

LORNE

Independent

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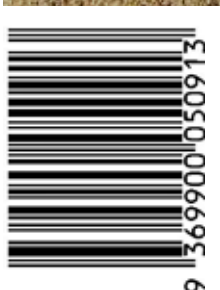
No 284 July 2025

Produced as an independent newsletter by Lorne Independent Inc.

NEW INSPECTION OF PT GREY FOR ANTS

Photo By Ian Walding

Travel tales P3 P 21
Gorcapa Updates P 25



Lorne Independent Inc.

Published by Lorne Independent Inc.

No. A0041756Y

ABN: 54 724 981 550

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The Lorne Independent acknowledges we live on the traditional lands of the Gadubanud people. The Lorne Independent is produced on a non-profit voluntary basis and seeks to give the community open access to its pages. However the opinions expressed by authors of articles are their own. Publicity for community events is free. All contributions are welcomed. Supplied copy and pictures must bear the name and address of the author and / or organisation. The editorial committee of the Lorne Independent reserves the right to cut, alter or otherwise work articles to make them suitable for publication. The committee also reserves the right to reject articles or photos it deems unsuitable for this publication. The committee expects articles using AI to acknowledge this on submission of the article. Articles must be at least 50% original to be published.

Contribution deadline: 25th of the month**Subscription charges.**

A yearly electronic subscription \$40.

A yearly hard copy subscription mailed \$75.

A yearly electronic and mailed hard copy subscription for discounted \$90.

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LOCAL MARKETS

Lorne Foreshore Market:

9PM-3PM 1st November

Torquay Farmers Market:

Every Saturday 8.30AM to 1PM

Winchelsea Community Market:

First Sunday of every month 9AM to 1PM

Aireys Inlet Market:

13 JUL 9AM to 1PM

Travellers Tales

KOMODO ISLANDS *By Doug Williams*

I assumed that this would be just one island with giant lizards frolicking about through the jungle and lazing around on the rocks. But no, there are Komodo dragons on a handful of Komodo Islands and the island we visited was almost certain to have a few meandering about for us to see, we were told.

A guide led our group (good, safety in numbers I thought) down a track and not too far along we saw a great big lizard. It was a Komodo dragon about the size of a large goanna. Excitement flowed through the group and became greater when we spotted a much, much larger dragon. These can weigh one hundred and fifty kilos so may be larger than a giant goanna and will eat a buffalo we are told. It simply stood there occasionally flicking out its tongue, but we were warned not to get too close and were assured they can be so dangerous that even a small bite can readily become infected from venom in their saliva and can kill you. It was fearless and looked threatening. When we were leaving for the boat, there was another one on the sandy beach not far from the small quiet waves.

The scenery is wonderfully tropical, jungled and with small volcanic islands of all sizes that have popped up in seemingly endless amount towards infinity across the blue water seascape and wide blue skies and there are countless little bays to see from a boat. The islands are steep, rugged with shadows across cliffs and clefts and wide spreading views after a steep climb up a track where you can see forever and back again. Just like a panorama from a glossy magazine. There are pleasure craft everywhere and tourism holds the place together. We stayed on Flores which is one of the Komodo Islands. In the city centre there are more dive shops than there are antique shops in Malvern. Probably with better prices.

We were at the port of Labuan Bajo which is a little rougher than Bali but perfectly safe - the people are very friendly and with far less traffic they like to drive quickly along the narrow one way roads where there could be a little brood of chooks scuttling across the tarmac. Across the water we can see one hundred boats of all description - small traders, fishing craft, commercial boats, tenders, motorboats, outriggers and live-aboards for hire so there is constant movement across the bay. The classic Indonesian boat - phinisi - has a sweetly elegant, curved bow rising high out of the water.

A bridge across a small stream carries clear water through the town. There are not the high-end restaurants of Bali but they are good ones and the warung food is as good as anywhere and getting around town is easy because every car is a taxi. You only have to ask or wave one down.



We are hoping we can get one for a flight if the recent volcanic activity on the island affects the Komodo airport. We're in the volcano zone here at a shatter point and we don't want to be stranded here as happened when it was closed last year for ten days. The taxi won't cost much, and we can drop into the Komodough Bakery which has a croissant as a logo shaped like a dragon.



Quick Response Grants

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ARTS IN LORNE

Exciting News

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>

As there are limited seats it is recommended to book tickets as on the day tickets may not be available for walk ins.

Anglesea Performing Arts (APA) is an independent theatre company committed to challenging the concept of what theatre is, by nurturing, making and producing work that is high quality, contemporary, collaborative, innovative, risk-taking and edgy.

Many will remember their 2023 production of "Shadows of Angels" which they performed in Lorne to much acclaim. The company then took the production later that year to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Lorne Community Connect

Help us to celebrate our creative residents by becoming a member, your small financial contribution will help. However, you can also assist by using the space to create, by attending exhibitions, performances and events.

Go to our website lornecommunityconnect.com.au to view our activities.

Gary Allen - LCC Committee

Opposite: Please enjoy the beautiful Ian Walding winning photograph from the Community Connect Annual Photographic Competition on the next page.





TERMITE WATCH

PEST CONTROL

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



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

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GO WHERE THE TRADIES GO

CLEMENTINE CALLING

Did we honour the winter solstice? Yes! Certain bathing beauties in town did indeed honour the winter solstice, the shortest day of the year, by bravely skinny dipping in the freezing cold waves on the main beach. Early at 6.30, 8 of our mermaids, bravely led by their two leaders - the vibrant Sue Balderas and the delightful Swiss born Caroline Herzel Bryant who so ably runs our book shop, plunged in starkers. Hopefully it was too dark to see them! But .oh! How cold!!and the goose bumps. Maybe we will all be back soon to the old Roman tradition of swimming naked together with no costumes on! Some of the beach goers over the summer paraded such scanty attire that it was as if they had no bathers on! Hooray for bare bottoms in Louttit Bay!!

Early in June Sue Grant was regaling The Snappers down at the Anglers Club with shocking tales of high waters on the Mediterranean. The cruise she and her friend had booked on didn't turn out as it should have. The seas were rougher than the waves rolling into Lorne and most holiday makers on the ship were the worst for wear. Barbra Barber, who knows a lot about the skies then came up with the idea that Sue should have gone on her cruise the following year! Barbara maintained that we have had about 10 years of amazing magnetic storms and a peak in the solar cycle which has meant a series of spectacular Aurora Australis for all to admire. She reckoned that the unusual skies have affected the seas since the solar wind also carries with it the sun's magnetic fields- all interesting thoughts, amongst The Snappers andno doubt the wine helped!

Doug Hopkins planned an excursion to see his historical blue stone home Challicum in Buangar, a town in Western Victoria near Beaufort. Ed Babbington was to be at the wheel with Marcia and dog in tow, but many good plans have failed, and the dog got sick and only Sue Balderas and Doug went. Brie's charming father John Brewster missed out too. I believe Doug and Sue had a lovely day even though the numbers were down. It was very productive as they came back with bags of sheep poo for Doug Stirling's Garden!! Guess who shovelled it.? Doug is no fool, he knows that good soil preparation makes or breaks the garden.

On a freezing wet evening in June many Lornies were down at the Anglers Club - they mainly went to sample all the scrumptious hot sausage rolls which were made by hopeful members wanting to win on the day! Charming Keith Miller, the Commodore was in fine form, wearing his hat, charging round like a bull at the gate giving orders and announcing that this competition for the best sausage roll was a Worldwide Event!! Clementine sat in a warm tent, sipping wine and dreaming of last year's delicacies - those

marvellous Moroccan lamb sausage rolls full of spices made by last year's winner Brigitte Rodd. On this occasion Brigitte had spent the afternoon cooking more lamb filled sausage rolls, but it was to no avail as she did not win. Tough luck for all the losers.

Paul Myles is to be admired for doing something very brave. He lives in a limestone house at Big Hill. He surfs off the rocks nearby. Some time ago he was a hero when he saved a shark. He is a fearless surfer who stumbled across a beached shark, he picked it up and unceremoniously took it back to sea. He reckoned that it was a blue shark that weighed around 20 kilograms. What a hero! The good news is that he has been surfing in those waters for more than 40 years and rarely sees a shark there.

A joyful celebration was held at Totti's by the Brewster and Walding families. Beautiful Tilly, who is in her final year at the Christian Brothers College in Geelong, was out celebrating her 18th birthday with her mother Brie and her sisters Mia and Elly. Mia's bonnie 18th month old baby Ivy was ruling the roost. Elly, who is in year 10 at our Lorne School, was enjoying herself with best friend Jessica Tank. After consuming all the antipasti that they could and plenty of pasta too. Tilly's boyfriend Lucas Walding left the next morning for a bicycle trip to Viet Nam. He has had a gap year and has been working hard at the Mantra saving up for his holiday. Next year he will study Sports Physiology - good luck Lucas, ride with care and come home to Lorne safely!

Dear old Muriel Sutton had a charming send off organised by Ray and Anne Sutton down at the Anglers on a cold Saturday afternoon in June. A delightful occasion with Muriel's family and close friends and some well-known local personalities like Liz Van Hauten, Mary Rose Moon and Wendy Wilson who had cared for Muriel at the Lorne Nursing Home by providing her with entertainment and care. Muriel lived very happily in the Lorne Nursing Home for 4 years. The gorgeous Winnie, Muriel's great granddaughter, sat happily smiling away on Mandy Calder's knee during the eulogy given by Grandpa Ray. Mandy's husband Roger had been looked after in the Nursing Home at the same time as darling Muriel.

