

# LORNE

## Independent

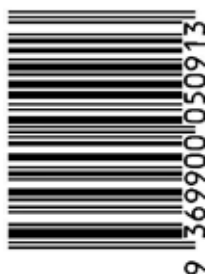
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No 286 September 2025

Produced as an independent newsletter by Lorne Independent Inc.

GORCAPA'S VISION FOR POINT GREY P 3,4  
TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

Dolphins in Finals P20



**Lorne Independent Inc.**

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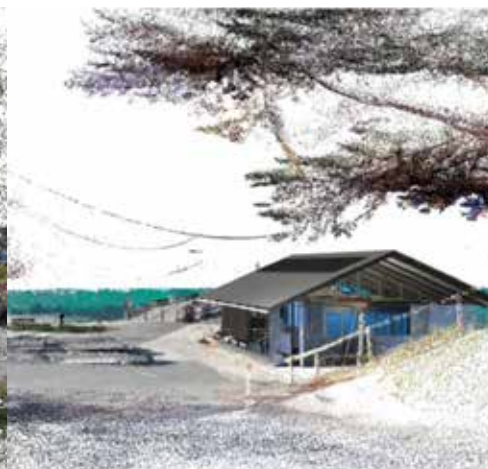
Cover Photo: a mate drops in at Cathedral

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# GORCAPA'S VISION OF POINT GREY



# EXCITING FUTURE FOR POINT GREY

The revitalisation of Point Grey is full steam ahead, with final Urban Design Framework (UDF) for the precinct's redevelopment now released.

The project will revitalise Point Grey by improving public access, creating new open space, bringing back a food and drink venue, landscaping and new facilities for visitors, fishers and Lorne locals.

Shaped by extensive community consultation, the final UDF has been updated to reflect community feedback, including:

- inclusion of boat wash facility
- inclusion of a public fish cleaning station
- a redesigned open space area near the pier to accommodate multiple uses, including community events or extra parking. This is in addition to an overall increase in formalised parking spots across the precinct
- relocation of the new public toilets within a new building that will replace the old co-op
- additional promotion of the site's maritime and timber history across the precinct

GORCAPA is working closely with the Lorne Aquatic and Angling Club on detailed designs for their new building and will work with the Lorne Historic Society to ensure the precinct reflects their aspirations to promote the site's timber and maritime history.

GORCAPA will also partner with Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation to co-design the Gunditj Lorne Garden space, transforming the old public toilets zone into a fantastic open area for the community.

Following extensive assessment, consideration of community views and a cost benefit analysis, the old co-op building cannot be retained or repurposed and will be demolished. An assessment of the 1949 section will be completed to identify and salvage materials that could re-used. The new building will respect the historic section of the co-op in its shape, roofline and footprint.

The final UDF, traffic modelling, a detailed engagement report and concept designs are available on the GORCAPA website, where the community can also submit questions.

GORCAPA will also hold a drop-in session at Point Grey (on Saturday 6 September from 10am–12pm) and host two online sessions on Monday 8 September 2025 – one at 12pm and one at 5.30pm.

The project forms part of the \$676 million Geelong City Deal, an initiative between the Australian and Victorian Governments and local councils.

To check out the draft designs, the final UDF and the detailed engagement report, go to: <https://haveyoursay.greatoceanroadauthority.vic.gov.au/point-grey-redevelopment>



## About the Point Grey Redevelopment

Shaped by extensive community consultation, we are excited to share with you the Final Urban Design Framework (UDF) for the precinct, along with a detailed engagement report.

The project has now moved into the design phase, with concept designs available to explore in our online gallery.

We invite the community to view the designs, share your questions, and be part of the conversation. All questions received will help shape a comprehensive FAQ, which will be published by the end of September to keep everyone informed.

The project will revitalise Point Grey by:

- Improving public access and introducing a new interchangeable open space,
- Constructing two new buildings in the same spirit as the original buildings; a new Lorne Aquatic and Angling Club, and a new food and drinks venue with public facilities at the rear
- Enhancing landscaping, and delivering upgraded facilities for visitors, fishers, and the local community.

## How Can You Get Involved?

### EXPLORE THE DESIGNS

Visit our Have Your Say website to access the virtual gallery, explore the redevelopment of the Point Grey Precinct, and ask any questions you may have (before 17 September).

[haveyoursay.greatoceanroadauthority.vic.gov.au/point-grey-redevelopment](https://haveyoursay.greatoceanroadauthority.vic.gov.au/point-grey-redevelopment)



### IN-PERSON DROP-IN:

- Point Grey Precinct: Saturday 6 September | 10am – 12pm

### ONLINE SESSIONS:

- Monday 8 September 2025 at 12pm and 5.30pm. Please register online to receive the link.

### Got a question?

Email: [info@greatoceanroadauthority.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@greatoceanroadauthority.vic.gov.au) OR Phone: 1300 736 533



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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Dear Editor and People of Lorne.**

The Point Grey Project has reached a critical stage, and we now all wait to see if Lorne community voices have been heard by GORCAPA. !

In my opinion, there are some very bad signs about the Point Grey Project.

- 1 GORCAPA deliberately conducted its community consultations during winter, bypassing of thousands of regular visitors who have a right to be consulted.
- 2 GORCAPA consistently fails to give direct answers to reasonable questions about the project, including ignoring letters or emails from many Lorne community members.
- 3 A worse sign is that GORCAPA is moving to bypass normal Council project approval processes by seeking direct final project approvals from the Minister for Planning. This means that all further community consultation could cease abruptly, and the normal path for challenging bad decisions at VCAT will be denied.
- 4 GORCAPA's track history has seen it repeatedly ignore different community voices along the entire length of the Great Ocean Road.

In the unthinkable event that GORCAPA continues to ignore community voices, the outcome of the Point Grey project might be that the most important historic precinct in Lorne could be completely desecrated. It is totally unacceptable for GORCAPA to demolish the original 1948 Lorne Fishermen's Cooperative building without reason. It is totally unacceptable that there be no possibility of dedicated historical display space at the place where Lorne's history actually took place. It is totally unacceptable to not have enough car and boat parking for future users of Point Grey. It is folly to consider cluttering the site with a new but unjustified new "refreshment" destination. It is obscene to waste public money on a clearly unwanted sterile "plaza" and over-the-top gross landscape changes. The list of problems with GORCAPA's planning processes is long.

It is time to consider what steps the community might take if GORCAPA dares to releases a final Point Grey plan out of step with community aspirations. Ideally, the Lorne community would stand together and urgently seek to raise its voice far above the level of GORCAPA.

A useful thing to know is that facts about GORCAPA decisions can be obtained via Freedom of Information (FOI) requests for documents held by that agency. Requests must be in writing and the information sought needs to be clearly defined. There is a non-refundable fee (approximately \$35) for requests, but the fee can be waived in some circumstances. The process is not quick, but facts obtained by FOI can be very useful for triggering further investigations and/or political action.

For example, the Victorian Ombudsman can investigate complaints about actions and decisions of Victorian public sector organisations and can look into whether

organisations like GORCAPA have acted fairly and in accordance with the law.

Victoria also has an Independent Anti-Corruption Commission (IBAC) tasked with exposing corruption or misconduct, and ensuring proper expenditure of public money, and that public services and projects are delivered fairly.

Another option is to write letters to politicians and/or newspapers. The next Victorian election is approaching soon, so politicians are likely to be more sensitive to community viewpoints. Ideally, both sides of parliament should be made fully aware of GORCAPA's track record of repeatedly failing local community expectations.

Something worth knowing is that the Victorian Minister for the Environment (Steve Dimopoulos MP) is responsible for GORCAPA. The Minister has legislated powers and can give directions to GORCAPA which must be complied with. If the community loudly raises its voice with the Minister, there may be a chance that GORCAPA could be directed to delay implementation of the Point Grey Project until community views are fully taken into account.

Also worth knowing is that the Victorian Minister for Planning (Sonya Kilkenny MP) has powers to fast track the final approval of the Point Grey Project. She should be made aware of Lorne community views about the GORCAPA and the Point Grey Project with a request that she not fast track final Project outcomes if our community views are not properly taken into account.

Another great option for Lorne is to start a petition to Parliament. The great benefit of a Petition is that it could allow thousands of visitors to Lorne who were bypassed by GORCAPA's winter consultations to contribute to the collective community voice. Any resident of Victoria can start a petition. It needs to be sponsored by a Member of Parliament and the petition must clearly identify an issue and specify what action Parliament can take to fix the problem.

The important thing is not to do nothing!

**John Barker** - (former fisherman and Friend of Point Grey)

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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Although not as enormous as the trees you reported in the August edition of the Lorne Independent, we do have some very large trees close to Lorne. The one in the photograph has a circumference of 8.8 metres, which corresponds to diameter of 2.8 metres. It's either a manna gum or a mountain grey gum and stands beside the Henderson Falls walking track.

Up to a point, our large trees are protected. In 2018 the Victorian government promised that "all native trees across the state greater than 2.5 metres in diameter would be... protected, whether they stood in forests or along roadsides." This undertaking followed the 2016 finding that trees with hollows (usually old, large trees) were more than 20 times more likely to collapse after planned burns than were their equivalents in unburnt forest.

Before conducting its planned burns, Forest Fire Management Victoria protects notable trees along roads and tracks by raking fuel away from their bases. Nonetheless, the Victorian National Parks Association claims that some large trees in the Otways have been destroyed during fire management operations. It's hard to see how trees within the forest can be protected. I suspect the then-minister mis-spoke when she promised this.

Mary Lush, Lorne



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



# LORNE SLSC Main Beach Brief

It was another big summer in Lorne, this season was one of our busiest. Volunteer patrols responded to over 66 rescues during rostered hours, along with several mass rescue events and callouts outside of scheduled patrol times. At one point, we had to evacuate the beach entirely to manage an unfolding rescue safely. These moments are a strong reminder of how vital beach safety and vigilance are. Not just for our members, but for the thousands who visit Lorne each summer.

Training was another highlight. Over 60 new Bronze Medallion lifesavers and 30 new Silver Medallion holders qualified through our programs. This is an essential investment in the future of public safety. More than 620 kids participated in Nippers, supported by a tireless team of age managers and volunteers. The Friday night and Sunday sessions were standout additions, helping families from Lorne and surrounding towns build water confidence and connection.

We're especially grateful to the many volunteers who give so much, including those who travel from outside 3232. Your efforts are at the heart of everything we do.

The Lorne Surf Life Saving Club proudly highlighted our remarkable winners and nominees at the prestigious LSV Awards of Excellence on the 9<sup>th</sup> of August, with Michael Garbelotto taking home the award for Beach Lifeguard of the Year, showcasing exceptional skill and dedication.

The Lorne SLSC Nippers Program proudly received the Nipper Program Achievement of the Year award for their outstanding efforts.

We also honour Matilda Eriksson, for her nomination for Junior Lifesaver of the Year (14-17 years).

