

LORNE

Independent

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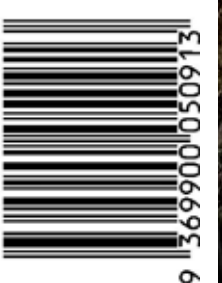
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REMNANT OTWAY GIANTS STILL STAND

P23

Happy 103rd Birthday Dear Doug P3

Yellow Bellied Gliders P 17



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SHAVINGS FROM THE SHED *By Allan Walls*

Quiet Quiet Quiet

is what it is at The Mens Shed in Lorne this July.

Many of our members are scattered all over the world escaping what has been a very cold period.

A very special event is planned this month for a very special person, Doug Stirling is turning 103 and a party is being planned to celebrate. Doug is quite remarkable with his historical knowledge of Lorne over the past 100 years and is regularly seen driving "MARY" his electronic means of transport on the streets of Lorne. I'm told by a reliable source that Doug has been spotted towing several racks of clothing as he travels the wilds of Mountjoy Parade blissfully unaware that he has them in tow.

Happy 103rd Birthday Doug!



The rocking horse restoration continues with our saddle maker Ivan Kos sewing away in the final stages of the leather work. Completions will be in the next couple of months.

Our latest project is to construct 2 picnic tables for the surrounds of Stribling Reserve and under instructions from Peter Spring.

How could you not notice the new facade on the Historical Society which is currently being painted by Rod Carroll? An outstanding project by The Mens Shed over a period of 4 years. Nobel Peace Prize perhaps?

The Bin apron (Saga) continues as we have now had a meeting with Council Representative Neil Brewster and his off sider and we are awaiting a meeting with the Mayor. If you have any spare patience please bring to the Shed as we are running short.



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EDITORIAL *By Janet Goud*

A very happy 103rd birthday to everybody's favourite, Lorne's gentleman Doug Stirling. Setting a great example to us all, he has lived independently, maintained a beautiful garden, attended meetings and constantly cared for Lorne's heritage.

Hearing that the Men's Shed were giving him a party before he left for a holiday with his family, I went, heavily disguised, to take some photographs. I have shared them on our websites on Facebook and Instagram and now Allan Walls has shared them with us all in his column this month.

I want to salute Doug and intend to share more of his stories of his idyllic childhood in Lorne when he returns. He made a superb speech citing his mates, his cobbers, at the shed. Standing tall, without notes, he praised his Shedder friends.

Recalling his days in the army, he said the thing that made returning to civilian life hardest, was being without the camaraderie he experienced in the forces. He found this in the shed. His words were that meeting any of them around town "lit up his day". And that "there was never a cross word at the shed".

He produced a big laugh when he attributed a lot of this to Allan Wall's charm, but Doug just bowed straight on telling all those gathered, how much he appreciated them.

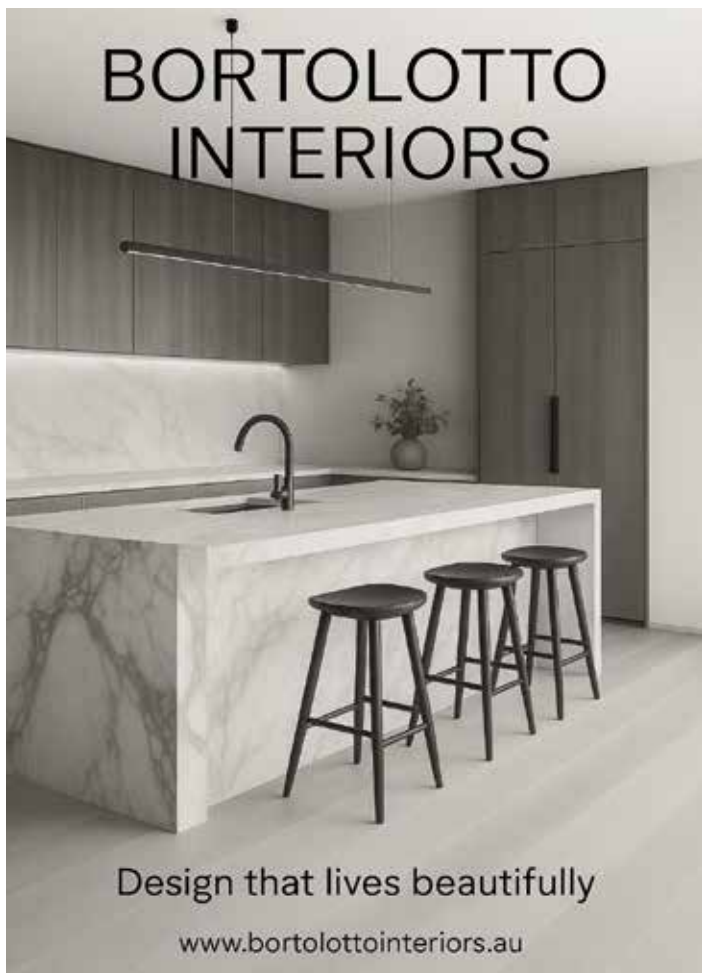
He is such an impressive person with his sharp memory, his kindly regard for everyone, and his appreciation of life. It is an honour to have met a real gentleman.

On GORCAPA I received the notice which I will publish following this message. Essentially it is a holding notice about the survey results and any changes to the Urban Design Framework.

However, they have met with the Angler's group and some architects who report an ambitious timeframe for building, so we need to stand ready to apply pressure when we see any architectural plans. I will put any new notices on our pages when they arrive.

Lastly I would like to make an apology to anyone who has been named when they did not wish to be, by our social commentator. As editor I am responsible, and I will take more care in future. I had been assured by Jo and others, that this page is the most popular, and the one people turn to first. Our only complaints have been for misspelling names. So perhaps I was too careless. However I will move forward with caution as we certainly never intend to cause harm to anyone.

Please accept our apologies.



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**Surf COAST
SHIRE**



Wanted to share the below info for your next edition - update on the Pt Grey redevelopment project.

We are keen to keep the community informed.

Let me know if you need more info.

The Editor

Attributable to a GORCAPA spokesperson

Consultation has now closed on the Draft Urban Design Framework (UDF) for Point Grey.

Over the month of consultation on the Draft UDF, GORCAPA received a huge response which is fantastic. It reflects the local passion for the site's future which we really value.

We heard from a broad cross-section of the community, reflecting the diverse users and voices connected to the Point Grey precinct.

This included residents, local organisations, advocacy and interest groups, and a range of visitor and user groups.

We received 493 surveys online and 15 detailed written submissions.

This is in addition to the feedback received at 10 community / stakeholder meetings and 4 community

information sessions that collectively saw over 200 people attend.

Given this large volume, we are now taking the time to thoroughly assess all the feedback.

As the community would expect, this is something we are not willing to rush and want to get right.

Will be back in touch with the community soon to provide a detailed report on the feedback received and also show how that feedback has shaped the final UDF.

We want to again thank the community for their continued interest in this important project.

We can assure the community that we hear you; we are taking it all onboard and are confident it will lead to an improved plan for the iconic site that reflects community aspirations while meeting all legislative requirements.

Ewan Cook

Government and Media Relations Manager

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MID-WINTER UPDATE FROM COUNCIL *By Cr Leon Walker*

As we settle into winter, it's hard to believe we're already more than halfway through the year. With the days slowly growing longer again, there's a sense of renewal in the air — and plenty happening across the Surf Coast.

Our new Council recently endorsed the draft Council Plan 2025–2029 (which also includes the Health and Wellbeing Plan) and adopted the annual budget. I'd like to extend a heartfelt thanks to all Surf Coast residents who contributed their thoughts and ideas to help shape our strategic direction for the next four years and beyond.

Following the June Council meeting, we're now inviting community feedback on the draft Council Plan 2025–2029. The plan is on public exhibition for six weeks, closing Sunday 10 August. I encourage everyone to take a look and share their thoughts.

View the draft plan and have your say at:
yoursay.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/OurFocusOurFuture

Working Towards Solutions for Affordable Housing in Lorne

In July, Surf Coast Shire facilitated two community sessions in Lorne, bringing together a diverse group of locals to

discuss the long-standing issue of affordable housing. The lack of affordable long-term rental and home ownership options in Lorne has only worsened in recent years. This impacts the availability of essential services, making it difficult to attract and retain key workers in sectors such as hospitality, health care, education, and emergency services.