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Barwon Water Community Update

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

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

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

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



Lorne: Water, Your Say

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



We're here to help

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



Be waterwise every day

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



Lorne Deakin Collaborative Eye Care Clinic:

UPGRADE OF DIAGNOSTIC EQUIPMENT

We are excited to announce an upgrade of our visual field analysis equipment at our Lorne clinic with the purchase of a Humphrey Field Analyser (HFA), with advanced technology enabling efficient and reliable assessment of visual fields. This has been made possible by a generous donation from The Lorne Op Shop.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude for this contribution. With this new device on-site, we will be able to more effectively diagnose, monitor, and manage eye disease in Lorne, reducing the need for referral to Geelong or Melbourne. The Lorne branch of the Deakin Collaborative Eye Care Clinic is managed by experienced optometric staff from Deakin University and serves as a clinical placement site. The unique clinic setting provides an invaluable learning experience for optometry students. We take pride in our strong involvement with the Lorne community and are committed to delivering high-quality eye care.

Understanding the Humphrey Field Analyser (HFA)

The HFA is a widely used automated perimetry device designed primarily for detecting visual field defects. Visual field testing evaluates how well we can see not just straight ahead but also in our peripheral vision. This test plays a crucial role in diagnosing, monitoring, and managing various ocular and neurological conditions.

Main Uses of the HFA:

1. Glaucoma: Detection and progression analysis
Glaucoma encompasses a group of optic neuropathies that cause characteristic and progressive changes to the optic nerve, often associated with visual field defects. Glaucoma can progress without noticeable symptoms until significant vision loss occurs. The HFA is highly effective in detecting subtle visual field loss and further progression, making it an essential tool for early detection and monitoring. When used alongside Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) which takes highly detailed images of the eye and comprehensive eye exams, appropriate treatments can be implemented.

2. Neurological Conditions

The HFA helps to identify visual field defects caused by:

- Conditions affecting the optic nerve
- Brain tumours
- Strokes
- Traumatic brain injury
- Other brain disorders

3. Retinal Conditions

The HFA is also instrumental in documenting and monitoring conditions such as:

- Retinitis pigmentosa
- Age-related macular degeneration
- Medication toxicity to the eye (e.g., hydroxychloroquine)

Visual field testing is fundamental to diagnosing, monitoring, and managing eye disease, ensuring our ability to provide confident, reliable and evidence-based patient care.

4. Assessing fitness to drive

Services Offered at the Lorne Deakin Collaborative Eye Care Clinic Located at the Lorne Medical Centre. we offer a variety of services, including:

- Comprehensive eye examinations
- Prescription glasses and contact lenses
- Preventative eye health assessments
- Diabetic eye examinations
- Cataract assessments
- Glaucoma management and co-management
- Dry eye assessment and management
- Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT)
- Visual field testing
- Childrens vision assessments

Clinics run once a fortnight on a Thursday. and bookings can be made through the Lorne Medical Centre. We look forward to continuing to serve the Lorne and surrounding community with enhanced diagnostic capabilities and excellence in eye care.

Davut Ulusoy

B.Sc.Optomtry.CertOcTher(ACO).Dip.Couns

**Teaching Fellow in Optometry and Clinical Optometrist
School of Medicine, Faculty of Health
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Doug Williams - 0418 522 011



Submissions invited on draft Road Management Plan 2025-2029

The community is invited to have their say on Council's draft Road Management Plan 2025-2029.

You can view the plan and make a submission on Council's website at surfcoast.vic.gov.au/RoadManagementPlanFeedback

Submissions must be received by: **5pm Friday 25 July 2025.**

The review of the Road Management Plan is required by the Road Management Act 2004.

For those without internet access submissions can be mailed to:

Surf Coast Shire Council
PO Box 350 Torquay, Victoria 3228



Country and Waters

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SPORTSBRIEFS

by Ingrid Wilson (John Ford is in Italy)

Photos by Ian Walding.

June saw the tryouts and selection for the CDFNL Interleague teams with Lorne having 5 players selected for the Under 25 team - Fraser Balderas, James Hughes, Jesse Middleton, Ted Middleton, Cole Fox and Corey Przystek and 2 junior players Xavier Hollmer and Kobe Enticott selected.

In the netball our fabulous A Grade playing coach Leigh Potter was selected and our also junior netballer Asha McNaughton. They did their club proud with Xavier Hollmer best on ground and Leigh Potter best on court.

It is halfway through the season and many of Lorne's teams are in strong positions with the Reserves on top of the ladder and after this week the Seniors are back on top



also. In the juniors, we are loving the enthusiasm of our Under 12 footballers with the song being belted out after each game regardless of the result – Gotta love that.

Last Saturday Lorne hosted top of the ladder Birregurra, who came looking to avenge their 2-point loss from the first round. After drawing level just after half time Lorne kicked away to win by 57 points. Charlie McCartin's first game back was a beauty with 6 goals and James Hughes was brilliant with 7 goals.

Continued page 11

From page 10

Congratulations Lewis Hollmer on his 200th game. Lorne is back on top!

Over on the netball court all the junior teams put in fabulous wins with a special congratulations to the Under 17's on their first win for the season – Go Girls. The A Grade netballers played a thrilling game which resulted in a draw.

The 13 and Under and 15 and under teams are having a great season. Both are in top 4 positions.

Next week 28th June Lorne travel to Apollo Bay and on the 5th July travel to South Colac. Teams then enjoy a bye and headback to Stribling on the 19th July to take on Otway Districts.

Go Dolphins!



You're warmly invited to attend the Lorne Cricket Club Annual General Meeting, where all committee positions are open for nomination.

We are seeking enthusiastic and committed individuals who want to help grow

the club and build on the fantastic momentum we've achieved over the past three years. Whether you're a long-time supporter or a new face keen to get involved, this is a great opportunity to help shape the future of our club. Your ideas, energy, and commitment will be crucial in shaping the next chapter for the Lorne Cricket Club, and we look forward to seeing you there

Women's Golf

Club News

The cold, wet and windy weather has impacted on Club competition over the last 4 weeks, with one round cancelled and smaller fields for the others. However, our competitive spirit and enjoyment of the game have not diminished.

On the 27th May, 10 intrepid golfers played 18 holes in blustery conditions, also competing in the second round of the putting competition. Jan Young was the Monthly Medal winner, her first, with a great score of 109/43/66 and Janet Higgins was runner-up. Captain Rose Lloyd won the NTP. The following Tuesday, the Ladies stableford competition turned into a 9-hole event for all participants. Rose was a clear winner with 20 points, Wendy Hutchison was runner-up and Sally Young took home the prize for NTP.

A special event was held on June 10th when we played our weekly competition alongside the men, who were competing for the Chris Wood Cup, an annual competition in honour of a much loved member who passed away the previous year. We all played 9-hole stableford in mixed teams and finished with a BBQ and presentation. It was a very special day. Chris Angus was a runaway winner for the ladies, with a fantastic score of 22 and Wendy Hutchison took second place. Sally Young again won the NTP.

The following week's game became a coffee catch up as the rain came down. On June 24, 9 ladies competed for the monthly medal, with Chris Angus continuing her outstanding play, posting a great score of 95/23/72, and Rose coming in second, hot on her heels, with 92/20/72. Linda Brown won the putting competition. A marathon singles knockout semi-final was also played, with Chris claiming victory over Carol Tutungi on the last putt on the 21st hole!

SWGA Golf

Chris Angus has been representing our club with great success. She won the B grade division at the Winchelsea Open on May 26th, with 36 points, including 2 birdies. Two weeks later at Beeac, Chris took out the A grade nett in blustery, difficult conditions. She took home raffle prizes at both events also! On June 1st, Lou Goldsworthy, Sally Young and Wendy Hutchison competed in the Torquay Bowl and enjoyed great conditions on a challenging course. The following week our club representatives, consisting of Rose Lloyd, Chris Angus, Tina Walker and Sue Neill, ventured to Apollo Bay to compete in the Open and Bunberry Shield, in wild, windy conditions. The star of the day was Tina, who was playing in her first ever competition representing Lorne and was nett winner for C grade. A great effort over 27 holes!

We are a friendly group of women, across all levels of golfing skills and experience. We love to welcome new or lapsed players to our group. We meet every Tuesday morning at 8.30am at the Lorne Country Club. Please contact our president Sue Neill on 0418674062 or Rose Lloyd on 0407860980.

Janet Higgins



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KANGAROOS OF LORNE

By Chris Cairns

Think of the word, 'mob'. What often comes to mind if you don't have direct indigenous roots, is a large group of long tailed hoppers. Here in Lorne, we have several mobs of these proud animals. Foremost are the mega-mob resident at the Lorne Country Club. To call them a single mob is perhaps inaccurate since it appears there are at least three distinct groups. In all, they may number well over a hundred.

My personal favourite is the mob often seen lounging below the clubhouse at ease on the smooth turf of the ninth tee. So possessive are they of this fine piece of real estate, that they deign move only reluctantly when hackers approach to play their tee shots. Mothers raise themselves up to accommodate the joeys who jump for the safety of a pouch. Then they turn their big soft dreamy eyes at the intruders before hopping away out of range. Last to move is usually the alpha male who is the leader of the clan. The big fellows at the LCC stand as tall as Collingwood six-footer. Large males have a confronting habit of puffing out their chests and turning directly towards you. Often, they will give a loud grunt before they choose to move off. There are usually several males in any of the mobs, but only one alpha brute. I am told by those with more kangaroo knowledge than I that eventually the boss male will be challenged and probably driven off by an upstart. These former rulers are often seen as solitary figures on the fringes of the mob's territory. They are also the ones which drift away to feed singly on the lawns around town.

If the LCC fairways and scrub represent the wild range, the streets of town are the urban savannah. There is a small mob which have chosen to call the upper reaches of William Street home. They are most often seen after dark when they slip out to feed on the grassy nature strips there and along Otway Street. Meeting a string of them bounding towards you as you walk your dog of an evening gets the adrenaline flowing. Another popular feeding ground for roos is along George Street and around Queens Park. It's good to know that Lorne residents welcome our marsupial friends and share the environment with them.



