

LORNE

Independent

\$2

No 268 March 2024

Produced as an independent newsletter by Lorne Independent Inc.

OP SHOP RELOCATES FOR HISTORIC RENOVATION P11

Lorne Dolphins through to Grand Final P5

Plovers Fly Off P3

Lorne Independent Inc.

Published by Lorne Independent Inc.

No. A0041756Y

ABN: 54 724 981 550

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

A yearly electronic subscription \$30.

A yearly hard copy subscription mailed \$60.

A yearly electronic and mailed hard copy subscription for discounted \$75.

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IN THIS ISSUE

P3 Lorne Matters Plover Chicks / Electoral changes.

P5,6,7 Sportsbriefs, Lorne Bowls.

P9 School page

P11 Op Shop Buzz/ vet Liz To Neuter or not

P13 Deans Marsh Sheepdog Trials

P15 Letter to the Editor, J Agar

P 16, 17 Arts in Lorne

P19 Lorne Gardeners President's Report

P21 Butterflies in Veggies

P23 Lorne Kinder

P25 Genie of the Bush/ Historical Disasters Exhibition

P27 Louttit Loop

P29 SES Lorne Unit February

P30,31 Commodores Report

P35 Men of the Shed. Rod Smith

P37 Councillor Gary Allan

P38,39 Pier Life / Mould in Basketball Courts

P40 Lorne Books Events

UPCOMING MARKETS ON THE SURFCOAST

Aireys Inlet Market: Mar 10th,31st - 9AM-1PM**Anglesea Riverbank Market:** Mar 10th, 31st 9AM-4PM**Apollo Bay Community Market:** Every Sat 8.30AM-1.30PM**Apollo Bay Farmers Market:** Third Sunday of every
Month 9AM-1PM**Deans Marsh Market:** Mar 17th 10AM- 4 PM**Lorne Market:** Mar 30th 9AM-4PM**Torquay Farmers Market Every Saturday:** 8.30AM-1PM**Winchelsea Community Market:** First Sunday of every
Month 9AM -1PM

LORNE MATTERS

Chicks Ready to Go Flocking

When Anna Reynolds, Lorne's artist-in-residence, arrived at the beach in January to show off her hoodie chick children's costumes, they were delightful. But it felt like tempting fate. Ditto the front cover of the February Lorne Independent. It was risky. Between layout and publication, the chicks might have perished. Nonetheless, we got our fairytale. The milestone flight of 50m over water took place when the two hooded plover chicks were just over five weeks of age.

The chicks stayed with us for another two weeks after that, practising their long-distance flying. They then spent two nights away from Lorne and came back. Early in a season, parents may push the chicks out the door and breed a second time. But now, late in the season, hoodie chicks hang around longer before hoodies go "flocking." Pt Roadknight is a favourite flocking site, and observers are seeing hoodies there already in "good numbers." On the Lorne beach you may still see the juveniles, the parents and one or two other adults who have stopped by on their way to the party.

Soon GORCAPA, DEECA (Dept. Environment, Energy and Climate Action), the police, the Surf Coast Shire Rangers, Parks Victoria, and Birdlife Australia will meet to review the surf coast hoodie season. Lorne was the exception that may prove a gamechanger for this species' care. Because Lorne is highly populated (in summer) we got Victoria's first total no-dog-no-people zone enforceable by the police. Because we are a busy town (not a remote windblown site) Birdlife Australia secured an unprecedented number of volunteers to help explain and steward the zone. Michael Prideaux's and Coralee Thorsen's photos on the Lorne Facebook page enabled thousands of people to engage with the chicks' against-the-odds challenge, also prompting hoodie tourism to Lorne. And because more eyes were on these chicks, we learned more about them. A farmer and his wife, keen birders from Tatura, set up in the caravan park for ten days. He used a thermal imaging camera to record the birds feeding the waterline at 10pm at night.

GORCAPA constructed a scaled-down protection zone, after the chicks proved they could fly. It works well. Dogs are back on the beach (between 7pm and 9am). The owners of Frankie, Fred, Casper, Sultan, Bronte, Millie, Jack, and others steer their dogs past the zone or pop them on lead to reduce the chance of a last-minute lunge. New visitors are in awe. The real joy now comes from seeing the family out and about north and south of the main beach, feeding on the rock platforms and dodging white water. But underlying everything, the takeaway message is that the Lorne community was generous. We are generous. Thank you.

Penny Hawe

Note: Incidentally, as late as yesterday, we're discovering Lorne locals who think that all this fuss was being made for Masked Lapwings, also known as Spur Wing Plovers. That is wrong. Those birds are very common and don't need protection. Though you might, if they swoop you.

Electoral Structure Review



The long-awaited electoral structure review of Surf Coast Shire Council has been released. The review is part of a process implemented in 2022 by the State Government under the Local Government Act (LGA), to look at the structure of councils to ensure equitable representation of ratepayers and voters. The last such review occurred in 2012.

The review was conducted by an independent Electoral Representation Advisory Panel and considered the following issues:

- The number of councillors (noting this can be between 5 and 12)
- Whether the council should be divided into wards or have no wards.
- The number of wards and where their boundaries should be.
- The number of councillors to be elected for each ward.

The LGA requires electoral structures to provide fair and equitable representation and facilitate good governance. One important consideration is that each councillor represents an approximately equal number of voters, within a 10% range.

The reviewed structure is to apply to the October 2024 council elections.

Under the current electoral structure, Lorne is a separate ward with one councillor and has been well-served by its councillors, Clive Goldsworthy and Gary Allen. Their representation and advocacy have secured amazing facilities for Lorne and has allowed Lorne to have its voice heard on the issues that specifically affect our local community. Unfortunately, Lorne is not able to retain its special status as a one-councillor ward and the Panel has determined that a nine single-councillor ward structure would be unworkable under the principle of "one vote, one value", given rapid ongoing population growth.

The Panel found that a 3-ward structure would best represent the 3 distinct communities (urban, coastal and rural hinterland) in the foreseeable future. Each ward will have 3 councillors, thereby retaining the current number of councillors at 9. Under this structure, Lorne will be part of the Otway Range Ward which will also cover Anglesea, Aireys Inlet, Jan Juc and Deans Marsh.

So, what does this mean for Lorne and its future representation? It means that Lorne will no longer have a designated councillor but, as the Panel's report states, the new structure "could allow for a Lorne resident to be elected if a strong candidate from the town nominated and had enough community support".

John Higgins



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LORNE

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Uncover the beauty just a stroll away. Lorne Pier, a mere stone's throw, offers captivating seaside views, while the inviting Lorne Beach beckons at a leisurely distance.

www.greatoceanroadholidays.com.au

LORNE HOLIDAY RENTAL

From the team at
Great Ocean Road Real Estate

SPORTSBRIEFS

By John Ford

Lorne Cricket

Breaking News: Lorne is in the Grand Final! Defeated Tomahawk Creek

Lorne 172, 7 wickets. Tomahawk Creek all out for 144.



Lorne's cricket team has had an impressive return to form since their defeat at home in the day/night match on the Australia Day weekend. Lorne has in fact won the last three matches of the home and away season to now go into the finals series beginning which began on 24th February.

On 3rd February Lorne was much too good for West Warrion who were bowled out for just 79 runs in reply to Lorne's 5 for 205. Ed Erftmeyer, Ryan Heathcote and Josh O'Brien were the outstanding batsmen for Lorne, with the bowling honours being evenly shared with six Lorne bowlers taking wickets.

On 10th February Lorne played Forrest in a match that had to be relocated to Apollo Bay. Forrest was bowled out for 91, with Lorne's bowlers impressive – Ed Erftmeyer, 3 wickets and Jack Belsar-O'Connor and Peter Bracken two wickets apiece. Lorne's batsmen cruised past Forrest's score for the loss of just 5 wickets.

In the last home and away match of the season Lorne won the toss and batted against Simpson. Lorne lost two of its best batsmen early with Ed Erftmeyer and Ryan Heathcote back in the pavilion with the total being just 27 runs. Spectators were wondering just how Lorne was going to score a competitive total. The innings was rescued by Conan Roos (40), Matt Cash (26) and Will Seymour (45), to post a good innings total of 7 for 210. Lorne's bowlers took charge early in Simpson's innings with Louis Coates and Conan Roos taking two quick wickets each to leave the visitors struggling and way behind the required run rate. Simpson managed 8 for 112 of their 40 overs, with Conan Roos finishing with very impressive figures of 3 wickets for 5 runs off 8 overs.

Lorne has finished second on the ladder behind Tomahawk Creek, with Carlisle River and Forrest making up third and fourth places. So now Lorne will meet Tomahawk Creek in the semi final where the winner goes straight through to the

Grand Final. The loser will go into the Preliminary Final playing the winner of Carlisle River and Forrest. Lorne has a good spread of bowlers and batsmen in good form and so should acquit themselves well, although their opponents are a very good team.

Surf Boat Competition in Lorne

On Thursday 15th February to Sunday 18th, Lorne Surf Lifesaving Club hosted rowing teams from all six Australian States and New Zealand. The competition saw more than eighty boats and crews representing the Australian Surf Rowers League, and all had come to Lorne for this great event. The League promotes the development and continued advancement of the national competition at various levels from grassroots through to elite.



The titles were first held in 1908 in Manly NSW. The surfboats were important in surf rescue when a swimmer was in trouble too far out to sea to be reached by the traditional lifesaver attached to a belt and reel. These rescues are today much more likely to be conducted by powered inflatable rescue boats, 'rubber duckies', but not all clubs have these boats. The tradition of the rowing competition continues and is a truly mixed sport with many females and junior athletes competing, realizing that technique and biodynamics are as important as outright strength.

