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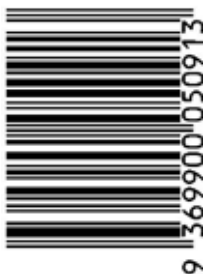
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New beginnings for the Aquatic & Angling Club at Point Grey

See **Commodore's Edited Report** P14

Photo by David Johnson



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Apollo Bay History Visit*By Sandra McComb*

Thanks to a tour organised by the Lorne Historical Society seventeen of our members visited the Apollo Bay Museum in May to explore its collections. What a wonderful array of masterly organised artefacts and photographs!

The heritage listed site on the Apollo Bay foreshore has been updated from the original Cable



Station that officially opened in 1936, recently celebrating its 90th anniversary. Restoring the three buildings on the site has come about through constant volunteer work and hard-won grant-funding. Our three hostesses explained how this on-going work is progressing - a demanding task to manage the Museum, the office building and the working storeroom that houses its remarkable boxed filing system and relics awaiting repair.

Taken inside the Museum itself you soon understand that the collection is wide ranging but selective, as collections should be, and thoroughly well documented. Of course, due to its location maritime history is a highlight. Access was only by sea to this isolated community for decades after discovery of the coast, and life was hard and strenuous for all, both getting here and staying to settle. On display is a revealing collection of items surrounding the installation of the first successful submarine telecommunications cable from Apollo Bay to King Island and on to Tasmania. No easy feat against a raging windswept ocean.

There is a telling collection of relics saved from the coastal steamer Casino that sank while attempting to berth in 1932 at the town jetty with ten lives lost. Greta's father, she said, was involved in an attempted rescue to save the captain. And Gary's mother went to school nearby, as shown on one of the maps. Seeing a few objects that actually existed in my early life, now appearing as relics, made me stop and think!

Museums are valuable when they are about people and Apollo Bay's certainly is. On display are household objects and office furniture, and goods like woodfired

"This Museum is worth a longer visit than time allowed. Items beyond what we saw are on the website and well worth viewing. Better still visit the Museum."



stoves, typewriters, telephones and The Victorian Reading books. Remember *John and Betty* and learning to read while sitting at small wooden desks with inkpots sometimes used as ammunition, or to convert plaited golden hair into dripping navy ringlets on the girl in front. Neither are the women folk left out. A charming corner for those who peered closely enough – think pink nighties, petticoats and bloomers. This Museum is worth a longer visit than time allowed. Items beyond what we saw are on the website and well worth viewing. Better still visit the Museum.



But, Lunch was calling and it was raining. Time to repair to the pub for conversation. The Great Ocean Road Brewhouse is a venue I remember from the past as the Ballarat Hotel. It was established in 1887 and for decades afterwards the ales all came from the Ballarat Brewery. Renamed in 2015, the Brewhouse now sources a range of ales from many smaller breweries. On our arrival the jolly front-of-house host met us at the door announcing loudly that seniors could choose small serves! He kept his word, providing prompt meals and good coffee, and he found a few customers for his ales. History can be fun! 🍷

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Men's Shed v Lorne Cockies

A saga of two determined enemies. Can we declare a winner at last???

By Allan Walls

Back in 2022, Gary Fenton and Allan Walls, along with most Lorne residents, homeowners and visitors decided there was a "Cookie Problem" in our village. Put simply, the cockies would open the rubbish bins and spread the contents. This was not only unsightly, but a health hazard.



About two hundred residents tried a solution of placing a lump of wood under the lid of the bin so it was too heavy for cockies to flip. Cleverly the cockies adapted to working in pairs to open these bins. The Council did not approve of the wooden blocks as they were hazardous when swung into the garbage trucks.



Around this time, the Lorne and District Mens Shed was approached by our then Councillor Clive Goldsworthy with an offer to fit what became

affectionately known as "cookie locks" to each and every garbage bin in Lorne. This mammoth task meant picking up every bin in Lorne, bringing them to the Mens Shed and attaching these locks. Then returning the bins to every house. This was a very time-consuming and wearing on the shedders and their utes. However approximately 2000 locks were fitted. Lorne was completely Cookie proof!!

The Men's Shed was paid in full by the Surf Coast Council.

Unfortunately, the locks soon blocked up with ash from fires, overfilled, jammed, and keys were broken in the lock. Not a success. Back to square one, what next??

Then came a light bulb moment for Gary Fenton, Allan Walls and a team. How about something that the cockies could not open? A plastic or rubber apron, but the clever cockies pulled these to bits.

The more devices we tried, the more inventive the cockies became. They seemed to be trying to prove that nothing could stop them.

The Council called a public meeting where 10 inventors showed their cookie invention/solution to a Council Panel. At this stage, The Lorne and District Mens' Shed had invented a bin apron, attached to the lid, giving the cockies no where to stand to gain purchase to open the lid. This idea was not accepted.

The Mens Shed decided we would not be beaten by a bird and we were determined to find a solution. We designed an earlier version of what is now being trialed by the Surf Coast Shire. We thought it was going to be easy. Just find a manufacturer and get some bin aprons manufactured.

We never thought a mould could cost in the region of \$175,000. We never thought the plastic apron could cost around \$51.00 each to manufacture. This was so cost prohibitive, we researched manufacturers in Braeside Victoria, Geelong, New Zealand, and China obviously. Plus, a Craigeburn company called Barron Rubber who had 2 factories in Victoria with 1200 employees in China.

The answer was no problem, but you need to order around 50,000 aprons.

Back to the drawing board and back to Melbourne to visit another manufacturer. Martin Fowler, from Great Ocean Road Limousines, drove Gary and I as his contribution to the project. Again, the costs were prohibitive.

So, we had this apron idea, and we had a Council Officer who had a look and said, "You guys should patent this idea." Not wanting to let our idea be stolen, we approached a patent attorney and after



"The more devices we tried, the more inventive the cockies became. They seemed to be trying to prove that nothing could stop them."

several months our design was now a registered patent. (Not a cheap exercise)

We were at Deakin University to see if a design student could join us to complete the reverse engineering and produce CAD Drawings for the construction of a mould and possible manufacture. (After all they do make carbon fibre wheel for Ferrari's).

Again, we faced rejection.

By now the team was becoming a little frustrated.

Then a surprise call from Neil Brewster, the head of Surf Coast Waste Management. "Can we provide 500 bin aprons for a trial in Lorne?"

"YES! yes, yes was the answer. So off to the lawyers for contracts and confidentially agreements for possible manufacturers to sign.

Our plan was for them to be made in Australia so, we discussed our ideas with Danbar Plastics in Horsham. They could assist us with having the mould manufactured and produce the bin aprons in Australia from recycled plastic. Obviously, we needed samples, so we needed a mould and after lengthy negotiations with Council a satisfactory financial agreement was signed.

We seriously needed Reverse Engineering checks. So, back to an engineer, and back to Deakin University for final checking.

Then back to the Committee of the Mens Shed for the funds to proceed. All stages of this project have been funded by the Lorne and District Mens Shed to complete what we believed could be one of the greatest supports to the Community of Lorne. The support from the Committee was unanimous. At last, the project was GO.

We now have around 500 bin aprons being attached to problem bins in areas in Lorne by the Surf Coast Council. There are different manufactures of bins in Lorne. Some older ones may be a problem to fit.

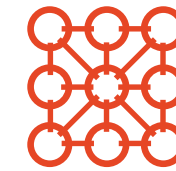
To conclude, this simple idea became very complicated, involved hundreds of hours of research, many knock backs, lots of grit and determination. It showed the unwavering commitment to the betterment of the Lorne Community from the Mens Shed and its members.

We are confident that the trial will be an outstanding success and look forward to an approach from other councils wanting our project for their cookie problem. ①

Allan Walls was the Project Co Ordinator Lorne and District Mens Shed.



Arts in Lorne



**LORNE
COMMUNITY
CONNECT**



The Artist in Residence Program (AIR)

Dr. Kim Percy began her AIR mid-May, the third this year, following Astrid Mendez and Joshua James.

On Saturday the 30th of May several residents joined Kim Percy for a walk, a talk and a new way of looking at the Erskine River precinct. Kim is a multidisciplinary artist whose work in photography, painting, video and installation has been exhibited in New York, Brazil, India and Spain. Kim recently exhibited in the Lorne Easter Photographic Exhibition.

Kim holds a PhD in visual art and she brings both rigour and warmth to everything that she teaches. What a wonderful experience for those who walked and saw the Erskine River through a different prism. They walked along the river and onto the beach after an artist talk. They slowed down, whilst paying attention and asking what it means to really see a place before you photograph it.

Astrid Mendez and Alejandra Marin will be continuing their residency in June. They will continue their work in developing a solo puppet performance perform "The Pilgrim". We wish them well over these months and we look forward to seeing the results of their work later this year.

It is particularly pleasing for the committee members to see the growth in the demand for AIR places. We acknowledge our main sponsor of the program, Lorne Mantra and also thank the Grand Pacific Hotel who are currently supporting Kim whilst she is in Lorne.

It is also opportune to acknowledge the Lorne residents who use the LCC facility on a regular basis; namely, the quilting, craft, patchwork and bridge groups. It is pleasing to see the facility in use by these groups.

Gary Allen
Committee Member

ROAD CLOSED!

By Murray Walding

The floods of last summer caused disruption to Wye River, Kennett River and Lorne. Imagine the disruption though, if the Great Ocean Road itself was closed. Closed for six months... as it was fifty-five years ago.

1971 was a very wet year. So wet that rockslides and landslides were common up and down the length and breadth of the Great Ocean Road. At the time, I was teaching in Apollo Bay and travelling there daily on the Trans Otway school bus as it picked up kids from Wye River and further south. Nowadays that seems counter intuitive.