Thank you to our local sponsors: Great Ocean Road Real Estate, Foodworks Lorne, and platinum sponsor Powercor for your continued support.

We look forward to seeing you all back on the beach next season.

Heath Armstrong  
President  
Lorne Surf Life Saving Club

## By the Numbers

### Lifesaving Operations

- Over 6,245 patrol hours delivered — a 14% increase on last year
- Beach attendance reached 210,000, up 42% from last season
- 66 rescues (up from 17 last year), 55 minor first aids, 10 major first aids

### Membership Growth

- Total membership grew to 1,804 (up from 1,705)
- Junior Activity Members increased 13% to 642
- Adult Active members grew 6%, Associates rose to 735
- Overall membership has grown 15.6% since 2021/22

### Training & Qualifications

- 124 IRB Crew and 269 Bronze holders completed skills maintenance
- Additional training: 79 Advanced Resus, 36 First Aid, 62 CPR certifications
- 8 members achieved Training Officer status, strengthening internal capacity

### Nippers & Leadership Development

- 479 Surf Education Awards and Preliminary Assessments completed
- 18 Age Managers accredited
- 16 members participated in leadership programs including:
  - U15 and U18 Camps
  - Ready 2 Lead
  - International Women's Day events

# CHRISTOS POETRY PRIZE

## Returns in a New Iteration 2025

Celebrating creative passion and freedom through Lorne P-12 College's own poetry writing prize. Inspired by the legacy of poet and friend Christos Raskatos.

**Message from Carlo Maye, Head of English and Humanities, Lorne P12 College.**

My name is Carlo.

We have re-started the Christos Poetry Prize at the school this year with the help of Greg Day and I was wanting to see if the Lorne Independent may be interested in publishing some information about it to raise community awareness. The prize is running from 18th August – 9th September and will feature a range of original poetry submitted by students and community members of our school.

We are hoping to receive submissions from adults both connected and unconnected to the school. There is a community category for community members, families of the school and staff to submit their poems.

Blackboards will be located at Lorne Books, Aireys and Wye General Stores on which we will display submitted poems. We hope that these blackboards will be able to display many of the community submissions. There will also be blackboards at the school to display a mixture of student and community submissions.

It has been a very quick turnaround to the get event set up this year, so we are aiming to keep it within the bounds of the school for the time being. This means that we only have prizes for the three student categories and not the community category this year.

### Theme

The 2025 theme is My Special Place.

Entrants are encouraged to interpret the theme freely and creatively.

### Age Categories

Entries will be judged in the following categories:

- Prep - Grade 4
- Grade 5 - Grade 9
- Grade 10 - 12

### Prizes

Prizes will be awarded to both the winner and runner-up in each age category.

### Community Submissions

Families, staff, and community members are warmly invited to submit poems.

Selected community entries may be displayed during the exhibition period.

Please note community submissions are not eligible for prizes.

### Rules of Entry

- 1 Poems must respond to the theme My Special Place
- 2 Entries must be 35 lines or fewer
- 3 Poems must be handwritten
- 4 Poems must be submitted in person at the Lorne P-12 College front office
- 5 Entries close: Tuesday 9th September at 3:30pm

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Welcome to Ocean House—where relaxed beach living meets standout design in one of Lorne's most stunning coastal settings. Perched above the shoreline with sweeping ocean views and surrounded by native bush, this unique home blends effortless luxury with nature.

Designed by award-winning architect Rob Mills, its bold curves and sculptural form have made it a design icon—even featured in the hit series *Fake*, starring Asher Keddie. But beyond the striking looks, it offers calm, comfort, and truly laid-back living.

Spread over three light-filled levels, the home includes six generous bedrooms, five bathrooms, two fully equipped kitchens, and flexible living zones—perfect for entertaining, big family getaways, or simply relaxing. A self-contained wing adds ideal space for guests, teens, or luxury holiday rental potential.

Premium features include hydronic floor heating, geothermal energy, smart home technology, and high-end finishes throughout. Outside, enjoy wraparound terraces, a rooftop deck with ocean views, a wine cellar, and two private garages—all just minutes from Lorne's beach, cafés, and shops.

Private yet connected, Ocean House is a peaceful coastal retreat—perfect for holidays, weekend escapes, or everyday luxury living.

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From the team at Great Ocean Road Real Estate

# FLYING OVERSEAS, SHOULD YOU BUY TRAVEL INSURANCE?

By Linton Ferguson

Travel to the other side of the world can be an exciting possibility. You buy your flights, check passports, visas and wonder, do I need to pay for travel insurance as well?

We were aware my wife Mandy's sister Gigi, just 60 years old, was fighting cancer. Her husband said to come in May or June. We spoke to Gigi over a video connection, and it was obvious she was very ill and so we decided to hasten our visit and go at the start of May. We flew to Montclair, New Jersey, USA to visit her. We had no issues with entry into United States, just a long queue and lots of standing around waiting for delayed flights.

We arrived at Newark airport in New York around midnight local time and went to an Airbnb we had booked online near Gigi's home. Next morning, a beautiful sunny day in Montclair, we walked to Gigi's house. Montclair is a beautiful suburb, 30 minutes by train from New York. We saw lots of three-storey houses with beautiful mature trees in flower, including dogwoods and tulip trees.

We saw Gigi most days for a few hours. We were able to share some bitter-sweet time together, walk in the park, out for lunch on a couple of occasions. We had taken drawings our grandchildren had done for Gigi. While she was looking through the pictures, she burst into tears, saying she realised she would never see Australia again.

On the day before Mother's Day in America, Gigi drove the car and gave us a lift to Broad Street station so we could take a train into Pennsylvania Station New York. We were then able to walk to the Empire State building in New York and see the views. Next day we were able to have lunch at Gigi's home to celebrate Mother's Day for Gigi and her son's 24th birthday, a very special moment.

A week later we were getting ready to visit Gigi in hospital. Mandy noticed the right-side of her mouth was sagging and she felt she had had a small stroke. We went into the hospital to visit Gigi who was unconscious with very laboured breathing. After a couple of hours we took a break and went for a coffee at the hospital. Mandy felt she was getting worse with slurred speech and weakness in her right hand and leg. So we went to the Emergency Department at the hospital, and she spent three days undergoing a barrage of tests to conclude she had had a small stroke and they found a large aneurysm that may



Gigi at 21

have been the cause. The three days in St Barnabas hospital amassed a bill of over \$15,000 US dollars. I phoned our travel insurance provider, Allianz, who assured me they would engage an agent in America to negotiate with the hospital and pay the bill. I was very happy we hadn't skimped on buying travel insurance.

While we were in Emergency, we got the message that Gigi had died. So, it was a most traumatic time. Our travel insurance provider said they would have our flights upgraded so Mandy could lie down during the

flight. However, because she had suffered a stroke she would not be able to fly back to Melbourne as planned, and we would have to wait for about a week, incurring the need to pay for more Airbnb accommodation. This also meant we now would be able to attend and speak at Gigi's funeral.

As well, I would then run out of one of my medications. Hence a visit to a doctor at the cost of \$200 US dollars to get a script, then to the pharmacy to get the pills. The supply of a small quantity of pills would cost \$700 US dollars. I attempted to use my credit card to pay, but they immediately blocked the payment, believing I had lost my card and it was a scam. After a long wait on the phone, I was able to convince my bank it was me and yes, I really did want to spend over \$1000 at a pharmacy in America.

On the first of June we arrived back in Australia, and we were getting back to normal in Lorne. Mandy was still experiencing some issues with fine-motor control in her right hand, finding it very difficult to write legibly. Right leg a little weak. Speech back to normal. However, a few weeks later Mandy had a second then a third stroke requiring multiple ambulance trips to Geelong Hospital then later to Royal Melbourne Hospital. On the first of July she had an operation to treat the aneurysm in her brain. A stent and coils were installed in the aneurysm, which apparently was creating clots leading to the strokes. Now a month later Mandy is making a slow recovery and has been told it will take six months to fully recover.

All up I estimate the cost of the medical emergency in America cost our travel insurance company over \$35,000. The cost of ambulance trips, admission to hospital for a week or so and specialist operation at Royal Melbourne Hospital cost us nothing. What a great health system we have in Australia. And yes, do buy travel insurance if you are travelling.

# ARTS IN LORNE

The following outlines the Spring/Summer program at the Lorne Community Connect.

We are delighted to welcome the students from the Lorne P-12 College to start the season.



## Waking to Wonder

An art exhibition of work by the students from the Lorne P-12 College.

The opening night:  
18th of September (6pm-8pm) and 20th of September (9am – 12pm)



## Little Hands, Wiser Hearts

An Intergenerational Program at LCC

A joyful collaboration between Lorne Kinder GORH aged care residents and support groups involved in a range of activities including a petting zoo, and an “Ahoy Maties” themed day.

Wednesdays 8, 15 & 22 October - 12.30 pm – 2.30 pm

## Anglesea Performing Arts Women of Troy

Troy has fallen and only the women remain. Witness the aftermath of war through the eyes of the characters. Hecuba, Cassandra, Andromache and Helen as they navigate grief and hold onto what remains of their lives amidst the rubble. A chorus of defiance echoes through the ages to tell a story for today. There will be two performances in Lorne on October the 25th Matinee 2 pm Evening at 7.30 pm. Tickets – <https://www.trybooking.com/DCWRE>

## 2025 AGM

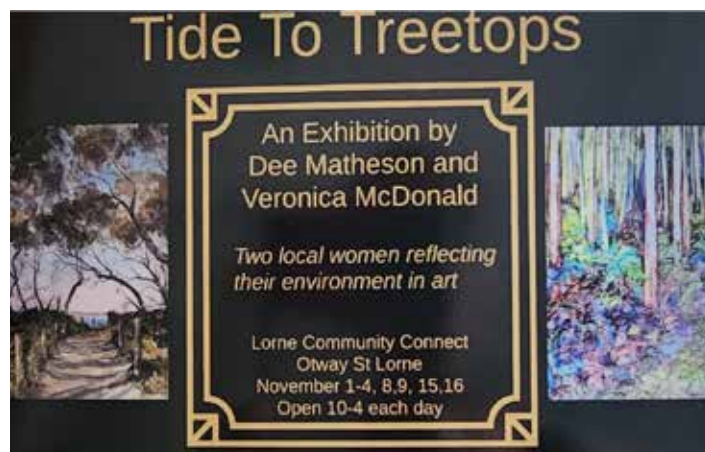


Please note that the

Lorne Community Connect Inc 2025 Annual General Meeting is to be held on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2025 at 5pm, Lorne Community Connect, 2 Otway Street, Lorne

Anyone wishing to be an office bearer or committee member must apply in writing seven days (7) days prior to the AGM. Please email [lornecommunityconnect@gmail.com](mailto:lornecommunityconnect@gmail.com) for a nomination form.

