



LORNE

Independent

\$2

No 256 March 2023

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LORNE REMEMBERS ASH WEDNESDAY P3

Living with fire P7

Memoirs of a survivor P10

On Deans Marsh Road P11

Lorne Independent Inc.

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IN THIS ISSUE

Mini History of Ash Wednesday P3

Christos Poetry Prize P5

Living with Fire P7

Arts in Lorne P8-9

Men of the Men's Shed P11

Memoirs or a Survivor P12

Ash Wednesday on Deans Marsh Road P13

Lorne Matters P14-15

Louttit Loup P17

From our Councillor P19

Op Shop Buzz P20

Sportsbriefs P21

Music Quiz Answers and winner P22

Map Art, Repair Cafe P23

Commodore's Notes P25,27

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.

EDITORIAL

Janet Goud

On the 16 of February 1986 a terrible day of fire and lack of communication came to threaten Lorne and many parts of the State. I thank the Community Bank for providing this mini history of what happened in Lorne and the Surf coast on that fateful day.

My own uncle and aunt lost their house and all their personal material possessions. Many people carry the trauma on Ash Wednesday with them still. Looking at the amazing cover photographs gives us an idea of the feeling of terror those flames must have evoked.

Ash Wednesday 1983 - Otways.

A day of Total Fire Ban (TFB) was declared for Victoria at 06.30 am on Ash Wednesday, 16 February 1983. Forests Commission Victoria (FCV) fire-towers at Peters Hill, Crowes and Mt. Cowley were up early from 09.00 am in expectation of a bad day, and all crews were in their depots on standby. Under provisions of the Forest Act (1958) the State forest was legally closed to timber harvesting and haulage contractors from midday. Richard Stone was the District Forester at Geelong, while Malcolm McDougall was the DFO at Forrest. There were also FCV depots at Lorne, You Yangs, Apollo Bay, Anglesea and Gellibrand.

At 2.00 pm the Crowes firetower near Lavers Hill reported a temperature of 37.5 degrees, wind 60-90 km/hr from the north to north west and a RH at a very low 9%. Visibility was poor due to dust and smoke from a major fire to the west at Framlingham. A taskforce led by FCV overseer Norman Rourke, with a tanker and two Slip-On-Units, were preparing to leave Forrest for the East Trentham fire.

The Otways Fire #22 started at 2:45 pm in grassland on the Deans Marsh to Birregurra Road, near a cutting of the disused railway line to Forrest, about 150 metres to the west of Trotter's sawmill. It was reported by a passing motorist to the CFA at 2.50 pm and the cause was unknown. The FFDI exceeded 100, or extreme. The FCV at Geelong was advised at 3.10 pm, and the office at Forrest 10 minutes later at 3.20 pm. The FCV was therefore unable to assist the Deans Marsh CFA in the critical first attack.

The fire was nearly controlled by the CFA in its early stages but raced upslope and reached Valhalla, 5.5 km away, at 3.30 pm. At 3.45 pm the fire reached the State forest boundary with high fuel loads and thick dry forest of messmate with about 20 tonnes/ha, and in the mountain ash forest it reached up to 30-35 tonnes per hectare. Fire intensity within the forest increased dramatically with crowning and spot fires.

By 3.55 pm the fire had developed an unstoppable momentum and was spotting up to 10 km ahead of the main front.

Continued page 4

Image courtesy of The Age



From page 3

Two spot fires were reported at Haines Ridge, while five minutes later spots were igniting on the road between Benwerrin and Lorne. At 4.00 pm the fire had grown to over 1000 ha and FCV had dispatched 10 tankers, 2 dozers and 45 firefighters. The CFA had 10 tankers and about 50 firefighters. As was customary at the time, the FCV worked in the bush while the CFA focussed on private farmland and around houses. By 4.15 pm the fire was at Little Erskine River and by 4.18 pm it had reached Reedy Creek on the coast, north east of Lorne.

More equipment was being sought and the crews which had been dispatched earlier to East Trentham were recalled. A FCV helicopter and MAFFS firebomber was requested. Forester Tony Bartlett arrived near Pennyroyal with the Gellibrand FCV crews at 4.25 pm and saved houses owned by the Marchant and Pope families.

The fire had also been reported to the small FCV depot at Lorne and forester Phillip Evans dispatched the crew and headed north to the main ridge of the Otway Range at Benwerrin to see what was happening. Phil waved down police motorcyclist, Snr Constable Steve Williams, who happened to be on his way to Colac and advised him of the impending danger ahead. Rather than returning to Lorne, Williams told Phil to stop anyone else and then rode headlong towards the fire to warn people. But a Telecom employee refused to stop for Phil and the policeman later tried to turn him back to Lorne and through the flames to safety, but he was killed when his 4WD was engulfed. He was the first of three fatalities that day.

Spot fires then appeared in the bush around Phil and immediately realising the gravity of the situation he turned around the FCV crew, the tanker and the FAD and skedaddled back to Lorne. The next manic 48 hours were spent working with the CFA to protect lives and property in the town. The Rate of Spread (ROS) of the main ground fire front over the grass during its initial hour had been as high as 22 km/hr, while in the forest it averaged 7 km/hr. It was not possible to outrun it. Spot fires simply leapfrogged across the parched landscape and there often seemed to be no distinct fire front, but instead hundreds of rapidly developing spot fires that eventually joined.