I have even seen several sleek looking kangas snacking on the well kept grass of the Lions Village.

Our Lorne kangaroos seem to have adapted well to life with us. A trick I have used when coming on a group of roos is to advance slowly and try to avoid making eye contact. Often you can pass within a couple of metres of them. Some even resume grazing, having registered you as non-threatening. While they are well adapted to sharing some parts of town with us, they struggle with cars. Injured roos are not unknown, sometimes falling when panicked by a speeding car. Our local animal rescue service can be contacted via +61 422047558 I hope you or I never need to make a call to them.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

I write in response to the letter from Keri Cachis in the June issue. I live in Deans Marsh and it didn't take me long to guess that when she wrote "I am writing to raise serious concerns about the condition of one of the three roads into Lorne" that she was referring to the Lorne-Deans Marsh Road.

What I am perplexed about is why she chose NOT to name this road?

Those of us living in this region would certainly guess where her concerns lie, and I am sure there is unanimous agreement. However, those in most danger are tourists, many of whom would not be familiar with driving on such a winding and narrow road. Yet VicRoads chooses to encourage this alternative by placing a sign at the junction of the M1 and Anglesea Road just outside Waurin Ponds indicating an "Lorne inland route, follow M1".

This road is made more tortuous by the appalling condition it is now in. I have been one of the advocates over the last 10 years or so, lobbying for more inspection by maintenance crews, and a reduction in road speeds. We even managed to arrange a meeting with the VicRoads South West Regional Manager. At this meeting it was agreed that there would indeed be an increase in such inspections. The result was the appearance of poorly repaired potholes, either filled with gravel or asphalt with virtually no compression. This resulted in either the spread of gravel across a wide area risking skids or small humps of asphalt, encouraging the collection of rainwater round the circumference, which generally means these 'repairs' erode so rapidly, that they last barely 12 months, meanwhile creating even larger potholes!

Juliet Beatty,
Deans Marsh

Dear Editor

Firstly I commend you and your team on furthering the legacy of Jo Vondra with your excellent newsletter.

We have been "local" residents of Lorne for 35 years and from our early days patronised the restaurants from those times when our friendly Greek restaurateurs provided excellent cuisine @ moderate cost and friendly company. Over the years we became increasingly friendly with Sammy Gazis, firstly @ The Arab and then for all the years since, @ The Pier.

One of our great joys on entering Lorne to stay, was having delicious meals @ The Pier followed by an hour or so talking post dinner. In that time we became close friends with Sam, his staff and his Family.

I believe his excellent reputation ensured Lorne continued to be a draw card attracting tourist custom even when times were tough such as the Covid shutdown.

Sadly, the advent of GORCC (now GORCAPA) caused his future plans to be shelved forcing him to close down and retire leaving a big void, a huge loss for Lorne tourism and "the last of fine dining from the 'Greeks'"

In my 88 years, never have I witnessed such red tape, waste and procrastination as with this folly.

Alan Chipp
Lorne

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Where everybody counts

THE OLD ROAD TO LORNE *By John Agar*

I plan a short historical series on the Deans Marsh Road for the next 2 or 3 editions of the Lorne Independent. Directly transcribed from newspaper articles of the time, with occasional [unmarked] editing for clarity's sake, I will give voice to writers long past as they tell their stories of this remarkable and beautiful old road.

Given the volume of traffic "the old road to Lorne" now carries, despite its crucial role in Lorne's development and the ignorant disdain shown to those who have wisely sought its upgrade, the 2025 Victoria version of Deans Marsh Road is in a sorry state of disrepair. Its profound neglect is all-the-more apparent when compared to the Colac—Forrest—Apollo Bay Road ... indeed, if any comparison is possible.

The first of this—'The Old Road to Lorne'—series is an evocative description of the journey to Lorne along the Deans Marsh Road, written by 'GB' and published in the Melbourne Herald [30/09/1936]. Shortened, edited, and corrected for clarity, it reads as follows:

"When the Great Ocean Road, built as a memorial to Victorians who served in World War I, is formally handed over to the Government by the Trust on Friday, the ceremony will doubtlessly awaken memories of 'the coaching days' when a journey to Lorne over the old route was something of an adventure.

By the 'old' road to Lorne, I mean the road from Winchelsea and Deans Marsh to Lorne—it was Lorne's only land access before the construction of the Great Ocean Road and when Lorne was otherwise so difficult to reach.

The old road began in the early days of settlement, when the first white people to visit Lorne followed the same path through the forest that inland aborigines followed to visit the seaboard.

The road—if it could be called a road—passed through rough country, but a track was eventually beaten up through the scrub, across the spur, and down to the ocean.

The early settlers were so enthusiastic about the beauty of Louttit Bay [as Lorne was then called] that all who heard their story desired to see the place.

Soon, Louttit Bay became a favourite camping spot with campers going on horseback or foot, transporting their gear by pack-horse.

Early in the 1860s, a home was built at the mouth of the Erskine River where Erskine House stands today, and year by year, the fame spread of a bay where the mountains rose up out of the sea, and of streams where the bream and native grayling were plentiful.

In the earliest days, visitors from Melbourne travelled by train to Geelong, where they transferred to a Cobb & Co. coach to Winchelsea, Deans Marsh, and then Lorne. But in 1876, after the railway line to Colac was opened, horse-drawn coaches for Lorne started from both Winchelsea and Birregurra.

Initially, two coaching firms plied the run ... one was the famous Cobb and Co., though it soon withdrew and left the field to the Mountjoy family, whose coaches ran the Lorne track till horse-drawn vehicles gave way to motors.

Then, when the railway line was extended from Birregurra to Deans Marsh and Forrest, and passengers could travel by train to Deans Marsh, the coach journey was reduced to 15 miles.

The trip from Melbourne was an experience to remember. As the train left Spencer Street every week morning at 6.30 and after a halt at Geelong for breakfast, ploughed on to Birregurra where a change of trains was necessary. Then, after reaching Deans Marsh in the mid-afternoon, the rest of the journey was completed by horse-drawn coach. These were big, lumbering red coaches with most passengers sitting outside, some facing forwards, others looking back, though the "box" seat was always the most sought-after place.

Continued Page 15



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At holiday time, it was difficult to accommodate every passenger. It could only be accomplished by cramming 18 people into a space meant for 12—a task that called for both ingenuity and diplomacy.

Native heath grew freely along the road, its pink and white blossoms appearing in late autumn—an indication that the tourist season was ending. But as spring's abundant wattle bloom was rarely seen as sufficient compensation for the fearsome coach trip on boggy roads, it was November before many undertook the journey and opened the tourist year.

The nine miles from Deans Marsh to Benwerrin at the top of the range necessitated a stop to change the horses—an essential when the roads were heavy, as they almost always were. This allowed the passengers to pause for refreshments. Mrs Henderson's tea and scones at the Benwerrin Stables and Tea Rooms had a great reputation—not even the most ascetic could resist them—and those fortunate enough to be travelling in strawberry time never forgot her strawberries and cream.

The post WWI construction of the Great Ocean Road soon began to divert traffic from the Deans Marsh Road, lessened the number of callers at the tea house, and

forced Mrs Henderson to close her doors in 1927. As a simultaneous upgrade of the road required the removal of the stables, Mrs Henderson's house was soon tenantless, and Benwerrin fast became a ghost of its former self.

The old road has now degenerated into a track. As it had been a poor affair at the best of times and, for half the year, was little better than a bog, it is no surprise that little now remains of what was once a public highway.

Even so, the sites of many of the houses that once lined it can still be made out, mossy fruit trees remain alive in the encroaching bush, though are too feeble to bloom, and arum lilies and jonquils still flower freely among the bracken in early spring."

Authors note:

While I admit to altering GB's text to help a modern readership, it has been with regret, as his longer newspaper piece is far more evocative than my edited version. Furthermore, as this article was written in 1936, some expressions are not consonant with those we use now. It [and other captivating Lorne-centric pieces from yesteryear] can be found in full within the National Archives and at Trove ... <https://tinyurl.com/frd986hk>





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View the draft plan and provide feedback by 10 August surfcoast.vic.gov.au/OurFocusOurFuture.



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OP SHOP BUZZ

A Day in the Life of a Volunteer at the Lorne Op Shop *By Sally Young*

Behind the doors of the Lorne Op Shop, a dedicated team of approximately 100 volunteers, including a few very game men, keeps the heart of the community hub beating. With winter now upon us, the pace may be quieter, although there is always something to do!

The day is structured around two shifts. The morning shift runs from 10 am to 1 pm Monday to Saturday, followed by an afternoon shift from 1 pm to 4 pm. On Sundays, the shifts are 10 am to 12:30 pm and 12:30 pm to 3 pm.

Each morning shift begins with the same ritual: turning on the lights, the heating, and the music to welcome the day. However, volunteers are often first greeted by items left at the front door overnight. Despite a sign asking people not to leave donations outside of hours, it's a frequent occurrence. This presents a challenge, as many of these items cannot be sold for health and safety or storage reasons. This often means the op shop must pay to dispose of these goods, sometimes taking them to the tip!

The day is filled with serving customers, tidying the racks, and cleaning. A crucial and constant task is sorting the generous donations that come in.

Every item goes through a careful decision-making process:

- Is it clean and saleable? If yes, it's priced according to a standard list and placed on the shop floor.
- Is it a special item? volunteers research a price online or set it aside for a nominated "specialist" to value.
- Is it dirty but saleable? a dedicated and helpful volunteer launders them at home.
- Is it unsaleable? it is either put in a bag to be used as rags or placed in a "yellow bag" for use and/or recycling overseas.

