

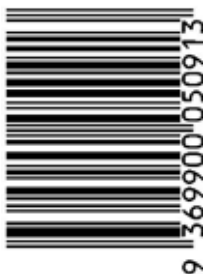
LORNE *Independent*

\$4

WHAT'S **BETTER**
THAN **ONE QDOS?**

Qdos scale model by Eleanor Seuss

Platypus survival of floods P4,5



Lorne Independent Inc.

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IN THIS ISSUE...

- P2.....Easter Church times in Lorne
- P3.....T37 Radio Controlled Model Yacht Regatta
- P4-5.....Did platypus survive the flash flood?
- P6.....Lorne P12 College
- P7.....The Art of Hand, Head and Heart
- P8-9.....A David Attenborough Moment
- P11.....Oranges and Saffron
- P12.....Lorne/Geelong Dancer dances through Las Vegas
- P13.....Clementine Calling
- P14-15.....Edited Highlights Commodores Report
- P16.....Councillor Column
- P17.....VICSES Road Rescue Capability Assessment
- P18.....Working together to reduce bushfire risk
- P19.....Council Plan 2025–2029
- P20.....Apollo Bay 2026 WORDFest authors
- P21.....2026 Victorian Government Landcare Grants Now Open
- P22-23.....Flagship regenerative farming festival to the Otways
- P23.....How Sascha was reunited with her owners after six-kilometre adventure
- P25.....Agapanthus
- P26-27.....From the Deck
- P28-29.....Arts in Lorne/Lorne Sculpture Biennale
- P30.....Op Shop Buzz
- P31.....Great Ocean Road Health News
- P36.....Savings from the Shed
- P37-39.....Sportsbriefs

Easter Church times in Lorne

All welcome.

All Saints Anglican Church

Good Friday – 11am

Easter Sunday – 11am

Bishop Stephen Hale will preside

Holy Communion 4th Sunday each month at 11am

St Cuthberts

Uniting Church

Good Friday – 10am

Easter Sunday – 10am

Pastor Alancee Hearnshaw

Our Lady of Fatima

Holy Thursday – 6pm

Good Friday – 3pm

Easter Vigil (Saturday) – 6pm

Easter Sunday – 9am

Father Lawrence O'Toole



Invitation to all the Young at Heart in Lorne!



Come to the first *Lorne Independent* sponsored Regatta!

This Easter Sunday, the Lorne Men's Shed Yachties are holding a T37 Radio Controlled Model Yacht Regatta on the Erskine River with the start line close to the Swing Bridge.

The first race will start at 10am.

Nine of the T37s racing on the Erskine River were built at the Lorne Mens Shed under the guidance of Tony Wolfenden who made the first one years ago and then found himself without any competitors.

There are now 14 in the Lorne fleet with another three under construction.

There are only about 3,500 T37 RC yachts racing around the world. They come in a flat pack from one man in the USA and have to be carefully assembled. The T37 is 37 inches long (0.94 metres) It is fairly unusual amongst today's RC classes in having a wooden hull.

The precut plywood hull sides, bottom and deck are put together with West System epoxy making a very strong but very light hull that requires no internal framing or bulkheads. The total weight of the fully rigged T37 hull with batteries and sails is about 2.25kg.

All T37s are built exactly the same so to win a race, you need good sailing skills and luck to be the right place on the river to pick up favourable winds. The competition on the Erskine is known to be quite fierce.

Most of the owners of these elegant craft have been sailors of actual yachts in their former lives. While



the boats are miniatures, they still have the feel of the wind in their sails as they respond to the breezes and currents. Their owners too respond to the call of the "Sea and Sky".

For videos of our T37s racing on the Erskine River, visit *Youtube* and search for Lorne Mens Shed. ❶

Contribution deadline: 20th 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.

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LORNE

Independent

Did platypus survive the flash flood?

By Mary Lush

On January 15, 2026, heavy rain in the hills behind Lorne resulted in flash flooding in the rivers between there and Kennett River. These rivers are short, steep and mostly confined by bedrock, which means that the runoff was channelled rapidly to the sea, sweeping away many things in its path including cars. If cars couldn't withstand the power of water, what chance a platypus?

In the days following the flood, two dead platypus were reported on the North Lorne beach, presumably former inhabitants of the Erskine River.



Photo: Anna Hürlimann

We can shed a little light on what has happened to platypus populations because, starting five years ago, a small group of people has been participating in the monitoring program run by the Australian Platypus Conservancy. Our two monitoring sites are both on Lorne's St George River.

Immediately after the flood and before the St George River foot track was closed, a couple of us went to inspect the sites. The river was a different place.

Concerned about what might have happened to 'our' platypus, we asked Geoff Williams (APC) for his opinion. Here is part of his response:

The timing of this flood is not good. Lactating females are

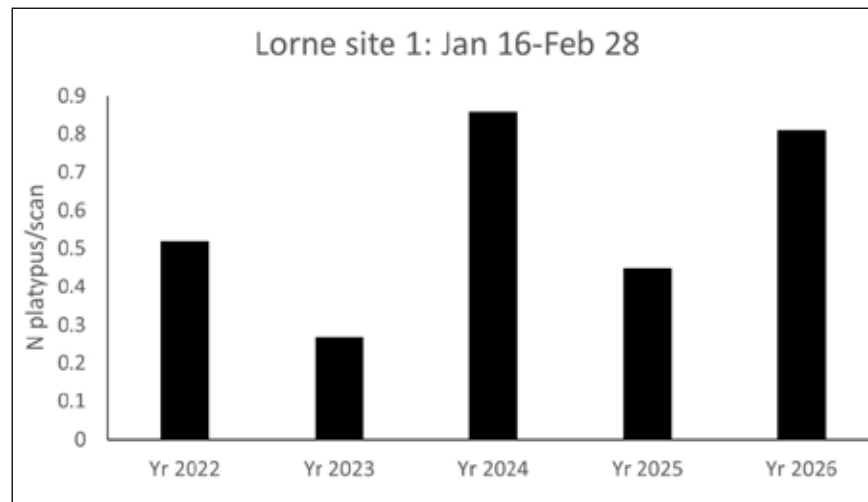
typically in poor/weak condition at this time of the year and hence more likely to die of exhaustion/drowning in raging torrents. I suspect that this may have been the case with the dead one on the beach. In addition, juveniles in nursery burrows are probably still a few weeks short of the time when they could survive independently if their mother dies and/or the burrow becomes inundated for a lengthy period (hopefully the 'flashy' nature of this particular flood event means that the latter impact may not have been quite as lasting as a 'slow' event).

The exact impact of the flooding on the population is impossible to say at this point as it will depend on a wide range of factors, including the amount of loss of habitat, the extent of flooding within the catchment and length of the flood event etc.

The good news is that, in general terms, flooding does not seem to cause long-term threats to population viability. There will almost certainly be some loss of weaker individuals and the success of the current breeding season may be severely compromised (as described above). There will also inevitably be some disruption of normal foraging habitats so that animals will probably be absent from areas where they are seen commonly. However, there is reason to believe that most animals are good at finding alternative places to occupy in the short-term (e.g. backwaters and billabongs opened up by the flood waters) or relatively undisturbed sections for temporary medium-term 'refuge'.

While it is very difficult to prove with certainty what is going on, a lot of anecdotal information suggests that the 'refugees' start to return once conditions settle down again, typically after a few months. However, how quickly this will happen will vary from flood event-to-event and river-to-river. Thus, for example, rivers with plenty of woody debris will probably recover more quickly than those waterways with little to slow down the floodwaters and which therefore will suffer greater erosional/sedimentational impact.

"Immediately after the flood and before the St George River foot track was closed, a couple of us went to inspect the sites. The river was a different place."



Graph: Geoff Williams



Mirror/Mill pool, St George River, at 6pm on the day of the flash flood. Water had receded to about the level of the foot track on the left, but had been over a metre above it at the height of the flood.
Photo: Ashleigh Floyer

As the water receded, the river started to look familiar again, although it's not quite the same. One difference is that the stripping of plants from the river banks has left the river more exposed to view. Could this result in easier access for predators, increasing the risk to platypus in the coming months? Geoff suggested that, at least in the immediate aftermath of the flood, predation was unlikely to be a problem because there would have been plenty of carrion.

Fortunately, we can monitor our oldest site even when the foot track is closed and we know that platypus are still present. The graph shows our post-flood data beside the corresponding period in previous years. To understand the vertical axis: a value of 0.5 N platypus/scan (2022) means we saw a platypus on about half our visits.

Following this year's flash flood, the frequency of sightings was 0.81 platypus per scan, an increase compared to last year (0.45) and to the mean for the preceding four years (0.57). Geoff suggests this might possibly reflect an influx of 'refugees' that have drifted down from higher up the catchment. Unfortunately, all platypus look much the same so we can't say anything about individual animals.

It is tempting to conclude that platypus survival in the St George was higher than in the Erskine, but perhaps dead animals from the St George simply went

undetected. But, there are differences between the Erskine and St George Rivers that might have affected survival rates.

For example, Lorne's water supply reservoir might have mitigated flooding in the St George. A reasonable proposition in most years, but not in 2026. When the storm started the reservoir was already 98.9% full. According to Barwon Water, it would have filled and begun spilling within minutes.

A further difference, based more on my impressions as a bush-walker than on data, is that the Erskine is more confined by bedrock than the St George, which has more, albeit very small, flood plains. These plains may have had some moderating effect. They may also have been the source of the sediment that was still being carried by the waters of the St George weeks after the flood, whereas the Erskine flowed clear within days.

The good news is that platypus have survived in the St George, and I expect they have in the Erskine too and in other rivers affected. 🐾

PS – Acceptable plurals of platypus are platypus, platypuses and platypodes (the last reflecting the word's Greek origin but never, to my knowledge, used).

With thanks to the Friends of Lorne Newsletter friendslofornе.org.au

"It is tempting to conclude that platypus survival in the St George was higher than in the Erskine, but perhaps dead animals from the St George simply went undetected."

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LORNE P-12 COLLEGE

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Somers Camp Adventure

Fourteen Year 5 and 6 students from Lorne P-12 College recently returned from an unforgettable nine-day experience at Somers Camp. Joining students from across the region, they embraced a range of outdoor adventure activities that challenged them, built resilience and sparked new friendships. From trying new things to sharing camp moments together, the experience encouraged independence and confidence in a supportive environment. A special visitors day welcomed parents and families, giving them a glimpse into camp life and the students' achievements. Running since 1959, Somers Camp continues to create lasting memories and meaningful growth for our students. With the opportunity only coming around every second year, students felt very fortunate to attend and all agreed, it was a fantastic experience that they will never forget.



Music To Our Ears

Year 10-12 music students recently took part in a two-day songwriting workshop with mentors from APRA SongMakers. Working collaboratively with peers, students explored the creative process and developed original compositions under the guidance of industry experts. These performances were professionally recorded, providing students with a valuable keepsake and an authentic insight into the music industry.