By 4.30 pm houses in Lorne North in Dorman Street were under threat and most of the forest on the Lorne to Deans Marsh Road was burning fiercely. The houses in Dorman Street were shielded from the main fire to some extent by an area of State forest which had been fuel reduction burnt in 1981-82. But spot fires in the overgrown scrub around some houses and vacant blocks resulted in extensive house loss. Houses surrounded by tidy gardens often survived. The golf course and cemetery to the north of Lorne was very effective at providing clear access and reducing fire behaviour, which also saved many houses.

For the next 90 minutes the wind continued strongly from the northwest, and by 6.00 pm the fire had reached Eastern View, the Devil's Elbow and Cinema Point on the Great Ocean Road. And by 6.30 pm, efforts to control the fire had all but been abandoned, and the focus was on saving lives and property. But over 30 houses were still incinerated in North Lorne.

The situation stabilised for a while when the fire hit the coast and the wind direction remained steady. But then at 6.40 pm a violent wind change hit the fire from the southwest with gusts

up to 160 km/hr. With the wind change, the entire 15 km of the eastern flank suddenly exploded and transformed into a massive crown fire heading north east along the coast towards Aireys Inlet and Anglesea, consuming everything in its path. The ROS increased to about 10 km/hr.

The popular holiday township of Lorne became effectively isolated when the Grassy Creek Bridge burnt down at 7.03 pm so emergency crews and police from Geelong were unable to get through. The main road north to Deans Marsh was also ablaze. Many retreated to the safety of the beach. Patrons at the Lorne Hotel could only sit and watch in awe while sipping a cold beer from the rooftop bar. The western edge of the fire near Lorne was swept back into the main fire with the wind change which helped consolidate the boundary and save part of the town.

The deeply dissected landscape with gullies and ridges, which run perpendicular to the coastline, restricted access for dozers and firefighting vehicles. Large sheets of corrugated roofing iron flew through the air, along with other debris from burning houses. Dead animals, especially kangaroos and snakes, littered the beach. Thousands tried to flee bumper-to-bumper along the Great Ocean Road. It was a miracle there wasn't a car accident in the exodus. It's worth noting there were major radio communication troubles between the contract bulldozers, the CFA, the FCV, the Army and RAAF during the fires which hampered the operation. Radio communications was a major feature of the subsequent inquiries.

While there was little active fire remaining on the coast, weeks of work remained for FCV crews to backburn north west of Lorne, blacking out and patrolling through the bush in the State forest.

Three people were killed, and some 729 houses burnt, and other buildings lost, including at least 62 in Lorne, while 53 cattle and 2,782 sheep were killed.

The last major bushfires in the Otway Ranges were in 1939, while fires in 1967-68 were probably the most recent, so fuel loads had accumulated in the forest. However, the most significant fire hazards were concentrated along the coastal strip with very high fuel loads in and around seaside holiday towns, particularly on the fringes.

The arson squad later investigated the Otways Fire #22, and despite various rumours, there was no evidence that the Trotter's sawmill at Deans Marsh had caused it. The mill was about 0.5 km outside the Fire Protected Area (FPA) and was destroyed in the fire at about 4.10 pm.

Lorne Maintenance Service

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All home maintenance

Licence VBA 19409

Friendly advice given

Plumbing, carpentry, painting and general repairs

THE CHRISTOS POETRY PRIZE 2023



The Lorne Independent has great pleasure in presenting the annual Christos Poetry Prizes for 2023. Held at In the Skies Art and Music gallery and hosted by judge Gregory Day with comments from fellow judge Amanda Johnson it was a happy occasion. The first prize winner will be published here with the judges comments. Other prize winners will feature in the next editions of the Paper.

Winners and Judges comments.

The Christos Poetry Prize is inspired by the legacy of our poet and friend Christos Raskatos, who ran Lorne Fisheries in his flamboyant, generous and poetic style for so many years. Each week Chris would compose a new poem and write it in chalk on the blackboards in front of the co-op at the pier. The poems would chronicle daily events and people in Lorne, political events, sporting triumphs, the passing away of loved community members and the birth of new ones. The poems would often celebrate the beauty of Lorne itself and often with a strident dash of exuberant humour.

The Christos Prize has three categories: the open section, a children's category, and this year's new category, the Family Prize. The judges this year were Amanda Johnson and Gregory Day, and the prizes were presented on the day by Christos's partner, Leanne Moorfoot.

Both the running and the actual prizes of 'The Christos' are made possible by very generous local sponsors: In The Skies Art & Music, Lorne Bookshop, Ipsos Restaurant, Flying Fishes, Pizza Pizza, and the Aireys Inlet General Store. There is also a very generous local person who anonymously donates their house for the One Week Winter Writing Residency in Lorne, which is awarded to the overall winner.

The overall winner for 2023 was Montague Cole for his poem, 'requiem in mirrors, forlorn(e) & the monotreme in the river pools'.

Second Prize went to Tyson Whytcross for his poem, 'Seatown of Seaweed, Dazed Dreaming'.

Third prize went to Jo Esler for 'Dreams of Lorne - I Am The Surfer.'

The Children's Prize was won by Eliza Deane for her poem, 'Dreaming of the perfect day in Lorne'.

The Family Category was won by the Northwood/Blyth family for their co-written piece: 'Ephemeral Glimpses of Lorne'.