As the day ends, the afternoon shift turns off the lights, heating, and music, and places the sign back on the door: **PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE ITEMS AT THE FRONT DOOR.**

This dedicated work is carried out by long-serving community members. The Wednesday afternoon team (as shown below) includes Maureen Dandy, a volunteer for two years; Helen Smith, who has volunteered for approximately 30 years; and Cal Purdy, who has volunteered for "too many years to remember!". Their collective effort is a testament to the community spirit that keeps the Lorne Op Shop thriving.





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LORNE

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From the team at Great Ocean Road Real Estate

SHAVINGS FROM THE SHED *By Allan Walls*

We have so many members warming themselves from Sicily to London you would be forgiven to think the Shed mornings would be quiet, but no.

We still have a full team each and every morning enjoying the magnificent coffee and pastries kindly donated by Grandma Shield Bakery.

We have a couple of members, Max and Angelo in hospital at the moment, and our Shedders John Bliss and Doug Hopkins pick them up at the hospital each morning and bring them to the shed. (well done)

The Surf Coast Shire have been helpful in renewing the lease for the Shed so we are entrenched for quite a while yet.

Not that we were ever going or planning to move.

The cockies have continued to cause problems opening bins and spreading rubbish everywhere and our trusty or is that crusty author captured them on his home security cameras.

It's on again! We have reengaged with the Surf Coast Shire as their latest bin locks have failed, so back to the Sheds invention that will fix the problem and a couple of Shedders have never given up and, as such, have found a manufacturer to manufacture and supply our bin aprons at a very competitive price, so here's hoping.

It would be remiss of me and all Shedders not to thank Garry Fenton for the mammoth effort he has put in producing the history of our members to the Lorne Independent over the past three years. Thanks Garry.

The rocking horse restoration is creating great interest. We are sharpening chain saws, fixing chairs and enjoying any challenge that can be presented.

Keep Warm



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



GREAT OCEAN ROAD HEALTH

NEWS

LORNE
medical centre

Aged Care Reforms

The aged care sector is preparing for significant change and reform in November. To prepare you for this change we're holding an information sessions on these reforms for any community member or current consumer of GORH who's seeking further information.

The session will cover:

- ◆ What is supported at home
- ◆ Current clients Home Care Packages moving to Support at Home
- ◆ GORH pricing structure changes.

Lorne Neighbourhood House—Thursday 16th October, at 2pm. Afternoon Tea provided. To RSVP to either of these, please contact Ollie 0447 013 507.

Please Support our Annual Appeal

This year, our Annual Appeal is focused on raising funds for some much-needed infrastructure upgrades and equipment purchases, to ensure great care close to home. Using funds from the 2024-25 Annual Appeal we were able to purchase a Brachial Index Machine (BIM), which tests blood pressure in patient's arms and ankles, similar to an arm cuff for a blood pressure test. This fantastic device is used for diagnosing Peripheral Vascular Disease, a common condition in which narrowed arteries reduce blood flow to the arms or legs, causing pain and restricted movement. This device is being used daily at the Lorne Medical Centres. 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. Please consider donating to our Annual Appeal today. 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/support-us

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

Flu & Respiratory Diseases

With winter comes the increase of respiratory illnesses, and we have seen an increase of presentations of COVID, influenza and RSV. Please consider immunisation and try not to spread your illnesses especially to those who are vulnerable. Flu vaccines are available at the Lorne Medical Centre. If you are symptomatic we encourage you to rest and stay home to recover.

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This Pain Education Session, organized in celebration of **National Pain Week**, is specifically designed for individuals living with chronic pain. The aim of the session is to enrich participants' understanding and improve the long-term management of their condition.

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Education
on why pain
persists.

Guidance on
managing
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Nutrition
guidance to
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Date: Wednesday 16th July

Time: 10:00am - 12noon

Location: Lorne Community House

COST: \$5 including a healthy snack prepared by
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GREAT OCEAN ROAD
HEALTH

KINDNESS FOR TRAVELLERS

By Eva Janice Youl

The hire car pulled in across the road and the couple struggled with loads of luggage.

More than a weekend visit to Lorne I thought to myself, as I pottered around in our front garden.

The couple were talking to themselves in French and I heard “Pouvons-nous obtenir une autre clé?” After about 15 minutes I crossed the road to investigate.

The man, Philippe, spoke excellent English and explained they couldn't open the key safe. His wife, Patricia, gave me the numbers in both French and English. They knew my French wasn't fluent! I don't know how, as it was counterintuitive, numbers in reverse, but I opened the lock and they entered their long stay accomodation.

Philippe and Patricia were in Lorne to help with a new grandchild. The daughter's family had been contributing to the Lorne kinder and childcare numbers. We got to know them during their stay and showed them the best coffee places and other attractions around Lorne. At the time, Philippe had a dodgy hip so Patricia did more of our hinterland walks. I don't think there is a French equivalent for dodgy. They are wine drinkers but they did enjoy a visit to Forrest Brewery.

They returned to France and we kept in contact.

This year we told Philippe and Patricia we could meet them in Nice for lunch in May. They insisted they would collect us from the airport and take us to their place. We cancelled our hotel.

I didn't recognise Philippe under his summer hat, but Patricia came to the rescue. This visit was a highlight of the French section of our trip because they drove us around and showed us all the hidden treasures of their

home town, Antibes. Their beautifully crafted stone home was built by Philippe's Italian grandfather.

The next morning Philippe returned from the local bakery and we had delicious cheese and croissants for breakfast before continuing our journey. Patricia had taken their dog, Ficelle, for a walk.

We planned to take the train but our hosts packed us all, including Ficelle, into their car and set off for our next stop - Menton. Philippe expertly navigated the narrow streets of towns along the way. We even tagged an Aston Martin probably on its way to Monte Carlo. It was like being in a James Bond movie. We felt very safe because Philippe is a Master of the martial art of Aikido.

Yes, I had to look it up too!

We stopped for lunch at Villefranche-sur-Mer where some people were nude sun bathing on the thin strip of beach sand. Most other beaches were pebbly. People seemed to be comfortable with their own body shape. It wasn't warm enough for me!

A hotel at Menton was recommended by our Lorne neighbours. Like them we accidentally walked into Italy. Two days later on our trip to Italy we stopped at a little village called Ventimiglia where we had a couple of hours to fill in before the train to Genova. An impeccably dressed elderly gentleman saw us dithering on the platform looking for a non-existent lift. He showed us how to get our luggage outside the station. He also pointed us to a fantastic market which we would not have found by ourselves.

While tourists are getting a bad rap in some European cities, such as Barcelona and Venice, these examples show the kindness of people, and long may it continue.



WHY DOES POINT GREY REDEVELOPMENT HAVE TO BE SO DIFFERENT?

SOME QUESTIONS ARISING FROM THE PUBLIC SHARING OF THE DRAFT UDF FOR POINT GREY

By Graham Brawn, holiday home owner since 1981 - Professor emeritus of architecture, University of Melb.

May and June this year have been a time when GORCAPA has published a number of reports on the conditions of Point Grey's Fish CoOP complex and its steps towards redeveloping the area with Federal Government funding through Geelong City Deal, for "... the growing tourism and visitor economy, (both local and regional ...)".

The month of June has seen numerous open presentations and discussions with members of community groups by the GORCAPA project team and their consultants for the preparation of the Urban Design Framework around the proposals in the Draft Urban Design Framework document. Thank you GORCAPA for this opportunity and the openness with which these sessions were conducted.

Prior to the Draft UDF being the basis for the open community engagement and opportunity to respond, GORCAPA released a number of relevant documents, including two structural safety reports, and in 2024, a "Point Grey Redevelopment: Opportunities and Constraints Summary Report". I have performed a line-by-line critique of the second engineers' structural and safety assessment, and of the Opportunities and Constraints report as well as the Draft UDF. The first critique was widely distributed to members of the Community Reference Group, the ward counsellors and the GORCAPA team. The interim CEO of GORCAPA gave a detailed response to that critique. The other two critiques and my attendance at the public session for the Friends of Lorne sub-community, allow me to formulate this article, which cover my overarching questions and those of many others.

The benefit of such close examination is that it shows, firstly the judicial and legislative and policy mazes through GORCAPA as land manager has to negotiate a project like this one. From a community perspective so much of what are in effect restrictions on retaining the nature and experience of European Point Grey from the first timber leases which were granted in the 1870's and more recently, the different phases of the fishing industry. These commercial and economic uses and the people and communication connections the sea afforded this part of the GOR allowed and supported the growing European community of what became Lorne, socially, culturally, economically and recreationally through until current times. All this use was an urbanising activity that led to Point Grey being legislated as an official seaport, and until recent times, when it has gone into inactive status in some

form, as part of the Port of Geelong.

Much of this new legislative maze through which GORCAPA needs to negotiate are geared towards "regreening" all the ocean and coastal areas and removing all activities not dependent on or serving the coastal edge of Victoria. Many of them have come into force after the GORCC phase of planning for the redevelopment of Point Grey, proposals that were quashed by VCAT, the Victorian Civil and Lands Tribunal. Further, and to me, rightfully so, they are required to operate within the boundaries and directions of various policy directions to recognise Indigenous ownerships and use of the unseeded lands we now occupy, and to involve descendants in the planning of changing uses of that land. Eight (8) of the policy documents are listed on page 5 of the full Draft UDF document and their years of enactment are: 2018 2020, 2020, 2023, 2023, 2006, 1993 (Native Title Act), 2020, and 2015 for the Eastern Maar Country Plan. The reason the EMCP becomes part of the policy context is that on March 28, 2023, the Federal Court formally recognised Eastern Maar's native title rights over a significant portion of their claim area, and that area includes Lorne and Anglesea as well as the Otways National Park.

Without dismissing the impact of what I have called a legislative maze, my critiques and what I have heard from others leaves the following questions left unanswered some of which should lead to modifications of the Draft UDF.