Lorne competes in Victorian carnivals and involves Nippers, Juniors, Open and Masters age groups and the club regularly wins awards. The conditions in Lorne could not have been better across all four days with warm sunny conditions proving good waves on Thursday and Friday, but with the sea levelling out on the Saturday and Sunday.

Most of the heats were very close and the overall competition provided some nail-biting results. On the Saturday a composite Australian team also rowed against a New Zealand team. The four day competition saw the aggregate Open Event being won by the Queensland Cyclones on a countback from NSW – both having scored 111 points. Lorne scored well with their Reserve Female Team winning their event in the boat named 'Prawns'. The photographs show Lorne and Jan Juc teams in action – photos (Lorne) thanks to Andy Berry and (Jan Juc) thanks to Sally Dale. Sportbriefs is also indebted to Lorne Surf Lifesaving Club's Mali Romanis for her assistance in research for this article.

The event was managed extremely well and provided a huge benefit to most traders and accommodation operators in the town.

Continued page 6

From page 5

Even though a considerable length of foreshore and beach were taken up by competitors there was still ample space for other beachgoers – and the hooded plover hatchlings were not endangered. Well done to all involved in this event!

Lorne Country Club Tennis

Over the summer Lorne Country Club held three important tennis events: Club Championships, Doubles Round Robin Tournament and the Australia Day Tournament. Tennis Captain Kevin Diviny organized these events and has supplied the following results and photographs.



The Mens Singles Champion was Josh Frydenberg who defeated last year's champion Matthew Hayward 6-0, 6-0. The Womens Champion this year is Steph Fry who defeated Sue Cox 6-2, 6-4. Steph was also the 2023 Champion.

The Doubles Round Robin Tournament was held over three rounds and the Womens Winners were Steph Fry, from Jillian

Chapman and Sue Cox. Male Winners were Simon Lindsay from Stephen Gorenstein and Matthew Hayward.

The Australia Day Mixed Doubles Tournament saw Sue Cox and Dorothy Kelleher-Dixon tie for first place, while Mike Canny was the Male Winner ahead of Ben Ellinghaus.

Women's Golf

Over our January summer here in Lorne, our beautiful golf course was green and lush and playing beautifully after the cool and wet/humid lead in to Christmas, and thanks to the great work of our Greenkeeper and volunteers who prepared the course for the summer golfers. The Lorne Country Club ran the annual Summer Classic competition over the January period. We had just over 50 participants, where competitors played as many nine hole rounds as they wanted and then submitted their best 3 rounds by January 25th. The women's A grade winner was Carol Tutungi, and Women's B grade was Bronwyn Halpin. (There were Men's winner's also.) The perennial Jackets were passed on to the new winners - to be brought out of the wardrobe again at next years comp, although the Lame jacket did not make an appearance this year and seems to have found a permanent home!??

Our official start to the year was on January 30th with 20 women joining in to play a nice social nine holes - playing Greensomes format where you team up with a mate which is always a lot of fun - then followed by lunch and a good catch up.

On the hot and windy Tuesday Feb 13th, 19 brave women played the first round of our Summer Cup. Over 3 weeks of February we play 3 rounds (either 18 or 9 holes) of Stableford in week one, Par in week 2, and then Stroke for the 3rd round. We teed off early to try and beat the heat, but we had it all that day - heat, wind and rain! It was a tough start to the comp - 2 more rounds to go!

So far, a couple of teams have already ventured to competitions around our region: we have had teams play at The Sands and also at Barwon Heads - both long and challenging courses with lots of bunkers. No wins as yet - but our teams played well and had some great individual results.

We are a friendly group of women, at all different levels of golf skill and experience, and we love to welcome new members/golfers to our group. If you are interested in joining our group this year, whether new to golf or with some Golfing experience, or if you have any questions, please call Sue Neill on 0418 674 062, or Chris Angus on 0439 008 167.

Happy Golfing - Danni De Bon.

From the Green of the Lorne Bowls Club

Don Baldwin

The Lorne Bowls Club annual Stribling day was held on the 7th of Jan. 2024 and was well attended by over 40 bowlers. The winning team was from Winchelsea of Peter McConachy, Ian Holmes and Rob Walter, who also won in 2023, making it back-to-back wins.



We were fortunate to have Stewart Stribling, Stephen Sprague and David and Marnie Stribling representing the Stribling family.

Saturday the 3rd of February was a very historic day for Lorne Bowls Club. Sheryl Donne was selected as the club's first female skipper of a Lorne Bowls Club Division 1 team. Congratulations to Sheryl, a well-deserved promotion. Her team of Donna Issell, Karen Turner, and Peter Jacobs had a resounding victory 27 shots to overpower their Simpson opponents by 16 shots. Unfortunately, the whole team went down by the barest of margins.

As Peter Steven rightfully reminded us in the team huddle before the game, we should all be very proud of our club. All players are welcomed and valued, selection is on merit, not gender or favouritism. Over the last few years in Weekend Pennant, women have started playing in Division 3 and 4, skipping in Division 3 and 4, playing in Division 1 and now skipping in Division 1. **Continued page 7**

From page 6



The team from left to right Donna Issell, Karen Turner, Peter Jacobs and Sheryl Donne.

Our Midweek Division 2 side lost the Preliminary Final against Colac Lake yesterday. It was a very exciting and tight game. Thank you to the supporters who came to cheer us on. We appreciated your efforts. Midweek has had a very successful and enjoyable season. Special thanks to the selectors Heather and Lizzie and their helpers Donna and Sheryl. Heather as usual has been the backbone and heart of the team, as Team manager, general organiser and hard worker. Our opposition yesterday commented that we were the most vocal team they have played.

Sheryl, sets the example, standing commandingly on the green each week, encouraging all players across the rinks. It is a pleasure to play in such a team.

Working Bee

We need a working bee to do some gardening and general tidying. We would like to see you all, Sunday 3 March at 10 am.

Twilight Bowls

All players welcome. Just a bit of fun. We are running twilight bowls each Thursday in March. Starting 5pm, playing 2 bowl triples. One game of 11 ends.

Please sign up on the sheet on the noticeboard or email me. Either as a team or as an individual sign up before 5 pm the Wednesday before.

Congratulations

Karen Heathcote and Caitlin McCombe played in the Corangamite Playing Area Novice competition on Sunday. They both won one game. A great effort.

Coming Dates

- 21 Up continuing. Sign up for 100 UP on board.
- 25 Feb. Green closed noon to 5 pm for function.
- 3 March Sunday Working Bee 10 am.
- 7 March Thursday. start of twilight bowls.
- 27 March Wednesday Cup Cake Bowls Club v Aquatic Club.
- 4 April Thursday Presentation Night.

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

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 **You're invited: March Council meeting in Deans Marsh**



Surf Coast Shire Council will hold its March Council meeting at the Deans Marsh Community Hall on Tuesday 26 March at 6pm. Community members are invited to attend the meeting at the hall, located 10 Pennyroyal Valley Road.

The venue will be open from 5.30pm for an opportunity to chat with Councillors. Tea, coffee and light refreshments will be provided.

An agenda will be published online at surfcoast.vic.gov.au/CouncilMeetings on the Thursday prior to the meeting.

 You can view the meeting via live streaming, which has captions, at <https://webcast.surfcoast.vic.gov.au>.

Live stream issues may arise at this venue. People will be able to access a recording of the meeting on our website the following day. The recording has captions and a transcript available.



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LORNE P-12 COLLEGE

Hi Everyone,
We are delighted to share with you what is happening at our amazing school!

What a start to 2024!

We are very excited for the new school year ahead. As we begin another chapter at Lorne P-12 College, we extended a warm welcome to both new and returning students and families. It is wonderful to see the school bustling with energy and enthusiasm as everyone settles into their routines and reconnects with friends and teachers.

Smooth Start

We're delighted to report that the start of the school year was incredibly smooth. Our prep students have embraced their first experiences of school life with curiosity and joy, while our year 7 students have quickly adapted to the new challenges of high school.

Exciting Events

Already, we've had several amazing events and activities, including our annual Swimming Sports and Athletics carnivals, which showcased the incredible talent and sportsmanship of our students. We've also had successful interschool sports competitions and engaging STEM excursions, providing our students with valuable learning experiences outside the classroom.

Looking Ahead

As we look ahead to the rest of the school year, we're really looking forward to the opportunities and experiences that await our students. Our dedicated staff are committed to providing a supportive and stimulating learning environment where every student can thrive and achieve their full potential.

Parent and Community Engagement

We value the partnership between school, home, and the wider community. We encourage parents, guardians to get involved in school life, whether it's through volunteering, attending school events, or engaging in parent-teacher meetings. Your involvement plays a crucial role in our students' success. We are also keen to get our local community involved – please consider being a volunteer at the school in 2024!

Stay Connected

To stay updated with the latest news and events at Lorne P-12 College please ensure you follow us on our Facebook feeds and Instagram. We're looking forward to a fantastic school year ahead!

Volunteers Needed!

Join Our School Community

As we embark on another exciting school year at Lorne P-12 College, we are reaching out to our wonderful community for your support. We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to join us in various capacities, contributing to the vibrant and nurturing environment that makes our school special.

How You Can Help

Classroom Support: Assist teachers with activities, reading, and projects in the classroom.

Library Helpers: Organize books, assist students, and promote a love for reading.

Sports and Events: Support our sporting events, carnivals, and extracurricular activities.

Gardening and Maintenance: Help maintain our school grounds and gardens.

Fundraising and Events: Assist with organizing and running fundraising events and school functions.

Special Skills: Do you have a special skill or hobby you'd like to share? Let us know how you can contribute!

Why Volunteer?

Make a Difference: Your time and effort directly benefit our students and school community.

Build Relationships: Forge connections with students, staff, and other volunteers.

Enhance Skills: Develop new skills and gain valuable experience.

Be Part of Something Special: Join a community that values education and the well-being of our children.