Nominations must be signed by one financial member and received no later than the close of business Monday 22 September 2025



## Tide to Treetops

An exhibition by two local artists. Dee Matheson from Gherang and Veronica McDonald from Winchelsea. Both their works reflect their environment.

November 1-4, 8-9, 15-1 - Open from 10 am – 4 pm each day.

## The Christmas Market

Features a range of local art and craft by local artists. A great opportunity to purchase unique Christmas gifts. Join us for this new initiative, solve the yearly problem and support locals all in one Yuletide action! Refreshments available.



December 6th and 7th from 10 am – 4 pm

Gary Allen - LCC

## Calling all artists: Surf Coast Community Arts Calendar competition open

Entries are open for the 2026 Surf Coast Community Arts Calendar competition and Torquay artist Emily Wright assures local creatives that taking the time to make a submission can bring welcome rewards.

Emily entered the competition for the first time last year with no expectations but landed the prized front cover position as winner of the People's Choice award.

“It was a super great experience, and it was lovely having a lot of people then recognise me from that – having seen my work in the Arts Calendar Exhibition, or once they had received the printed calendar,” Emily said.

Continued page 13

### From page 12

“It was very encouraging and a big confidence boost. It highlighted what my artwork itself was about, my love for our community was then supported by our community.”

“We’ve got a really great community that supports local art and artists and the calendar is an ideal way for people to get their work out there and share it with the community, and have it celebrated by the community.”

Emily’s linocut work was titled ‘Surf Coast Community’ and expressed her affection for her adopted Surf Coast Shire home.

Submissions for the 2026 calendar competition are open to Surf Coast Shire artists via [surfcoast.vic.gov.au/calendarcomp](http://surfcoast.vic.gov.au/calendarcomp) until 21 September across the categories Open 2D, Open 3D, Youth and Child.

All works will be displayed during a calendar exhibition at Anglesea Art Space during October.

A panel of judges will select one winning artwork for each of the calendar’s 12 months, and the work to feature on the calendar cover will be decided by a people’s choice popular vote carried out during the exhibition and online.

Mayor Mike Bodsworth encouraged artists of all ages to consider entering.

“Aspiring and established artists alike colour the months of our community arts calendar, and the breadth of their work is always truly impressive,” Mayor Bodsworth said.

“While being featured in the calendar is a highlight for some, the annual exhibition is a wonderful opportunity for creatives of all abilities to showcase their work, connect with audiences and celebrate the vibrancy of our creative community – bringing beautiful works together and gaining recognition and appreciation along the way.”

Each of the 13 selected artists will receive \$300 as well as valuable exposure during the exhibition and hanging in hundreds of homes and workplaces.

People with inquiries about making submissions can email [artsteam@surfcoast.vic.gov.au](mailto:artsteam@surfcoast.vic.gov.au)

# GRANTS

## NOW OPEN

All four streams open on  
September 1 - close September 30



- **Community Initiative Grants** up to **\$5,000**
- **Natural Environment Grants** up to **\$8,000**
- **Minor Capital Works Grants** up to **\$15,000**
- **Health and Wellbeing Grants** up to **\$5,000**

Scan the **QR code** to find out more or call grants team on **5261 0600** to discuss your idea and ask any questions.



[surfcoast.vic.gov.au/Grants](http://surfcoast.vic.gov.au/Grants)



## Expression of Interest

# 2026 Surf Coast Community Arts Calendar

Entries close Sunday 21 September



Buff banded rail by Caroline Hawkins

For full details go to: [surfcoast.vic.gov.au/calendarcomp](http://surfcoast.vic.gov.au/calendarcomp)



# Barwon Water community information sessions

Barwon Water invites you to have your say

We've been working with our Lorne Community Working Group to develop a number of alternative ways of meeting the long term water supply needs of Lorne. This includes a range of water saving opportunities and ways of increasing supply. We'd now like your input and feedback on these to help shape Lorne's water future.

We'll be holding community drop-in information sessions at the Lorne Surf Lifesaving Club, pop-up stalls around town and an online webinar. Scan the QR codes to learn more.



## Community drop-in information sessions

**When:** Wednesday 10 September

**Where:** Lorne SLSC

**Time:** 12.30pm – 3.00pm  
5.00pm – 7.00pm

## Stay up to date

Stay up to date with the latest information by visiting our dedicated web page at [www.yoursay.barwonwater.vic.gov.au/lorne-hub](http://www.yoursay.barwonwater.vic.gov.au/lorne-hub).

Or scan the QR code below



## Online webinar

Register for our online webinar by scanning the QR code below. We'll send you details after you register.

**When:** Tuesday 1 October  
4.00pm



## Pop-ups

We'll be in Lorne on Monday 15 September and Monday 22 September at Foodworks from 11.00am – 2.00pm.

## Apollo Bay's own **THE VASCO ERA** Return with new music

I am thrilled to reach out on behalf of Apollo Bay-born band The Vasco Era, who are back with their first album in over a decade, *I Don't Mind* (out Sept 19 via Naarm's Marthouse Records).

Brothers Sid and Ted O'Neil, along with schoolmate Michael Fitzgerald, grew up playing music in the Colac and Surf Coast regions before going on to national success with three major label albums and a reputation as one of Australia's most powerful live acts. Additionally, Ted taught for years at Lorne P-12 College.

Their new single "Away" (Sept 6) shows a different side of the band, built on vintage synths and falsetto vocals instead of their usual guitar-driven chaos. It's a fresh chapter for a group that's never stopped experimenting.

The Vasco Era will mark the release with a headline show at Melbourne's Corner Hotel on October 11 - their first major headline in more than a decade. With deep roots in Apollo Bay and the Surf Coast, this feels like a true homecoming story.

Release forward-thinking third single "Away", off forthcoming LP "I Don't Mind".



# SUPERCHARGE THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

# LIVE WIRE PARK



Visit Lorne's outdoor adventure park  
Pricing and bookings: [livewirepark.com.au](http://livewirepark.com.au)



LORNE · COUNTRY · CLUB



*Welcome to the Lorne Country Club  
- Visitors always welcome-*

**BOOK - PAY - PLAY**

online at [www.lornecountryclub.com.au](http://www.lornecountryclub.com.au)

*: Golf Green Fees*

*\$40 18 holes, \$30 9 holes*

*Clubs & buggies available for hire*

*: New Tennis Courts*

*\$30 per court*

*Racquets & balls available for hire*

*Non members welcome*



[www.thepeaklorne.com](http://www.thepeaklorne.com)

*: Catering, Functions & Weddings any time  
by arrangement*

*0473 381 400*

*keep updated at*

[www.lornecountryclub.com.au](http://www.lornecountryclub.com.au)

## Great Otway GARDEN FESTIVAL Apollo Bay

Where the Otway's meets the sea

Join Southern Otway Landcare Network and Great Ocean Road Health for a weekend celebrating the beauty of local indigenous plants, inspiring local gardens, and sustainable gardening in the Otways.

### Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October

Inspiring talks from Peter Shaw (Ocean Road Landscaping) and Emma Cutting (Melbourne Pollinator Corridor), plus garden design "speed-dating", demos, stalls, food and kids activities at the Apollo Bay Youth Hall.

### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October

Explore a trail of open gardens showcasing beautiful, productive, and climate-resilient spaces.



Tickets are \$25 each, children FREE  
Scan the QR code to view the booking page or go to:

[events.humanitix.com/great-otway-garden-festival](http://events.humanitix.com/great-otway-garden-festival)



GREAT OCEAN ROAD  
HEALTH

## VIEW OUR WEEKLY CATALOGUE SPECIALS

AVAILABLE INSTORE AND ONLINE



SHOP ONLINE AT  
[lorne.myfoodworks.com.au](http://lorne.myfoodworks.com.au)



**FOODWORKS**  
LORNE

1-3 Great Ocean Road, Lorne VIC 3232  
03 5289 1645 | Open 7am - 8pm daily



## LORNE P-12 COLLEGE

*Inspiring Excellence  
by the Sea!*

Term 3 is flying by and although short in length, it is being balanced with life changing experiences and fun, light-hearted events for our students across the College. From the moving visit for our Year 10 students to the Holocaust Museum in Elsternwick, to the playful antics of Book Week on Mountjoy Parade, there is never a dull moment!



### Students Moved at Holocaust Museum Visit



### Book Week Lights Up Mountjoy Parade

Students from Prep to Year 6 brought colour and creativity to Mount Joy Parade during their Book Week parade. Dressed in vibrant costumes inspired by favourite characters, the children lit up the street for shop owners, tourists and locals watching on. The vibrant event celebrated reading, imagination and community, making the street come alive with excitement.



Students from Lorne P-12 College recently visited the Holocaust Museum in Elsternwick, where they had the opportunity to hear firsthand from survivor John Lamovie about his experiences in hiding during World War II. Many found John's personal story deeply moving, highlighting not only the hardships he endured as a Jewish boy, but also the cherished memories he retained of his mother and sister. Hearing a survivor's perspective gave them a deeper understanding of life during the Holocaust, anti-Semitism, and the importance of remembering history. Overall, the experience encouraged students to reflect on fairness, equality, and the importance of learning from the past.





# Breath testing millions of drivers this year.

Police are out there to keep our roads safe. If you've been drinking, don't drive. Getting caught with a Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) of 0.05 and over will result in loss of licence and significant fines. Chances are you will be caught.  
**Anywhere. Anytime. Anyone.**

**TAC**

**VICTORIA**  
State  
Government



# IN THE SKIES

## RESTAURANT & BAR ...NEWS

VOL 1.....No. 1...

www.intheskies.com.au

SEPTEMBER 2025

Gadubanud Country [-o-]

@intheskieslawn

2cents

### REOPENING FOLLOWS FLOOR RENOVATION SUCCESS!

After a two month break for rest and renovation, our restaurant at the **Lorne Bowls Club** will be back open Thursday 4 September, kicking off with **Pasta Special Night!** (It's also Simon's birthday that night but he said to delete this part) Our Spring trading hours will be Thursday - Monday for dinner, except Sunday which will be more of an early dinner arvo barefoot bowls, family friendly outdoor dining kind of scene TBA. Sorry there's a fair bit of TBA in this newsletter, I guess inevitably at the beginning of a **NEW YEAR!** Speaking of which, thank you so much to everyone who supported us in our first year (back). We can't wait to see you



Please Note: September 4 Pasta Specials may vary so

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**MONDAY NIGHT MUSIC**  
 WILL RETURN FOR ONE  
 NIGHT ONLY THIS YEAR!  
**27 OCTOBER 2025**



**SUNDAY ARVOS**  
**BY THE GREEN**  
**COMING SOON**

**MONDAY NIGHT**  
 Monday Night Music will be hosting a special one off comeback show in collaboration with the Surf Coast Shire and Piano Bar Geelong celebrating the Rainbow Community during the region's 'Positive Aging Month' 2025 series of events! **Save The Date! Monday 27 October ~ 5pm Until Late** Details to follow!!!!



