

LORNE

Independent

\$2

No 259 June 2023

Produced as an independent newsletter by Lorne Independent Inc.

CUMBERLAND RIVER CLIFFS

Photo by Janet Goud.

Interview with Totti's owner/ creator Justin Hemmes P3

Lorne Matters - Lorne's Housing Solutions P7

Native Title explained P22

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Victorian Public Holidays 2023

New Year's Day

Sunday 1 January
Monday 2 January²

Australia Day

Thursday 26 January

Labour Day

Monday 13 March

Good Friday

Friday 7 April

Easter Monday

Monday 10 April

ANZAC Day

Tuesday 25 April

King's Birthday

Monday 12 June

AFL Grand Final

Subject to AFL schedule

Melbourne Cup

Tuesday 7 November

Christmas Day

Monday 25 December

Boxing Day

Tuesday 26 December

Victorian School Terms 2023

Term 1

Monday 30 January 2023
to
Thursday 6 April 2023

Term 2

Monday 24 April 2023
to
Friday 23 June 2023

Term 3

Monday 10 July 2023
to
Friday 15 September 2023

Term 4

Monday 2 October 2023
to
Wednesday 20 December 2023

All public holiday dates are accurate at the time of publishing, but may be subject to change.

TOTTI'S

By Janet Goud

What is Totti? It sounds Italian and it's the name of our newest eating experience in Lorne. The menu features the best in Italian fresh ingredients. In English Totti means "whole or wholly; entire or entirely". And this is what the Merivale experience is all about, as described by the CEO, Justin Hemmes.

Many thanks to the busy Justin Hemmes for replying to my questions and chatting to me for this article. Also to his lovely and polite PA Holly, for helping me find a little space in his busy life.

Those who are a certain age and love fashion will remember, like me, the mirrors and feathers of the exotic store of his parents, the beautiful Merivale and the handsome Mr John. A sort of a Biba store in Australia.

In what must have been the beginning of the Merivale property portfolio, these two entrepreneurs expanded from Sydney to Collins St., Melbourne. Their early fashion boutiques expanded into mini department stores, where young people flocked to buy the latest fashions (the first minis) and also the latest music, makeup, and even sit at a bar to review their shopping. The Merivale experience meant that each individual shopper was cared for in a personal way that made their time spent in the store special. Merivale wasn't just selling fashionable garments, she was intent on giving the clients "a whole or entire" magical experience from the moment they stepped inside her store.

This is the legacy handed down to Justin and his sister Bettina by their parents. It is the philosophy behind their fleet of successful Sydney restaurants specialising in a variety of cuisines from Mr. Wong to Jimmy's Falafel. The original building where Merivale began her fashion boutique and opened a tea café above, now called the Angel Hotel, remains in the family's expanding portfolio. And so, now, we come to our Lorne Totti's, which recently opened in our small, picturesque seaside village of Lorne.

While well known in Sydney, Mr. Hemmes is an unknown quantity to many in Lorne. Worried by the disappearance of two of their favourite restaurants, many locals fretted about what would happen to the iconic Lorne Hotel after it was purchased in 2021 by the Justin Hemmes Group. Would he appreciate the history, the special Lorne atmosphere? Had he even been here? Justin had visited the area to check out the hotel when it was for sale. He appreciated the unique coastline and the pretty town and decided it would be the perfect place for a restaurant with the relaxed vibe of Totti 's which had worked so well in Sydney, especially at beachside Bondi.

A big renovation of the ground floor was then undertaken. The locals watched in amazement as masses of concrete, tiles and plaster came out of the recently renovated area of the building which had housed the popular Movida restaurant. Expectations ran high, fuelled by those who had experienced Merivale hospitality in Sydney. Open from 10.00 till late, Totti 's Lorne provides an all day, all weathers, place for beach goers (and other diners) to gather socially; to eat

and drink. All Totti 's restaurants have a similar simple menu, starring the wood fired bread to which one can add the many choices of antipasti, pastas, whole grilled fish, steaks and schnitzels.

Of course, Lorne is quite different from Sydney.

Winters on the Cold Coast are far more chilly. When asked about whether the staff would be happy remaining through winter, Justin suggested jokingly more jumpers might need to be provided. Lorne locals should be happy to support this enjoyable venue through the grey winter months. So far bookings, especially at weekends, remain high.

The cosy bar looks like a great place to tuck up and enjoy in winter. Justin had thought about this. He was definite about the interior design.

"We worked closely with Kevin Ho from Akin Creative to create a place that's light and airy in summer but feels like a cosy Italian trattoria in winter, with aged copper fireplaces and a bar designed to evoke the feeling of sitting in a ski chalet."

When the promised March opening approached the locals were surprised and delighted to get invitations to attend the opening night with food at half price. This was a clever idea, allowing most to share almost the entire menu, deciding which favourites they would return for. The wonderful idea to allow the actual menu invitation to be impregnated seeds from that intrinsic Italian herb oregano, was a masterstroke, delighting us all. Yet another example of attention to creating an entire experience.

Saturday the 11th had a bubbling exciting atmosphere of barely controlled chaos as almost everyone in Lorne arrived to be greeted by members of the well-trained staff.

"I am here to look after you tonight," evoked the Merivale philosophy of creating a unique experience for each guest, making each guest feel relaxed and cared for.

At one stage I raised my eyes from my bread and antipasti to see a very tall, slim man in khaki overalls climbing a ladder near the middle set of doors. He changed a light bulb.

Continued page 4



From page 3

Surely, I thought, this could not be the important Mr. Hemmes on his opening night. It was, and bears witness to the importance he places on the details of his venues.

‘Lighting is one of our most important elements in the process of opening a venue. It can so easily make or break the ambience and atmosphere.’ he says.

Staff came from Sydney to train local staff and Justin felt the opening weekend was a great success. “It was a massive team effort. It was the first Merivale brand that we opened outside of NSW so it was very different to anything we’ve done before.” Justin added that he was delighted by the reception given to the restaurant by Lorne residents.

When asked about the use of local products for the menu, he stated that using local ingredients was a top priority. He stressed the importance of hiring a top local chef, Matt Germanchis, with his extensive knowledge of the best produce and seafood in the region. It was the first important thing they did after buying the hotel.

So now we return to the evolving icon that is the Lorne Hotel. With Totti’s buzzing along happily on the ground floor, plans are afoot to renovate the top floor to create an event venue. The mid hotel level and the accommodation will in turn be renewed. However, this old beauty needs a lot of renovating, so while the plans are on going, it may take a while.



We must remember the Merivale legacy for their attention to providing the entire /whole experience for each customer.

Lorne looks forward to these updates.



Lorne: Water, Your Say

Please join us for a conversation on a sustainable and resilient water future.

We are keen to hear from the Lorne community about the values and priorities of residents, businesses, community groups and regular visitors.

We hope to see you soon at one of our information sessions or pop-ups. We will be sharing information and seeking to understand local priorities. No bookings required – please drop in!

Community pop-ups

- Tuesday 6 June – 9.30am to 12pm – Mobile Library, Mountjoy Parade, Lorne
- Thursday 8 June – 1pm to 3pm – FoodWorks, 3 Great Ocean Road, Lorne
- Tuesday 20 June – 11am to 1pm – FoodWorks, 3 Great Ocean Road, Lorne
- Wednesday 28 June – 3pm to 5pm, FoodWorks, 3 Great Ocean Road, Lorne

☎ 1300 656 007 | ✉ info@barwonwater.vic.gov.au
www.barwonwater.vic.gov.au | [f](#) [t](#) [y](#) [o](#) [i](#) [n](#)

Community information sessions

- Tuesday 13 June – 4pm to 6.30pm, Lorne Community House, 16 Mountjoy Parade, Lorne
- Saturday 17 June – 10am to 1pm, Lorne Community House, 16 Mountjoy Parade, Lorne

Visit our Lorne Hub website to learn more about how you can get involved and have your say.

Scan this QR code to visit Lorne Hub or visit www.yoursay.barwonwater.vic.gov.au/lorne-hub





ANZAC DAY 2023

College Captains Lead Lorne RSL 108th ANZAC Day March

A beautiful sunny day greeted the Lorne community for the 2023 Anzac Day march. The College Captains Amelie Osta-Meier and Thomas Wallis, and Junior School Captains Tanner Forsyth and Jude Crosbie, had the honour of leading the town march from the Visitor Information Centre to the cenotaph.

Amelie and Thomas did a wonderful job of reading 'In Flanders Field' as part of the service while Tanner and Jude laid the commemorative wreath on behalf of the College. College Music/Performing Arts teacher Amanda Wylie and Singing teacher Indy Wylie led the school choir who sang the national anthem of Australia, whilst Indy sang the New Zealand anthem solo. To complete the service the choir beautifully sang 'Imagine' to a large and very appreciative audience.



SAVE THE DATE – King's Birthday Market

Saturday 10th June

Come down and support the school!



LORNE P-12 COLLEGE

Hi everyone.

We are really excited about being able to share with you a snapshot of what is happening at our amazing school!

'Celebrating the Class of 2022' Lorne P-12 College Wins VCAL State Achievement Awards

We are pleased to announce that Lorne P-12 College has received three Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) Achievement Awards: Program Development, Partnership (Lorne P-12 College and the Surfcoast Shire) and a recognition for services to VCAL as a VCAL Liaison teacher (Miss Cherie).

After lockdown, the students' focus has been on themselves and their school. One of the major elements of creating Lorne on the Lawn was to allow the students opportunities to reconnect with the world. This included local businesses, outside organisations, and mentors. The program also encouraged the students to use their power (employability) skills which helped and will help with future employment. It also engaged their passions and interests, as well as their individual goals.

The Lorne on the Lawn project was a great way to educate the students and others about sustainability through the UN goals. It allowed for the students to have the tools to make their world a better place, which in turn affects all... especially the hundreds of students from various schools who attended on the day.

A major part of the project was working with FREEZA, the Youth Unit at the Surfcoast Shire. Their experience, guidance and practical help made this project the success that it was. We are also grateful to Lorne Mantra, Bendigo Community Bank and The Great Ocean Road Real Estate for their support.

This year Lorne P-12 College will be hosting a Model United Nations in **October**, on the very important topic of **Sustainable Cities and Communities: Towards a Resilient Future**. This is supported by the United Nations of Australia and a first of its kind for our area.