Get Involved!

If you're interested in volunteering, please contact the school office on **52 891585** for more information. We welcome volunteers of all backgrounds and experiences, and we appreciate any amount of time you can give.

Together, we can make a difference in the lives of our students.

Thank you for your ongoing support!

Email: lorne.p12.co@education.vic.gov.au

Phone: (03) 52 891585

Website: www.lornep12.vic.edu.au

THE WHAT DAY IS IT BIT

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VICTORIA EVERY BIT
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OP SHOP BUZZ *By John Ford*

The history of the Lorne Op Shop shows that the shop operated in various locations: under the Hospital, under the then Cumberland, and at one point used the State Savings bank premises, before the members were able to purchase land and build the shop as we know it.

In recent weeks members of the Lorne Community Opportunity Shop have been preparing for another move, while renovations take place, this time to 6 Mountjoy Parade. As mentioned in the February edition of Op Shop Buzz, Robert Crossland has generously offered the use of the premises where the restaurant 'Saporitalia' had previously operated. The shop will officially move after the Labour Day long weekend in March.

Our volunteers have been working tirelessly at readying this temporary location, while still maintaining the existing shop. The temporary space will be very good, but as you can imagine the



working areas of an Op Shop are very different to the specialised areas of a restaurant. We have a blank canvas (see photo) in which to set the temporary Lorne Op Shop. How exciting!!!!

Sometimes we get a donated item that we simply cannot identify. In days gone by we'd put a sign on the item "what is this? If you can tell us, you can have it" Now we can use 'lens'. Just take a photo and the magic of modern technology will identify the object. We used this to work out that a rectangular framed mesh 'box' was actually a grass catcher for a hand/push mower! Another was a plastic 'mystery' item that turned out to be a fancy vegetable peeler like a mandolin. The app not only identifies items but gives a guide as to their availability and price. Most donations though can be checked, priced and on the shelf on the same day.

The shop will remain open in its current location until 11th March, close from 12th March and reopen at 6a Mountjoy Parade, near the Erskine River from 16th March. The shop is still taking donations of good, clean quality items – but only during working hours. Thanks for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you down by the riverside!

“TO NEUTER OR NOT TO NEUTER,” THAT IS THE QUESTION OR IS IT? *By Liz Brown (local Vet)*

In the old days once our pets reached 6 months of age they were unceremoniously dragged down to the local veterinary clinic, without their breakfast on board, at 9am and picked up that evening still a bit groggy.

If they were female, they appeared to have been unzipped from nape to navel and shaved like a poodle. These days we have been given a whole lot of options and nothing is simple anymore. For while veterinary clinics were offering pain relief, sedatives and fluid therapy as added extras. In reality most veterinary clinics would do all the above routinely and the offers were just some seams to give the owners the idea they were in control. Now you have the option of what surgery or alternative you would prefer, how you would like it performed and at what age you would like your pet to have reached prior to your chosen procedure.

Where to begin? For males, castration can be surgical, whereby the testicles are completely removed. A vasectomy could be another option. In that case just a segment of the vas deferens is removed so the male is rendered infertile but nothing else changes. A third option is an implant under the skin that lasts 6-12 months and reduces the amount of testosterone produced by the body so all male characteristics dependent on testosterone are affected. This can be expensive over sequential implants.

Females are in a similar boat. There are pills and injections which can prevent their ovaries from producing follicles, but these can make them susceptible to a possibly fatal condition known as a pyometra. In this condition the uterus fills up with sterile pus which, if the cervix is closed, keeps filling up till it bursts inside. They can have milder forms of this condition which

cause a low grade chronic unwellness. Surgery can either be an ovariectomy or just a hysterectomy. That means the ovaries can be taken out of left in. They will still come into season, their vulvas will swell followed by a bloody discharge for a couple of weeks, if the ovaries are left inside. Now there is the added option of laparoscopic surgery in some clinics.

The last, and possibly most important, questions are why and at what age should our pets be neutered. Dogs with undesirable character traits such as dominant aggression need to be neutered earlier rather than later if the procedure is going to be effective as a treatment. Neutered dogs tend to be more compliant and unwanted pregnancies can be avoided. Council registration fees are lower for neutered pets. However, the gonads have been found to be instrumental in ensuring the body grows to its full potential, particularly the ligament, bone and muscle development. We all know how expensive cruciate ligament surgery has become and urinary incontinence in the aging pet can be an issue that no one wants to deal with! This is less of a problem in small dogs but our larger dogs, such as the great dane, ideally need their gonads until they're about 3 years of age. The sterilisation surgery at that age can be more complicated, with a greater potential for blood loss and longer post anaesthetic recovery time.

What is the correct answer? There isn't one but there isn't a wrong answer either. The younger animals tend to recover from surgery and anaesthesia faster. The first season, in females, is often silent so they could experience it without anyone else realising it was happening. Currently the recommendations are for cats to be neutered at 5-6 months, small dogs to be neutered at 6-9 months, middle sized dogs at around 15 months and large dogs at 2-3 years but ultimately the choice is yours.

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SHEEP DOG TRIALS DEANS MARSH *By Georgie Thompson*

Along with my father, I attended the sheep dog trials on both Saturday and Sunday. Thus, we were able to absorb the disciplined animals with their laconic owners in all their glory.

Before I proceed on my findings, I will freely admit I am a city dweller. My parents spend most weekends in Lorne, and I accompany them with our two dogs for coffee at The Lorne Aquatic and Angling Club and personal reflections at Rosie's seat. We own a Labrador named Jared and a Cavoodle named Scout. Yes, I am amongst the "oodle moniker" mentioned in your recent issue. Our dogs have carefully considered matching collar and leads. This was certainly at odds with most competitors who were led by owners with what could only be seen as useless or found bit of string or plastic.

For us city dwellers, naming our dog is quietly serious business. It must conjure something of a fashionable or clever wink in the response of others. Farmers have no time for such facile issues. Ultimately, we reek of affectation whether we admit it freely or not. Competitors were given names such as Pup, Lad or Roo. When talking to the judges I noticed a gorgeous pup snoozing at their feet. Inquiring about a name, I was met with the simple reply, "Haven't got one yet."

Attending with my father we found all the locals most generous and knowledgeable in their explanations. No question was deemed too silly. So, while I tucked into some of the most gorgeous homemade carrot cake, I listened earnestly and with great humility. It was on this warm Saturday I realized we humans have a lot to learn from the interactions between these domestic species.

First, make no mistake, this is an exercise in extraordinary communication between man, dog and sheep. All 3 are reading some innate signals passed on from generations since the dawn of time. I was told by a farmer named Tom, some dogs can pre-empt the call by their master. Equally they can usually read the sheep's response before they announce themselves. Thus, it's a magnificent exercise in the unspoken – perhaps part of my city shaped sentiment – but one couldn't help but feel moved by this sacred bond. Or if you're more inclined to pragmatism, the trials can be described as an acute and delicate lesson in strategy and diplomacy. Politicians lend me your ears!

All sheep behave differently. So, to keep things equal each dog is given a fresh batch of 3 to make it fair. Why 3? Well, that is the most difficult number to control.

Another farmer explained to me that this exercise depends on the dog's own self-control. They cannot rule solely on terror; sheep can be predictable in a fear-based response to break from the pack. Once there's a lone sheep on the other side of the paddock, you've run yourself into some trouble. This happened. Some dogs handled it better than most teachers with a wayward student on a Thursday afternoon. Others, like so many in my teaching career, simply lost their nerve. Perhaps rightly so?

I was taught by the farmers to read the body language of the sheep: they stamp their feet at dogs or deliberately turn their heads to look in the other direction.



But again, like any confrontation or disagreement it rests on the dog to remain calm and in control. Show resolve but stay disciplined in your restraint. Too little, you show no self-respect, too much and chaos will follow.

It made me think a lot about life. My grandfather, a man who fought in the war, is remembered by the phrase "one must be brave enough to wrestle with the problem." Unfortunately for the dogs they are only given 15 minutes to complete the task. It seems time is always the most biting component of life.

And yet I was too struck by the acceptance of the farmers when the circumstances just simply didn't eventuate. That's a hard one too. Some days, we show our best selves, and it just isn't enough.

After watching the novices on the Saturday my dad and I returned for the finals on the Sunday. By this point my ludicrous 'oodle' had come to hold a strange fascination with the sheep. She was also met with a question by a local "What exactly can that dog do?"

I made sure to buy another slice of the divine carrot cake and dad and I walked around noticing familiar faces with a smile and nod.

The dogs on Sunday were exceptional. I would easily place more trust in them in navigating peace talks than most of our elected leaders. Essentially, that's what diplomacy is, leading the other party to the same destination under the guise it benefits us all.

But the most memorable moment of the trials occurred at lunch break during a demonstration with a young pup named 'Rascal.' Initially struggling to contain his excitement he was too hot on his heels. The symbiosis between master and pup was off. But with patience, he found his feet and brilliantly completed the course.

We clapped for both farmer and dog, a holy feat of communication and trust. Rascal jumped from his owner's arms and prowled the crowd. It was at my feet he rested sniffing my linen pants intently. And just like his other swift and tactile movements, he lifted his leg, telling me exactly what he thought.

I grinned with the thought "It was a dog's world, and I was only a mere tourist."

Please consider reporting on the trials with more detail next year. It is a wonderful event and reflects the strong community.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

In the February issue of The Lorne Independent one of your regular columnists described me as “an Author/Journalist/Bullshit Artist.” In the interests of accuracy I’d like it noted I have never been a journalist.

Yours, Anson Cameron.

Hi Janet,

Firstly, may I say congrats to you and your team for carrying on, indeed expanding The Cheese expert’s creation. I have a special message for John Agar.