There were many times when Johnny Watson, the erstwhile school bus driver had to pull over so that we could muscle boulders and rockslides out of the way, especially at Muttonfish Point on the bluff above the Grey River. So, it was no surprise when a newsflash came over the radio during May school holidays, that the Great Ocean Road was closed due to a rockslide! By the time I got back into Lorne at the end of the holidays the news had worsened. The Ocean Road was closed... indefinitely!

A major rockslide at Muttonfish seemed the likely cause of the problem but it wasn't long before news got out that the whole side of a steep spur between St George River and She-Oak Creek was about to topple into the sea. Two gates were quickly erected across the road on either side of the slippage with steel guard rails right across to the cliff edge. No-one was allowed through!

This was catastrophic news for the Wye and Kennet River settlements and meant that Johnny Watson had to find a new route to Apollo Bay...a much longer route. We'd both have a real early start to the day for the drive up the Deans March Road to Benwerrin. From there we'd turn down the Mount Sabine Road, turn again onto the Grey River Track, then down to the Ocean Road. We'd then backtrack to Wye and start picking up school kids...mostly Moriartys. This seemed to work well until after one particularly wet night we were faced with a steep incline where rain had turned the clay road surface into a slippery mess. There was a good chance that the bus might side slip and tumble over the side of the so-called road and into a gully, but we had no choice. There was no room for the bus to do a U-turn.

Johnny and I gathered whatever we could find- armfuls of bracken and branches and laid them across fifty metres of slippery clay. Johnny rolled the bus back down the incline-then wacked her into first gear and floored it, while I hung out the door ready to leap clear if things got hairy. We got through this time but there was a long winter ahead and this road wasn't going to get any better. Trans Otway were not thrilled with the

idea of one of their buses sliding off a bush track either, so it was decided that from then on Johnny would have to leave the bus on the Wye side of the gate near the She-Oak. That meant an early morning start for us all, including Johnny's work mate and local identity, Norm Murnane. Norm would drive us to the gate. We could walk through to the far side, start up the bus and be on our way before the engineers arrived each morning from Wye. At that stage, no-one was quite sure what was going to happen to the potential land slip. It was feared the whole side the hill was about to collapse and end up in Bass Strait. Those fears were well founded. Huge cracks had appeared on the top of the bluff, and those cracks were increasing in size every week.

There were some crazy solutions offered and one even involved using the Royal Australian Navy, but the most logical was an idea to pump water from the mouth of the She-Oak up to the top of the bluff and into the crack, hoping to lubricate the lot so that yes, it would eventually collapse- but in a controlled manner. The pumping started but had little effect and when a similar process in Japan went pear-shaped, the engineers had to come up with a new idea. Meanwhile Johnny and I walked through the site each morning, boarded the bus and set off, returning each night and leaving the bus all locked up by the side of the road, which was a great idea- until it wasn't.

All went well until one Monday morning when the bus started to act up just after we had passed Cape Patton. We pulled over as clouds of steam came from the engine bay. Johnny was puzzled by the bus boiling over, until he noticed three round holes in the front of the bus. Bullet holes. Someone had come along the road on the weekend, couldn't get through the gates, and decided to use the front of the school bus for target practise. Not surprisingly, Trans Otway were not impressed with this either and wanted us both to move to Apollo Bay to live until further notice. Johnny Watson and I both considered this a fate worse than death, so it was decided that from then on, the bus would be parked at Wye River each night, and over the weekend. All Johnny and I had to do was find a way to get through the locked gates each morning. And before the engineers arrived and caught us in the act.

Fortunately, Johnny knew someone, who knew someone else and they knew someone who could get hold of the key to the gates, so Johnny had a copy made, and voila- we were through!

For a while.

To be continued... ❶

Ed – Lesley you said we needed a serial! This is for you!



Surf Coast Shire Councillor Column

News and Updates from Otway Range Ward

By Mike Bodsworth, Surf Coast Shire Councillor

In my last column I wrote that Council should soon hear about our application for 'Eco-Destination' certification.

Last month, certification was confirmed. Ecotourism Australia says it “recognises the dedication of the Surf Coast Shire team, businesses and residents in making the Surf Coast a model for responsible tourism in Australia.”

I'm delighted that our Council has achieved this certification because a style of tourism that focuses on deeper, more immersive, longer duration visits, is good for local economies, fits with local lifestyles and sensibilities, and provides wonderful, memorable experiences for visitors.

I also like how we're making a new commitment to a style of tourism that prevailed in Lorne's early days. Visiting the Lorne Historical Society for National Volunteer Week celebrations (more on that in closing) I reflected on Lorne's guest houses and the experiences they offered: a lot of socialising, Active days beachgoing, playing tennis, bathing and walking – including some pretty hardcore walks in rugged country – dining together on big shared tables and lively evenings of music, dancing and carousing.

That style of holiday is still a great fit for Lorne. The natural attractions are still superb and plenty of people love to come together in a walking or mountain biking party, on the doubles court, or around a big communal dinner table – having a fine time and making lifelong friends and memories.

Stronger investment in Lorne's walks and natural attractions is essential. The Great Ocean Road is a huge drawcard for Victoria and that needs to be reflected in funding for GORCAPA and Parks Victoria.

Speaking of investment, at the time of writing the draft 2026-27 Surf Coast Shire budget is out for public review and comment. The budget shows how Council plans to invest ratepayers' money in a broad range of activities to deliver public value and build communities.

One proposal in this draft budget is a new Integrated Transport Officer position – a role dedicated to improving walking and riding opportunities, advocating for better public transport and reducing car dependency in our Shire.

It's good timing, because the Federal Budget included \$500M over ten years for active transport (walking and riding). Though less than 1% of Australia's transport spend goes to active transport, there's growing recognition of the return on investment – at least \$6 for every dollar spent.

Our draft budget also proposes a second year of reduced rate differentials for Commercial and Farming categories, in recognition of tough times in those sectors.

It also includes important content on Budget Influences and Council's 'Financial Story' that explains why a lot of worthy initiatives end up missing out.

Finally, congratulations and thanks to all those whose volunteering efforts were recognised this National Volunteer Week at the beautifully revamped Lorne Historical Society building. The whole Lorne community was recognised as a 'Local Legend' for its response to January's flooding and fire threat. Doug Stirling was too (though Local Treasure may be more apt). ❶

Victoria's Surf Coast Achieves ECO Destination Certification

Ecotourism Australia is proud to announce that the Surf Coast Shire has officially earned ECO Destination Certification, formally recognising the region's adherence to global best practice sustainable tourism and environmental management standards.

Located south west of Melbourne, the Surf Coast marks the official start of the iconic Great Ocean Road. Comprising eleven distinct townships, the region is one of Victoria's fastest-growing municipalities and a premier destination for domestic and international travellers.

“We are delighted to welcome the Surf Coast region to our growing cohort of ECO Certified Destinations throughout Australia. This certification recognises the dedication of the Surf Coast Shire team, businesses and residents in making the Surf Coast a model for responsible tourism in Australia,” said Elissa Keenan, CEO of Ecotourism Australia.

“With exceptional nature-based experiences offered by ECO Certified operators such as Torquay Surf Academy, Southern Exposure Eco Adventure Sports and Go Ride A Wave, and sustainable accommodation offerings from Desa Retreats, RACV Torquay Resort, Great Ocean Road Resort and Mantra Lorne, visitors can explore the Surf Coast knowing they are supporting a region that values its environment as much as its vibrant lifestyle.”

This milestone establishes the Surf Coast Shire as the second destination in Victoria to attain ECO Destination Certification, following East Gippsland's certification in April 2023, and the 15th destination in Australia. ❶

Plant Names

By Doug Williams

Billy buttons gets its name because its shape of course and for the bright, sunny spread they give to the floor of your garden bed as they neatly range across the ground. They are a tidy but unassuming plant and a cousin – also called a pycnosaurus, John - is known as drumsticks since they stand up on slender stalks and weave about in any breeze.

A bit like the breeze, an Easterly for example, which scrambles the ocean with uneven waves and fills the air with spindrift, any wind will push at the banksias to turn their leaves upside down to show their leaves’ pale greyish nether sides so we can see why they are called silver banksia. Silver banksia is the common name of Banksia marginata, commonly grown around Lorne and is a great landscape tree for its longevity, size and its wonderful ability to attract black cockatoos for the seed pods as well as provide nectar to honeyeaters like the eastern spinebill and New Holland honeyeater.

I discovered Sticky Wattle when I grasped a handful of leaves to prune them where they were in a screen planting. I figured the reason for the stickiness was to deter pests, which it is, but it is also a means to prevent water loss. I grew a clump of these near a house because I knew it was a retardant and would offer a degree of protection if there was a fire.

There is a hakea one can’t get going here known as Hakea Burrendong Beauty which was discovered at the Burrendong Arboretum near Wellington near Lake Burrendong in New South Wales. It’s worth a visit, I went there. When Lake Burrendong was formed it flooded the gold mining town of Burrendong. This hakea has a fabulous floral display but is not suited to climates like Lorne because of the high humidity we have in summer. Similarly Myoporum Monaro Marvel which will grow here is another named after its region of discovery. Agonis Weeping Wonder is a small tree



Kennedia Running Postman

that looks like someone has draped a net of showy white flowers over it. (This is also alliteratively named because of its appearance.)

The common naming of plants may describe not only place of origin but growth habit. Locally occurring is leucophyta brownii which is known as cushion bush because of its appearance - though it doesn’t look too comfortable. It’s a great little plant to have beside the driveway because its light grey cushions of foliage reflect your car’s headlights when you drive in at night. Some names of plants are not very inspiring but Lambertia Formosa Mountain Devil roused my curiosity, as does Chef’s Cap correa. Kennedia Running Postman grows here alongside places like the Policeman’s Track and verges at the Country Club and is so called because its red colouring once matched the colour of Postmen’s uniforms and it doesn’t run along the ground, it scrambles and creeps. I wonder how pigface got its name or how Nullabor Nymph got hers. I do like the tight orgasmic sound of Crowea Ecstasy and like to imagine how this description could come about. ①

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It just isn’t coffee!