Making A Splash

Lorne P-12 students from Prep to Year 12 made a splash during the school's swimming program, held at the Lorne Sea Baths. Students developed their skills through lessons before competing in the annual swimming sports. A sincere thank you to Andrew Landos for his generosity in providing free use of the pool for the lessons. The program culminated with our Secondary Students, representing the school and participating in the Coastal Division Carnival in Colac. Combining with Apollo Bay, students achieved four age group champions and won the overall event. Well done to all participants.

The Art of Hand, Head and Heart

By Sandra McComb

Nineteenth century English art critic John Ruskin (1819-1900) sought creativity in art that utilised three aspects of human behaviour— hand, head and heart - emphasizing that true creativity requires manual skill, intellectual thought, and emotional passion.

It might be said that painters in Australia at the turn of the 20th century were succeeding in these terms. Their bush and societal paintings represented outdoor and city life to the full. Think of the sombre 'Bush Burial' or 'The Pioneers' of Fred McCubbin, telling of the struggles for a new existence, but think also of the brilliant, hopeful, colourful landscapes of Arthur Streeton. Both were creating expansive art distinct from the European style, telling stories of the lived experiences of their new world.

During the same period another form or style or representation was coming to light. Aboriginal artists were painting an ancient Australian life as they knew it and from these artists, such as William Barak and Tommy McCrae, a stage developed, against all odds, over a long period, for others to follow.

Aboriginal artist Joshua James is one such contemporary artist. Visiting Lorne during March as Artist-in-Resident at *Lorne Community Connect* Joshua explained at his workshop how his painting and design work displays stories of his own heritage and Country. Joshua is a descendent of the Noongar people of south-west Western Australia. For 23 years he lived on Noongar Country. Stories he reflects in his artworks were heard from his grandmother as he grew up. She was not an artist but a storyteller who related the indigenous identity of the saltwater people of Noongar Boodja.

Joshua's art and design work emerges from that time, now taking him around Australia.

Joshua is meticulous in his handiwork. His tools may be slim brushes but, where possible, fine sticks plucked from surrounding bushes are preferable. Sturdy 400gsm art paper and multi coloured paints make up works that are hung and framed in traditional wood. He has moved on from traditional earthy, ochre colours - red, yellow brown - that once were the only allowable colours - the only available colours. He continues to use ochre colours to capture desert surrounds such as in a work commissioned by mining companies. But to realise many places, such as The Otways and the sea, he needs blues and greens. Explaining how the symbols used represent people,



Kaaleepga Kaada (Homeland Hills on Country)



Dandjoo Boodja (Gathering on country)



Yongka dandjoo kalleepga bodja (Kangaroos gathering on country)

places and events, how the songlines in his works provide directions, how his own personal struggles against adversity could be released through his art, Joshua's workshop was a lesson in creativity and patience. Joshua's 'head and heart', his thinking and his feelings are clearly evident in his work.

Joshua now lives and works in Winchelsea with his wife and two children Karda and Maali. His love of football was displayed in a pair of designer boots for Nicky Winmar to play in. During his stay at Lorne, he also worked on a large collaborative canvas with Geelong artist Kiri Tawhai, also from his home Country. They were able to chat in their own language - one still in modern usage.

The modern Aboriginal cultural world is not an easy environment to inhabit. But it is becoming more widely available through individual artist's events and through inclusive performances and exhibitions. The NGV Australia now devotes its newly hung second floor to Australian artwork across cultures. The Australian Ballet is at present performing Flora together with the Bangarra Dance Company. Hopefully such coming together will continue to be valued and understood.

A David Attenborough Moment

By Ray Sutton

I was sitting in my car one day and noticed a tiny light green dot moving across the window, suddenly it took flight and then returned to the window.

It was so small (less than a millimetre in length) I could not decipher wings or legs, but it was an insect and it was not the first time I had observed such a small creature. My interest sparked, I did some research and came up with the following facts:

- There are an estimated 5.5 million species of insects in the world.
- Scientists have only officially described about 1 million meaning 80% of insects remain undiscovered (I am not sure of the science behind knowing what we don't know).
- There are 10 quintillion individual insects alive at any given time.
- Insects outnumber humans by 200 million to 1.
- If you weighed every insect on earth, they would weigh more than all the birds and mammals combined.

They have been around for over 400 million years and have survived multiple mass extinctions. My sparked interest was now a raging fire, and it took me back to my childhood fascination with the insect display cabinets in the old Melbourne Museum in Swanston Street. So, where does one start to learn more about these creatures? I started with some "weird" ones.

The Bone Collector Caterpillar is a carnivore living in spider webs, eating its prey and then adorning itself in the body parts of its victims for camouflage before turning into a moth. Here are six all dressed up in their victims' bones.



Acrophylla alta, only classified in 2025 is a huge stick insect living in the canopy of rainforests in North Queensland.



The Bird Tear Drinking Moth sneaks up to sleeping birds at night and inserts a harpoon into its eye to drink its tears for nutrients.



There are many other weird and wonderful creatures in the insect world but there are also some beautiful ones, think butterflies, and we have many right on our doorstep. The Otway Stonefly is a rare and ancient insect found only in the Otway Ranges. It has a stunning appearance with a dark body and purple and red wings. It is in fact a living fossil, and the nymphs live in fast flowing mountain streams like the Erskine River. They are top tier underwater predators before they emerge as winged adults.

Ghost Moths can be seen fluttering around streetlights in Lorne during Autumn and Bent-wing Swift Moths have a massive wingspan and spend years tunnelling in Eucalyptus trees before emerging for a single night of mating.



Ghost Moth



Bent-wing Swift Moth

I thought my little friend on the window must have been one of the smallest insects but not so. The smallest one is *Dicopomorpha echmepterygis* which is only 0.139mm long and being a parasitic wasp spends all its life within a host egg.

Insect taxonomy is one of the most complex and difficult branches of biology given the sheer number of species and their similarities. Many look identical to the naked eye, so biologists must resort to DNA bar coding or in many cases dissecting their genitals to determine difference. Most insects are classified into four groups.

- Beetles – there are over 400,000 species and they are the largest order in the animal kingdom.

- Butterflies and moths – over 160,000 species.
- Bees, Wasps, and Ants – 155,000 species.
- Flies – 160,000 species.

These are only the ones classified by science and do not include the estimated 4.5 million still to be identified species which presents a great opportunity for citizen scientists. Next time you are walking in the Otways and see a bug take a snap and go to the iNaturalist web site; you may get a new species named after you. I still don't know the identity of my little friend and wasn't quick enough to snap a photo so perhaps he/she is one of the undiscovered species. 📷



RSL
Victoria

Lorne RSL Sub – Branch

ANZAC DAY SERVICE
Saturday 25th April 2026

Dawn Service - 7.00am Anzac Memorial Park, Mountjoy Pde, Lorne

Gun-Fire breakfast - 7.30am to 8.30am Lorne Bowls Club carpark

10.45am – March from the Lorne Visitor Information Centre to Cenotaph

11am - Commemorative Service at ANZAC Memorial Park

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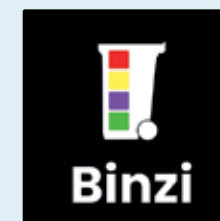
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Oranges and Saffron

By Doug Williams

When you see the enormous orange tugs moving oil rigs way out past the front of Lorne through Bass Strait you can bet they'll be Dutch in origin because it's the country's national colour. Oranges have been around for a long while coming at first from the Malay Archipelago and were referred to three hundred years before the birth of Christ. They sure travelled a long way to get to Israel. The ones we squeeze for breakfast today are a hybrid of pomelo and mandarin and it is one of the most cultivated fruit trees on the planet.

Prevention of scurvy, which had killed some two million sailors once sea travel began, was prevented by the crew eating foods with vitamin C and this made oranges an important food for the quartermaster to cater for on long sea voyages and, naturally, one wouldn't store them near bananas. For many years there was no colour on the spectrum known as 'orange'. The word for this colour was saffron, as used by Homer in 'The Iliad'.

Saffron has an air of myth, charisma and treasure in relation to its uses: medicinal, as a love potion, as a dye, in perfumery and in food preparation. Most of us use turmeric for colour instead when cooking since saffron is an exceedingly expensive spice to have in the rack. One-kilogram costs between \$4,000 and \$9,000 per kilogram obtained from more than 150,000 flowers. Coming from Iran, the only way to harvest it is to hand pick it from the stigma of the flower which grows as a bulb and is seasonal. Each flower yields 7 micrograms of dried saffron. A small amount is grown in the United Kingdom at the town which changed its name to Saffron Walding four hundred years ago to reflect their production of this.

I mixed red and yellow paint together to surprise myself with orange on the paper at primary school but as a dye saffron is used by Buddhist and Hindu monks and nuns for their robes when they denounce all worldly things. In Confucianism it refers to purity and spirituality. It has the suggestion of the holy about it, saffron. It was also tied up with hippie mysticism, and I learnt that this is why Edwina called her daughter Saffy (Saffron) in Absolutely Fabulous. Pretty cool. 🍊

Editors note – At the risk of being annoying I'd like to add that Orange is the only word that has no rhyme in English. And I was always "wild about Saffron" and Mellow Yellow.



EASTER SATURDAY IN LORNE UKOO x MIDI STORE

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Lorne/Geelong Dancer dances through Las Vegas

By Kelsey Jennings

Kelsey Jennings grew up between Lorne and Geelong and still loves returning to Lorne to recharge and reconnect with home. Over the years, she has built a diverse career in lead dance and modelling opportunities appearing on international stages and at major events.

Her dance journey has included appearances in Bollywood films and flash mobs alongside artists such as Sofi Tukker. Kelsey has also worked in editorial and event modelling, including a feature in Vogue Australia modelling for Pearls and Roses. She has also modelled in the Nevada desert for several Las Vegas photography workshops led by highly respected and accomplished Los Angeles photographers.

In Las Vegas, Kelsey performs as a resident dancer at the world-renowned Coyote Ugly Saloon inside the New York-New York Casino. Known for its high-energy performances and audience interaction, the venue delivers an atmosphere reminiscent of the iconic early-2000s film. Kelsey is currently the only Australian Coyote in Las Vegas, proudly representing her home country. She says she loves connecting with any of the Aussies walking into the show, so if anyone ever visits please come say hi!

Her performance career has also included appearing as a main showgirl alongside *Salt-N-Pepa* at *The All American Koi Show* in early 2025. Kelsey has modelled at a major private event for Amazon and performed at the touring Elrow festival in Chicago, where she danced on stage with DJs James Hype, A-Trak, and Eats Everything.

Back in Australia, she also performed as a lead dancer with the Fleetwood Mac tribute group *Seventh Wonder* during their Geelong show.

Kelsey's life is as colourful as the costumes she wears. While pursuing her dancing and modelling career in the United States, she continues to dream big, while staying connected to her roots in the beautiful coastal town of Lorne. ❶



Clementine Calling

A recent visitor to Lorne, Gordon Ramsay once said, "Eating out is about having fun. I get really frustrated when it's badly done". Mind you he didn't seem to mind the sausages in bread at the Aquatic Club. He would have loved it when Anna and Simon cooked a splendid lunch of many dishes for those who attended In the Skies for a long lunch in aid of the Lorne Hospital.