- why is there is no provision for indoor display of the histories of the European period of Point Grey's use, all as openly and consistently sought by the Lorne Historical Society. Why is that history of the use of Point Grey relegated to markers, objects and pieces of sculpture?
- why does the perceived character of the lower area have to be park like? Why cannot it still be a people place, not overcrowded with vehicles as it is now, and do that in a more urbane landscaping manner?
- Thank you for the proposed response to the requirement to recognise Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in the area, in the form of an educational garden. But why do we have to look forward to the replacement of the Norfolk Island and Monterey pines when they reach their projected end of life in around 15 years with trees indigenous to this geographic area? Why not use like replacements as a sign and learning opportunity for tourists of how European settlers used other immediately local plants.

Continued page 23

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- Does this foretell statement in the Draft UDF mean that we will lose Cypress Avenue?
- Why are the Gadubanud peoples, as the local tribe that gathered in this area for gathering the fruits of the sea, not been mentioned?
- If a representative of the Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation (EMAC) has been “intimately involved” with the development of the Draft UDF, why hasn’t someone from the community been “intimately” involved, more than the few sessions with the LAAC building team which has been careful to keep focused on its plans and possible provisions? To many of us this is galling, particularly since in the early time of the Community Reference Group, its members were not allowed to speak of matters discussed with or presented by GORCAPA with the rest of the community. I am also advised that this group had no contact with the HH Planning Consultants, the authors of the Draft UDF.
- Why is the car parking, up to the numbers that normally park in the lower area in off seasons, that is basically community and other local vehicles and in the order of 60 by my counts, split between the lower level and then beyond the southern edge of the proposed Educational Gardens? Why cannot there be carparking on the upper levels of the central area? Albeit in a manner that does not require sealed ground cover, and not use all the area, which could still be well landscaped?
- Why can’t the boat washing component of the community use of the coastline be in the lower area, close to, but not necessarily adjacent to the new LAAC facilities? Surely, there are ways in which the backing and turning of boat trailers need not be a safety issue in the lower area?
- Penultimately, but for some of us, me particularly, the most important issue. Why can’t the 1949 building of the Fish CoOP complex be retained and repurposed for the food and drink services and for the indoor display area sought by the Lorne Historical Society? So much of the condemnation by the structural engineers of the condition of the Fishing CoOP building complex is related to Sammy’s restaurant additions, especially much of the asbestos needing to be removed, or in the 1970’s addition – sagging roof, rusted steel roof beams and window lintels, as well concern for the stability of the external walls. Thorough inspection of the internal condition of the 1949 building was not possible, due to the internal fit out for cooling rooms and what was the shop. Informed, experienced judgment was that there might be problems with the roof trusses, their connections to the walls, and the condition and structural integrity by current building criteria of the concrete floors. But that has not been tested. So surely it is not unreasonable to ask for time, now, to remove the interior fit-outs and then conduct tests of the structural conditions and of what it would cost to remedy any deficiencies. If these costs are significantly greater than the cost of a similarly sized roof area, then the chance that some of those funds can be raised locally

or by grants. Lorne has a good track record of such fund raising. It should be noted here that the chosen architects, who were not involved in preparing the Draft UDF, are renown for their restoration and adaptive re-use projects, many of which have received State and National architectural awards.

- A big issue facing all the Lorne foreshore is the reality of rising sea levels and the potential for erosion and ingress from storm tides. Without enhanced and extended protection along the current rock sloped water’s edge, the revetment, the northern ends of the Fish CoOp complex, including much of the 1949 building, is within what is the predicted 2100 possible erosion area and the projected 2100 storm tide encroachment. That risk is removed if there is a sea wall in the line of the current revetment. Such protection is needed if the railway tram lines are to remain visible, as proposed, and the proposed small building for refreshments and snacks is not to be adversely affected. The 1949 building is some 800 to 1000 mm above grade at its northern face, so there could be some fill along its western face to ease all-conditions- access, perhaps up to the projected storm tide line shown in section 5.4 Natural Environment – Coastal Adaptation of the full document of the Draft UDF. Is the cost of this protection to be from the Federal grant monies or part of the funding in the decades ahead to address the issue along the whole Lorne township foreshore?

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From the Deck DIVIDE TO CONQUER

By John Agar

Richard Riordan was spot on in his post to the One and Only Lorne Community Noticeboard [Thursday 19th July: time log ~4 pm], where I think he rightly chastised both the local community and the dread multi-headed Medusa, GORCAPA when writing:

“Better community engagement and input are needed in Lorne and Kennett River following the recent release of redevelopment plans for Point Grey and the Kennett River Foreshore.

Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority [GORCAPA] must have more transparent community engagement and consultation processes. I have called on the Allan Government to review the Authority”.

I believe his release [above] appeared in The Colac Herald, The Surf Coast Times, The Friends of Pt Grey, The One and Only Lorne Community Notice Board, and Wye, Sep & Kennett's In the Loop.

(Ed note: and now importantly in the Lorne Independent)

For one, I thank you, Richard. I am grateful for and applaud your continuing support, both in Parliament and in the media. It is deeply appreciated. And, what's more, you are right.

Most ‘Authorities’ — like our very own GORCAPA — are what are commonly known as Quango's. The Boards of these unelected Quasi Autonomous Non-Government Organisations are directly appointed by and are answerable only to Ministers of the government of the day and all-to-often prove a law unto themselves [as I think GORCAPA demonstrates].

If the relevant government or its appointed Minister proves to be inept, is ‘busy’ elsewhere, or is dictating the direction the ‘Authority’ should take [... there is more of that thought to come], then those affected by the ‘Authority’ are — to choose two elementary words — stuffed and cooked.

I sense that we, in Lorne, have been played like a bunch of Community Christmas Turkeys. Even as we shake our dewlaps in futile frustration, GORCAPA is neatly dividing and dicing us into smaller and smaller segments and now sees us as conquered.

To successfully ‘divide to conquer’, GORCAPA organised multiple small group ‘information sessions’ with numerous special interest groups ... the Committee for Lorne, the LAAC, the Garden Club, the Friends of Lorne—the list goes on and as each interest group understandably had different priorities and a different focus, the Authority could avoid facing a cohesive whole-of-community voice.

Nevertheless, it would have been hard to miss noticing as the GORCAPA machine rolled into town these last 2-3 weeks, backed by a consultant group, ‘Human Habitats’, that no one in our town had heard of, let alone met in consultation. Indeed, this travelling circus has visited most coastal towns to hold their ‘community information sessions’... with an eleventh-hour intent to engage each local community. In Lorne's case, this occurred only after the printer's ink had properly dried on their very glitzy 40+ page draft UDF [Urban Design Framework] for Port Grey.

As a ‘naming’ aside an Urban Design Framework? Really? ... Lorne is hardly ‘urban’! As defined by Dictionary.com, the word urban “relates to or designates a city or town”... is “a densely populated area”... or means “living, located, or taking place in a city”. In my view, Lorne, with its resident population of +/- 1150, is far from urban. Coastal ... yes, but urban ... no!

Urban designs do not fit with or nurture sensitive coastal communities - especially ones like Lorne that annually retreat from the bun-fight weeks of summer to the ambience of their small, slow-paced villages inhabited by their summer-wearied residents. Urban aspirations and concepts do not sit well with most who live here. Those who are resident locals, or those who regularly return throughout the long winter ‘off-season’, love the quaint, grounding, and history-hugging uniqueness that each town jealously guards and seeks to protect from authority-driven homogenisation. These towns are not all alike—nor do they seek to be. Each has precious pockets [arguably like Point Grey] that they are prepared to fight to protect. The imposition of metropolitan urbanity is seen as anathema.

Though euphemistically advertised as ‘information sessions’, the last-minute foray of the Authority into our community to conduct its euphemistically advertised ‘information sessions’... not community consultations, but a series of this-is-what-you-are-going-to-get sessions, like it or lump it ... simply window-dressed a plan, script, and ‘framework’ that has already been decided, printed, and sealed.

While their presented UDF was billed as a ‘draft’ document, the amount spent on consultants, web-page designers, media artists, and report creation has taken GORCAPA far too far down the track for them to alter much now. If any alteration is possible [and no one is breath-holding], it will be at the margins and is unlikely to be substantive. The reduction of the Co-Op building to a pocket hanky-sized ‘kiosk’; the exclusion of a boat wash facility; the removal of an outside entertainment area for the LAAC; the confusing imposition of a roundabout in what should be a one-way access/egress road; the loss of car-parking; the marked expansion of unnecessary open space and Indigenous gardens; the total obliteration of references to Lorne's local timber, fishing, and 19thC steamer tourism history and the opportunity for the LHS to showcase these ... lists but some of the insensitive outcomes these urban planners seek to impose.

Well, GORCAPA, while it is late in the game, this community is up for a fight. Don't think you can count on us being down and out just yet!

EDITORIAL *By Janet Goud*

Our web site is rather out of date. I looked at updating it and found this piece under the heading, The history of the Lorne Independent. I think Jo is with us in spirit in our fight for Point Grey.

The Lorne Independent hit the ground running on November 1, 2001.

Our editorial policy was simple – we aimed at independence just as our masthead said. No political direction, no bending the knee before anyone. We aimed at informing the people of Lorne (the Lorne Ward) on issues to our very best ability, often not an easy task considering our limited staff. We pointed out anomalies in Shire policies, we fumed and fussed and showed anger, we stirred the possum whenever we thought it most appropriate. We won two CNAV awards for stories in the same issue following the Great Ocean Road Coast Committee's decision to hand the development of our public pool to a private developer. Our aim now, as it was formulated back in 2001, is still to tell our readers what's what in Lorne without fear, prejudice or 'fake news'; we aim at getting it 'right' to the best of our abilities.

