hands. Doug said that there were many poor families and retrieving and sharing this honeycomb was like Christmas for of these families.

Up the gully near the Erskine River, the boys used axes to cut large pieces of bark from the trees and used these bark pieces to slide down the rapids.



There were many clematis vines over hanging the river, that were over an inch thick, and the boys used them to swing over the water Tarzan style.

Where the Little Erskine River met the Big Erskine, the sides of the river were steep cliffs, and many suggested a dam could be sited there. Authorities refused this suggestion. As Doug stated, money was very scarce at this time and a dam would be a luxury.

A local by the name of Bill Love who worked on the Country Roads Board at the time, suggested that to save the lovely old gums along this riverbank, that retaining walls should be built to protect these trees when the river flooded,

This request also was denied, and the next extreme flood took all the big trees away. One very big storm and the following water flow moved a very large rock, the size of a small car down to the bottom of the rapids. The boys were very excited about this movement of the rock. Doug saw many small Rufus Fantails up along the river, a bird that is rarely seen these days.

He tells of his friend Wilfred Norton borrowing his brother Bob's little Fox Terrier, a clever dog, that would run deep into the bush and after some yapping would appear, chasing a rabbit that she would kill at Will's feet. Another successful meal for the family.

From page 35

Membership Drive

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." - Mahatma Gandhi

We have started a membership drive this year to increase the number of volunteers. We are committed to developing and strengthening community partnerships to help keep Lorne and surrounding communities safe during emergencies.

SES Lorne Unit is seeking various volunteer roles, including flood storm response, search and rescue, community education, and more. Not everybody wants to do road rescue.

What you will love about VICSES:

- Helping your community

- Making new friends
- Learning new skills
- Experiencing new challenges
- Personal fulfilment

Email our Unit Controller at christopher.jones@members.ses.vic.gov.au or drop in and see us on Tuesday Evenings after 7.30 pm at the Lorne Emergency Services Complex, 40 Smith Street, Lorne.

Chris Jones SES Lorne Unit Controller
E: christopher.jones@members.ses.vic.gov.au
M: 0425753402

Stay safe from the SES Lorne Unit.

For VICSES emergency response, call 132500

If your situation is life-threatening, call 000

Follow us on our Facebook page - SES Lorne Unit.

LORNE HISTORICAL SOCIETY FINALLY GETS SOME ANSWERS!

By Kevin Diviny - President LHS

Representatives from the Lorne Historical Society (LHS) met with GORCAPA on May 22 to discuss the future of our “Fishy Tales” exhibition. After three months of follow-up, we have finally received written responses to our questions.

I am not confident that the current space will be retained, whether we build new or refurbish existing structures. Our vision for the new exhibition space is to highlight the historical and cultural connections of Point Grey, including Indigenous occupation, the arrival of tourists by boat since the 1870s, and the timber and fishing industries. We envision the exhibition being accessible through the café/restaurant, similar to the “Great Ocean Road” exhibition at the Visitor Centre.

Currently, we receive 20 to 30 visitors during our limited opening hours of just two hours on Saturdays and Sundays. Imagine the increase in attendance if the space were open daily!

If you support our vision for Point Grey, I encourage you to contact GORCAPA at info@greatoceanroadauthority.vic.gov.au or by mail at PO Box 53, Torquay VIC 3228 and register your concerns.

Thank you for your support!

1) What are specific criteria that the strategic plan for Point Grey must address?

The Geelong City Deal Commitment outlines that the project must deliver:

1. A new Lorne Aquatic and Angling Club building.
2. Provision for ‘casual dining’ offerings, including options for coffee, takeaway and alfresco seating.
3. Improved public realm spaces.
4. Recognition of cultural heritage.
5. Improved connectivity.

It is also imperative that the future proposal address the relevant statutory controls related to the site and its redevelopment. These include, but are not limited to:

1. VCAT Decision P1182/2020.
2. Surf Coast Planning Scheme.
3. Great Ocean Road and Environs Protection Act 2020.
4. Marine and Coastal Act 2018.
5. Marine and Coastal Policy 2020.
6. Siting and Design Guidelines for Structures on the Victorian Coast.

2) Given that heritage values must be included, why doesn’t the request from the Lorne Historical Society to have a presence in the new building be seriously considered, as it is the organisation in Lorne that actively promotes the preservation of Lorne’s heritage?