These conversations marked an important step toward identifying achievable, community-led solutions. We look forward to continuing this collaborative work and developing practical outcomes to support a thriving, inclusive Lorne community year-round.

Enjoying Winter on the Surf Coast

While many locals seek warmer climates during winter, there's no denying Lorne's unique seasonal charm. From refreshing beach walks, cold ocean swims, to exploring lush waterfalls, our backyard is as inviting as ever. Recent rains have been welcome, though we still hope for more to tackle the drought our region is facing.

This is also a crucial time to support our local businesses, which are the heart of our community, especially during the quieter winter months. So rug up, get outside, and enjoy everything this beautiful season — and region — has to offer.



LORNE P-12 COLLEGE

*Inspiring Excellence
by the Sea!*

Despite the chilly weather, it's been a vibrant and busy time at school. We've celebrated VCE VET Music Night at the Bowls Club, marked NAIDOC Week with meaningful activities, and embraced the season in our new uniforms. There's plenty happening, and our school spirit is stronger than ever as we head into the second half of the year.



Talented Students Light Up the Bowls Club

Lorne P-12 School's Music Night at the Lorne Bowls Club was a celebration of creativity, talent, and community. VCE VET Music students took to the stage to perform original pieces, impressing the crowd with their musical skill and confidence. Families, friends, and locals gathered to enjoy the performances and support the school's music program, with all funds raised going directly to its future development. The relaxed setting and warm atmosphere made for a memorable evening. A big thank you to Anna, Simon, Robbie, and Erin for generously hosting and supporting this fantastic community event.



NAIDOC WEEK

Our school celebrated NAIDOC Week with a range of meaningful activities, recognising and respecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures. The day began with a Smoking Ceremony, followed by cultural immersion sessions and opportunities for students and staff to learn through knowledge sharing. These activities deepened understanding of First Nations histories, traditions, and ongoing contributions. Students and staff proudly wore the colours of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags. It was a powerful day of learning, reflection and connection, bringing our school community closer together in shared respect.



FRESH NEW LOOK

Students from Prep to Year 12 are now wearing new school uniforms. With plenty of comfortable options available, students say the fresh look helps them feel confident and ready to learn.

Lorne P-12 Student Phoenix Dixon wins top honours at Premier's VCE Awards

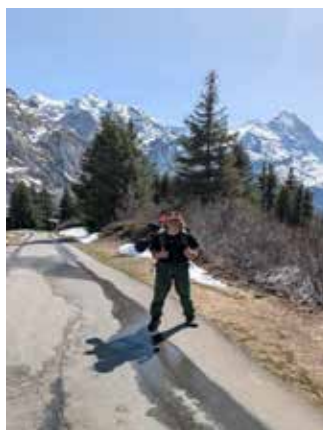
Congratulations to Phoenix Dixon, former Lorne P-12 College student and College Captain, who has received top honours with a Premier's VCE Award for his outstanding VCE results in 2024.

Phoenix received a Study Award for excellence in Music Performance (VCE VET).

315 of Victoria's top performing students were recognised at this year's Premier's VCE Awards.

The entire Lorne P-12 College community is proud of Phoenix and would like to congratulate him on being the recipient of such a prestigious award.

Phoenix will commence his studies in Aerospace Engineering at RMIT, in 2026. He is currently enjoying a Gap year and has recently returned from Europe, where he undertook a research trip funded by the Len & Merle Wilson Scholarship he received in 2024.



Len & Merle Wilson Scholarship

Lorne P-12 College is proud to offer the annual Merle and Len Wilson Scholarship to support senior students, who demonstrate a positive attitude towards learning, uphold school values, and show great potential in a particular area of talent or passion. The 2024 Merle and Len Wilson Scholarship was awarded to Phoenix Dixon. As a senior student with a passion for science, Phoenix used the scholarship to travel to Switzerland and visit CERN, the world-renowned particle physics laboratory.

I began in Geneva, where I spent five days—three of which were dedicated to visiting the CERN Science Gateway. There, I engaged in guided tours, exhibitions, and presentations that offered deep insights into cutting edge research in physics and technology. The trip continued to Bern, where we visited the University of Bern and toured the campus and main academic buildings. We also participated in hikes, cultural experiences, and discussions with students from across Europe. These experiences have not only expanded my understanding of possible academic directions but also motivated me to pursue further learning in science and global studies with an open, ambitious mindset.

-Phoenix

OUR SEABATHS OR NOT?

By David B Worth

Once more we draw your attention to events that concern all community members. A large Community Meeting attended by record numbers of locals was held two years ago to discuss this issue. Unlike the recent group discussions with GORCAPA they did not ever respond to the community about the pool. Recently this article was published in the SurfCoast Times. Mr David Worth has provided his response to GORCAPA for us to read.

The Release re the Seabaths by GORCAPA

The revitalisation of the much-loved Lorne Sea Baths Precinct is about to get underway, with works led by Landcorp Foreshore Precinct Pty Ltd scheduled to commence shortly.

Signage will be installed this week to signal the start of the redevelopment, which is supported by the Victorian Government through an investment under the Regional Tourism Infrastructure Projects initiative in the 2022–23 State Budget.

Landcorp's project will establish a new Spa and Wellness Centre and deliver a range of improvements to enhance both the functionality and appeal of the precinct. Planned upgrades include refurbished wellness and customer service areas, additional private bathing options, improved boardwalk connections and power.

The project will rejuvenate the Lorne pool precinct improving the services and facilities on offer, supporting Lorne's contribution to the Great Ocean Road's visitor economy which, in the 12 months to December 2024, was worth \$2 billion.

As the public land manager, the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority (GORCAPA) has resolved to issue a new lease to Landcorp to enable the project, in consultation with DEECA as the Minister's delegate and in accordance with the Leasing Policy for Crown Land in Victoria.

The lease includes special conditions shaped by community feedback gathered during GORCAPA's extensive engagement process in 2023, including:



- Guaranteed school access
- Minimum trading requirements to encourage year-round operation
- Commitments to heating and all-season usability

Lorne already attracts domestic and international visitors, and this revitalisation will further enhance the foreshore experience and encourage longer stays.

Please note, the trampoline area remains closed. GORCAPA is continuing to work with Landcorp to explore future opportunities for this space.

Continued page 9

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Doug Williams - 0418 522 011

From page 8

A Letter from a concerned local person, representing many local views:

Christine Ferguson

Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority

Dear Ms Ferguson

Re: Revitalisation of the Lorne Sea Baths

I am writing to address several points regarding the Lorne Sea Baths redevelopment. This correspondence is sent in a personal capacity and does not represent views of any association based in Lorne.

Approximately twelve months ago, GORCAPA's previous CEO published advertisements demanding the people of Lorne to show respect toward the Authority and its staff. While there may have been instances where greater respect was warranted, it must be mutual, and I don't believe this has occurred especially in respect to this development.

Other than the information in the Surf Coast Times article and the update on the GORCAPA website, there has been limited communication concerning the new lease. As the lease has now been granted, it appears that changes are unlikely regardless of community sentiment.

Around two years ago, the then CEO spoke at a community gathering, during which many questions remained unaddressed. The community had anticipated feedback and considered the possibility that a new lease might not proceed. Main concerns included the conditions to be incorporated within the lease and their effects on the community, as well as matters related to Landcorp and its CEO. These related to issues where previous commitments by the lessee had not been fulfilled.

Pending clarification of the lease conditions and responses to the questions below, I am inclined to support the redevelopment of the pool precinct with the inclusion of Wellness and Health facilities.

Recently, when I queried a staff member about some of the lease conditions, I was informed these are Commercial in Confidence. While this may be the case for certain elements, it is generally expected that the community would receive feedback on issues raised in public forums. The press release states that the conditions were developed following considerable community consultation.

It may be beneficial for you and select staff members to attend a community meeting in Lorne to address the following topics, (this list may not be comprehensive):

1. Government policy opens negotiations for a new lease when 50% of the existing lease has lapsed, especially if major capital expenditure is forecast. During community consultation—particularly on matters involving Landcorp, which is reportedly considering selling the lease—was consideration given to seeking a new lessee instead of automatically extending the lease for the entire site, or dividing it into multiple leases?