We again THANK all of the support from the community as without it there would be no award winning programs.

LORNE HOUSING SOLUTIONS ONLINE COMMUNITY MEETING #1

....ORGANISED BY
FRIENDS OF LORNE
ON BEHALF OF THE
COMMITTEE FOR LORNE.
CO-HOSTED BY THE SHIRE
STEWARDED BY
COUNCILLOR GARY ALLEN

LEON WALKER
WILL DESCRIBE HOW THE
LORNE BUSINESS AND
TOURISM ASSOCIATION
HAS BEEN WORKING TO
ACCOMMODATE
SEASONAL WORKERS...

**COUNCILLOR
LIBBY STAPLETON**
WILL DESCRIBE
THE AIREYS INLET
AFFORDABLE
HOUSING PROJECT....

LOUISE CRABTREE-HAYES
WILL EXPLAIN WHAT
COMMUNITY LANDS TRUSTS
ARE AND HOW THEY WORK
(IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND
BECAUSE THIS IS CURRENTLY
BEING PROPOSED/WORKED ON
BY THE COMMITTEE FOR LORNE)

GOT QUESTIONS ALREADY?
LIKE, WHO WILL BE ELIGIBLE?
OR HOW DO WE KNOW THE
PROPOSALS WILL WORK? WHO
BENEFITS? WHAT ARE THE COSTS?
HOW QUICKLY CAN WE GET THIS
DONE? EMAIL US ON:
committee@friendsoflorne.org.au
SO WE CAN MAKE SURE YOUR IDEAS
AND CONCERNS GET ADDRESSED....

ANNA MCILLDOWIE
IS OUR QUESTION
WRANGLER, COMMUNITY
ADVOCATE & POSTER
DESIGNER(FOR THE RECORD
THE POSTER IMAGE IS OF LORNE
BEACH IN THE 60s - USED HERE
BECAUSE THE BATHING BOXES
LOOK LIKE HOUSES (LOL) BUT
ALSO TO REMIND US OF CHANGE
OVER TIME & TO SPARK THE
QUESTION "WHAT DO WE WANT
LORNE'S FUTURE TO LOOK LIKE?"

4PM MONDAY 5TH JUNE 2023

PLEASE REGISTER TO RECEIVE THE ONLINE MEETING LINK

...you can do this via the Friends of Lorne website www.friendsoflorne.org.au

LORNE MATTERS

Lorne Housing Solutions: Our town's well being matters

Join the community conversation: how to make Lorne affordable to those who keep Lorne ticking.

We need your involvement as there are options, choices, trade-offs and some extraordinary creativity, if we look around and learn.

We're focussing on key and essential workers (eg., police, café workers, childcare workers, teachers, business owners, health care workers etc). The first online webinar/community online meeting is on Monday 5th June at 4 - 5.15pm.

The Committee for Lorne have proposed a number of options. They led the foundation work. Friends of Lorne is organising the meetings on their behalf. The Shire is co-hosting the event, stewarded by Cr Gary Allen. There is no "one-size-fits all" solution. We are committed to weighing up alternatives, benefits and costs, and finding the right match for different needs.

This is the first of at least three online meetings. Mr Leon Walker will describe how the Lorne Business and Tourism Association has been working to accommodate seasonal workers. Cr Libby Stapleton will describe the Aireys Inlet Affordable Housing Project. Assoc Professor Louise Crabtree-Hayes will explain Community Lands Trusts (CLTs). Why? Because the Committee for Lorne has recommended that Lorne have a CLT, but few of us understand what that means.

At the meeting after this one we'll hear about some shared equity home purchase schemes that have even made inner city Sydney home-affordable for key and essential workers. Check out the two-minute video. Who knew? So, there's lots to discuss. Especially as there are some ways to accommodate key and essential workers that don't involve increasing the density of dwellings on a block of land or moving into areas currently not zoned residential.

Got questions already? Like, who will be eligible? Or how do we know the proposals will work? How quickly can this happen? Email us on committee@friendsoflorne.org.au to make sure your ideas and concerns get addressed. Anna McIldowie is our question wrangler and community advocate.

Register here. You must register in advance to receive the link to join the meeting.

A big thank you to all the people working on solutions up and down the Surf Coast.



**COMMITTEE
FOR LORNE**

Committee for Lorne

Hello and welcome to my first column as Chairman of the Committee for Lorne (CfL). I know I have big shoes to fill following on from Ian Stewart who has proudly led the Committee for the last 10 years and in that time has produced some 500 columns for this paper. I can only promise to do my best to continue Ian's outstanding work with the support of the committed and knowledgeable members of the Committee.

It is probably also a timely opportunity to remind you who the Committee for Lorne is and what it does and doesn't do.

The mission of CfL is "Promoting and enhancing community, cultural and economic assets, while protecting and conserving our unique natural environment".

The Committee members include representatives of:

- Lorne School
- Great Ocean Road Health
- Special Interest Groups:
 - Friends of Lorne
 - Lorne Business & Tourism Association
 - Lornecare
- Sporting Clubs:
 - Lorne Football & Netball Club
 - Lorne Aquatic & Angling Club
 - Lorne Bowls Club
 - Lorne Country Club

There are also a number of individual members who are interested in the future of Lorne. Our local councillor Gary Allen attends our meetings by invitation.

There are many good organisations in town which are almost exclusively run by volunteers, and the CfL does not intend to cut across the good work that they do, but rather to co-ordinate the collective resources, try to reduce duplication of effort, and to manage conflicting views if and when they arise.

CfL aims to tackle the challenges and opportunities for Lorne that are too important or too big for any single community group to address on its own. One example is the issue of affordable housing, a huge issue with which communities and governments at all levels are grappling.

CfL have recently published "Accommodating Lorne's Future" which seeks to identify the problems and the opportunities to address this issue, some of which are common to many locations, but some of which are unique to our own special place.

We also aim to be a strong voice to advocate and represent Lorne to local, state and federal governments and with bodies such as Tourism Victoria and GORCAPA.

We want to ensure that Lorne is heard, supported and resourced for the future. It is sad to see the closure of two of our iconic hospitality outlets, Saporitalia and Lorne Larder, but we understand that change is inevitable. Amit we wish you well in your new venture, Lisa and Michael we look forward to seeing you around town.

As we enjoy a late-autumn burst of fine weather, beautiful sunrises and starry nights, we treasure what we have in Lorne and the special people who make up our community.

Cheers for now, John Higgins



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The Government

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EDITORIAL *By Janet Goud*

This month marks the end of my time as Interim Editor of the Lorne Independent. Thank you for all the positive comments which have encouraged me to continue on as Editor. My thanks to the Community Bank which provided money for an update for my technology. This has made the work much easier.

This month also brings together some issues around the historical custodians of the land on which we all live. Recently the courts brought the granting of the local Land claim by the Eastern Maar. Mary Lush from Friends of Lorne makes sense of this for those of us who do not know what this judgement means.

Later this year we will need to vote in the referendum on the granting of a Voice to Parliament from the Indigenous People of Australia. The Surfcoast Council has endorsed the Yes campaign for this. Our Councillor Gary Allen has given us a copy of his statement on this endorsement.

I have just visited my family in Darwin where many mobs live on their country and keep their attachment alive with ceremonies etc. Here in Victoria where settlement is so much denser, fewer reminders of this ancient and living culture are obvious. The cover photo is taken above the Cumberland River on the way to where there were old Bora Bora (ceremonial) circles according to some accounts.

Slowly we are realising places like the ancient eel farming in the Portland area, Budj Bim, meant these local people were living a rich and sustainable lifestyle before the pyramids were built. The pyramids were ancient history in my day.

UNESCO thought Budj Bim so marvellous they gave it special World Heritage Listing, one of only 20 sites in Australia.

If you are interested in learning more please find some links to various articles and resources about the local Garabanud and The Voice.

This paper was researched and written by Dr Deb Campbell on behalf of the Lorne Historical Society.

Before Loutitt Bay

www.lornehistoricalsociety.org.au/history/before-loutitt-bay/

Prof Anne Twomey explains what the Voice Means

Anne Frances Twomey AO is an Australian academic and lawyer specialising in Australian constitutional law

www.writing.org.au

The Op Shop Godmothers (and a few princes) of Lorne are embarking on a big renovation of the little shop that does big things! Due to pressing health and safety concerns with the present building and many years since the last renovation, the Op Shop Committee and members have decided to renovate. The Committee feels that as custodians of the shop for the future, it is necessary to spend some money on this, as the shop is the means to help so many in our community. Any help from other organisations in the refit will be gladly received, as the spirit of giving out our takings means it is a difficult decision for many Op Shop Members to make.



Look what I found on the pier. A Barracouta! About to become bait! The fisherman said he remembered as a boy on the old wooden pier when Big ones were caught.

But if there are babies perhaps the days of Big Ones will return!

RIVERLEE WINCHELSEA ART SHOW

KINGS BIRTHDAY WEEKEND



Winchelsea
Shire Hall

June 10th - 12th
10am - 4pm

Launch Night - 9th June from 5pm

A RUBY:RED CHRISTMAS

THE ART OF CHRISTMAS



WINTER MARKET

BIRREGURRA 22.07.2023 4 PM - 10 PM

at the Anglican Church Birregurra

A spectacular event full of warm food,
drinks and live music
Family entertainment for everyone
Kids FREE ENTRY
*MULLED WINE or HOT CHOCOCY INCLUDED
with every ticket



SCAN ME



IT'S CACTUS *By Doug Williams*

We turned off the B Road into Cactus Country at Strathmerton, an hour from Echuca. Like a lot of theme parks its presentation is a combination of the amateurish and the well-informed; so hand painted signs directed us along a maze of all imaginable varieties of cactus – and then the unimaginable varieties as well.

Outside the gift shop there were Mexicans slumped against adobe walls dozing under their sombreros and scattered about were cattle skulls and plaster burros. The human skull I guess referred to a bearded and ragged man crawling out of the desert but didn't make it to the cantina where they serve Mex food, tequila, margaritas, taco, slushies and stuff. Ole! It might sound a little hokey but let me tell you : it was money well spent. They have cactus ice cream and cactus fruit jam too.