This has been specifically considered in the opportunities and constraints phase of the project. The Authority and Point Grey redevelopment project team wish to reassure you that we share a mutual appreciation of Point Grey, including its rich history and values. As we continue to collaborate with local community members and key stakeholders, such as the Lorne Historical Society, we are deepening our understanding of the historical significance of the site. This knowledge and information is invaluable and will help inform the design response.

3) The former Pier Restaurant was a part of Point Grey Precinct for over four decades. Doesn’t the presence of a restaurant at Point Grey seem to be a logical inclusion in a plan to preserve the culture and heritage of Point Grey?

There are many layers to the project, including environmental, planning, and funding considerations, which our project team must consider as part of our evidence-based decision-making process.

It is incumbent upon us, as the land manager, to demonstrate the need to facilitate and accommodate activities and structures on our finite coastal Crown land, as part of our obligations under the Planning & Environment Act 1987, Marine and Coastal Act 2018, and our own Great Ocean Road and Environs Act 2020.

www.greatoceanroadauthority.vic.gov.au

More generally, we need to ensure future development can withstand the escalating effects of climate change, such as sea level rise, which will impact Point Grey over time. Size and location of structures are an important consideration. Essentially, we need to ask, “does that activity need happen here,” and if the answer is yes, “how can we accommodate it sustainably?”

Both planning and marine and coastal policy stipulate that a destination restaurant is no longer suitable in our limited and precious coastal crown land. This policy direction was enforced through VCAT determination P1182/2020, where the member concluded in her grounds for refusal that, “The restaurant is not dependent on the coastal location and Point Grey does not require a Restaurant, nor is this use naturally aligned with the purposes of the Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ), or the purposes for which the land is reserved”. That said, if we can demonstrate that a food and drinks premises should be provided to support the prevailing use of the site, then it may be considered, if proposed at a suitable scale.

4) Point Grey has been a significant location for both the indigenous inhabitants of this place the later European settlers.

It is expected that there will be a space within the redesigned Co-op building where the stories of four key stages of our history can be told:

Continued page 39

From page 38

1. Indigenous occupation of Point Grey as a site of cultural significance.
2. The first infrastructure at Point Grey was to support the arrival of tourists from the 1870s and on.
3. The Timber industry of the Otways.
4. The fishing industry which was such an important social and economic foundation for Lorne's development.

To function properly, the space should be accessible via the eatery space and open whenever the eatery space is operating.

In a similar arrangement to the Great Ocean Road exhibition at Lorne Visitor Information Centre, the interpretive space is a GORCAPA asset, and any exhibits would be professionally curated by GORCAPA, with Lorne Historical Society providing content from its collection.

Can GORCAPA confirm that this scenario is feasible and likely to be incorporated in the redesigned Co-op building?

We are committed to ensuring the history of Point Grey is reflected and represented in the design proposal. We cannot confirm any building design layouts at this stage, but we are happy to receive your thoughts.

5) How much money has already been spent out of the Pt Grey project budget? Surely this figure must be known and will affect what can be achieved at Pt Grey. The public deserves to know.

We and our funding partners are very transparent about the level of investment in this project. The total project budget is \$12.59 million. We are subject to the Financial Management policies, regulations and processes set by the Victorian Government's Department of Treasury and Finance, which ensures proper financial management of government on behalf of all Victorians. This includes the requirement that our financial reports are prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations, as issued by the Accounting Standards Board.

6). Has a new project manager been appointed?

Yes. Lucas Nutbean.

7). According to the last timeline the public was told a Master Plan would be delivered by mid-2024 for public feedback. This is now, so not likely. What is the current new timeline for the Pt Grey development including

Projected delivery of the Master Plan to the community for feedback?

Projected start time of construction?

The draft masterplan is expected to be released for public submissions by the end of 2025. Subject to all approval processes, construction will occur in 2026.

8) Will the 3 current tenants be guaranteed tenancy until the building is ready to begin? This is logical as it keeps the building used and occupied to avoid vandalism.