Luke Morgan's flower arrangements, as well as totem tennis, are amongst the crowd favourites set to return for *In the Skies* 2nd year at the Bowls

**"MONDAY'S THE NEW FRIDAY"**  
**TWEETS LOCAL HOSPO WORKER**

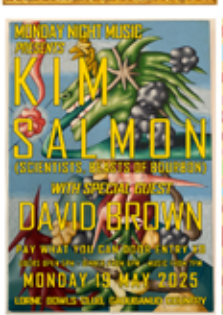
The 6th ...or it is 7th... season of **Monday Night Music** has been and gone. The Night, first started at the Bowls Club in 2017, historically runs in 'the off season' from February/March until June/July. We look forward to it hopefully returning in 2026! We have celebrated the 2025 season with a few of it's posters featured below. Thank you to the amazing musicians and loyal audiences who brought the magic and love yet another year running. Monday fans may be comforted by the exciting news that we are about to start our first ever season of **MONDAY NIGHT TRIVIA!!!!** **STARTING 8TH SEPTEMBER**, the night will run weekly with our regular à la carte menu plus some dinner and drink specials. The intended vibe is for it to be fun, friendly, intergenerational and community minded like Monday Night Music! No pressure to do trivia either, you can just come down to eat or drink or watch the action! **FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO WOULD LIKE TO DO TRIVIA, PLEASE BOOK YOUR TABLE BY TEXTING 0474260746!!** We are also very excited and grateful Lorne Bowls Club hall of fame member, the one and only, Mr Gary Allen has agreed to be our first ever **QUIZ MASTER!**



**2025**  
**TRIVIA!**  
**STARTS SEP 8**



**DINNER FROM 5PM**  
**TRIVIA FROM 6:30PM**  
 WITH YOUR  
**QUIZ MASTER**  
**MR GARY ALLEN!**  
 GET YOUR TEAM TOGETHER  
**BOOK A TABLE**  
**TEXT 0474260746**



Above: L-R David Brown aka Candlesnuffer, Leanne McLean aka Leanne of Fitzroy, Mr Kim Salmon & Maxine Pryce. It was an honour to have these (and other) legends at Monday Night Music 2025!

**BOOK NOW FOR FATHERS DAY LUNCH**  
 SPECIAL DAD DEALS TBA @INTHESKIESLAWN AND VIA WWW.INTHESKIES.COM.AU  
**BOOK ONLINE OR TEXT LINE 0474260746**

# SPORTSBRIEFS

By John Ford

## Dolphins in Finals

Lorne's Senior and Reserves teams have both made the Colac and District Football League finals. The senior team has stumbled a little which has meant that Lorne has given up top spot on the ladder. Away losses to Alvie on 2nd August and to Colac Imperials on 16th August has elevated Colac Imperials to top position and relegated Lorne to second. Despite this the Dolphins produced a strong win at home against Western Eagles on 9th August winning by 114 points.

Lorne then took on Simpson at home in the last round of the home-and-away season. To regain top spot on the ladder they not only had to win but rely on Colac Imperials losing to Irrewarra-Beeac. Lorne started sensationally with the breeze, and late in the first quarter had kicked ten straight goals to the opposition's one. Lorne continued to dominate the match eventually winning by 118 points. The Dolphins had thirteen players kick goals including James Hughes with six. Unfortunately, over in Colac the match was a draw between Colac Imperials and Irrewarra-Beeac, meaning that Imperials finished on top of the ladder, half a game clear of Lorne in second.

Lorne's Reserves team has had a remarkable season finishing undefeated on top of their ladder. Many of the wins have been quite emphatic resulting in an unbelievable percentage of over 600! To have both the Senior and Reserves teams playing in the finals puts Lorne in a very strong position with the whole squad of players in line for selection. In their final match of the season the Reserves won comfortably and had nine players kicking goals.



### Finals Series

The Finals matches are all played in Colac at Central Reserve with Lorne's matches all to be played on Saturdays. The top five finals system gives the top team a week off while the remaining four play off in Elimination and Qualifying Finals. The Senior top five at the end of the home-and-away matches is as follows:

Colac Imperials  
Lorne  
Alvie  
Irrewarra-Beeac  
Birregurra

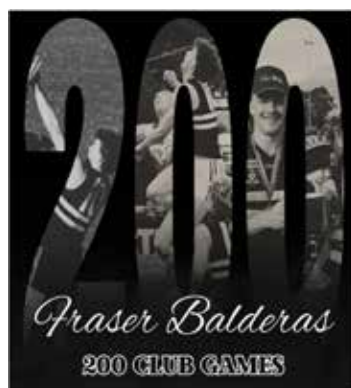
Lorne Seniors will meet Alvie on Saturday 30th August in Colac.

The Reserves top five teams are as follows:

Lorne  
Irrewarra-Beeac  
Birregurra  
Colac Imperials  
South Colac

This means that Lorne Reserves first final will be on 6th September.

We hope that a strong contingent of supporters will be there to cheer on our locals.



### Milestone for Fraser

Throughout a season a number of players reach individual milestones which often go unnoticed because football is such a team sport. The most recent milestone was Fraser Balderas playing his 200th match for the Dolphins on 16th August. He has been used

successfully in a number of roles with the club including as a mobile ruckman. Fraser has continued the strong Balderas tradition at the club following parents Darren and Susan, and Geoffrey and Oscar. Well done!

## Dolphins Netball

The Dolphins have fielded a D Grade team this year for the first time in recent years and their win on 23rd August has secured them a place in the finals. While the A, B and C Grade teams have all played well, the D Grade team will be the only one to see finals action. The team includes a range of ages and experience and is a credit to playing coach Carly Enticott who is no stranger to finals success. Well done and good luck!



A very happy and relieved 15 and under team.

Continued page 21

**From page 20**

It was a stunning day in Lorne for the last round for season 2025. There was great excitement over on the netball courts as the 13 & Unders, 15 & Unders and D grade girls qualified for the finals.

The 13 & unders will play Otway districts in their elimination final.

The 15 & unders will meet Irrewarra Beeac, who beat them in the home and away games in very close matches.

The D grade team will play Western Eagles in their game on Sunday.

Well done and thank you to all the netballers for an exciting season and all the best to the qualifiers for their finalscampaigns.

Congratulations to Zoe Kettle her 100th game – Zoe is currently starring in C Grade. Other milestones were Victoria Jewell playing her 50th game. Victoria is currently playing for A Grade and in the Under 13's Hazel Travers has already clocked up 50 games – promising start to what we hope will be a long career with Lorne!

**Golf****Women's Golf - Club News.**

The competition numbers are still down this month with many still away adventuring. For those of us still home - the course is drying out and we have had a couple of beautiful days for golf this month.

July monthly medal winner was Carol Tutungi.

Danni De Bon won the August 19th 18-hole comp with an outstanding score of 41 stableford points - bringing her GA handicap down by 2.2 points! The nine-hole winner was Helen Worth.

We joyfully welcomed back one of our members this month - Linda Stewart came and had her first swing on the course with us for a while. She is an inspiration to us all - on and off the course.

**SWGA news.**

We had a team of 3 players enter the Inverleigh Open which presents a different challenge with the course "Scrapes" instead of "Greens". The Club had many of the members helping out on the day, raking and smoothing the scrapes for us which

made a huge difference. Although we did not win on the day, Rose, Tina and Danni enjoyed the day on this lovely country course.

We are a friendly group of women, at all different levels of golf skill and experience, and we love to welcome new members/golfers to our group, and also welcome back those that may be "lapsed" golfers!... If you are interested in joining our group, whether new to golf or with some Golfing experience, or if you have any questions, please call Sue Neill on 0418 674 062, or Rose Wyles on 0407 860 980.

Happy Golfing - Danni De Bon.

**Cricket Registration**

The last two summers have been very successful for Lorne's cricket team. Not only has the team made the finals – being runners-up by the narrowest of margins – but it has welcomed young upcoming cricketers into the club. It is now time to consider your summer sport options, and no matter what your level of experience you will be made to feel very welcome. The accompanying notice contains the information you need.

For more information contact the club at [lornecricket@gmail.com](mailto:lornecricket@gmail.com)




# LORNE CRICKET CLUB

## IS RECRUITING

Be Part of Our Legacy in Season 2025-2026

### WHY JOIN LORNE CRICKET CLUB?

**Family-Friendly Club:** A welcoming environment for everyone

**All Abilities Welcome:** Whether you're a seasoned player or a beginner, there's a place for you

**FREE Registration for players 25 and under:** Your Cricket journey should not have any financial barriers

**Equipment Provided:** We've got you covered - just bring your enthusiasm

**Play** at Victoria's Most Scenic Ground

 **PRE-SEASON SESSIONS**

When: Sundays 3pm

Where: Stribling Reserve, Lorne

 **CONTACT US TODAY!**

[lornecricket@gmail.com](mailto:lornecricket@gmail.com)



Scan to Register Now

Continued page 23



# GREAT OCEAN ROAD HEALTH

## NEWS

LORNE  
medical centre

Albert Street, Lorne VIC 3232

Phone: (03) 5289 4300

Email: [enquiries@gorh.vic.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@gorh.vic.gov.au)

[www.greatoceanroadhealth.com.au](http://www.greatoceanroadhealth.com.au)

### Maggie Beer Training Mentor Program

We are part of the Maggie Beer Foundation Trainer Mentor Program. Our great team at Lorne Aged Care is excited to participate in the trainer mentor program supported by the Maggie Beer Foundation. This 12-month program pairs aged care home kitchen teams with a qualified chef trainer who will mentor the team to serve flavourful, nutritious food and deliver an enhanced dining experience for residents in aged care homes. Our Maggie Beer Mentor training program is starting to gather speed. Staff have completed online training and are currently undergoing a 5-day intensive training program with a Maggie Beer Trainer. This week we welcomed Trainer Michael, who has already wowed us with his enthusiasm, his passion for good nutritious and delicious food, his inspiring ideas for increasing choice options in our menu and how we present food, as well as his practical training approach. We are looking forward to the year ahead, to improving our aged care experience, learning new skills and techniques. Building on our Montessori approach to aged care, the Maggie Beer Foundation Trainer Mentor Program is an exciting opportunity for GORH and our residents and families. Food is such an important part of the service provided in aged care, and we are always looking at how we can improve the dining experience. The new skills and insights from the Training Mentor will be shared with Catering staff at our Apollo Bay campus, for the benefit of our Apollo Bay Aged Care Residents. If you have suggestions on how we can improve our food experience, or if you would like to learn more about the program, please ask our team.