The new handsome CEO Brendan Howard was there to greet all the beautifully dressed guests. Brendan has a genuine passion for wanting to make a lasting difference to the people of Lorne. Luke Morgan gave the guests a glass of King Valley prosecco as they found their seats. The luncheon was ably organized by Jessica who had us all sitting down in the sun at long banquet tables with bouquets of flowers. Renea, the owner of Deluxe talked us through fashionable clothes from her store as they were paraded by the likes of Dr. David Mullen strutting along in smart blazers and Patrick Heggarty, our own Exercise physiologist who looked as if he was a little bit too tall for some of his outfits!! Stars of the show were Mary Rose Moon and Carly Enticott from the Nursing Home who paraded their clothes with great aplomb.

Beware of snakes everyone, they are all over the bush and in our gardens. The skip jacks have had their offspring and are everywhere too. Anne Nadenbousch killed a snake with a spade at her back door and then called in the snake catcher. He caught five snakes in her vegetable patch, put them in sacks and then released them near the Erskine Falls.

A good Samaritan was visiting the Nursing Home late in the afternoon on a Sunday in March. It was Jane Wilson, from Aireys Inlet who noticed a large dog devouring rat poison in an area adjacent to the Nursing Home garden. She immediately put the dog and elderly owner into her car and drove them to the Clinic in Geelong where she waited some time whilst the dog was made to vomit. Later the dog was diagnosed in Colac as having eaten rat poison and underwent 10 days treatment. How sad it was that the Nursing Home left rat poison in a shed accessible to the common garden with no sign indicating that it was there. Many dogs and children visit that home. Thank you clever Jane who showed immense kindness to a total stranger.

After the dreadful deluge so many of our walking paths are out of use. You can't get to the Phantom Falls as the very first bridge is down or to the Kalimna Falls, but you can walk quite a long way along the Sheoak River in either direction from the picnic ground.

The St George River is very limited and the Mirror



"What fun we had on Monday, March 16th, when Channel 9 filmed their Today show in Lorne."

Pool looks quite different, but platypus have been seen there. The tracks that are available are those from Moggs Creek Picnic Ground, or down at Aireys Inlet from the Distillery Creek Picnic Ground. You can also walk from Jamieson River to Wye River and from Wye River to Kennet River. All great walks. It will be some time before our walks are restored.

What fun we had on Monday 16th March when Channel 9 filmed their *Today* show in Lorne. We loved Mary Ann extolling the virtues of our cuisine. The Pacific was all lit up and looked majestic. What a joy it was to see Tim Davies down on the beach surrounded by beautifully clad colourful mermaids. Yes, our very own brave girls. Rosa Ragusa in an apple green costume was asked how she felt swimming so early every day in her 80's – she indicated with her arms as if to say well just look at me and see how good I look!! And she does look good. Paula Hayden in a fabulous long-sleeved outfit and a blue bathing cap also told Tim how fabulous she felt when swimming every day. Then wonders of wonders Tim leapt into the ocean followed by a bevy of mermaids. Everyone swam beautifully. Well, done girls!!! Steve Monagetti, a legend of marathons, was there to promote the big run along the Great Ocean Road in May. He called it a Running Festival – I like that.

We all hate those acres of metal fences all around the Pier area and not being able to drive down for a walk to Shelley Beach. 86-year-old Bob Humphris got caught behind the fences and had to find a man to unlock them. Bob was not happy. It is good to know that Keith Miller has the authority and a key to let our fishermen launch their boats out into the sea and come home with some fish to eat. Gordon Bannister caught a shark the other day. Good on you Gordon!!!

It was a flash from the past when Carly Stafford invited Marion Norton back to Lorne to teach our school kids swimming. So great to see another Norton in town. Those Nortons can swim like a fish.

Too bad that the people using the pier have been parking in front of the Pacific and affecting the trade that they would normally have there. Wednesday pie nights are on again so don't miss out Lornies. ❷



Keith Miller LACC
Commodore



GOING, GOING, GONE

It only took one day to demolish the old girl. It was very sad to see. I almost shed a tear watching it come down. I must admit that I reckon I felt something wet run down my face. The magnificent old clubhouse gave countless locals and visitors 65 years of FUN, FUN & more FUN! I'm sure our new one will also but it will never be quite the same.

THE TURNING OF THE FIRST SOD

On Monday, 16th March trucks arrived with fill and started the very first stage of our rebuild. There's been a hold up with the demolition of the old CoOp because of an asbestos issue so they've made a start on our new clubhouse.

RECENT EVENTS

Working Bee

We held a working bee after our close down where we removed everything we still need for the new clubhouse and transported it to a shed in Colac. The most difficult removal was our safe which weighs 330kg but George Dragovitch kindly loaned us his big tele handler so we cut a hole in the back wall with a chainsaw and BT expertly removed it and loaded it onto a tandem trailer. A big thank you to the members that helped out and especially the 3 blokes who brought along their tandem trailers. It was very much appreciated.

Friday Night Members get together at the Surf Club

We've been running these for a month now and they've been great fun. We had a glitch on the first night with a much bigger crowd than we expected and had long queues lining up at the bar. This has been sorted with more staff behind the bar and it's been running like clockwork ever since.

Friday nights have become a tradition at the old clubhouse with our free sausage sizzle and prawn raffle so doing this continues the tradition and it's an enjoyable way for our members to catch up.



GOING...



GOING...



GONE!



THE NEW BEGINNING!

FISHING COMP NUMBER TWO

Sponsored by Aviso Integral Insurance – Colac

This was our first ever fishing comp with no clubhouse so we held the BBQ and presentations up at the Stribling Reserve Pavilion who generously allowed us to use their downstairs booth and BBQ. We will do this for the rest of the year. It worked really well. The conditions were fine but a stinking easterly which stopped any boats venturing out. We had 27 anglers compete who as far as I know all fished off the pier. This was a magnificent attendance and even better for such poor conditions. Instead of cooking the traditional roast lunch we did hamburgers which we will keep doing until we have a home again. Thanks to Clive and Hutch for their catering and cooking skills.

GOLF COMP: THE BEST ONE EVER

We held our annual Golf Competition recently where we take on the Lorne Country Club. Leading up to this, the insults come thick and fast but I can assure you it's all in good fun. We have a great relationship with them along with every other club in town.



Cody Hutchinson with a big school shark he caught.

I haven't kept stats on the number of entries over the years but I reckon this was our best one yet. The weather was perfect and so was the whole day except we got rolled. As usual I reckon they cheated with the scores but I say that every time we get done. Matt and Bridgette who are the caterers up at the Country Club very generously donated the lunch for everyone and it was sensational.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FISHING COMP NUMBER THREE

Sponsored by Essential Financial Planning – Peter Ryan

Sunday 5th April, 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.

FISHING REPORT

Boat

The Flathead have reappeared in good numbers with heaps around the 40cm mark but the big Yanks and Tigers haven't arrived yet. Snapper have also returned with some up to 50cm being caught. Nannygai catches have been steadily increasing every year and they are now quite a common catch. Gummy Sharks are everywhere at the moment. It's as good as I've ever seen it and they are hungry. We've had several following hooked fish all the way up to the boat with one actually grabbing a snapper right at the surface and taking it off the hook.

Pier

The pier is continuing its run of great fishing with reports of good catches of Salmon, Snapper, Trevally, Mullet, Whiting, Gummies and Calamari.

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COUNCILLOR COLUMN

Economic impacts of extreme weather events during January

By Mayor Libby Stapleton, Surf Coast Shire Council

Businesses in Lorne are hurting as a result of the overlapping extreme weather events during January, particularly the flooding on the Great Ocean Road on 15 January and the way it was reported by major metropolitan media outlets.

Card transaction data shows a major drop-off – average daily spend in Lorne between 1 and 15 January of \$386,000, dipping to \$172,000 for the latter half of the month, following the flooding.

Council's Economic Development team surveyed 68 businesses in Lorne, with 31 per cent saying they had lost the equivalent of a month of income, and a further 47 per cent reporting loss of at least a week's income.

That was consistent across retail, accommodation, hospitality and tourism-based businesses.

Business owners believed a large impact on Lorne visitation came from confusion about traffic impacts and the safety of the town.

Of those surveyed, 83 per cent said media reporting about 'fires, closures or risk' had negatively affected their business.

For example, while the Great Ocean Road remained open into Lorne from 16 January onwards and businesses were operating as usual, reporting that 'the Great Ocean Road is closed' – due to its closure south of Lorne – created confusion and was seen as a deterrent for people to visit Lorne.

Survey respondents also attributed negative business impacts to:

- the 15 January flooding (89 per cent);
- fires in the Otways (77 per cent);
- evacuation advice for nearby towns (77 per cent); and
- Extreme fire danger ratings on various dates (72 per cent).

Only five per cent of respondents said there had been no negative impact on their business.

Council is using this information to advocate for recovery initiatives that will help recoup some of the lost income.

By the time this column is published, it's likely we'll have announced a major recovery initiative, using prizemoney generously donated by cyclists from the Cadel Evans Great Ocean Road.

The initiative is geared towards incentivising people to stay in and spend money in Lorne. Keep an eye out. 📢

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DAN TEHAN
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR WANNON



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- ✓ Pensions and My Aged Care
- ✓ Medicare
- ✓ Australian Taxation Office (ATO)
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Water Supply Specialists

VICSES Road Rescue Capability Assessment

By Chris Jones

VICSES Road Rescue Units undergo capability assessments every three years to meet the *State Road Rescue Arrangements Victoria 2023*. The process helps the organisation understand local, regional and state capacity, and guides training priorities.

Two assessors conduct a live, scenario-based assessment using the **Systems Approach** from the Road Rescue Learning Package. The exercise demonstrates readiness and practical rescue skills, including:

- Readiness & preparation
- Call out & response
- Arrival at the scene
- Scene safety (making the incident and wrecked vehicle safe)
- Staging area & setup
- Assessing rescue requirements
- Vehicle stabilisation
- Gaining access
- Releasing & removing casualty
- Concluding the rescue
- Equipment maintenance & debrief

This assessment ensures consistent capability standards and informs targeted training across the state. By the time this article goes to print, we will have just completed our capability assessment.

The VICSES Board ensures volunteer perspectives remain front and centre.

Every quarter, a VICSES volunteer is invited to present directly to the Board and senior executive, ensuring volunteer perspectives remain front and centre in organisational decision making.

On February 17th, at the request of VICSES CEO Rob Purcell and Board Chair Jasmine Doak, the Lorne Unit Controller presented to the full Board and senior executive on the Lorne Unit's volunteers' experience and response to the 15 January storm and flood event. Areas covered in the presentation:

- Our patch is unique, challenging & isolated
- Normal Unit Operational Tempo
- Lorne SES Unit faced an unprecedented operational challenge
- It wasn't just the floods that were fast and furious
- After all, we are in the people business
- Questions from the board



March was a very different month from the previous intense start to the year.

The board feedback was that it was frank, informative, and entertaining. From the volunteers / Unit Controllers' perspective, "given my time in front of boards, it was fantastic to meet a group of people who were really connected to volunteers".