Hi John

Saw this beauty in Dorman Street near the creek- a popular haunt for our slippery co- residents. Despite being a ‘total’ for more than 30 years and meeting many locals through golf/ tennis, dining etc. we have never crossed paths. We always read your monthly features. (Of interest, coincidentally, founding editor Jo Vondra & I started our PR consultancy careers together in Melbourne in 1964.)

As our back fence borders State Forest, the ever-present concern of bushfires exists but it is more than balanced by regular visits by echidnas, koalas, many king parrots, galahs, rosellas, kookaburras, magpies, currawongs, various wattle birds & wrens, frogmouth owls and our resident kangaroo mob who have adopted our lawn for feeding. OH, I almost forgot and REPTILES.!

I have always had an inbuilt fascination with snakes- even as a small boy at the zoo, I needed to be carried away from them. As an adult golfer of 30 years both at Lorne and Kew GC (on the Yarra River), encountering a snake made me fixated. (to the extent my playing partners even chose to move on to play the next hole without me)

Pardon my lengthy diatribe- just wanted to share with a nature lover. Having had pets from year dot (I started with a cuddly pet hen,) I am now sadly 87 years and having played so much sport now allows me to only enjoying other’s pets.

I especially love your dog adventures - Keep up your life stories. I’m sure they also please many fellow residents. Good Health & happy days

Alan Chipp - Lorne

Parklet Pilot to end after Easter



Surf Coast Shire is trialing a Parklet with the Beach Hotel in Jan Juc.

A parklet pilot has been in place since mid-January and finishes on Sunday 7 April (at the end of daylight savings).

What is a parklet?

A parklet offers public seating and opportunities for street dining or green spaces. Kerbside parking adjacent to a hospitality business, is transformed into a vibrant community space.

Beach Hotel with the support of Surf Coast Shire Council is utilising three car parks during this pilot period.

What’s the reason for this pilot?

The pilot will help inform if a permanent parklet program, and guidelines should be incorporated into Council’s Local Law. It will also influence if more of these outdoor spaces should be considered across the shire.

Share your thoughts

Council is seeking feedback on the parklet.

Take a two-minute survey accessed via the QR code above, or visit yoursay.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/parklet



Lorne RSL Sub - Branch

Anzac Day Service Thursday 25th April 2024

Dawn Service - 7.00am

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

10.45 am - 12pm - March from Lorne Info Centre to Commemorative Service at ANZAC Memorial Park

Follow us on: - @Lorne_RSL

ARTS IN LORNE

A conversation with artist in residence

Anna Reynolds

By Lesley Goldsworthy

Q: What inspired you to become an artist in residence in Lorne?

A: I love Lorne. I love the beach. Darwin is really hot at this time of year and really quiet. It was kind of a no brainer! I was looking for a studio while I was down in Victoria for two exhibitions I had on my calendar. I had exhibited work in the last small sculptures at the last Sculpture Biennale, and I was aware of Lorne Community Connect. A suggestion was made to apply for the artist in residence. I was thrilled when the committee accepted my application.

Q: How do you approach your creative process while in residence?

A: I work every day, even if it is just an admin day. I start pretty early. I try and get a swim or two in and have fun.

Q: What projects or works are you currently working on during your residency?

A: I am excited to be building a community led project in Lorne and have been working with some local people making hooded plover hoodies from op shop fabrics. Also carving timbers felled in the Lorne foreshore restoration project. I have just been accepted into the Alice Springs prize for a large digital composite piece I just completed and have been doing ongoing work on textile commissions and future projects in the mix.

Q: Has the residency environment influenced your artistic practice?

A: It has indeed. I love the community engagement aspect. When people start gathering around ideas and make something happen it's very inspiring. I have a couple of quirky landscapes on the drawing board. As well I'm being inspired to do some plant-based dying with the Spanish sea spurge I am planning to weed out at Cumberland River mouth.

Q: What are your goals or expectations for your time in residence?

A: I'm really glad for the time spent in this beautiful location. I want to come away refreshed and inspired to reconnect with the art community I knew before, and to make new connections and build capacity for future projects.

Q: How do you engage with the local community or environment during your residency?

A: I have my door open in the artist in residence studio. People have been walking in and saying g'day. I have been to a few local meetings and gatherings, introducing myself along the way. It's pretty organic which works well in a small town. I would love to work with the school.

The residency has given me a beautiful space where I can work and walk to the ocean for swims-It's perfect. Professionally, it's opened up a new community and strengthened old ones.

Save the Dates

Join Anna Reynolds for an open studio experience: Artist talks, Informal workshops, talk to the textiles where stories are told about textiles collected or treasured.



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When: Tuesday 5th March to Sunday 10th March.

Time: Studio open from 10 am - 4 pm. No need to book. Just wander in.

Where: Lorne Community Connect, 2 Otway St (behind the Community house).

If you need further information, please contact Anna on 0427 971 010.

Easter Photographic Exhibition.

Opening Night Thursday 28 March 6-7.30 Pm. I look forward to seeing some of you there and sharing a glass of wine.

Continued page 17

From page 16

We Need Your Help

Volunteers are again needed to sit the exhibition. If you are interested, can you please email Lorne Community Connect on lornecommunityconnect@gmail.com

Please indicate days available and whether morning or afternoon is better suitable. We need sitters from 29 March - 13 April.

Lorne Sculpture Biennale

Artists for the next Lorne Sculpture Biennale were announced at Qdos Arts on 20 January 2024. The Curator, Simon Lawrie, says of the selected artists: "The depth and range of approaches to site from these artists will make this Biennale particularly rich and engaging and will allow visitors to engage with Lorne's unique cultural, social, and environmental character and encourage conversations about how we inhabit and experience place." At that event, the committee also advised its decision to postpone the next LSB till March 2025. This will allow participation in a new round of grant applications, strengthened by being able to provide details of the selected artists and programs. Clouds are known for their silver linings and the postponement of the next LSB till March 2025 will allow Curator Simon Lawrie to accept an offer for a short curatorial residency at the Suomenlinna Fortress, Helsinki (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) later this year. That position is funded jointly by Creative Australia and the Helsinki International Artist Program. The LSB committee is delighted that Simon will have this opportunity to work with international arts networks and with Creative Australia. **Karen Pitt - Secretary**

QDOS

Featuring new exhibitions this month:

Steve Sedgwick Salt Country

Peter Gardiner

Rohan Robinson



PETER GARDINER

17 Feb - 8 Mar 2024

TABLE



Castle Bravo 2023: oil on canvas, 150 x 120cm.

The Director of Qdos Fine Arts has pleasure to invite you to attend the opening on Saturday, the 17th Feb at 3:00 pm

Qdos Fine Arts Lorne
Hours: 9:00am - 5:00pm



TFSSM or by appointment

www.qdosarts.com
03 52891989

ROHAN ROBINSON

9 - 29 March 2024



Hierophany 2024, acrylic on linen, 97x153 cm

Hierophany, Pareidolia, Apophenia
and
Randomania

The Director of Qdos Fine Arts has pleasure to invite you to attend the opening on Saturday, the 9th March at 3:00pm, to be launched by master painter and long time friend Peter Gardiner.

Qdos Fine Arts Lorne
Hours: 9:00am - 5:00pm



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in your car and having to blow zero for three years.



The President's Report on the Lorne Gardeners in 2023.

"ONCE A MONTH ON MONDAYS"

By Barbara Barber

Our year commenced with our AGM at the Lorne Bowls Club where we all enjoyed a catch up after another busy summer.

To my surprise I was proposed to be your President and I must say it has been my pleasure to work with your committee for all our enjoyment. During the year we were all sad and sorry to hear Paul Goette and Carole Baker had passed away. Lorraine and Paul, Carole and Laurie had been contributors and members of our Gardeners Club for many years. We will miss them.

Heather Rice retired from our committee. Heather has been a tower of strength over the years with her ideas, but we haven't lost her knowledge and interest as a member. Thank you, Heather. Wendy Hemingway also retired, and we welcomed several new members. My special thanks must go to Beverley, our extraordinary Secretary for many years, and to your committee for the activities they arranged in 2023. Let me remind you how interesting our "Once a month on Monday" outings have been.

March 2023: Connie's Cloverdale Garden Werribee

April 2023: The Bellarine Peninsular which included Christian Jenkins' peaceful green and white wellness garden. (see picture)

May 2023: Buninyong and surrounds with a guided tour of the Botanic Gardens and a private garden on the side of Mt Buninyong.

June 2023: This was a very eventful day. We headed off to see the Melton Botanic Gardens. Who knew! Tucked away in the residential area of Melton is a wonderful display of dry climate native gardens from all over Australia. Our host was John Bentley and some of the 80 volunteers who are "Friends" of Melton's Botanic Gardens.

This visit has resulted in us being asked to host the 2024 Western Region Garden Club Conference in August. We said "yes"! Thanks to Lou and Lyn, we also enjoyed Carolyn Blackman's company over afternoon tea in Kerrie Miller's Garden at Rowsley.



July 2023: Our regular winter lunch was at Otway Estate Cellar Door and Winery Barongarook (near Colac).

August 2023: This is as always a lovely casual day at Beverley and John's house in Lorne. Soup and finger food for lunch with two interesting speakers. Thank you to Anne Sutton for encouraging her sister Lorraine Phelan to speak about her garden and its flora and fauna. Lorraine is a member of the Geelong Field Naturalist Club and showed us wonderful photography of her work.

Thank you to Wendy and Liz (new members last year) who introduced us to Heidi Martin from Van Loons Nursery at Wallington. They had recently taken a garden tour in France and England with Heidi and Heidi shared a photographic record of the trip.

September 2023: C O R A. You may have seen articles about this before project in our local papers. Cape Otway Road Australia at Modewarre. Cape Otway Farm is a 220-hectare neglected wetland property being transformed into a \$350 million-dollar elite sports training, health, and wellness Centre. We then came on to Common Ground Kitchen Garden at Freshwater Creek.