### Lorne Medical Centre

A reminder to all of our Medical Centre patients to please book in advance for scripts. We are currently experiencing high demand and want to ensure every patient receives appropriate care. If you need to renew a script or make an appointment with one of our GPS or Nurse Practitioners, please call our friendly reception staff. Lorne Medical Centre: (03) 5289 4333

### Please Support our Annual Appeal

Our Annual Appeal is focused on raising funds for needed infrastructure upgrades and equipment purchases, to ensure great care close to home. Infrastructure improvements we are looking to make at our Lorne facility include installing a new tracking and hoist system in all patient rooms, roof repairs, renovate our main hospital reception area and waiting room to increase accessibility, improve patient experiences, and increase liveable outdoor space for patients from their rooms.

Using funds from the Annual Appeal we were able to purchase a Brachial Index Machine (BIM), which tests blood pressure in patient's arms and ankles. This fantastic device used for diagnosing Peripheral Vascular Disease, is being used daily at the Lorne Medical Centre. Previously patients had to travel to Geelong for this 5-minute test. Having this device reduces the need for members of our community to travel unnecessarily and it speeds up the diagnosis process. To continue to improve health care closer to home we need your help. Every dollar counts—and every dollar stays right here, helping to support your local health service. Your donation can be made online at [www.greatoceanroadhealth.vic.gov.au/](http://www.greatoceanroadhealth.vic.gov.au/)

### Lorne OP SHOP

Recently, we welcomed Lorne Op Shop Volunteers for a tour of our hospital and aged care facility before having a delicious afternoon tea. Our Staff and Aged Care Residents were delighted with the company. The Lorne Op Shop Volunteers and Executive team are an incredible group who generously support our Lorne Community. In the last year the Lorne Op Shop has supported us by providing funds to purchase needed new equipment. We were able to acquire a portable ear suction pump (reducing ear blockages and surfer's ear), dermatoscope device (enhanced visibility for detecting skin cancers non-invasively) and a Vscan portable handheld ultrasound (enables clinicians to easily image patients at the point of care – transforming the physical exam with more information to determine the optimal course of treatment). We are so grateful for the new equipment and funding support! Thank you!



From page 21

## Bowls

### Around the Green by Brendan Tunstall

The Lorne Bowls Club is looking forward to a very successful season in 25/26. Last season two of our three sides made the finals, culminating in a Premiership in Weekend Division 4 and runners up in Weekend Division 2.

Our aim this season is to have all of our competing sides in Weekend Divisions 2 and 3 and Midweek Division 2 play in finals. And hopefully win a premiership or 3.

How will we achieve this? The club is very pleased to appoint Leigh McIlvenny as our coach. Leigh is a first class bowler. Given his competition experience and enthusiasm, not

only will Leigh teach the necessary skills but also instil the necessary mindset to get the best out of us as Bowlers. As a spin off from our recent success, maybe our club is becoming a 'destination' club? Witness the recent transfer in of some very experienced Bowlers. Prior to Leigh commencing in mid September, our 'pre- season' starts off with Pennant Practice on the first Saturday in September at 10.00am (to avoid any clash with Lorne/AFL finals). The annual Community Cup has been deferred until March 2026.

Social Bowls will be commencing Wednesday mornings and you will find a welcome there to begin your bowls journey.

### In the Skies

Coinciding with the start of Pennant Practice, we are excited to welcome back Simon, Anna, Robbie and Erin who conduct the acclaimed 'In the Skies' restaurant and bar from the clubhouse. Great food combines with great hospitality. Over the winter recess much work has been done behind the scenes. Internally improvements to the kitchen and bar, and externally, improvements to the outdoor greens area and car park.

### Back to the Green:

Something to remember: if your skip wants an opinion, they are happy to give it to you!

### Lorne Bowls Community Cup

It was disappointing that the Lorne Bowls Community Cup had to be postponed. The Cup which was to have been held over three weeks in September will now be held next March. The format invites Lorne's various clubs and organisations to field teams each comprising three inexperienced bowlers to compete for the Cup. Many 'first time' bowlers have shown interest and the Lorne Independent will be part of the action. We will provide more information closer to the date.

### Pickleball is Back !!!

At the Community Stadium in Otway Street from 4.00 to 6pm. This Monday 25 August 2025.

All equipment provided for an enjoyable pre dinner warm up. See you there. Brian Tickell

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](mailto:byswerdi2@bigpond.com).



## Celebrate Positive Ageing Month in Lorne and Deans Marsh

From dance and movement to trivia and information sessions, we're proud to support 25 events and activities to celebrate the Victorian Seniors Festival.

View Lorne-Deans Marsh events via [Surfcoast.vic.gov.au/PAMLorneDeansMarsh](http://Surfcoast.vic.gov.au/PAMLorneDeansMarsh)

Check out the full calendar of events at [surfcoast.vic.gov.au/PositiveAgeingMonth](http://surfcoast.vic.gov.au/PositiveAgeingMonth) or call 5261 0600.





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# LORNE FIELD TRIP

By Eva Janice Youl

On August 14, 2025, a student group from Mount Rowan Secondary College, Ballarat, visited Lorne as a part of a field trip. The VCE students are studying Unit 4 of Outdoor and Environmental Studies.

Their teacher, Anna Murphy, made contact with Penny Hawe, President of Friends of Lorne, so the students could experience a coastal environment, make observations, collect data and understand local issues.

Penny gave an overview of Friends of Lorne and the community education and citizen science work done by residents and visitors across our region.

She explained how local sightings of animals and plants are captured on a phone app and uploaded to provide postcode summaries of local diversity in the Atlas of Living Australia website.

The students correctly guessed that the sulphur-crested cockatoo was our most seen bird! Lorne has 3062 species listed in the Atlas. Ballarat has 2351.

In the sunshine the students set off on a walk. They tested the pH of the water in the Erskine River and the results ranged from 6.0 - 6.5 which is slightly acidic. This is probably because of the tannins in the water. The tannins give water the brownish colour and originate from natural organic compounds from decaying plant matter such as leaves and bark that leach into the water.

So the Erskine River appears healthy unlike the current situation in Anglesea where the very blue colour is causing concerns.

As far as I know Erskine River is no longer regularly tested and is not a part of a Waterwatch program. Citizen Science programs provide essential data and are used for species numbers such as Whale Watch or Bird Counts by Birdlife Australia. As previously mentioned, iNaturalist results feed into the Atlas of Living Australia which gives a detailed picture of Australia's biodiversity.

The effects of climate change on our coastal area were also discussed and I concentrated on two of the these:

1. Ocean Warming including ice melts in Antarctica. Higher temperatures are changing ecosystems including food sources for marine life such as birds, fish and whales. There are also changes to tides and coastal erosion from increased storm activity. The current algae situation in South Australia is another threat.

2. Ocean acidification. Excess carbon dioxide is absorbed forming carbonic acid. This greatly affects crustaceans that need calcium carbonates to build their shells. A crab without its exoskeleton will not survive.

Another concern is the effect on corals in coastal areas, for example in Queensland and Western Australia.

We also discussed pests and introduced species. The students noted plants such as periwinkle which is obvious because it is in flower as is the yellow flowers of oxalis.

Finally, Kim Hammond of GORCAPA gave a talk about the little hooded plovers. She showed the students 3D printed speckled eggs that looked like the real deal.

Kim explained how their nest is a little hollow in the sand and so is very vulnerable to predators, dogs and humans. The eggs are well camouflaged and a beach walker could unintentionally stand on the eggs.

Two birds were sighted last week. Armed with our binoculars we walked along the area where the birds have nested in the past. They obviously knew we were coming and it was a no show!

If we are lucky they will build a nest and Lorne may have another successful breeding pair. More volunteers will be needed.

Boarding their bus, the students headed off to towards their next stop at Wye River and more coastal information for their outdoor and Environmental Studies.



## Staying safe online.

You're invited to a free Staying Safe Online seminar presented by CommBank Lorne Branch.

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# COUNCILLOR COLUMN

By Mike Bodsworth

While it might be slightly odd to start a Lorne column with a story from Winchelsea, I want to mention a recent visit to the new Winchelsea Community Village.

In 2022, after rigorous planning, Council agreed to 'sell' land at 42 Harding Street to Winanglo Incorporated for a dollar, enabling ten units to be built and offered for sale at affordable prices to local people looking to 'downsize' and age in place. The development has now been completed and units are selling.

They've been designed and built to the highest sustainability standards, to be adaptable to individual resident needs, and to offer a balance of privacy and communality - with a central sheltered BBQ area that I'm tipping will be a prime hangout. A solar and battery setup will keep energy prices down and the location is an easy walk or ride from key services.

I'd urge anyone who's interested to visit [www.winanglo.org](http://www.winanglo.org) to find out more.

The reason I mention this in The Independent is that the Winanglo model, where local community and Council collaboration and financing are applied to a carefully defined

local problem, is equally applicable to Lorne. After all, the 'Lo' in Winanglo is for Lorne!

I'm sure local champions will put their heads together to work out what's possible.

In other news, we're currently working on finalising our Council Plan. It's our essential roadmap for this council term - setting strategic direction based on a comprehensive community engagement process. It will be coming to the September Council Meeting for adoption.

The draft Council Plan is built around five themes: Assets and Infrastructure, Climate and Environmental Leadership, Community Wellbeing, High Performing Council and Sustainable Communities (e.g. a Lorne that has a healthy population and demographics, local jobs, a strong sense of place, a strong future).

Keep an eye out for it, in the September meeting agenda.

I'll close by inviting readers to contact me, or my Otway Range Ward colleagues Leon Walker and Libby Stapleton, with questions or concerns. Strong relationships between councillors and community are an essential basis for a High Performing Council!

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# GOURD ALMIGHTY

By Doug Williams

Springtime –so lusty, happy enjoyment of warmer weather is promised, and the garden is trembling with the energy of the season. So many plants growing.

It's like a race through time to do the business and get to the last days of autumn. Garden beds prepared and limed over winter are being set out and planting has begun. It's always an exciting prospect. The sight of a growing crop of spring vegetables. I'll set a tomato plant or two, remembering having picked the last little beauty here in Lorne in early May this year. So late arrival, late farewell with them, but climbing beans are great to plant and cucumbers are pretty reliable. Provided you have the time and energy, the only limitation is space. And you can always plant in containers on the balcony or the front deck.

There are oodles of other vegetables to choose from. You can plant your cucurbits – pumpkin, squash, zucchini are members here. Gourds are cucurbits too. Just like gardeners have been doing for millennia. Gourds have a long history with people from all over the world. The use of the dried-out gourd has long been essential in primitive societies for over twelve thousand years from Asia, the Middle East and South America. They have been used to carry and store seeds, food and, importantly, water. Gourds would almost certainly be the first container used by early man, Palaeolithic people perhaps. Saving water or food in one of these would have made moving from place to place an option for them, to travel further from their origins as years went by. They are used as toys, headgear and decoration as well. Many cultures have them as strangled or percussive musical instruments. Ravi Shankar's sitar is made from a tumba gourd.

Simon Barnes in "100 Plants That Changed the World" writes that the idea of 'putting things in things' defines humans from all other species, given that birds and octopus use tools which was once thought of as an exclusively human characteristic.