There are thirteen colour-coded sections devoted to regions from all across the Americas which is where they mostly originate from. Alpaca billboards indicated varieties from the Argentine including the toothpick cactus, for example. You feel like you're walking through an alien landscape sometimes; elsewhere the cacti resemble sea weeds and the one over there is known as the sea cucumber cactus growing on an artificial coral reef. If there were oceans on Mars, swimming through forests might be like this.

Jim Hall, the man behind all this, must have every known variety of cactus in the world here I thought (he doesn't actually) and their complex structures were immensely varied, so that one could see some shaped like a barrel, others like a phallus and a few like twists of barley sugar. Some were frosted on top as though wearing a beret, another looked was dimpled like a golf ball; there were spirals, fans, caterpillars and cabbage-like specimens as well as a ground-hugging variety like a slither of snakes. And there was the big one – saguaro cactus that can take well over thirty years to produce a flower which only lasts one day. It can grow twelve metres tall and you imagine yourself wearing a sombrero, strumming a guitar and singing "South of the Border Down Mexico Way", the song by an Irishman called Jimmy Kennedy who also wrote Teddy Bear's Picnic. (I'm pretty sure he'd never heard of –truly, there really is one by this name - the Teddy Bear cactus either.) It must be no picnic getting to the copious nectar/pollen from the complex flowers on many a cactus though – no problem for insects but tricky for birds and bats. Their flowers were shaped like daisies, like fuchsias, like bells and there were flowers shaped like stars.

I reckon it's not a decent cactus without thorns and learnt that the reason for these is that not only do they deter predators but provide a bit of shade and can catch water in the air there is dew or mist. Thorns come in all sizes on pink and green stems with orange flowers, variegated blue and red stems stacked like round pincushions, the tall *Pilosechus* with long flowing white hair like a mad person and cream and pink flowers, cacti with red flowers, cacti with mauve flowers even dun-coloured doughnuts looking more like stones on the sandy ground.



It's a bit of a maze in there so don't get lost and don't fall into the garden beds. I'm glad we stopped in for a tour –so much so that when we got home I watched 30 Most Rare Cactus, a three minute YouTube which will astonish you. It may encourage you to propagate and grow your own (be careful how you go). Cactus is not demanding – naturally it does not need a high watering regime and just a little bit of initial TLC will have them growing without much fuss.



Lorne Chess Group

The new Lorne Chess Group will meet as part of the games group at Fig Tree House.

Where: Fig Tree House at Lorne Community Centre.

When: Every Thursday from 1:00pm until 3:00pm

For whom: Anyone who would like to play chess: Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced.

All ages.

Everyone welcome

Chess boards will be available or you may bring your own.

The only fee is a gold coin donation to Fig Tree House

If you would like more information contact:

Laurence Harewood on 0407 117 834

laurenceharewood@bigpond.com

Or Karyn Hogg at Lorne Community House on 5289 4383

OP SHOP BUZZ

By Janet Goud - Secretary

It has become a little hobby, when in a new place, to try to check out the Op Shops.

Recently I checked out the Nightcliff Op Shop in Darwin with my grand daughter (Ida, 4) who announced, " This is my favourite Op Shop, Grandjan." Similarly to our shop, they have a lot of high quality clothes, etc. and they charge good prices for them. Eg. \$25 for Gorman dresses, \$28 for Elk earrings. So those muttering, we hear about high prices is not a Lorne phenomenon. There are still many good items for sale at very basic prices but good quality expensive items are naturally priced up.

Many of these are featured on our Facebook page but always sold through the shop.

If you see something you want on Facebook, it's good to reply immediately, pay on line and word will be sent to the shop to place the item in the back room for pick up. Or else you can simply turn up at the shop asap and hope no one has beaten you to it.

Members are poring over the proposals as we speak, to bring our shop up to Australian standards for Health and Safety. While fixing the basics we are going to add a bit of comfort and style.

Any suggestions about where we could move to temporarily when the renovations take place , probably early next year, would be welcome. Of course we'd like a pop up space, so let us know if you have an idea.

Also any offers of support from local institutions would be most welcome. As you all know our donations to the local charities and hospital have been huge and it goes very much against the grain of many members to spend money " on ourselves". However it is as custodians of this treasure that we seek to preserve it for the future. It is the Goose that lays the Golden Eggs!

We are still making record sales and so far this year have broken all records for each month. Keep buying and donating lovely Lorne locals and visitors!



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2/8 HOPETOUN TERRACE LORNE

CONTEMPORARY COASTAL LIVING

An immaculately presented 6 year old house with much desired northerly orientation soaking up year round sun. The home sprawls over three levels providing 3 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms, (ensuite off master), a genuine 2 car garage, 2 living areas, outstanding storage plus large east and north facing decks (one on each level).

High ceilings throughout, expansive glazing and clever architecture effectively has all spaces enjoying natural light. The upper level boasts ocean views to Aireys Inlet lighthouse and over the swing bridge area of Louttit Bay.

\$2,388,000

Michael Coutts 0438 356 624

LORNE HOUSE FOR SALE

LORNE PERMANENT RENTAL AVAILABLE

16/22-28 Mountjoy Parade, Lorne

1 bed, 1 bath, \$390 pw, available 2/5/2023

8 Lorne Terrace, Lorne

4 bed, 2 bath, \$750 pw, available NOW

4/19 Howard Street, Lorne

2 bed, 2 bath, \$450 pw, available NOW

12 Tradewinds Avenue, Lorne

3 bed, 3 bath, \$700 pw, available NOW

315 Deans Marsh LOrne Road, Deans Marsh

3 bed, 2 bath, \$1000 pw, available NOW

37 Amrytage Street Lorne

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WYE RIVER HOLIDAY RENTAL

From the team at Great Ocean Road Real Estate

IS MY MONEY SAFE WITH THE LORNE COMMUNITY BANK?

By Jeremy Morris Senior Branch Manager

One concern that some people may have when considering placing their money with a Community Bank is the safety of their funds.

Customers of the Lorne Community bank can be assured that their funds are held with Bendigo Bank - a 160-year-old Australian-owned and operated bank that is regulated by the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA) and protected by the Federal Government Guarantee, which provides protection for deposits of up to \$250,000 per account holder per institution in the same manner as the Big 4, but that is where the similarities end.

Community banks follow a unique banking model that allow local communities to own and operate their own bank, of which there are 324 across Australia. Community Banks are a publicly owned local franchise of the Bendigo Bank. They were originally introduced to bring banking services to small towns where other banks may have limited or no presence. All the loans and accounts opened at the local Community Bank, generate an income through a profit share model with Bendigo Bank. The Community Bank covers the costs of operating the business and then distributes the remaining profits back to the Community via grants, sponsorships, and dividends to the local shareholders.

The Community Bank Lorne along with Winchelsea and Anglesea are operated by Corangamite Financial Services Ltd (CFS). The company has a board of 10 local voluntary directors and over 500 community shareholders. The CFS directors work on the business but not in it. They bring their knowledge and experiences as local business owners and community members to ensure the operation of the company is a success and then they leave the banking to the bankers. The directors have no knowledge of the customers or any banking products. The Community Bank staff hold the privacy of the customers as its highest concern.

CFS is a very successful Community Bank company, well respected amongst its peers and has returned over \$3.5m back to our local community groups over its 20-year history.



Through banking with us, Lorne community groups have been the beneficiary of over \$48k in grants and sponsorships so far this 2022/2023 financial year.

The Lorne Branch is open weekdays from 9.30am – 4.00pm (closed for lunch between 1 – 1.30pm) and offers the full suite of competitive Bendigo Bank products and great service from the local team. If you're looking for a bank that put customer service at the forefront and has the products and services to match, while also supporting the community, the Lorne Community Bank may be the perfect choice for you.

Editor's Note: I have much gratitude to this Community Bank for allowing the Lorne Independent to improve its equipment. It has made my work much easier.



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ARTS IN LORNE

LORNE COMMUNITY CONNECT



Community Connect

Saturday July 8th & 15th – Altered Books Workshop with Natasha Narain.

Saturday 22nd July – Anglesea Players “SHADOWS OF ANGELS” The Anglesea players are coming to Lorne with their play

SHADOWS OF ANGELS. There will be a matinee and an evening show. Further details to follow.

September 15th – October 2nd Art Exhibition “What a Wonderful World. The exhibition will be curated by Robyn Mackay showcasing 14 regional artists.

Mission Statement

At our recent committee meeting we ratified Lorne Community Connect’s Mission Statement as follows: To Provide An Accessible Space For The Creative Arts, Culture And Wellbeing For The Community.

To Increase Community Participation In The Arts By Offering A Diverse Range Of Artistic And Cultural Activities For All Ages.

Artist In Residence

In July this year Lorne Community Connect will host another Artist in Residence. Natasha Narain brings to Lorne an impressive range of experiences in the arts, both in creative work and research. She is an artist and an educator who has lived in many parts of the world, and now makes her home in Brisbane. She is excited about the prospect of engaging with Lorne as a place and as a community and hopes to bring interested individuals along with her on her creative journey. Natasha was born in India and has a strong creative connection with the land of her birth. She will present some of her work in the form of artist books, which draw on her experiences and her heritage, and will hope to encourage the community to engage in conversation and co-creation with her. She is passionate about exploring and exposing the lack of reference to the women of her maternal South Asian ancestry, and reimagines discarded historical texts by overlaying some images, script and colours of the Kantha quilts embroidered by Bengali women in centuries past. Kantha Ma is a form of story-telling through embroidery. Natasha’s art is infused with a feminine sensibility, using gorgeous, vibrant colours and sensuous shapes to symbolise the wonderful creativity of the Kantha quilters of 19th century India. Her work has been held and shown in India and in the US, and she is keen to be bringing it to Lorne. During her residency Natasha will hold a two-session workshop, one per week, for interested participants to create their own artist books alongside her, drawing on her artistic vision and experience through the use of books. Participants will be able to bring their own images from nature, favourite drawings or photographs to the workshops to form the basis of their own unique works of art.

Continued page 15

From page 14

Join our Altered Book Workshops with Artist in Residence: Natasha Narain

Saturday 8 & 15 July 2023, 10.30 am – 2.00pm

Where: Community Connect, 2 Otway St, Lorne.

BYO lunch or buy at local café during lunch break.

