

No. 290 January 2026

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LORNE *Independent*

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**NEW YEAR,
NEW LOOK!**

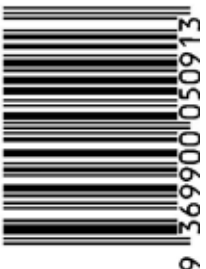
HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

Photo from Leon Walker's Calendar

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ADVICE FOR FRAZZLED PARENTS P15

**WIN A YEAR'S SUBSCRIPTION
WITH OUR MUSIC QUIZ** P17



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PUBLIC TRANSPORT VICTORIA PT BUS TIMETABLE

COLAC TO LORNE

FREE WEEKEND TRAVEL (until 1st February, 2026)

FREE TRAVEL FOR UNDER 18s (from 1st January, 2026)

Thursday 1st Jan 2026 to Sunday 25th Jan 2026

COLAC to LORNE via BIRREGURRA and DEANS MARSH

Monday to Sunday

	am	am	pm	pm	pm
Colac Train Station	7:10	10:00	12:30	4:00	7:15
Colac Bus Interchange	7:15	10:05	12:35	4:05	7:20
General Store, Birregurra	7:30	10:20	12:50	4:20	7:35
The Store, Deans Marsh	7:45	10:35	1:05	4:35	7:50
Lorne Visitor Information Centre	8:10	11:00	1:30	5:00	8:15

LORNE to COLAC via DEANS MARSH and BIRREGURRA

Monday to Sunday

	am	am	pm	pm	pm
Lorne Visitor Information Centre	8:15	11:15	1:45	5:15	8:30
The Store, Deans Marsh	8:35	11:35	2:05	5:35	8:50
General Store, Birregurra	8:50	11:50	2:20	5:50	9:05
Colac Bus Interchange	9:10	12:10	2:40	6:10	9:25
Colac Train Station	9:15	12:15	2:45	6:15	9:30

IF YOU DON'T USE IT, YOU MIGHT LOSE IT!

IF YOU DO USE IT, YOU WILL EXTEND IT!

By Mayor – Libby Stapleton, Surf Coast Shire Council

As the busy season gets underway, it's wonderful to see the Colac to Lorne summer bus service kicked off this month from 19 December, with free travel for Under 19s (from 1 January) and free travel on weekends until the service concludes on 1 February 2026.

The Colac to Lorne bus service, via Birregurra and Deans Marsh, is a welcome addition to public transport in this part of the world, and something the local community would like to see extended. The more people who use the summer bus service, the stronger the case will be to advocate for this service to continue for longer.

With limited public transport options across the Surf Coast, Council formally adopted this as a key advocacy priority at our meeting in November.

More than 75-per-cent of Surf Coast Shire residents commute to work by car.

There is a lack of viable public transport options, especially between key settlements and employment areas. We know this has a significant impact for workers needing to get to Lorne for a 9am start.

This issue is exacerbated by the lack of affordable housing in coastal townships such as Lorne.

In short, workers can't live close to where they work in Lorne because there's a lack of available housing, and they don't have sufficient public transport options to get them to town either.

We're advocating for the state government to implement direct bus routes connecting townships, with timetables that support worker and school commuting, as well as the needs of older residents and visitors.

This includes early morning and late afternoon services connecting Lorne to both Geelong and Colac.

We'd also like to see a rail shuttle service between Colac and Geelong, stopping in Winchelsea, plus additional rail services to Winchelsea from Colac and Geelong.

Our advocacy priorities will form the basis of our conversations with state government ministers, local Members of Parliament and election candidates over the next year, through the 2026-27 budget cycle and in the lead-up to the coming state election.

We hope to see some traction on this key issue for Lorne residents and people who travel to Lorne for work.

Our list of advocacy priorities also includes the community-led proposal for a land tax exemption on properties in Lorne that are made available for long-term rental. This is an initiative aimed at incentivising more rental properties to be made available for key workers in the town, rather than being listed on shortstay accomodation sites such as AirBnB.

Our full list of advocacy priorities is available on our website: surfcoast.vic.gov.au/advocacy

Wishing Lorne locals and visitors a wonderful Christmas, and a safe and happy new year. 📍

“This issue is exacerbated by the lack of affordable housing in coastal townships such as Lorne.”



From the Deck

The Old Girl is back and as Grand as ever!

By John Agar

The Grand Pacific Hotel is in its second year of post-restoration operation, thanks to the foresight of its new owner and Ghanda founder, Josh Rudd, who took a chance after the COVID-19 period to purchase and renovate the old girl, and the welcoming skills of its popular local licensees, Mary-Ann and Matt Humphries.

Mary-Ann [nee Armistead] has a treasured Lorne pedigree as a multi-generational descendant of Lorne's Armistead clan ... NB: Leon insists the 'i' is a critical inclusion to define it from another family [Armistead—no 'i'] who settled in western Victoria a little later.

While 'the Pacific' has always competed with the Lorne Hotel ['the Lorne' had opened four years earlier in 1876], their relationship has been generally symbiotic, as tourist demand has always been sufficient to keep both pubs humming. Regrettably, though, after the Pacific began to struggle in the years before COVID-19, it went into liquidation in mid-2020 and closed its doors. When Josh, Mary-Ann and Matt stepped in to restore her to life, the town sighed with relief.

'The Pacific' has seen many changes over its nearly 150-year history. The list of its owners/proprietors reads like a Lorne "Who's Who" and includes Charles Gwynne, Frank Beaurepaire, Ron Todd, Johnathon Crawford, and Angelo Kambouris, among many others. Those with long memories will still recall its post-WWII days as "Toddy's", and its stylish makeover in the 60s by rag-trade mogul Johnathon "Pal" Crawford. Most long-time Lorne residents and regulars

"Welcome back, old girl, and may you continue to serve Lorne with your legendary grace and distinction for many years to come."

still regale with cheeky tales [now much-embellished by age and fond memory] of long evenings spent in its warm embrace. But, as many may not be aware of the earliest days of this most beautiful servant of Lorne, it is fitting to reflect on those times as 'she' prepares for her second revitalised summer.

The tale begins with Henry Gwynne, who returned from a trip to America, fired with enthusiasm to recreate a hotel at Point Grey that would echo a [unnamed] Californian coastal hotel he had fallen for. His dream?... The Grand Pacific Hotel.

The following edited excerpts are taken from three articles published in *The Geelong Advertiser* [1879-1880] and chart the realisation of Gwynne's dream.

THE GEELONG ADVERTISER – 3/4/1879 A NEW HOTEL TO BE BUILT

The picturesque township of Lorne will ere long receive a significant acquisition in its accommodation for visitors.

The new hotel, designed by Messrs Alexander Davidson and Co., Architects [to the concept provided by Lorne resident, Mr Henry Gwynne], will not only provide first-class accommodation for its many visitors but will also serve as a fine feature of this charming watering place.

The business will be managed by Mr TF Anderson of the Union Club Hotel, Geelong, whose well-known abilities are sure to be appreciated.

The contractor is Mr J Rennie, of Melbourne, who will soon begin his work, the total cost of which will be ~£6000.

THE GEELONG ADVERTISER – 9/6/1879 A GRAND PACIFIC HOTEL

A three-storey hotel is under construction in the township of Lorne. Built from brick and resting on foundations of Erskine River freestone, with facings of the same stone, two wrought-iron balconies will surround it.

Thirty thousand bricks, sourced from Melbourne, are keeping the workmen busy, while the remaining bricks will be made in Lorne from its excellent local clay.

The hotel will include a tower and a flagpole, be equipped with all modern amenities, and feature the most advanced ventilation system available. More than 100 rooms will offer spacious accommodation, with single bedrooms measuring 10ft x 9ft with 12ft ceilings. A spacious and comfortable dining room will seat at least 150 people, while a large billiards room will be among its many other entertainment options. The interior has been designed in the American style for everyone's enjoyment.

The building is expected to be completed by 1st December 1879, one month earlier than the date specified in the contract.

The hotel will occupy the most prominent three and a half acres in the township, directly opposite the Lorne jetty. It will be surrounded by a landscaped ornamental park and will be fully visible from the ocean and passing ships.

The 300-foot-long jetty will be extended by 180 feet to accommodate larger vessels expected in the bay, improving the current water depth of 16ft at high tide and 7ft at low tide to 16 ft at low tide.

The proposed Grand Pacific Hotel and the Erskine River Falls are to be included in Captain Pearce's 500-foot "Panorama of Colonial Scenery, along with other scenic spots around Ballarat, Sandhurst, Castlemaine, and in Tasmania.

THE GEELONG ADVERTISER – 29/3/1880 LORNE

The visitors to this stylish watering hole have so far enjoyed the most delightful weather for their Easter Holidays.

The Pacific Hotel has enjoyed a steady stream of visitors



An early [undated] photograph of The Grand Pacific Hotel.

and has been packed to the brim – as has Mountjoy's [NB: later Erskine House and now The Mantra] – with both hotels turning away guests to find accommodation elsewhere.

The horse-drawn coaches from Deans Marsh have been so heavily laden that more conveyances have been added to the line.

No doubt many more chapters will be added to the story of this grand old coastal dame, but to kick off the remaking of memories, Mary-Ann and Matt have introduced Wednesday's Pie and Pinot night and revived Sunday Roasts [complete with live music]. Both have quickly captured the local imagination and become calendar fixtures [NB: both will be paused during the peak period of the summer school holidays].

As fond memories abound of times spent in the old girl's clutches... the hotel, I mean... it would be wonderful if some of these could be captured for posterity on the hotel's Facebook page – facebook.com/GrandPacificLorne or penned as a letter to the editor of this newspaper.

Welcome back, old girl, and may you continue to serve Lorne with your legendary grace and distinction for many years to come. 📌

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VERONICA O'HEHIR
The Abstracted Realist
January 3 - 23

JOANNE SISSON
Bloom 2025
December 27 - January 16

RIMONA KEDEM
Second Childhood 2025
January 17 - Feb 6

JEFF MINCHAM AM
Difference in Common...an exhibition 2025
January 24 - February 13

GREG DALY


www.qdosarts.com
Hours: 9:00 am - 5:00pm TFSSM

Arts in Lorne

During the first weekend of December the Committee launched our first Christmas Market and from the feedback it was a great success.

Over twenty stallholders participated with both organisations and individual artists selling their products.

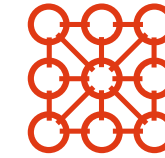
The committee, with two star celebrity cooks, provided a cafe which was appreciated by the patrons and the stallholders. The Community Choir performed on the Saturday to much acclaim adding to the festive nature of the event.

We are seeking feedback, mainly from the stallholders, but if the public wish to make a comment they can send us an email using the LCC website.

A special thanks to Lesley Thornton for the additional coordinating role that she played. However, all committee members worked towards its success.