For some Chinese gourds represent preservation of health and longevity, fertility and productivity as well. Dried gourds can be hung up to deter evil spirits and prevent illnesses. Some parks have gourd shaped gates to ensure health and happiness for visitors.

In New Guinea men wear gourds from orchids. These are called koteka used to protect and decorate their penises so these are not only ornamental but also functional and these ones from the nineteenth century look absolutely fantastic.

## Have Your Say Our Places and Spaces



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and spaces in your town.**

Surf Coast Shire Council is developing a Social Infrastructure Plan that will guide where and when we invest in playgrounds, arts and culture facilities, community buildings, sports facilities, shared trails and other places and spaces over the next 10 years.



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# PROGRESS WITH WORKER HOUSING

By Penny Hawe, Friends of Lorne

Ambulance workers must live within 8k of the depot. Finding a place to live can be hard. Ditto for teachers, health care workers, police, and the people who keep our businesses going.

The Council has held three 1.5-hour planning workshops involving a range of groups across Lorne – Friends of Lorne, the Op Shop, the school, the kindergarten, the Committee for Lorne and others to figure out best ways to address our problem of accommodating workers.

Two proposals are being worked up in the first instance for further consideration by Council. One is to find small parcels of council or state government land and get a state government grant for building the accommodation. This idea is also being pursued in Aireys Inlet and in Anglesea.

The other idea is to try something completely different. Given that there is a glut of short-term rentals in Lorne, and that many property owners are feeling the stress of land tax, why not work out a way to coax just 5% of these over to the long-term rental market? For a minimum of, say, 3 years? This could yield 25 houses. The advantage of this is that we would not have to give up Lorne's trees and precious green space. And houses are bigger than the type of smaller style units to be built new. So free standing houses are more suited to families. Cr Leon Walker first raised this idea in an interview with the ABC last year. We decided to try it.

The policy experiment could offer land tax and rate relief for property owners who chose to take up the option. It would only be offered to (a random) 5% of property owners. So, it won't mean that the state and local government are "losing" much money. If a house left the scheme another would be selected to replace it. So, the solution could grow

and adjust with the need. And given that most people who own property in Lorne would probably not want to take up the offer anyway – they like having access to their holiday homes – then that doesn't matter. We only need 5% to say 'yes', for this to work. It would take some legal, economic modelling, and policy partnership work to assess feasibility and to commit the idea to testing. But hey, Lorne has people with that kind of expertise and track record. If successful, the policy would only apply to state "tourist" areas with circumstances like Lorne.

There were other ideas put forward as well and the Council staff assure us that these are not lost. We could look to combine some of them. They covered things like the governance of the structure we set up to identify and manage the eligibility for housing and to ensure that we are focused on local need now and in the long term.

The owner of Great Ocean Road Cottages was recently successful in getting a state government Regional Worker Accommodation Grant to build an extra 8 two-bedroom cottages. The availability of the cottages for workers is only guaranteed by the grant conditions for 5 years. The cottages are pre-committed for leasing to the Merivale Company for Lorne hotel workers.

A number of informal arrangements and "make do" living options in Lorne could also be formalised and brought up to standard with some targeted funds/plans. We can work on a range of solutions at once, as each reaches a different group and some take longer to deliver homes than others.

If you want to read more about it check out the August newsletter on the Friends of Lorne webpage [www.friendsoflorne.org.au](http://www.friendsoflorne.org.au)

## BEWARE LAWNS THAT LOOK TOO GREEN TO BE TRUE

It took four hours to wash this (previously white) labrador clean after a sudden lunge and roll on a suspiciously green nature strip (public land).

It hadn't occurred to the home owner that a wet, freshly green-painted lawn (yes!) could be a hazard. Adamant and unconvinced, follow up by one of the Council Environmental Health Officers subsequently helped the owner to embrace a different view. Bottom line: in Lorne we like all our wildlife (native and domestic) in their natural colours.

Thanks to the Friends of Lorne for this article.



# LORNE GEARS UP FOR GRAN FONDO CYCLING EVENTS

By David Worth - Secretary, LBTA

This October, Lorne will play host to two major Gran Fondo cycling events. But what exactly is a Gran Fondo, and what is the story behind these events? With a little research (and help from the organisers), I've gained a clearer picture.

## What is a Gran Fondo?

The term Gran Fondo translates from Italian as "Big Ride." The very first was held in Italy in 1970. Today, Gran Fondo's have several defining features:

- **Mass participation:** Open to everyone—from elite cyclists to weekend riders.
- **Challenging routes:** Often 120–200 km+, typically including climbs.
- **Timed racing:** In Italy, the entire course is timed, whereas elsewhere sometimes only certain segments are competitive.
- **Festival atmosphere:** With food stations, community celebrations, and post-ride festivities, they are as much about camaraderie as competition.

These are covered over these two events.

## The Two Upcoming Events in Lorne

### 1. 2025 UCI Gran Fondo World Championships

- **Dates:** October 16–19
- **Location:** Great Ocean Road region, with Lorne as a major hub for the time trial and road race.
- **Participants:** Around 2,000 international and Australian participants, qualifying through the 29 UCI Gran Fondo World Series events that included the 2024 Amy's Great Ocean Road Gran Fondo.
- **Event schedule:**
  - Thu Oct 16: Individual Time Trial (Lorne to Memorial Arch, Eastern View)
  - Fri Oct 17: Team Relay (Geelong)
  - Sat Oct 18: No racing – Event Village open on Lorne foreshore
  - Sun Oct 19: Road Races + Amy's Gran Fondo (winners of the UCI World Championship - presented with the famous rainbow (the Olympic circle ring colours) jersey)

On the Wednesday 15th, the Event Village will be set up with a Welcome to Country.

Previous host cities include Perth (2016), Albi–France (2017), Varese–Italy (2018), Poznań–Poland (2019), Banja Luka–Bosnia (2021), Trento–Italy (2022), Glasgow–Scotland (2023), and Aalborg–Denmark (2024).

### 2. Amy's Great Ocean Road Gran Fondo

- **Date:** Sunday, October 19
- **Participants:** Around 3,000 riders of all ages.

- **Origin:** Created in memory of Amy Gillett—Australian cyclist and Olympic rower—who tragically lost her life in 2005 during a training ride in Germany.
- **Organisation:** Promotes road safety through the Amy Gillett Foundation and its campaign "A Metre Matters."
- **First held in Geelong in 2006 as the Amy Ride, it became a fully closed-road Gran Fondo in Lorne in 2011. Since then, it has grown into a beloved annual community event, offering routes for both serious cyclists and families.**

## What This Means for Lorne

There's no doubt Lorne will be buzzing, not just across the event weekend but also in the lead-up and after. Accommodation is already heavily booked, and while there will be some disruption from road closures, the benefits far outweigh the challenges. Both events put Lorne on the global stage, creating opportunities for local businesses to showcase our hospitality.

The Lorne Business and Tourism Association (LBTA), working with organisers and the Surf Coast Shire, is preparing to promote Lorne's many attractions—our restaurants, music venues, natural beauty, and outdoor activities.

We're also refreshing the Love Lorne website, which will act as a hub for visitor information.

Of course, Lorne is no stranger to major events. From the Pier to Pub, the Great Ocean Road Marathon, and national surf carnivals, these occasions continue to highlight our town as a unique destination.

This October, however, we'll welcome not just athletes, but a truly international audience. It's an exciting moment for Lorne, and one that will leave a lasting legacy.

As a community we can ensure that the "Festival Atmosphere" is achieved.

(and a personal note: Amy was my second cousin)



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# CLEMENTINE CALLING

Lorne is a stunningly beautiful place to live in!! In the Nineteenth Century the poet Wordsworth wrote "Two voices there are. One is of the Sea, One of the Mountains, each a mighty Voice". We, who live in Lorne, are so lucky to live both in the Otway Ranges and beside the sea. It's not just Point Grey that matters. We must fight harder to preserve the trees and the bush. We need to remove all the ivy that is growing around Lorne as it is killing the eucalypts. South African boneseed is spread by seed and promoted by fire. Areas burnt by the authorities need to be carefully watched as the boneseed has spread after the burning. Please pull out the boneseed when you are out walking!!!

*Our much loved, dear little Wendy Hemingway has died in the Nursing Home. She was wonderful the way she worked in the Op Shop for years, as well as the Information Centre. She loved the Exercise Classes and was a very active member of the Gardening Club, always coming on the trips away. Before she moved in The Chalet, her own garden was beautifully maintained by her and David.*

There are some interesting teachers at our school with international experience. The Principal Carly Stafford once taught at the International School in Vietnam. The present Deputy Principal Michael Stone is currently teaching in Nicaragua, where some years ago he helped establish the International School. He will return to Lorne. Our former Deputy Principal, Geoff Couper has been staying with him in Nicaragua. Geoff is a keen surfer and has been surfing in Costa Rica, El Salvador as well as Nicaragua. Lee Cooper has stayed home enjoying the Patchwork Group, her fitness classes and a bit of knitting. Geoff arrived home with presents of coffee from Costa Rica for Lee! Guess what? – he was surfing the next day. You can't keep a good man out of the ocean.

*What a grand way to encourage reading! On a lovely sunny morning in August, the teachers led the primary school kids through town in a parade of children dressed in fancy dress representing favourite stories. Curly headed Sol Walker won the short story competition with a story about snowboarding. The nifty little footballer dressed in his football gear. Neve Enticott was the other winner.*

Doug Hammerton, whose family came to Lorne in 1934 took some of his family photographs to Doug Stirling for him to identify people in them. Doug must have been in his early teens when the photographs were taken, but our amazing and much admired 103-year-old was able to identify a great number of the people in the photographs. There was one of the pools in the Erskine, before they reclaimed the land.

*Flying foxes or fruit bats, megabats have arrived in Lorne!! You can see them at night. They are nocturnal feeders, eating plant matter, fruit, flowers, nectar and leaves and can be seen in the blue gums (Eucalyptus globulus) at night. Eucalyptus blossom and pollen are said to be favourite foods. You will notice many blue gum flowers on short stems under all the blue gums. It's not just cockies that do that. People living on the Deans Marsh Road noticed about 40 in their trees one night. The authorities say they return to Geelong to roost but are down our coast at night.*

Our highly qualified nurse Jason Phieler was very busy a few weeks ago showing a group of Op Shop workers the intricacies of a new diagnostic machine in the hospital. It is a Hemocue White Blood Cell machine and will be a very useful diagnostic tool as the machine provides quantitative results of a patient's white blood cell count in just a few minutes. A doctor can evaluate a patient's condition whilst the patient is still in the Lorne Hospital. Amazing, we have great facilities in Lorne.