2. The notice board at the front of the current facilities lists a contribution of \$470,000 for redevelopment. Earlier

documents from 2022/2023 estimated the total cost at \$1.41 million. Can it be confirmed whether the State Government is providing the remaining funding, and whether the overall budget has changed? Historically, government grants have typically required local support.

3. What is the current planning approval process? Previous documentation referenced approval from the Surf Coast Shire. Is any further planning approval needed, by whom, and will this require public advertising? Regarding the gymnasium relocation, is part of the existing toilet block to be incorporated as a gymnasium, which may appear to be the case in one plan diagram previously submitted? Please also provide any update on redeveloping both the toilet block and adjacent car park.

4. What specific conditions exist within the lease regarding the period of lease, pool heating, ongoing maintenance of the increasingly ageing pool (including whether engineering assessments have been completed), building maintenance, operating hours, use of the trampoline area, and commitments to local residents? What penalties apply if these obligations are not met? Can various individual sections of the lease premises be sublet. (If yes, I would assume requires Authority approval.) The Cost benefit analysis previously tabled indicates that the annual incremental rental increase is approximately \$100,000 per annum (not discounted). Is that correct?

5. The cost-benefit analysis of the Lorne Sea Baths lease extension, prepared by Karl Flowers of Decisive Consulting Pty Ltd, presents a strong argument for redevelopment. It highlights potential benefits for the Lorne community and surrounding area. Achieving these benefits will likely depend on the involvement of local businesses, particularly those facing staffing challenges due to limited affordable accommodation. Are you confident that Andrew Landos can manage this expanded business as observations indicate that the current Almyra restaurant, which would be one of the best restaurant locations in Australia, is not well patronised

Support and mutual respect must be developed for this redevelopment to be successful.

I strongly suggest holding a community meeting in Lorne to foster constructive engagement between your organisation, Mr Andrew Landos and local residents. The focus of the meeting should be around:

- Why the granting of the new lease to Landcorp is in the best interest of the Lorne community.
- The conditions within the lease (that can be disclosed), which addresses unanswered questions from the previous community meeting.
- How the Authority will ensure compliance with commitments made by Landcorp.

I look forward to your feedback.

Kind Regards
David B Worth
Lorne Resident

CLEMENTINE CALLING

It suddenly got very cold in Lorne. Those on the beach shiver in the wind but our mermaids swim on. Bravo!! Apologies for naming a couple when the entire mermaid troop are equally valiant.

Sunday July 13 we could all see on the front page of The Age that the Lorne Pier development was all at sea!. Good on you Peter Spring and Chris Tutungi for letting readers know what we need on that site. They are a pair of stars!

Scoop for the Op shop on July 1! Claire Hanley brought Barry Jones, former politician, quiz champion and general whiz kid into the Op Shop on the very day his big red book Dictionary of World Biography happened to be in pride of place on display on top of the book shelves. Eager workers requested that he sign and date it. It sold and was a good buy for someone. Maybe it will be on an Antique Road Show in 50 years!!

Ed note: lucky Clementine was on duty who knew this man. Few would have recognised him as he is now quite elderly. Well done eagle eyes!!

Our own adventurous fishermen led by Keith Miller and with his mates Ian, Paul and Chris are escaping the cold and their wives and are heading a long way north to Spears Island off Arnhem Land in search of fish. Let's hope there are no storms or cyclones! They will be able to catch giant Trevally, Golden Snapper, Black Jew Fish and Barramundi – they are all huge fish. What an adventure! Come home safely boys. We will miss you.

Too many eucalypts are being removed by new house builders. What is the Council doing to protect the beauty of Lorne? First all the trees were removed from 87 George Street and then the contractors came and churned up the earth removing all the native grasses and other plants that held the earth. It rained, scouring occurred and mud slipped down hill and was deposited along the back of the house in front of the property. The owners were contacted and the builder then put up a small timber plank along the property to stop the mud but still the water came. Shame on the developers and the Council. Many of us live on steep hills and should be protected from mud slides.

In June many of the frail folk in the Nursing Home came down one by one with Covid as did some of the nurses and staff. Everyone was so grateful that the physiotherapists, two wonderful heroes, Eilidh and Tomas gave up one of their weekends to help look after the elderly there. How very kind and generous of them. Thank you to two newcomers from Scotland and Chile for all the very professional care that you give to us all in Lorne. You help to keep so many of us in good shape!!

There is a very good college in Melbourne which specialises in horticulture called Burnley College. Burnley trained one of our gardeners, Matthew V who lives beyond the Erskine Falls. Out there he has planted and nurtured a beautiful collection of red and white waratahs. These are being grown for the picked flower trade.

One of the Indigenous dreamtime stories is that the white waratah became red when a female wonga pigeon flew above the tree canopy looking for her lost mate. She was caught by a hawk but broke free, tearing her breast. She landed on a white waratah and her flowing blood stained it red. Matthew's wife is the very competent London born and trained designer who runs Vic and Bert. She very cleverly designs all the gorgeous clothes in her attractive shop and has them made overseas. In the shop one can sometimes have a chat to Deb who ably sells Melanie's beautiful clothes.

Also trained at Burnley College is Howard who works for Ocean Road Landscapes in Anglesea. He and his wife Deb, live opposite Ian (Hutch) and Anne McMahon, off Erskine Falls Road and are growing a lot of fruit trees in an orchard.

Keith and Jennifer Miller have been in London to help during the birth of a beautiful granddaughter. When asked how was it, a very brown faced Keith just replied "hot"! Prior to that Keith was taking the keen angler, his neighbor Gordon Bannister out fishing with him, but the good news is that, at some great expense, Gordon has bought himself a new engine and will now be fishing solo again. Tight lines Gordon!

Once upon a time Pioneer aviator R.C. Carey landed on the beach near the mouth of the Erskine River in a Maurice shorthorn open cockpit biplane. The stretch of beach north of the groyne was the site for later biplane aviators to land and offer holiday joyrides. For the 2022 Sculpture Biennale we were all full of admiration for the efforts of our former chemist clever Ross Dimsey and capable David McKenzie who together built a splendid replica of a biplane that had landed on the beach in 1921. You will all be happy to know that the plane is now beautifully displayed at the Queensland Air Museum in Caloundra. Do go and have a look when you are holidaying in Queensland. David McKenzie has been busy building a new perimeter fence in The Village at Clissold Street. That's easier for you to admire!

Thank you to Matt and Mary Ann Humphries who have taken so much trouble to beautifully renovate the Grand Pacific Hotel. A Lorne icon since 1879, the hotel needed to be brought back to life!! To attract diners Randall Forsyth and his two friends Murray Walding and Evan Jones have been providing music. For a while Evan was a much-appreciated teacher at the Lorne school where he taught music and arts. Murray is an author who specialises in pop, surf and beach culture. I suggest you read Blue Heaven, the story of Australian Surfing.

Lorne is full of talented good people. You can meet some of them at Wednesday's pie nights at The Pacific- Lots of locals eat there like Tom Latham with his neighbour John Agar, John and Paula Hayden discovering that Luke and Jacko's mother Anne Morgan was related to them, Karen Pitt enjoying the company of Gillian from Qdos and of course Clive and Lesley Goldsworthy and Peter and Jan Spring. On that night everyone enjoyed beautifully presented and delicious chicken pies. The next were equally delicious leek ones. Mary Ann you are a champion for giving us a good night out in these winter months!!



Keith Miller LACC
Commodore



Club News

I'm writing this report from London where we are visiting family and also our new granddaughter, who was born a few days after our arrival. There's been a heatwave here for the last couple of weeks with temperatures in the low to mid 30's but here in Pommy land it feels like it's much hotter. There's very little air conditioning. We have to use the tube a couple of times each day and it's like a sauna down there. I'm really looking forward to getting home but it was great to spend time with the kids and grandkids. Everything is going well at the club (with Hutch who won't go on holidays) running everything like clockwork as usual. Remember our facilities are available to members for weddings, parties, anything.

Point Grey Update



On Friday 11th July, the Aquatic Club redevelopment sub-committee met with representatives of the Point Grey precinct redevelopment architects NMBW, together with their consultants Architecture Associates and GLAS Landscaping, to discuss the design of the new Aquatic Club

building. GORCAPA's project manager, Susan De Vere, was also in attendance to manage the interaction and ensure we did not stray from the agenda.