By Eva Janice Youl

Why are people walking around with coffee, or other drinks, in so called disposable cups? During the Covid period, it seemed to me that most people took their own cup to their coffee shop. We were good at it. There are some baristas who didn’t like it so much, including a local barista, who said “sometimes I had to wash out dirty cups before I could make the coffee!”

But, putting grotty behaviour aside we still have grotty behaviour with people tossing disposable cups along Lorne walking tracks. It’s not just coffee single use cups, but the plastic cups used for iced coffee, matcha, smoothies etc that seem to be prevalent. In South Australia there are bans on most plastic beverage cups. I realise that there is a cost factor for cafes to consider when deciding on use of single use cups and the sit down at the cafe crockery cups.

But, why does there seem to be a growing preference for sole use takeaway cups everywhere, not just Lorne, with people walking down the street drinking their coffee? Even hip Brunswick cafes seem to be selling the majority of coffee orders in disposable cups, especially the trendy hole in the wall cafes. Although I must admit some have boomerang cups that you could borrow if you forgot your own.

I have to admit Lorne is rather litter-free compared to parts of Melbourne and sections of Geelong Road. Popping a used cup into the bush, or throwing them out a car window, is inexcusable and putting a cup into a bin also has big consequences.

Data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics showed Australia produced about 13 million tonnes of household waste in the 2022-23 financial year. Much of that household waste is collected by local councils, which pay contractors to collect bins and pay to establish, fill and cap landfill.

According to Clean Up Australia, most disposable coffee cups are typically lined with polyethylene (PE), a petroleum-based plastic that makes them waterproof. These linings contain “forever plastics.” While some eco-friendly options use polylactic acid (PLA) – a plant-based plastic—or aqueous (water-based) coatings, most traditional paper cups rely on thin PE linings that make them difficult to recycle.

Yes, most disposable coffee cups contain plastic linings—often polyethylene or bioplastics—that act as “forever plastics” or contain “forever chemicals” (PFAS).

These waterproof linings can release thousands of microplastic particles and potential toxins into hot beverages. There is the release of thousands of



“I realise that there is a cost factor for cafes to consider when deciding on use of single use cups and the sit down at the cafe crockery cups.”

microplastic particles into your body and also into the environment.

Everyone has freedom to drink their preferred beverage the way they like.

However, you don’t see Europeans walking around with a cup of coffee. Be like an Italian and sit down with a coffee in a proper crockery mug. Settling down with a friend for a few minutes has mental health benefits. So, next time look out at the ocean and think

“Am I doing my best to keep it pristine, or are we contributing to a worldwide pollution problem.” ①

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Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne

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Shavings from the Shed

By Allan Walls

No doubt you will have read, or will read, the article in the *Lorne Independent* this month on page 4, about the bin aprons to cocky-proof Lorne's red bins. It's been a massive 5-year task by shedders to improve the Community in which we live.

This week, we were visited by Sarah Gleeson, the Surf Coast Shire's media representative, and our very own councillor, Leon Walker, who are promoting our bin apron project. The Surf Coast Council had ordered 500 bin aprons.

It's come to our notice that Kevin Riley and Rod Van Ingen are always working on Op Shop projects, so a number of us are wondering what the connection is. (Op Shop says they are modern Knights in Shining Armour.)

June 12th will mark the official opening of the new facade of the Lorne Historical Society. The construction of the facade was undertaken by the Lorne and District Men's Shed over several years, and it looks magnificent. Is there no limit to what we can do?

I think it's time I mentioned our noisy but somewhat unsung hero, John Bliss. Despite a number of health issues lately, John still fronts up nearly every morning as our resident barista. To assist him, Jason of Aquatic Club fame has offered to teach any shedder the art of coffee making. Thanks, Jason.

Few likely notice that John also empties the Lorne and District wishing well near the surf club. The coins are somewhat dirty, and that's not all he finds in the well. If you haven't seen the wishing well, walk past it, throw in some of the coins (gold) that you have lying around, and we promise to spend it wisely.

Speaking of spending, we have now completed the installation of our new kitchen, and it looks fantastic. There is more than a hint of black and white, but we should have known as Bob Sinclair chose the colours. Kevin Riley also assisted in design and installation – well done, Kev.

The Commonwealth Bank has kindly donated \$750 to the Shed for ongoing projects for which we thank them.

The restoration of the skiff, Marion, is proving to be a much bigger project than we expected, so it may take a little longer than we'd planned. It seems our steam bending of the ribs is causing some time delays. We thank Shedder Stuart Stribling for his ongoing financial support of this project.

Shedder Doug Hopkins is a real trooper – every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday morning, he picks up Doug, Angelo, and Steve from the nursing home and brings them to the shed for coffee, then takes them back after the shed closes each day.

We are currently investigating the installation of a hearing loop in the Social Room for those with hearing difficulties.

We are planning a trip to the Fox Car Museum (thanks again, David Worth), and another defibrillator training course.

Our balcony rails have recently been painted, thanks to the Surf Coast Shire.

Finally, despite the shed being full of R/C yachts, we are all kept busy, and our membership continues to grow. 📞

Letters to the Editor

Lorne to Colac Summer Bus Service Update

We have recently received the patronage figures for 2025-2026. As we expected the total represents a lower figure than last year. This is easily explained by the fact that the bus schedule for the period was interrupted on several days. Firstly, due to the flooding, when the service was cancelled for two days. Secondly due the bushfires NW of Lorne which affected those living in Lorne and communities along the whole route, as well as tourists. Finally, the service was not scheduled to run on Australia Day.

Having carried out an analysis of the per day patronage figures between the previous and this years' service, there in fact an actual a small increase.

After 5 years of campaigning there is some very exciting news from the Surf Coast Shire. Counsellor Mike Bodsworth informs me better public transport is now a focus in Council's advocacy priorities and has also been very prominent is their advocacy leading towards the State election.

There is also a proposal for a new Integrated Transport Officer position in the draft budget. The budget is due to be passed on Tuesday 23rd June, and if this proposal is accepted then the position will be created as soon as possible. We will then have a member of staff dedicated to public and active transport planning and action.

Here's hoping that by next summer there will be some idea of the timing of an PTV annual bus service. 📞

– Juliet Beatty, Deans Marsh

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Keith Miller LACC
Commodore



COVER STORY

THE WORLD SAUSAGE ROLL CHAMPIONSHIPS

FREE Sausage Rolls & Cheap Drinks All Night

WHERE: Lorne Surf Club

WHEN: Sunday 7th June (King's Birthday Long Weekend) From 4pm

CATEGORIES: Best, biggest, smallest and funniest.

The best tasting one chosen by our panel of judges will be the Official World Champion. Generous prizes will be awarded to the winner of each category. The world champ will have their name engraved on the Gold Cup as part of the prize. We only need one sausage roll for judging, but if you can please bring extras to feed our starving members it would be very much appreciate Last year's winner was Tony Speer.

FRIDAY NIGHT GET TOGETHER AT THE SURF CLUB

These are continuing to be great fun night with a good turn up of members continuing our traditional free sausage sizzle and world's best prawns raffle. We are hoping to get enough attending each week so we can keep these going until we move back into our new clubhouse.

FISHING COMP NUMBER FOUR

Sponsored by Lorne Concreting – Tom Dawson

Sunday 7th June, the comp runs from 6am until the deadline of 12:30pm. Weigh-in starts at midday. It's free to enter for members and all competitors get a free roast lunch. Prizes are awarded for first, second and third in both the junior and senior categories. Juniors must be under the age of 18. You can only weigh in one fish each, so anyone can win on the day, and it's environmentally friendly. Come and have a crack. It's great fun.

Weigh-in, lunch, refreshments and presentations will all be held at Stribling Reserve, downstairs near the canteen and booth.

REDEVELOPMENT REPORT

It's all progressing nicely now, with the sea wall starting about 30 metres on the town side of our club house and has now reached the pier. It will then continue south of the pier and finish at the boat launching channel access ramp.

The old boat ramp that is used as the entry point for the Pier to Pub is staying and the rocks have been neatly placed either side of it.



Now the asbestos has been removed from the CoOp, and it's been completely demolished and is now just a memory. (Very sad for a lot of people, including myself)

Our Club House has just had the slab poured and it looks pretty big. It appears to be much bigger than I imagined it would be. The sea wall is very impressive, and they have done an excellent job using huge rocks, the ones at the base are gigantic. This wall is very different to the Cathedral Rock wall and others along the road. I've been told that the others are too smooth, which allows the waves to surge unimpeded up and down too far and too fast which results in water occasionally going over the top and washing the sand away from their foundations when going back down too fast. This could cause the walls to break apart over the coming years.

The old sea wall that was tipped in front of our old club house 40 odd years ago with no marine engineers telling them how they should do it was working 100% perfectly well, so why they went for the smooth ones is a mystery. The good news is that it appears that they have recognised this issue and our new wall has heaps of big gaps which will slow the waves to avoid any issue.

Also it allows them to build the wall faster and it will give the marine life a great home, especially the little black crabs and our local shellfish.

The big issue is south of the pier behind the old CoOp where there are no rocks. A few years ago we had a big swell, a spring tide and a strong onshore wind and about 1 1/2 metres of the bank was washed away in only a few hours. I remember calling Warren Norton to tell him his tractor was about to fall into the ocean. It was quickly moved. The new wall will solve this problem so that's great news.