*Lornies have been encouraged by the Community Art people to drop plastic milk bottles into St. Cuthbert's Hall. Six workshops were organised led by the talented Nichola Clarke. Pieces of plastic were transformed into flowers, loaded with a solar device and stuck into the lawn in front of the church. They provide a dull light at night called Under the Milky Way!!! What a creative lot of people we have in Lorne - congratulations to everyone who contributed as it looks great.*

Those of you who were at the Lorne School with the Harris girls will be interested to know that the Harris family has increased again with another birth. In July Rebekah gave birth to Maya and her sister Emma will be visiting at Christmas time from London with a very active three-year-old Mac. Lucky Sue will be flat out cooking and getting to know her grandchildren!

*The blond bombshell Dianne Solomon, who has been keeping so many of us fit down in the gym and in the pool has been sadly missed as she went back to South Africa for a 4-week holiday. Come home safely Di!! Jason and the cats will be missing her...*

Darling Norma Mill – so tall and elegant is now in the Nursing Home. I remember the days when she so efficiently ran The Ozone Cafe and would help me out when I had hordes of kids to feed by making the most delicious apple pies for our dinner. Her husband Murray died some time ago. She was always so kind, helpful and dignified with her dealings with all her customers. We love you, Norma.

*Our very popular author, the handsome ex farmer and former footballer, and now a big contributor to the Men's Shed, Gary Fenton, has written yet another book! His books are always interesting, informative and well-illustrated. They are full of photographs of people, places, dogs and lots of other things. His latest book titled "Born to be a Farmer", complete with a young Gary on the cover, will be launched at the Yacht Club, Lake Wendouree, Ballarat, on September 14. Congratulations to the very productive Gary.*

What a strange thing!! Our very own Jodie Lewis, (yes you know her from Foodworks) went on a Silversea's luxury cruise. Jodie had tinkled with taps and tiles whilst her employer (she cleans his gorgeous new house) Tom Latham was meant to be strolling the decks on the very same cruise. Sadly, he ended up elsewhere as he got Covid. Hope Jodie had a good time.

*The exodus of Lornies going North is on again – This time some drove their 4-wheel vehicles as far as Cape York and were accompanied by their wives. Jennifer Miller headed for Magnetic Island by plane and wasn't looking forward to the long drive back from Cape York with Keith!! Clive and Lesley Goldswothy took Chris Tutungi and Carol with them in their vehicle as Chris is injured. Where does all the energy come from? I am green with envy as they will all have such a good time together. Peter and Jan Spring sensibly flew and spent their time in Port Douglas where a great crowd of Lornies met up for a night together. Come home safely as we need you all and don't get eaten by any crocodiles!*



Keith Miller LACC  
Commodore



Edited highlights of the Commodore's Notes August 2025

## Club News

I'm writing this from a town called Cunnamulla in outback Queensland on my way to a family function on Magnetic Island for 9 nights then meeting up with friends in Port Douglas to go on a 4x4 adventure up to Cape York so these notes will be short and sweet. (Probably not sweet) I've been away a lot over the last couple of months but Hutch tells me everything is running smoothly at the club.

## Upcoming Events

### AFL Grand Final Day:

As usual we have a big day planned for this year's Granny with free hot dogs and other snacks. Half price pots during the quarter and half time breaks plus a free sausage sizzle. We will have 3 big TV's and everyone will be able to hear it all with our new sound system. Come along and join in the fun.

### Winter Cup Fishing Comp Number Four

Sponsored By Surf Coast Gardening: Rob Dalziel  
Sunday 9th September. This is our last Winter Cup Comp for the year.

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 mixed grill. 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.

### Lorne Bowls Club Community Cup

We have been invited to enter a team to represent us in this annual competition. It's held over 3 nights. The 3rd, 10th and 17th of September. They supply everything. Anyone interested please drop in and see Jody at Gazman and put your name down.

### Winter Cup Fishing Competition Number 3

Sponsored By Hillec Steve Hill From Camperdown

The conditions were spot on with some great fish weighed in. For the first time since I've been involved at the club something unusual happened. Every single angler weighed in a fish. Usually there's always someone who doesn't catch anything but not this time. Special thanks to Ray Sutton

for running the event. Winner was Local Legend and Public Nuisance Steve Love with a big Snapper, 2920 points. He is also holding his mates prize. Christian Milton who came in second with a big Sweep, 2900 points.



## Recent Events

### Our Annual Sweers Island Fishing Trip:

Every year in July a group of us head up to the Gulf of Carpentaria to a small island called Sweers on a fishing adventure. It's a unique destination and a bit hard to get to. A lot of their customers fly there in their own small planes, but we usually fly from Cairns with Rex Airlines in one of their 30 seat turbo prop planes. It's not all that far but it takes over 4 hours because they have to drop off and pick up passengers in Doomadgee, Mornington Island, Normanton before arriving in Burketown where we then fly out to Sweers in an 8 seater plane.

The island has a very interesting history and at one stage was used as a quarantine station in the 1860's when a fever believed to be malaria killed a large portion of the population of Burketown. All the survivors were moved there because it has a good supply of fresh water. It's a unique fishing resort because they supply the boats with hand lines and tackle but no guides so everyone has to find the fish themselves. This makes it much cheaper than the guided resorts and we are more than happy to do it this way. We all take our own rods, reels and tackle but if you don't mind using a handline you don't need to take anything.

Continued page 31

**From page 30**

They can take up to about 20 guests and have comfortable cabins, showers and the best meals anywhere. They serve up fresh fish every day which are caught by the guests. We release most of our fish but keep the odd Spanish Mackerel and Coral Trout to eat. This year was our best trip ever with perfect windless days and sensational fishing.

We run a competition between ourselves for the most species with bonus points for some of the harder to catch fish and for some of our hand-made lures. The daily winners don't have to shout the beer each night. It adds a lot of fun to the trip. I reckon we will keep going up there as long as we can fish.

**Anson Cameron banned from WA for being a public nuisance**

He has also had his Tour Guide Licence taken off him for Life. Our very popular and well known member Anson Cameron has been leading, or should I say misleading his family all around the Kimberly Region over the last two winters on hiking trips but both times he's caused near death experiences. The WA Government have told him to go somewhere else from now on because he's stressing out their search and rescue teams.

**Point Grey Redevelopment Report**

Since the last Commodore's notes the LAAC redevelopment subcommittee has met with GORCAPA and the project architects NMBW on two occasions. Good progress has been achieved, and the sub-committee has provided feedback which is being incorporated by NMBW. Once a draft plan has been prepared that meets the needs of the LAAC, it will be presented to the full Committee for consideration. Hopefully we will have a well-developed plan for the new clubrooms to share with Members in the next Commodore's Notes.

We are now pleased to inform members that a boat wash has been approved for the precinct. This will not

be adjacent to the clubhouse but rather adjacent to the new building proposed for where the Co-op currently is. GORCAPA also planned for a public fish cleaning area to be located at the back of the new 'Co-op' building. However, the sub-committee are pushing hard for this to be located adjacent to the clubrooms as it is seen as an integral part of the club. Community feedback regarding the need for a fenced-off outdoor area for the club has been recognised by GORCAPA and an application to allow LAAC to lease this area (thus permitting us to fence it) has been submitted to DEECA for approval - fingers crossed!

Lots of work still to do if we are to meet the target of a completed new clubhouse before Christmas 2026, but at least some positive progress is being made. Significant issues still exist with the precinct redevelopment as a whole, with insufficient car parking perhaps being the greatest one from the LAAC point of view. Unfortunately, it currently seems that the roundabout is likely to remain behind the clubrooms in the revised UDF and there will be no reduction in the size of the "plaza" to allow for more parking. We can only hope that community feedback on the draft UDF will be taken into account and the final UDF (which we understand will not be open to any further feedback from the community) is more sensitive to the needs and practicality of the site. LAAC redevelopment sub-committee Ric Addison, Chris Tutungi, John Higgins, Ian Hutchinson, Jim Rothel.

**Fishing Report**

As I've been away I'm relying on reports from other local anglers. There's been a few big Snapper being caught also King George Whiting are still on the chew along with; Salmon, Flathead, Nannygai, Sweep, Morwong and Gummy Sharks. The water temperature is on the way up. It's now 13.7 degrees which is slightly warmer than normal for August.

**Donation To Lorne Historical Society**

Our latest donation was to the Lorne Historical Society to cover the cost of shelving for their storage container.

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## From the Deck LEECHES

By John Agar

Mum and Dad simply loved bushwalking. Bringing up my two older sisters at my grandmother's home on Deans Marsh Road throughout the six long years of WWII had given my mother a perfect opportunity to reacquaint herself with the forest paths and waterfalls she had enjoyed exploring during her own childhood in Lorne.

When Dad finally came home and, like every other young man who had forever lost their youth, he began to pick up the threads of a war-shattered career and restart his life. The peace and hush of Lorne's deep, dank and dark fern gullies must have seemed a salve to his soul.

Perhaps I was made by one of those fern-banked pools, for a scant nine months later, I came along. As I grew older, it was inevitable that I, too, would learn to love the tracks, flora and creatures of the hinterland. Indeed, from as early as my memory serves, I was regularly dragged from bed to tread the same pathways—though to be truthful, I loved every step.

Dad became an expert at persuading Cliff Green to drive us to the start of long walks home ... whether to the start of the Erskine River walk [via an up-river return detour to Splitters and Erskine Falls], to the Cora Lynn Cascades and Allenvale, or down the zigzag to Stony Falls and then to the sea on a walk now long obliterated by blackberry thickets. All were 'fair game' to Dad.

The Erskine option was my favourite as it always started at Strawberry Cottage [now Lemonade Cottages] with a pre-hike 'nutrient hit' of Devonshire tea, hot scones, cream and strawberry jam. Tummies replete, we would set out for Erskine Falls, Dad's wartime khaki haversack heavy with bars of Cadbury's Energy chocolate. It was a small boy's nirvana.

But while that much-travelled haversack may have carried nirvana, purgatory slithered within the fern gullies where a multitude of sleek, tubular, heat-seeking predators were lurking. Tiger snakes were usually easy to spot as they sunned themselves on rocks along the river, but leeches were another matter. They were too small to spot and were laser-focused on sampling passing human blood—my blood!

Leeches ... love them [I did] or hate them [most people do] ... are a part of the walking challenges of the Lorne hinterland, particularly in the dank[er] areas. Waiting on ferny fronds with the patience of Job, they attune their extraordinary heat and chemo-sensitive receptors to sense a passing warm-blooded animal.

The Parks Victoria website offers a fantastic leech resource [see: "Don't be a sucker - get to know leeches" <https://tinyurl.com/n833pxxd>], but all good things come to an end. The



Photograph: Australian Museum

'infinitely wise' DEECA and GORCAPA machine is about to 'transfer' much of the Otway hinterland to its control, sadly diminishing the decades of forest experience gathered by the Parks rangers and [sub]merging them into a staggeringly inept bureaucracy. I fear that GORCAPA's grey-suited executives will struggle to offer equal in-the-field expertise from their urban-based offices in Torquay, or produce equally effective information sheets on leeches, water boatmen, or *Dicksonia antarctica* tree ferns with a similar scholarly simplicity.