Driver Reviver Launch March 2026

The Driver Reviver launch is one of VICSES' key annual moments, reminding the community of the dangers of fatigue and the importance of stopping to rest and revive on long journeys. On the 30th of March, it is a Pre-Easter Driver Reviver media launch ahead of the long weekend to promote key road safety messages.

On the evening of 24th April 2025, two members from the Lorne SES unit responded to a road crash requiring a multi-agency high-angle rescue on Big Hill. A motorcyclist had come off the road and down into a deep gully. His partner was in a vehicle driving behind. Brett, the road crash victim, paid a special visit to VICSES Head Office to find out who the SES crew were, as they had provided amazing care, reassurance, and emotional support to him and his partner that night.

Brett spoke about the impacts of the crash on him personally, what he remembers about being trapped/rescued, what recovery has been like and thanked the rescue crews that assisted him.

The Lorne Unit Controller, one of the two members attending, was asked by VICSES Media to speak about the evening and to promote key road safety messages.

As you can see a very different month.

So, this Easter Break, please be realistic with your journey deadlines, stay extra alert, drive according to the conditions, take more frequent breaks, and stay safe! We want you to arrive safely and not meet you by accident. 📢

Stay safe from the SES Lorne Unit.

For VICSES emergency response, call 13 25 00

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Follow us on our Facebook page – SES Lorne Unit.



MEDIA RELEASE

Working together to reduce bushfire risk

A message from the Chris Hardman, Chief Fire Officer to Victorians

As we move into autumn, we reflect on the challenges brought by recent extreme heat and bushfires across our state. These events reminded us how important preparation, quick response and community resilience are.

This summer’s bushfires have been some of the most destructive Victoria has faced in years. Fast-moving fires burned through more than 400,000 hectares, destroyed buildings and homes, and sadly took the life of a local near Longwood. Communities in areas such as Longwood, Walwa and Harcourt faced fierce fires driven by extreme heat, strong winds and very dry conditions after months of low rainfall followed by rapid grass growth. These conditions meant fires moved quickly and unpredictably, placing enormous pressure on both residents and emergency crews.

We feel deeply for the communities affected. I want to thank our crews, contractors, incident management teams and partner agencies for their hard work to keep Victoria safer. Many of our staff live in the same areas that were impacted. They often support and reassure their own communities while also fighting fires – a tremendous effort that shows their commitment and strength.

Victoria faces a higher fire risk this autumn. We’re closely monitoring conditions, staying ready to respond and making sure resources are placed where they’re needed most. We’re learning from recent events and continuing to strengthen our strategies.

Recent good rainfall across much of the state will provide opportunities to burn, however the seasonal outlook shows a higher chance of warmer days through autumn, which may delay the start of planned burning in some areas. East Gippsland and some locations near Melbourne are an exception, as rainfall there has been more consistent.

We manage Victoria’s bushfire risk in a holistic way. Planned burning is an important tool, but it’s not the only one. Large, intense fires still threaten the things we care about – our communities, the environment and the services we rely on. Victoria’s natural environments are unique, so fuel management must be balanced with caring for the land.

Our firefighters and fire managers are world-class. We use the latest research from around the world, but we apply it to Victoria’s conditions and landscapes.

There is no single solution. We reduce fuel-driven bushfire risk in many ways, including:

- planned burning and non-burn fuel management
- preventing new ignitions through fire bans and campfire controls
- early detection from fire towers and reconnaissance flights
- rapid first attack by aircraft, rappel crews and ground teams
- community engagement and timely emergency warnings through VicEmergency.

Autumn usually gives us more chances to carry out planned burns because the weather is more stable, and fire behaviour is more predictable. As soon as conditions are suitable, our crews will begin planned burning across the state.

Please be aware that some forests and roads may be closed during and after these operations. Check the Planned Burns Victoria website before travelling to make sure your trip isn’t affected.

While planned burns do create smoke, they help reduce the dry vegetation that fuels bushfires. Smoke from a planned burn is usually lower in intensity and shorter-lasting than smoke from a large bushfire, and communities are notified in advance so people can take steps to protect their health.

If you live in or visit an area where planned burning is happening, you’ll likely see FFMVic firefighters preparing sites or carrying out burns. They’re the ones in the green firefighting uniforms. 📢

- For updates about where and when burns are planned, visit: plannedburns.ffm.vic.gov.au



MEDIA RELEASE

Council Plan 2025–2029: Strong progress at half-year mark

Surf Coast Shire Council is delivering strong early progress on its Council Plan 2025–2029, with most Year 1 initiatives on track and six already completed at the halfway point of the first financial year.

The Council Plan sets the strategic direction and outlines how Council will deliver on the community’s 10-Year Community Vision. Progress is tracked through an annual Action Plan, with this half-year report covering performance to 31 January 2026.

Of the 43 key initiatives identified for 2025–26:

- 6 initiatives have been completed
- 33 initiatives are on track
- 4 initiatives are being monitored

Completed initiatives include delivery of the Community Grants Program, finalisation of the Social Infrastructure Plan, construction of a new synthetic hockey facility in Torquay, delivery of the annual Surf Coast Arts Trail, development of a Service Review Policy and support for the Anglesea community to develop a community plan.

The four initiatives currently being monitored relate to complex road and active transport projects, investigation of additional revenue opportunities, detailed design work for the Anglesea Community Health and Housing project, and advocacy regarding tourist bus management along the Great Ocean Road.

These projects are in early planning stages or subject to external approvals and are being actively managed.

Mayor Cr Libby Stapleton said the results demonstrate strong delivery momentum across Council’s five strategic directions: assets and infrastructure, climate

“Our Council Plan isn’t a document that’s just filed away on a shelf, it guides most of what we do and these Action Plan progress reports will help keep us on track and accountable over its four-year life span.” – Mayor Cr Libby Stapleton

and environmental leadership, community wellbeing, sustainable communities and high performing Council.

“Six months into the plan and almost 90% of our Year 1 initiatives are progressing as planned or completed, and we are already seeing tangible benefits flowing to our community,” the Mayor said.

“Public health and wellbeing remains central to our work, with the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan formally integrated into the Council Plan.”

“Every initiative is aligned to health and wellbeing pillars to ensure we see benefits such as active living, social connection, environmental sustainability and long-term community resilience.”

“Our Council Plan isn’t a document that’s just filed away on a shelf, it guides most of what we do and these Action Plan progress reports will help keep us on track and accountable over its four-year life span,” she said.

A full-year Council Plan Action Plan report will be presented at the end of the financial year, including performance against strategic indicators across each Strategic Direction. 📢

Read the report in full at surfcoast.vic.gov.au/CouncilPlan.



Apollo Bay 2026 WORDFest authors

HANNAH KENT to headline stellar line up of Australian authors at Apollo Bay WORDFest.

Globally respected Australian author **Hannah Kent** is among a talented group of award-winning writers to appear at the 2026 Apollo Bay WORDfest from Friday 24-Sunday 26 July. Hannah’s achievements include her international best-seller *Burial Rites*, *The Good People*, *Devotion* and her 2025 memoir – *Always Home*, *Always Homesick*.



Crowd favourite and inaugural Alone Australia winner, **Gina Chick** will share her unique insights into growing up in a world of adventures, exquisite relationships, love and loss. Gina’s biography *We are the Stars* was shortlisted for Biography of the Year in 2025.

Tasmania’s **Robbie Arnott** is best known for his novels *Dusk*, *Limberlost* and *The Rain Heron* that have all been nominated for prestigious literary awards. Nature loving Hobart dad will join a panel with local Geelong writer Rhett Davis, who won the Premier’s Literary Award for an Unpublished Manuscript in 2020 with his novel *Hovering*. Rhett has since published his second novel, *Arborescence*.

Sofie Laguna is a multi-talented author of Children and Adult novels, as well as having a background in law and acting. Sofie will join an author panel with **Toni Jordan**, whose international best seller, *Addition* was adapted into a feature film, her latest novel is *Tenderfoot*. **Mark Mupotsa-Russell** will add his unique wit and knowledge to the panel, with achievements including screenwriting, PR consultant and cocktail columnist. His latest novel is *The Wolf Who Cried Boy*.

Christian White will delve into the world of crime with fellow writers **Louise Milligan** and **JP Pomare**.

Christian White’s latest novel, *The Long Night* continues his dominance as the master of thrillers. His talents extend to screenwriting with several feature films and Netflix series added to his many achievements.

Melbourne based **JP Pomare**’s *The Gambler* is remarkably his eighth novel in just eight years. His previous novel *17 Years Later* is currently being adapted for the big screen.

This year, **Louise Milligan** released her second crime novel, *Shellybanks*, which followed her debut, *Pheasants Nest*. As well as being a talented fiction and non-fiction author, Louise is a Walkley award winning journalist who can be seen on ABC TV reporting for *Four Corners*.

Award-winning Children’s Author, **Andrea Rowe** will be WORDfest’s main contributor for our Wordplay Kid’s Day. Andrea was the recipient of the CBCA Picture Book of the Year in 2022 with *Jetty Jumping*, while *Sunday Skating*, *In the Rockpool* and *Amid the Sand Dunes* have all been recognised with various awards. All of Andrea’s books are illustrated by the talented Hannah Sommerville.

WORDfest Director **Kate Bourne** says she’s thrilled to have attracted such a high calibre of authors for this year’s festival. “*As we grow WORDfest every year, we seem to be able to lure the best of the best, it’s a real treat for Apollo Bay and all of the avid and passionate readers who attend WORDfest.*” ❶

APOLLO BAY WORDfest AUTHORS

2026 JULY 24-26

Hannah Kent (*Burial Rites*, *The Good People*, *Devotion*, *Always Home*, *Always Homesick*)

Gina Chick (*We are the Stars*)

Robbie Arnott (*Dusk*, *Limberlost* and *The Rain Heron*, *Flames*, *The Hall Chimp*)

Rhett Davis (*Arborescence*, *Hovering*)

Sofie Laguna (*The Underworld*, *The Choke*, *The Eye of the Sheep*, *One Foot Wrong*)

Toni Jordan (*Tenderfoot*, *Prettier if she Smiled More*, *Dinner with the Shnabels*, *The Fragments*, *Our Tiny Useless Hearts*, *Nine Days*, *Fall Girl*, *Addition*)

Mark Mupotsa-Russel (*The Hitwoman’s Guide to Reducing Household Debt*, *The Wolf who cried Boy*)

Christian White (*The Nowhere Child*, *The Wife and the Widow*, *Wild Place*, *The Ledge*, *The Long Night*)

JP Pomare (*Call Me Evie*, *In the Clearing*, *Tell Me Lies*, *The Last Guests*, *The Wrong Woman*, *Home Before Midnight*, *17 Years Later*, *The Gambler*)

Louise Milligan (*Cardinal*, *Witness*, *Pheasants Nest*, *Shellybanks*)

Andrea Rowe (*Dogs with Jobs*, *Amid the Dunes*, *In the Rockpool*, *Castle Crashing*, *Sunday Skating*, *Jetty Jumping*)



MEDIA RELEASE

2026 Victorian Government Landcare Grants Now Open

Landcare Grants to boost outstanding work of volunteers

Landcare groups and environmental volunteers are receiving more support to care for nature. The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) is inviting applications for the Victorian Government Landcare Grants totalling \$3.55 million to fund projects making a difference to enhance and protect Victoria’s great outdoors.