FISHING REPORT

We still haven't got access to the pier or boat channel, but there's been a few boats coming our way from Anglesea and Apollo Bay. They've been catching plenty of Flathead, Pinkies, Gummy's and the odd Nannygai.

There's been a lot of rock fishing being done with reports of Salmon, Snapper, Gummy's and the odd King George Whiting being landed.

There's a possibility that access will be available in June.

KNOTS OR NAUTICAL MILES

Back in the 1600's, sailors invented a way to measure speed which they called a 'Chip Log'. It was a simple triangle shaped piece of wood attached to a rope with knots tied in it, every 47 feet 4 inches that they called a 'Log Line'. They used an hourglass that took 28 seconds to fill. They then threw the chip into the water and counted how many knots passed in that 28 seconds. If ten knots passed, they were travelling at 10 knots etc.

One knot is one nautical mile, which equals 1.8 kilometres. The knot is still used today to measure speed and distance over water and in the air. It's also commonly used to measure the speed of the wind.



NEAREST THE PIN, BUT NOT GOLF

We are running a competition for a limited time with a \$500 first prize. The profits will go to local charities. Brian Tickell is managing the comp and doing a great job. It's \$10 per entry where you have to guess the date and time the first beer is sold at the new clubhouse. Naturally Hutch is banned from entering.

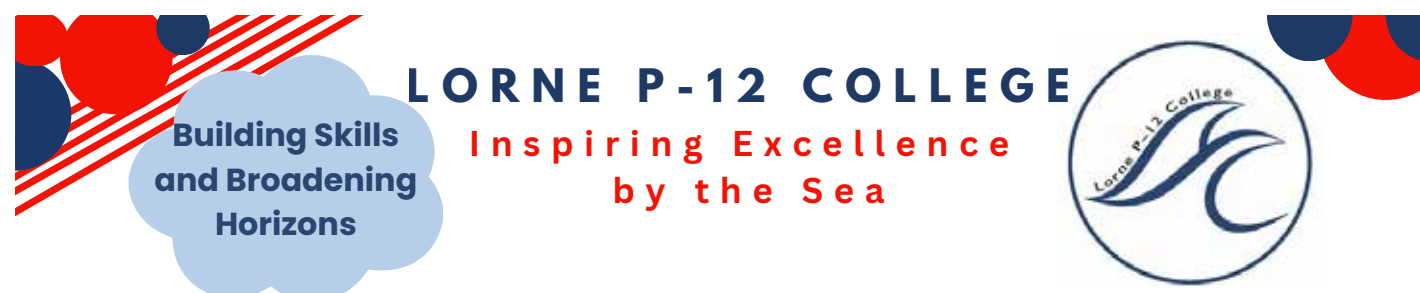
You can enter as many times as you like. There will have to be a cut off date as the build gets going.

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Local Craftsmanship Comes to Life at Lorne P-12 College

Students at Lorne P-12 College are getting their hands dirty, in the best possible way, thanks to a revitalised woodwork program led by local craftsman and educator Will Butler.

Will, who lives in Lorne, has returned to teaching after years running his own business in nearby Deans Marsh. With a background in industrial design, specialising in furniture, he brings both technical expertise and a deep appreciation for craftsmanship into the classroom.

"I always loved teaching," Will says. "Running my own business was rewarding, but I felt a real pull to come back and share what I know with young people."

That passion is evident in the school's woodwork program, now offered to students from Year 9 through to Year 12. Rather than following rigid templates, students are encouraged to design and build their own unique pieces, developing both creativity and practical skills.

"It's not just about making something that works," Will explains. "It's about making something that reflects who you are. I want students to put their own flair into every project."

Adding to the authenticity of the program, Will holds his own forestry permit, allowing him to sustainably harvest Blackwood timber. This gives students a rare opportunity to work with locally sourced materials and gain an understanding of the full journey, from tree to finished product.

The result is a program that blends design thinking, craftsmanship, and environmental awareness, all grounded in real-world experience.

For many students, it's more than just a class, it's a chance to discover a passion, build confidence, and create something they can be proud of.

As Will puts it, "There's nothing quite like seeing a student hold something they've designed and built themselves. That's where the magic happens."



Urban Adventures

Our Year 8 students recently returned from an incredibly valuable and eye-opening Urban Camp in Melbourne. This camp focused on developing a deeper understanding of homelessness and the complex challenges faced by many individuals and families in our community. Throughout the experience, students gained powerful insights into some of the reasons people find themselves without stable housing, as well as ongoing barriers and

hardships they face. It was a meaningful opportunity that fostered empathy, perspective and a strong sense of gratitude among both students and staff. We are incredibly proud of how our students represented Lorne P-12 College throughout the camp. They demonstrated respect, curiosity and maturity, embracing every opportunity to learn and reflect. This was a fantastic experience that combined real-world learning, cultural understanding and personal growth, one that will stay with our students for years to come.



Email: lorne.p12.co@education.vic.gov.au

Phone: (03) 52 891585

www.lornep12.vic.edu.au

Christos Poetry Prize 2026

LORNE P-12 COLLEGE

Lorne P-12 College is proud to present the Christos Poetry Prize, running from 18th May to 12th June.

The prize is inspired by the legacy of local poet Christos Raskatos, who ran Lorne Fisheries in his flamboyant, generous, and poetic style for so many years.

Students of Lorne P-12 College, families, and community members are invited to submit original poems. Selected entries will be displayed throughout the community during the prize period.

THEME – *My Special Place*

Entrants are encouraged to interpret the theme in their own creative way.

Age Categories

Prep – Grade 4

Grade 5 – Grade 9

Grade 10 – Year 12

PRIZES

Prizes will be awarded to the winner and runner-up in each Lorne P-12 student age category.

COMMUNITY SUBMISSIONS

Families, staff, and community members are warmly encouraged to enter original poems.

Selected works may be displayed; however, community entries are not eligible for prizes.

Entry Requirements

- Poems must respond to the theme *My Special Place*
- Maximum 35 lines
- Handwritten entries only
- Submit in person to the Lorne P-12 College front office

Entries close: Friday 12th June 2026 at 3:30pm

THE CHRISTOS POETRY PRIZE

My Special Place

18th May to 12th June



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SURF COAST SHIRE LOCAL LEGENDS AWARDS 2026

Congratulations to all the Local Legends recipients for the Group Volunteer Excellence Award

(L-R) Mary-Joy Nuñez, Cumberland River Holiday Park Manager; Ram Nuñez, Cumberland River Holiday Park Manager; Karen Pitt, Lorne Op Shop; Janet Goud, Lorne Op Shop President; Ted Paige-Walker, Lorne Surf Life Saving Club; Cr Mike Bodsworth, Surf Coast Shire Council.



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Capturing breathtaking north-facing views across the sparkling waters of Louttit Bay, the residence centres around a light-filled open-plan living and dining domain. Bi-fold windows create seamless indoor-outdoor connection to the spacious entertaining deck complete with built-in BBQ, while the rear courtyard with cascading water feature provides a tranquil place to unwind.

Accommodation includes five generous bedrooms, highlighted by an oversized master retreat with impressive double ensuite and adjoining room ideal as a private study or nursery. Additional bedrooms enjoy leafy outlooks over the backyard and access to spacious family bathrooms.

The lower level is dedicated to fun and relaxation, featuring a large rumpus room with big-screen TV, table tennis and games area, alongside a double lock-up garage. Additional features include a wood fire, chef's kitchen, outdoor shower, fire pit and basketball ring.

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Clementine Calling

May 21 was a bad day for *Clementine*. First, she pressed the Command C to send her writings to the Editor and lo and behold she lost a month's work in one moment. Not even kind Peter Spring could find the blooming thing!!

So, this month's writings are hastily scrambled together. Then she went out to her nature strip to find that a man from the Council had been on her nature strip and marked huge numbers of the native plants with red paint indicating they are to be hacked out later (If it happens to you paint over the red with brown paint!). These plants were planted after a strenuous effort during Covid digging out agapanthus with the aid of Santi, one of our beloved South Americans. Continuing her walk, now in a fury, she arrived at David Grant's house to discover Doug Stirling's little white Mary parked there. Doug was meant to be at the Celebrations for Volunteers Week down at the Historic Society where he was to receive an award given by the Surf Shire Council for being a local legend. Doug and David were in ignorance of this while they sipped their tea. Doug was being looked for everywhere. Clementine was a winner as they both gave me a lovely smile and after greeting me I got a kiss!! Ignorance is bliss, Doug had no idea he was being looked for.

Amongst the gossip in the previously written *Clementine*, was an account of Gary Allan's 80th birthday, a party which was held in the Bowls Club. It was beautifully organised by Peter Spring and we all sat at flower decked tables enjoying a magnificent lunch. Peter made a great speech as did Garry telling us of his many achievements. We remember him well as the Principal of the School, our own Councillor and a great worker for the Bowls Club. I remember him selling raffle tickets in the days when Luke was the chef of the Bowls Club. Geoff Couper enjoyed the party, as did his sister Gail, and fit old Geoff got off his surfboard to make a splendid speech remembering their old times together at the Lorne School. Don Baldwin came down from Surfers Paradise for the event and was staying with John and Barbara Barber. Don presented Gary with a most impressive OBE, which much to our amusement turned out to be an Over Bloody Eighty medal. Sartorial splendour awards went to Keith Miller for his shirt decorated with fish reminding us that he is Commodore of the Aquatic Club and to the former principal of Aireys Inlet school Peter Stevens who was sitting with Doug Williams and also wore a shirt covered in fishes.