This matter has been raised with our Lease, License and Permit team who have provided the following response:

The Authority is committed to working closely with the current users of the building. The historical society have been issued a permit renewal until the end of April 2025. This date is being applied to permit renewals for all three (3) parties who hold permits to use the building. This will be reviewed in February 2025. The Authority supports the building's occupancy until it must be vacated for the redevelopment project.

9). When will the brief be given to the architects and will it be made available to the LHS and the Lorne Community? Can the LHS meet with representatives from the architects?

There will be no architectural brief provided for this project. The principal consultant has been engaged to determine what is feasible for the redevelopment, including the content and functions of the buildings. This will be guided by the opportunities and constraints phase and developed during the Urban Design Framework & Master Planning phase. The Aquatic Club has provided an 'ideal' architectural brief as a starting point for the clubhouse design. This will be worked through with the club to ensure all statutory obligations can be met through the design, and to ensure the proposal aligns with new policy direction established since the 2021 VCAT decision. The Historical Society, like all community groups, is encouraged to provide a submission in response to the draft Precinct Masterplan, when released for community consultation. The Great Ocean Road Authority are happy to meet with the Lorne Historical Society to discuss any architectural questions they may have, at the appropriate stage in the project.

10) Will GORCAPA Pt Grey project staff actively support and advocate with the LHS to find a way to include the History of Fishing and timber industries into the new Co Op building in a substantial way?

The Lorne community supports this. We cannot accept the MACA legislation as the reason this cannot happen. There must be a way as it is critical it is included in the design of the new building. Surely it can be argued and proven that it is coastal dependent as it happened on the actual co-op site. The tram tracks must lead to more than the public toilets for them to have any relevance. The Lorne community and visitors to the pier deserve more than toilets and a kiosk/cafe in this important development. The recognition of Lorne's social history insitu is critical. We are committed to retaining the tram tracks and will be emphasising their historical importance through the design. We are fortunate that the history of Point Grey can be displayed and represented through design elements that do not necessarily rely on exclusive building space, as they may be displayed in a range of ways.

11). Will the name the CO OP be retained for the coop building and cafe name?

Naming any future food and drinks premises is the right of the future tenant.

12) If the maximum development area at Pt Grey will be 700 sqm, can you indicate whether the replaced Co Op building can be not less than 300 sqm?

Continued page 41



GREAT OCEAN ROAD HEALTH NEWS

LORNE
medical centre

What's On At GORH

- October:** Mental Health Awareness Month
- 2nd OCT:** Mental Health First Aid Training session 1
- 2nd OCT:** Falls Prevention Workshop
11am-1pm @ Lorne Community Connect
- 9th OCT:** Mental Health First Aid Training session 2
- 10th OCT:** World Mental Health Day
- 13th OCT:** World Carer's Day
- 14th OCT:** Dementia Australia Workshop on
'Understanding Dementia'
11am-2pm @ Lorne Community Connect
- 14th OCT:** Jungle Body with Kara
9.30am @ Uniting Church Hall
- 21st OCT:** Jungle Body with Kara
9.30am @ Uniting Church Hall
- 28th OCT:** Dementia Australia Workshop on
'Communication Strategies and Dementia'
11am-2pm @ Deans Marsh Hall
- 28th OCT:** Jungle Body with Kara
9.30am @ Uniting Church Hall
- 29th OCT:** Nourished+ lifestyle medicine series
10am-12pm @ Lorne Community Connect

For more information about any of these programs visit our website or get in touch with us (see contact details below).

CEO Update

Great news this week, Great Ocean Road Health is a finalist in the Victorian Public Healthcare Awards, Small Rural Health Service. We are very proud of our small health service, the services we provide and the wonderful staff we employ, so are delighted to be a finalist in 2024.

October is Mental Health Awareness month, GORH provides Mental Health First Aid training every month, alternating sites. GORH has provided this training for four years and the majority of our staff have participated in this well worthwhile first aid training. GORH also provides mental health services through our medical centres with our GPs providing mental health planning, we also employ social workers and have other visiting services.

Please consider looking after your mental health the way you would look after your physical health.

Sandy

Stay Up To Date: www.greatoceanroadhealth.vic.gov.au

Facebook: www.facebook.com.au/greatoceanroadhealth

Instagram: www.instagram.com.au/greatoceanroadhealth

Mental Health First Aid Training

We are holding a Mental Health First Aid course right here in Lorne in October. Help learn the signs and symptoms of mental health in a friend, family member or colleague and knowing how to help them can change lives. This is a two session course held at the Lorne Community House from 8.45am—4.30pm on Wednesday 2nd and 9th October.