The First Prize:

requiem in mirrors, forlorn(e)
& the monotreme in the river pools
Montague Cole

slate blue ripples
gleam spires of gum. At dawn, two faces in a pool
of mirrors, searching

what hides. The old face in the mirror -
a boy stares back - the water gleams

memory reflecting
his dream

~

by a windswept beach, a witness
the boy's smile melts
winding roads surgical wounds

cut between bull kelp &
blackwoods their departure

signaled
by tolling bells rung with claws

of double-edge saws gnawed into flesh

each punctured limb a broken hymn, a blood clot
for those coming

arboreal time belongs to mothers
the boy spoke of mountain

ash
bark like tawny rivulets wept their
memories

hidden in a maze of mycelia, only to resurrect in red
-green tendrils her children returned long thereafter
arboreal time belongs to mothers

restless tongues on a seafloor quiver the
sea

-grass calls in waves a last farewell between
shrieks

of swell & the ineluctable force of new tides

the boy amidst a crowd
of forlorn faces line a sunken pier a mass
funeral for the vanished

as the faces begin their slow
march

into the sea the water in procession
as it swallows

~

the boy has gone. The old man's
wrinkled smile returns as undulating water & rising light reveal

a nest of fur & dark

pulsating eyes a child's laughter
peals across mirrors, all of which so much
depends

Judges Comments:

First Prize: 'requiem in mirrors, forlorn(e)' by Montague C
Congratulations Montague. The judges praised the poem's complex thematic scope and dedicated formal experimentation. The poem is written as a series of allusive fragments. This invites readers to work hard and make their own connections. In jumpcut style, the poem moves from coastal pleasures to logged blackwood forests, from images of threatened platypii to disappearing bull kelp, from ancient time to the present. The narration shifts from boy to man and yet, in a context of ecological breakdown and the continual dispossession of First Nations peoples, the poet asserts repeatedly that 'arboreal time belongs to mothers' and that swimming in the sea cannot just be mere celebration: 'as the faces ... begin their slow march/into the sea ... the water in procession/as it swallows'. The anchoring image of the mirror holds the poem together, a metaphor suggesting perhaps that 'so much depends' (and here the poet quotes the American modernist poet William Carlos Williams directly) on the mirror of the poem to reflect us back to ourselves.



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LIVING WITH FIRE

Doug Williams remembers his firefighting on Ash Wednesday.

Those of us who experienced Ash Wednesday forty years ago will know of the volatile eucalyptus oil that sent fireballs across the landscape towards Aireys Inlet. A fire which began as a grass fire started at a small timber mill west of Deans Marsh sent an inferno to Lorne driven by very high northerly winds.

When it hit the coast from the north it abruptly did a left hand turn and headed east. Some say it was a miracle that Lorne wasn't wiped out completely because nothing was going to stop it. As it was, after destroying the supermarket at the bottom of the Erskine River valley, it proceeded to wipe out nearly every house in Dorman Street and Hall Street.

Without our CFA water tankers and with no water pressure from the domestic supply we resorted to rakes and beaters to mop up the after burn and when the news reached us that the fire was raging in Aireys we met the reports with utter disbelief. How could it possibly be so? We knew where the fire was, it was here in Lorne, we were fighting it. We reckoned that there had been a complete communications breakdown when soon after we heard that the fire was in Anglesea; "Impossible", we said to one another.

All the planning in the world can fail in a crisis situation.

And gardening goes on...

Living With Fire

Tropical rainforests are under continuous threat from logging, mining and plantations of palm oil and soya beans in South East Asia, Indonesia and South America. And in Australia by the encroachment of fringe eucalypts growth which bounces back more rapidly than many slower growing rainforest trees with speedy regrowth, continuous seed production, over-shading and allelopathy (one organism which produces bio chemicals that influence the survival of other organisms)

Slowly maturing tropical Australian rainforest ecosystems are increasingly reduced in size after each major fire, just as were the native pines which prevailed after the last great ice age when the Earth was hotter and the seas higher.

Systematic burning over millennia by the original inhabitants caused the pines to retreat and allowed eucalypts to gain an increasingly greater foothold.



Here in the Otway the dry sclerophyll forests that surround Lorne - classified as temperate rainforest - mean that bush fires are a constant threat to human life, native species of animals and birds, property and business and to co-existent plant species. Many see their resistance to fire as an attribute and as a clever adaption to their environment. Since they recover so rapidly and are able to extend their range after each bush fire means that many peripheral species are subsumed in the process of their regeneration.

Eucalypts have many uses – they provide important old growth forests, eucalyptus oil production and timber production; they are a firewood source and a habitat for koalas. Still bush fires have become a part of our way of life in Australia. After being exported to provide firewood and plantation timber in Spain, Africa and North America eucalypts are now a destructive feature of these environments as well. Eucalypts have evolved to become an apex species. In the States they are referred to as gasoline trees because of the explosive content of the eucalyptus oil.

So as a former firefighter on Ash Wednesday I recommend:

We all must have a Fire Plan and to this end the Geelong CFA have been door knocking to hand out the current advice on how to plan and prepare. I urge you to develop a plan to suit your own circumstances. Make a simple list of what you want to take with you if you need to evacuate and where to find these things.