Early in April I was enjoying an early morning on the beach. The tide was so far out I felt I could walk to Tasmania. I bumped into the energetic John Hayden running past with his dog and getting himself fit for their trip to visit his family. Further down the coast and approaching Fat Ladies Beach, I bumped into Tirion, the daughter of Glen Alsop. Glen Alsop was born in the Birregurra Hospital 80 years ago but sadly died at the age of 60. Tirion was celebrating that day as had she lived she would have turned 80. She was celebrating with a bottle of Mumms and had placed a lovely bunch of flowers on the rocks. Sadly, I wasn't offered a sip of the Mumms but it looked yummy,

Strangely, Gary Allen was born a few hours after Glen in the Birregurra Hospital as there was not a hospital in Lorne in those days. The pregnant Mums had to drive for about 1 hour on an ordinary road to have their babies. Gary said he shared a birthday with Adolph Hitler!! whilst Glen was born a few hours earlier, so she shared her birthday with the Queen and Shakespeare!! She did better than you Gary!!

Chick and Glen Hocking who once ran the Post Office and later the Hardware have left Lorne to go and live at 13th Beach near Ocean Grove. A surprise party was organised for them by Clive Goldsworthy at the Pacific Hotel and about 30 Lornies went to say goodbye and good luck.

Sadly, Jen Dulloo died in the Lorne Hospital after a long illness. She and her Mauritian husband came to live in Lorne in the 1990s' and she was a much-admired bowler at the Bowls Club. She was a fanatic follower of Collingwood, admiring Max Pitt and a devout Christian. She will be sadly missed by many Lornies.

Our very own Pacific Hotel was up in Melbourne for the Australian Hotels Association awards held in The Crown. Mary-Ann looked splendid in a beautiful black dress and her face was glowing after a facial and make up. Mat looked pretty good too. They were accompanied by the handsome bar boys Josh and Flynn, along with Camilla and Mark. The chefs Michael and Ellie had a good time as did Nabine, their chef from Nepal. They all celebrated into the wee hours their achievements. They came second in the Best Outdoor Experience and in the Best Redevelopment Hotel. Good on you our friends at The Pacific, and thanks for the beautifully illuminated lace work which looks like a petticoat at night. ❶

Apologises, everyone if this month's *Clementine* is a bit poor but it has been put together in great haste so as to not let the Editor down.

"... Gary said he shared a birthday with Adolph Hitler!! whilst Glen was born a few hours earlier, so she shared her birthday with the Queen and Shakespeare!! She did better than you Gary!!"



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Op Shop Buzz

By Karen Pitt

What an excellent month this has been for our Op Shop! The cooler weather has barely diminished the weekend visitors; and seems to have encouraged our donors to undertake yet another cull of surplus items. Every week, we watch one man or woman's no-longer-loved item become another's treasure.

Recent donations have taken this volunteer down memory lane – two big boxes of beautifully made Stella Long millinery [its almost disrespectful to call them hats] reminded me of my mother's monthly trips to Block Arcade in the mid 1950s, where she would make surreptitious sketches of the millinery in the boutiques of Anne Austin and Stella Long. Then recreate them for sale to Melbourne's horse-racing crowd, often within the same week.

The op shop is also offering - at the time of writing at least – some beautiful silk dresses by Camilla with embroidery and other embellishments, some with the original swing tags.

We were proud to be honoured in May, with many of Lorne's other volunteer groups, as a Surf Coast Shire Local Legend. This award was made to the community, to acknowledge the generous and immediate response of our community groups to the flash flooding in Lorne [and elsewhere] on 15 January 2026. Many of you will already know that the Lorne community quickly kicked into action to support our drenched campers, and organised a plethora of services including accommodation, meals and, from the op shop, dry clothes.

Lorne's own Doug Stirling received his own Local Legend award, for his decades of community service, including over 80 years for the Lorne RSL and as Australia's oldest men's shedder.

Thank you once again to our customers and donors. The revenue you generate continues to allow the OpShop to make substantial contributions to community projects. This month we purchased two special chairs for Lorne Hospital dialysis patients - who undergo long sessions each week, and this donation will ensure their comfort and safety during those treatments.

We were also delighted to support the Lorne School by purchasing a near new second-hand bus to assist with the daily commute of those students who live out of Lorne. It's easy to forget that our school attracts students, not just from Lorne, but also from Aireys Inlet, Anglesea, Wye River, Kennett River, Deans Marsh, Bambra and beyond.

Many visitors ask which church or institutional charity operates our op shop, and I enjoy explaining that we are an independent incorporated association, that we own our premises thanks to fundraising in the 1970s and some very generous donors, that our workers are all volunteers and that all goods are donated.

So huge thanks again to all who pass through our doors and please share our pride in the support we provide. Don't forget to read the list of major grant recipients as you enter. ①





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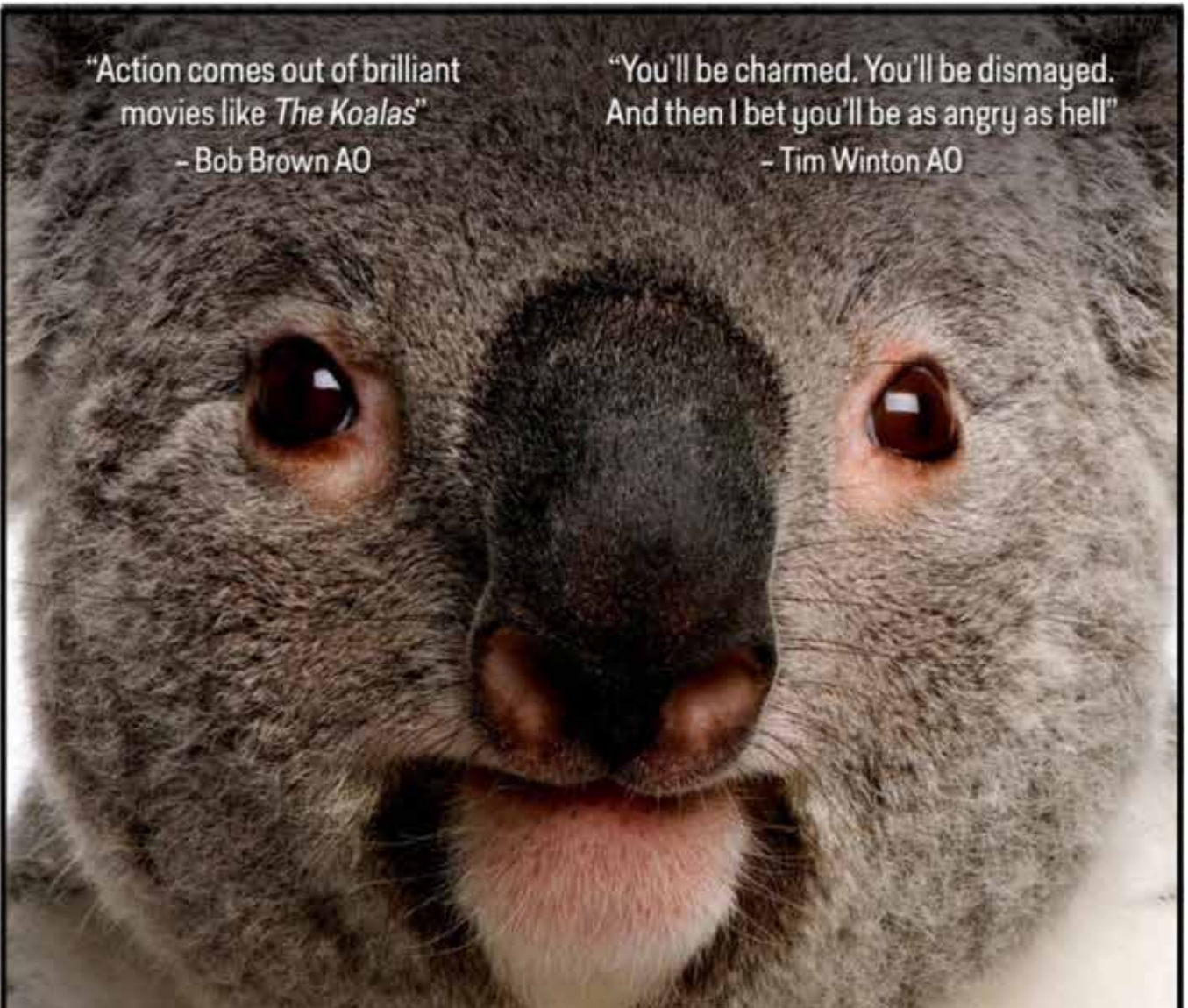
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- Tim Winton AO



The Koalas

A MOVIE ABOUT SURVIVAL



A Special Screening presented by the Conservation Ecology Centre

LORNE THEATRE

Sunday 7th June 3.00pm

The screening will be followed by a Q&A hosted by the **Conservation Ecology Centre** with CEO and Founder, **Lizzie Corke OAM**; conservation welfare photojournalist and lecturer, **Doug Gimesy**; wildlife rescue and shelter operator for over 25 years, **Beth Gardiner**; and **Jessica Robertson** from **Koala Alliance**.

Tickets - lornetheatre.com.au \$15.00 Adults \$14.00 Concession \$13 Child

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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.

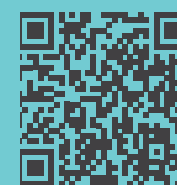
Learn, share, and get involved! We're working together with the community to enhance our region.