We were very happy to be meeting with the architects after a hiatus of some 12 months, caused by the unexpected and unexplained decision to create an Urban Design Framework for the Point Grey Precinct (UDF). I am sure that club members are well aware of the draft UDF which was presented to the Lorne community, and we all wait eagerly to see a dramatically revised UDF which demonstrates that GORCAPA have listened to the Lorne community's feedback, and that reflects the wishes of the community to respectfully honour the legacy of this iconic site and create a precinct that is welcoming to visitors and locals.

The meeting was productive, with the LAAC representatives providing the architects with an updated

summary of our requirements for the clubhouse, and it provided an opportunity to review the spatial requirements and functionality of our new building.

The architects have set an ambitious programme to have a design for the clubhouse ready for town planning by 31st August 2025 (yes, this year!). This will require a concerted effort by all parties between now and then and a fortnightly meeting schedule has been set. The project timeline for construction to commence and be completed in 2026 remains. The architects are working to the same timeframes for the renewed Co-op building and GORCAPA will shortly be convening meetings of the Community Reference Group to discuss the design of that building.

We, the Aquatic Club redevelopment sub-committee, have difficulty in seeing how this rate of progress can be achieved without a resolution to the many and fundamental flaws in the draft UDF, but as always we live in hope! We look forward to providing further updates as the planning process continues.

John Higgins
LAAC Treasurer

Big Day Out Fishing



Wayno and Carolyn (Pud) Griffiths birthdays are only a couple of days apart so over the last several years we have made it a tradition to go out fishing in the boat to celebrate. They always bring a birthday cake with a candle and lots of other goodies. It's always a fun day and over the years we have always been lucky with

the weather. This year was no exception. It was a perfect day and ended up being the best one ever.

On our way out to one of our favourite spots we had a Humpback Whale breach directly in front of us and it came completely out of the water then when we arrived the minute our sinkers hit the bottom we started hauling in every species of fish imaginable.

Continued page 12

From page 11

We had 11 Albatrosses all around the boat. They must be hungry at the moment because they were close enough to touch and they were trying to grab the fish off our hooks when we were pulling them into the boat.

We caught a lot of really good size Snapper, Nannygai, Sweep, King George Whiting, a 19kg School Shark and 4 big Blue Morwong AKA Queen Snapper. We don't normally catch a lot of Blue Morwong here. I reckon we only catch an average of 2 each year but we caught these 4 in a 15 minute period which was sensational.

Then something really unusual happened. Carolyn wound in a 3.5kg Crayfish with the hook in its mouth. I've only just heard of this happening but I've never actually seen it happen and I've spent many thousands of hours out on the water.

It was released back into the water because it's illegal to keep a crayfish caught on a hook. Then on our way home just out in front of Point Grey we had another Humpback Whale start breaching right next to us. It breached 4 or 5 times before getting sick of us and took off.

It was a sensational way to end a magic day out on the water.

Recent Events



Happy 90th Birthday Rhyl

Rhyl Nance celebrated her 90th birthday at her favourite venue in Lorne!

Over 30 attended her surprise party at the Anglers which was catered for by members and included a delicious cream sponge cake made

by our resident gourmet chef, Elizabeth Punton. Rhyl is a much loved member and a regular Wednesday night attendee. She was delighted with her celebration and has promised to have her 100th birthday party also at the Anglers by Janet Higgins.

Leon Armistead has just been brainwashed

Local Living Legend, Life Member, Committee Member and all-round great bloke has had some health issues with cancer in his skull. A while ago he had a big operation on his skull and recently he had some complications and had to go back into hospital for further treatment. They actually had to wash out the inside of his skull so he literally had his brain washed. He is recovering at home with his lovely wife Anna spoiling him. We are all wishing him the very best.

Winter Fishing Comp Number Two

Sponsored By Gary Keane Brick Block Scaffolding

The weather cooperated and it was a lovely Winters day. We had a very good turn up of anglers but the fish weren't biting as well as normal although there were still some pretty good fish weighed in. Junior Winner Alby Dawson with a good size Flathead, 2500 points. Junior Second Dusty Dawson also with a nice Flathead, 2220 points

Senior Winner Steve Arundell with a nice King George Whiting caught off the Pier, 2755 points. Senior Second Gordon Bannister with a Flathead, 2635 points. Senior Third Ciara Ennis with a King George Whiting also caught off the Pier 2620 points.

Upcoming Events

Fisheries Petition

Thanks everyone for sending in the recent petition to the state government to alter their plans to sack a heap of Fisheries officers. It was partly successful but there's now another one so can you please do this one also. If you prefer we have paper petitions at the club that can be filled out there during opening hours.

Winter Cup Fishing Comp Number Three

Sponsored By Hillec Steve Hill Camperdown

Sunday 6th July, 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.

Fishing Report

I've been away since late June so I don't really know how the fishing has been in July but before I left in June it was sensational with lots of Kingfish, Snapper, Flathead, Trevally, Nannygai, King George Whiting, Teraki, Blue Morwong, Sweep, Swallowtail, Gummy's and School Sharks. I see the water is now 14 degrees so it's still a tad warmer than normal. The Pier is still producing good numbers of King George Whiting, Salmon, Mullet, Flathead, Snapper and Calamari.

1 1/2 Half Kingfish

I've had big sharks bite fish in half many times over the years but it's never happened to me here. Normally when a shark grabs a fish you know straight away that you've been 'Sharked' because the rod is nearly dragged out of your hands and the reel drag takes off but this was completely different.

Continued page 13

From page 12



All that happened was the fish stopped fighting and it got a lot lighter. I initially thought it had gotten off but there was still a bit of weight there. There is only one type of shark in our neck of the woods that is capable of biting a big fish like that in half like it did and thats a White Pointer.

Everyone calls them Great Whites these days which is just

another bloody Americanism. They were always called White Pointers in Australia until the movie Jaws was released. Let's go back to talking like Aussies. We still got a few fillets off the half fish and it was magnificent



Our Vice Commodore Ric Addison with a nice Snapper he caught on the same day.

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BACK TO SCHOOL By Ray Sutton

As the saying goes, “you’re never too old to learn” and that may be the case, but I think it is equally true to say that it doesn’t get any easier as the years pass. Recently I attended the Long Paddock Cheese School, Advanced Cheesemaking course in Castlemaine.

The course is designed for artisan cheesemakers who want to learn about the science of cheesemaking and improve their understanding (and control) of the process of making cheese.

The course was a mixture of practice and theory, the latter taking me back to my school days and the anxiety that maths classes, which were never my favourite, used to generate. There is also another saying, a quote by the ancient Greek dramatist Aeschylus, “Learning comes through pain”. If he was right, then I certainly learnt a lot.

Before you stop reading thinking I am going to share all that with you, the person presenting the course also had some interesting anecdotes which I thought are worth sharing. He is a French born and trained dairy technologist who is now a world-renowned educator in the artisan cheese world.

Did you know for example that the traditional Dutch cheeses such as Gouda and Edam used to be made in wooden vats whereas cheesemakers in France, Spain, Italy, and the other European countries used copper vats. Copper vats could be put over a flame which speeds up the cheesemaking process and also makes a cheese that will last and age much longer.

As the Dutch cheese makers could not heat their milk by putting a flame under the vat, for obvious reasons, the alchemy of making their Goudas and Edams took much longer at lower temperature. The cheese consequently had a much shorter “shelf life” and had to be eaten not long after being made.

Now that was all ok when the cheese was being made and consumed in the same place but in the seventeenth century most European countries were busy setting up colonies in the new world.

The Dutch Republic as it was then known was no exception. The trouble they had was that their cheese



would not last the long voyages to southern Africa and Indonesia.

Probably by accident rather than design it was found that if some whey is taken out during the cheesemaking process and replaced with the equivalent amount of water the resulting cheese would age for much longer and easily endure a long voyage. Not only did it increase the ageing time, but it also gave the cheese a mellow, almost sweet nutty flavour. Known as washed curd cheese, this is how the famous Dutch cheeses are still made today in the Netherlands. The idea even spread to some other traditional European cheeses over the centuries.

In my week back in the classroom I did learn all about the microbiology, maths, and chemistry that happens when washed curd cheese is made but the anecdote about why and where it originated was far more interesting.