The Surf Coast Shire advise that :

“And If you are within a Bushfire Prone Area, you are entitled to remove any vegetation (including trees) within 10 metres of a house AND any vegetation except trees within 30 metres of a house for bushfire protection.”

The ‘CFA Warnings and Restrictions’ page I also recommend to you.



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We are always here to help and would love to be part of your next selling or buying journey.

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RICHARD J MANNING
12th February - 4th March, 2023
MOOD



Jump in Rock 2022, oil on linen, 183 x 91 cm

Opening Sunday 12th February @ 3:00pm

Richard is an Australian artist working with the landscape as his central motif, most particularly, the coastal environment, the intersection of land and sea, earth and water.



QDOS FINE ARTS Allenvale Road Lorne 52891989 www.qdosarts.com
Hours: WFFSSM 9:00am - 5:00pm or by appointment
Exhibition closes Saturday 4th March at noon

RAY FIRTH
11th February - 4th March, 2023
COAST



Headland 2022, acrylic paint, crayon and inks on plywood, 122.5x81.5cm.

'wind from another world has carved the ancient rock and bent the supple plants; singing thoughts that rule the world'

Meet the Artist/Poet at the opening Saturday 11th February @ 3:00pm



QDOS FINE ARTS Allenvale Road Lorne 52891989 www.qdosarts.com
Hours: WFFSSM 9:00am - 5:00pm or by appointment
Exhibition closes Saturday 4th March at noon

ARTS IN LORNE

Some Great Events over February!

Lorne favourite Debra Halpern held a highly successful exhibition, which almost sold out.

Other artists were very popular! Ray Firth and Richard J Manning. Openings in March are Robert Ashton 4th March – 23rd March and Rimona Kedem 5th March - 23rd March

Lorne Community Connect

connecting the community by providing a creative space.

The LCC committee are currently working on various exhibitions/workshops for 2023. The aim of the committee is to foster creative activities in all areas of the arts, including exhibitions, workshops, musical/theatre performances, book readings just to name a few. This gives many opportunities for community members to participate in creative workshops and enjoy other artistic events.

What we have planned so far:

MARCH: We are delighted to announce a solo exhibition by Peter Jacobs. Peter successfully showcased some of his artwork at the community art show last November. Peter lives and works in Separation Creek. He studied painting and printmaking at Monash University, concentrating on stone lithography with Jack Courier. Peter's work has been acquired by many galleries, including the Australian National Gallery, Bendigo, Geelong and Swan Hill Art Galleries, plus many private collections overseas.

Peter's exhibition will run for 2 weeks, including the long weekend, which includes the following dates: 4,5,6,7 March & 11,12,13 March.

APRIL: EASTER PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION

After resounding success at the inaugural photographic exhibition last year, 2023 will see our 2nd exhibition

themed "Lorne for all Seasons", curated by our current artist in residence Meaghan Shelton.

Don't miss the opening night on Thursday 6

April at 5 pm. Entry \$10 which includes a glass of wine. The exhibition will run from Friday 7 April until Monday 10 April. Opening daily from 11 am – 3 pm.

MAY: Basket weaving workshop by Caroline Hawkins. Caroline held a workshop in 2022 which was well attended. Further details will be posted on the Lorne Community Facebook page closer to the time.

JUNE/JULY: new artist in residence Natasha Narain from Queensland. Not only will Natasha be holding an exciting exhibition of her work, be you also get to be part of a workshop she will be running. Further details to follow.

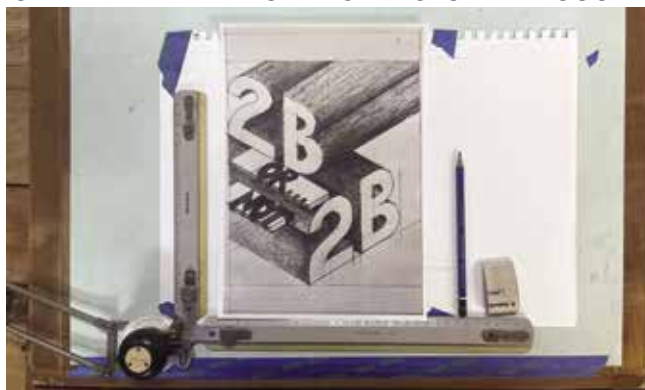
Thank you for your support of the Lorne Community Connect. Support us further by becoming a member only \$10 per year. Please email lornecommunityconnect@gmail.com for a membership form. We also welcome any thoughts or ideas you may like to see happen in this creative space.

Lesley Goldsworthy

President - Lorne Community Connect



ON THE PERIPHERY OF ARCHITECTURAL THOUGHT



25 March - 15 April

"Architects' drawings are usually of something.
And architects' drawings are usually for something.
This is because the subject/object of their drawings,
ultimately, is to be made by someone else.....
Here we are drawing to make a drawing.
The drawing is the thing."