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



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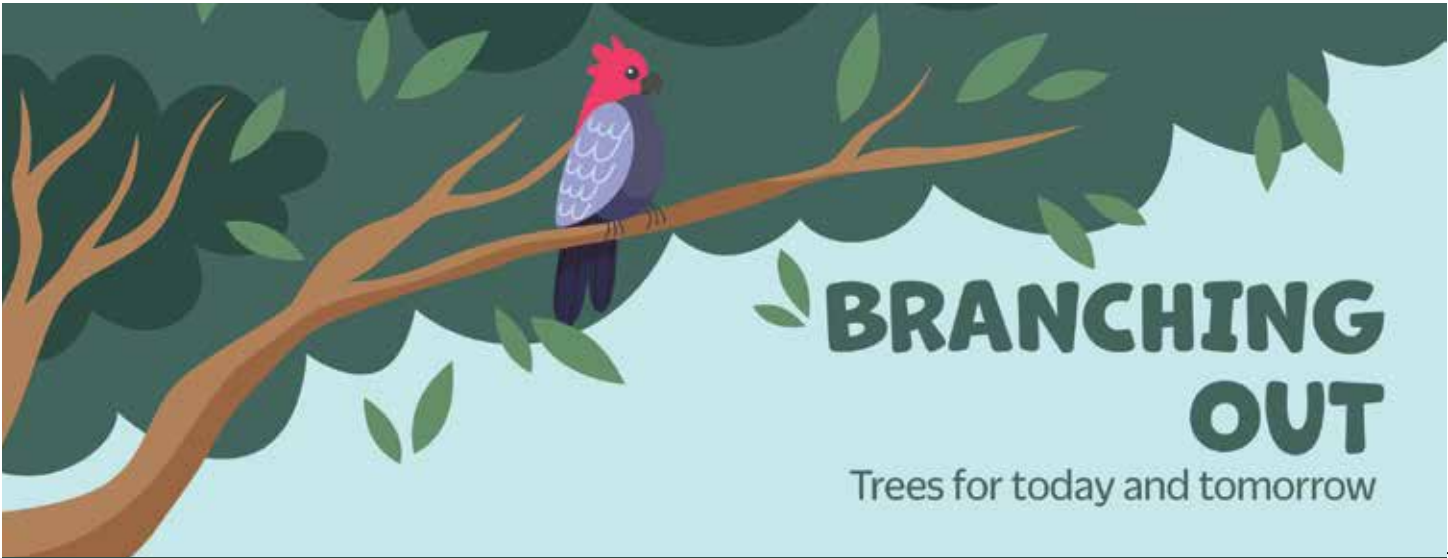


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GROWING GREENER STREETS, TOGETHER

Help shape the future of trees in our townships

Branching Out is a long-term plan to increase the number of trees across our townships - creating greener, cooler and more liveable places.

Our vision is a resilient, connected and diverse tree canopy that supports the health and wellbeing of our community.



Deans Marsh Primary School students helped water new trees outside their school, planted as part of a Branching Out project in partnership with the Deans Marsh Streetscapers.



Growing Winchelsea's Arboretum Trail sub committee also partnered with Council to help develop the draft plan.

Our draft Branching Out Implementation Plan outlines how and where trees will be planted on public land over the next 10 years.



HAVE YOUR SAY
We're inviting community feedback to help shape this long-term vision.



SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK

- Take our short survey by 15 June at yoursay.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/branching-out
- Submit feedback by: 26 June 2026



DEANS MARSH STREET SCAPERS



Wear Orange Wednesday – Honouring Volunteers, Strengthening Capability, Saving Lives

WOW Day or Wear Orange Wednesday



Wear Orange Wednesday was celebrated on the 20th of May. It is a National Day of Recognition dedicated to thanking SES volunteers for their service to communities.

This year, WOW Day took place during National Volunteer Week (18–24 May) – a week that recognises the contribution of volunteers from all walks of life. It's a great moment to highlight the important work of the SES and the commitment of its members.

Rig, Check, Belay, Rescue — Skills That Prevent On Scene Errors and Save Lives

VICSES Safe Working at Heights (SWAHS) is a rope based rescue and access system used by trained VICSES volunteers for safe roof and elevated work operations during storms and building damage. It requires certified training, a minimum of three-person team, two secure anchors, and a maximum system load of 250 kg. Our Operators must be trained and assessed in working at heights technique. Nationally recognised units such as RIIWHS204E Work Safely at Heights underpin practical competency and ensure consistent, auditable standards for rescue and access work.

May was dedicated to a series of hands-on training sessions. Supervised by a qualified SES Assessor, this ensured volunteers can rig anchors, perform dynamic load checks, manage belay systems, and coordinate multi-person rescues—skills that reduce on-scene errors and protect both volunteers and the public.



When Every Call Matters: 52 Responses in Five Months

At the time of writing this article, we had only attended to a Request for Assistance with a tree partially blocking a road during May. From January to May, we had a busy period with 52 Requests for Assistance. It has been a mixed bag, including:

Aircraft Accident (Hand Glider)	1	Assist Ambulance	2
Assist Fire Service	1	Assist Other Agency	2
Assist Police	1	Building Damage (Storm)	1
Community Engagement	2	Flooding Potential to enter Premises	6
Ground Observations	1	Incident Other Dispatched & Cancelled	3
Landslide	4	Rescue Persons Trapped	3
Tree Down on Vehicle	1	Tree Down Powerlines.	2
Tree Down Restricting Access	5	Tree Down Single Structure	1
Tree Down Threatening to Fall	1	Tree Down Traffic Hazard	13
Water Rescue Inland	3		

From Specs to Submission — Our VESEP-Funded Twin Cab Is Officially Ordered

The VESEP 2025-26 Grant Program is swinging into action. The unit has finalised the specifications for our Twin Cab Support Vehicle, including a) Vehicle Type, b) Tray & Locker Option, c) Internal Fit out, d) Roof Bar Options, and e) Accessories. These vehicles don't come cheap, \$147,000 with the unit contributing \$48,000. This is likely to be significantly reduced, due to the trade-in value of our current vehicle. Our order has been submitted by VICSES Fleet Management.

Stay safe from the SES Lorne Unit.

For VICSES emergency response, call 13 25 00
If your situation is life-threatening, call 000
Follow us on our Facebook page – SES Lorne Unit.

TERMITE WATCH

PEST CONTROL

Here's your reminder to book your annual termite inspection.



If it's been over 12 months since your last property inspection, it's time to protect your home from termites. Routine checks allow early detection, recommended annually by AS 3660.2-2000. Our comprehensive inspection, priced at \$357.50 (incl. GST), involves a detailed inspection and written report on your property.

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Tribute to Rob Knowles, AO

In tribute to the sad passing of Great Ocean Road Health Board Director, the Hon. Rob Knowles AO, we would like to acknowledge his significant contributions to our organisation and the broader health sector.

Rob greatly valued his time with Great Ocean Road Health, and previously with Otway Health. He advocated strongly for access to quality care for all community members, from all walks of life. Rob particularly enjoyed director rounding, his conversations with staff, meeting residents and clients. He always contributed thoughtfully to our Board discussions and was both a mentor and an equal.

Our health service greatly benefited from his wise counsel. Rob brought a welcome sense of humour to our work, balanced with deep expertise in health, governance and leadership. He focused on ensuring our decisions supported integrated health care for all members of our community.

Rob was a true statesman, respectful, generous with his knowledge, humble in his approach and always attentive to others.

Having him on our Board has been a privilege and a highlight. We will miss his humanity, his friendship and warmth.

Vale Rob Knowles

Dr Joy Humphreys, Chair Great Ocean Road Health



EOFY Tax Deductible Donation To GORH

As the end of the financial year approaches, we invite you to consider making a **tax deductible donation** to support **Great Ocean Road Health's Annual Appeal**. This year we are raising funds to improve access to great health care, close to home. To donate, visit our website: www.greatoceanroadhealth.vic.gov.au/support-us

Flu Vaccinations at the Lorne Medical Centre

Appointments are available at our Lorne Medical Centre. Getting an annual flu vaccination boost each year helps prevent you from getting ill with influenza and limits the spread of the virus to others in the community, particularly those most vulnerable to infection. By getting the vaccine in May, you give your immune system the best chance to develop protection well ahead of peak flu season, which is usually in July/August. Please call our friendly reception team to book an appointment on 5289 4333.

Enhanced Measles Response Program at the Lorne Medical Centre

Lorne Medical Centre was successful in its application for the Enhanced Measles Response Program (EMRP), a Victorian Department of Health initiative responding to increased measles activity globally and the heightened risk of local incursions across Victoria. Adults born between 1966 and 1992 are likely to have received only one dose of measles-containing vaccine in childhood and therefore remain under-immunised. Lorne Medical Centre will undertake a Quality Improvement Activity during the period (1 April – 13 June 2026) with the aim of improving MMR vaccination coverage among eligible patients. The practice will recall identified patients and deliver MMR vaccinations where appropriate. Please call our friendly reception team if you have any enquiries on 5289 4333.