Landcare and environmental volunteer groups can apply for grants of up to \$20,000 for projects, and \$500 for support, from now until 23 April 2026.

Last year 509 Landcare and environmental groups across the state shared \$3.56 million in grants, helping fund on-ground works, community education and engagement activities, group development and small grants supporting administrative functions including insurance, incorporation and operational costs.

Recipients included:

- Friends of Mallee Conservation’s project to develop a non-technical A4 identification guide and plain English key for Mallee Eucalypts. Assisting with the identification of both common and rare species and building awareness of the vegetation communities of north-west Victoria.
- Kiewa Catchment Landcare Group’s Sowing the Seeds: Educating the Next Generation project, enabling growth of the involvement of young people in Landcare and creating the next generation of Landcare leaders.
- Friends of Mallacoota to assist with the on-going effort to eradicate weeds from Gabo Island, a 154-hectare island off eastern Victoria

Grants are available to all Victorian Landcare and environmental volunteer groups, including Landcare and Friends groups, Conservation Management Networks, Committees of Management, Coastcare groups and Traditional Owner or Aboriginal groups and organisations working on Country. ❶

• For more information, visit environment.vic.gov.au/grants/victorian-landcare-grants



CLIMATE EMERGENCY GRANTS

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Looking to fund a climate action project?

Do you have an idea that could build resilience to our changing climate, mobilise our community to act or reduce our local footprint?

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Tell us your idea by submitting an Expression of Interest.

Eligible projects will then be open to a community vote from 11–31 May, to decide the winners.

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Flagship regenerative farming festival to the Otways

By Ellen Whitten, Upper Barwon Landcare Network



The Stewart's Family Farm - Yan Yan Gurt West will be hive of activity next month when it hosts the 2026 GROUNDED Australia Festival on the 22 & 23 of April.

The Australia-wide roaming food and farming festival founded by Matthew Evans (Gourmet Farmer, Fat Pig Farm) and inspired by Groundswell Festival (UK) will bring with it a holistic mix of festival, conference and field day with something for everyone.

Let's take a look together to see who is making their way from overseas; interstate; cross-country; down the freeway or from just down the road to our corner of Victoria to share their expertise and passions with us.

International speakers include Nicole Masters (Integrity Soils, USA); Eliza Jenkins (Groundswell, UK); Helianti Hilman (Javara Indigenous Indonesia); Dr. Steven Chen (Recipe4Health, USA); Clara Coleman (Four Season Farm, Real Farmer Care, USA); Gavin Fisher (Organic Dairy Farmer, NZ).

Local icons gracing the stage include agro-foresters Mike Robinson-Koss, Rowan Reid and Hugh Stewart;

horticultural heroes James McLennan (Farm My School) and Jo Lawson (Brae); and dedicated dairy farmer Simon Schultz (Schultz Organic Diary) sharing their stories and connection to place.

A panel session will be held on the morning of the festival's second day that will launch our wider scale *Farmer Adoption of Sustainable Agriculture for Climate Resilience Project (FASA)*. This project secured Federal Government funding and is bringing the GROUNDED Festival event to you as its first exciting instalment.

The panel will be made up of farmer participants sharing the knowledge and concepts together with their feedback from our recent pilot Resilient Farming Course facilitated by our very own Kristy Jane Stewart (Upper Barwon Landcare Network). Kristy Jane has a passion for agroecology and regenerative farming and is the nurturing force behind the pilot and now wider scale project. Come along to hear about what it will look like on the ground, how you can get involved, and how it will support and empower our region with the expertise needed to respond resiliently to climate change and uncertain times.

Participants of the Resilient Farming Course Pilot Project – pre-cursor to the region wide Leading Farmer Adoption of Sustainable Agriculture for Climate Resilience Project of which 2026 Grounded Australia Festival at Yan Yan Gurt West Farm on 22 & 23 of April is the first exciting instalment.

Photo credit: Andrea Montgomery (Upper Barwon Landcare Network)

Other speakers include Fire Ecologists; Podcasters, Authors; Farmers, Governance and Financial Advisors; an Entomologist & pest control expert; Educators; Psychologists; Nutritionists and Dieticians; an expert in repairing degraded landscapes, CEO's; Consultants, Advisors; Chefs and even a Maltster – a specialist in cropping for beer & spirit production.

Some of the session titles to anticipate include "Safe to Fail Grazing; Funding your Regenerative Farming Idea"; "Fire the Friend You Know"; "Bridging the Divide for Nourished Neighbourhoods: Urban-Regional Food Connections"; "Superfine Wool From Super Landscapes"; "Right Plant for the Right Country: Using indigenous plants to their best advantage"; "Juggling the Personal & Professional in Business"; and "Quick and Dirty Soil Tests".

With camping onsite, offerings of farmer yoga and qi gong, world renowned speakers, walkshops and demonstrations, locally produced food and local music and the option to have a look around Yan Yan Gurt

West Farm for yourself – the diverse yet connected atmosphere will empower and encourage new ideas to emerge and practical actions to evolve and unfold long after the gates are closed.

Current worldwide events have us feeling unsure and uncertain, attending a festival like GROUNDED might be just the place where you can find the reassurance that there are still many good people doing good things. It may inspire you to start something you have been thinking about or keep going with something you have begun - knowing that you are supported by a like-minded yet open community and are contributing in your own meaningful way towards a more conscious, respectful, inclusive, resilient and diverse future. ①

• Find out more, peruse and get inspired by the recently released full program and purchase event tickets at the GROUNDED website: groundedaustralia.com.au

How Sascha was reunited with her owners after six-kilometre adventure

Four-year-old vizsla Sascha and her pal Rudi enjoy exploring their home paddocks on long walks together. But when she decided to bolt while still on the lead on a Saturday evening at the Bellbrae farm, her owners feared the worst.

"On this occasion, my husband was holding her on the lead and he lost grasp," owner Glenys said. "The dogs saw their chance and off both dogs went.

"I drove around the farm looking. A couple of hours later Rudi showed up, but no Sascha. I drove around the farm again and still no sign of her. I called and called for her, hoping she was still nearby. I was very concerned that a snake had bitten her."

When Glenys started to think that Sascha might be injured, Surf Coast Shire Council ranger Paul drove up to the property with Sascha in the back of his wagon.

"I was very relieved to see her," Glenys said. "The story was that some people about 6km away had seen both dogs. Rudi ran off and returned home, but they caught Sascha and called the ranger." Council's Ranger Services team was able to quickly reunite Sascha with her owners because she was registered and microchipped. "The ranger was great. I was very pleased he brought Sascha straight home, and she was still wearing her lead and collar," Glenys said. "She gets good long walks three times per day around the farm. Outside of those, I've since been trying doubly hard to keep her inside the house or in our long-run pen."

Council's annual animal registration renewal notices will be distributed in March. All dogs and cats over three months old who live in the Surf Coast Shire must be registered.



"Glenys and Sascha's story highlights why it's important to register your pet, as it helps our rangers return lost pets to their owners," Councillor Adrian Schonfelder said. "Registration fees mean Council can deliver a range of animal management services, including patrols, running the dog pound, and purchasing equipment such as cat cages. The fees also contribute to the after-hours service, which is what enabled Paul to get Sascha home safely."

Council's recently-adopted Domestic Animal Management Plan encourages people to 'take the lead' and be responsible pet owners.

"While developing the plan, we heard that registration fees was one of the top five difficulties for pet owners," Cr Schonfelder.

"If you receive your registration bill and you're experiencing hardship, please know that you can reach out for a confidential chat by phone (5261 0600) or email info@surfcoast.vic.gov.au."

Council will continue to provide 12-month free registration to adopted animals.

Animal registration renewals are due annually on 10 April. ①



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Agapanthus

By Eva Janice Youl

Agapanthus are often associated with beach holiday houses as these plants are very hardy, don't require watering and have pretty blue and white flowers.

They are conspicuous in gardens on the Mornington Peninsula, the Bellarine Peninsula and yes, here on the nature strips along the Great Ocean Road. Some people call this plant Lily of the Nile or African Lily because it originated in Africa with the family name of Amaryllidaceae. That scientific name seems closer to Mary than to Lily.

Agapanthus is considered an invasive weed. This hardy lily spreads easily and can disturb native plants across Australia. Early Autumn is the time to cut off flower heads before seeds form and/or dig out clumps with a mattock. It may be too late by the time you read this and the black seeds are already zapping down Lorne gutters.

The March working bee of Lorne Care had an agapanthus assault with David McCormack being Lorne's best human machine. As David says, the authorities could easily use equipment to take out the clumps of agapanthus. We worked on a section at the start of Hall Street near the pathway leading to Stoney Creek Reserve.

Is there any good news about agapanthus? There is plenty of information about propagation of blue or white agapanthus which I don't recommend you doing. But if you really really love them, there is some good news. As well as being hardy, the agapanthus are fire-retardant.

So if you are keeping your agapanthus, at least deadhead them. Or get a neighbour to deadhead them for you as Helen Worth does for her neighbour. That way the plants are contained to a garden and not prevailing in public spaces, nature strips or bushland. 🌱



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From the Deck

Slugs, snails, and the #5

By John Agar

Like many in Lorne, I have a worm farm. I feed it all my vegetable scraps, and I am regularly amazed by how quickly a pile of leftovers can be turned into worm juice... or slug wee... or maybe both.

Lately, my farm has turned into a slug sanctuary—perhaps as their last refuge from the increasing chorus of kookaburras calling my gum trees home. This surge in slugs has, in part, revolted me [I’ve repurposed some kitchen tongs as grabbers], but it has also sparked my curiosity to learn more about slugs and how they differ from their shelled cousins, the snails.

Slugs and snails are found on every continent, including Antarctica [though marine species dominate there].

Both are gastropod molluscs and share a similar, slimy method of movement and a comparable diet. The main difference is that a snail has a coiled, external shell for protection and moisture retention, whereas slugs have evolved without a visible shell or only a small, vestigial internal one to protect their most important bits.

Most land slugs [*stylommatophora*] have two pairs of retractable tentacles [or stalks], the upper, longer pair having eyespots at the tips that detect light, dark, and motion. The lower pair senses smell, taste, and touch. Sea slugs [*nudibranchs*] also have ‘eye’ sensors, but these are embedded in their skin rather than on stalks and are hard to spot. Moreover, as the slug seems more reticent to ‘extend’ its sensors after an initial retraction, it somehow seems more ‘slug-like’ and less personable than does a snail.

Land slugs and snails have several defining differences... see: <https://tinyurl.com/3cnysyyr>

- Snails have shells into which they can fully



retract, providing protection against predators and preventing dehydration. Conversely, slugs have evolved without shells—why is unclear—making them more vulnerable to desiccation and encouraging their nocturnal lifestyle.