Professor Des Smith, Architect

JON CLEMENTS PETER ELLIOT KERTSTIN THOMPSON DES SMITH
PETER MADDISON SHELLEY PENN PAUL KATSIERIS MARK JACQUES
ANNA DUTTON ALEX SELENITSCH PETER WILLIAMS FIONA DUNIN
JAMES STAUGHTON BOB SINCLAIR NIGEL BERTRAM NIGEL FITTON
DAVID LEECE ROGER NELSON DAVID BALESTRA ROB WATSON
KAREN ALCOCK HAMISH LYON CHRIS CONNELL JAN VAN SCHAIK
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PETER DREDGE SUE ROBEY LUOINDA MCLEAN PETER MALATT
TONY STYANT-BROWN KARL FENDER RAY CHEUNG EMMA JACKSON
AMY MUIR ROB STENT JILL GARNER ANN LAU JOHN WARDLE
KATICA PEDISIC RICHARD HARRIS ELI GIANNINI

SURF COAST
ARTS Trail
5-6 August
2023

**Registrations open
8 March**

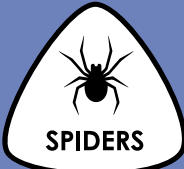


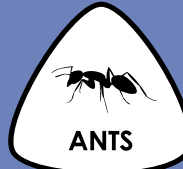
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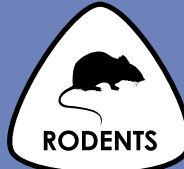



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Men of the Men's Shed

DON HAYWARD

By Gary Fenton

Don was born in Broken Hill and considers he is really an 'outback boy.' His father was in the Post Office, the GPO as it was called then, and he was moved around a lot and that's how he was in Broken Hill when Don was born. "Dad was in the PO and mum worked in the bakery across the road and Dad always loved his pasties for lunch and that's how they met", he said with a lovely smile.

Because of Don's father's work he attended fourteen primary schools but when his father went North in the Air Force, he went back to Broken Hill for his first year of High School before going to Homebush Boys High School in Sydney.

Don's first job was private secretary to the Minister for National Involvement and to the President of the Senate, at the age of twenty-two. "That's where I got the political bug, but I was able to keep it at bay for most of my life."

Don was recruited to General Motors Corporation and was with them for twenty-two years and became a Director of GMH. He spent a lot of that time overseas as Managing Director of GMH Philippines in Manila. "That was an amazing experience. We got to know Ferdinand and Amelda Marcos. I'm amazed she made a comeback and is in the Congress in the Philippines and her son, Bong Bong is likely to be the next President." Marcos told Don the Annual budget of GMH was bigger than the budget of the Philippines, so he needed to keep in touch with the GMH Managing Director!

After that Don stood for a seat in the Victorian Parliament and finished up Minister for Education for several years in the Kennett Government. Don had no intention of being a politician until he was talked into standing for pre-selection for a seat in the Legislative Council in Monash Province. Don believed he had no chance of winning as thirty people stood for pre-selection. "It took place on a Sunday afternoon in the Caulfield Town Hall. Each candidate had six minutes on the stage to say why they wanted to win the seat and I thought I was wasting my time. This was followed by a very complicated balloting system, and they were still counting at 10.00pm and I thought I might as well go home. Then they told us to stand up on the stage and to my amazement they announced I was the winner. It was a terrible shock, especially as I had not told the GMH people I was doing it".

Don and Christina bought their home in Lorne in 1963 and have been coming down ever since. They spent the last two years during Covid permanently because they felt it less risky than living in Melbourne.

Don admits he knew absolutely nothing about Mens Sheds prior to the Lorne building project. "I was walking up John Street one day and spoke to Allan Walls in front of his house, and he told me they were building a Mens Shed in Lorne.



He asked if I would like to be an Inaugural Member. I took out my wallet and gave him fifty dollars there and then. I think that might have made me a 'Founding' Member".

Don thought the building of a Mens Shed in Lorne was a great idea as there had sadly been a number of suicides locally. Usually, widowers on their own and lonely. This would be a wonderful thing for men to come and socialize and be productive and assist the community at the same time. "I thought it was a wonderful initiative," Don commented. He was on hand for the Grand Opening of the Shed. "It was a marvellous day, but there have been many marvellous days in the Shed, all worth celebrating."

Whilst Don doesn't participate much with projects, he enjoys watching and keeping in touch with the projects and really enjoys the camaraderie in the Shed. "Every one of the men who come here are really good blokes and I enjoy the company of all of them.

That's a great achievement to have that sort of atmosphere and culture." In particular, he has enjoyed watching the progress of the Pram Dingy, which he considers of a very high standard as the team is led by a couple of perfectionists.

Don hopes the Shed will continue serving the community for very many years but worries with all the talk of "Gender Balance" will the Shed have to become a "People Shed" in the future. "The Shed serves a very valuable purpose in our town and has helped a lot of men. It has brought pleasure to a lot of people including me.

It's been a wonderfully worthwhile initiative in Lorne, and I hope it continues for a long time".

16th February 1983 Ash Wednesday:

A MEMOIR OF A SURVIVOR

By Suzanne Diviny née Elsey.

As the fortieth anniversary of this approached and recently passed I realized how deeply this day is etched in my memory. I recall the events of that day so clearly. My experiences that day was far less traumatic than many people experienced. My parents lost their home, but we were physically unharmed.

The day began for me as a relatively new mother of a six-week-old baby boy, David. I decided to extend my weekend visit to my parents, Betty and Lloyd Elsey. My husband Kevin returned to work in Melbourne. Lorne was a nicer place to be than hot and dusty Melbourne. Victoria was experiencing a long drought. I changed my doctor's appointment for the mandatory post-natal check. I was feeling well. I asked him was it okay to go for a dip in the ocean.