Over the two ½ days (approximately 3 hours each day) Natasha will facilitate your transforming a book into an artwork of your imagination. Natasha will share with you examples and techniques for creating altered books. These include methods of adding such as collage, writing, painting, drawing, and removing by cutting out, concealing, and sewing. By nurturing a sense of playful experimentation, combining images and text present in a book with your mark making and items you add, you shall create a unique work, serving as a personal journal and holder of your stories.

The workshop is limited to 10 places and will be a nurturing



space with time for conversation and sharing as well as creating.

Natasha Narain: Kantha Ma-Altered Book. 2021.

To book: email with your name and contact details to: lornecommunityconnect@gmail.com

Workshop fee \$50.00 payable to:

Lorne Community Connect, 633-000 Acc 190 686 576

What You Need To Bring: Some supplies will be provided but please bring an apron, pen, scissor, glue, acrylic paint and brushes, old magazines, sewing needle and thread. Found objects from nature such as flower, leaf, small twigs, and from home such as buttons, bottle caps. Photocopies of photographs of self/ family/ history/ are welcome to help personalize your work. Most important are a sense of fun and adventure!

Lorne Season announced for Anglesea Performing Arts' 'Shadows of Angels' Lorne date is July 22nd.

Anglesea Performing Arts is bringing 'Shadows of Angels' by Fleur Murphy to Lorne audiences this July with a live original score performed live by Kirstin Honey, and masterful direction by Iris Walshe-Howling. With only two performances at 3:00pm and 7:00pm, you will want to book your tickets as soon as possible. 'Shadows of Angels' will be on at Community



Connect (2 Otway Street, Lorne) before the company takes the show to Edinburgh Fringe Festival in August 2023.

Set in the city slums of 1920s Australia and based on true events, 'Shadows of Angels' sees four women recollect the part each played in a crime on one hot, volatile day. The horrific event set in motion an investigation and opened up a mystery

from the past that connected these four very different individuals. 'Shadows of Angels' explores the desperate lives and dangerous minds of female criminals, challenging ideas of gender, sexuality, poverty and crime.

Avoid missing out and book your tickets now at <https://www.trybooking.com/CIMTE>.

To keep an eye on Anglesea Performing Arts www.angleseaperformingarts.com

Lorne Sculpture Biennale

We Are Hiring : Curator - Lorne Sculpture Biennale 2024

Lorne Sculpture Exhibition Inc. (LSE) seeks to appoint a lead curator for the next Lorne Sculpture Biennale held in November 2024.

The curator will work with the event manager, LSE committee and curatorial panel to initiate, design and deliver the 2024 Biennale.

This includes engaging sculptors and contractors, planning curatorial programs and undertaking other artistic related matters necessary for the successful delivery of the Biennale.

The successful applicant will have prior experience in curating major exhibitions of this nature, demonstrable experience in arts management, strong arts networks and relevant tertiary qualifications.

The Biennale was first presented in 2007 and is now Victoria's premier outdoor sculpture exhibition attracting over 20,000 visitors. It runs over three to four weeks with key events being a sculpture trail along the Lorne foreshore and a Small Sculpture exhibition.

This position is a unique opportunity and is being offered as a part time contract, on a fixed fee basis, from 1 July 2023 or a date to be agreed.

For further details, enquiries and copy of PD, please contact the President, LSE on president@lornesculpture.com (mailto:president@lornesculpture.com)

Applications including CV and names of three referees are to be submitted by COB Friday 9 June 2023.

BARWON WATER INVITES LORNE COMMUNITY TO SHARE IDEAS ON SUSTAINABLE WATER FUTURE

Barwon Water is inviting the Lorne community to be part of a conversation on a sustainable and resilient future as part of its Lorne: Water, Your Say program.

With a keen interest in the popular tourism destination's future water security, Barwon Water is eager to understand and support the values and priorities of residents, businesses, community groups and regular visitors. Barwon Water Managing Director Tracey Slatter said that as a popular destination on the Great Ocean Road, Lorne attracted large numbers of visitors every year, creating a variety of challenges and opportunities for the town.

"Our role is to ensure the continuation of high quality, reliable water and sewerage services for these influxes, while also supporting key opportunities for Lorne's permanent residents.

"We're excited to spend time in Lorne as part of the 'Lorne: Water, Your Say' program, to learn from the Lorne community about their hopes, values and concerns, and to share information about our current projects.

"Our aim is to work together with the community to plan for water security, climate change mitigation, affordability, environmental preservation and any other key values that community members highlight to us."

As part of its Urban Water Strategy 2022: Water for our Future, Barwon Water committed to ongoing consultations, workshops, and surveys (over the next two years) to gather feedback and input from the community about Lorne's future water supply options.

"We invite all residents and visitors to participate in the community consultations and provide their input on what a thriving Lorne looks like and how we can support them to achieve that vision."

Surf Coast Shire Councillor Gary Allen welcomed the news of Barwon Water's presence in Lorne.

"We're pleased that Barwon Water is committed to understanding the needs, hopes and priorities of our local coastal community," Cr Allen said.

"Water is a crucial element in everything we do – to keep hydrated and healthy, to cook, to clean, to grow food, to irrigate sports fields. I encourage everyone to get behind this opportunity to have a chat with the Barwon Water team. I'm so pleased that the Surf Coast Shire Council, our community and Barwon Water are working closely together on ensuring a thriving future for Lorne."

A series of pop-up stalls and information sessions will be held throughout June, with the first pop-ups to be held at the Mobile Library on Mountjoy Parade (June 6, 9.30am-12.30pm) and Foodworks (June 8, 1pm-3pm) followed by the first information session at Lorne Community House on (Tuesday 13 June, 4pm-6.30pm). Residents and visitors can also join the chat online and are encouraged to visit www.yoursay.barwonwater.vic.gov.au/lorne-hub for more information and the full engagement schedule. Ms Slatter encouraged community members to keep an eye out for all the opportunities to join Barwon Water over June.

"We're really trying to cater to everyone's preferences when it comes to having a say. We might even be facilitating some emoji-only feedback channels for the young and young at heart!" Ms Slatter said.

REPAIR CAFE Surf Coast



Have you ever thought that your favourite items were beyond repair? Think again! Come along to the Repair Café Surf Coast and let our talented team of volunteers breathe new life into your cherished belongings. Our dedicated volunteers come together most months to reduce landfill waste by fixing a wide range of items. We've got you covered for items such as electrical and mechanical appliances, most Apple products, jewellery, clothing and textiles, garden tools, chainsaws and lawnmowers.

Kids and parents love our Kids Tinkering Zone, where children can explore their curiosity by dismantling and reassembling household items.

In just four months, we've already saved a whopping 679.64 kg from landfill. Out of the 303 items brought in, 206 were successfully repaired, with expert advice given for another 50.



Don't miss our engaging workshops. Learn how to repair and maintain your appliances, sharpen your tools, or explore sewing with our upcoming workshops including Demystifying Your Sewing Machine, Visible Mending and Chainsaw Maintenance. Watch our Facebook page for details and bookings.

At the Repair Café Surf Coast, we believe in fostering community connections while promoting sustainability. Experience the joy of giving new life to your belongings. So, gather your broken items, join us, and let's embark on a journey of repair, learning, and fun.

Winter Repair Cafés; 4 June, 6 August, 10 September

Aireys Inlet Hall

10am – 2pm, last items at 1.30 pm

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THE LOUTTIT LOOP

Don't know what to read next? Lorne Books has a handy noticeboard just inside the door on the right with reviews on new releases reviewed in the media, but also by local readers who keep the bookshop up-to-date with books they have loved. Latest to be reviewed is *Albatross* – no – not a golf score on a Par 5 hole – but an amazing read nevertheless.

Reckon I am the last one to notice how damn smart the Surf Club's trailer looks painted in Lorne's 'corporate' colours of black and white. Very Schmick indeed!

With winter upon us, it is hard to walk past any of our cosy coffee shops! And why does winter bring on a hankering for a Devonshire tea? Bryce at Lorne Central has wonderful scones with jam and cream! They went through a crumbly stage about six months ago but have obviously found the old recipe or a new scone maker and they are hard to beat and a treat to eat!

Speaking of Lorne Central, their white cockies are so sugar addicted they have started flying in through the open street service window and stealing the orange packets. The container is now covered with a plate. But be alert and watch your food and sugars as these thieves are hovering on the umbrella above you or in the nearby tree ready to swoop.

Stopped to thank a guy at the barbeque beach who was trying to load a sunlounge someone had parked next to the bins. He has a mini rubbish bin emptying truck! A beauty. Says most of the rubbish he clears from the bins in between regular collections is LOCALS' BLACK RUBBISH BAGS full and DUMPED. This is illegal of course as it fills bins almost instantly, and anyway each house is very well supplied with bins!!! Please use them. Or nick out to the tip – not v far – a lovely drive – with handy skips if Ray is not open.

Big THANKS from the Op Shop to Colin Goodall for dropping in an 80 year old wheelbarrow for the shop to use for selling books outside. So easy to wheel out and in – and such a divine old darling work horse. At the moment it is packed high with half price Crime Books! An idea one of our Op Shop team of volunteers recently spotted outside a fabulous book shop in Venice! This shop also housed at least 5 cats, draped lazily over chairs, books and counters – sadly one the local team will not be able to replicate. But the wheelbarrow is a winner thanks to dear Colin.

The Channel 9 Postcards crew was recently in Lorne. Presenter Madeline Spark and her team started at the Pier, then the main street, grabbing a classic pie from Great Ocean Road Bakery, etc. finishing with a hit of golf at our picturesque golf course.

The Stribling Reserve Community Asset Committee held a Thank You gig at the Reserve to acknowledge the Lorne Community for its incredible fundraising efforts. \$665,000 was raised towards the redevelopment – and our Mayor Cr. Liz Pattison paid tribute to this great effort in the Surf Coast Times, saying 'it is a great example of how community, Council, federal and state Government can team up to deliver an invaluable space for both locals and visitors.'

And it's not too late to cough up \$500 towards getting more outdoor seating at the footy ground, and getting your name on a

seat!! Contact Peter Spring to be recognised and to be part of this wonderful venue.