On behalf of the committee and president Lesley Goldsworthy, may I wish you all a joyous Christmas and a rewarding New Year. 📧

Gary Allen Committee Member



**LORNE
COMMUNITY
CONNECT**

**LORNE COMMUNITY CONNECT
CHRISTMAS ARTS & CRAFT MARKET 6-7 DEC
2025**



A big thank you to everyone that helped make our first market such a success.
LCC Committee

Qdos Fine Art Lorne



Poppies, Peonies and Mimosas and Succulents acrylic on canvas 100x100cm

Qdos Fine Arts
warmly welcomes back
Joanne Sisson

with her latest series of paintings

**Bloom
27 Dec - 16 Jan 2026**

Opening Saturday 27th December 2025 at 3:00pm


Qdos Fine Arts Lorne
Hours: 9:00am - 5:00pm TFSSM or by appointment
www.qdosarts.com

VERONICA O'HEHIR



The Abstracted Realist acrylic on canvas 100x100cm

Qdos fine arts takes the pleasure in inviting you to
THE ABSTRACTED REALIST
Opening Saturday 3rd January 2026 at 3:00pm

To be Launched by Nicky Buckley,
media identity, MC, TV presenter, author, model,
&
patron of the Arts

With a special guest Violin performance by Alice Gaynor


Qdos Fine Arts Lorne
Hours: 9:00am - 5:00pm WTFSS
www.qdosarts.com
Exhibition closes: 3 pm 23 Jan

Traveller's Tales

Havana Good Time in Cuba

By Sue Everett

We recently spent ten days in Cuba. Our first stop was Havana. Everything Adrian and I expected to see and experience there we did, the dilapidated colonial grandeur, the wide boulevards and green plazas, the noisy, showy and colourful vintage cars and the energetic rhythm of life.

We arrived at Havana airport during an intense tropical storm; all was in darkness and people were relying on their phone torches. The baggage carousels were not operating. It was a 'bun fight' to locate our luggage but eventually we did and made our way to the exit where our agency's representative was waiting for us. The mayhem continued outside with loud cracking thunder, coursing rain and lightning blazing across the sky. What an exhilarating welcome!

The taxis were wheel deep in puddles. Our rep took us to our hotel which was well positioned in the city centre and our room overlooked the treed plaza and a striking row of pink, yellow and bright blue retro vehicles. Our comfortable accommodation was a far cry from the living standards we would hear about in the coming days. In the city we were taken for a ride in a lolly pink open topped Chevrolet Fleetwood; Adrian observed that the only dial functioning on the dashboard was the clock! We coasted along the sea front, past the fort, where more dilapidated splendour greeted us propped up by wooden posts. We drove into the heart of the grand residences of the top echelon of the Communist government, just a heartbeat away from the poverty of the city where the rubbish has been piling up for at least six months, due to lack of fuel for rubbish collection vehicles.

In Havana, most employment is related to tourism which not so long ago was flourishing. However, the fallout from the effects of the Corona virus epidemic, and an embargo on tourism imposed by the Trump government which bans US citizens from holidaying in Cuba, have taken their toll. Tourists to the United States also have limitations imposed if they holiday in Cuba.

Outside of Havana we witnessed traditional methods of farming due to the lack of fuel. We saw more oxen/horse and carts than motorised vehicles. Due to non-availability of chemical fertilisers Cuban farmers have had to become experts in organic and sustainable farming and utilise any space that is not government owned to support their families, making use of abandoned lots, parks and even rooftops. The ingenuity of these people never ceased to amaze us - whether it be keeping their vehicles on the road or their families fed. Many arable fields were empty in spite of the favourable climate. There seemed to



be many reasons for this but our guide informed us that it was mainly because there were no production incentives for farmers as the government take 90% of all crops which creates an environment where it is almost impossible to operate profitably. Cuba therefore has to import most of its food.

Our drivers and guides all spoke good English and were happy to answer any of our many questions. This was such a very different living environment than we were used to. Where are all the shops? Why are there so many school children in the streets during weekdays? How do people survive? There are only government shops, market stalls, bartering and black-market goods; as well as stealing from government places of employment. We asked to see a typical government shop where each family was entitled to rations, which were recorded weekly in a ration book. The contents of these 'shops' vary and at the time we went there were mainly empty shelves, only two pairs of boots, some rope and sugar (sugar is now imported as sugar cane production is becoming increasingly difficult due to sanctions and economic difficulties). Even the basic necessity of clean running water cannot be taken for granted; outside in the street two men were pumping water from a mains pipe into their homes. We say people queued up at bus stops for hours apparently waiting for a bus that might never arrive (employees, teachers included, might never make it to work that day hence school kids get a day off!).

The following day we took a trip to a famous mountain mural in the rolling hills of the Vinales valley. Idyllically situated and most impressive, depicting the theory of civilisation from prehistoric to modern man/woman. Apparently, this mural designed by Leovigildo Gonzales Morillo took eighteen people four years to complete. The going was slow navigating the dangerously pot-holed roads and we saw very little traffic. Only one in ten families owns a motor

vehicle. Otherwise bicycles and horse and carts are the main means of transport, or lorries packed with people. We saw very few petrol stations and most of these were closed. On our journey our driver stopped to fill up his tank from a private stash he had stored in a garage. Everywhere we went in the countryside we saw many large birds gliding gracefully in the thermal air currents; I asked what they were? Vultures! And I always thought they were just ugly scavenging creatures living off carrion. Apparently, their bald heads and necks are to prevent them accumulating dead matter which could fester in feathers. This remarkable bird plays a crucial role in the health of the ecosystem, and they mate for life, taking good care of their young. I have a lot more respect for them now! The nightlife in Havana was incredible; the infectious rhythm of the Salsa at 'El Floridita' (the bar that Ernest Hemingway made famous) and the compulsive energy which entices you to at least clap your hands and move your feet while drinking daiquiris; while watching old and young being lured to the dance floor. Mr Hemingway was once a regular at this establishment, reputedly drinking up to 16 daiquiris in one sitting! The percussion instruments provide the catchy beat backed up by piano, Cuban guitar and a lead vocalist. A hat is passed around periodically.

Another highlight was our home stay in Trinidad. Our driver stopped at a very unassuming house in a cobbled street. Once inside we could see that it was much grander than expected. A medical specialist lived there with her husband, children and mother (most homes in Cuba accommodate at least three generations). We were informed that she would be earning about 90 US dollars per month and needed to offer tourist hospitality to make ends meet. The family was thrilled to have us there and very grateful to us for choosing to stay with them. Our room was quite colonial and stately although the air conditioner and portable fans only worked intermittently (due to deteriorating infrastructure and continual outages). Cuba was very hot when we were there with the humidity at times almost unbearable. Their tropical garden was luscious with avocados, bananas and mangoes that we were given to eat at breakfast along with home-made crepes and honey. We were also offered "Canchanchera" a local drink that everyone makes differently according to taste; usually comprising lime juice, honey, soda and ice for a non-alcoholic refreshing drink or Cuban aguardiente (made from sugar cane) for an alcoholic pick-me-up.

A visit to a tobacco plantation was fascinating. We were shown how a traditional Cuban cigar is made - it is a two-and-a-half-year process from seed to rolled cigar. The leaves are dried and then selected in a particular way combining lower, middle and top leaves (potency varies according to exposure to sunlight). The dexterity shown in hand rolling a cigar and then the etiquette required in smoking it was impressive. Of course we were invited to try one.

Our last stop was Varadero, a very popular seaside holiday resort. This was an opportunity for us to



relax and enjoy the calm, warm waters at one of the best beaches in the world. Cuba is a difficult country to fully understand in a 10-day trip, and I can only effectively write about what we saw and heard from guides, drivers and people we met. Cuba has breathtaking unspoilt scenery and a vibrant musical and arts culture that we found captivating. In spite of the many obstacles which impede and frustrate in everyday life, and the complex political, economic and social problems, this small island nation welcomes visitors and seems hopeful for a brighter future. We hold out hope for a crucial change of circumstances to transpire in the near future to prevent this extraordinary country continuing into a state of collapse. ❶

“The nightlife in Havana was incredible; the infectious rhythm of the Salsa at ‘El Floridita’ (the bar that Ernest Hemingway made famous) and the compulsive energy which entices you to at least clap your hands and move your feet while drinking daiquiris; while watching old and young being lured to the dance floor.”

Solve the Simple!

Solve your Bin Day angst

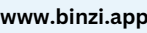
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When bin day is here, but you're not.



Sportsbriefs

By **John Ford**, sports editor

Amazing weekend in Lorne

There is always so much sport happening in Lorne, but on January 9th and 10th we are all in for a festival of sports. It is great to compete, but there is a feast of sport for the spectators as well. It begins with the Mountain to Surf run on Friday 9th, the first group taking off at 8.30am. The event takes runners from Lorne up the hill to Allenvale, along the St George River track to the ocean and back to the Lorne Surf Lifesaving Club. The event is almost 8km long with the best runners taking around thirty minutes to complete the course. There are many good viewing points for spectators.

Later that day – yes, Friday afternoon – Lorne’s very successful cricket team will take on Forrest in a day/night match under lights at Stribling Reserve. Lorne is currently third on the Colac and District Cricket Association ladder with Forrest right behind them in fourth position. The format is a one day forty overs per side match, so not only will there be a result but there is sure to be some bright batting, quality bowling and exciting fielding from both teams. Stribling Reserve is a great venue for watching cricket, and the electronic scoreboard and AFL standard lighting set the tone for this family event. There will be a picnic atmosphere with a barbeque, and this is a great opportunity to meet the players.

The following day – Saturday 10th January – Lorne hosts the annual Pier to Pub swimming event. The event which is in its 46th year is already booked out with over 5,000 swimmers to take part. Competitors swim in heats with the first group taking to the water at 11.00am. The 1.2km swim is said to be the largest open water swim in the world. The foreshore along the Doug Stirling track is a great viewing point to watch these keen swimmers of a range of ages, with some having competed on more than thirty occasions. The event attracts some Olympic swimmers, some strong open water swimmers and many enthusiastic locals. While this event is the flagship for our Surf Lifesaving Club, we need to remember the wonderful job that the club does with beach patrols, teaching swimming and lifesaving skills, and a range of watercraft skills.

Cricket team success

Lorne’s cricket team is performing well and goes into the summer break in third position on the Colac and District Cricket Association Division 3 Ladder. The top four on the ladder are Apollo Bay, West Warrion, Lorne (all on five wins) ahead of Forrest on four wins. Lorne returned to winning form on 13th December, after starting well the previous week at Apollo Bay in a match that was washed out during the first innings.

The following report on Lorne’s exciting win over Stoneyford was compiled by Emma Carey for Lorne Cricket Club’s newsletter.

Lorne Triumphs Over Stoneyford

The picturesque Stribling Reserve played host to an enthralling cricket match last weekend, as Lorne took on Stoneyford in a game that epitomised the true spirit of cricket. With the sun shining and a lively crowd in attendance, both teams showcased their skills and sportsmanship in a match that had something for everyone - big hits, crafty bowling, and heartwarming family moments.

Lorne won the toss and elected to bat, setting the stage for an impressive display with the willow. Eddie Erftemeyer (18 off 22) and Matt Cash (13 off 30) got things underway with a steady opening partnership before falling to disciplined Stoneyford bowling. However, it was George Watson and Harvey Atwell who stole the show with their batsmanship. Both retired not out after scoring fluent half-centuries, with Watson smashing 50 off 61 balls and Atwell matching him with 50 off 63 balls. Michael Brennan chipped in with a blistering 49 off just 45 deliveries, maintaining a strike rate of 108.88, before ping-pong-ing his hammy and having to retire!