October 2023: Heather and Sandy planned our day in Geelong. Tilly and Liz guided us through the Geelong Botanic Gardens followed by another Pub lunch. We visited the Wool Museum in the afternoon.

November 2023: This was a delightful Monday in Birregurra. A guided tour of Graton Gardens owned and maintained by Andrew Ridd who has transformed his 4.2-acre cow paddock into a beautiful garden. We wound up the day at Lumeah, a beautiful new garden owned by Maryjane Crabtree overlooking the Barwon River.

December 2023: Another memorable Christmas get together at the Little Picket. Thank you David for arranging with Jo Barrett to open the Restaurant on a Monday.

SO here we go into 2024! Another eventful year lies ahead of us. Our program is almost settled but do feel free to give us your ideas for any activities. Your committee will welcome them! This year includes our autumn trip to Daylesford in May and the Conference at the Stribling Reserve on Saturday 31st August. Colin Leitch and his team of volunteers in our Community Garden will link with us, and have an Open Morning on the Sunday (the first day of Spring).

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BUTTERFLIES IN MY VEGGIE GARDEN

By Doug Williams

Everywhere you drive in the region in the last month or more there have been millions, maybe even billions of white cabbage "moths" fluttering about the roadsides and paddocks and the small towns like tiny, flimsy cloth rags.

We get them every year here in Lorne around this time and as they flicker and wobble about the garden bed as though inebriated, I feel glad I didn't contemplate planting cabbages in my veggie patch.

They don't bother with my beans and cucumbers, my potatoes or tomato bushes – they are most particular in this respect - and they are not actually a moth, they are the cabbage white butterfly, so there's that misconception taken care of: the one offered in my opening sentence.

Each butterfly will lay up to eight hundred eggs to produce a myriad very hungry caterpillars to munch on a variety of plants but are partial to the mustard oil in cabbages and kale and cauliflowers and broccoli, brassicas all. A hormone in the leaves is what attracts them in the first place.

What then about the trans-Tasman rivalry rumour which holds that these prolific and omnipresent insects arrived here from New Zealand? Has it been a revenge import like possums from here being introduced over there perhaps? Well, no, they actually arrived in Melbourne from somewhere in Europe in 1929. Some people simply put their huge numbers this year down to climate change, but it's more likely due to the high rainfall we received during December and through to January.

With the advent of hot weather as we drive along the Deans Marsh Road, we see flurries of twisting gum leaves fall as a water drought within the trees' cells causes the whole organism to contract, shedding the leaves at the stem. These dry leaves are dispensed with as the plants' water load is



conserved elsewhere. It may not seem like much but reducing transpiration – where water and CO₂ are released into the atmosphere – even in small amounts helps reduce stress.

Returning to the home front and the veggie patch is liking this heat and responding to the shortening of days and finally we are getting a tomato crop. Because of the wet weather in late spring/early summer there is also a bumper crop on the two espaliered apple trees I have inherited, and which are netted to keep the birds away. These are best picked early in the day, like tomatoes which should be harvested of a morning before it gets too hot.

Most fruit trees ripen on the outside of the tree first, so you needn't pick them all at once, but if you intend to store them in your refrigerator your apples need to be kept away from other fruits. (As bananas do, apples emit ethylene which causes other fruits to ripen.) Tuesdays are the best days for picking apples according to St. Aloysius.

While we wait for next Tuesday, we eagerly await ripe figs slowly ripening on the nearby fig tree.

LIZ'S CRYPTIC CLUES

To Seas, Oceans, and Waterways of the World..... final puzzle. Answers page 39

The answers to the clues this month are, seas (S), bays (B), canals (C), harbours (H), bights (Bi), rivers (R) or (M/R) for mythological rivers.

1. Of sound mind (R)
2. Violetta, come with me in my gondola (C)
3. All Ben's tigers (B)
4. Look, you can outwit this clue as only Lorne locals can do (B)
5. Bite this great Aussie (Bi)
6. Long white cloud over the islands (B)
7. Wonderful area Maggie (R)
8. Correlation with a reef (S)

9. The magnetic field gives the direction (S)
10. Soprano Sales (H)
11. See a picture in Melanesia, almost (R)
12. It was never real until Audrey sang at Tiffany's (R)
13. A coin for the ferryman of the underworld (M/R)
14. Yin Yang is the natural divide (R)
15. Sounds easy: the source of cascading waterways along its a-z journey from jungle to the Indian Ocean (R)
16. Change a letter in Viagra and add an alpha too (R)
17. The band was reminiscing a little on the Geelong Road (R)

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LORNE KINDERGARTEN

By Michelle Danks (teacher)

Lorne Kindergarten welcomed 21 children to our mixed ages 3-5 year program this year.

The children attend over 3 days Monday, Tuesday & Thursdays for 18 hours. We are only in our third week however everyone has settled in and happily engages in our play based program.

If you haven't been past our kinder recently, we have a beautiful play space full of well-established trees and structures, along with a new grassy patch pergola and boat

that was kindly donated by the Lorne Aquatic Club and Lorne Opp shop.

We also have chickens, guinea pigs, spiny leaf insects and worm farms. This week our families attended our annual welcome BBQ and celebrated the start of a new year with our dragon parade.

This year my aim is to ensure we make a regular contribution to the Lorne Independent and showcase the wonderful kindergarten our community is lucky to have.



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GENIE OF THE BUSH

By Kevin Diviny – President Lorne Historical Society

With the recent fires in the Grampians and the 41st anniversary of the Ash Wednesday fires of 1983 occurring last week, you cannot help feel that FIRE is the genie of the bush ready to escape.

The Otways have experienced bushfires from 1851. Pioneers and settlers in the (1835 – 1900 period) had few resources or the population to fight fires. There was no direct government involvement and residents were left to ‘Pick up a beater or a green limb and utter a prayer’ – ‘Stay and defend’. The first fire brigade was only established in Geelong in 1854. In 1851 the ‘Black Thursday’ fire burnt 5 million Hectares with dozens of homes burnt and 12 lives lost. The fire went from Portland to Geelong and then onto Melbourne and beyond. In these pioneering days (1835 – 1899), there were 10 fires and no fire authority to prevent loss of lives or houses. Authorities evacuated residents but could not defend property. Steam trains, carrying timber in the Otways, often started spot fires as they were notorious for emitting sparks.

During the period (1900 – 1945) there were 19 fires with protection being mainly provided by the Forestry Commission employees. In 1908, the iron barque HINEMOA ran aground at Point Grey due to smoke haze. In 1931, aerial patrols were introduced to manage fires and aerial firebombing using retardants commenced in 1932. The Victorian Brigades Association was formed in 1928. It consisted of 1) Forrest’s Commission 2) Country Fire Brigades Board 3) Bushfire Brigades (Lorne 1936) The CFA formed in 1944 and now is responsible for country fire protection except crown land. In 1947, the RAAF tested “bushfire Bombs” which held 10 tonnes of retardant chemicals.

From 1945 to the present, there have been 34 fires.



The recent fires of Ash Wednesday Feb16, 1983, and the Wye River fire of 2015, bring back vivid memories for many people. The sheer speed of the Ash Wednesday fire was frightening. It only took 8 hours to travel from Deans Marsh to Forest Road and Jarosite Rd (near Bells Beach).

If you are interested in learning more about the history of bushfires in the Otways, as well as other disasters I invite you to attend the new exhibition, “100 YEARS OF NATURAL DISASTERS” being held at the Lorne Historical Rooms – Community House on each Sunday 10:am – 12:00pm. If you would like to share your bushfire/disaster story the Historical Society can record your oral history.

This article is based on a folio produced by Marilyn Wendt for the Anglesea & District Historical Society and a copy can be seen at the exhibition.

100 YEARS OF DISASTERS

On February 16 the Lorne Historical Society opened its latest exhibition “100 Years of Natural Disasters”. The opening coincided with the 41st anniversary of Ash Wednesday.

The exhibition, curated by Gary Allen, is more than bushfires. It looks at the effects on our township of floods, high seas, storms and the pandemic.

The exhibition is open every Sunday from 10.00 am until noon and the Society encourages people to record their stories. The Society will also hold special presentations from individuals with significant stories to tell. The dates will be published on social media and morning tea will be served.

The Society wishes to thank the local CFA and Dee Stewart in particular, for the loan of memorabilia. Also, to the Anglesea Historical Society for their assistance.

Where: Lorne Historical Society

When: Sunday between 10.00am and noon, or by appointment.





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THE LOUTTIT LOOP

February is a busy month in Lorne, that's for sure. Apart from the usual Conferences (which we welcome and encourage) the Lorne beach had two huge weekends with the State surfboat comps, and the excellent National Surf Rowers League event which attracted competitors from all over Australia. 300 crews, competing over four excellent days and having the best time ever!

How awesome to have the Lorne Theatre come alive inside and out with the Arizona band Calexico show! The newly branded cultural precinct will go off again at the long weekend on 10th March with locals and visitors all enjoying the entertainment, food and hopefully great weather!

"Fledged" is such a funny word, but it's word of the month when referring to our summer celebrities – the baby hooded plovers. A couple of days after their first airborne attempts they left their enclosed fairly safe area with Mum and Dad and that was that! Over. The barriers were removed, and a wonderful chapter was ended! Not so fast! They returned to the beach at Café HAH a few mornings later and were almost eliminated by dogs off leash – illegally! After all that TLC! Karen Pitt rushed down and patrolled the beach and severely ticked off a local known to many of us, but at this stage who shall remain nameless! But honestly –come on –NO DOGS means NO DOGS!!! Even yours Madam! And the very latest news is that these darlings continue to return to their small fenced "home" area!