A big crowd turned out to a community meeting called and attended by a large team from GORCAPA relating to the renewing (or not) of the Landcorp Foreshore Precinct P/L lease on the Pool Precinct located on Crown Land. Not for the first time in our history, and not for the last one would reckon, but the crowd refused to follow the planned agenda and simply said they would NOT break up into groups (probably with butchers paper and textas) to document their feelings! After doing this for over 15 years working on the Point Grey project we have learned that the reason we attend these meetings is to be heard and to have our say loud and clear and that is why we come! And so it was that many calmly spoken members of the community voiced their concerns, and at the end when the GORCAPA team got on with their way of doing things, most Lorne folk voted with their feet and went home.

After all, one only has to observe the non functioning trampolines, closed mini golf, hardly used gym and usually closed freezing cold, NOT SEA WATER pool (despite its misleading name) to realise that the current tenants seem to have lost interest – and the plot!

Don't hold your breath, but the word is that the Point Grey redevelopment is still hopefully on the drawing board, and GORCAPA will start work on an updated masterplan again once the new agreement is signed off. Those of us in our eighties hope we will live long enough to see something happen there!! Meanwhile we will continue to look both ways as we cross over the main street!

Speaking of our senior citizens, Christina Hayward was recently up at Teddies Lookout and spotted a tripod with a selfies attachment chucked from the platform down into the bush. She scrambled down, collecting a bag of rubbish on the way, took it home to clean up, and delivered it proudly to the Op Shop. Bloody unbelievable! That's the spirit of Lorne at work!

Matt Griffiths is back from his huge motor bike trek from the far north of Australia back to Lorne! He looks brown as a berry and damned pleased with himself. And we are proud of him! Great job!

How cute did all those glamping tents look in the roundabout camping area on the weekend of the Great Ocean Road Running Festival! Apparently 9,350 registered participants competed in nine events over the weekend – the most in the 19 year history of this event.

Just back from my annual trek to Italy, and thought a few words on the situation in that fair land would not go astray here!

Firstly, it's a shock to buy a bottle of wine to sneak back to the hotel for the balcony happy hour and find that they're still using corks and no corkscrew in the room! And what's more, after a brief survey the word is that they will NEVER change to screw tops. The cost of a divine coffee is still only £1.30 - AUD\$2.50. The pizzas are still awesome and are a lunchtime must, cut from big slabs just like our Ice Cream shop sells them. The red wine sold in a half litre or one litre jug at most eateries is just as good as any bottle you like to mention, and so cheap. Mind you, one had to try quite a few to corroborate this important fact! I am probably the first person to get violently seasick after hopping off a ferry boat in Venice! Well it was a one hour trip to a divine island! And sad to report, it is still one helluva long way but so worth it! But there's no place like home Lillian

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

Point Grey. Again.

The LAAC sub-committee spent six years negotiating with GORCAPA (then GORCC) to come up with a design for a new clubhouse that we considered acceptable.

Along the way several GORCC people came and went. CEO Vanessa Schernikau who was closely involved with the building sub-committee and who replaced Richard Davies in this position has since moved on having never quite come to a resolution on a way forward for the clubhouse. We have also seen the removal of the architect who, we well remember, had positioned the toilets to the front of the building facing on to Bass Strait in the original plan that was foisted on us. (Richard Davies told me that we were not to have any input into the design process under any circumstances so we were not to brief this architect prior to her design.

At this stage of the Point Grey Story, after 16 years of muddling around (plans and consultation go back to 2007) and squandering so much money (some estimates approach two million dollars but this cannot be confirmed) the Lorne community now learn that there is to be a totally new design for the whole precinct – so, back to the start. Again. Meanwhile, one hopes that the recently formed Community Design Reference Group do not go along with this after being advised by the LAAC that they do not want another design for the clubhouse and boat wash- down because we will settle for the one has been agreed to. The position of the LAAC is that they are ready to proceed with a staged development using the existing building design while GORCAPA and the CDRG get on with the remainder of the design process.

Hopefully the CDRG will support the wishes of the LAAC at Point Grey. It would be sad to see them not do so because this issue has the potential to divide our community.

Doug Williams.

Dear Editor

To GORCPA, re Lorne Pool Precinct 23/5/2023

I attended the presentation to the Lorne Community on Monday 22/5/2023 by GORCPA in regard to a possible extension to the lease at the Lorne Pool Precinct.

The fact that an incredible number of people came to the presentation is evidence of the interest & passion the Lorne Community hold for this iconic area, with the Lillian Beaufort Memorial Pool being the central feature.

The present tenants of the area, with the landlord being GORCPA, are Andrew and Cathy Landos, who were present. During their lease so far, they have added to the limited structures that were by the pool, and obviously have the best interests of Lorne at the forefront in their request to extend the lease. Unfortunately in naming the pool “The Lorne Sea Baths” they put a large proportion of the Lorne community offside.

The overwhelming message from the meeting was that as a community we highly value the pool and surrounding area, and

most of all want to retain the pool in a usable condition, as an accessible facility for all Lorne, young and old, and for visitors. Living by the sea it is vitally important we have a facility where all young people can learn to swim.

The pool precinct now comprises the pool of course, mini golf, non-usable trampolines, a gymnasium, a café and a restaurant. When established the tenant promised that these facilities would be open on a year round basis, with the pool to be heated to a temperature such that all year usage would be possible. Also there would be ready access to the gym, and that the trampolines and minigolf would be functional all year. As we all know, the trampolines are no longer ever open, and with the pool not being heated to a comfortable temperature, rarely open apart from 6 weeks over the summer holiday period, and also the mini golf only open on some weekends.

The only area that has lived up to its promise is the much loved Health and Hire (HAH) Café, open most days all year, and very well patronised. What should have been the jewel in the crown of the precinct, the restaurant (now called Almyra), in such an amazing position, one of the very best in Lorne, with unlimited potential, has been a disappointment, and rarely open. It is acknowledged that CoVid and staffing problems have been factors beyond the control of the tenants, who are running it themselves, although other businesses in Lorne, including HAH, have managed to stay open.

It is hard to understand that GORCPA has not considered the tenant to be in breach of their tenancy agreement (have they ever checked?) But maybe they have given Andrew some leeway in an effort to at least keep the area functioning, although the pool was empty for several months last year.

The worst outcome for Lorne would be if Andrew, as the tenant, either walked away or had his lease terminated without a suitable committed replacement being found. Then the site would become derelict and we would lose an iconic feature of Lorne.

One of the problems with the pool is that it is ageing, and major works will be needed some time in the future. These works would be the responsibility of the landlord—GORCPA, and they don't seem to have any plan (let alone a funding stream) for this to happen. So, we are in a dilemma. Whilst not satisfied with the existing tenant's failure to deliver on past promises, an extension of the lease for a further 21 years from now would seem to carry some risks.

To not extend the lease could potentially cause the tenant to lose enthusiasm and interest in the precinct, allowing it to deteriorate further, unless there was certainty someone else would step in with commitment and money, should the lease be relinquished or terminated. This would be disastrous. Also while there is a current lease, there can be no request for tenders who might step in.

So basically it boils down to whether we would prefer a less than ideal tenant, as we have now, or risking having no tenant at all. Maybe then GORCPA would run it—is that what we would want? I think more time is needed for the Lorne Community to come up with a solution.

Yours sincerely, Peter Atkinson

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FROM OUR COUNCILLOR

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



Gary is away on holidays.

So he decided he should adapt his speech in the Chamber relating to the motion to support the Voice.

After much thought over the past months I decided to support the Voice to Parliament motion at the April council meeting.

I did not come to this decision easily. Why?

Not all First Nations people agree. Several state that truth telling and treaty are far more important and within our Shire the Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation (at the time of writing this article) is yet to take a public stance.

Secondly, I have concerns that the proposal extends the reach of the Voice into the executive branch and therefore adds another bureaucratic layer to potentially delay decision-making.

Finally, I wrestled with the question does the Voice impact upon the notion of the "equality of citizenship"?

Why did I decided to support the Voice?

I was reassured by the Attorney-General, when in his speech in the second reading of the bill he stated, that the Voice will be relevant to matters that effect First Nations people differently to others in the Australian community.

This limits the matters that will reach the executive and as it is contained in the second reading it will have weight if the interpretation of subsequent enabling legislation is required by the High Court.

I was moved by the comments of the Prime Minister at the Anzac Day dawn service in Canberra when he said that First Nations people fought for our nation and now it is about time that we fought for them. I add that they fought, when not recognized as Australian citizens.

It is only thirty-one years since the High Court Mabo judgment that the fiction of terra nullius (land belonging to

no-one) was overturned. By enshrining the Voice into the constitution we will add to the dignity and well-being of First Nations People since that significant decision.

I disagree with those in the community who believe that the Council does not have a role in advocating a position on the Voice. Airing our views will help generate debate and discussion, surely essential ingredients in a healthy democracy.

I have heard questions about the cost of this decision. What did it cost the Council to devote a debate lasting thirty minutes in the Chamber? Yes, there has been officer time devoted to the Voice, but please remember that the Council is mandated, by the state government, to formulate a Reconciliation Action Plan and we are obliged to commit resources towards this action plan.

It is disturbing to continue to learn of the poor or declining health and educational outcomes for First Nations people, particularly when you consider that the many billions of dollars spent and the often heard rhetoric, are having little or no effect.

This in my view is partly because we remove decision-making from those who understand the problem and in the realm of Indigenous affairs we have far too long taken a paternalistic-approach.

Lorne Community House

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Where everybody counts

NATIVE TITLE IN THE GREAT OCEAN ROAD REGION

By Mary Lush

On 28 March 2023 Justice Bernard Murphy of the Federal Court of Australia published his determination of native title to areas along the Great Ocean Road and inland from it. The area that native title now applies to, called the ‘Determination Area’, is shown in the map below marked by a boundary and oblique lines.

I have superimposed on the Federal Court’s map two coastal areas that were part of the application for native title, but about which agreement was not reached in time for this determination. These are shown by horizontal lines and the letters C and D. Native title in these two areas, and others not shown, is still being assessed. Lorne is part of Area D.

Native title determination area (oblique lines) and two of the areas still under consideration (horizontal lines). Sources: Federal Court of Australia and Eastern Marr website

In making this particular ‘determination’ Justice Murphy drew on many sources, including the Traditional Owner Settlement Act (Victoria), the Native Title Act (Commonwealth) and a native title determination west of Port Fairy. What does it all mean? For a start native title does not apply to areas covered by freehold title, and does not apply to minerals, petroleum or groundwater.