Bookings essential: <https://www.trybooking.com/CUINC>

Cost: \$20 for the 2 session course.

For more information please visit our website:

[www.greatoceanroadhealth.com.au/
services/mental-health/](http://www.greatoceanroadhealth.com.au/services/mental-health/)

We will also be running a series in Deans Marsh on Wednesday 30th October & 6th November.

Phone: 5237 8500

Email: mhfa@gorh.vic.gov.au



Nourished +

Nourished + is an extension of our Health Matters events with a series of 5-workshops each focusing on a different aspect of your health and wellbeing that you can support and nourish with lifestyle medicine. We will have open discussions on Sleep, Stress, Nutrition, Moving Well, and building meaningful connections, all while enjoying a shared meal of mainly whole-food plant-based ingredients.

Workshop 1: Nutrition discussed how and why to add more variety into your diet, achieving optimal levels of key nutrients.

Workshop 2: Sleep Explores how improved sleep quality can benefit your health, establishing a sleep routine and discusses Night owls vs morning larks.

Workshop 3: Moving Well Looks at how changes to your exercise routine can improve your health, focusing on your heart, bones, muscles. Move more!

Workshop 4: Stress addresses signs and symptoms of stress, the importance of stress and simple strategies to help manage stress.

Workshop 5: Social The benefits of strong social connections throughout life, building healthy relationships and simple actionable examples.

Cost: \$5 cash only at door.

RSVP with GORH Community Reception 5289 4360

Lorne

Albert Street, Lorne VIC 3232

Phone: (03) 5289 4300

Email: enquiries@gorh.vic.gov.au

www.greatoceanroadhealth.com.au

From page 39

The maximum permissible footprint is about 700m². That said, we are aiming to provide a best practice outcome that is not tied to a specific size. We will know more about this when we get further into the master planning stage.

13) What is the current footprint of the LAAC building and Co Op building?

STRUCTURE	AREA (m ²)
Toilet block	52.2
Former Restaurant /Coop	539.2
LAAC.shed	19.9
LAAC clubhouse	86.2
TOTAL	697.5

This is approximate only

14) Would it be possible to have flow-through connection between the proposed café, historical display and toilets to reduce staffing and to provide a continuous historical display?

We don't have this level of detail yet. We are very happy to hear more on this when we get to that stage of the planning process.

15) Would it be possible to lower the roof height to reduce the visual impact, and remove the internal ceilings to allow for taller displays and overhead-mounted displays?

As above, we don't have this level of detail yet.

16) Will there be a full range of cultures honoured including first nations, fishing and timber industries, and the early passenger vessel port at the pier?

Yes. We want to get the community's views on the most appropriate ways to honour the rich history of Point Grey. We will be grateful for the assistance of the Lorne Historical Society in this process and. look forward to talking to you more about it.

17) How do you envisage that the Marine and Coastal Policy 2020, Chapter 4, Cultural and Heritage Policies 4.4 will be/ or has been interpreted? We would see it as a valued and indeed required part of coastal design.

We're excited about the potential for this, and we would love to hear your ideas. As mentioned earlier, we are fortunate that the history of Point Grey can be displayed and represented through a variety of design elements, that do not necessarily rely on exclusive building space.

COOKED

By Suzanne (Thermomix) Diviny

Some people know me as that quirky woman who loves her Thermomix so much that I take it on vacation—because who wouldn't want to whip up a gourmet meal while lounging on a beach? When people ask, "Don't you want a break from cooking?" my answer is a resounding NO! That question got me thinking: Why do I adore cooking, and why is my Thermomix my trusty sidekick?

A book called *Cooked* by Michael Pollan really helped me articulate my culinary passion—though I did have to read it on a holiday where I couldn't bring my Thermomix or cook for ten whole days. Talk about a culinary crisis!

Pollan raises some thought-provoking questions about how individuals can help reform our food system for a healthier, more sustainable future. The short answer? Cook from scratch at home! It's like the secret ingredient to happiness—or at least to avoiding questionable takeout.