Lorne finished their innings at an imposing 3/235 from their allotted 40 overs.

In reply, Stoneyford started well, thanks to an explosive knock from Rueben Dare, who smashed his way to an unbeaten 52 off just 29 balls, including ten boundaries. However, Lorne’s bowlers kept their cool under pressure. Young Xavier Hollmer made a crucial breakthrough by dismissing Samuel Crabbe for 16, caught by Harvey Atwell. Veteran Peter Bracken showed his experience with a tidy spell, claiming the wicket of Christopher Boyd for 21. Rip unfortunately had to go off injured after tearing his hamstring mid-delivery.

George Watson continued his all-round heroics by clean-bowling Noah George for just 7 runs, while Vinni Andaraweera struck to remove Dominic Arceri for 7, thanks to a sharp catch by Hollmer.

The highlight of the day came when young Jack Heathcote claimed his maiden wicket for Lorne. In what can only be described as a special family moment, Jack dismissed Nash Kent for 10 with a catch taken by none other than his father, Ryan. The crowd erupted in applause as father and son celebrated this unforgettable milestone together.

Another notable moment was young Tom Cash stepping up to bowl for the first time in Lorne colours. Tom bowled the 39th over, and after Stoneyford’s allotted 40 overs, with 2 youngsters still at the crease, both teams agreed to an ‘unofficial’ 41st over, to be bowled by Tom, where he also claimed his first career wicket. The moment was met with plenty of encouragement from teammates and supporters alike.

Stoneyford fought valiantly but fell short of the target, finishing their innings at 187 after their 40 overs. Lorne’s bowlers shared the workload effectively, with solid performances from Andaraweera (1/21 off 8 overs), Watson (1/33 off 8 overs), and Bracken (1/7 off 3 overs). Jack Heathcote’s figures of 1/11 from three overs were equally impressive.

The match concluded with Lorne securing a well-deserved victory by 48 runs. More importantly, it was a day filled with camaraderie and community spirit, as players from both teams made a concerted effort to involve younger players and ensure everyone had an opportunity to shine.

It’s moments like these that remind us why we love cricket - a game that brings people together and creates memories that last a lifetime. Congratulations to Lorne on their win and well done to both teams for putting on such an entertaining contest!

We now have a 3-week break over Christmas, before our next match, the highly anticipated Day/Night Pier2Pub eve match against Forrest. We wish Rip and Mick both a speedy recovery!

Join us for Lorne Cricket’s night of nights, Friday January 9th.

Women’s Golf Report

2025 is rapidly drawing to a close, and the December Christmas and summer festivities are helping us to celebrate the year of golf that was!

Club News

The women’s annual Christmas break up was full of fun and laughter. Each year we “dress up” and this year our theme was the letter “B” As usual, the Women had many hilarious ideas and went to much trouble: there was Barbie, a boxer, beetles and butterflies, ballerinas, Bedouin women, a Beekeeper, Bart Simpson, a Baker, Bridget Bardot and her dog, a Bride, a Bulldog supporter, a Breadwinner, a Bruise, a Burglar, a bathing Beauty, bookcase and the Blues Brothers – all 3 of them!! Barbie was chosen as our best dressed this year. We played nine holes in our costumes, using only one club from our bag - which made the golf very challenging!! Over lunch we celebrated our achievements for the year and had our hilarious “Bad Santa” Kris Kringle. We all feel very lucky to be part of such a fun group, who all love our golf, and love spending time with each other even more!

SWGA news

As I have reported throughout the year, our women have played in many competitions over the region for the SWGA competitions. In particular, two of our players have done exceptionally well this year, playing in many of the competitions and winning much of the time!! Congratulations to Tina Walker and Chris Angus who won many accolades over the year.

Chris Angus, finished the year on a high, winning both the B Grade Championships for the SWGA!, and then to top it off, Chris was also the outright winner of the Nett merit award for the SWGA - as she won so many competitions this year, she finished the year with the most points and took out the top honour! Well done Chris!

Our club competition season is now over, and from Christmas and throughout January, members will be trying to get 3 “good” cards for nine holes to submit for our Summer Classic. If you are a member - we hope you can join in!

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!... over the summer period, our club competition pauses – but we still play socially and it may be a good time to come up and have a hit with us - just ask at the Tee Box. 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.

Thank you to our readers that have followed the golfing antics of LCC women’s golfers.

Merry Christmas and happy golfing!

Danni De Bon



AROUND THE GREEN *at the Lorne Bowls Club*

By **Brendan Tunstall**

With 9 of the 14 rounds of bowls completed, ladder positions are becoming more settled as we head into the Christmas break.

Midweek Division 2 defeated Birregurra in Round 9: 69 to 66 in another nail-biting finish. Although Lorne is comfortably second on the ladder, the side cannot afford to become complacent. Round 10 will be played away against the top team Cressy on January 6th. Lorne proudly has the current top four ranked players in this Division – aren’t we fortunate Dale Ridgeway has been happy to spend more time on this green rather than those hilltop greens – Jeff Reddie, Duncan Leckie and pearl McIver.

Weekend Division 2 is now second on the ladder as well as having just defeated Camperdown Magpies in Round 9. The top four sides are starting to distance themselves from the lower teams. Round 10 should see Lorne cement its position in the top 2, ahead of Round 11 away at Cobden. The side currently has six of the nine leading players in this Division, namely Peter Steven, Leigh McIlvenny, Steve Donne, Paul Staley, Colleen Weetman and Brad Weetman.

Weekend Division 3 convincingly defeated Colac Central, ahead of Round 10 away against Colac Lakes on December 20th. This team’s leading players are Lizzie Lugg, Jeff Reddie (our very busy President), Karen Ridgeway and John Bliss. We look forward to John’s healthy return in the New Year.

Congratulations to super playing coach Leigh McIlvenny on winning the Club’s Men’s singles Final – the Women’s Singles Final should be a beauty between Donna Issell and Lizzie Lugg.

Over the holiday period the bowls Club welcomes holiday-makers to book the restaurant and try out Lawn Bowls. Newcomers can try out by having a relaxed session of ‘barefoot bowls’ as an introduction to this rewarding sporting activity. Meanwhile the Lorne Bowls Club wishes you a safe and healthy Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

- 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

PIANO BAR LORNE



TASTE OF PIANO BAR



Piano Bar Ballarat is heading to the Lorne Hotel this Summer. Opening Saturday the 27th of December to January the 8th. Sensational live music and performances. Tickets and info: pianobarballarat.com.au/lorne



LORNE SLSC Main Beach Brief



The past month has been a big one for the club, with plenty happening both on and off the sand.

One of the real highlights was welcoming our cultural exchange partners from Gunbalanya Community School to Lorne. We were fortunate to host eight students and two teachers for five days, sharing Lorne and the wider Otways through waterfall walks, ocean experiences, Live Wire Park, surfing, and lifesaving activities. Most importantly, it was about building relationships and understanding. This visit was made possible through the incredible financial support of Powercor and Powercor employees, and we're extremely grateful for their contribution to this program.

We've also recently completed our Bronze and Silver camps with resounding success, including twelve participants from Lorne School. This is one of the largest local intakes we've had in many years and it's fantastic to see young people building skills, confidence, and a strong connection to their local coastline.

Friday night and Sunday Nippers continues to go from strength to strength as summer rolls around, and we look forward to it continuing in term 1.

Patrol season is now well underway, with over six weeks of patrolling completed at the time of writing. Several rescues have already occurred, reinforcing the importance of understanding rips, changing beach conditions, and always swimming between the flags under the guidance of our lifesavers and lifeguards.

December skills maintenance has also been completed, with more than 150 members taking part in a great day of training.

Looking ahead, we're gearing up for the Powercor Pier to Pub swim and Powercor Mountain to Surf run. This year's Pier to Pub sold out faster than any event on record, entirely selling out in the first week of December. A huge congratulations to the Pier to Pub team on a tremendous effort, and thank you to Ed Curnow and the Lorne Football Netball Club for their working bee support in the lead-up.

Behind the scenes, the club has received a valuable upgrade to our beer system thanks to Drink X Geelong, who donated a new glycol system, improving both cooling and keg handling.

We're also excited to share that an external staircase will be installed on the car park side of the building, with works scheduled for completion in early February.

With all relevant permits and approvals now in place, we'd like to thank Richard Riordan, along with GORCAPA and DEECA, for their support and assistance in helping progress this project.

Summer is always busy and fast-paced. Please stay safe, look after one another, and I look forward to seeing you all on the sand.

Heath Armstrong - President



Calendar

Sunday 28th December

- "Otway Harvest Trail"
Indoor Market

Friday 2nd January

- Comedy Night with Peter Helliard

Saturday 3rd January

- Careers Evening

Friday 9th January

- Powercor Lorne Mountain to Surf

Saturday 10th January

- Powercor Lorne Pier to Pub

Saturday 7th February

- World Ocean Series Carnival

Thursday 19th - 22nd February

- LSV State Titles



140 SMITH STREET, LORNE

LORNE'S PREMIER RESIDENTIAL PRECINCT

Two storey 5 bedroom residence at one of Lorne's most sought after addresses. The north facing weather protected home boasts an ocean outlook, the envy of Lorne, across Louttit Bay and the sweeping coastline to Aireys Inlet. The signature blue gums and natural native landscape enhance the unique residential enclave. The recently renovated (2020) residence provides practical adult living with the master bedroom, walk-in robe, ensuite, open kitchen/living/dining all on the same upper entry level. A further four bedrooms (plus bunkroom) and two bathrooms below provide the ultimate flexible floor plan for whatever your requirements. A large "billiard room" with bar and slow combustion wood heating on the upper level guarantees room for all to enjoy, no matter what the use.

A stylish renovation by local builder Jason Bush featuring quality fittings and finishes, timber floors, stone bench tops, large functional kitchen, multiple fire boxes, no-bo heaters in all bedrooms, split system heating/cooling and expanses of glass opening onto the huge sun-drenched coastal view entertaining deck provides all and more.

The paved driveway, double carport, large secure storage and established gardens and fruit trees complete the unique offering.

AUCTION SATURDAY 24 JANUARY at 12PM

Ian Stewart 0418 522 571

Karen Stribling 0439 650 838



LORNE

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Whether enjoying a slow morning coffee with panoramic sea views, gathering in the ambient dining area for sunset feasts, or retreating to the games room for light-hearted fun, every corner of this property reflects comfort, creativity, and calm.

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LORNE HOUSE FOR SALE

LORNE HOLIDAY RENTAL

RENTAL

From the team at Great Ocean Road Real Estate

School holidays in Lorne for frazzled parents

By Eva Janice Youl

The editor said, we need to describe all the different things kids can do in Lorne. Get them off devices and out into nature. So, I dutifully started making a list of activities including:

- **Nippers at Lorne Life Saving Club.** Water safety is rather important in Lorne. *Book months ahead.*
- **Learning to Surf.** *Book.*
- **Live Wire Park.** Older and younger kids love the adrenalin rush. *Book.*
- **Wildlife Wonders** (past Apollo Bay) *Book.*
- **Lorne Tennis and Golf** welcomes visitors. *Book – lornecountryclub.com.au*
- **Lorne Bowls Club.** *Book for Barefoot Bowls.* Family fun, food and drink.