In the following text I have summarised Justice Murphy’s ‘reasons for judgement’, with occasional reference to other parts of the document, or to other sources when additional background is needed. For more information go to the original on the Federal Court website – ‘Austin on behalf of the Eastern Marr People V State of Victoria’

Context

What’s a ‘determination’? When the parties to a dispute (or potential dispute) reach agreement, a judicial review is often needed to give the agreement legal standing. The aim of this review was to ensure that the agreement was consistent with law, and was based on a reasonable and rational assessment of all available material.

The title of this determination, *Austin...V the State...*, is somewhat misleading. First because Austin is more than one person and should be read as Janice Austin and others on behalf of the Eastern Marr People and secondly because, and contrary to what is implied by the ‘V’ (versus), there was no Court contest (hearing) between Austin and the State.

After the lodging of their application for native title in 2012, the Eastern Marr and the State of Victoria entered into negotiations followed by mediation. Agreement was reached about most of the area claimed, meaning that no Court hearing was needed for native title to be declared over the undisputed areas. Areas that were part of the application, but that remain under discussion, are excluded from the Determination Area. This includes the area around Lorne (Area D on the map).

There is no information in the Federal Court document about the contested areas apart from the statement that these are either listed for a two week hearing of separate questions to commence on 1 May 2023, or subject to ongoing mediation.

Who Can Apply For Native Title?

Applicants for native title must show that there was, at [the time when Britain claimed] sovereignty [effectively between 1830 and 1850], a body of persons united in their acknowledgment and observance of a body of laws and customs, who held rights and interests in land and waters pursuant to those laws and customs, and by which they were connected to the land and waters. The group must have maintained its identity and its connection with the land and waters, and must continue to acknowledge the laws and observe the customs substantially uninterrupted, from sovereignty to the present. From Section 29.

Who Comprises The Eastern Marr?

Maar society has overlapping eastern and western domains. I assume that the region identified as C on the map is one part of the overlap.

For the purposes of this (and other) native title determinations, the Eastern Marr are those who either:

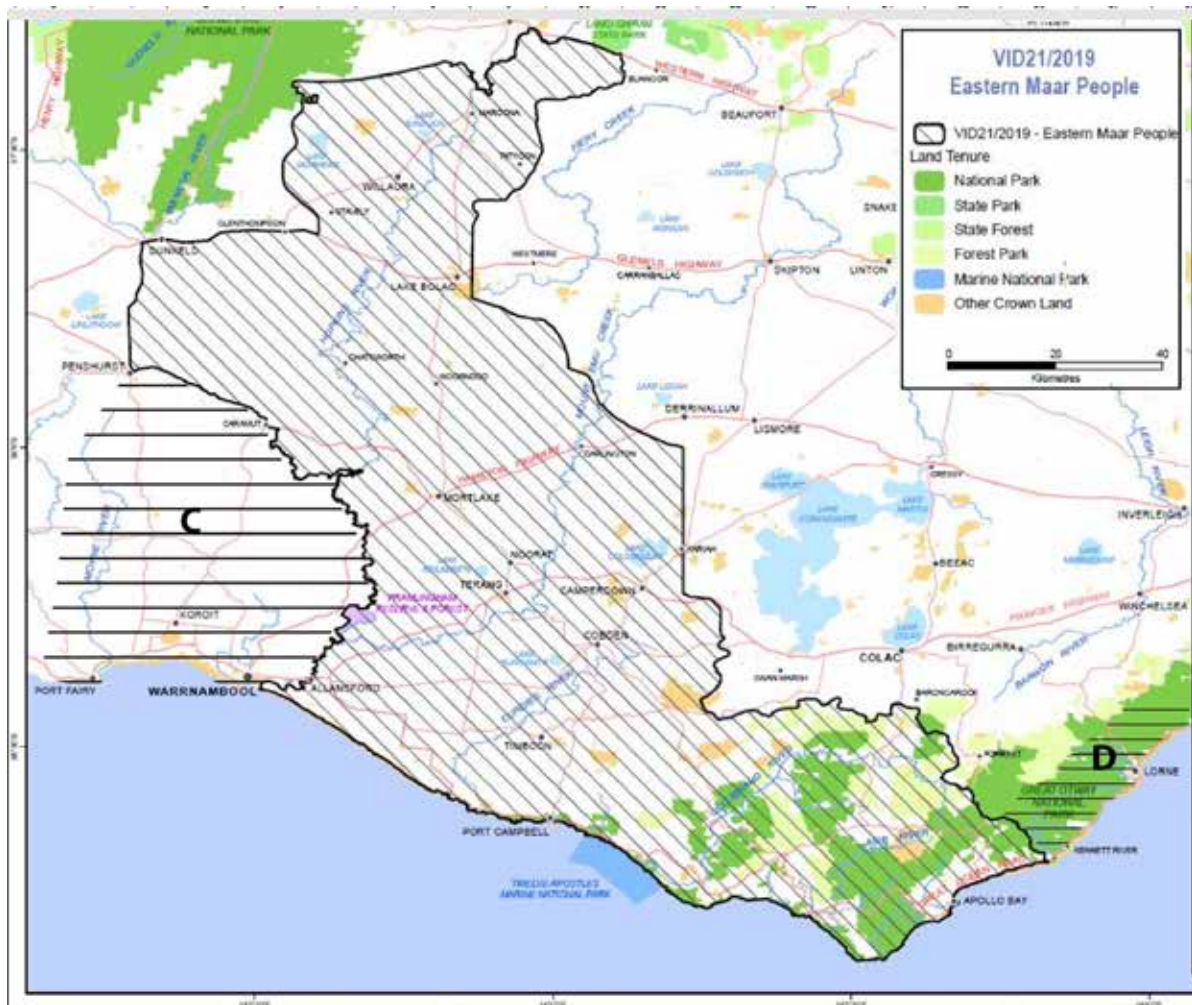
- (a) identify as being from the eastern domain of the Maar speaking people and are recognised as being from the eastern domain by the Eastern Maar Peoples; or
- (b) identify as Maar, Gunditjmara, Tjap Wurrung, Peek Whurrung, Keeray Woorong (Kirrae Whurrung), Kuurn Kopan Noot, Yarro Waetch (Tooram tribe), Djargurd Wurrung, Gulidjan and/or Gadubanud and are recognised as being from the eastern domain by the Eastern Maar Peoples.

The Eastern Marr Aboriginal Corporation will hold the native title as an agent for the Eastern Marr.

What Are The Rights Of Native Title Holders And ‘Others’?

Justice Murphy dealt with these in Section 28 of his summary. In edited form he said that native title rights and interests:

- ... consist of non-exclusive rights to have access to or enter and remain on the land and waters, to camp on the land and waters landward of the high-watermark of the sea, to use and enjoy the land and waters, to take the resources of the land and waters and to protect places and areas of importance in the land and waters.
- ... must only be exercised for a non-commercial purpose to satisfy personal, cultural, domestic or communal needs.
- ... are subject to and exercisable in accordance with the traditional laws and customs of the native title holders and the laws of the State and the Commonwealth, including the common law...



- ... do not confer possession, occupation, use and enjoyment of the Determination Area on the native title holders to the exclusion of all others.

In a part of the document (Section 15) before Justice Murphy's summary, it is stated that the rights of Native Title holders and others co-exist and that ... other interests... [and activities] prevail over the native title rights and interests and any exercise of the native title rights and interests, but do not extinguish them.

How Does The Determination Affect Public Lands Including Parks?

Native title is not recognised where other forms of exclusive title are held, such as freehold land, or on Crown lands set aside for public works, such as roads and schools. Native title is legally considered to have been 'extinguished' in such areas. Under the original Native Title Act, native title was arguably extinguished in public parks and reserves. An amendment (Section 47C) to the Native Title Act, however, allows this extinguishment to be overturned in some circumstances, potentially opening additional areas to native title.

Justice Murphy regards the Eastern Marr determination as unusual because it has been made before the State and the Eastern Marr have reached agreement about these parks and reserves. Instead, the Court order requires the Eastern Marr and the State to start negotiations.

Most of the reserves affected are listed in Schedule 4 ('Proposed Section 47C Agreement') of the Federal Court document. It

is beyond the scope of this summary to provide details, but readers should note that within many reserves there are areas that are excepted from the negotiations. For example, the Great Ocean Road itself and many other roads will be excepted from negotiations about the Great Otway National Park.

Other reserves affected by this determination include the Twelve Apostles Marine National Park, Port Campbell National Park, Lake Milangil, Bay of Islands Coastal Park, Gellibrand Bushland Reserve, Lake Purrumbete, Cobra Killuc Conservation Reserve, Lake Colongulac, and Lake Bookar.

Conclusion

Justice Murphy concluded that the Eastern Marr and the State had entered freely into a rational agreement that complied with the Native Title Act, and that the Federal Court had the power to approve the determination.

This particular determination however may not have quite the finality of some others. Justice Murphy noted that it was unusual in that (a) the matters relating to parks and reserves had not yet been resolved, and (b) the State has not carried out detailed mapping of areas in which native title has been extinguished. He held that detailed mapping might never be needed and to wait for it would cause unnecessary delay. He noted that these things may lead to an amended claim application... or an application to vary an approved determination of native title.



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LORNE HISTORICAL SOCIETY GETS BUSY DIGITISING

By Chris Cairns

The collection of artifacts, documents and images held by the Lorne Historical Society tells much about the development and history of our beloved coastal home.

In an effort to make the collection available to a wider audience, seven society members recently underwent an extensive three day training programme at Figtree House and the society's rooms, beginning on May 8th.

Geraldine Brault, an expert in digitisation techniques, led the sessions.

Her work is funded by a Victoria-wide project auspiced by AMAGA (Australian Museums and Galleries Association).

The three days of training aimed to bring LHS members up to speed on the latest and best techniques for digitisation.

Over seventy items, maps, and documents were selected for digitising from the collection as examples of the significant, unique, or just plain interesting.



Before getting down to the practicalities, Geraldine gave extensive instruction in the technical aspects of digital photography. For the casual snappers among us, it was a revelation to learn that not all whites are white and that combinations of red, blue and green can produce myriad colours and hues. Our resident expert photographer, Ian Waldron, nodded sagely while the rest of us wrestled with F stops and apertures.