CAMPION, NASTURTIIUM AND KHANTY

By Doug Williams

A few years back I went through this garden and removed all the nasturtiums growing wild through the garden beds. They may have been planted by somebody to make poor man's capers and I kept at them for three years and assumed that would be the end of that. A couple of days back I pulled a couple of sprouts from the garden so they are still popping up years later and I know this probably won't be the end of the exercise.



Seeds of many plants lie dormant in the ground for a long time ready to shoot and for a very, very long time. Such seeds as a type of campion which grew happily in northern Siberia thirty two thousand years ago. Seeds of this plant have been rejuvenated and sprouted and closely resemble

modern campions still to be found up there in the remote north. The flowers would have been used to produce one of the many startling coloured dyes used in the clothing of the locals: the Khanty for example. These people went into a kaleidoscope shop and submitted all their colourful fabrics to have their zany gorgeous costumes cut to wild designs. The Khanty believe that the woolly mammoths, which had died out by 2,000BC but were once living with them and probably snacking on campion, were actually massive birds. So I don't know – birds, reptiles and dinosaurs are all related over time so maybe not far off the truth. Myth, palaeontology and botany are all in the mix.



And anthropology is included as well. We share one quarter of our genes with gymnosperms – conifers, cycads and Ginkgo – we all come from a common ancestor over a billion years ago. They got the chlorophyll and we ended up with haemoglobin. Angiosperms, the flowering plants, share even more genes with us and did you

know that we have half as much genetic material as chickens, bananas and fruit flies? Crazy stuff!

The ginkgo tree is an ancient gymnosperm which was growing long before dinosaurs appeared. Also known as maidenhair tree it has palm-shaped leaves which were probably nibbled on by stegosaurus and triceratops. Its pulp is said to be effective against bacteria that is resistant to drugs.[1]



They can live for a very long time – there is a 1,400 year old one growing in China where Western horticulture found small populations early last century in the Zongchan Mountains.

It's a bit like rediscovering the Wollemi Pine, unknown to science thirty years ago, in the Blue Mountains. Ginkgos are resistant to pollution, pests and weather extremes: they survived the ice ages and a few survived the extreme heat of the atomic blast at Hiroshima growing a couple of kilometres from the drop. I love these trees. They are a treasure; one of them grows in the Geelong Botanic Gardens.

DAN TEHAN
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR WANNON



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YELLOW-BELLIED GLIDERS AT RISK?

Yellow-bellied Gliders are one of many mammals that have evolved to glide (not to be confused with flying, which bats do). All told there are three gliding mammals in the Lorne region, all of them members of the possum family, the other two being Sugar Gliders and Feathertail Gliders.

Of these three, only Yellow-bellied Gliders are classed as a threatened species under Commonwealth and Victorian Acts. Our Yellow-bellied Gliders may be particularly special because Otway populations differ from other populations in western Victoria, which in turn differ from those in eastern Victoria and again from those in northern Australia.

I've been recording the habits of local Yellow-bellied Gliders using a thermal imaging camera, which I find more effective and less intrusive than spotlighting. When you look at the images and video, bear in mind that the camera doesn't record true shades of grey. Instead, the warmer an object, the whiter it appears.

Yellow-bellied Gliders rest in tree hollows during the day and emerge at twilight to feed on things provided by gum trees: sap, nectar, pollen, and the myriad of creatures that live under the bark. They glide by stretching out the membrane between their front and back legs in a kind of star-jump (pictured) and have spectacularly long and furry tails. Each family, made up of about four animals, occupies an exclusive territory of around 50 ha (roughly 700 x 700 metres if imagined as a square). They move through their territory by clambering through tree canopies. Where there are gaps between trees, they glide. Unlike common possums, they never come to ground. Nor do they eat leaves, or regard roof spaces as acceptable accommodation.

In the forest around Lorne, and in parts of the town, you can hear their very distinctive call (listen here <https://inaturalist.ala.org.au/observations/300287177> for one calling in the Lorne dialect. Start playback by clicking the triangle). Another clue to their presence is V-shaped incisions on the trunks of smooth-barked gum trees. Just like rubber tappers, Yellow-bellied Gliders collect the sap from these cuts as it flows out and, unlike rubber tappers, eat it.

You can see Lorne gliders feeding, climbing, calling and gliding in the video at this address https://www.dropbox.com/sc/fi/o2u6wifqym9t7t6uojjbs/YBG_feed_tree_composite.mp4?rlkey=jycvp7idlhm5i7xokrbmy-8iyu&e=2&st=d1064kff&dl=0. There is a brief pause towards the end where I edited the video, so be prepared to wait for the glide.

Why are Yellow-bellied Gliders classed as a threatened species? Contraction of habitat, chopping-up of habitat, loss of connectivity between patches of habitat, loss of food sources, loss of trees with hollows, climate change.



Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMV) plans to burn frequently areas within five or so kilometres of Lorne, including an area along Sharps Road that I regard as a Yellow-bellied Glider hot-spot. FFMV calls these areas 'asset protection zones', the 'assets' being infrastructure, with 'protection' referring to a predicted reduction in the risk of fire. From the perspective of Yellow-bellied Gliders, however, assets in the form of trees with hollows and feed trees are likely to be destroyed in these burns.

For the town's gliders, the main issue is probably the fragmentation of their territory as trees are removed or fall without replacement. If the distance between trees exceeds their gliding range, or there is no clear flight path between take-off and landing sites, gliders become stranded. They don't do overland trips. Their life strategy relies on extensive air travel from tree to tree. They can't survive without it.

Acknowledgement: In May 2025, Friends of Lorne asked the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) to reconsider their schedule of planned burns. One matter of concern was conservation of the Yellow-bellied Glider (officially *Petaurus australis*). Parts of this article come from that submission. Parts were published in the Friends of Lorne newsletter for July 2025.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Hello Lorne Independent,

This is Paddy from Bridget McDonnell Gallery in Carlton, Melbourne. We currently have a terrific exhibition Lucy Boyd Recent Paintings which is showing until early August.

Lucy is the youngest daughter of Arthur and Yvonne Boyd. Art is very much in her blood as part of Australia's most famous Artist families. a lot of works in the exhibition were done by Lucy in Lorne this year. We therefore thought it might be of interest for your publication. She broadly paints cloudscapes, seascapes and forests in an attempt to evoke the beauty of landscape.

All works are online and can be viewed on our exhibition page here.

I have attached a press release written by Lucy as well as our invitation for the exhibition and a few photos of works done in Lorne this year by Lucy.

I hope it is of interest.

All the best,
Paddy



SPEAK UP, SURF COAST: HELP SHAPE OUR YOUTH ACTION PLAN

Calling all young people aged 10-25: Surf Coast Shire Council wants to hear from you!

Whether you're at school, uni, working, or just hanging out in the shire, your voice matters.

Council is developing a new Youth Action Plan and wants to know young people's views, ideas and issues to guide this work.

There are three different surveys targeted at those aged:

- 10-13 years
- 14-17 years
- 18-25 years.

Young people can complete the survey at surfcoast.vic.gov.au/YouthSurvey.

"Being a teen today is unlike any other time in history and it's important we understand young people's interests and the issues affecting them," Cr Rebecca Bourke said.

"Our youth team will be visiting schools and encouraging young people to fill out the survey. We'd love it if parents could do the same, as these answers matter and will be used to guide our Youth Action Plan for the next four years."

"The plan will help us support young people as they grow and address the issues affecting them where we can."

"It only takes about five or so minutes to complete the survey and the more voices we hear from the better," she said.

The Youth Action Plan will set priorities for Council's work with young people from 2025-2029, covering things like health and wellbeing, connection, learning, safety, inclusion and more.

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ARTS IN LORNE

Artist in Residence Program (AIR)

The second Artist in Residence for this year, “The exhibition: 38°32’S 143°58’E”, was an installation of multi-media, based on a limited-edition book which included visual works created by Mir.moir and Arurkoko, first published in Greece in 2019.

The exhibition brought a new approach that combined the edition’s existing content with new findings, aiming to create and present an installation through different approaches and interpretations, casting a new dialogue with the space.

The exhibition was open for public viewing during their AIR stay at Lorne Community Connect on July 20th and 21st. Below is a photograph of Mir.moir and Arurkoko with part of the work.