Then I realised two things:

- A. The above cost money
- B. There is already a website that promotes these activities called *Mum's Little Explorers*.

So, what are some free activities for kids, especially little kids? This list is just a few ideas:

1. **The Beach** is a given. Picnic areas behind the beach are great. Just remember what you did as a kid. Making sandcastles is always fun. The cabanas are breeding so you have to beat the crowds and you may consider the following suggestions. **Rockpool Rambles** North Lorne Beach and Point Grey at low tide are the best places but you need to investigate tides and remember these are not patrolled sites.
2. Make a **treasure map** where kids have to find things. It could be a special tree or landmark. Or it could be painted rocks hidden in specific areas of the backyard or defined area of bush. But remember not to leave any treasures behind! While kids can find feathers, marine debris and shells, the shells, especially at Shelly Beach, and seaweed are meant to be left on the beach.
3. **Walks.** There are heaps of walks around Lorne, not just along the beach or open areas like Queens Park. Walk to the historic pier or venture inland. The Tourist Information Centre has advice on popular walks. Erskine Falls is a bushwalking challenge, but you can drive to the carpark. There are steps little kids can scamper down to lower viewing site. Other popular spots are Teddy's Lookout and Sheoak Falls. My favourite for prams (unless muddy) is the start of Tramway Walk. Runners love the Bert Alsop track so kids may get bowled over on that one. The Stony Creek area is a hidden gem and safe for kids except near the lily pond at the end of the Camel's Lily Pond Walk. Kids usually make enough noise to scare off the snakes.
4. **Hinterland.** A visit to Qdos Arts reveals a sculpture park where kids can run around. Parental supervision is required as there is a picturesque dam.
5. **Animals, including Birds.** Respect animals. Don't frighten animals, including kangaroos. Kangaroos have colonised the golf course. They aren't stupid - green grass! Some other animals, including skinks, are here but you may need inside information for koalas and echidnas. I like spiders but obviously some critters can be hazardous such as jumping jack ants and snakes. I recently learned that our resident biological expert, Mary Lush, has been tracking yellow-bellied gliders. **For Birds,** the list is too long and you don't even need binoculars, but they help. Don't feed cockatoos at cafes, just shoo them away because it makes them sick..My favourites are the king parrots and the bower birds. Adults can use websites to recognise birds and bird songs. I quite like the *BirdLife Australia* site.
6. **Plants.** Kids like collecting leaves and pressing them. Wildflowers are for looking at, but flowers in gardens are fine for pressing and making cards or pictures. Fungi are not plants, but they are interesting to find and colourful. But not to eat!!
7. **Fly a Kite.** Yep you need the correct conditions and North Lorne Beach where there is space.
8. **Paddle** a canoe or kayak. The mouth of the Erskine River (Scottish name) is a good spot. Usually the Ecoli count is Ok, but don't fall in and drink the water, just in case.
9. **Erskine Paddock and Cypress Avenue.** There is a playground near the beach side caravan park that needs more love. There isn't any cover if it does happen to rain for Bush Kinder. Cypress Avenue is good for learning to ride a bike, too busy in peak season, but the shipwreck signs are worthwhile reading.
10. **Skate Park** in the main street is popular. Teens and tweenies love this area. If you stay on the beach, my advice is to know the whereabouts of offspring as educational areas further afar have been vandalised in the past. There is a **playground** alongside the skate park.

Finally, if the teenies are still using devices, despite new bans, I thought an educational site may be suitable. I listened to the ABC Kids Gardening Australia Junior podcast on *How do trees survive bushfires*. Epicormic buds and lignotubers did rate a mention.

While kids love magic, for some reason I found it a bit creepy. Bushfire awareness is a topic for another time where parents and kids need to know the warning signs and leave beautiful Lorne.





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Editorial

By Janet Goud, Editor

Reflections on 2025

I wish all our loyal readers a joyous New Year's holidays and a calm 2026. Together, we're bucking the trend towards the extinction of local newspapers.

This year has seen a rise in our subscriptions and advertising which, as you know, is vital to keep Jo Vondra's local newspaper publishing. Thank you for buying each monthly issue.

Together with the writers for our *Lorne Independent* (popularly known as the LIN), we undertook a campaign to make GORCAPA listen to our concerns and wishes for Pt. Grey. Coincidentally? the CEO resigned, many groups in Lorne were met with and, while we couldn't call it consultation exactly, listened to. The plans for the Anglers, always aided by a substantial funding contribution, were altered to their satisfaction. More recently The Lorne Historical Society has been fighting to increase the area of replacement historic fishing Coop building to include European historical information, while others, especially members of the old fishing families are fighting to prevent its demolition. You will find both opinions in this issue. GORCAPA have moved from their original position,

but there is a petition to prevent the demolition happening. The LIN claims some credit for keeping you all informed on these issues in 2025, so you could make up your own minds.

On a happy note, I recently had the pleasure to attend the Lorne P-12 College presentation night. So much good news in an increasingly frightening world. The school is expanding and becoming a school of first choice for families of the Surfcoast. Wonderful MC's, the joint School Captains, confidently facilitated a wide array of awards for all areas of school life. Their individual speeches of farewell were exceptional and reflected strong social awareness. They set shining examples for the rest of the students, their teachers, and the Community. What a positive centre of energy we have in our midst.

Other positives are the renovated Op Shop raising much revenue with its reserves almost back to pre renovation days, and ready to fund important community projects. The SES have done many helpful rescues over the year and stand with the CFA to make us safe this summer. How grateful we are to have them in our community.

I wish us all peace in this troubled world, and happy sunny holidays in beautiful Lorne. 🍷

"This year has seen a rise in our subscriptions and advertising which, as you know, is vital to keep Jo Vondra's local newspaper publishing. Thank you for buying each monthly issue."

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GO WHERE THE TRADIES GO

HOLIDAY MUSIC QUIZ!

WIN a year's digital subscription to Lorne Independent!

By Ray Sutton

This story is made up (almost) entirely from the lyrics of songs from one of the most well-known bands of our time, but there are no prizes for guessing who they are. However, there is one odd one out sentence which is not from their songs. Can you find it? Name the song, and who sang it? The story itself provides a clue.

To WIN, send your answer, name and phone number to: editorlorneindependent@gmail.com

LORNE
Independent

12-MONTH SUBSCRIPTION VOUCHER
Subscription is for 12 issues of the Lorne Independent

It was twenty years ago today. There are places I'll remember all my life though some have changed, some forever not for better, some have gone and some remain. Is there anybody going to listen to my story all about the girl who came to stay?

She came in through the bathroom window, well, she was just seventeen and the way she looked was way beyond compare. She looked at me, and I could see

that before too long I'd fall in love with her. My heart went "boom" when I crossed that room and I held her hand in mine, we danced through the night, and we held each other tight and before too long I fell in love with her. Now I'll never dance with another. She said she'd always been a dancer; she worked at fifteen clubs a day.

When I'm walking beside her people tell me I'm lucky. Falling, yes I am falling and she keeps calling me back again. All of my life I've been searching for a girl to love me like I love you. You'll never know how much I really love you, you'll never know how much I really care.

I can't believe that she'll ever go not when she hugs and says she loves me so. I can make you mine, taste your lips of wine anytime, night or day. When I get older losing my hair many years from now I could be handy, mending a fuse when your lights have gone, you can knit a sweater by the fireside, Sunday mornings go for a ride, doing the garden, digging the weeds, who could ask for more?

Then I woke up, fell out of bed, dragged a comb across my head, found my way downstairs and drank a cup. And when I awoke I was alone, this bird had flown.



LORNE P-12 COLLEGE

Inspiring Excellence
by the Sea

Farewell to a
fabulous year



Celebrating a Year of Outdoor Learning

Lorne P-12 College has celebrated a dynamic year of outdoor education, with a series of camps and experiences that form an important part of the school's curriculum. Students across the college embraced opportunities to build resilience, teamwork and real-world knowledge beyond the classroom.

The Year 9 Advance class tackled the iconic Great Ocean Walk, experiencing some of the region's most breathtaking coastline while developing leadership and outdoor skills. Year 9/10 students headed further afield for an unforgettable Snowy River rafting expedition, navigating white-water rapids and working together in challenging conditions.

Marine studies students also took part in several snorkelling trips along the Surf Coast, exploring diverse coastal ecosystems and deepening their understanding of marine biology. These experiences continue to be a highlight of the school year, enriching student learning and strengthening the college's commitment to hands-on, adventure-based education.

Bright Futures for our Graduates of 2025

Our VCE students received their ATARs recently, after a fabulous year which saw each one of them show hard work and resilience. Isabella Reynolds was awarded DUX for 2025 with an ATAR of 87.45. She also received a very impressive perfect study score of 50 for her VCE VET Music Performance subject. We are extremely proud of all our graduating students, with each one of them intending on pursuing further study after a well earned break. We know whatever their chosen paths, they are fabulous humans and their futures will be bright.



Farewelling Wonderful Staff

Lorne P-12 College farewells several much-loved staff this year, with special recognition to Narelle Lynch (Norton), who retires after 29 dedicated years. Lorne born and bred, Narelle was once a student here herself, and her family — including long-time residents Brian and Jill — has deep roots in the community.

We also thank departing staff Dennis and Rosa Wolbers, Lachie McInnes and Tom Collier for their contributions. Each leaves a lasting impact on our school community.

January Church times in Lorne

All welcome.

All Saints Anglican Church

Sunday 28th December 11am – Holy Communion
 Sunday 4th January 11am – Morning Service
 Sunday 11th January 11am – Holy Communion
 Sunday 18th January 11am – Morning Service
 Sunday 25th January 11am – Holy Communion
 Acting Vicar: Bishop Stephen Hale

St Cuthberts Uniting Church

January Sundays 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th – 10.00am
Pastor: Alanee Hearnshaw

Our Lady of Fatima

January Sundays – 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th Mass 9.00am
Father Michael O'Toole



Letters to the Editor...

Lorne Fishermen's Cooperative Building

Petition to Parliament – Have your say on the Lorne Fishermen's Cooperative Building

It will come as a shock to many of Lorne's summer visitors to learn that the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority (GORCAPA) plan to get rid of the only historic building on the important historic precinct adjacent to the Lorne pier. The Point Grey site was seasonally occupied by Aboriginal peoples prior to European colonisation and then became an significant maritime hub for the pioneer Otway timber industry, a unique fishing industry and early Victorian tourism.

GORCAPA are the current managers of the Point Grey Project, which started with a budget of \$12.6 million. Much of the budget is believed to have been wasted by previous project managers, but GORCAPA has consistently refused to give a budget update. Demolition of the Cooperative building is scheduled for February 2026.

The current project plan includes rebuilding of the Lorne Aquatic and Angling Club (LAAC) and the development of an Aboriginal cultural garden in the historic shell midden area established by previous aboriginal occupants. These sub projects were developed in close consultation with representatives of the LAAC and the Eastern Maar recognised Aboriginal body.