- Snails house their key organs inside their shell, where a two-chambered heart pumps their ‘blood’ through an open circulatory system. Conversely, a slug’s organs lie undefended within its foot and body.
- Snails rely on their shells for defence, while shell-less slugs rely on hiding in tight spaces and small crevices.
- To build and maintain their shells, snails need more calcium in their diet than slugs—hence their different vegetable choices in your veggie patch!

Both animals glide on a single muscular foot that secretes a thick, slimy mucus that trails behind them. These trails quickly dry into the silvery-white tracks seen in the early morning in veggie patches as a tell-tale sign of overnight invasion.

“As a food source, we can eat certain snails, like the Burgundy snail—in culinary terms, ‘escargot’—though these farmed snails have been properly purged of contaminants and carefully cooked.”

As a food source, we can eat certain snails, like the Burgundy snail—in culinary terms, ‘escargot’—though these farmed snails have been properly purged of contaminants and carefully cooked. Indeed, when visiting France, I became quite partial to an entrée of escargot, though they are an acquired taste, and it takes courage to take the first bite. However, as we wolf down our oysters and mussels, a dozen snails is not a stretch too far.

This made me wonder if people ever ate slugs. In a word, no... it’s not advisable! NSW Health [tinyurl.com/2rphhaeu] gives the following advice:

“Eating wild slugs is dangerous. There is a high risk of contracting rat lungworm, a parasite that can cause severe, sometimes fatal, meningitis or brain damage – though in practical terms, human infection is extremely rare. Slugs, especially if eaten raw or undercooked, can harbour rat lungworm, a parasite that can infect the human central nervous system. While some slugs can be eaten if cooked extensively, this is still not recommended. They are harder to clean than snails, while their thicker, tougher skin produces a thicker, more viscous slime, which makes them generally unpalatable. Snails, however, are a tender delicacy when properly prepared. Although both are terrestrial gastropods, the risk of disease makes a slug a much less desirable [and far more dangerous] food choice.”

It is odd how a snail can seem a friendly creature while a slug broadly repulses us. This is likely because a snail’s shell lets us pick it up without being slimed, whereas a slug seems inherently yucky.

As a young boy, I specialised in organising snail races in our back yard for my neighbourhood friends.

We each had a stable of pet snails kept in jealously-guarded containers, replete with the leaves of our chosen high-energy mollusc vegetable. I trained my snails on lettuce; Pete had an unshakeable belief in cabbage; Joe chose spinach. We also named our snails ... my best snail was “Landy” [dating the contests to c.1954 when John Landy was our enduring national hero]. Joe, I recall, fielded “Bannister”. We painted ID numbers on the shell—my Landy was #5, though why I chose #5 is lost to history. Perhaps it was a portent of things to come... Polly Farmer, Gary Malarkey, Gary Ablett Snr, and Jeremy Cameron have all worn guernsey #5, but—to be truthful—all were better kicks than my “Landy”.

We placed our snails at the centre of a large ring, fired the starting gun [a penny bunger then freely available in the 50’s], and tempted our charges towards the outer ring with their favourite vegetable. The penny bunger was an inspired choice—perhaps my Landy was simply deaf—but while the stunned opposition retracted their feelers, Landy soldiered on. He was a bolter! I was so proud of him ... though being uncertain how to sex a snail, ‘he’ could easily have been ‘she’. Whatever the case, Landy was rarely beaten.

I still recall my distress when, one night, Landy escaped over the edge of his container and disappeared into the garden—or possibly into the maw of a hungry blackbird... the latter unthinkable and a stimulus for unmanly 8-year-old tears. Despite a search involving the whole family, he was never seen again.

I can’t quite see myself forming a similar relationship with a slug. Besides, where would I have painted the #5! 🐌

“It is odd how a snail can seem a friendly creature while a slug broadly repulses us. This is likely because a snail’s shell lets us pick it up without being slimed, whereas a slug seems inherently yucky.”

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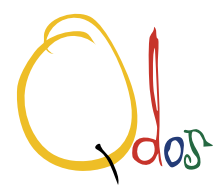
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Where everybody counts

Arts in Lorne



Discover the work of master printmaker Robert Ashton in this captivating exhibition celebrating the art of photogravure.

Blending traditional craftsmanship with contemporary photography, Ashton’s work transforms photographic images into richly textured prints, known for their depth, tonal range, and enduring quality. Each piece is created through a meticulous, hands-on process that brings a unique character to every print.

Photogravure is a historic printmaking technique where photographic images are transferred onto plates and printed using an intaglio etching press. The process involves multiple stages, including digital image preparation, plate exposure, development, and hand-printing—resulting in beautifully detailed, archival-quality artworks.

This exhibition offers a rare opportunity to experience this specialised art form up close and gain insight into the craftsmanship behind each piece. A must-see for photography lovers, art enthusiasts, and those interested in traditional printmaking techniques.



EASTER PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION

Joshua James will undertake his AIR from Monday 9th March until Sunday 22nd March. Joshua is no stranger to our Arts Hub. He has held an individual exhibition, participated in the Surf Coast Shire Arts Trail and our first Christmas market.

The 2026 Easter Photographic Exhibition opens on Friday 3rd April until Sunday 12th April. The opening hours each day will be 11am until 5pm.

The official opening will be on Thursday 2nd at 5.30pm and we will be delighted if you can join us. We have thirty-four photographers exhibiting this year each addressing the theme, “Becoming and Belonging”. In the words of our curator and judge Pia Johnson, the theme “invites photographers to explore the intimate spaces between who we were and who we’re becoming, seeking images that reveal the moments of transformation and the places where we finally feel at home.”



The committee wishes to acknowledge our sponsors and thank them for their generous support of the exhibition, namely Mantra Lorne, Bell’s Fine Art, Great Ocean Road Real Estate and the Lorne Aquatic and Angling Club.

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

Our first Artist in Residence, Joshua James (pictured) completed his residency in late March. The arrangement provides local artists studio space to work in a focussed way and in Joshua’s case, accommodation generously provided by Mantra, Lorne as part of their ongoing sponsorship of our Arts Hub. Joshua opened the facility, allowing the public to view his work and him working. During this time visitors were able to speak with him about the nature of his work and as a proud Noongar Man how his work connects to people and his ancestors and spirits. There were also four workshops for the community



to learn about his creative processes and the meaning behind aboriginal symbols and storytelling. Participants had the opportunity to create their own story. The Artist in Residence program continues to grow with three additional artists booked to join the program during the year. It clearly demonstrates a need and word is spreading amongst the artistic community.

FUTURE ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE

Astrid Mendez and Alejandra Marin
KNOTS OF BECOMING.
Check them out on Instagram @rootsandtrace
13 April-15 May & 1 June-30 September
Performance artists, including puppetry. Further details to follow. – Gary Allen

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Lorne Sculpture Biennale

By Karen Pitt

A quick update on people and planning for the next Lorne Sculpture Biennale.

We welcome our new President, Lindy Allen. Lindy has worked in the arts for over four decades, including as CEO of both Regional Arts Victoria and Regional Arts Australia. Lindy’s career has spanned performing (am I the only *Lorne Independent* reader to have laughed themselves off their chair watching *The Whittle Family* at The Last Laugh in the 1980s?) and management of regional arts festivals and we are delighted that she has agreed to lead us to our next Lorne Sculpture Biennale.

We also welcome Allan Brown who has agreed to be our Treasurer. Allan served the op shop as treasurer for over ten years and we are fortunate that he has agreed to join us. And we welcome new committee members Margaret Bullen and Evelyn Firstenberg, who join Secretary Karen Pitt and committee member Janet Barton for (at least) one more LSB.

Huge thanks to our retiring President and Treasurer, Andrew Stobart and Phil Rounsevell. Phil now spends much of his time in sunny southern Queensland, and Andrew has offered to remain available with our other former Presidents as a resource for Lindy.

The last Lorne Sculpture Biennale in March 2025 encountered a number of challenges and obstacles

in delivering the exhibition, including objections by the Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation about the location of some of the works and late changes required by government authorities.

As a result, Andrew Stobart has continued to work with GORCAPA to prepare a documented procedure which clearly defines all steps to obtain all the necessary approvals. We hope this will support a smoother process and avoid the disruptions we suffered in 2025.

Our audience was not as enthusiastic about the exhibition as in previous years. Our surveys indicated that only around 30% of visitors were very satisfied with the outdoor Sculpture exhibition and another 30% satisfied – a total of 60%. This is considerably less than for LSB 2022 when nearly 90% said they were either satisfied or very satisfied.

However, those surveys support our decision to present the next LSB - 80% stated that they are likely to attend the next Biennale and it is re-assuring that we have held our audience.

Those who attended our 2025 AGM had the pleasure of hearing Deb Halpern describe her vision for an installation for the next LSB and her suggestions for community participation. Planning for the next LSB will take place in the coming months, so we urge you to watch this space. ❶

Op Shop Buzz

By Janet Goud

Happy Easter from your Op Shop!

I'm taking advantage of Wendy's absence to tell you a little about the Op Shop members and their place in the community. While we all know how well we work selling your great donations, there is more to this band of people than that.

Many of us have come from rewarding careers and rearing families where we were important and busy in our daily lives and now we have retired and are living in this little paradise called Lorne. We look around and feel we want to be useful again.

As we age, we all find ourselves becoming a little less relevant to our families, as they grow up and are as busy as we once were. For some of us this leaves a gap in our lives and here is where the Op Shop comes in.

The Op Shop gives back some of that sense of being useful and doing important work helping our community. It's heady stuff being in charge of a shop full of treasures and random items which can be arranged and rearranged. My first job when I was being "trained" was colour coordinating the racks of dresses. It was like all those times as a child when you spent ages organising a shop and then you had to beg your family to come and buy. Except here there are more willing and constant customers.

As members we need to be as inclusive as we can, so when we are less able to run up the stairs and process the donations quickly, we will still be welcome to sit and chat to our excited customers as we take their contributions to our community benefits. We are a little society within the bigger world of Lorne who care for our members as they age (we do have some proud 90 year olds) so please understand this when you visit the shop.

Also when you leave donations. These are best left in the morning shifts, so they can



Op Shop was a supporter of the Hospital Long Lunch.

be processed more easily. Naturally we will accept them at all times, but if you are local and wanting to help, this is the best time.

Our latest round of donations have helped the school, the Nursing Home and the Cricket Club so we are now filling the coffers again. Please bring us your clean unwanted goods and if you feel like playing shop, join us as a member. Forms are available in the shop. It's a painless procedure to be "Trained." You join a shift for a week with some experienced members and then chose your own time and place.

Just remember you have to SHARE! There are 90 other members to play with and they all want a turn !!

"As members we need to be as inclusive as we can, so when we are less able to run up the stairs and process the donations quickly, we will still be welcome to sit and chat to our excited customers as we take their contributions to our community benefits."