Joshua James

We are delighted that Joshua James will be at Lorne Community Connect for the Surf Coast Arts Trail on the 2nd-3rd of August. Joshua will also be our Artist in Residence early in 2026. The following is a quote from Joshua’s website:

“I am an emerging artist with my inspiration for creating traditional and contemporary designs being to share my/our culture, our Aboriginal voice, truth telling and storytelling through my designs and art. In May 2023 I created my own business called Joshua James Aboriginal Designs. I focus on original pieces in a range of mediums.

My most proud moment was recently I had the honour of designing a piece for the AFL, which was worn by AFL Umpires across the Country for the 2023 Sir Doug Nicholls Round. This was called Moorditj Koondarm (Strong Dreams)”.



Join Noongar artist Joshua James as he invites you to DandjooBoodja (gather on country) to explain the creative process and share the inspiration behind his three designs titled DandjooBoodja. Learn about the meaning behind Aboriginal designs and symbols, and meet the artist in person for an insightful and engaging experience.

When: Sunday 3rd August - 11AM-12PM at Lorne Community Connect

A Reminder

The Anglesea Performing Arts group will return to the Lorne Community Connect in October, with their production of “Women of Troy”.

Troy has fallen and only the women remain. Witness the aftermath of war through the eyes of 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 - a matinee 2 pm performance and an evening performance at 7.30 pm.

Tickets are now available at Trybooking – <https://www.trybooking.com/DCWRE>

Gary Allen
LCC Committee



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As much time and care has been taken preparing the inside, as the grounds surrounding The Treehouse. With 1.5 acres of property backing onto the forest it offers uninterrupted views and privacy. Meander through the stunning landscaped gardens offering a variety of sitting areas to take in the surrounding flora and fauna. It really is a private oasis. The Treehouse is filled with special touches to make you feel at home. Far from a minimalist posh digs, this home is for those with style and class. The owners welcome you to their majestic home and insist you take a deep breath, relax and unwind.

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GIANTS LIVE STILL IN THE OTWAYS

By Janet Goud

Recently Landcare in Apollo Bay took a group of interested people on an exciting trip to see some well hidden and forgotten giants still growing in the Otways. On difficult and winding tracks they drove for over an hour. Then they hiked through very thick bush to reach the area where these few giants survive.

The area was too awkward and remote to mill, so today we can still see a few remnants of what the ancient untouched forests were filled with. There were eight people on this exciting expedition. Joining hands they could barely reach around each of the trees.

Amazingly these Mountain Ash trees are the second largest trees on earth, after the coastal Redwoods of the USA. The Mountain Ash grow only in Victoria and Tasmania. They can grow to 80 -100 metres.

They are so precious!

In difficult and steep sloping country some old trees have survived after hundreds of years of growing steadily. Remember the pictures of the timber cutter living in the huge butts of trees? There are very few such Mountain Ash left in the Otways. Most are second and third generation trees. Still magnificent but not the old giants.

Those trees are long gone. As are all the trees that size in the main forests of the Otway Ranges. Everyone wanted and needed the wood. The original timber cutters endured much hardship to provide the wood for needed for houses, buildings and infrastructure for our towns and cities.

After the millennia of living and growing with only climate changes, European settlement made quick and drastic changes.

How wonderful to think miraculously some are still with us.



LOOKING FORWARD, SES LORNE UNIT FUTURE STATE

Unit Controller Appointment

We have recently received confirmation that Chris Jones has been approved and appointed Lorne Unit Controller, pursuant to Section 35 of the Victoria State Emergency Services Act 2005, for the next two years.

Chris has been a member of our unit for three years and is also a dual member of the Hobsons Bay unit. During this time as an operational member, he has attended 165 Requests for Assistance across the two Units. Since June 2023, he has fulfilled the leadership role of Unit Controller at our unit.

SES Lorne Unit Future State

Over the past two years, as a unit, we have been laying the groundwork for the future. An adaptable future, built on capability, which enables growth, engages our community, motivates current members, and attracts future volunteers.

Key areas of focus include operational readiness and the ability to respond, capability, identification of future changes that may impact capability, safety, active member numbers, member competency, critical equipment and infrastructure, compliance, finance, diversity, and inclusion. Most importantly, community engagement and partnerships, as well as We Work As One, focus on working with emergency services partners.

There has been a significant effort to elevate the profile of the SES Lorne Unit. Our members all joined to make a difference and give back to the community, and do not seek the limelight. We have been issuing social media updates, warnings about severe weather, and keeping the community informed through Facebook regarding ongoing operational activity and tempo. We have received very warm and genuine support to the extent that we were recently referred to as "Our SES". We are incredibly grateful for the support and donations from individuals and organisations in Lorne. In line with the VICSES charter, as a unit, we have laid the foundations to provide not only emergency assistance but also now work to minimise the impact of emergencies and strengthen the community's capacity to plan, respond, and recover when emergencies occur.



The future is clear and bright for the SES Lorne Unit and the Lorne and surrounding communities.

Stay safe from the SES Lorne Unit.

For VICSES emergency response, call 132500

If your situation is life-threatening, call 000

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SPORTSBRIEFS

By John Ford



Return to Lorne

Your Sportsbriefs editor has now returned home to Lorne after spending six weeks in sunny Italy – mainly in Sicily. A wonderful holiday where we saw one leg of the Giro d' Italia, and were reminded of Italy's current prowess in tennis and soccer. Our Women's Golf reporter was also on a European holiday, but your normal correspondents

are now back home to Lorne's winter. A big thank you to Janet Goud, Ingrid Wilson and Janet Higgins who kept Sportsbriefs alive. The first thing of note is the great form of the Dolphins football teams.

Dolphins on Track

Lorne's senior and reserves football teams are both on top of their respective CDFL ladders. On Saturday 19th July both the Lorne teams had impressive wins at Stribling Reserve on a day where it rained nearly all day and the wind was very strong favouring the William St goal.

Lorne's senior team handled the difficult conditions better than their Otway Districts opponents, although both teams had difficulty playing fluent football with the slippery ball. Lorne won the match comfortably, 10.13: 73 to 3.4: 22. The win consolidates Lorne's position at the top of the ladder, one game and percentage clear of Colac Imperials, followed by Irrewarra-Beeac, Alvie and Birregurra.

Lorne's Reserves team is in an outstanding position being two games and enormous percentage ahead of Irrewarra-Beeac in second position. Lorne defeated their Otway Districts opponents in the wet, windy conditions by a massive 135 points, with Harvey Atwell contributing 8 goals! Lorne's Under 18 team is also playing some really good football and will be bolstered by the return of some key players, however being in sixth position on the ladder they may not see finals action.

Lorne's next matches are as follows:

July 26th: Irrewarra-Beeac v Lorne

August 2nd: Alvie v Lorne

August 9th: Lorne v Western Eagles

August 16th: Colac Imperials v Lorne

August 23rd: Lorne v Simpson

It is dangerous to be using the 'f' word (finals) at this stage of the season when players can be injured, unavailable or

lose form. The Dolphins regularly have players starring, such as when Charlie McCartin kicked eleven goals against Apollo Bay, however consistency and evenness across the ground is usually more important. Defensive efforts often go unnoticed and backmen rarely receive recognition and feature in awards. Currently Lorne has so many players across the field in such good form in both the seniors and reserves that it could pose some selection headaches for the selectors. At this stage let's all get behind the club and come and watch OUR team in action!

Dolphins Netball Report By Ingrid Wilson

After a few weeks playing away and a bye it was great to get back to Stribling Reserve on Saturday 19th July. There have been mixed results in the girl's netball through July. The A Grade welcomed back Hannah Keane and have recorded some good wins.

The 13 & under and 15 & under teams are both in the top 4 and definitely final contenders and the 17 & under team continue to improve.



The junior girls enjoyed a clinic run by Emily Mannix. Emily is a dynamic defender for the Melbourne Vixens in the Suncorp league.

This Saturday Kira Hollmer will play her 150th club game. Kira has been named in the best for the 15 & under and last week in the B grade team as well.

Another rising star is Asha McNaughton, who has been named in the Victoria State 12 & under team. Asha regularly represents Lorne in the 13 & under and last week the 17 & under where she was named in the best.

Women's Golf

After 3 months off from writing this article, I have returned from my OS's trip and find that since last month's article - (with many thanks to Janet Higgins who wrote the reports whilst I was away) there is very little to report!