– Jo Vondra, founding editor

So updating where we are now with GORCAPA. They did come to town. Many were involved in their meetings

with the citizens of Lorne. Belatedly we had names and faces to address and express our frustration. It was not consultation. It was, however, something. An acknowledgment perhaps of our existence and their need to address us in this process. Not enough, but a beginning, perhaps. We need to keep up the pressure.

They presented their plans with overlays of research and envelopes of areas to become buildings. They indicated it was a draft but that not much could change!! They also have fed back to us quite accurate notes on what was said at each group meeting.

Here we really have something substantial, because across the diverse groups there was a huge amount of common agreement among the Lorne Community. Values around the honouring of the history of Lorne through its indigenous and European eras. The preserving of as much of the COOP as is possible or a similar simple building being erected in its place with space for the history to be recognised. Practical concerns for modern fishermen having car spaces, cleaning sites and boat washing facilities were common themes.

It remains to be seen what the survey shows, but I'm betting on a pretty tight adherence to these major ideas by our community. This shows our strength and unity. They have not divided us.

Let's stand firm to insist we are heard as the architectural designs appear.



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“HARD TO MOVE AN OLD TREE”

Or so they say. *By Sue Grant aka Lillian xxx*

This very old tree has transplanted itself to Bellbrae – to Kithbrooke Retirement Village – and is absolutely blooming!!

Maybe it is the excellent food which is ordered from the tasty menu the Village Chef Emma puts in my letterbox weekly (delivered on Wednesdays) or the excellent bar the Residents' Committee run in the Clubhouse every day from 4.00 (wine \$3 a glass and not a bad drop either) or just the joy of living on flat land. Locco and I walk all over the property, especially in the off-lead area, but venture into the adjoining Ocean Ridge estate which has beautiful bush walking paths and an oval.

Most afternoons we go into North Torquay (a five-minute drive) – past Aldi, Bunnings and Safeway – to the big footy ovals! At about 3 pm there are up to 25 dogs cavorting and getting rid of their energy as well as some delightful owners who swap names – so I am getting to know their names and not just the dogs' names. At 4.00 four big groups of small boys arrive and begin intense footy training. They have right of way over the dogs, so we all leave.

It is very handy being within spitting distance of the Surf Coast Shire Offices. A few weeks ago, two gates disappeared from the dog oval, and some naughty dogs see this as a reason to bolt! Everyone had a story – stolen was the most popular theory. I march straight to the SC Shire – which has a sign on the door – “dogs welcome” and ask, “Where are the gates from the dog park??” “Stolen” Really !!!!!– ses me “Yes – someone saw a white ute loading them up last week in the dark.

BULLshit methinks! And so, it was. An article in the good old Surfcoast Times reported that the Shire had removed them as they want the oval to be for footballers and not have dogs digging holes for players to stumble in! The nearest dedicated fenced dog park is in – BELMONT!!

The Point Grey debacle has nothing compared with the anger in the Torquay area over the gate removal! Some dog owners erected their own barriers at the gate nearest the busy road. But the latest goss is that the Shire will replace the one near the road – but we are not holding our collective breath.

In between all this excitement, I am still so bloody happy in my sunny little villa and am totally unable to take part in all the activities on offer. Today is a fashion parade, Monday was a ball room dancing exhibition with open dancing afterwards. Tai chi and such classes are on almost every day. I went to a gin tasting afternoon and adored it, and St Anne's put on a wine tasting arvo which I also enjoyed – falling for their Muscat which has not hit my pallet for about 55 years and was superb! The last time I tried it was around a campfire where I guzzled more than my fair share and conceived a gorgeous daughter later that night.

We won't go there.

Finally – I really miss all my Lorne mates and really appreciate the unique facility the Aquatic Club offers – especially on Friday nights - to catch up with lots of you. How lucky is Lorne to have such a wonderful meeting place.

With love

New Trails strategy to boost Great Ocean Road tourism

The Allan Labor Government is supporting the Great Ocean Road to become one of Australia's best nature based tourism destinations to boost eco-tourism, investment and support local jobs and business.

Minister for Environment Steve Dimopoulos today launched the Great Ocean Road Regional Trails Strategy 2025–35, a transformative plan to enhance the region's amazing network of trails.

Home to some of Victoria's most spectacular natural and cultural assets from the cascading waterfalls of the Otways to the rugged coastline of the Great Ocean Walk – attracting millions of visitors each year.

The new Strategy will support the local community and tourism business to encourage visitors to slow down, stay

longer, and connect more deeply with nature, culture and community across the region.

For the first time, the Strategy brings together Traditional Owners, local councils, state agencies, tourism bodies and community groups to deliver a shared vision for the future of trails along the Great Ocean Road.

The Strategy identifies 12 iconic trail networks—including the Surf Coast Walk, Forrest and Anglesea mountain bike networks, the Great Ocean Road Coastal Trail, and scenic rail trails like Camperdown to Timboon and Port Fairy to Warrnambool—offering something for everyone, from families and day-trippers to serious adventurers.

Currently, many visitors drive the Great Ocean Road in a day, spending little time and money in the region.

For more information and to read the strategy, visit greatoceanroadauthority.vic.gov.au.

THE 2025 UCI GRAN FONDO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS AND AMY'S GRAN FONDO

By David Worth

The 2025 UCI Gran Fondo World Championships will be held in the Great Ocean Road region of Victoria, Australia, from October 16-19, with Lorne serving as a major event hub for the time trial and road race. The team criterium will take place in Geelong. The event is expected to attract over 2,000 international and interstate participants. On the Sunday Lorne will again host the Amy's Gran Fondo.

UCI Gran Fondo World Championships is annual event, with the last two being held in Denmark and Scotland.

Key Details:

- **Location:** Great Ocean Road region (Lorne and Geelong), Victoria, Australia.
- **Dates:** Thursday, October 16 to Sunday, October 19, 2025.
- **Events:** Time Trial, Road Race (in Lorne), and Team Criterium (in Geelong).
- **Participants:** Over 2,000 international and interstate cyclists are expected.
- **Qualification:** Cyclists qualify by finishing in the top 25% of their age group in a UCI Gran Fondo World Series event. The 29 qualifying events have included races in Italy, Brazil, Spain, France, USA.
- **Amy's Gran Fondo:** The road race will be held on the same course and weekend as Amy's Great Ocean Road Gran Fondo. This event along with multiple options for riders has been held in Lorne for over 10 years. The organisers are aiming for 3,000 participants.
- **Event Village:** Lorne will host an Event Village along with many other functions at Lorne's local hospitality venues.
- **Summary:** Over these four days and those before and after there will be in excess of an additional 5,000 to 6,000 people in Lorne.

Auz Cycling and the Surf Coast Shire have made a presentation to the LBTA committee. Further updates are planned to ensure Lorne residents are well informed.

Their marketing material, some of which can be accessed online highlights our great town and other facilities in the region. This is a great opportunity to show case Lorne to an international audience.

Through the Lorne Independent and other social media further updates will be provided.

WHAT TOOK THIS BITE?





Keith Miller LACC
Commodore



Edited Highlights of June Commodore's Report

Club News

We've just had the wettest and windiest June long weekend we can ever remember and despite that we had 3 very busy nights. Thanks to Hutch who puts up the 3 marquees with the walls and heaters so everyone is dry and as warm as toast. On windy nights Hutch has to pull them all down after everyone leaves in case they get wind damage overnight as has happened in recent years. The big attendance was surprising for this time of year as a lot of our members are up North.

Our happy hours, seafood raffles, world's best and coldest beer and friendly reputation has become famous. It never ceases to amaze me the number of interstate and overseas visitors that already know about our club and its wonderful reputation.



Point Grey Update

Over the last few weeks, Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority (GORCAPA) has held information sessions with community groups and the public regarding the recently released draft Urban Design Framework (UDF) for the Point Grey precinct. A session with the Aquatic Club held on Wednesday 4th June, was very well attended with in excess of 120 members and supporters of the Club present. The representatives of GORCAPA certainly received strong community feedback and very little support for the UDF as it currently stands.

We now encourage all members and supporters of the Aquatic Club to complete the online survey on the draft UDF which is open until midnight on 22nd June and can be found at:

www.haveyoursay.greatoceanroadauthority.vic.gov.au/point-grey-redevelopment.

The main issues with the draft UDF that directly affect the Aquatic Club are as follows:

Boat wash: The draft UDF does not include a boat wash. The Club does not accept this, as the boat wash is an integral part of the Club and its activities. Reluctantly, we have conceded that the boat wash cannot remain in its current location due to safety issues related to traffic movements. The LAAC have indicated an alternative location to GORCAPA which they have referred to their traffic engineers.

LAAC Clubhouse: The internal clubhouse size has been confirmed as 235 m² and we believe this is adequate internal space. We have insisted that a fish cleaning area be included with the building. There is no reference to this in the draft UDF.

GORCAPA have indicated that we will be granted a lease only for the internal area. They have indicated that we will not be granted a lease but only a non-exclusive licence/permit over a yet to be defined external area. With any external area provided under a licence, we have been informed no fencing will be allowed. LAAC wants the external area to be included in the draft UDF and importantly, included as part of our lease, which means fencing would be permissible. The ability to fence the area is crucial for meeting our liquor licensing requirements and ensuring safety. We have proposed that the external area should be at least as big as our existing external space (including decking and the Lazarus Lounge).

Parking: While car parking numbers are not specified in the draft UDF, it has been indicated to us that it is planned to have less than 30 in the lower section of the precinct, compared to the current 60+ usable spaces. This is nonsensical given the key purpose of the redevelopment is to increase visitation to the precinct. In addition, the location of the planned roundabout is restrictive of parking and the proposed LAAC clubhouse location.