Mum and I were busy looking after the baby and getting Lloyd off to bowls. Washing nappies was important, getting them dry and folded. We had lunch. David went down for a nap. Mum and I watched the midday movie. Ironically it was "How Green Was My Valley". Lloyd went to bowls. We had another load of nappies. Mum pegged them on the clothesline. I can remember mum saying by the time she had hung the last nappy they were nearly all dry.

David was still napping so I decided to indulge in a dip in the ocean over the road from my parents' home at Stony Creek. I had barely immersed myself in the ocean when I looked up and saw the sun was red ... "Smoke", I thought, "and lots of it." I rushed back to the house. Mum was upset. Something had frightened her dog and he had run off. He did come back but was he was very spooked.

I rang the CFA and asked if there was a fire near Stony Creek. The operator said, "Yes," and hung up. Little did I know all hell was breaking out between Deans Marsh and Lorne. I then rang the bowls club. Lloyd and bowlers thought it was another dust storm like we had the previous Wednesday, but he said he would come home. When Lloyd arrived home he and I went and looked up Stony Creek valley from the balcony. I shall never forget the sight of a large gum being hit by a fireball. It exploded!

Lloyd was a person who was fairly liberal with mild swear words but he never used worse ones around me. After seeing the flames advancing down Stony Creek Valley Lloyd yelled "F..k! We are out of here!". This made me realise how bad the situation was.

We went back inside. Mum was making a cup of tea (mum's solution to everything) She offered one to Lloyd. Lloyd yelled "We have no time for anything! GET OUT OF HERE!"

I grabbed David and his bassinet and gave him to mum and dad. I somehow wrangled mum's little black dog and my Airedale terrier into my car, forgetting their leads. On my way out I grabbed one photo and my makeup bag (For a long time I berated myself for grabbing my makeup in a life and death situation. It wasn't till later on I found my grandma's beautiful locket in that bag)

Mum and dad drove off with David and nothing else. With the dogs in my car I tried to start my car which was in the garage. It wouldn't start. It was incredibly hot by now. Eventually it started and I backed down our driveway at a great rate of knots. I saw Darcy Smith on the beach in board shorts with his surf board. The car was being buffeted by strong winds which were roaring. I motioned for Darcy to come with me. He argued and said he would be okay on the beach. I'm so glad I persisted. He would not have been okay on that beach. His surf board which he left was a melted heap.

By this time, I had lost mum dad and David in all the confusion. I did find them, but for years after I suffered with separation anxiety from our son. Before I found mum and dad I made Darcy go into Ridgeway's Supermarket and buy lemonade. I had an old memory of being in the Wye River fires in the 1950s and being very thirsty.

I found mum and dad at Baldry's licensed supermarket in the main street. Lloyd remembered they had air-conditioning and thought David would be cooler there. Mum and I sat on the floor with David in Baldry's while Lloyd stood in the street with the dogs on make shift string leads.

A few well-known ladies from North Lorne also retreated into Baldry's. They were sitting up the back having a wine. When they found out I was breast feeding they insisted I have a drink of milk and brandy (actually brandy with a dash of milk) so I wouldn't "lose" my ability to breast feed. David slept really well that night even though we didn't dare shut our eyes.

Rex Baldry came over to me and told me that Mum and Dad's home had gone in the fire. I then told Dad. I thought he would not cope but he just said, "I have been through worse in WW2". I told Mum. She had a quiet cry and said we had to look after David.

The wind change came, and Lorne was no longer directly in the path of the fire which went on to ravage Aireys Inlet and Anglesea.

The Stewarts who owned Kalimna Motel heard we had a baby and very kindly gave us a room. David and the dogs slept, and Mum, Dad, Darcy and I watched the coast which was aglow. Red and blue lights of the firetrucks were patrolling Lorne, saving what they could in the impacted part of Lorne, and putting out spot fires.

As the sun rose on the devastation, I looked at my parents who had lost their home and all their possessions, wondering how they would cope. Mum must have read my mind. She looked at me and said, "Look! The sun has come up, the waves are still rolling in, we will rebuild our home so your baby can enjoy the beach and Lorne like you have."

They did rebuild 183 Great Ocean Road, and mum celebrated her 60th birthday in their new home in September 1983. They lived in Lorne until Lloyd died in 2009, and Betty died in 2016.

Still on hot summer days with a north wind, I gather a few precious things by my front door just in case!



From the Deck

ASH WEDNESDAY ON DEANS MARSH ROAD

By John Agar

There is something about certain dates—how they stay fixed in the mind when so many other things depart, never to be recovered into consciousness.

The assassination of JFK was one. The assassination of John Lennon was another ... though when the latter occurred, my then nearly four-year-old daughter, on hearing on the news that the lead singer of the Beatles had ‘died’, turned to me and asked in all innocence, ‘do slaters sing too, Daddy?’ I also remember where I was when I heard that Dianna had died in Paris, and where I was on that fateful day, Wednesday, 16 February 1983, when the Otways and the surf coast from Lorne to the outskirts of Torquay—among many other areas in Victoria—went up in flames.

Dubbed by the media as Ash Wednesday, Wikipedia records that: “... years of severe drought and extreme weather combined to create one of Australia’s worst fire days in a century. Within twelve hours, more than 180 fires fanned by hot winds up to 110 km/h caused widespread destruction across Victoria and South Australia.”