Lorne is blessed with some fantastic photographers - and Michael Prideaux has produced some unbelievable shots of the little Plovers. Thanks mate – they are at very least worth featuring on the fridge – especially the one with perfect reflections which appeared in the Surfcoast Times! Craig Crossthwaite and Ian Walding and several other locals keep us happy with awesome sunrises and sunsets etc. Thanks to each of you.

Belatedly, a large dose of appreciation to a retired local Policeman who was a great participator in the Plover protection team. This guy even stayed all night on the beach on New Year's Eve. It is not known if he had an Eskey with him, but they are very handy to sit upon! We thank you.

Interesting to hear that when Grandma gets a bit too old to cope at home on her own (boo hoo) if you give her a room in your home new legislation can allow for this to qualify as a Granny Flat with accompanying benefits.

Tragic to hear that our beautiful new Stribling Reserve basketball stadium has an outbreak of mould underneath a section of floorboards. Sounds like a big job, but everything can be fixed – only takes time and money! Luckily the Stribling Reserve Pavilion is fine!

Saw a couple of young families at the Lions Club Wishing Well (which was mentioned here last month). Could you believe that they had their toddlers bouncing and playing on the wire topping of the well? Would have needed more than a wish to save them had it given way with their exuberance!

A big vote of thanks to the GORCAPA Lorne workers for being willing to subsidise new bits and bobs to water the lawn and garden round our Anzac Memorial opposite the servo. Doug Williams has taken responsibility for this job for the last three or more years, and a bloody good job he has done too!

On Wednesday 6th March Our Mayor Cr Liz Pattison is up for a chat with locals over a coffee at Café HAH from 10-11 am. These Meet the Mayor sessions offer a great opportunity to give a pat on the back, or a grizzle to our very pro-active Surf Coast Shire "boss".

Speaking of the Shire –weird we are now part of a three-ward structure with three representatives from each ward. Hope we can field three folk willing to represent us, at least it won't be such a lonely job! Come on - step up consider getting involved and playing an important part in Lorne's future by representing us in the new Otway Range Ward!!

Our Lorne Facebook noticeboard is still doing a fantastic job. A photo of three naughty little doggies escaped their new dwelling and took a happy little prance down the middle of George Street recently. The post quickly was mentioned to the owners who were at the post office, and they rushed up and peace was restored. Of course they are now celebrities, and when on their leads in Mountjoy Parade lots of folk say "Oh, I saw you three on Facebook!" A good way to make friends with their delightful owners.

What an amazing concept the Repair Café is. They also recycle bottle tops, toothbrushes, toothpaste tubes, etc. Hop onto their website at www.facebook.com/RepairCafeSurfCoast to see when the next one is on at Aireys. Even a kids Tinkering Zone – a win-win concept.

Don't forget to lodge a protest against Seismic blasting offshore in the Otway Basin (or anywhere for that matter). Searching for undersea fuel involves non-stop blasts louder than atomic bombs (at 250 decibels) for months using air guns on ships. Just NOT On!

Lorne as been deemed a high-risk location for rock fishing and lifejackets MUST be worn at Artillery Rocks west of Lorne, and on the rock platform opposite Sheoak Falls south of Lorne. But damn well SHOULD be worn at all fishing spots along the coast. Jump Rock in North Lorne and other spots nearby have had their share of terrible disasters and even deaths. Kids under 12 MUST wear a Level 100 or greater lifejacket. And never turn your back on the sea especially for a photo! If you see someone who has fallen in, call 000 immediately and don't jump in, and scream and yell to swim out from the rock area. SC Times 'My Big Catch' gives great advice and also passes on the number to ring if you suspect illegal fishing: 13 34 74 or 13FISH

What about all those white butterflies! The White Cabbage Moth Butterfly follows the typical stages of complete metamorphosis: caterpillar (egg Larva), chrysalis (pupa) and adult. The adult only lives for 1-2 weeks, and its main focus is on mating (fancy that!) and laying eggs on suitable host plants! What to do? Vasili recommends a home-made spray of 1 litre of water, 1 teasp each of chilli pdr, garlic pdr, olive oil and dishwashing liquid. Mix, shake and spray – especially under the leaves where eggs and caterpillars are hiding. Don't be afraid to spray the butterflies themselves – they hate this stuff!

A wonderful small but growing event to bring attention and funds for the mental health issue raised over \$20,000 for the Movember cause. The first one was held four years ago, with six paddlers four riders and seven runners taking part. This year 35 paddlers took off from Lorne in beautiful weather with very large surf 13 km. to Fairhaven, then 24 riders hopped on their bikes and pedalled to Lorne and back to Fairhaven – 32km. 50 runners then ran 16km to Lorne! Exhausting just to read and imagine it eh? Some completed all legs, while others just joined in for one. James McGlashan is the organiser of the L2F4MH – in memory of his mate Finley Dale who suicided in 2019. Donations still welcome to: au.movember.com/team/2419990. Big After Party and auctions attracted this excellent amount of \$20K.

I'm off for a nanna nap after all that paddling, peddling and prancing.....Lillian.



KEEPING COCKATOOS OUT OF KERBSIDE BINS

Council's lock-fitting teams have secured locks to 3,000 bins across Lorne since November to stop clever cockatoos from opening lids and pulling out rubbish.

The team will continue their work every Monday and Tuesday (except on public holidays) during March and April.

DO YOUR BINS HAVE LOCKS YET?

If your FOGO, recycling or landfill bins have not been fitted with a lock, **CONTACT US NOW:**

- Complete the form at surfcoast.vic.gov.au/lockfitting
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**Bright red
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SES LORNE UNIT

Variety is the spice of Life.

February at the SES Lorne Unit was a busy time for several reasons.

Our unit has had members assisting other units. In Ballarat we had a member involved in the land search for a missing woman Samantha Murphy but even with the best efforts of all that engaged in the search, it unfortunately was unable to provide a conclusion.

Land search for missing persons is something SES does most weeks of the year. In this search it was hot and dusty, the terrain was varied including extremely dense vegetation. Challenges included steep gullies, mine and exploration shafts, snakes and surprisingly used syringes on the ground in one extremely remote area. The total area searched was extensive including re-search areas.

Our Unit Controller assisted with the running of a strategic planning workshop regarding facilities and premises with the VICSES Western Region Operational Management team in Ballarat on the day prior to the severe weather across the state.

Wild weather hit the state early in the month and Lorne got off lightly. We were able to provide a member to assist Hobsons Bay and Melton Units with trees down on houses, cars, blocked roads, power lines down and the odd shed on fences. VICSES responded to almost 6,000 requests for assistance in the immediate period post the weather front impact, since Tuesday 13 February 2024, 1200, hours. Our region Barwon Southwest responded to 226 Requests for Assistance.

During February, our unit responded to seven Requests for Assistance. These included five trees down, one road rescue (person injured no extraction required) and one assistance ambulance for a patient carry out from the lower Teddys Lookout viewing station.

In the period from 1st of January to the time of authoring this article the unit responded to thirteen Requests for Assistance. These included seven trees down involving a range of risks including downed powerlines, traffic hazard due to partial/fully blocked roads in 50 – 80 kmh speed zones and restriction of access on a private property. We attended three road rescues (person injured no extraction required) two were on the Deans Marsh Lorne Road and the other on the Great Ocean Road at Airey's Inlet in support of SES Torquay Unit. Assist ambulance accounted for three Requests for Assistance at Erskine Falls, Teddys lookout and Big Hill vicinity. Our Requests for Assistance included six emergency priority one events requiring the unit to Acknowledge the request in four minutes and be En Route in eight minutes. Priority one events are typically where a person is injured, trapped or in real or perceived danger.

The unit received a request for members qualified in Safe Working at Heights (SWAHS) and Chainsaw or Crew Leader to join a taskforce deployment to Gippsland (Mirboo North). Mirboo North township was struck by a 'tornado like storm' five hundred metres wide, leaving one side of the town unaffected and the other with twenty homes uninhabitable.



Unfortunately, due to member availability and SES Lorne being a small unit we were unable to assist this request.

We continue to upskill our volunteers with future training and qualifications in crew member level 1, chainsaw plus pole saw operation, commercial rigid truck licence, land search, crew leader and road crash rescue certification.

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

Benefits in volunteering with the VICSES Lorne Unit include:

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

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

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

Stay safe from the SES Lorne Unit.

For VICSES emergency response, call 132500

If your situation is life-threatening, call 000

Follow us on our Facebook page - SES Lorne Unit.

Lorne Accounting Group

Lorne: 1st Floor,
136 Mountjoy Pde, Lorne
M: PO Box 58, Lorne VIC 3232
P: 03 5289 4277

Highton: 1st Floor,
2A Bellevue Arcade,
Highton VIC 3216
P: 03 5245 8949

E: admin@hlgaccounting.com.au



Keith Miller
Commodore



Well, another January bites the dust and as usual it was a ripper. Bumper crowds, great weather, cold beer and the best location in the world. What more could you want?

As is now the custom, it was members only for January which stops any overcrowding issues and once again we had no trouble whatsoever. Everyone was there to have a good time and enjoy our hospitality. Our old trusty clubhouse did it again and is still standing, although we did have a couple of power failures, but thanks to Powercor, the power was restored in record time.

Clean Up Australia

Sunday 25th February 2024

As part of the national clean day LIVE WIRE PARK and the Lorne Aquatic & Angling Club will be organising Lorne's contribution, as we have done for the last decade. In 2023 we were delighted that 50 Lorne locals and visitors participated in cleaning up rubbish along the beach and roadside from Big Hill to Cumberland River. It was a fantastic effort and a ton of rubbish.

Homegrown Tomato Competition

Sponsored By Lorne Pharmacy

Friday 1st March 2024. Just turn up at 5pm with your entry. We have prizes for Biggest, Smallest, Funniest Shape and Best Tomato. You must be a member to enter your tomato.