The good news is that the gear Geraldine used in the practical sessions handled much of this automatically.

The second and third days were taken up with instruction about proper setting up and lighting for digital photography and the fun part of actually taking the shots (casual photos with a smart phone produce snaps only and will not do).

The destination for our images is important in spreading the word about our collection.

We received training in how to upload clear images and descriptive text to the online repository, Victorian Collections. Researchers and other interested people can view and read about our items at their website (www.victoriancollections.net.au).

Access is free and open to the public. Why not pop in and see what is there? Records uploaded by LHS will grow as we process more items.

Thanks are due to AMAGA and Creative Victoria for funding this initiative, also to our most patient and informative trainer, Geraldine.



From the Deck

BEAUTY, SIGNAGE, AND THE SENSITIVE ART OF NAMING

By John Agar

As I near the end of 5 1/2 glorious weeks in jaw-droppingly beautiful Scotland, I suddenly realised that my monthly 'From the Deck' article for the Independent is due.

Our editor suggested before I left that I write something about Scotland, but I had wondered how I might make it relevant to Lorne, given that I always try to make my articles in some way Lorne-connected.

But, as I slowly travelled this stunning landscape, I soon realised that Scotland and Lorne, while having beauty in common, are also starkly different: signs ... and just for emphasis, yes, that did read 'signs' ... but more of that later ... one other thought kept rising, front of mind.

Regrettably—and in my view with deep sadness—we are living through an age where 'call out', 'denigrate', and 'cancel' are the catchphrases of those who would re-write our history. History is made in the present but lived in the future. Those with a counter view think that history is made in the past but can be altered to suit the present. In my view, these latter are misguided.

Travelling a land where history beckons at every turn, one cannot escape how much history our Australian Scottish forebears brought with them ... the names, places, and memories of their once-home in Scotland.

Invasion, displacement, eviction, culturicide—and yes, genocide—are sadly nothing new. These five repeating brutalities, nation against nation, country against country, with the victor suppressing the conquered, make a cyclical mockery of the homo-sapiens suffix 'sapiens' [the wise] at every historical turn of our species. This is one of the greatest flaws of our deeply flawed evolution.

Lorne whispers some of these memories in its nearby names. The very name, Lorne, is deeply rooted in the west coast of Scotland's heartland of Argyll—once known as the ancient Kingdom of Lorn and the seat of the kings of Dalriada. Our tiny hamlet, once Louttit Bay, was renamed Lorne in 1871 in honour of John Campbell, 9th Marquis of Lorne, upon his marriage to Princess Louise, Queen Victoria's 4th daughter ... though he appears not to have been a particularly honourable person. But, while that's another story, it would hardly be a reason to rename the town 151 years later in a pointless effort to 'cancel him', just because he proved 'unusual' for his time.

Should we use the same flawed and pointless reasoning to rename the Cumberland[s]—the river, the falls, the camping ground, or the accommodation complex—out of respect for the horrors visited upon the Scottish Highlanders by the Duke of Cumberland at and after the Battle of Culloden in 1745?

And, by the way, who did that dastardly Duke defeat? None other than Bonnie Prince Charlie [Stewart], the last of the Scottish and English Stewart line of kings and/or claimants

to the Stone of Scone. What if Lorne's own Ian Stewart has links to that ancient line of Scottish kings? If so, perhaps we could appease the Scots [but upset the English] by a futile renaming of all things Cumberland: Stewart River, and 'The Stewart Complex' both have a nice ring to them!

Just as the Great Ocean Road bears the names of many battlefields in France and Gallipoli, the Western District echoes with the names of families and places brought from Scotland in the early days of white settlement—or aboriginal displacement/dispossession. Should we cancel them, too? ... no ... somehow, we must reintroduce known indigenous names to add to—but not cancel—the past.

Just such a balance has been struck throughout Scotland, where both Gaelic and English names are proudly and clearly displayed. I for one, would support extending this phonetic principle to our native languages, if and where the old words are known!



Scottish names are everywhere

Yesterday, I crossed the Erskine Bridge, the main downstream crossing of the Clyde just to the west of the city of Glasgow. Erskine is another Scottish name brought to Lorne. Just the day before, I sailed the eastern shore of the Isle of 'Lismore'. Scottish names are everywhere if we look for them. It is better to understand and learn from history than to simply cancel the name. While this neither excuses nor lessens the many lethally abusive and degrading actions of our forebears ... these can never be reversed ... we should also understand that many of those who committed these inexcusable acts were themselves displaced, dispossessed, and exiled by the Clearances.

Continued page 27

From page 26

The list of pastoral land owners—once named the Squattocracy—came, saw, claimed, and took what they wrongly thought to be ‘an empty land’. It wasn’t. We know that now. Yet their names read like a who’s who of Scottish clan names dispossessed by the ruthless armies of George III [lead by Cumberland] during the clearances that followed the Highlander defeat at Culloden in 1745.

The Scottish diaspora continued unabated for a further century as the dispossessed Highlanders emigrated their stolen country ... and possessed another. They visited upon a peaceful, unsuspecting aboriginal population the very same brutality that had been visited upon them in their highland crofts and villages by the conquering English.

Invasion, atrocity, dispossession, suppression and genocide stretch back to the earliest times of recorded history. The Romans, Saxons, Vikings, Mongols, Khans, and Hun, African tribe against African tribe, Spaniards against Inca, Americans against the native North Americans ... the human lust to conquer and dominate weaker populations is endless. And, while historical precedent does not excuse these acts, we never seem to learn: consider Afghanistan, the Ukraine, and currently war-torn Sudan.

Earlier, I referenced signage and promised to return ... though after such weighty thoughts, signage may seem a little trite. But travelling the beautiful northern Scottish landscape drove home three Lorne-related issues: beauty; signage; and the duality of names.

First: beauty. It is impossible not to compare the incomparable, unspoilt beauty of wild Scotland with the desecration of our own should-be-extraordinary vistas.

Yet Scotland, a land of heart-in-your-mouth driving replete with single-lane roads and minimally adequate passing points weaves its magic without a sign in sight!

No warnings. No cautions. No garish directional arrows. Nothing. Nothing but the astounding impact of nature at its best.

And, on the vanishingly few signs that are discreetly shown, Gaelic remains proudly displayed as the premier place name! The gods of their Celtic and Viking origins have been appeased.

We could learn much from Scotland about how to present and cherish the bureaucratically desecrated beauty at our doorstep. Listen to the people, people! Stop putting up signs—and take down most that are already there!

We would lose little by acknowledging our ancient past and adopting sympathetic dual nomenclature on a vastly reduced number of signs.

Perhaps an all-expenses-paid guided tour of Scotland might encourage our senior coastal bureaucrats to finally ‘get’ how comprehensively they have stuffed up our greatest asset.

It would be money well spent.

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GO WHERE THE TRADIES GO

SPORTS BRIEFS

By John Ford

Women's Golf:

Club Golf

May has seen some nice days that have kept the course green and playing well after the rain early in the month, with the women golfers playing a variety of competitions on our Tuesdays, and social golf on other days.

On Friday May 12th Lorne hosted the 7th and final round of Division 5 Women's Pennant, where there was a bit of a nail biting finish to see which team would end up on top of the ladder. Although Ocean Grove lost on the day, their strong playing throughout the season saw them take the trophy for 2023. We had many comments from the women attending about how much they had enjoyed playing the course - although some had been quite nervous about the renowned "hills"! The Lorne team enjoyed the season, and we look forward to improving our result next year!

SWGGA Golf

There hasn't been a lot on in last few weeks - but we have a few Opens and Bowls lined up in the month to come!

We have teams registered to represent Lorne at: Beec, Torquay, Apollo Bay and Queenscliff.

If you are interested in joining our group of friendly women, 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.

Always the dedicated Sports Reporter, John Ford interrupted his travels to think of us .

At the time of writing this, I am on holiday in Northern Italy with my wife Wendy. This area is usually a Mecca for a range of sports but widespread flooding of the area has caused

havoc to the region. There have been numerous deaths and injuries as well as significant damage to buildings, homes, farmland and road and rail infrastructures.

When events like this occur, sports are pushed down the list of priorities. In the past week the Formula One Grand Prix was cancelled, the riders in the Giro Italia were facing dangerous conditions with water flowing across pavements and many roads looking like rivers. The Italian Open Tennis event which is normally played over five weeks of hot weather has seen many days lost due to rain and court damage. Other less competitive pursuits such as walking, biking and canoeing have also been affected. We hope weather in Lorne is a little more settled.

Netball and Football

With the Colac District Football League having a bye on the weekend of May 20th there is an opportunity for all teams to assess their performances and current ladder positions. While many players may simply enjoy the exhilaration and camaraderie of sport, coaches and supporters are striving for team success. To make the finals, teams need to win more games than they lose.

So simply winning home matches will not produce enough wins. The Dolphin Senior Football have had some excellent performances at home including a massive win over Apollo Bay. However the loss to the Colac Imperials was disappointing when the scores were so close all day. Lorne was out gunned in the last quarter losing by 15 points.

The Dolphin A grade Netball team has had some really close matches with a couple of narrow losses. However against the Colac Imperials Lorne had the strength and poise to win 54-52. The Dolphins hope to be back to full strength in the next couple of weeks and have shown they could be a finals force. At this stage clocking up as many wins as possible is important for both footballers and netballers.
GO DOLPHINS!!

Photo by Ian Waldron



Men of the Men's Shed

DAVID LAWLER

By Garry Fenton

David was born in Melbourne and first came to Lorne in the mid-seventies and stayed at the Queen's Park Caravan Park. In those days David spent a lot of time at the Pacific Hotel and The Arab.

Over time the family began renting houses for holiday for January and the start of February. David and Lesley then bought a five-acre block of land up the back of Lorne in 1995 and finished building the home in 1999.

The home has been off grid since day one and relies totally on solar. David has never paid an electricity account since living in Lorne!

David knew nothing about Men's Sheds until Allan Walls "forced me to come up and have a look and then 'stole' fifty dollars from me for my membership and I'm now trying to get value for my fifty dollars, although three coffees per week will eventually cut it out!"

On a serious note, David thinks the fees, are very reasonable and good value and would be happy if the membership Fees needed to be raised in the future.