He also points out that industrial food processing has wreaked havoc on our health. Some people view cooking in black-and-white terms: hours spent making everything from scratch versus grabbing fast food. For instance, there's a world of difference between buying a jar of pasta sauce and crafting a fresh one with real ingredients—Sorry, jars of sauce, but you can't compete with my basil!

At the end of the day, I love cooking because it connects me to nature. I get to surround myself with beautiful produce, transforming it into delicious and nourishing meals for anyone who visits. Sure, it takes time and planning, but that's where my beloved Thermomix comes in!

I bought my first Thermomix about 18 years ago, and it was a game changer. But last year, I upgraded to the latest model, and wow—what a difference! If my first Thermomix was a trusty assistant, the T6 is like having a culinary best friend. With its almost limitless capabilities, I can whip up tasty, nourishing meals in no time, leaving me free to enjoy life instead of relying on takeout. Bon appétit!

Unashamedly I will put in a plug for Thermomix here its your second pair of hands in the kitchen replacing over 20 appliances in one sleek machine.



You chop blend whip weigh mill knead mince sear sous-vide and much more at the touch of a button

If you like to see it in action, please contact me through suzidiv183@gmail.com

Delicious Red Curry paste made in 15 minutes

Lorne Maintenance Service

0478 000 730

All home maintenance

Licence VBA 19409

Friendly advice given

Plumbing, carpentry, painting and general repairs

ARTIFICIAL ESTUARY OPENINGS SHORT-LIVED IN WILD WEATHER



The Victorian coast experienced extremes of wind, storm, swell and tides over the last month that inundated parts of the Great Ocean Road and low-lying public and private land. It also led to rapidly changing conditions at the mouths of many of the state's estuaries, where rivers meet the sea.

The Corangamite region has more estuaries than anywhere in Victoria, and the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CMA), the statutory authority responsible for regulating artificial estuary openings, has been busy.

“When our coastline experiences a low-pressure system like we saw recently, the status of an estuary mouth can change within hours. The wild weather provided a glimpse of the coastal inundation and erosion that is becoming more frequent with a changing climate and rising sea levels,” said Corangamite CMA CEO Dr Amber Clarke.

“In the Corangamite region, most of our estuaries naturally alternate between having an open channel to the sea to being disconnected by the build-up of sand at the river mouth. When estuaries are closed, low lying land and assets can become inundated. To reduce flood risk to major roads, properties and infrastructure, estuaries can be artificially opened to the sea using an excavator if conditions allow for a safe and effective opening.



“The Curdies estuary was safely artificially opened just prior to the storms, easing local flood risks. In Breamlea, it was disappointing to see an illegal attempt to open the Thompson Creek estuary, where an excavated channel reached the sea in late August. This could have resulted in significant environmental impacts to native fish and birds at the site.”

Both the Curdies and Thompson Creek estuaries closed naturally to the sea within a week of their opening.

“This demonstrates how dynamic our coast is and how short-lived human interventions like artificial estuary openings can be in this environment,” said Dr Clarke.

“Wherever possible current research indicates it is best to leave estuaries to operate naturally to maintain the health of waterways, vegetation and wildlife.

Continued page 43

From page 42

“The Aire and Gellibrand estuaries were closed to the sea prior to the storm event hitting the coast, leading to high water levels. An artificial estuary opening to mitigate flooding was not possible until conditions eased allowing for safe access—the safety of workers is paramount. The Gellibrand estuary entrance opened naturally, and the Aire estuary mouth was artificially opened on 10 September once conditions eased.

“As the sea level continues to rise over the coming decades, more land and assets will become inundated more frequently and it will become increasingly difficult to safely open estuary entrances out to the sea. Also, modelling suggests that the effectiveness of artificial estuary openings in the future may decline.

“This is why we must urgently continue our work to understand and communicate the future impacts of climate change and sea level rise for coastal communities. Our focus and effort must move past short-term solutions, to planning and delivering resilient coastal communities that can adapt to these conditions for the long term.”



FROM ‘BLACK MUCK’ TO THE BEST SUPPLY

A century of water in Lorne *With Doug Stirling*

Across more than a century, Doug Stirling has lived the ebbs and flows of the unique challenge in supplying water to Lorne.