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As many of our member's are interstate or overseas at this time, the number of player's that have continued to tee up are greatly reduced, and the wet and heavy winter course, and cold and windy weather calls for fortitude and hardiness to play.

Club news:

At the start of July, approximately 40 members drove the 4 hours to Barham, just over the border into NSW for our annual Golf trip. Over the 2 days, in beautiful weather we played individual stable ford. It was our second year on this course, and it again did not disappoint with the course condition and the club hospitality exceptional. Winners over the 2 days were John Hayden and Helen Worth on day 1., and Rodney Angus and Sally Young on day 2. The trip was again a great success, with both the play on the course and the social and convivial evenings enjoyed by all.

July 15th - we had 10 women play 18 holes at LCC in pretty good weather!!, and Chris Angus's purple patch continued with her convincingly winning the day. Her comment as she accepted her days (small!) winnings - "My new golf clubs have already been paid off!" Her new Calloway's have certainly put a new sparkle in her game!

SWGA Golf news

We have a couple of comp's coming up with a team entered for The SWGA's Presidents Cup, being held at Anglesea GC this year. Each club can enter one team of 6 players, made up of a pair of Female, Male and Mixed. We also have a team competing in The Inverleigh Open early August.

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 Players Wanted

Lorne Cricket Club is seeking players for the upcoming summer season. This season the club is hoping to field two teams which will provide even greater opportunities for a range of abilities and ages. This club is super family-friendly and last year included players from age 12 to mid-sixties!

Players had great fun, developed their skills and were runners-up in a very close season Grand Final.

The club boasts Free registration for players under 25 years of age, equipment provided and Stribling Reserve having great playing and viewing conditions. Pre-season sessions will be held indoors on Sundays.

For more information contact the club at lornecricket@gmail.com

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



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OP SHOP BUZZ

By Wendy Jarratt

Comparisons

Did you know that the term “Op Shop” is only used in Australia and New Zealand? Apparently, it was first coined in 1927 by a Melburnian lady, Millie Tallis, to create a more dignified image for the charity shops which had been around since the 1800s. Customers in these shops were often stigmatised for shopping there. Millie’s idea was to introduce the image of the “Op Shop” as being a place that offered OPPORTUNITIES not only for the customers, but also for the donors and the volunteers who work there.

Another interesting fact I came upon was to do with volunteering rates: the USA has the highest with about 42% of the population doing formal volunteering, Australia 33% and Italy about 13%.

Having travelled to Italy recently with the sport correspondent, conscientious volunteer that I am, I did some research on Italian benevolent organisations and volunteerism in general, while my husband watched Italian tennis players and waved flags at the Giro d’Italia bike riders.

I quizzed an Italian friend on the subject and she assured me that there are many organisations that provide help to those in the community of Lucca where she lives. In particular she spoke of groups which help people with mental health and drug and alcohol problems, refugees, and shops and cafes which employ young people with disabilities. Still, I wonder if there are organisations like our Op Shop, where everyone involved in the association is a volunteer and the profit we make goes to groups which apply for help.

In Australia there would be one and sometimes two (Mallacoota) Op Shops in towns large and small. In Italy most volunteers participate through large organisations such as *Comunità Santegidio* which serves the poor, immigrants and religious pilgrims with its aim of alleviating poverty. Others include *Save the Children* and many environmental groups. I could not find a really grass roots association like ours. A return trip to do further research will be necessary!!



I did find one local charity, which may not be very popular with Australians, where volunteers take food and water to an area where abandoned cats come to be “saved”. It’s called *Happy Cats of Lipari*. The volunteers pay for the cat food and any care the cats require.

Thanks to those who produced the Op Shop Buzz while I was away. Just another example of volunteers doing their bit for the community. So, please remember there are plenty of OPPORTUNITIES to help in whichever area interests you.

FIRE SEASON PREPARATION UNDERWAY FOR HIGH-RISK SURF COAST TOWNS

In an effort to increase resident and visitor safety, Council is preparing for the bushfire season by working with local communities to manage vegetation in high-risk parts of the shire. Council has been carrying out a winter fuel reduction program each year since 2009, targeting selected areas on a rotating basis.

This year the focus is on Moggs Creek and parts of Fairhaven and Lorne, taking in an area of around 800 properties. The aim is to reduce or remove vegetation on private and public land that could fuel or accelerate the spread of bushfires. Council’s staff are working in the nominated areas during July and August managing vegetation on nature strips. Property owners are urged to participate by managing vegetation on their own land during this time, including:

- removing woody weeds; and
- pruning trees and bushes that are within two metres of buildings.

To help, Council is offering unlimited free kerbside collection of vegetation within the fuel reduction program area until 22 August. Property owners do not need to book this service – Council is monitoring roadsides within the program area and collecting as needed. Council’s Officers are also making themselves available to answer questions and educate property owners about bushfire prevention and preparedness. Councillor Libby Stapleton said parts of the Surf Coast Shire are among the most vulnerable to bushfire in the state. “It’s important for Council and residents to do the work during these cooler months to get ready for the high risk times ahead,” Cr Stapleton said. “It’s never too soon to start preparing. “With such low rainfall during the first half of 2025, conditions are very dry and unfortunately that means we’re bracing for a potentially early, long and severe bushfire season.

To contact a Community Fire Safety and Environment Officer call 5261 0600 or lodge a request at surfcoast.vic.gov.au/Contact.

Top tips for vegetation management General guidelines for removing vegetation include:

- Always consider safety first;
- Trim vegetation to create a clearance zone from buildings of two metres;
- Remove any woody weeds (find out more about woody weeds at surfcoast.vic.gov.au/weeds); and
- Thin out dense vegetation close to buildings or fences and create breaks in hedges.



From the Deck DEANS MARSH ROAD

By John Agar

The Story of a Road Less Travelled

With ribbons, bunting, and fanfare, the Great Ocean Road [GOR] opened at the Eastern View Memorial Arch on March 18, 1922. It was the culmination of four years of post-WWI digger toil and effort, primarily with pick, shovel, and barrow.

While this date was not a death knell, it did mark the start of a slow decline in the use of the muddy and sometimes impassable coach and horses track that wound up from Deans Marsh to Mrs Henderson's tea rooms and a horse-changing station on the heights of Benwerrin, then fell back down to the coast at Lorne. That original track to Lorne—first cut by Benjamin Box, the great-grandfather of Allan Walls, a current local identity in Lorne—was Lorne's only land link to the outside world. It would later become known as the Deans Marsh Road [DMR].

Having served Lorne faithfully and well for more than half a century, retrospect suggests the DMR deserves more respect and gratitude than it was accorded in the years of scenic excitement generated by the GOR when the DMR was pushed to the brink of obscurity. On the verge of life support, only Lorne's links with its administrative shire hub in Winchelsea gave the DMR its lifeline.

As a précised article in the Geelong Advertiser [4-2-1924] observed: "... a record 4,000 visitors have visited Lorne on the GOR and the DMR, without a single accident happening. Ninety percent of the visitors have come via the GOR, whereas last year most had come via the DMR."

In this single year, 90% of Lorne's traffic had switched allegiance from the DMR to the GOR, the difference widening further as the fame of the stunning GOR spread far and wide.

It soon became clear that 'the Addy's' plaintive cry for help for the DMR had fallen on deaf ears. Three months later [6-5-1924], it observed: "... the extra [special] rates imposed on Lorne ratepayers have not yet been used for the purpose it was imposed, namely, for 'metalling' a bad portion of the Shire road [i.e. the DMR] that connects the DMR to the GOR near Lorne. This section is in bad order."

On 7-8-1926, the Advertiser noted that the Lorne Progress Association Annual meeting resolved "... to leave no stone unturned to ensure the metalling of the DMR", but it seems little came of that high-minded ideal.

More than two years later, the Advertiser reported [6-11-1928] that: "... owing to heavy rains the section of the GOR between Stony Creek and Lorne, commonly known as 'No Man's Land' ... [NB: it presumably resembled the ravaged inter-trench earth of WWI Flanders] ... is in a bad condition. Motorists state that it is in the worst condition they have ever seen it. Moreover, significant sections of the DMR are closed, pending metalling, with a detour onto the old road necessary."