David was a late starter at the Shed and as this was written, he had only been involved for twelve months. But from day one he has proven to be very enthusiastic and a real 'doer'.

"I'm really enjoying the involvement. The camaraderie is great. It is a very impressive array of tools and equipment, and I'm learning a lot as I'm not that good with my hands.

I even did the full half hour barista course and can now sort of make a coffee and give John Bliss a hand when needed."

David has been very involved with restoring several seats for the Bowls Club and spent quite a bit of time helping with the kindergarten projects. "I think that sort of thing is good volunteer work for the community benefit."

David had started making a coffee table at night class thirty years previously, but only completed the top. It had been stored and shifted many times over the years.

He brought it to the Shed without Lesley's knowledge. She could not believe the end result when he presented it to her.....completed!

David certainly is not against ladies being involved in the Shed but thought if that were to happen it would be best if the ladies had their own day. "I certainly know a lady that could run it," he commented.

On the subject of how many hours or days the Shed should be open, David said, "I think the three days as we do is enough unless there is a special project which requires more time.



If there was a time problem like getting the dingy ready for the Regatta, then I personally would be happy to put in more hours."

David is a keen lawn bowler and is a member of the Aquatic Club. Pre-Covid David and Lesley did a lot of travelling. As soon as Covid restrictions allowed in 2022, David and Lesley headed around Australia in their VW Camper Van. Many more trips are planned.

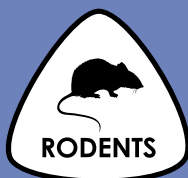
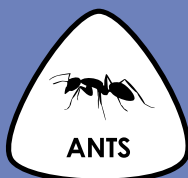
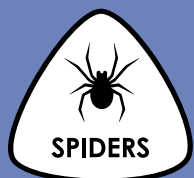
In a relatively short time David has become a very enthusiastic member of the Shed, as he has with the Lorne Bowls Club.

At the Shed's 2022 Annual Meeting, David was elected Vice President, which means under normal circumstances he will be the next Shed President after the incumbent, John Bliss.



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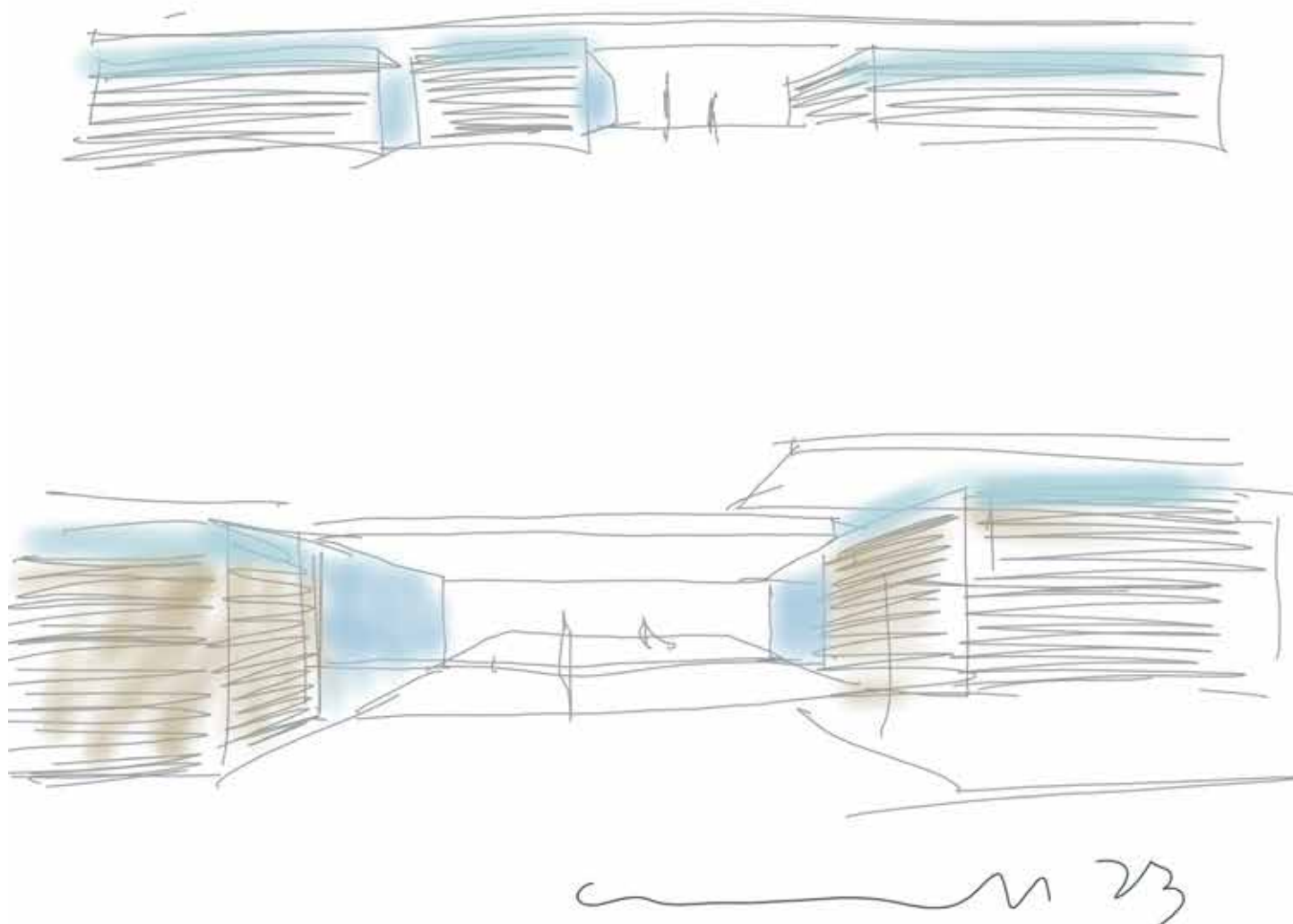
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Upcoming Events

World Sausage Roll Championship

It's on again, Sunday the 11th of June. Which just happens to be on the first in our lifetime "Kings Birthday Long Weekend". We will have a panel of three local legend judges, huge prizes for first, second and third. Judging starts at 5pm.

This is the real deal. It's actually the official world championships, we own the name so no one else can use it. So if you want to be a World Champion this is your chance. We're asking all contestants to make extra sausage rolls to feed the masses on the night.

Winter Cup Fishing Competition Number One

Sponsored By Jason's Coffee @ The Club

Sunday 21st May 2023.

The comp runs from 6am until the deadline of 12.30pm. Weigh in starts at midday. It's free to enter for members and all competitors get a free mixed grill lunch. Prizes are awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd in both the junior and senior categories. Juniors must be under the age of 18. You can only weigh in one fish each so anyone can win on the day and it's environmentally friendly. Come and have a crack. It's great fun. Our sponsor and World Famous Barista Jason will be presenting the prizes.

Weather Station

We are installing a state-of-the-art weather station at the clubhouse. Members will be able to access it online free of charge to find out the current weather conditions and forecast for Point Grey.

It will display every weather detail including; Temperature, Wind Direction and Strength, Humidity, Rain Measurement, Cloud Cover and more. I will send out the details on how to access it once it's up and running.

School Fishing Outing With The Fisheries

We recently held a fishing day in conjunction with the local school and Victorian Fisheries. It was attended by 18 year 9 students, their teacher Simon and two fisheries officers from Apollo Bay, Scott and John.

We started with a breakfast at Lorne Central where Scott and John spoke to the group which everyone found very informative. We then took the group out onto the pier for a days fishing where the fish were too clever for us and were very well fed by taking a lot of bait off our hooks with impressive expertise. Finally a school of nice sized salmon appeared and a few were caught.



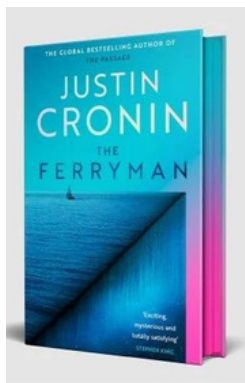


lorne books

Picks of the Month



FICTION: *The Ferryman* by Justin Cronin



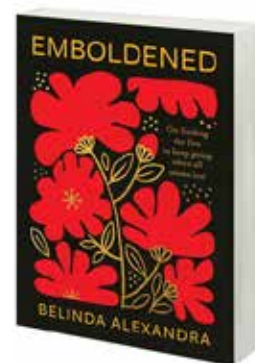
From the New York Times bestselling author of *The Passage* comes a riveting standalone novel about a group of survivors on a hidden island utopia--where the truth isn't what it seems.

Founded by a mysterious genius, the archipelago of Prospera lies hidden from the horrors of a deteriorating outside world. In this island paradise, Prospera's lucky citizens enjoy long, fulfilling lives. Then they retire themselves, embarking on a ferry ride to the island known as the Nursery, where their failing bodies are renewed, their memories are wiped clean, and they are readied to restart life afresh.

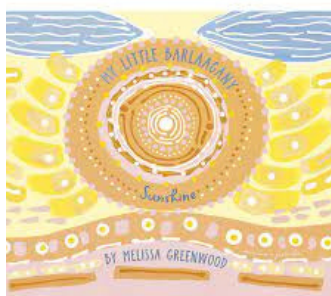
NON-FICTION: *Emboldened* by Belinda Alexandra

A compelling and poignantly written blend of memoir and history, sharing stories of great resilience, purpose, passion and connection in the face of crushing challenges.

How do you begin again when you've lost everything you've worked for and your dreams have been shattered? That was what Belinda Alexandra faced one freezing night when she ran from her home, clutching only her wallet, phone and latest manuscript on a USB stick. To pull herself up from rock bottom, Belinda drew strength from the real life women; including local figure Edna Walling, who lost her own dream home in a freak fire but created garden designs that made her one of Australia's most celebrated landscape designers.



My little barlaagany (sunshine) by Melissa Greenwood



As the sun shines throughout the day, it warms your cheeks while we play. As the sun sets in the evening sky, say, 'Yaari Yarraang, goodbye.'

This gentle bedtime story follows the journey a mother and child take across a day and into the Dreamtime - finding special places to visit, creatures to meet and new things to discover. From Gumbaynggirr artist Melissa Greenwood, the creator of the heart-stirring picture book Miimi Marraal, Mother Earth.

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