Even though there are many people alive who were actively involved with the Fishing Cooperative when it was an active and thriving business hub, GORCAPA decided behind closed doors to demolish the building without proper consultation with the community. GORCAPA intends to build a new toilet block and minor café over the site of the demolished building. GORCAPA claims that the Cooperative building is in poor condition and cannot be saved. This is strongly disputed by a growing number of historians, architects and builders who agree that the original 1948 Building is sound enough to be retained, and the cost to do so would be reasonable.

GORCAPA held an inadequate symbolic public consultation process outside of the main tourism season, thus denying visitors to Lorne the opportunity to have a voice.

But all is not lost. The Lorne community including summer visitors can have an active voice through a Petition to the Victorian Parliament. The wording of the petition is below. There is also a link that leads to the e-petition. There is also a QR Code that can be used to sign the Petition. Please share with your friends.

Legislative Assembly Petition: #202539

Closes 10 June 2026

Petition - Lorne Fishermen's Cooperative Building

Issue: This petition of residents in Victoria draws to the attention of the Legislative Assembly the

Proposed demolition of the historic landmark Lorne Fishermen's Cooperative Building in the Victorian seaside township of Lorne. The proposed demolition of the building has been scheduled to take place in February 2026. The decision to demolish the building and replace it with a public toilet block has been made by the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority (GORCAPA) as part of the Point Grey Project. The findings of engagement show the local community to be overwhelmingly supportive of preserving the strong and unique character of the Point Grey / Lorne Pier precinct with ongoing representation of the historic activities which took place on the site. The site history includes aboriginal occupation as well as maritime, fishing and timber industries. The current GORCAPA plan will destroy the only historic building on the site and denies the important character and history of the site. Independent experts have indicated that the original 1948 Fishermen's Cooperative building is in relatively sound condition and can easily be refurbished. GORCAPA failed to properly consult with the local community before deciding to destroy the history of the site.

Action: The petitioners request that the Legislative Assembly call on the Government to prevent the demolition of the original 1948 Lorne Fishermen's Cooperative Building until an independent investigation is undertaken to determine the feasibility and cost of retaining the building.

parliament.vic.gov.au/get-involved/petitions/lorne-fishermens-cooperative-building

If enough people want to save the Lorne Fishermen's Cooperative Building, GORCAPA will need to be accountable to the reasonable wishes of the community. If GORCAPA continues to ignore the Lorne community and proceeds to demolish this iconic landmark, there should be a full public inquiry into GORCAPA's ability to manage projects which involve expenditure of public funds. ①

John Barker

DAN TEHAN

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR WANNON



My office can assist you with information about Federal Government services including:

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- ✔ Pensions and My Aged Care
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- ✔ Veterans' Affairs
- ✔ Immigration, citizenship and passports
- ✔ Australia Post
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  dantehan

Authorised by Dan Tehan MP, Liberal, 190 Gray St, Hamilton VIC 3300.

An advertisement for FoodWorks Lorne. The top half has a white background with orange text boxes. The first box says "VIEW OUR WEEKLY" and the second, larger box says "CATALOGUE SPECIALS". Below these, it says "AVAILABLE INSTORE AND ONLINE". The central image shows a smartphone and a laptop displaying the FoodWorks website. The smartphone screen shows a "PRICE MATCH" banner and various food items. The laptop screen shows a similar layout. To the left of the phone is a line drawing of a broccoli. To the right of the laptop is a line drawing of a glass jar. Below the phone and laptop is a QR code. To the left of the QR code is a line drawing of a shopping basket. To the right of the QR code is a line drawing of a shopping bag. The bottom half of the advertisement has an orange background with white text. It says "FOODWORKS" in large letters, "LORNE" in smaller letters below it, and "1-3 Great Ocean Road, Lorne VIC 3232" and "03 5289 1645 | Open 7am - 8pm daily" at the bottom.

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SHAVINGS from the SHED

By Allan Walls

There's a saying in Lorne Bowls "Same Line Every Time" so I will do my best to not repeat any news from previous shavings.

Still plenty happening at the Shed including a massive clean out of "Things that may come in Handy" that have been stored in our mezzanine area for years.

Many thanks to the volunteers on that day, Phil Collins, Rod Van Ingen, Allan Walls, Bob Sinclair. Another two ute loads should see the job completed.

We had our Christmas lunch last Thursday at Stribling Reserve with 96 members, wives, and partners in attendance. It's not widely known (until now) that a couple of members were having so much fun that their wives had trouble getting them home after lunch. Still, a great day was hosted by President David Lawler. The day got even better when Bob Sinclair was awarded Life Membership. A richly deserved award for a dedicated Shedder who bought himself a new BMW just prior to the award. Oh, to be a retired architect!

Last Saturday at the Community Connect Market the Mens Shed offered for sale approx 15 chopping boards and 3 bird boxes, the Market was to run over 2 days



but we sold out in 2 hours. A Testament to the skills of our Shedders.

Shedders John Bliss is receiving medical treatment in Geelong on a daily basis. The Shedders in a true show of mateship offered to and do drive John to Epworth and back every day, the volunteers of which there are many are squabbling over who gets to drive John, in other words volunteers are over subscribed. We must keep our Barista in good health!

Bill Youl has just had another visit to the Lorne

"The day got even better when Bob Sinclair was awarded Life Membership... A richly deserved award for a dedicated Shedders who bought himself a new BMW just prior to the award. Oh, to be a retired architect!"

Kinder and bought a boot full of damaged toys for the Shedders to repair, I reckon any product and, I mean any product that needs testing should be given to the Kinder Kids for testing. Their Motto could be "we are tough on Toys".

The "Marion will be picked up next week so restoration will begin.

Quietly each year, Shedder Richard Grimsdale makes a significant donation to the Men's Shed, this year is no exception, Many thanks Richard.

Our dedicated yachtsmen can be seen sailing 2 or 3 times a week at the Swing Bridge. It's a great spectacle if you have time to stop and watch for a while, particularly when The Lorne Independent Cup is being contested as their are some fierce competitors amongst our fleet of 15 T37 Yachts.

Happy new year, keep well and see you in 2026. 🍷

Above: Bob receiving his award from President David Lawler show Bob now wearing his historical jacket (Thankfully not a Collingwood jumper, which he has been known to wear). Thanks Clive Goldsworthy for organising a fabulous lunch.

Lorne Garden Club Christmas Party

By Lou Davies

What a lovely day was had by all our members for our Christmas get together at the Peak. The room, "with the best view," was decorated with festive Christmas adornments and some lovely flower arrangements.

We were all in a festive mood and happy to chat about the year we had enjoyed.

For the first 15 minutes we were very fortunate to have a guest speaker from the Surf Coast council, Nick Guyatt, to make us aware of the fire risks in our area and to have definite plans afoot in case of an emergency. He was clear on how to plan our individual evacuations and what is very necessary to have ready packed at the door if such an event occurs. We were grateful to the Council to allow Nick to address us.

Do you have a plan organized, do you know when to leave and have you an escape box ready – Rug, torch, batteries, radio, canned food for a couple of days, warm clothing, large metal water bottle, etc?

Following this talk we relaxed and had a very happy lunch, looking out over our beautiful Louttit Bay.

We look forward to another great gardening year with lots of interesting outings.

Happy Christmas and New Year to everyone. 🍷



FOR SALE

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Media Release

Keep it green: tips to reduce waste and save money

The holiday season is a wonderful time to come together with family and friends - but it can also be a time when things get a little out of hand.

From excessive food waste to overspending, unnecessary packaging and the temptation of endless sales, the impact on both our wallets and the environment can quickly add up.

The Surf Coast Shire Council is encouraging households to embrace a greener January by keeping celebrations simple, thoughtful and low-waste.

"Often it's the simple things - nice food, good company and thoughtful choices - that make the season feel special," Cr Phoebe Crockett said. "More presents and more stuff doesn't necessarily mean a better holiday season."

"Small choices can make a big difference. It's all about buying local, avoiding excess, getting crafty, supporting creatives, choosing reusables, trying new options, and recycling where you can - all while having fun!"

"You can start by avoiding items that often end up as waste, like single-use gift wrapping. Old newspapers make an excellent option for gift wrap. Also opt for experiences, useful gifts, second-hand or locally made, quality products where you can," she said.

TOP TIPS FOR A GREENER HOLIDAY SEASON

Buy local: Support local makers, growers and retailers while reducing transport emissions. Local experiences leave lasting memories and make great gifts.

Choose reusable over disposable: From cloth serviettes to gift bags and advent calendars.

Get crafty: Make your own decorations using greenery from the garden, wrap gifts in fabric or reuse old wrapping paper.

Plan your meals: Write a shopping list and buy only what you need to cut down on food waste.

Recycle and compost right: Check what can go in your recycling, glass and FOGO bins and explain your bins to any house guests.

To help you keep it green this holiday season, Council has compiled ten practical, easy ideas to reduce unnecessary waste. They cover everything from smart shopping and low-waste gifting to creative DIY options and better recycling habits. 

Explore the full list of tips at:
surfcoast.vic.gov.au/GiveMoreWasteLess



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www.lornecountryclub.com.au

Op Shop Buzz

By Wendy Jarratt

Volunteers, customers and donors alike look forward to this time of year. We volunteers love seeing the shop decked out with Christmas decorations, all bright and sparkling. This year, we have a gorgeous Santa Claus sitting in the window. He's definitely not for sale.

The window looks wonderful with its Christmas theme. Our customers enjoy the chance to buy second hand Christmas decorations and cards. A good example of recycling and finding items that are a bit unusual, not mass produced. As well there are items of all kinds to go into the stocking. At the Christmas market in early December many Christmas goodies were on sale and snapped up. Lastly our donors, as if they're not busy enough, manage to have a big tidy up and gift us a multitude of lovely items – clothes, homeware, books, antiques etc. We really appreciate having good stock for the holiday season. From all of us the Lorne op Shop



we would like to wish you a happy, safe healthy and joyful Christmas and festive season and look forward to seeing you soon in the shop.

2025 AGM

This year's AGM was held on November 27th and was well attended. The President, Janet Goud gave her report where she reminded us that we moved into the newly renovated shop just before Christmas last year and she thanked all involved. She noted that during the past year we have gained more members with more male volunteers and have settled well with all the changes to the shop. Janet reminded us of all the work that went into the renovation – Firstly Robbo lending us his shop, volunteers moving all our stock, operating in the river side shop through the quieter months, then running two shops over summer – our roster person did an amazing job.

Janet also announced that we now have a representative on the Committee for Lorne which means we can contribute ideas and promote our interests through this channel. Well done.

Janet thanked the Committee members, in particular Valinda who has put a lot of effort into the renovation plans and now the general maintenance of the shop – a difficult task. She is stepping down for a break and vice-president will be Vicki, with secretary, Meredith. All other Committee members remain unchanged.

Thanks, Janet for continuing in the role of President and all acknowledge her great work. 📌

“Janet reminded us of all the work that went into the renovation – Firstly Robbo lending us his shop volunteers moving all our stock, operating in the river side shop through the quieter months, then running two shops over summer – our roster person did an amazing job.”