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While the GOR was now the premier route to Lorne, efforts to sustain the DMR did continue. On 18-2-1930, the Advertiser reported that: "... the Winchelsea Council rejected a request from the Country Roads Board [CRB] to bear one-sixth of the cost [£366 of a total £2,195] needed to seal a six-mile section of the DMR with bitumen." But as the Advertiser article further observed: "... the Council has failed to realise that 'a stitch in time saves nine. By allowing the road to fall into such disrepair, future repairs will cost considerably more."

Then, only six weeks later [29-3-1930], the Advertiser was more upbeat, noting: "... a feeling of great satisfaction pervades the residents [of Lorne] after learning that the CRB has commenced the work of bitumen sealing the DMR. While the Winchelsea Council had refused to undertake the work, the CRB—realising its importance—has put the plan into immediate action."

My own 2025 conclusion must be that nothing much has changed in the continuing battle between regional Councils and community common sense.

Turning for a moment to the CRB ... I have always retained a soft spot for it. When my best mate Jimmy Mathias and I worked as part-time CRB jack-hammer operators over four consecutive university summer holidays [NB: I also had the pleasure of working alongside the incomparable Bill Love, our road gang leader who could make bluestone sing

to his tune with a simple tap from a hammer], I loved the way the CRB employed local workers who understood and responded to local needs.

Thus, it was no surprise to see the CRB standing up for the DMR. Like Miltie the Mountie, the CRB always got the job done! There was something to be said [and there still is] for regional services solving regional problems, rather than devolving to a centrally-run state-wide service lacking local knowledge, local personnel, and local know-how.

Local records regarding the DMR remained remarkably sparse until the Lorne News trumpeted [22-9-1966]: "... a white line for the DMR".

The Winchelsea Shire Council, after a bitter fight in chambers ...

- Councillors against ... it is not CRB policy to apply a white centre line to roads which are not two-lane roadways[in 1966, the DMR was classed as a single lane road]
 - Councillors for ... much of the DMR is wide enough to be classified as two-lane.
 - Councillors against ... the Council doesn't have the money.
 - Councillors for ... in fog-prone areas find that a white centreline is more valuable than white guideposts.
- ... finally agreed to ask the CRB to 'line' the road. The CRB readily agreed.

As another 2025 observation, council decision-making processes never change!

Now, in 2025, the DMR is again in trouble.

- Its surface is pitted with potholes.
- Its edges are crumbling.
- Its traffic load is rapidly increasing—both as Lorne's 'back road to Geelong' and as a daily commute for local workers who have moved away from expensive Lorne to find cheaper accommodation in the hinterland.
- Cyclists are an ever-present hazard for both cars and cyclists.
- It poses a significant collision risk at dusk and dawn as roo numbers are burgeoning.
- And, as Lorne's emergency escape route, it's neither safe nor secure.

However, as the GOR is no better—some might even say it is worse—this article must end with a sombre conclusion: both Lorne's access options require serious and urgent attention.

This poses a not insignificant problem: how to upgrade them while keeping both open to free-flowing traffic... but to this question, I have no ready answer.



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BEYOND THE BINS: NEW VIDEOS REVEAL THE PATH OF RECYCLING

Ever wondered what happens to the items you put in your four kerbside bins once the truck drives away?

A new set of videos lifts the lid of what happens to your recycling, food and garden waste (FOGO), glass and general waste, and the importance of getting the right things in the right bin.

Following the journey of the kerbside bins once they are collected, this four-part video series tracks your items from kerbside to their final destination: being transformed into something new or to landfill (for general waste).

"It is eye-opening to see how far these items can travel and what they can become," said Cr Leon Walker.

"The technology used to sort and process materials is pretty incredible, such as the use of laser sorting for glass. However the videos clearly tell the story that if items are put in the wrong bins, this can cause major problems, such as batteries leading to fires. The most important sorting always happens at home"

With Anglesea Landfill nearing capacity and landfill costs rising each year due to the increasing State Government landfill levy, these videos offer top tips on how to 'be a good sort' and why it matters. Sorting your items correctly will help reduce waste, keep valuable resources in use and will help protect the environment for future generations.

"Thanks to our community's efforts avoiding waste and using Council's four-bin system, overall 71% of residential material is diverted from landfill and being recovered. This means less waste is being buried and more materials are going on to live a second life."

"These videos really show the impact of our everyday choices. Getting our bins sorted correctly is one of the simplest yet most effective ways we can all reduce waste," said Cr Leon Walker.

Still unsure what item goes in which bin? Council's own rubbish and recycling app, SCRRApp, which takes the guess work out on bin day, and has an A to Z guide of items and which bin they go in.

Watch the videos at surfcoast.vic.gov.au/KerbsideBinVideos



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TRAVELLERS TALES *By Doug Williams*

Cambodia: Near Tonle Sap Lake

South of Angkor Wat the biggest lake in Cambodia is Tonle Sap with an area of two thousand square kilometres. It is ten times the size of Lake Corangamite and at two hundred and fifty kilometres long it would reach from Lorne to Halls Gap or Lorne to the Tasmanian coast.

Along the riverside road the houses extend out into the water and are built on stilts. We pass mobile market hawkers - a moving market - who supply the locals because there is no ground space for a garden on the land and since there is no refrigeration they must get fresh food this way every day. Our guide says that when he was at village school growing vegetables was part of the curriculum and the students were marked on their success in the garden. Lemon grass grows near the entry to homes and fish is being smoked over coals of mango tree wood. We stop to buy ice creams all around from a trader.

All the locals are fishing people and where the young boys we see playing volleyball found a ball I do not know, but it must have been easy enough for them to find a net. We climb on to a barge and head out along the river and it is busy with fishing boats and people steering along it. The houses over the water are on poles about ten metres long so they remain above the floodwaters of the wet season and high water marks can be seen on them. I can't imagine how big this lake is when it fills with floodwater. We are comfortable. As the wind gets up there is a bit of chop, because we are sitting in old cane chairs in the boat. There is a lot of river traffic along the rivers leading in and out of the lake, as there was over nine centuries ago when stone from a nearby quarry was cut and then ferried along the water ways about eighty kilometres to build the temple complex at Angkor Wat to the north. Some boats are being driven by ten year old kids out with their mates going who knows where.



There are boats coming back from the lake and boats sitting there as fishermen haul and cast their nets. There is a small stupa near the entrance where fishermen can say prayers to the water gods before going out onto the lake. Further back towards town there is a floating school complete with playground and there is a floating store to supply people along the river making it easier to get when the water rises. The houses sitting on the river are floating on two hundred litre drums. There are water hyacinths everywhere.

On our return to our Siem Reap hotel we pass cashew nut trees, cassava and, of course, rice fields stretching forever. The plastic bags hanging along the roadside are lit up at night with purple light to attract crickets who enter and fall into water and then are unable to fly out with wet wings. The Tonle Sap River meets up with the Mekong down near Phnom Penh and in the rainy season the water coming down the Mekong pushes the water back up river into the Tonle Sap Lake. This river flows in two different directions according to the seasons.

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Picks of the Month



FICTION: *Speak to Me of Home* by Jeanine Cummins



In her latest novel, *Speak to Me of Home*, Jeanine Cummins weaves a rich tapestry of family, identity, and the eternal quest for belonging. With the same deft hand that brought us *American Dirt*, Cummins explores the intricate threads that connect three generations of women as they navigate the complex terrain between Puerto Rico and the American Midwest.

This multigenerational saga is a testament to the power of storytelling, offering readers a profound meditation on what it truly means to call a place home.

NON-FICTION: *Inside and Out* by Erin Phillips

Inside and Out is the inspiring memoir from one of Australia's all-time sporting champions: AFLW icon and basketball legend Erin Phillips.

The AFLW changed the face of Australian sport forever, and Erin Phillips was the face of that change. Formerly a champion basketballer, born to Port Adelaide Football Club icon Greg Phillips, Erin's success on the footy field was no surprise to anyone who has followed her remarkable career on the court. Now at the end of her professional sporting career, the final two years of which were spent at her father's old club, Erin candidly looks back at her astonishing playing journey and her life so far.



Picture Books: *The Day the Crayons Made Friends* by Drew Daywalt and Oliver Jeffers



The hilarious Crayons are back with their first full-size picture book adventure since *The Day the Crayons Came Home*—and this time they're exploring the three-dimensional world as they make friends with real-life objects from around Duncan's house. The bestselling team behind *The Day the Crayons Quit* have come together to create another clever and hilarious tale that will keep children, and grown-ups, laughing.

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