Plaza: The proposed plaza on the lower-level section of the precinct is too large and takes away valuable and necessary parking space. Also, the location of the proposed plaza is exposed to severe weather for much of the year and is not conducive to casual activity. The sacrifice of parking spaces for unusable open space is unacceptable. There is adequate open space in the remainder of the precinct. The pier is the plaza, we don't need another one!

Continued page 29

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Other Issues: The proposed location of the public toilets in the lower section of the precinct is taking up valuable parking space. If the public toilets need to be moved from their current location they should remain in the mid-level section of the precinct, where they are more accessible to the majority of visitors to the precinct.

In addition to the above issues, there is insufficient acknowledgement in the UDF of Lorne's timber/fishing/tourism heritage and the important place that the historical Co-op building holds in the memories and hearts of locals and visitors alike.

This is an important next step in the Point Grey redevelopment and the Committee of the Aquatic Club encourages everyone with an interest in this unique site to consider and contribute to the discussion. While your initial reaction may be 'Not another survey!', your Club's Committee strongly urges you to complete the survey, as your responses will shape the future of the Point Grey Precinct and the Aquatic Club. Complete the survey at www.haveyoursay.greatoceanroadauthority.vic.gov.au/point-grey-redevelopment.

If you have any trouble completing the survey, please speak to a Committee member when you are next at the Club or email info@lorneaquaticclub.com.au and we will contact you. We thank you for making a valuable contribution to the future of our club.

John Higgins
LAAC Treasurer

Recent Events:

Donation to Lorne SES:

We recently donated a large amount to the Lorne SES to purchase new equipment. We regard the SES along with the CFA as one of the most worthy services there is.

Major Fishing Comp Number Four

Sponsored By Tom Dawson Lorne Concreting

The weather was horrendous with a 30 knot Southerly and about 30mm of rain and yet we had 15 of our legendary stalwarts battle the elements out on the Pier and weigh in 10 fish. An amazing effort. As is the tradition we fed everyone with a beautiful beef roast.

We decided to try something different, so we made roast beef, gravy and coleslaw rolls and everyone loved them, they were sensational. We will make them a regular thing from now on. Thanks to Clive for carving the meat with aplomb. Our well-known local sponsor Tom Dawson presented the prizes so a thank you to Tom.

Junior Winner, Jack Hunter with a big Trevally, 2975 point, Junior Second, Charlie Hunter with a Salmon, 1995 points, Junior Third, Angus Hunter with a Salmon, 1770 points

Senior Winner Andrew Clarke with a big Salmon, 3490 points. Senior Second, Alison Arundell with a Salmon, 2165 points, Senior Third, Steve Arundell also with a Salmon, 2071 points

World Sausage Roll Championship

As is our tradition we held this on the Sunday evening of King Chuck's Birthday Long Weekend. It was a very cold and wet night but we had a full house and a record number of entries. A huge thank you to all the competitors who very generously brought along heaps of extra sausage rolls so everyone there got a lovely free feed.

A special thank you to our Vice Commodore Ric Addison who cooked 200 sausage rolls and kept the pie warmers going flat out to warm up all the extras. Ric tells me that there were about 1,000 sausage rolls devoured on the night. An extra special thank you to our three judges, Elizabeth Puntton, Jason Coffee Boy Betheras and our local Cheese Maker Ray Sutton.

The poor buggers had to taste a record amount of sausage rolls. I'm guessing they won't be eating any for quite a while. Also, a thank you to Tom Curran who did a great job as MC for the night and also presented the prizes to the winners.



The 2025 World Sausage Roll Champion Tony Speer.

Tony told me that it was the first time he had ever cooked a sausage roll. Amazing.

Winner of the Biggest Sausage Roll: Billy Bowden. It was the size of Ayres Rock easily biggest we've ever seen.

Winner of the Smallest, Ed The Machine Fry. He is our champion

sausage and sausage roll eater. It was a miracle he didn't eat his entry on his way to the club.

Winner of the funniest shape Anna Hume. It was a replica of our Courtesy Bus and it was a ripper.

Great Ocean Road Half Marathon

Our famous mother and daughter staff members Nichole and Cody ran the half marathon together with an impressive time and they ran together the whole way.

I was expecting one of them to make a break at the end for bragging rights but they surprised me and ran over the line together. Great stuff.

Continued page 30

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Pelican at the Channel

We recently had a visitor at our boat launching channel and I asked a few of our senior citizens if they had ever seen a Pelican in Lorne before and none of them had.



This might explain why my Troopy now has a white roof.

Lots of Whales



We have been out on the club boat a lot over the last few days and have seen a lot of whales. They have all been Humpbacks so far but the Southern Right whales won't be far away. We've had a couple of experiences where they began breaching quite close to us and both times they swam over to us and went straight under the boat only about 2 metres below the surface. One

of them rolled over onto its side to get a better look and mustn't have liked the look of us because it left in a hurry.

Chest Freezer

Our old chest freezer passed away recently so if anyone out there has one they don't want please let us know. It must be a chest freezer and not an upright.

Wooden Sailing Boat Deadwood Knee

The Lorne Historical Society have had this on display in their 'Fishy Tales' exhibition inside the old CoOp but now have no room anywhere to display it so they have lent it to us and we are now displaying it in Griffos Garden which is our garden area on the right near our entry gate.



Upcoming Events

Winter Cup Fishing Competition Number Two Sponsored By Gary Keane - Brick, Block & Scaffolding:

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

Boat

The fishing over the last month has been as good as I can remember and the calm seas have made it even better. The variety of species has been incredible. The water temperature is nearly back to normal at 15 degrees, but this hasn't affected the fishing in the slightest. There's been a few Kingfish caught which is amazing for this time of year. They are normally a summertime fish. There has also been a lot of Big Blue Morwong (Queen Snapper), Gummy and School Sharks, Snapper, Nannygai, Swallowtail and Tuna. There's also been a lot of huge King George Whiting caught when targeting snapper on 4/0 hooks and using salted pilchards which is unusual.



Pier

The pier is still producing good numbers of Salmon, Trevally, Mullet, and calamari.

Local gun angler

TilpnDeBon took his new boat out recently with a couple of mates and caught this huge 162 Tuna.

THE BEAT GOES ON

By Chris Jones

Taking Time Out to Recognise Service

It is essential to take the time to recognise the service rendered by our volunteers to VICSES, Lorne, and the surrounding communities over lengthy periods and significant storm events.

At an evening function on the 17th of June, Lorne Unit celebrated Dave McKenzie receiving the National Medal - 15 Year Long Service Award for Diligent Service. Dave has been with the unit for 22 Years.

Also awarded were VICSES 2021 Storm Pins and 2022 - 2023 Flood Pins. Congratulations to our amazing volunteers: Paul Bloink, Kevin Diviny, Tony Elder, Pakitu Henry, Chris Jones, David McKenzie, Adrian Sleep, Diane Solomon, James Staley, Paul Staley, Vinnie Vallesi and Phil Walsh Thank you to Nicholas Cowham, Assistant Chief Officer (ACO) Western Region Emergency Management and Community Engagement for joining us to make our award winners feel recognised and rewarded. Also thank you to the crew at the Lorne Hotel. Party over back to work, volunteering SES Lorne style.

Operational Tempo Reporting FY 2024/2025.

Request for Assistance (RFA) numbers for the past five financial years are as follows:

FY 2024/2025 – 88 Incidents

FY 2023/2024 – 67 Incidents

FY 2022/2023 – 74 Incidents

FY 2021/2022 – 87 Incidents

FY 2020/2021 – 118 Incidents

FY 2019/2020 – 56 Incidents

In the 2024/2025 Financial Year

Requests for Assistance Breakdown by Type

Tree down	58	65.9%
Assist Ambulance	11	12.5%
Road Rescue	8	9.0%
Landslide Hazards	3	3.4%
Rescue High Angle	4	4.5%
Assist Police	2	2.2%
Flood Entering Premises	1	1.1%
Animal Incident	1	1.1%
	88	

12 Request for Assistance by Location:

Lorne	55	63%
Wye River	6	7%
Kennett River	5	6%
Separation Creek	4	5%

Eastern View	3	3%
Benwerrin	3	3%
Skenes Creek	3	3%
Big Hill	2	3%
Fairhaven	2	2%
Deans Marsh	1	1%
Airies Inlet	1	1%
Bambra	1	1%
Barwon Downs	1	1%
Tanybryn	1	1%
	88	

The total duration of time spent at Requests for Assistance is 4 days and 16 minutes, with an average of 1 hour and 16 minutes per Request for Assistance. This equates to 393 person-hours of effort. As the primary unit responding to the Request for Assistance, 379 person-hours were spent, and in support of other units/agencies 14 hours.

We have seventeen members in our unit, three of whom are dual members with another unit, such as Hobsons Bay, Torquay, and Whitehorse. As such, these members attend similar requests for assistance and undertake multi-day land searches for missing persons, as well as being deployed interstate for flood and storm responses.

This financial year, apart from skills maintenance at the Lorne unit, members have been acquiring new competencies, including Australian Iner-Service Incident Management System (AIIMS) Awareness, Chainsaw Operations, Crew Leading, Crew Member Level 2, Emergency Vehicle Response Driving, Managing Traffic at an Emergency Scene or Operation, Road Crash Rescue, Undertake Land Search and Rescue and Unit Duty Officer. Some members also completed Fit for Role Assessments. The Minimum Fitness for Role program is a national initiative that establishes the minimum physical fitness standards necessary to undertake essential SES tasks safely and subsequently conducts physical fitness assessments to ensure that SES members meet the required minimum levels of physical fitness for those roles.

Chris Jones

Unit Controller – Lorne Unit

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COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY RESULTS ARE IN

Surf Coast Shire Council has received its results from the 2025 Victorian Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey. Based on this year's responses, Council continues to rate higher than the statewide average and ahead of similar large rural councils in perceptions of overall performance and across almost all measures.