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LORNE 
medical centre

A Message from our CEO

Thank you to the Lorne and Surrounding Communities for their support of our health service this year. The generosity of our community makes an immeasurable impact to the high level of care we deliver each day. In December we celebrated our health service volunteers with lunches across both sites. Volunteers make a significant contribution to the delivery of our services, offering invaluable care and support to residents in aged care. Their dedication enhances the lives of the people we serve, and we are deeply grateful for their commitment—thank you! In December we also opened Second Sails Op Shop in Apollo Bay at their new home 73-75 Great Ocean Road. It's incredible to see how quickly the team was able to relocate the shop to this fantastic new space. A huge thank you to all the volunteers who made the move possible, including the students who generously lent a hand. The shop looks outstanding — professionally presented, welcoming, and full of positive energy. Its prime location will no doubt attract even more customers, and as always, there are plenty of great finds on offer.
Kind Regards, Andrea

Lunch on Lorne

Friday 27th February 2026

Next year marks our inaugural ticketed long lunch in Lorne, Lunch on Lorne, held on Friday 27th February 2026 at Lorne Bowls Club. Join us for an unforgettable afternoon of great food, wonderful company and community generosity at our Lunch on Lorne Fundraiser. Relax over a beautifully curated long-table lunch featuring local produce, live entertainment and a warm atmosphere—all in support of Great Ocean Road Health. Tickets are \$95pp including food and entertainment. Drinks will be available at bar prices. Purchase your ticket today at www.trybooking.com/DHUEX
Sponsorship opportunities available, please speak to Jessica Culhane—fundraising@gorh.vic.gov.au

Public Holidays at GORH

On **public holidays** our Medical Centre is closed and our Community Services provide essential services only including: nursing, personal care, respite services and delivered meals.
Urgent Care remains open 24/7

2026 Summer Raffle

Our Summer Raffle has started, get your tickets today for your chance to win one of our incredible prizes and help support our great health service. All proceeds from the raffle will go to the Great Ocean Road Health 2025-26 Annual Appeal - raising money to keep great health care close to home for our community. **WE CAN'T DO IT ALONE— WE NEED YOUR HELP.** Tickets are sold online and in person at our Main Reception at the Great Ocean Road Health Lorne Campus. In person ticket sales will also be available in Lorne main shopping strip, please see our Facebook for dates and times. To purchase tickets, scan the QR Code or follow the link: <https://www.raffletix.com.au/?ref=h27zb>
1st Prize - \$800 gift card for Great Ocean Road Resort, Anglesea
2nd Prize - \$700 voucher Deep Blue, Warrnambool
3rd Prize - \$500 experience in Port Campbell staying at Sea Foam Villas and dining at 12 Rocks Cafe and Bar.
Tickets are available online for \$10 each or discounted for multiple purchases. The raffle will be drawn on Friday, 27 February 2026 at 5:00 PM



Tickets available online \$10 each or 4 for \$25 at www.raffletix.com.au/?ref=h27zb



Lunch on Lorne

27th February 2026



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Media Release

Safety of community and employees our priority on high fire risk days

With an expected hot and dry summer approaching, Surf Coast Shire Council is notifying the community to expect short-term facilities closures and service disruptions during the highest risk fire days.

With an expected hot and dry summer approaching, Surf Coast Shire Council is notifying the community to expect short-term facilities closures and service disruptions during the highest risk fire days.

Council policy aims to protect the safety of employees and the community on days rated by the Country Fire Authority (CFA) as having 'Extreme' or 'Catastrophic' fire danger.

Under the policy, Council employees and contractors will not work or travel in fire risk zones at the highest risk times.

This means services and facilities in high bushfire risk areas (such as Lorne, Aireys Inlet, Anglesea and parts of Jan Juc) and high grassfire risk areas (such as the outer areas of Winchelsea and surrounds), will be impacted on Extreme fire risk days.

Facilities closures and impacts will extend to outdoor facilities in Torquay and other lower risk urban areas on Catastrophic days.

Depending on their location and the fire danger rating on any given day, the following facilities may experience unscheduled short-term closures:

- waste transfer stations;
- Lorne and Anglesea Visitor Information Centres;
- kindergartens and maternal and child health services;
- sport facilities and recreation reserves;
- community facilities, including men's sheds, community gardens and community houses; and
- health and aquatic facilities.

Kerbside bin collections and emptying of public bins on Council land may be paused or conducted at earlier times (with catch-up collections scheduled as soon as possible), while Council-run events and events on Council land may be cancelled or re-scheduled.

General Manager Community Life Damian Waight said Council was ready to enact its safety policy when needed, with the declared fire danger period now in effect.

"We understand that service disruptions and facility closures are inconvenient, but we will always put the safety of the community and our staff first," Mr Waight said.

"The expert CFA advice is clear: people should avoid high risk areas on Extreme or Catastrophic fire danger days. These are the days you should be enacting your fire safety plan.

"We will notify the community as soon as we can when closures or service disruptions need to happen, including contacting users directly where possible.

"Sometimes these decisions may need to be made at short notice as weather conditions change.

"We encourage everyone to follow our social media pages for updates as soon as they're available.

"Thanks in advance for your understanding."

More information is available at surfcoast.vic.gov.au/servicechanges

"Under the policy, Council employees and contractors will not work or travel in fire risk zones at the highest risk times."

Lorne Pilates

casual SUMMER CLASSES

Upstairs at Stribling Reserve Community Pavillion
45 Otway St. Lorne

ALL LEVELS WELCOME

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Mat pilates timetable:

(starting 1 Jan 2026)

Mondays 7am
Thursdays 4pm
Fridays 8am & 9am
Saturdays 9am

Clementine Calling

Andy Warhol, the late leader of the Pop Art Movement once said, “I think having land and not ruining it is the most beautiful art that anybody could ever want”. Please Lorne residents stop ruining your land – stop taking out the eucalypts, the wattles and all those dear little native plants. All we have is ivy, watsonia, agapanthus, echium and in the bush broom and boneseed. All from South Africa. Dig like mad and pull them out. Get cracking before it is too late!!

I love finding myself in the beautiful setting that surrounds Qdos Gallery, sitting outside enjoying a toasty consisting of avocado and goat’s cheese. Graeme Wilkie in his latest exhibition Delusion was letting us know that we all have false beliefs not based on reality but with strong evidence to the contrary. He even questions our comfort in the security of our own home. Graeme in this thought-provoking exhibition has cleverly used various mediums to convey his ideas – wood fired ceramic, steel, digital prints, lots of mirrors some with archival ink jet, and stoneware.

Lesley Goldsworthy is to be congratulated on the splendid Xmas Market held before Xmas, everything looked... oh well... so very Xmasie and of course the choir sang like angels. Brendan Tunstall was there walking around looking ever so handsome in one of Eva Youl’s handmade beanies, Heather Rice’s daughter in law Trudi was selling her gorgeous printed pieces showing her love of Australian plants, Julie Rodman was at the Op Shop store behind a great pile of Christmas dinner plates, Dawn Pitt had many knitted pieces, and the Men’s Shed sold out all their beautifully crafted bread boards in no time. The whole place was abuzz with artistry and fun. Best of all was Gary Allen’s delicious homemade pumpkin soup which was enjoyed by many including our special nurse Wendy Fowler and Jenny Cerins. Congratulations to all the cooks and to all the artists who made it a special occasion. Let’s hope they do it again.

Doug Hopkins is an angel. Three times a week he picks up three big lads from the Nursing Home and takes them to the Men’s Shed. In this way Angelo Kambouris, Max Pitt and Doug Stirling enjoy a cup of coffee and a good yarn with the Lorne Sheddors. Alan Walls did a wonderful thing for the community by setting up that institution.

“Doug Hopkins is an angel. Three times a week he picks up three big lads from the Nursing Home and takes them to the Men’s Shed.”

There’s no doubt about their Secretary Rod Smith – what a wonderful person he is. He organised a list of volunteers from the Lorne & District Men’s Shed to take John Bliss for hospital treatment in Geelong every day for 2 months. Well done all you chaps for helping John out. You are a great bunch of men.

I don’t know what those girl golfers get up to. This time they all had to attend their Xmas party as something beginning with B. They are all barmy. There were Bull dogs, Bee Keepers, butterflies with gorgeous capes over leotards, ballerinas, bathing beauties, bakers, basketballers, a pale bride, and Bedouins with hidden faces. Sally Young looked too dreadful covered in black and white bruises. Captain Rose dressed up as a Barbie Doll in a long blond wig and covered in bows. I believe that her husband was not terribly impressed! Just imagine what those ballerinas looked like dressed in their tutus as they played golf! It’s all mind boggling... but there were no bottlebrushes or banksias. After costumes got in the way of their round of golf which they played with one stick, they settled down in the Club House with its lovely views to have strategic stealing over various gifts before eating their lunch. Happy Xmas girls. You sure can have fun!!!

Brita Hergstrom is a mother of three, a tower of strength at the Cumberland and to her mother Pam in the Nursing Home. She put together a wonderful collection of goodies for the nurses and staff at the Nursing Home. Lots of treats that could be doled out over the festive season The piece de resistance was the most amazing Christmas cake made by her husband the builder Charlie Meredith. We didn’t know he had such talent.

There was much revelry on a lovely summers evening out on the Deans Marsh Road. Saturday, December 13th was not unlucky for the lively crowd that gathered to celebrate the completion of a dam they all helped to build and a new pontoon built by Eddy. Chunky, Wilko and their mates got stuck into sake, beer, party fare and slow cooked lamb for the opening ceremony which included the cutting of a ribbon. The landscaping is gorgeous with its massive rocks from the Stony Rises area of the Western District.

Happy Xmas to all Lornies and all visitors and a very Happy New Year. Don’t drink too much! 🍷



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Apply to be part of the trial by Friday 9 January 2026.

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SURF COAST CLASSIC

WOMEN WED 28 JAN
MEN THURS 29 JAN

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT

MAPEI CADEL EVANS GREAT OCEAN ROAD RACE

MAPEI CADEL EVANS GREAT OCEAN ROAD RACE

Join us this summer at the Mapei Cadel Evans Great Ocean Road Race with five days of cycling action in Geelong, The Bellarine, Surf Coast and The Otways regions.

See the megastars of UCI WorldTour cycling in the first Men's and Women's Classics of the season.

EVENT SCHEDULE

Wednesday 28 January (Surf Coast & The Otways)

» 11:00 Surf Coast Classic - Women

Thursday 29 January (Surf Coast & The Otways)

» 11:00 Surf Coast Classic - Men

Friday 30 January (Geelong)

» 17:30 GeelongPort Family Ride

Saturday 31 January (Geelong, Bellarine & Surf Coast)

» 07:00 TAC People's Ride

» 12:40 Mapei Cadel Evans Great Ocean Road Race - Women

Sunday 1 February (Geelong, Bellarine & Surf Coast)

» 11:10 Mapei Cadel Evans Great Ocean Road Race - Men

The Mapei Cadel Evans Great Ocean Road Race is an initiative of the Victorian Government, created by Visit Victoria, and a pillar of Australia's major events calendar.