So, thank you, Parks, for your expertise. As we may not see your like again, I have shamelessly copied, pasted, and edited your exploration of the leech on the Parks Victoria website.

Your information sheet "Don't be a sucker - get to know leeches" lauds the leech as "... a squirmy, slimy and very stretchy creature that you will likely encounter when hiking throughout Victoria."

It goes on to note that, "... most leeches, worldwide, are aquatic and will only attach if you are swimming, but Victoria is one of the few places where the leeches live on land. However, our land leeches still love the damp conditions near creeks and streams and are amazingly quick to attach to a passing heat source with either their front or rear sucker mouths as they wave around in the air unseen searching for their next meal."

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**From page 32**

Leeches have two sets of V-shaped jaws—one at either end—that notch the skin and through which they can quickly gorge enough blood to triple their size. You may not immediately notice that a leech has ‘got you’ as they release a natural anaesthetic that numbs the area around the bite to ‘buy time’ to indulge before they’re discovered. It takes them about 30 minutes to fill up, and then they will drop off. Dad’s trick ... a lighted match or [more humanely] a dust with salt ... will also effectively dislodge them.

Parks further notes, “... as the weather warms and people head into the outdoors, the risk of a leech encounter increases. Although many may find this an unpleasant thought, these remarkable animals are part of a wider ecosystem, and they are, in their own way, quite beautiful.”

On our family’ adventures’ [as my Dad used to call them], I would encourage a one to loop up from my shoe or shin onto my finger, where it would instantly attach at one end while waved about looking for the next. Like a looper caterpillar, it would turn down to re-attach near its base, repeating the

move till it found a good spot to lodge, painlessly bite, then begin to feed—swelling with my blood as it sucked its fill.

On a good day, I might attract 8 or 10 on my shoes, under my pants, or down my socks, though I soon learned to tuck my trouser legs into my socks. Dad, being an ex-AIF medical officer, wore gaiters by habit!

Leeches may seem unpleasant, ugly, and even disturbing creatures, but these extraordinary creatures have played a central role throughout human history for thousands of years—especially in medicine—where they have been widely used to treat a variety of illnesses [see: <https://tinyurl.com/2b99vans>]. Indeed, they are still used in modern medicine, particularly in plastic and reconstructive surgery [see: <https://tinyurl.com/yc4fmmnp3>].

The humble and sometime maligned leech is an integral part of our forest and stream ecosystems, both as predator and prey—feeding on and being fed upon—so, next time you see one scenting the air on the heel of your shoe, don’t be reviled ... it is kind of cute ... so watch it, relate to it, and don’t deny it its feed. It won’t harm you.

# KEEPING THE LIGHTS ON TO ENSURE EMERGENCY AND NON-EMERGENCY READINESS

*By Christopher Jones*

Many tasks and activities must be undertaken to keep our unit functioning, for example:

The Lorne Unit recently completed the Minimum Fitness for Role Program assessment. This national initiative establishes the minimum physical fitness standards necessary to undertake essential SES tasks safely. The physical fitness assessment ensures our members meet the required minimum levels of physical fitness for those roles.

Two of our female members are off to get their truck licences this month, and we continue to do unit training.

The rolling out of Version 7 of the Field Operational Guide, our Oracle for all we do in the field.

We have had to recently park our vehicles locked up in the Lorne CFA Brigade compound, as our roller door is no longer serviceable and will not open. This has marginally impacted response times, and we expect to fit a new door soon.

The temporary requirement to respond to neighbouring units, Priority 1 Emergency Responses for Otway and Winchelsea Units, as part of dual responses.

Unit Readiness preparations regarding our usual or unusual Storm and Flood Season.

Application for the receipt of some grant funding to replace our Lorne Support Vehicle and assist with the funding for specific training, such as members obtaining their truck licences.

Preparation for the changeover to new uniforms.

## Recruitment

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

Benefits of volunteering with the VICSES Lorne Unit include:

- contributing to the community you live in
- learning new skills
- experiencing new challenges
- personal fulfilment
- meeting like-minded people.

SES volunteers are of all ages, professions, and backgrounds they are serving in both operational and administrative roles. Please come and talk to us, as you may be pleasantly surprised by the way we approach the flexibility of volunteering.

Send our Unit Controller an email at [christopher.jones@members.ses.vic.gov.au](mailto:christopher.jones@members.ses.vic.gov.au) or drop in and see us on Tuesday Evenings after 7.30 pm at the Lorne Emergency Services Complex, 40 Smith Street, Lorne.

Stay safe from the SES Lorne Unit.

For VICSES emergency response, call 132500  
If your situation is life-threatening, call 000  
Follow us on our Facebook page - SES Lorne Unit.

## Everyone Loves a Sale OP SHOP BUZZ

By Wendy Jarratt

You may have noticed while window shopping in Lorne – well you could not really have missed it – there is a sale at the Op Shop.

What an opportunity to get the cheaper item of clothing or footwear free. At this stage the sale is only on those items but keep peeking in the window or checking the Lorne Community Facebook page for updates – maybe more bargains will be on offer.

Thanks to all the generous donations from our community and visitors we have more clothes and shoes than we need. What better way to cull the excess sustainably than to have a SALE. You can get a better deal on clothes for those remaining cold days.

Don't let this milder weather fool you. September can bring really cold winds and rain. We have plenty of jumpers and winter coats on sale – get two for almost the price of one. Conversely, if you're lucky enough to be heading off to a warmer climate on holiday we still have cute frocks, tops, men's t-shirts, sandals to name a few.



Shopping in an Op Shop is not only kind on the wallet, especially when there's a sale, it is helping a wide range of people through OUR donation of funds to health-related causes in Lorne and the broader community. In that way it is different to shopping in a market, where stall owners reap a benefit. So, a big thank you to you all.

You will almost always find something to suit your needs at the Op Shop, and if the item wasn't exactly what you were searching for in the first place there may be something else that does the job just as well. Apparently, a weekend customer was looking for a shoe-horn but went away happy and satisfied with a SPOON. It did the job.

PS The ladies in the photo are NOT for sale.

## Warrnambool Theatre Company presents MY BRILLIANT CAREER

Warrnambool Theatre Company is proud to announce its upcoming production of *My Brilliant Career*, a fast paced and punchy adaptation of Miles Franklin's groundbreaking 1901 novel by Kendall Feaver.

In rural New South Wales, 1899, Sybylla Melvyn is a force of nature. A young woman of spirit, born in the wrong time and place, but filled with dreams. Will she be a writer? An actor? An artist, a musician, a politician? Will she explore the world? Any

one of these would be better than the path of wife and mother seemingly predestined for her. Determined to outrun the odds, Sybylla must contend with the expectations of society, the disappointments of family, and the beating of her own heart.

Season Dates: September 10-14

Venue: Lighthouse Theatre, Studio

Tickets: Available now via <https://tickets.lighthouse theatre.com.au/Events/My-Brilliant-Career>



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# SHAVINGS FROM THE SHED

By Allan Walls

Doesn't time fly? It hardly seems like a month since I wrote the last article for the Lorne Independent but we have been busy.

The Rocking Horse has been completed after hundreds of hours work and a lot of time spent listening to our many advisors.

Bob Sinclair was the painter and as you will see he has done a magnificent job on what is now a quite valuable, fully restored, vintage rocking horse. It's for sale by contacting Allan Walls 0418 319533.

Rod Van Ingen, Kevin Riley and Bill Youll have completed one set of picnic table and chairs for Stribling Reserve with another under construction. Tireless workers all.

Word has it that the shed may actually restore a real Couta Boat so watch this space. Coffee mornings are always busy and I must say John Bliss our resident barista is doing a great job.

Our Bin aprons are closer to manufacture with the CAD drawings completed, non disclosure agreements signed and most importantly, design registration has been completed to protect our invention. Pricing and quotes are all completed. We are just waiting for official word from the Shire.



**Country  
and Waters**

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Great News from Janet Goud of Lorne Independent Fame. Our now famous Model Boat Regatta will have a magnificent perpetual trophy for the winner sponsored by the Lorne Independent.

The trophy is about to be commissioned but I am assured it will be magnificent.

Our young at heart 103 year old Doug Stirling now resides in the Lorne Nursing Home but never misses a day at the shed. He is ably assisted by Doug Hopkins, the Shed's Uber Driver.

Jeff Reddie, President of the Lorne Bowls Club finds never ending assistance from The Shedders doing many little and some not so little jobs for the Lorne Bowls Club. Jeff convinced a number of us to (invest?) in a racehorse. Must say we are waiting for a return.



# lorne books

## Picks of the Month



### **FICTION: King Tide by Luke Johnson**



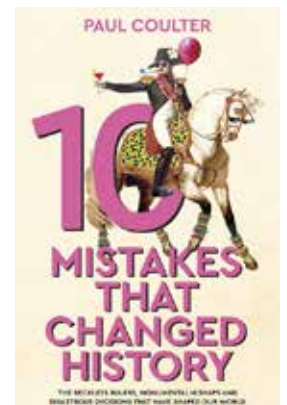
When a body washes up on the beach in the seaside town of Lagues Bay Detective Harper Lewis investigates the mystery of a young woman who vanished years before and how she came to meet such a shocking end.

There's something about coastal towns in crime fiction, the salt in the air, the silence after the tide pulls out, the sense that the sea remembers everything, even when the townspeople pretend to forget. King Tide captures all of that and more. It's a quiet, layered, and emotionally haunting debut

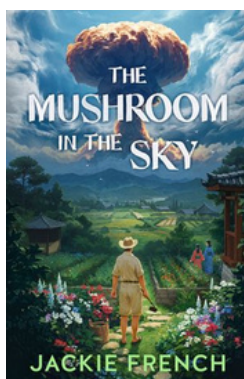
### **NON-FICTION: 10 Mistakes That Changed History by Paul Coulter**

Looking at many of the biggest characters and events of the last two and a half thousand years, from Cleopatra to the sinking of the Titanic, historian and comedian Paul Coulter explores how, despite the glamour, entourages and deity-sized egos, historical turning points were often the result of very human errors.

Blending history, storytelling and comedy, *10 Mistakes That Changed History* is history as you wish you had learned it back at school: a greatest-hits of bad leadership decisions, misguided acts of heroism and catastrophic lapses of judgement.



### **Children's Fiction: The Mushroom in the Sky by Jackie French**



In this poignant novel rooted in historical fact, Jackie French explores life amid World War II in Australia and beyond. Set in 1942, just after Japan bombed Sydney Harbour a sixteen-year-old Ossie lies about his age to enlist in the fight, reluctantly leaving behind his one-eyed dog, Lucky.

This haunting story of bravery, interconnectedness, and bereavement stays with you long after the last page. Perfect for readers 9 and up who enjoy understated historical fiction with intense emotional resonance.

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