On that day, I had been delivering a research abstract in the cavernous and airconditioned Sir Dallas Brooks Hall in Melbourne [demolished in 2015], blissfully unaware of the appalling turn in the weather outside. Emerging, I remember, at about 3.30 pm, I was assailed by a wall of heat. It had not been predicted to be like this—fire authorities had reassured that the forecast for Wednesday was for more mild weather.

It was shocking, and my thoughts turned to mum, home alone on Deans Marsh Road, Lorne, and in her 72nd year ... but more of her later.

A compilation from various sources [Wikipedia, Forest Fire Management Victoria, and local eyewitness reports] follows:

It was cool on Sunday, 13th February, with a mild temperature of 23C. Then, after a warmer day on Monday [34C], a total fire ban was called for Tuesday 15th, but it turned out to be fine, warm, and partly cloudy with a light wind and a top temperature of 31C. Reassuring forecasts of more mild weather lulled fire authorities for the following day. However, early on Ash Wednesday, the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) amended its predictions and declared another total fire ban, but it was too late. By mid-morning, 104 fires were already burning in Victoria though most were reported to be controlled or contained.

While firefighters battled a day of heat and flame, almost unappreciated, a cavernous low-pressure trough was forming in the Bight. As it did so, it sucked hot air southwards from the arid centre of Australia, translating it into a searing northerly wind. Meanwhile, the deepening trough was barreling out of the Bight towards Victoria.

The northerly that day was some kind of wind! You may think you have experienced horrible northerlies, but this one was something else. But although fire services were already stretched to the limit, they were generally unaware that far worse was to come ... and how quickly ‘the worse to come’ would evolve!

By midday, what began as a mild summer’s day had erupted. The temperature had rocketed past 43C, and the relative humidity had dropped to less than 5%. No one remembers anything close to it—before or since.

As an aside: as fires go—though it is fatuous to play ‘mine is bigger than yours’ with fire—the most devastating fires are generally held to be: Black Summer [2019/2020], Black Saturday [2009], Ash Wednesday [1983], Black Friday [1939], Black Thursday [1851], and Red Tuesday [1898]. However, though each of these can claim ‘worst on record’ status depending on lives lost, area burnt, houses lost, stock destroyed etc., for Lorne, 1939 and 1983 hold poll positions.

By midday on Wednesday 16th, the northerly high-pressure cell over Victoria had not moved but, seemingly catching all unawares, a vicious south-westerly change was sweeping towards South Australia and Victoria. Already in the grip of an extraordinary blast of hot northerly air, the state was to find out what happens when a massive southerly front collides with a vast tract of superheated northerly air.

At 2.00 pm, the situation escalated dramatically. An unprecedented blast [here, the use of that word is, for once, justified] hit from the south. Before the change and under the prevailing northerly winds, the fire path had been relatively long and thin, with a narrow front, but the erratic and violent wind change caused the multiple fires to change in both direction and size.

After the wind change—and what a change—the long edge on the eastern flank of the fire suddenly became the main front. The fire then became much broader, with wind-blown spot fires up to 20km ahead of the front. It was an ‘ember attack on steroids’!

On Ash Wednesday, 47 people died, and 2,080 homes were destroyed in Victoria—more than half being in Lorne and along the surf coast. Eastern View, Moggs, Fairhaven, Aireys, and large parts of Anglesea were decimated. In addition, many businesses, stores, equipment, machinery, stock, and other private assets were destroyed. The total cost of the property-related damage in Victoria was massive.

So, back to my mum! In 1939, mum had been living in Lorne with my gran when the Black Friday fire hit the town. She had seen the iconic Waverley mansion burn down next door though a bush fire is an indiscriminate master, and our place stood intact. Mum had learned her lessons—well, most of them.

Faced with the oncoming Ash Wednesday fire—the golf club, 800m behind our place, had already gone—mum put an aluminium ladder against the roof and climbed onto the roof. Her weapons? ... a bucket of tennis balls and a plastic hose. She plugged the downpipes and filled the gutters, but she could not have predicted the wind—indeed, no one did! The southerly blast blew down her ladder. She was stranded. With the flames visible near the top of Gwynne Avenue, she called loudly for help. A passing SES truck heard her calling and came to her rescue ... our thanks to the SES!

In retrospect, mum need not have worried. The fire suddenly changed direction, turning away from the inevitable destruction of the main township of Lorne towards North Lorne, the Hall Street area, and beyond towards Aireys, devastating all in its path. As in 1939, our house again dodged the indiscriminate ‘bullet’ that marks a bushfire.

By the time I could get through to Lorne—I had to wait two days till the melted road was cool enough to drive on—mum was still shaken but safe. And her first purchase? A really heavy ladder!

LORNE MATTERS

Letter to the Lorne Independent

My name is Beverley and my husband and I have a house at Lorne which we have owned for over 20 years. Now in retirement we are spending a lot of time at Lorne and we take a keen interest in what is going on.

Most days I go into town for a coffee and I have found this 2km walk more onerous lately and decided to purchase an e-scooter, thinking it would be an ideal way for me to commute into town - Not having to drive and then have the usual difficulty of finding parking in the main street.