SURF COAST CLASSIC TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT INFORMATION

- » The cycling will again kick off with the midweek Surf Coast Classic - Women and Men. The Women will take on the Lorne to Torquay point-to-point course on Wednesday 28 January, and the Men's race will take place on Thursday 29 January.
- » The Surf Coast Classic is a point-to-point course from Lorne to Torquay via inland route (see map on reverse for details).
- » Both Surf Coast Classic events will again start right in the heart of Lorne on Mountjoy Parade and finish on The Esplanade in Torquay.
- » Victoria Police will facilitate a rolling road closure for this race, which reduces the impact of the event. Vehicles will not be able to travel on or cross the route while the rolling road closure passes through. Delays of 15-20 minutes are expected.
- » Disruption to traffic will be minimal and the Great Ocean Road will remain open after a brief 15 minute hold for race start between the Deans Marsh-Lorne Road roundabout and Lorne town centre.
- » The Surf Coast Classic - Women's course takes in the towns of Deans Marsh, Barwon Downs, Whoorel, Bamba, Modewarre, Bells Beach and Jan Juc. The Surf Coast Classic - Men's course is similar to the Women's course, with the difference being that the Men travel an additional 38 km into Forrest and Yeodene, before returning to the same route from Murroon.

- » The rolling road closure will be supported by some fixed road closures to assist in keeping the course roads free of traffic when the race is coming through. All major intersections including the Great Ocean Road will remain open, except when the race passes by.
- » The Great Ocean Road will remain open at all times during the Surf Coast Classic to ensure east/west traffic movements through the Surf Coast Shire and Colac Otway Shire regions are maintained.
- » Pedestrian access will be maintained at all times during the event via existing footpaths. Where roads are closed for short periods, access across roads will be via marshalled course crossing points.
- » It is advised to allow extra travel time on event days in case you experience short delays whilst travelling near the course.
- » If you are travelling along a course road as a rolling road closure comes through, you will be stopped by the lead police vehicle and asked to park in a safe area on the side of the road.
- » Once the race has passed the rear police car will inform you that it is safe for you to move off.
- » There will be restricted parking on any road which the course travels along. To assist, please ensure you park your car either on a driveway if available or on a side street off the course.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

- » There will be changes to public transport services on Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. Customers are advised to check the PTV website for further updates: <https://www.ptv.vic.gov.au/news-and-events/events/>

EMERGENCY ACCESS

Emergency access will be maintained at all times. In an emergency please call 000.

VOLUNTEER

Want to be part of the action? SIGN UP AND VOLUNTEER TODAY! With plenty of course and field of play marshal positions available across the five days, there's bound to be an exciting role not too far from you. For more info head to: www.cadelevansgreatoceanroadrace.com.au/about/volunteer

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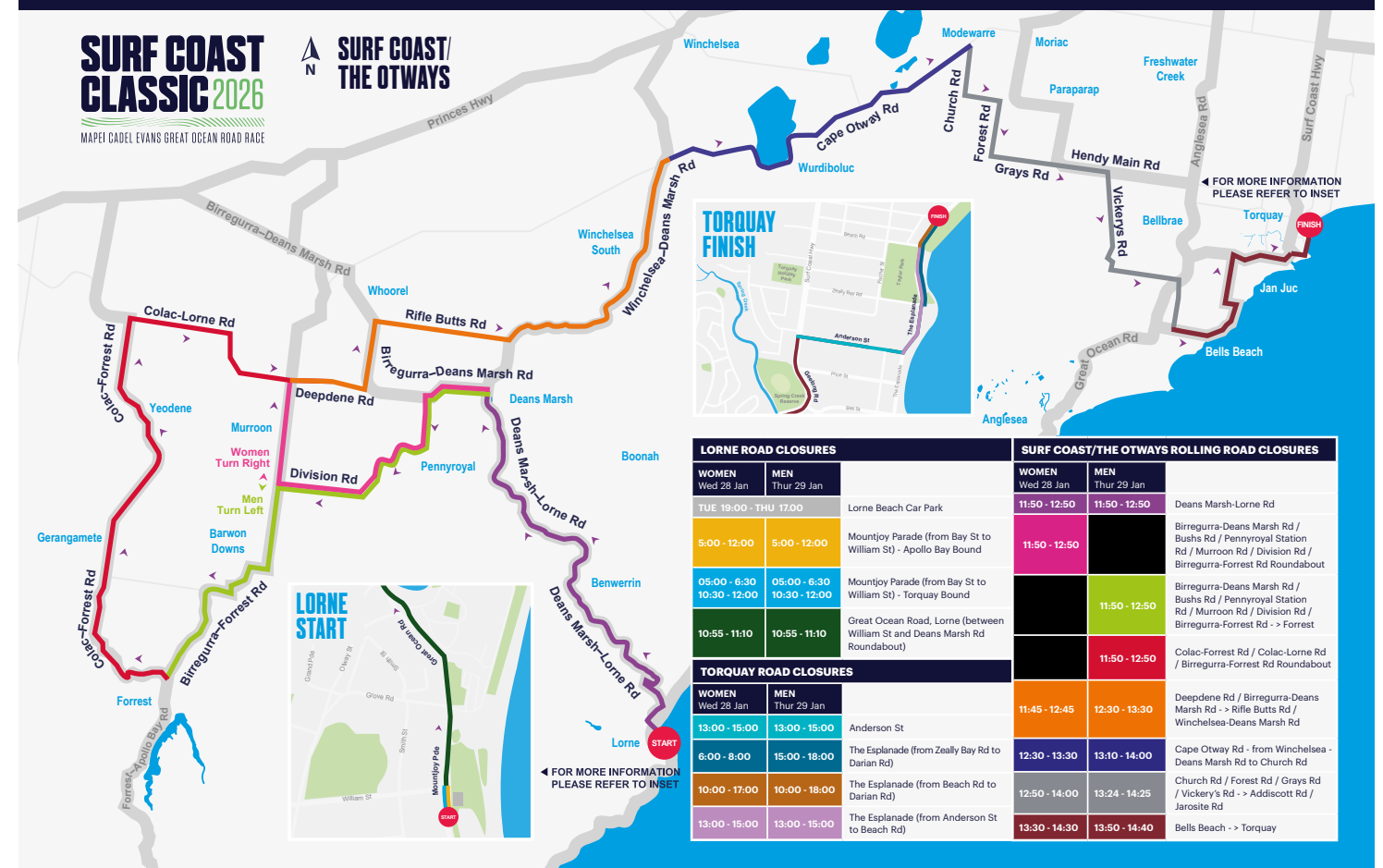
There are many ways to receive event updates, get the latest traffic and transport advice or contact us for further information:

www.cadelevansgreatoceanroadrace.com.au
info@cadelevansgreatoceanroadrace.com.au



TRAFFIC ALTERATIONS & ROLLING ROAD CLOSURE TIMES

#CADELROADRACE



Foxgloves and Hemlock

By Doug Williams

The different specialities provided from the green world show that over half of modern medicines come from the plant or fungi kingdoms, so examples of this are willow bark for aspirin and penicillium mould for anti-biotics.

But it's not all a sprinkle of fairy dust with plants because there is witchery out there too: so it's not only magic wands, there's broomsticks as well. Foxgloves are a melange of the two, so they produce fatal toxins but can be used to treat heart ailments and blood pressure problems.

Botanically foxgloves are digitalis which means finger in Latin and one can wear a single foxglove on your finger. There is a myth that foxes fitted them over their paws to help confuse their predators and to be silent when hunting prey like those sneaking into our chook house when only the dogs can hear them moving and it is said that the marks in the flower are the fingerprints of fairies. Other sources say that foxgloves are witches' gloves because they are associated with

witches' spells. And they are also known as dead men's bells because of the poison they contain.

It's interesting the way the domains of science and witchcraft interact in speaking of foxgloves so that we have compounds extracted from them to control heart rate and treat high blood pressure and then there is the superstition and magical aspect since it contains highly toxic chemicals as well. They are not a problem in our gardens though unless you start eating them and this is unlikely. Same goes for hemlock.

I can't say that I recognise a hemlock plant although I'm sure I have come across it at some point. Its fame as a poison stretches a long way back in time and the victim I am most familiar with is the Greek philosopher Socrates who died in 399 BC. He was convicted by the state for corrupting youth and being irreligious and sentenced to death. Rather than being put to death by poisoning, Socrates drank a hemlock potion to kill himself. It was used by the Greeks to poison criminals and prisoners. It is associated with witches and during the Middle Ages the root was used to combat gout, so it's not all bad news.

Peace and happiness in the new year. ①

"Botanically foxgloves are digitalis which means finger in Latin and one can wear a single foxglove on your finger."



**Country
and Waters**

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157 MOUNTJOY PARADE

Lorne Bushfire Place of Last Resort update: Point Grey site to temporarily close for works; Lorne foreshore stays open

To allow for construction works on the redevelopment of Point Grey in Lorne, the site will be temporarily closed to the public and unavailable as a Bushfire Place of Last Resort.

This means that from 27 January 2026 until the Point Grey redevelopment is completed, a section of the foreshore area along Mountjoy Parade (highlighted below) will remain open and serve as Lorne's sole Bushfire Place of Last Resort.

If there is any change to the construction schedule which impacts this date, we will let the community know.

Lorne Bushfire Place of Last Resort - temporary change



What is a Bushfire Place of Last Resort?

They are places to attend only when all other bushfire plans have failed.

They do not replace a well-thought-out and practised bushfire plan; they are simply designated clearings that provide separation distance from the bushfire hazard.

Your safety or survival at one of these locations is not guaranteed, so residents and visitors are always encouraged to enact fire plans and leave early.

How long will the Point Grey site be unavailable for?

Once the redevelopment is finished (expected to be completed in mid 2026), the site will be assessed for suitability before Surf Coast Shire Council can recommission the site. We will let the community know when this happens.

Who is managing the redevelopment of Point Grey?

Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority. For any questions about the redevelopment please contact them at info@greatoceanroadauthority.vic.gov.au or call 1300 736 533.

surfcoast.vic.gov.au/FireReady



Lorne Time

By Chris Jones

Lorne time can be described as a place where hours pass without urgency; the beach is experienced in fragments of silence, salt air, and the steady pulse of the tide.

Then there is the SES Lorne unit's version of Lorne Time.

At the time of writing this article, our unit has attended 117 Requests for assistance during 2025. These have included Assist Ambulance (10 events), Assist Fire Service (1 event), Storm Damage on Buildings (9 events), Landslide (1 Event) Assist Rescue High Angle (4 events), Rescue Person trapped (1 event), Road Rescue (9 Events), Tree down (81 Events) and Water Rescue inland (1 Event). This averages out to our volunteers turning out once every three days.

Our volunteers have been busy upskilling and building capability with unit-funded and VICSES courses. We have had a focus on the following: 1) Chainsaw operations, 2) Medium to Heavy Ridged Truck Licences, 3) Road Crash Rescue. 4) Emergency Response Driving, 5) Managing Traffic at Emergencies, 6) Land Search, 7) First Aid & CPR, 8) Community Engagement Facilitation, 9) Australian Fire Danger Rating System, 10) Tree Hazard Awareness, 11) Crew Member Supervised, 11) Child Safety at VICSES and 12) Introduction for VICSES Volunteers. At the same time, all our members have met the VICSES minimum fitness requirements for their roles. We have welcomed two new members to the unit and have lost one member who moved out of the town.

We are incredibly grateful for the donations we have received from the Lorne Aquatic and Anglers Club (LAAC), the Lorne Community Opportunity Shop, Lorne Bowls Club and various private donors.