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LORNE medical centre



Lunch on Lorne Success

Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and supporters, those who attended Lunch on Lorne, it really was an unforgettable afternoon of great food, wonderful company and community connection. We are proud to announce that we raised \$11,588. Thank you to Anna, Simon and the team at In the Skies Restaurant for hosting us, as well as the Lorne Bowls Club. A highlight of the day was the Deluxe fashion parade featuring GORH's very own models Dr Dave Mullen, Carly Enticott, Mary-Rose Moon and Patrick Hegarty. The day also featured a series of incredible acts After Sun, Frazey, Will Gibb and the Humdingers, special thanks to John Waller for organising the entertainment. Thank you to our great sponsors and supporters —Lorne Op Shop, Lorne Angling & Aquatic Club, Surf Coast Community Bank, In the Skies Restaurant and Deluxe Lorne. A heartfelt thank you to Renae, Molly, Di, Yesse, Jess, Luke Morgan, Jemma Lewis and Live Wire Park for helping make this an incredible day. This will be an annual long lunch in Lorne, the next one will be late February 2027.



Thank You Great Ocean Road Cycling Club

A huge thank you to Great Ocean Road Cycling for their incredible donation of \$3,500 to Great Ocean Road Health supporting healthcare in our community (pictured below). These funds will be utilised to purchase a smoothie bike which will be used in several GORH programs promoting healthy life balance, continuous movement and healthy living. These programs will cross a large gamut of our community from schools, to aged care and in between. "Great Ocean Road Cycling has had a long association with Great Ocean Road Health, dating back to 2012. As a club, representing 140 members between Torquay and Apollo Bay, we believe it is important to make meaningful contributions to support our community. Our objective is improve health services for all communities on the Great Ocean Road, including cyclists." - Garry Smith, President Great Ocean Road Cycling.

GORH Services on Public Holidays

On public holidays our Medical Centre, Community House and administration is closed. We provide essential Community services only including; nursing, personal care, respite services and meals on wheels. Urgent Care is open 24/7. In an emergency please call 000.



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Inside, the main dwelling features two comfortable bedrooms: one with a queen bed and another with twin singles, both equipped with study desks. A separate studio dwelling includes a king bedroom with its own ensuite, offering added privacy for couples or extra guests. The main bathroom includes a shower-bath combo and a separate toilet. A fully equipped kitchen provides essential appliances and cookware for easy meal preparation, while the open-plan lounge offers a cosy space to relax with a TV and smart entertainment.

Outdoors, a spacious deck and balcony overlook panoramic mountain and bush views, creating the perfect setting for outdoor dining and relaxation. The property sits within expansive natural bushland with off-street parking for four vehicles. A BBQ connected to the house is available for guest use, and the separate self-contained studio adds flexibility for groups or families. Surrounded by wildlife and forest, the entire retreat delivers a peaceful, private ambience.

This is an off-grid and reliant on solar-battery for electricity and tank for water. So cooperation in using power and water wisely would be appreciated. No electric vehicle charging. Charging is available in Winchelsea and Lorne.

Please note that the Otways have a cool, wet climate year-round, so guests are encouraged to pack warm jackets and sturdy footwear.

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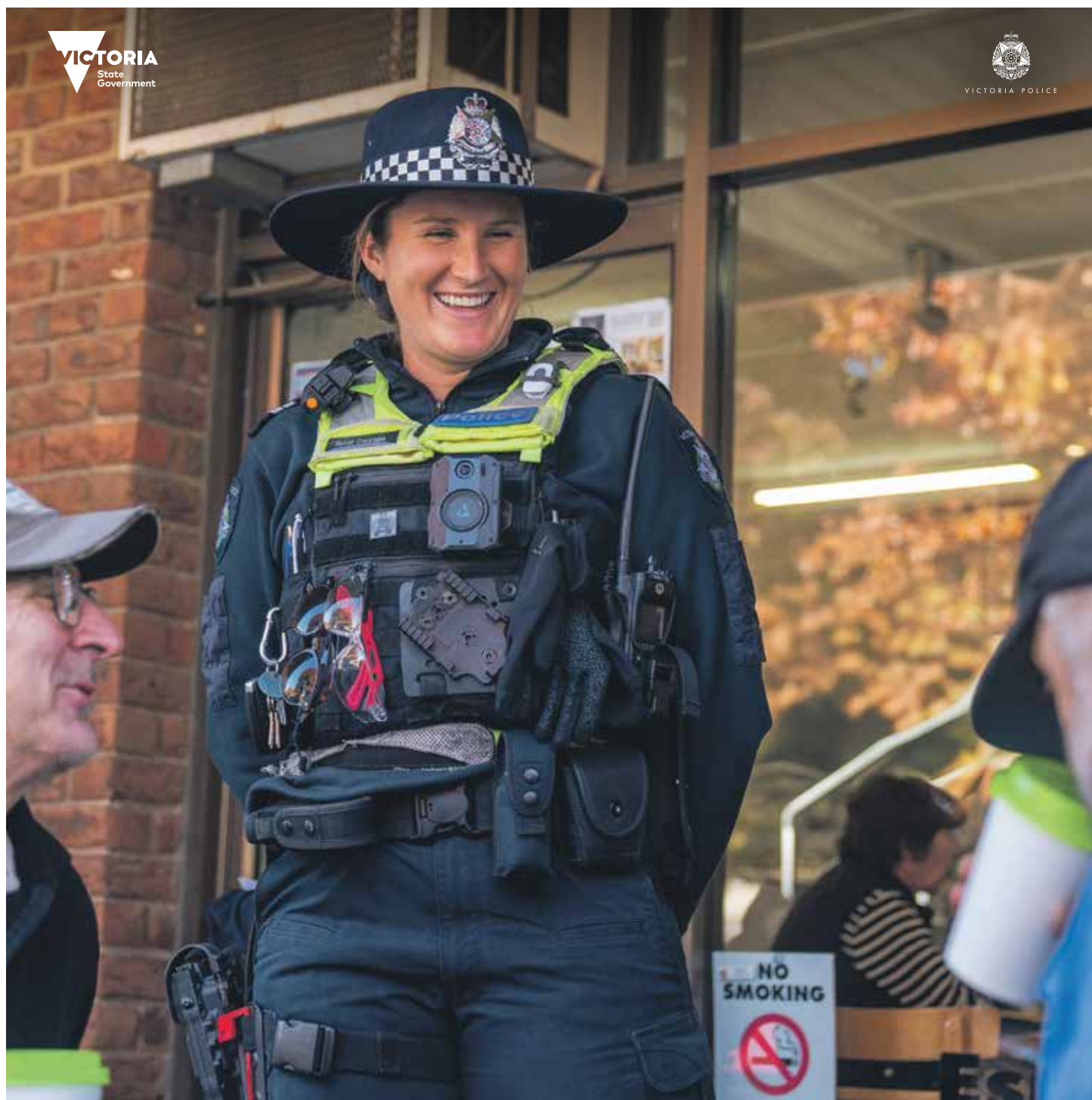
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Barwon Water Community Update

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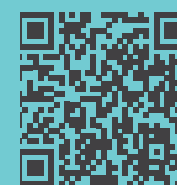
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 **BarwonWater**

SHAVINGS from the SHED

By Allan Walls

We have a few quiet achievers in the shed, none quieter than Harris (Harry) Mammos. Few would know that Harry as he is affectionately known has recently received a Life Membership from the Lorne Football and Netball Club for services rendered over many years, including serving on the Committee for six years, property steward for many years and a much-needed trainer.

Harry, I believe almost single-handedly built the red gum seating which incidentally contained 365 red gum sleepers that stood the test of time at the footy ground prior to the current renovations.

Harry is also a gardener extraordinaire with the hospital, the Aquatic Club and many others receiving Harry's roses when in season.

Recently, I had the pleasure in visiting Harry's Tomato Garden and as you will see by the photo, he is a very capable gardener, and his tomatoes taste fantastic. Well, done Harry.

News from the Shed is that we have our new coffee machine installed, floor covering replaced and new kitchen design awaiting final Committee meeting approval before installation.

Many thanks to Rod Van Ingen, Bob Sinclair and Kevin Riley for their input and how could I not mention Treasurer Clive Goldsworthy for keeping a very very watchful eye on our finances.

Speaking of finances, which I wasn't, I must say a wonderful thank you to Joe, Mary, and Fonzie Falzon, the recently retired owners of Grandma Shields Bakery. The Falzon Family supplied the Men's Shed with Pastries and Coffee Beans for many years. Thank you Team Falzon for a magnificent contribution.



“Harry, I believe almost single-handedly built the red gum seating which incidentally contained 365 red gum sleepers that stood the test of time at the footy ground prior to the current renovations.”

It just came to me the other day that we now have approx 120 members at the Shed which is around 10% of the population of Lorne. It's a bit of a challenge remembering all the names.

Restoration of the Marion continues, and we have now ordered the special timber for the ribs and transom. It's a bigger job than we thought but we will get it done.

President David Lawler continues with his obsession for sailing T37 Yachts and has amassed a group of about 15. Ahoy there matey (fellow sailors) who can often be seen at the Swing Bridge practising for the *Lorne Independent* Cup to be held on Easter Sunday at 10am.

There is sure to be a crowd and with commentary from John (Codger) Agar this is an event not to be missed. Let's hope for fair winds and great sailing. 🍷

Sportsbriefs

By John Ford, sports editor

Lorne Bowls Club – Premiers!

Lorne's Bowls Club has had an amazing season including winning another Premiership! *Sportsbriefs* is so happy with this success for the club which offers Saturday and Midweek pennant bowls, social play and a very successful restaurant. Honour boards showing past champions and office bearers are proudly displayed in the main clubrooms which serve to remind us of some of Lorne's history. Brendan Tunstall's article below brings us a wrap-up of the season.



AROUND THE GREEN at the Lorne Bowls Club

By Brendan Tunstall

Now There is One!
Yes, there is Glowing and Crowing Ahead!

Our Weekend Division 2 Side convincingly won their Grand Final at Colac Lakes (the Corangamite Playing Area "MCG" of Bowls venues) on Saturday February 28. After a disheartening Grand Final loss last year there were smiles aplenty following this much deserved win.

Although the side had earned their right to be promoted to Division 1 next season by finishing on top of the ladder at the end of the home and away rounds, the side was determined to be promoted on its merit and did so, strongly against the combined might of Camperdown Magpies 106 shots to 80. The great crowd of spectators couldn't help but be so impressed by the Sides gritty finish given that it was trailing 53-56 at the lunch break.

Our victorious side was made up of the following:

Team 1 – Colleen Weetman, Shane Thorncroft, Sheryl Donne and Paul Staley are Down in the first half and came home superbly 29-23.

Team 2 – Peter Steven, Peter Ironmonger, Steve Donne and Leigh McIlvenny. Ahead all day, never in doubt 34-13.

Team 3 – Rose Lloyd, Marilyn McKenzie, Nick Owen and Brad Weetman. This diverse combo of golfer, bushwalker, swimmer and cricketer (Bradman) was ahead all day 20-13.

Team 4 – Donna Issell, Michael Causon Snr, Allan Walls and Peter Jacobs. This team was indefatigable and scored many shots late in the game to bring the score up to 23-31.

Fittingly, our Club President Jeff Reddie, in his role as emergency player, was presented with a Premiership Medal along with all of the team members by Team Manager Paul Staley.



You can see the Premiership flag flying proudly at the Club.