He recalls an ill-placed weir on the St George River, which had created debris and a horrible gas at the source and a “very smelly, black muck” in people’s taps.

This mid-20th century event drove visitors from the boarding houses and made him glad his home on Charles Street was on the Erskine River supply.

“I was never subject to that bad water, but it upset the tourists,” he said.

“I think they would have lost a lot of trade, because they didn’t want to come back.”

Born in 1922 – the same year the Great Ocean Road opened to Lorne – Doug is well versed in the post-colonial water systems that have serviced the town.

“The very first water supply came from the St George River, from a little weir they put on top of Phantom Falls,” he said.

“That gave them pressure to push it right up to the holding basin at the top of William St.

“As the town was growing, they envisaged they’d need more water than that, so they put in another supply from the Erskine River, just below Splitter Falls.”

Having the right infrastructure and systems to deal with the steep coastal terrain surrounding Lorne has always been a complex task.

“It was ‘learn as you go’ progress,” Doug said, describing pumps being blown out of the ground and other setbacks.

But the local legend is crystal clear that continued progress has yielded outstanding results.

“The present quality of the water in Lorne is excellent. It’s unpolluted, it comes from well up the stream.

“It’s excellent to drink, I drink it every day. You wouldn’t get a better water supply anywhere.”

Lorne’s drinking water is now sourced exclusively from the Allen Reservoir on the St George River.

While storage levels are healthy, Lorne is vulnerable to a changing climate that brings less rainfall.

Doug’s recollections provide a pertinent reminder about what has already changed.

“In those days, we had much more rain in Lorne. We had 48 inches (120cm) a year when I was a kid.”

Securing Lorne’s water security is the focus of Barwon Water’s Lorne: Water, Your Say program.

Barwon Water is drawing on local knowledge and passion to inform the project, through a Community Working Group.

Since establishing last year, the group has teamed with Barwon Water to prepare draft values and principles that will guide considerations for Lorne’s long-term water challenges.

You can provide your views, and find out more information about the project, via www.yoursay.barwonwater.vic.gov.au/lorne-hub



lorne books

Picks of the Month



FICTION: The Life Impossible by Matt Haig

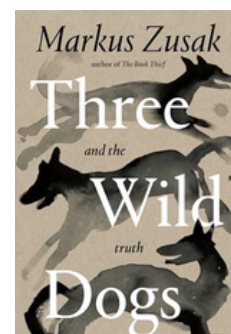


The remarkable next novel from Matt Haig, the author of *The Midnight Library*. When retired math teacher Grace Winters is left a run-down house on a Mediterranean island by a long-lost friend, curiosity gets the better of her. She arrives with a one-way ticket, no guidebook and no plan. Among the rugged hills and golden beaches of the island, Grace searches for answers about her friend's life, and how it ended. What she uncovers is stranger than she could have dreamed. But to dive into this impossible truth, Grace must first come to terms with her past.

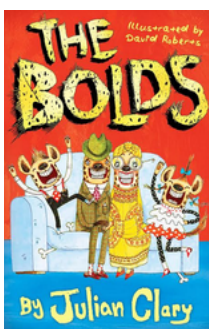
Filled with wonder and wild adventure, this is a story of hope and the life-changing power of a new beginning.

NON-FICTION: Three Wild Dogs (and the truth) by Markus Zusak

What happens when the Zusaks open their family home to three big, wild, pound-hardened dogs? From one of the world's great storytellers comes a tender, motley and exquisitely written memoir about the human need for both connection and disorder; a love letter to the animals who bring hilarity and beauty - but also the visceral truth of the natural world - straight to our doors and into our lives, and change us forever.



CHILDREN'S FICTION: The Bolds by Julian Clary



A fabulous new series from dream team Julian Clary and David Roberts! The Bolds are a family of hyenas who pretend to be people - but can they keep the noise down?

Mr & Mrs Bold are just like you and me: they live in a nice house, they have jobs (like writing Christmas cracker jokes). One slight difference: they're hyenas. Yes, that's right - they're covered in fur, have tails tucked into their trousers, and they really, really like to laugh. But the nosy man next door smells a rat (or a hyena), and a trip to the local wildlife park, and the brilliantly wacky heist that results, could be the end of Teddington's best-kept secret. Whatever will the neighbours think?



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