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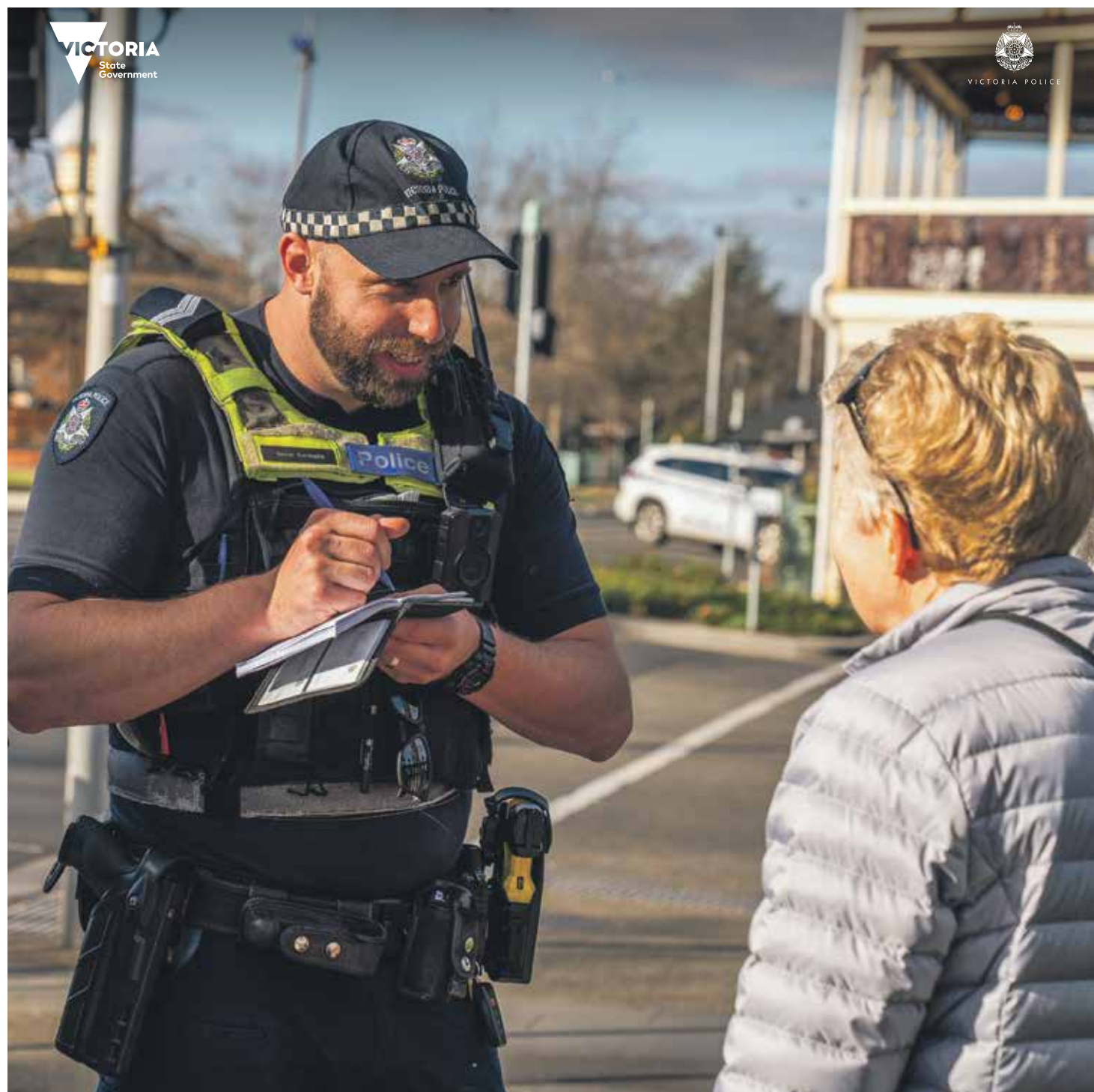
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Happy 80th Birthday, Codger

By Pete Spring

If you see a bluey/grey Subaru station wagon around town with the rear window plastered with Geelong Cats membership stickers and the number plate, “CODGE”, that’s John Agar – frequent contributor to the *Lorne Independent* and the Committee for Lorne page in the *Surf Coast Times*.



John, who has been coming to Lorne all his life and who has been a permanent resident for many years now, turned 80 on May 17th and his family hosted a lunch for a group of friends and relatives to celebrate the occasion.

It was a great afternoon of good food, lots of wine and much merriment. John’s children Nick and Penny and their partners had prepared a speech that they referred to as a “This is Your Life” rather than the dreaded Eulogy.

The opening words set the tone.

“Dad, the Renaissance Man:

A renaissance man is someone with deep curiosity; a poet; someone with knowledge across many different fields, someone who never stops learning, exploring, creating, and pushing boundaries. That is our Dad”.

Nick and Penny went on to say about John, “In his career, Dad always pushed boundaries. He relentlessly advocated for changes to healthcare systems in Australia and the US to improve patient care. Awarded an OAM in 2009 for services to medicine recognising his impact on patients’ quality of life. And until only recently he supported patients all around the world in a chat-room style forum, showing his dedication to nephrology patients. Dad’s talents are remarkably broad. At heart, he’s a physician and a scientist, but he’s equally creative, and there are telltale signs he’s actually a frustrated surgeon. There are dozens of model boats scattered between our homes - beautiful examples of craftsmanship, patience technical skill and imagination combined.”

Nick and Penny continued, “In more recent years, settling in Lorne has brought Dad enormous happiness. The friendships he has built here - through the Men’s Shed, the Aquatic Club, Wallsy’s garage gatherings, four-wheel-driving trips, and adventures to Merrijig and Palm Cove - have brought him immense joy. Nick and I could not be happier seeing him so ‘ensconced’ and connected to community and friendship.”

It was a privilege and a joy to share this occasion with John, his family and friends. Here’s to many more birthday celebrations. 🍷

Ed. Note – Happy birthday From the team at the Lorne Independent!! Write on moving finger!!!



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From the Deck

Can Fish Talk and Sing?

By John Agar

A few weeks ago, Linton Ferguson posted a question on the Lorne Facebook page, asking whether anyone knew about the small white buoy that appeared to be anchored far out towards the horizon in Louttit Bay. I answered [with maximal guesswork and minuscule certainty] that I thought it was a FAD [a Fish Aggregation Device] – of which there are now several tethered to the sea floor along our southern shoreline.

FADs are structures placed in the ocean to attract pelagic fish such as mackerel, trevally, snapper, cod, and tuna, making them easier for anglers to locate. They act as focal points where fish can gather, shelter, rest, and feed. Marine lanterns, ropes, and chains, seeded with seaweeds and other fish-habitat yummys, are suspended at different depths beneath the FADs to attract baitfish and other small sea life. In turn, larger predator fish – those prized by anglers – are drawn to the food source. Together, this creates an open-ocean ecosystem where none existed before. Think of it as a one-stop Marine McDonald's, KFC, and Dunkin' Donuts, all aggregated within a come-one-come-all fishy chatroom.

The appearance of this new FAD in the bay made me think of our approaching annual June-October whale season. Then, as a rather off-the-wall thought, I wondered whether our local FAD could be piggy-backed with an acoustic receiver/transmitter system that our local school science and music programs could use to develop a Lorne P1-12 vein of expertise in marine sounds.

So... what might they record and use?

We know that whales and dolphins communicate with each other – often over extraordinary distances.

The haunting, ethereal sounds of whale songs have inspired human imagination and awe since the first accidental recordings were made by scientists from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution [Bermuda, 1949] while testing early underwater sonar equipment.

Since those first recordings, whale and dolphin 'language' has completely captivated marine researchers. While they have not yet fully decoded a formal, human-like grammar, researchers can now confirm that both whales and dolphins use organised sound sequences that are as specific as words.

What, then, of fish? Fish are poles apart from whales and dolphins in almost every biological function, beyond simply living in water. So... can fish 'talk', or do they communicate in any definable way?

It appears the answer is likely 'yes', with recent Canadian research leading the way. Researchers at Victoria University, British Columbia, have shown that fish can and do communicate, debunking the myth that they are silent. As with whales and dolphins, many fish also communicate through sounds such as grunts, chirps, and knocks to initiate mating or defend territory.

Some produce sound by vibrating their specialised swim bladders [like a drum] or by 'stridulations' [the rubbing of hard parts, such as fins or teeth, together].

In a fascinating BBC feature, "Boops, hums and farts: The mysterious world of fish communication" [BBC: 19 April 2024] ... see: <https://tinyurl.com/yvr7afjp> ... Frankie Adkins explores the newly discovered world of fish noise and notes that:

'... from the mysterious clicking noises in a fish tank in a lab, to humming haddocks and singing toadfish, scientists are discovering the wonder of underwater communication.'

Aaron Rice of Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, observes that:

'... the oceans are alive with sound. Clicks, grunts, plops and screeches are just some of the sounds fish use to signal to those around them underwater. Some, such as toadfish, sing beautiful songs to each other. Others, such as herring, use their digestive tracts, burping and farting, to warn off competitors, sound an alarm, woo potential mates, or establish a hierarchy to determine who's boss. Fish pipe up for reproductive and territorial reasons, or, more simply, to find food, and to indicate readiness for sex.'

As Adkins further observes:

'... while our ability to eavesdrop on fish has been limited by the devices used to record underwater, acoustic monitoring has come a long way since the 1930s, and scientists are now using underwater microphones [hydrophones] to listen in on the marine world. Even so, of an estimated 35,000 species—including cod, tuna, trout and salmon – only ~4% have been studied for their sound production.'

Audrey Looby, an ecologist at the University of Florida specialising in fish bioacoustics, has a particular affinity for the toadfish of the Florida Keys [NB: Lorne has plenty of them, too]. She writes:

'... toadfish may have a bad reputation for being slimy and grumpy looking, but they are surprisingly beautiful singers. In the breeding season, a male will build a nest in a coastal estuary, a seagrass meadow, or along a rocky shore, then sing a loud chorus that starts with a grunt and is followed by a series of 'boop' tones to attract a female and warn other males to back off.'

With all this in mind, and though likely a pie-in-the-sky, unachievable dream of this author, what if

bureaucracy had taken a big breath, taken a chance, and 'imagined' what if...?

Built on Lorne's long affinity for the sea, especially throughout the couta years, a modicum of foresight and imagination from GORCAPA and others might have:

- Used Wi Fi and data transmission technology to connect the Louttit Bay FAD to the pier precinct
- Combined it with Lorne College's well-known reputation for and expertise in innovative music and creative acoustics and...
- Created a Bass Strait Marine Acoustic Study Centre to study pelagic fish sounds and incorporate them into creative and innovative music and...
- Established a small yet state-of-the-art marine acoustic research centre to carry the story of Point Grey forward as a unique, valuable, and meaningful site.

To my mind, this is the sort of project this community could [and would] get behind and support with in-kind and cash contributions. For Point Grey, it is likely all too late – but not so for the school.