Coach Leigh McIlvenny took up this position last September with the major aim to win the grand final.

Success. Leigh is a first-class bowler with great enthusiasm and vast experience. Recently Leigh, together with Brad Weetman, Paul Staley and Steve Donne were invited to compete in the Torquay Surf Coast (International) Invitation event. No surprise that being in top form they won against the 35 competing teams. One team included the World Lawn Bowls GOAT – the Scot Supremo Alec Marshall!

Stepping up to Division 1 will be a challenge willingly accepted by our bowlers.

Back to level ground. Our club competitions have been continuing with Brad and Colleen Weetman defeating Rose Lloyd and David Wyles in the Mixed Doubles.

Pearl McIver defeated Fran O'Mara in the Women's 21 Up. Brendan Tunstall defeated Allan Walls in the Men's 21 Up. Heather Onley will be playing Sheryl Donne in the Women's 100 Up Final. The Men's 100 Up Competition is continuing.

Although district competitions are over, lots of bowling activity continues. Social Bowls continue

“Lorne's Bowls Club has had an amazing season including winning another Premiership! Sportsbriefs is so happy with this success for the club which offers Saturday and Midweek pennant bowls, social play and a very successful restaurant.”

Continued on page 37



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Continued from page 37

on Wednesday mornings and Barefoot Bowls can be arranged through restaurant staff.

Members enjoy being able to practise at other times.

The third week of the Wednesday Twilight Bowls Competition is being finalised this week. It is most pleasing to see so many new bowlers trying their arms out and enjoying it.

Our barista Jason is enjoying his change of scenery at the club each morning- Friday through to Monday. The word has got around that his world-renowned coffee (apologies KM) is being served again and in the most salubrious of surrounds.

Members are reminded that the Annual Presentation will be held at the club on Wednesday evening April 8. Our In the Skies restaurant will be catering.

And a reminder- when your Skip asks you to 'try your other hand', you don't have to be ambidextrous.

LORNE CRICKET

Lorne's Cricket Team unfortunately missed out on making the Grand Final. Lorne defeated Tomahawk Creek in the Elimination Final on 28th February, but the following week was defeated by Apollo Bay in the Preliminary Final. West Warrion then defeated Apollo Bay to become Premiers. The Cricket Club have supplied the article below summing up the season.

Lorne Dolphins Bow Out in Semi-Final Against Apollo Bay

On a cool and breezy Saturday afternoon at Birregurra, the Lorne Dolphins gave it everything they had in their semi-final showdown against Apollo Bay. While the Dolphins ultimately fell short, losing by 55 runs, the match wasn't without its moments of brilliance. A gutsy fightback in the field and some standout performances ensured the Dolphins left the game with their heads held high, even as Apollo Bay advanced to this year's Grand Final.

After winning the toss, Lorne skipper Jack Belsar-O'Connor elected to bowl first, putting faith in his bowlers to set the tone. However, Apollo Bay started strongly, cruising to 2/174 and looking set for an imposing total. But just when it seemed like the game was slipping away, the Dolphins showed their trademark fighting spirit, staging an incredible comeback in the final overs.

Led by Brett Carey and skipper Jack Belsar-O'Connor, Lorne tore through Apollo Bay's middle and lower order, taking 7 wickets for just 32 runs in the back end of the innings. The Dolphins' fielding intensity went up a notch, with sharp catches, run outs, and tight bowling putting the brakes on Apollo Bay's charge.

The highlight of the fightback came in the last two overs, where Lorne snatched 5 wickets in quick succession. Jack Belsar-O'Connor was instrumental, claiming three wickets, including a perfectly executed

lbw. Brett Carey chipped in with two scalps for the day, including a peach of a delivery that cleaned up Apollo Bay's tail. The Dolphins' fielders were electric, with Matt Cash and Xavier Hollmer pulling off clutch catches and Peter Bracken claiming a direct-hit run-out.

From a position of dominance, Apollo Bay were suddenly scrambling, finishing their innings at 9/206 after 40 overs. It was a remarkable turnaround that showed the grit and determination of the Dolphins, keeping the target within reach despite the early onslaught.

The chase began with promise as skipper Jack Belsar-O'Connor led from the front, smashing 25 off 28 balls to give Lorne a solid start. Eddie Erftemeyer followed with a patient 34 off 65 deliveries, finding the boundary five times and anchoring the innings early on. Matt Cash contributed a handy 24, while Ryan Heathcote played the standout knock of the day, cracking a gutsy 45 off 53 balls, including six boundaries that had the crowd on their feet.

However, the Dolphins struggled to build partnerships, and wickets fell in clusters. Despite the efforts of Eddie and Ryan, the chase faltered, and the Dolphins were bowled out for 151 in 39.2 overs, falling short by 55 runs.

While the result didn't go their way, the Dolphins can take pride in their performance, particularly the fightback in the field that turned the tide late in Apollo Bay's innings. It was a display of resilience, teamwork, and never-say-die attitude – hallmarks of this Lorne side.

As the season comes to a close, the Lorne Cricket Club would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our sponsors, social members, and the community for their unwavering support. Whether you were cheering from the sidelines at Stribling Reserve, helping out behind the scenes, or simply showing up to back the boys, you've been an integral part of our journey.

To our players and volunteers – thank you for your hard work and dedication throughout the season. Cricket is more than just a game; it's a community, and this season has been a testament to the strength of ours.

While the Dolphins may not have made it to the Grand Final, the fight and spirit they showed on Saturday remind us why we love this game. The team will be back next season, hungrier than ever and ready to make waves in 2026/2027.

Congratulations to Apollo Bay on their victory, and best of luck in the Grand Final. And to the Dolphins – well done on a fantastic season. Bring on next year!

Womens Golf Club News

- March Monthly Medal winner – Sue England.
- Summer Cup results... after 3 weeks of fabulous golf the results in both the 18 hole Summer Cup

and the 9 Hole Summer Cup were very close, with best 2 out of 3 rounds adding extra excitement. Congratulations to Sue England who won the 18 Hole event with 80 points, a fantastic effort, and she is on a roll!! Very close behind were Anne Maree on 78 points. Congratulations also to Chick Hosking who won the 9 Hole June Stafford Summer Cup with 34 points, with Judith Smyth runner up on 32 points.

- The Women's Club Championship has had the first 2 of the 3 rounds played to date, with participants in Grades A, B and C competing. Scores have been very good and competition is close... The winner will be announced in next month's *Lorne Independent*.
- Pennant competition is starting Friday 20th with the first round being played at Clifton Springs, we play against Anglesea. This competition runs over 7 rounds, ending May 8th.



SWGA News

- The Betty Kernot - Scratch Foursome knock out competition - over 3 rounds. We had a Div. 1 team with Sue England and Ann Maree Kennedy representing our club for the 2nd year in a row. The first round was held at The Sands in Torquay on a cold and wet day, and though the girls played well, they lost out on the 16th.

- Queenscliff 4 person's Ambrose event - our team had to leave super early to meet the tee off time - they did not win the trophies, but did get recognition for having to travel the furthest of all competitors on the day!! dedication!

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, whether new to golf or with some Golfing experience, or if you have any questions, please call Chris Angus on 0439008167, or Rose Wyles on 0407 860 980.

Happy Golfing, Danni De Bon.

Football and Netball are Back!

That wonderful sound of the football club siren is a pure joy and reminds us all of winter in Victoria! Yes, the Colac and District Football Netball season is about to commence with practice matches already under way.

Lorne's first match is at home against Apollo Bay on 3rd April - Good Friday. On that Easter weekend there is a split round with only two matches being played – one in Lorne and one in Colac. It is difficult to understand why Lorne is playing on Good Friday – an important Christian holiday – when the match could be scheduled for the Saturday. Lorne's first four football and netball matches are as follows:

Fri 3rd April (Good Friday) – Lorne v Apollo Bay (home)

Sat 18th April – Lorne v Colac Imperials (home)

Sat 25th April – South Colac v Lorne (away)

Sat 2nd May – Lorne v Otway Districts (home)

If you really support the Dolphins, then memberships are available and are such good value. If you are not sure, then membership is available at the gate as you arrive for the first match! We are all looking forward to seeing the 'new look' Dolphins football and netball teams in action.

- 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

Community Satisfaction Survey Closed



Thank-you to those who participated in the 2026 Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey.

Interviews have now finished and responses are being analysed by an independent research company. We expect to share the results mid-year.

The annual survey, commissioned by the state government, helps us understand the community's view of our performance.

For more information please call 5261 0600.



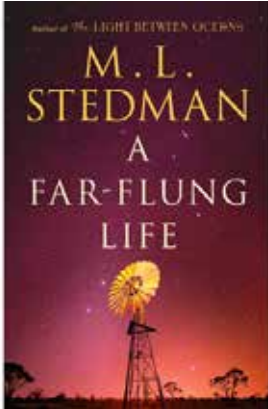


lorne books

Picks of the Month



FICTION: A Far-flung Life by M.L. Stedman



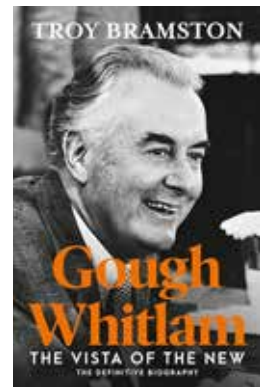
Western Australia, 1958. A truck rumbles along a lonely outback road. A moment's inattention, and in a few muddled seconds the lives of the MacBride family are shattered.

Set in the expanse of a vast and flat landscape, where the weather is a capricious god and a million-acre sheep station is barely a dot on the map, *A Far-flung Life* explores the hearts of a handful of isolated souls and the devastating secrets they shield in order to survive.

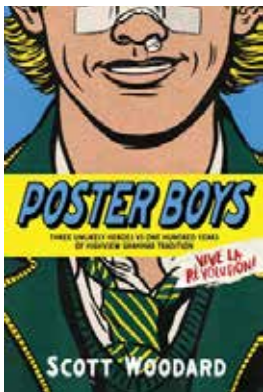
With shimmering prose and a delicious wit, the mysteries of being human are laid bare in this ultimately hopeful meditation on time and resilience and the lengths we go to to protect what we love.

NON-FICTION: Gough Whitlam: The Vista of the New by Troy Bramston

This definitive biography by Troy Bramston offers a sweeping, deeply researched account of Gough Whitlam, capturing both the bold vision that modernised Australia and the personal flaws and political crises that shaped his legacy. Using previously unseen personal and official archives this nuanced biography celebrates Whitlam's personal attributes and policy and legislative achievements without glossing over his shortcomings. What emerges is a fresh understanding of one of Australia's most revered and reviled Prime Ministers



Young Adult Fiction: City Spies by James Ponti



A jock, a try-hard and a space cadet. It turns out this trio have one thing in common: they're all sick of the culture, tradition and rules of their snobby 100-year-old high school. And they're ready to do something about it.

A laugh-out-loud debut novel that mixes razor-sharp satire with a rollicking plot and a whole lot of heart. This is a YA coming-of-age caper about accepting yourself just as you are. Hilariously witty and satirical, *Poster Boys* beautifully portrays the importance of male friendship

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