The unit is definitely on the up. We recently received news from VICSES Asset Management that our Vehicle Bay walls, ceiling and floor are to receive a fresh coat of paint, and the faulty roller door is to be replaced.



"We are incredibly grateful for the donations we have received from the Lorne Aquatic and Anglers Club (LAAC), the Lorne Community Opportunity Shop, Lorne Bowls Club and various private donors."

Our unit has been announced as a recipient of a 2025 – 2026 VSEP grant to assist with the replacement of our Unit Support Vehicle.

Now back to Lorne (beach) time, carefree days, and every moment is pure, simple fun in the sun. Have a fantastic Lorne Summer, and we wish you all the best during the vacation period.

Stay safe from the SES Lorne Unit. 🇺🇸

For VICSES emergency response, call 13 25 00

If your situation is life-threatening, call 000

Follow us on our Facebook page - SES Lorne Unit.

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Barwon Water Community Update

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

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

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

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



Lorne: Water, Your Say

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



We're here to help

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



Be waterwise every day

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



kaigan architecture

Building for Lorne: Design, Community
and the Coast We Call Home

Living by the coast shapes you early. For many young people in Lorne and across the Surf Coast, learning how to read the ocean is not just a skill, it is a rite of passage.

The recent Bronze Camp at the Lorne Surf Club was a powerful reminder of just how important surf education is for young people growing up along this coastline. Kaigan Architecture was proud to sponsor two Bronze Camp scholarships, supporting local teenagers and participants through the week-long program.

Bronze Camp is far more than a qualification. It builds surf awareness, confidence, responsibility and practical skills that stay with participants for life. Throughout the week, the growth in confidence and capability was clear, both in the water and on the beach.

My connection to the Surf Club has shaped much of my life. Since joining in 2011, I have patrolled, competed, assessed and served on the Executive Committee. Experiences like Bronze Camp reinforce how valuable these programs are, not only for developing strong lifesavers, but for fostering a genuine sense of belonging and leadership within the community. Supporting Bronze Camp is something I intend to continue as a way of contributing to the next generation of coastal leaders.

That same respect for place and people underpins how I approach architecture.

Designing and Planning for the Surf Coast

Living and working in Lorne means understanding the coastline as a living environment that shapes how we build and how we live. Designing here requires working with steep sites, bushfire exposure, salt-laden air, vegetation protection and neighbourhood character controls that exist to protect what makes the Surf Coast special.

Planning is complex for good reason. Most properties are affected by multiple overlays, and timeframes are often longer than expected. Early investigation is critical. Understanding how planning controls interact with the physical realities of a site helps shape better design responses and reduces the risk of delays later. Where appropriate, early discussions with Surf Coast Shire can also clarify expectations before lodgement.

My design approach is grounded in local knowledge and aims to create buildings that respond to their landscape, sit comfortably within their context, and perform well over time.



Architecture that serves place and community

As Kaigan Architecture grows, my aim is to remain transparent about what architectural services involve while staying deeply connected to the community that shapes this work.

Supporting initiatives like Bronze Camp is not separate from architectural practice. It reflects a broader commitment to building responsibly, contributing locally, and designing with an understanding of the coast we call home.

Jennifer Armstrong
Principal Architect
Kaigan Architecture



Keith Miller LACC
Commodore



CLUB NEWS

Last Summer in the old girl ever

It's now summer and it will be the last one ever in our great old faithful clubhouse. Very sad but inevitable. If it could talk, it would have a lot of stories to tell.

It's going to be the biggest December/January ever with non-stop fun events, free live music, free sausage sizzles, auctions, seafood raffles etc.

January will be MEMBERS ONLY so for those that haven't joined or renewed yet, it's time to do so now! Sign up or renew on our website.

With our half price memberships you can't go wrong and they are selling like hot cakes, we are already getting close to our limit. For those who are struggling with our online joining process, just drop into Gazman and Jody will help sort it out.

Pier and boat launching channel access

At the time of writing this, the successful builder to win the tender to redevelop Point Grey hasn't been chosen yet so we still don't know if we will have access to the Pier and Channel during the redevelopment. It will be the builder's decision, so as soon as GORCAPA tell me who it is I'll be meeting with them and hopefully come to an arrangement to allow access. I will let our members know as soon as I know.

Fishing Comp future if access is closed

We sent out over 100 texts a couple of weeks ago to all our fishing comp competitors, asking if they would still be keen to attend comps if there's no access. We asked them to send an email to me with a simple YES or NO. The response was disappointing to say the least. We only had 6 YES's and Zero NO's. We really need to know immediately if there's going to be enough interest to run the comps during the redevelopment. So we will give it one more try. Please email a YES or NO to keith.miller@live.com.au.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Hawaiian shirt Wednesdays

Every Wednesday in January we run 'Hawaiian Shirt Wednesdays'. Prepare yourselves now and buy, borrow or steal some Hawaiian Shirts for the summer. Last January was the best participation rate ever with about 50% wearing them but I reckon we can do better this January. As usual everyone wearing one will get their first drink free and we will be handing out prizes for our judges favourites every week.

FREE LIVE MUSIC IN JANUARY

Starting around 5pm, but you will need to get there much earlier than that. They will all be very popular events.

Saturday 3rd January, 2026

A new band we haven't had before called **Solid Gold**. They are all experienced and talented musicians headed by well known muso, **Stephen Gill**. They specialise in well known cover songs.

Saturday 10th January, 2026

Pier to Pub Night. **The Vulcans**.

Sponsored by Rory Costello, Villawood Properties.

I don't need to say any more about this band. All our members know them well. They have been performing for us every summer for many years now and they are the ducks nuts.

Saturday 17th January, 2026

Arch Revival. They are a famous Blues Band who we've had before a couple of times and they are sensational.

Sunday 25th January, 2026

Local Legend, **Ronny Holmer** with his band **Not Dead Yet**. Ronny has been playing at our club since since electricity was invented and this will be his last ever performance at our old establishment.

Monday 26th January, 2026

Closing Down Party. Our last ever night at our legendary old club house which also happens to be Australia Day. We have a surprise live music event along with lots of other fun stuff.

LORNE CFA FUNDRAISER

Saturday 24th January, 2026

It's on again. We usually have it on Australia Day but that's on a Monday this year which isn't ideal for a lot of our members. The LORNE FIRE BRIGADE/CFA run a sausage sizzle and we help them out with a raffle, an auction and other fun stuff. Our 'FROZEN FEW' swimming group also help out with the day.

(Below): LORNE FIRE BRIGADE/CFA will run a sausage sizzle on Saturday 24th January, 2026.

(Right): **Fish of The Year** was won by **Will Sibby** who caught this thumper off the Pier.



FISHING COMPETITION

Sunday 25th January, 2026

This comp will go ahead regardless. This is always our biggest one of the year so this one will be huge. 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...

AUCTION SUNDAY

Sunday 25th January, 2026

During one of Ronny and the NOT DEAD YET's breaks we will be running an auction, selling everything around the club that we will no longer need. This is the list of items being auctioned: Indoor Furniture, Outdoor Furniture, Planter Boxes, Fridges, Memorabilia, Urinal, Sections of Artificial Grass, etc.

OTHER VENUE

Our sub-committee are working closely with the Surf Club and the Pacific Hotel so we can run our Friday Night Functions during the redevelopment.

FISHING REPORT

Boat

The fishing has been great but the weather hasn't been so great. When we can get out there's been plenty of Snapper, Gummy Sharks, Flathead, Nannygai, the occasional School Shark and Whiting.

Pier

The pier has been producing Big Snapper up to 80cm, Gummy and School Sharks, Snapper, Salmon and Whiting. There were even a couple of Tuna landed there last week.



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Gorcapa: Point Grey update December 2025

Designs are coming together very very nicely!

Community feedback is helping to refine designs and shape how the site's rich history is shared.

This is going to be a fantastic project for Lorne and we're very excited to be delivering it, with major works kicking off in February next year.

The new Co-Op:

- Will include a new hospitality offering an accessible public toilet within the footprint of the 1949 original structure.
- Reflects the original Co-Op in its size, shape and roofline, and we will be reusing elements such as old bricks and metal work wherever possible.
- The hospitality space outlet has increased in size from initial concept plans and there is a reduction in the number of toilets.
- We are also working with the Lorne Historical Society to incorporate display spaces for their use.
- The venue will have amazing views out to the pier, plenty of seats inside and out, and be located next to new public open areas with additional seating.

The new Lorne Aquatic and Angling Club (LAAC):

- The new LAAC building is shaping up well with an inviting outdoor area perfect for sunny afternoons.
- It will be a brand-new space for members and features a public fish cleaning station.

Public spaces and history:

- The project will deliver improved public spaces, walkways, traffic flow and parking.
- We've also begun work on an art and history strategy.
- This will map out how to incorporate signage, interior and exterior display, sculptures and other design features that highlight the area's cultural, maritime, and timber history - including how to include pier crane pieces and a restored cuta boat.
- We're working with members of the Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation, the Lorne Historic Society, Friends of Lorne and local historians to develop this strategy.

• Stay up to date with this project: tinyurl.com/4a3z8pdu

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Picks of the Month



FICTION: *The Heir Apparent* by Rebecca Armitage



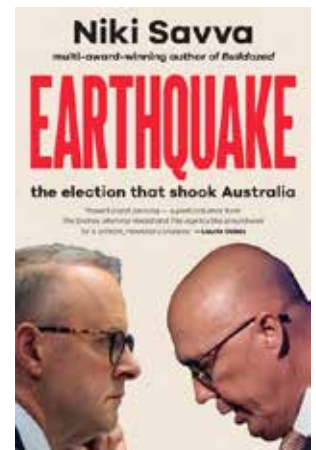
An absolutely delicious, compulsively readable, stylish novel about a young aristocratic woman, who has to choose between duty and her heart – think *The Crown* meets Taylor Jenkins Reid.

Lexi Villiers is a 29-year-old English doctor living in Hobart. She's overworked, broke, and happy. As New Year's Day dawns, she's about to kiss the man she loves for the first time. By midnight, everything changes. Lexi is Princess Alexandrina, estranged from the British royal family and living in exile until a tragedy makes her heir to the throne. Called back to London, she must navigate palace intrigue, media scrutiny and family secrets, and decide what she's willing to sacrifice for the Crown.

NON-FICTION: *Earthquake* by Niki Savva

The best of Niki Savva's scene-setting newspaper columns from *The Age* and *The Sydney Morning Herald*, along with a riveting and deeply informed analysis of Australia's epoch-making 2025 election.

Labor's landslide victory on 3 May 2025 wreaked havoc across the political landscape. It triggered ministerial assassinations, trashed reputations, destroyed careers, fractured the Coalition, and threatened to fracture it again. It took the Liberal Party to the brink of extinction and turned Anthony Albanese into a Labor hero.



CHILDREN'S FICTION: *The Lone Husky* by Hannah Gold



a brand new Arctic adventure from the Sunday Times best-selling author of *The Last Bear*! Join April Wood on a thrilling Arctic adventure set in the world of the internationally bestselling *The Last Bear* and *Finding Bear*.

With illustrations by the award-winning Levi Pinfold, *The Lone Husky* is a breathtaking adventure that will take readers on an unforgettable journey through the Arctic and reunite them with some beloved characters. Perfect for 8+ readers.

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