Recent Events

Major Fishing Comp Number One

Sponsored By Lorne Auto Care

The weather was pretty good which allowed a few boats to get out. We had strong participation with 30 competitors and 26 of them weighing in a fish. There were quite a few good-sized fish caught with a lot of high scores. Everyone enjoyed a scrumptious roast lunch expertly cooked by Flea and salads by Annie McMahon. The winners were:

Juniors:

Winner: Elijah Abraham with a Snapper, 2619 points
Second: Benjamin Abraham with a Trevally, 2492 points
Third: Violet Dawson with a Flathead, 2236 points

Seniors:

Winner: Brett Stewart with a huge Flathead, 3838 points
Second: James Anderson with a Salmon, 2771 points
Third: Ric Barham with a King George Whiting, 2596 points

Note: The points for all the anglers are displayed on our website.

Lorne Fire Brigade (CFA) Fundraiser

Sponsored By Great Ocean Road Bakery

This was held on Australia Day with perfect weather and a bumper crowd. We had to close the gate a few times because we had reached our comfort zone crowd. There were always plenty coming and going so the ones locked out didn't have to wait long.

The Lorne Fire Brigade Volunteers turned up in force, got behind our brand-new BBQ and cooked up what looked like a thousand snags to feed the hungry hordes. The sausages, onions and sauce were generously donated by FoodWorks Lorne, and the bread donated by the sponsor for the day, Great Ocean Road Bakery.

Jody and I battled through the masses selling raffle tickets for our now traditional and much sought-after print kindly donated by Leon Buchanan's daughter Kat.

The generosity of the crowd was extraordinary with one regular well respected and popular member who wants to remain anonymous donated \$500.



We smashed our previous record of \$2,500 and sold \$3,332 worth of \$1 tickets. I reckon this record will stand for a while. We will be adding to this and presenting them with a nice big cheque later this month.

Some of the Lorne Fire Brigade Crew. Tony, Sue, Lisa, Dee, Kev and Frank.

The captain Lee must have gone to the loo.

FISHING REPORT

Boat fishing has been pretty good with plenty of calm days allowing anglers to get out several times each week. The flathead are still biting extremely well with lots of big tigers and the odd Yank among the common Sandy's. There's plenty of pinky's being caught but not a lot over the 40cm mark which isn't an issue because they are the best eating size and great fighters. King George Whiting catches are on the increase with some pretty big ones being landed. Gummy and School Sharks are still fishing well with lots of small ones being released.

Continued page 31

From page 30

There are big schools of Yakkas and Slimy Mackerel appearing everywhere now that the water has reached 19 degrees.

There's been quite a few Nannygai, Trevally, Flying Gurnards, Teraki, Sweep and Blue Morwong being caught when targeting Snapper.

The Pier is still producing good numbers of Whiting, Mullet, Trevally, Salmon, Snapper, Calamari and even a couple of Kingfish.



Our Vice Commodore Ric Addison with a School and Gummy Shark he caught.

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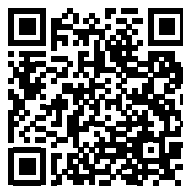


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Men of the Men's Shed

ROD SMITH

By Garry Fenton

Rod was born in Launceston, where he went to Grammar School. His parents had a home on the Tamar River, so there was a lot of boating and fishing. He moved to Melbourne after he matriculated and went to RMIT in 1968 to do business studies and became a “glorified accountant.” When computers were in their infancy, he learned Cobol computer programming and systems design at RMIT, and this stood him in good stead later on when he began writing computer programs. “I was able to use computers for pleasure and for work, but never practised as an accountant. RMIT had an ICL computer, and we wrote our programs out on 132 column paper that got converted into paper punch cards”.

RMIT was a bit of a shock for Rod initially because RMIT was multi-cultural, and Tassie was pretty much mono-cultural. Rod went there full time for a year then joined the family business and continued his studies part time. The business was at 550 Flinders Street, Melbourne which at the time was very much a marine precinct. “Our business was in commercial fishing equipment. Our head office was in Launceston, with branches in Hobart and Melbourne and we were the Bunnings of the fishing industry”.

The fish market was nearby with other allied marine businesses. Some well-known customers were household names and in particular Rex Hunt was a regular. Rod was on the Board of the Boating Industry Association of Victoria for ten years and President for five years. Rex was often a guest speaker at the Melbourne Boat Show which was owned and run by the BIA. Rex's son is also a commercial fisherman and charter boat operator.



Rod and his team travelled to all the commercial fishermen from Eden in NSW to Robe in SA. Many clients were families that were generational fishermen, so they dealt with fathers and sons and even some grandfathers, not dissimilar to Lorne's Love and Norton families. “As we know Lorne was a primary Couta port, and we had a particular cotton seine twine that was made in Musselburgh in Scotland by J.W. Stewarts, used as a Couta line. That was for small boats, so that was our main sale item other than survey gear.”

The Men's Shed as an entity is well known, but Rod had no knowledge of the Lorne Shed getting started. When Rod and family finally moved to Lorne in 2022, (although they had owned a house since 1991) he was looking for some ‘tribes’ to join and was thrilled to find out there was a Shed. Although Rod enjoys a whisky, he commented, “I was aware the Lorne Men's shed does not have alcohol on site and that is very commendable, as there are plenty of other venues for that.”

Rod did not attend the Grand Opening but through being an avid reader of the Lorne Independent, he was very much aware of the successful day. Rod has already become involved in projects and he prefers team projects more than pottering by himself. He really enjoyed refurbishing the Couta Boat for its new home at the Pavilion. “I actually

cleaned the forty brass hollow tube dividers – twice, with a grinder steel brush to remove any tarnish and oxidising, as the first time the clear coating was not applied quickly enough and had to be done a second time”.

Rod has a sailboat, and he refers to it as his “personal Men's Shed”. That's where he does his hands on stuff. Rod expected to see many men beaver away in the workshop from day one but found the blokes around the coffee table so interesting and happy to chat he really enjoys that part of Shed life. “The Shed serves a wonderful purpose in that regard which I didn't expect when I first arrived”.

Rod has recently taken on the position of Secretary, following on from Bill Youl.

REPAIR CAFÉ
SURF COAST

The Repair Café is back for 2024 at the Aireys Inlet Hall.

Bring along your items needing repair between 10 – 2.00pm (last repairs items taken at 1.30pm).

First three events: 4 February, 3 March, 7 April.

Check Face Book page: [repaircafesurfcoast](https://www.facebook.com/repaircafesurfcoast) for more information, Workshops and 2024 dates.



BARWON WATER NEWS

Teddy's Tank works to ensure future resilience

Barwon Water is refurbishing a water storage tank near Teddy's Lookout in Lorne in March.

Barwon Water Managing Director Shaun Cumming said that following the recent installation of a new 500,000-litre tank at the site, the older tank at the site could be taken offline to be restored.

"Having the new tank on site gives us a great opportunity to refurbish the other tank at Teddy's Lookout, ensuring its resilience into the future.

"Draining and isolating this 218,000-litre tank for the refurbishment means we can do a complete roof restoration, undertake some other minor repairs and recoat the tank internally and externally."

Mr Cumming said there would be no impact to customers water supply or pressure during the project, but there would be localised noise and dust due to works at the tank.

Works will begin this week with the draining of the tank and be followed by cleaning and surface restoration works from March 12. Works are expected to take seven weeks.

For more information and project updates, please contact Barwon Water on 1300 656 007 or email projects@barwonwater.vic.gov.au

Washing machine rebates now available for residential customers

Barwon Water's commitment to help more customers be water efficient and save money is expanding with the launch of a new WaterSmart Washing Machine Rebate program.

Managing Director Shaun Cumming said applications were now open for rebates of \$250 for eligible customers to upgrade their old washing machine to an efficient front-loader.

Mr Cumming said on top of the rebates, upgrading to a more efficient washing machine meant customers could also be saving around 26 kilolitres of water or \$62 off Barwon Water bills and up to \$107 annually in energy savings based on one warm water load a day, helping to ease cost of living pressures.

Mr Cumming said the rebates were an investment in water efficiency projects that would ultimately save residential customers' money and contribute to Barwon Water and its customers to achieve permanent water savings.

To be eligible, residential customers must have a property connected to mains drinking water charged a residential water charge, provide proof of purchase and have purchased and installed an eligible washing machine on or after 1 December 2023 and prior to applying for the rebate.

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FROM OUR COUNCILLOR

For the Lorne Ward - Cr. Gary Allen gallen@surfcoast.vic.gov.au 0438 637 274



Local Council Electoral Structure Review Surf Coast Shire - Final Report

In 2023 the independent electoral structure review panel appointed by the Minister for Local Government completed the review of the appropriate number of councillors and the electoral structure for the Surf Coast Shire.

On Friday 16 February, the minister released the report accepting a three ward structure, with each ward having three councillors for the Surf Coast Shire. The newly named Otway Range Ward combines the townships of Anglesea, Aireys Inlet, Deans Marsh, Lorne and Jan Juc. The ward has 13,683 electors, making representation by a Lorne resident difficult.

The panel accepted the broadly held view within the Shire that we should remain warded. However, it rejected the submissions, by most in the Lorne community, to have nine single councillor wards. It is interesting that this model is accepted in 30 municipalities. In Deans Marsh I sensed that the majority of residents wished to be in a hinterland ward.

I remain critical of the timing of the release. This information should have been made public at least twelve months prior to the election in October.

Meet the Mayor

Mayor Liz Pattison will be in Lorne on Wednesday March 6th from 10.00 am at HAH restaurant to meet and listen to residents. If you intend to be there it may help, but it is not essential, to email me the general topic. If there are several people with the same concern, I can arrange a common time, to give all people a chance to speak with Liz. gallen@surfcoast.vic.gov.au

Hooded Plovers

This is another example of how we live in a proactive supportive community. We see a need and we do what we can to address it. The Friends of Lorne and the many residents who volunteered their time to protect the hooded plover chicks from dogs off the leash and from human activity are to be thanked and admired. The chicks took flight on Saturday 17th of Feb.