Council's overall performance score of 57 is the same as 2024, ranking ahead of the average rating of 50 for the large rural councils group, and 53 for all Victorian councils. Waste management and customer service both received index scores of 70, rating as Council's highest performing individual areas – both well ahead of the state and group averages.

Surf Coast Shire also rated higher than the statewide and large rural council averages in the categories of overall direction, consultation and engagement, value for money, and community decisions. Maintenance of unsealed roads (score of 46) and sealed roads (52) were rated higher than the averages for other council groups, however both rated lower than Surf Coast Shire's 2024 results. The annual survey is commissioned by the Victorian Government, with all local governments in the state able to participate. Independent phone surveys of 600 resident and non-resident Surf Coast Shire ratepayers were conducted earlier this year, with responses collated and analysed by JWS Research. Australian-based call centre National Field Services made 18,388 calls to achieve the statistically valid sample of respondents.

Councillor Tony Phelps said the survey helps Council track its progress to determine areas for focus and improvement.

"Thank you to the community members who gave their time to complete the survey," Cr Phelps said. "We aim to be a high performing Council, and this is a good way to get a snapshot of how our ratepayers think we're going."

"The responses suggest our performance is well ahead of the average Victorian council, but there's room to improve and we're still striving to get better. "While it gives us good insight, it's important to note that this survey is one of several ways we evaluate our performance to decide our priority focus areas." The full results are available to the community on the Council website.

COUNCILLOR COLUMN

By Deputy Mayor, Cr Libby Stapleton (Otway Range Ward)

The June meeting saw some big-ticket items finalised and endorsed by Council, including the 2025-26 Budget, the draft Council Plan and the draft Road Management Plan 2025-2029.

Building a budget in the current economic climate is no easy feat. It's been a thorough and rigorous process over the past seven months, which has been fair and well considered, and supports a sustainable long-term future for the Surf Coast Shire.

The bulk of the budget – close to \$90 million – is allocated to essential core services of Council, such as buildings and infrastructure like bridges, drainage, roads, footpaths, parks, open spaces and landfill, as well as asset maintenance, waste management and resource recovery, early years services and community safety.

These are the day-to-day things that help our community to thrive.

There are also allocations for environmental protection; arts and the creative economy; children and families; and to support tourism and economic development, amongst other things.

It was great to receive positive feedback recently from the Committee for Lorne on the improvements to landscaping at Stribling Reserve, which creates a much more welcoming entry into the pavilion. There is also an allocation in the budget for fencing renewal.

The Lorne Transfer Station is earmarked for an upgrade, and I look forward to participating in upcoming meetings in Lorne to discuss potential local solutions for the affordable housing crisis.

A key focus of this year's budget is a rate freeze for our farmers, who have been impacted by the ongoing drought.

Council also acknowledged that the drought has flow-on impacts to other businesses in the shire, and as such voted

to also reduce the rating differential for commercial and industrial ratepayers, to assist them in the short-term.

We have been advocating strongly for the state government to abolish or amend the Emergency Services Volunteer Fund, which we know will have an impact on all in our community.

Despite numerous financial challenges, I am pleased to note that the budget forecasts an operating result of \$2.1 million. This result (our Unallocated Cash Surplus) is critical in setting up Council for a sustainable long-term future, and being able to fund projects, renewals and essential services for our community over the next 10 years.

Anyone struggling to pay their rates should contact Council to discuss our Hardship Policy.

To Have Your Say on the draft Council Plan, the draft Road Management Plan, or any other Council projects currently open for feedback, please go to yoursay.surfcoast.vic.gov.au and join the conversation.



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LORNE P-12 COLLEGE

*Inspiring Excellence
by the Sea!*

This month has seen a hive of activity, with students focusing on engagement with the wonderful community we live in. From the Primary students celebrating Reconciliation Week to the plans by our Senior Vocational Major students, to reinstate the School Avenue of Honour, we are so proud of the connections our College has with the people of Lorne and beyond.



LEST WE FORGET... Restoring Our Past

Lorne P-12 College students are breathing new life into a long-lost piece of local history by participating in a community project to rebuild Lorne's Avenue of Honour which originally commemorated 32 former students who served and died in World War I.

The original Avenue of red flowering gums (*Corymbia ficifolia*), was planted by locals after World War 1 on the "library paddock," in what is now known as Stribling Reserve. Each student who served was honoured with a brass plaque placed at the base of the trees. The avenue was removed the development of the oval at Stribling Reserve oval during the 1950s.

Earlier this year, long-time residents who still remember the families of the serving students approached the school to help restore this significant memorial. After thoughtful discussion and research, students and community members agreed on a fitting new site: the Smith Street nature strip, in clear view of the school's original bluestone building where many of the soldiers once studied.

The project is being led by VCE Vocational Major students as part of an integrated applied learning program. Working in partnership with local residents and the Surf Coast Shire Council, students are researching the original Avenue's history, designing a new memorial gathering space, selecting suitable *Corymbia* cultivars and complementary plantings, and recreating commemorative plaques for each of the former students.

This special project is not only a way to honour those who served, but also a valuable learning experience for our students. By working together and taking on real responsibilities, they're building leadership and teamwork skills—while helping to keep the legacy of Lorne's fallen soldiers alive for future generations.

Celebrating Reconciliation Week

Recently our P-3 students were honoured to be welcomed to Country with a powerful smoking ceremony led by Richard and Pete Collopy.

The children participated with great respect-singing, dancing and embracing the opportunity to learn about and celebrate the rich culture of the Gadubanud people.

We are grateful to Richard and Pete for their dedication to preserving their culture and for sharing it so generously with our community.

*Photos taken with permission



SURF COAST HEROES ART PROJECT SEEKS NOMINATIONS FOR UNSUNG VOLUNTEERS

For a portrait exhibition and book to honour local champions

An empowering new community arts project is shining a light on unsung volunteers from the Surf Coast region. Surf Coast Heroes - the first project under the Heroes Journey banner - will honour individuals that the community nominates: individuals whose quiet dedication helps shape our towns, strengthen our communities and support those in need.

The project will culminate in a major public exhibition and a professionally printed keepsake coffee table book, featuring photographic portraits and personal stories of 20 or more local heroes of all ages and backgrounds from across the Surf Coast.

Entirely community-driven and not-for-profit, Surf Coast Heroes is run by volunteers and supported by donations. 100% of profits from book sales and fundraising will be reinvested into Surf Coast charities, grassroots organisations, and other local causes.

Now calling for nominations and supporters

The success of Surf Coast Heroes depends on the involvement of the community it celebrates.

The project is now seeking:

- nominations of exceptional local volunteers and change-makers (e.g. with sports groups, surf lifesaving, environment & wildlife helpers, community care champions)
- sponsors and in-kind supporters to help bring the exhibition and book to life
- volunteers with skills in marketing, media, and fundraising.

Whether you can introduce us to a deserving hero, connect us with potential sponsors, or help spread the word, your contribution helps preserve the legacy of all the invisible heroes' who uplift our communities.

"Volunteers are the silent swell beneath the surface of our community," says the project founder and photographer Brett Dorron.

"This project is about lifting them up - recognising and highlighting the contributions of these unsung heroes who give so much and expect nothing in return."

How to get involved

- Visit the website: heroesjourney.com.au
- Nominate a local hero online - sponsor - or volunteer
- Contact us at: heroesjourney.com.au/contact

Let's celebrate the people who give quietly, care deeply, and help make the Surf Coast stronger.

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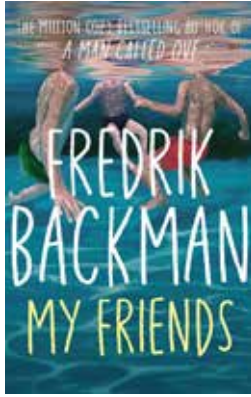


lorne books

Picks of the Month



FICTION: *My Friends* by Fredrik Backman



Most people don't even notice them—three tiny figures sitting at the end of a long pier in the corner of one of the most famous paintings in the world. Most people think it's just a depiction of a wide expanse of sea. But Louisa, soon to be eighteen years old and an aspiring artist herself, knows otherwise. She is determined to find out the story behind these three enigmatic figures.

Fredrik Backman's signature charm, humor, and attention to the poignant details of everyday life are on full display in this funny, moving novel. His most heartfelt and personal tale yet, *My Friends* is a stunning testament to the transformative, timeless power of art and friendship.

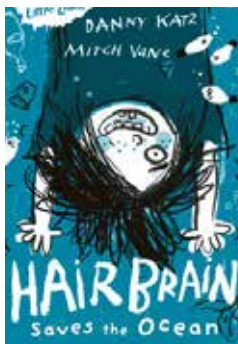
NON-FICTION: *One Day at a Time* by Jordan Ablett

In *One Day at a Time*, Jordan bravely shares how she struggled to come to terms with Levi's condition and the new, unexpected path her life had taken raising a child with a disability, while helping to care for her beloved mother as she lived through the final stages of cancer.

Raw and honest, this is a story of devastating grief and pain, but it is also the story of how, with the love and unwavering support of her family, and courage to go on and learned to celebrate every day with Levi as a blessing. It's about finding joy in what you have, even as you mourn what you have lost, and never taking life for granted.



CHILDREN'S FICTION: *Hairbrain Saves the Ocean* by Danny Katz & Mitch Vane



New junior fiction from the much loved creators of *Little Lunch* that will have young readers laughing out loud. Hairbrain has lots of ideas. Unfortunately, Hairbrain's ideas are a bit ... hairbrained. Even the good ones.

When the family goes on school holidays to the beach and end up with plastic rubbish all over them, genius Hairbrain comes up with a machine that can clean up the ocean. But first Hairbrain and little sister Zammy, who is filming the epic invention for posterity, have to get the machine to the beach – and there seem to be a few difficulties.

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