Imagine empowering our young, bright kids – kids without boundaries – with a cutting-edge opportunity to create a new musical genre... 'Sounds of the Surfcoast'... that in-builds natural ocean sounds – like fish-farts and wrasse-clacks – into innovative music tracks. Then, as in Venice Beach, California, these sounds of the sea could be played softly and seductively as a unique 'Sound of Lorne' as a background along Mountjoy Parade. 🎧

Happy Birthday to our prolific writer from the team at...

LORNE Independent

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Sportsbriefs

By *John Ford*, sports editor

Dominant Dolphins!

Lorne’s Dolphins football teams have made a dominant start to the 2026 season. After five rounds the Seniors, Reserves, and Under 18 teams are all undefeated and are on top of their respective ladders. These teams have all been kicking high scores each week, while severely limiting their opposition – resulting in impressive wins and very high percentages.

On 9th May Lorne travelled to play Irrewarra-Beeac on what was a still, mostly sunny day. Lorne established their supremacy early on in the match and had winners all across the field. The evenness and versatility of the Dolphins was on display, as Lorne had ten individual goalscorers in their final score of 14. 11: 95 to Irrewarra Beeac 3. 5: 23. This was a very good win away from home against a team that finishes seasons well and is usually in finals contention.

In the previous two matches, Lorne had strong wins over South Colac, 11.10 (76) to 5.8 (38), and over Otway Districts 19.24 (138) to 8.9 (57). Lorne’s Charlie McCartin kicked seven goals against Otway, while James Hughes continued his fine form kicking three goals in this match. Wins away from home are so important because the Colac ovals used for the finals are longer and wider than Stribling Reserve meaning that the team needs to be fast and have key forwards in form. At home the Dolphins can more easily cover for any deficiencies in these areas.

Many players are pressing for senior selection by showing consistent excellent form in the Reserves and Under 18’s, and this great depth will help the club get through a long winter and then hopefully a successful finals campaign. The good form of the seniors has led to five Dolphins being initially selected in the CDFNL Representative Squad of 42 players. Congratulations to Corey Przystek, Fraser Balderas, Cole Fox, James Hughes and Paddy Hughes who could all make the final representative squad.

On Saturday 23rd May, Lorne played Alvie (at home) The ladder leading Dolphins took on last year’s premiers, Alvie. It was a fierce battle with our boys certainly putting their bodies on the line from the first bounce. A few early injuries were costly to our rotations in the end and Alvie pulled away in the final term.

Lorne’s next matches are as follows:

Sat 30th May, Simpson v Lorne (away)

Sat 6th June, BYE (interleague match)

Sat 13th June, Birregurra v Lorne (away)

Sat 20th June, Lorne v Western Eagles (home)

Sat 27th June, Apollo Bay v Lorne (away)

Sat 4th July, Colac Imperials v Lorne (away)

Sat 11th July, Lorne v South Colac (home)

Sat 18th July, Otway Districts v Lorne (away)

We hope to see you all barracking for the football and netball at Stribling Reserve. Go Dolphins!

Dolphins Netball

Lorne’s netball teams are competing really well and playing in some hard-fought struggles. Their ladder positions are not a true reflection of the quality of their netball. In most matches the A Grade, B Grade and C Grade teams have been reasonably level on the scoreboard but have not been able to clinch the victories. This is still early in the season, and their form suggests that their fortunes will turn around soon. It is great to watch how fast and desperate they are on the court in every match!



Women’s Golf Report for May

by *Danni De Bon*.

Golfing up at our lovely LCC course is enjoying some softer fairways and greens, and the much-needed rain has started to raise the very low level of our dam on the 8th. Many of the improvements to the course are starting to “bed in”, and we look forward to enjoying the benefits of these.

Club Golf:

- May monthly medal - was won by Linda Brown.

- Many of the women that came to the coaching clinic last month are continuing in their efforts to learn golf, pairing up and practicing their golf each Wednesday arvo with the encouragement of some of the Women members playing with them.

- The Doris Chambers Qualifying event was played on May 5th with 5 teams competing in great Autumn weather. Congratulations go to the playing pair of Sue Neill and Rose Lloyd who were the runaway winners with 36 points.

- Our Single’s Knock Out competition is underway with the first round played.... 2 more rounds to go!

- The women’s Div 5 Pennant team played the 6th and final game on Friday May 8th at Queens Park against Ocean Grove, winning 3.5 to 1.5. The team finished 2nd overall on the ladder to Point Lonsdale, (who were undefeated for the season), and were very pleased with their season, winning 5 of the 6 matches. We enjoyed a dinner at The Grand Pacific Hotel, where we both debriefed and celebrated our team and the season. A big thanks to Rose Lloyd, our Pennant Captain for her leadership and support throughout the season - she does a great job!

The Lorne Lady Golfers would like to invite those in the community who are keen to give golf a go to come to the club on Wednesdays at 1pm. Our regular golfers will encourage and support you to have a hit in a relaxed and friendly way. Please contact Chris Angus for further details: 0439 008 167

Happy Golfing, *Danni De Bon*.

AROUND THE GREEN at the Lorne Bowls Club

By *Brendan Tunstall*

As we head into the cooler and non-competitive months it is pleasing to see that our members continue to make use of the Club and its facilities.

How? Bowls practice during the nominated Social Bowls times of Tuesday afternoon at 1pm (sharp mind you) and Wednesday mornings at 10am. Scratch matches are made up if you otherwise haven’t made up your own contest. Interesting to see Duncan Leckie, our current 100UP champion keeping his eye in, and his arm (metal these days), rolling along.

How else? By coming down at any time for your own ad hoc drill practice. Friday afternoons are also a good convivial time.

Barefoot bowls is very popular with groups and families. Book in with the Restaurant staff for a try out usually after 3pm.

This competition “downtime” enables the Club to continue with the necessary green maintenance. Unfortunately, the surface of the green needs constant treatment to counter the growth of mould (our local bird life doesn’t help-yes, looking at you Ducks and Plovers-not Hooded) and consequent Vacuuming. Such upkeep is so important considering how expensive a green is to replace.

On administrative matters, the Corangamite Playing Area Competition Committee’s proposal shows Lorne playing in Weekend Pennant Division 1 and 3. Further, and after a very competitive season, Lorne is currently slotted into Midweek Pennant Division 1-subject to finalisation.

What we all hope for is that the longed-for decision to have all Divisions at both Weekend and Midweek level play matches over 21 ends, will be finalised. Previous seasons have seen Weekend Division 1 and 2 sides play 25 ends and similar for Midweek. Such extended match time can be testing given the distances which Clubs might have to travel to compete.

We all love our pristine beachside/hinterland location. However, an Away match requires a minimum return travel distance of 100km (Colac), 200km (Cobden) and 250km (Derrinallum). Lessening the Bowling Day, and making it consistent with other District competitions, will be a welcome relief to most bowlers. It also provides some extra time for socialising-a terrific feature of Bowls competitions.

On a sad note, Jen Dulloo passed away recently. Jen had an impressive Bowls resume’ as the Associates President for three years, Club singles Champion and Club Pairs Champion (with Heather Olney). Jen also played in many successful Lorne Sides. It was fitting that Heather was able to give such a warm, heartfelt tribute to Jen at Jen’s funeral.

Jason is still “baristaring” his “world’s best” coffee at the Club on Friday to Monday mornings. Given Jason’s wide knowledge on varied topics it seems that he also happily assumes “Barristering” duties as well.

The Club’s “In The Skies” Restaurant is extremely popular. Friendly service and quality food are a winning combination.

It’s that time of the year again-the Club’s Annual General Meeting is being held on Sunday June 14th at the Club. In addition, a Special Meeting will be held to approve the Club’s revitalised Constitution/Rules.

Please give serious thought to either joining or encouraging other members to join the incoming Committee for years 2026/2027.

• 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



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lorne books

Picks of the Month



FICTION: *Three Reasons for Revenge* by Dervla McTiernan



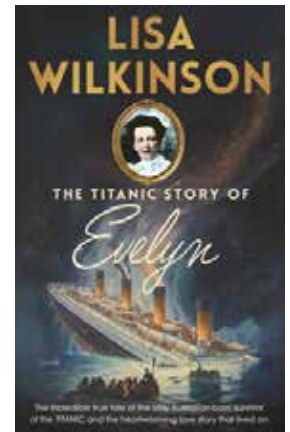
Alexis Turner walks into the police station to report an assault. By the end of the day, she is nowhere to be found. Soon after three identical packages arrive at the homes of three completely different people. Each gift is perfectly tailored to its recipient and each will tear apart the life of its intended victim.

Dervla McTiernan's *Three Reasons for Revenge* is a confronting and absorbing story of trauma and revenge. It's a smartly plotted psychological thriller for fans of crime fiction, intelligent, and gripping.

NON-FICTION: *The Titanic Story of Evelyn* by Lisa Wilkinson

the untold story of the only Australian-born survivor of the sinking of the Titanic. It is the story of a brave young Australian nurse who wanted to see the world, fell in love, then almost lost it all in one of the greatest maritime tragedies the world has ever known.

Lisa Wilkinson's exhaustively researched and superbly written new book brings together the incredible drama of the sinking of the Titanic and Evelyn Marsden's own extraordinary, uniquely Australian story. It is a tale that will ensure the world is about to fall in love with this heroic young woman from South Australia.



CHILDREN'S FICTION: *The Apocalypse and Other Mild Inconveniences* By Alex Dyson



Xavier wants to be a stand-up comedian. But does he have what it takes to stand up? Twelve-year-old Xavier Gency, knows the world is pretty much doomed, but that doesn't stop him cracking jokes about it wherever he goes. But when he hears devastating news about his family's farmhouse he knows he's got a serious decision to make. Should he sit back and make fun like he's always done? Or should he take action?

Set in the not-too-distant future this book tackles serious issues in an eye-wateringly hilarious way. Perfect for readers 9-14 who love codemis adventures set in the real world.

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