Litter Control

I am confident that we have made very good progress to reduce the litter problem in the Lorne Community. I have received only one verbal complaint and no email complaints over the past four months concerning litter.

The employment of a litter prevention officer has supported community interest by enforcing timeframes for bins being left out, resulting in fewer bins left out in the streets for the cockatoos to attack.

The litter lock roll out is progressing well. At the week beginning the 20th of Feb, there were 974 properties having all three bins fitted, with 1237 landfill, 1102 FOGO and 1047 recycling bins fitted. There were twice daily collections in Mountjoy Parade during the school holiday period. The permanent bins in Mountjoy Parade were fitted with multi-language signs asking the public not to feed the cockatoos and explaining why. We continue with a multi-media campaign to educate the tourist population in the correct usage of the bins and there are very good resources for holiday rentals on the Shire's website.

Draft Circular Economy Action Plan

At the February meeting the Council endorsed a draft Circular Economy Action Plan 2024-27 to be placed on public exhibition seeking community engagement over a period of eight weeks – from 1 March through to 26 April 2024.

The Council plays an important role in waste management and has a strong commitment to deliver waste services that minimise waste and maximise resource recovery. The ways in which we do this have changed over time – no longer do we just collect waste and send it to landfill. Instead, we are increasingly focusing on recovering resources that can be reused.

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From the Deck

PIER

By John Agar

In the February edition of the Independent, our editor rather promised an article about the Hotel Pacific, its nearly 150-year history, and its many metamorphoses on the Point Grey promontory.

(Ed. We had discussed this but not the actual timeline which was extended at the request of the renovators)

But, while almost ready, “Putting the ‘Grand’ back into the Pacific” awaits a bit more certainty about the renovation timeline before it goes to print, so I crave your patience.

Meanwhile, one of Lorne’s natural wonders — our local population of stingrays — is in full view of the slowly renovating Pacific. Day after day, they effortlessly circle beneath the Lorne pier as excited ‘ooohs and aaahs’ erupt from our visitors peering down from above. Adding to this sense of wonder and excitement, small children mimic the time-honoured game of Pooh Sticks and crisscross the pier platform from side to side as they follow the shadowy shapes gliding silently back and forth below.

The Smooth Stingray is a bottom-dwelling beauty that frequents the coastal waters and river estuaries of our southern coastline. As a small boy, I remember delighting in spotting them in the St. George River mouth from atop Teddy’s Lookout, their distinctive shadows black against the sandy bottom as they searched for crabs, small fish, and other crustacea.

The Smooth Stingray can grow to an impressive size — up to 4.5 m in length [nose to stinger tip], 2 m in disc width, and 350 kg in weight. But, while the crowds on the pier can often be heard calling: ‘. come quickly, look at the manta rays. They are wrong: these are not manta rays. Nor are they skates, a usually smaller ‘stingray cousin’ also abundant in our waters.

For those with a scientific interest, all three are elasmobranchs, a subclass of the over-class Chondrichthyes that, along with sharks, have skeletons made of softer, more malleable cartilage than the bone common to most other fishes. However, the three come from different families: stingrays Dasyatidae, skates Rajidae, and mantas Myliobatidae [<https://www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/discover-fish/skates-rays/species-profiles/>].

While manta rays are quite different — paraphrasing Wikipedia, “... a manta ray is much larger than other rays, prefers tropical waters, has triangular pectoral fins, horn-shaped cephalic fins, and a large, forward-facing mouth” — importantly they do not have the stingray’s infamous barbed tail. But deciding between a small stingray and a large skate can be a bit trickier. The easiest way is to look at the tail and fins [see <https://aqua.org/stories/2022-03-10-mistaken-identities-stingrays-vs-skates>]. As this website puts it: ‘... a

stingray typically has along, whip-like tail, while a skate tail tends to be short, thick, and fleshy’.

Stingray tails have a characteristic stinging spine [or barb] that is used for self-protection— a feature not found in skates or mantas. Sharp and serrated, the stingray spine can deliver a nasty venom into a predator — or into the foot or leg of a human who accidentally steps on one that has buried itself in a sandy bottom or is obscured by a floating wand of kelp. Just ask our own Lorne-retiree barrister — locally known as ‘Rumpole’ — who was badly barbed a few years ago when wading in for his daily pier-to-pub swim. Moreover, who will ever forget the shock felt around the world in 2006 when Steve Irwin — the fearless, crocodile-wrestling founder of the Australia Zoo in Queensland — was killed by a stingray barb that struck him in the chest and pierced his heart?

Nevertheless, Steve’s tragic accidental death was an outlier, as stingrays are not typically aggressive and usually only ‘whip’ if they feel threatened. Albeit extremely painful, a strike from a stingray barb is rarely fatal despite the venom it can deliver.

In contrast, a skate’s back and its shorter, stubbier tail are lined with blunt, thorny projections that release a less toxic venom but feel unpleasant to an attacking shark’s mouth. These ‘thorns’ and the generally smaller size of skates usually allow easy distinction from the larger stingray species.

Both stingrays and skates eat molluscs, crabs, small fish, and other bottom-dwelling creatures that they ‘hoover up’ with their bottom-facing mouths. Both use a ‘burying’ technique as their primary defence mechanism, shimmering softly down into a sandy bottom and thereby disguising themselves from a marauding predator.

The accompanying diagram compares the stingray [left] with the skate. [r].



In addition, though not evident to the casual eye, their reproductive methods are vastly different. Stingrays ‘hatch’ their young live and fully formed, while a skate lays eggs colloquially known as ‘mermaid’s purses’. Skate egg casings can often be found on rock ledges or on a beach at the tide mark and look like black /brown pouches a few centimetres long with curling spikes at each corner.

Continued page 39

From page 38



I have heard people describe our Lorne stingrays as ‘spooky’ or ‘sinister’ as they endless circle in search of food — likely supplemented by the copious bait cast by hopeful fishermen from the pier above — but I would prefer to call them majestic or graceful.

My main concern is for unwary or unknowing swimmers who decide to swim the 1.2 km course from the pier to the beach in front of the surf club ... the course used for the annual Pier-to-Pub swim each January ... or, as I witnessed a week or two ago, for unsuspecting day trippers who might innocently and unaware ‘wade in for a dip’ from that ‘lovely sandy beach beside the pier!’

For any who do make that choice, please take care not to be Rumpole’d by a barb. Our stingrays do frequent the small launching beach near the Aquatic Club ramp, and while they are likely to be far more frightened of us than we are of them, a chance ‘barbing’ would be a tragic outcome.

Remember, this is their habitat. You are entering their water. So ... be watchful and careful!

LIZ’S CRYPTIC CLUES

Answers

Answers to our last watery Quiz! We hope you learned a lot of Geography and how to do Cryptic Crosswords!!

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. River Seine | 10. Sydney Harbour |
| 2. Grand Canal Venice | 11. Sepik River |
| 3. Bay of Bengal | 12. Moon River |
| 4. Louttit Bay | 13. River Styx |
| 5. Great Australian Bight | 14. Yangtze River |
| 6. Bay of Islands | 15. Zambezi River |
| 7. Margaret River | 16. Niagara River |
| 8. Coral Sea | 17. Little River |
| 9. North Sea | |

MOULD TREATMENT AT STRIBLING RESERVE BASKETBALL STADIUM

Access to Lorne Stribling Reserve basketball stadium remains restricted while specialists treat mould underneath its floorboards.

Surf Coast Shire Council closed and sealed the stadium in February while investigating the extent of the mould, and assessing treatment options.

Treatment work is expected to involve lifting floorboards and an underlying membrane to allow effective access for scrubbing of bearers, joists and stumps.

It will also address potential sources of moisture under the building contributing to the presence of mould, and identify methods for increasing of ventilation.

Most of the sporting equipment stored in the stadium was removed during the closure for cleaning and storage in containers which were transported to the site, enabling continued use by Lorne P-12 College students.

Council has liaised with members of Stribling Reserve Community Asset Committee, reserve user groups and the P-12 College throughout the closure, and been guided by health advice from Barwon South West Public Health Unit.

The Stribling Reserve main pavilion has not been impacted and has remained open for use.

“We thank stadium users and Lorne community for their understanding while we complete this important work,” Council Chief Executive Officer Robyn Seymour said.

“As well as addressing the existing issue, this treatment along with other measures will help prevent problems into the future.”

People can find latest updates and supporting information on the closure via surfcoast.vic.gov.au/StriblingStadium

Most people are unlikely to be affected by exposure to mould, but in some people it can lead to temporary symptoms such as nasal congestion, sneezing, coughing, wheezing and respiratory infections.

People with allergy to mould, or who have asthma or lung disease, chronic illnesses such as diabetes, or weakened immune systems are at higher risk. Any stadium users with respiratory or related concerns should consult a GP.

General information on mould can be found via www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/conditionsandtreatments/mould-and-your-health

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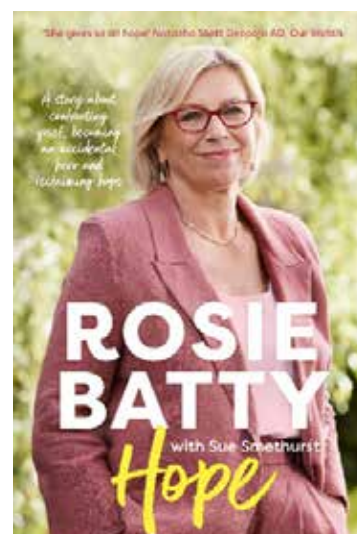
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