However recently over the Australia Day weekend I was detained by the local police (lights flashing) after I had pushed the scooter across Ocean Road opposite the Swing Bridge. I was asked to produce my drivers licence which I did not have with me since I was not driving a car, following which I had to provide my name and address enabling them to get this information all of which was duly recorded and I was given a first and final warning never to be seen with this scooter again.

Given Ocean Road has and continues to be closed for bike riding events more and more often, bike riders speed along often 2 or more abreast, skateboard riders zoom down footpaths in town to get to the skateboard ramp facility and kids and parents ride bikes on all the tracks and footpaths I seriously question the fairness of this attitude towards my e-scooter and me. Mine is restricted in speed to no more than 20kph and I only ride at 10kph. I caused absolutely no inconvenience to anyone which I assert is not the case for bikes and skateboards. Another absurd inconsistency is that e-bikes are completely legal.

My rationale for having the scooter is that I ride responsibly with a helmet at a very low speed, not requiring any car parking space (which is a real problem in town) and I do not ride on the footpath. Modern technology must be embraced - times have changed and instead of banning these new modes of transport it would be far more sensible to introduce a licence test and subsequent registration as a requirement to abide by sensible regulation which obviously should include all other bikes as well.

We all know there are very poor drivers on our roads however we have not banned everyone from driving so how can this absurd e-scooter ban be justified. Even the police who stopped me had to agree current restrictions are seemingly inconsistent and discriminatory.

Our local MP Richard Riordan totally agrees with my sentiments as I have liaised with him about this incident and he is prepared to discuss this before Parliament. If you agree with my sentiments on this issue please contact him to assist in having this ban repealed. The Andrews Government seemingly have come to a financially beneficial deal with a couple of providers for which users must pay, however outside this arrangement the restrictions are totally discriminatory for everyone else.

Beverley Lines Lorne Resident.

IS OUR TOWN IN CRISIS?!

I asked on Lorne's twelve-thousand-strong-follower "Community" facebook page recently....this spontaneous, rambly post followed the day's news that there was no longer a second educator starting at the Lorne Childcare Centre this year. That is, on the first Monday back from summer, many local families were informed that their childcare spots were cancelled. The post also came in the wake of learning that just four preps had started at the Lorne school this year...

And so, for the first time in my 30+ years of living here, it hit me that all these basic things about Lorne that I'd grown up with, and taken for granted would be available when I raised my own kids here, could no longer be assumed as given. Hence I shouted , IS OUR TOWN IN CRISIS !?

The facebook post stuck a chord, both online and off. I received dozens of private messages from people describing their love and fears for the School; and the impact of insecure childcare and/or housing on their lives. I learnt that many people had left this beloved community as a result of these issues or were on the verge of doing so. 'Town Meetings' to brainstorm issues and solutions followed, and many key players in town responded – the Kinder coordinator; the principal of the School; the CEO of Great Ocean Road Health; members of Shire; our local Councillor; Friends of Lorne; and Committee for Lorne have all reached out to hear our voices and continue ongoing dialogue with us - whoever 'we' are? I am yet to quite get my head around thisI am also yet to follow up on most of the invitations....

What have I learnt over the past three weeks ? I've learnt that childcare workers are Lorne's TOWN HEROES! The familiar expression goes that investing in childcare is an investment in our future. This normally refers to the role that quality, accessible early childhood education and care plays in shaping lives and society. But in the case of Lorne it takes on a second, even more literal meaning. I have learnt that without secure childcare in Lorne, there may not be a future for the town as we've known it.

Our fabulous healthcare system in town makes this a livable place for many - healthcare workers are also town heroes. Our local CFA protects the town from burning down - more local heroes. Our Kinder and Lorne P-12 College provides an amazing education to its students - I am a graduate of both and attribute many of the opportunities I've had in life to the Lorne School, especially its teachers - these people are of course town heroes.

However, for some reason, right now it seems that childcare in Lorne is not valued in the same way. And yet, it provides the building blocks for all the restwithout secure childcare, it is extremely difficult for families with pre-school children to live here. If we lose this demographic and consequently lose our P-12 College due to lack of numbers, it's not an optimistic future for anyone considering/banking on raising kids here. This coupled with insecure or non-existent affordable housing, the sustainability of the town as we've known it is thrown into very serious question.....

Continued page 13

From page 12

Take a walk with me down the Main Street, through the world class restaurants, cafes, retail, accommodation etc, many of these businesses are run by people banking on the assumption that childcare and schooling will be available to their children - just as, in many cases, it was available to them. And if they are not banking on this, then they are quite possibly people who have been able to remain and survive/thrive in this town because their kids were educated here.

So for me the most important thing to have happened in the past month since writing that facebook post, apart from the already materially effective action that grassroots people have taken to start solving the childcare crisis, is the reframing of childcare in our minds. We have learnt that childcare is a community issue that effects EVERYONE. We can now clearly see that childcare in Lorne needs to be a community priority and valued on (or above) the same level as everything else we put our collective energies in to. It needs to be high on the agenda of Shire and Great Ocean Road Health meetings, local committee meetings and local community volunteer and fundraising efforts.

Sport for example is highly valued in the town but who will use our multi million dollar sports facilities if there are no kids left in town? With four prep students this year and four coming through next year, including my 5 year old son - the under 13's football/netball teams of 2020's are not looking too promising at this point...

I'm in the same boat with the arts, I have put all my energy into the arts in town assuming that there is and will be community to be contributing to....but I can now see that these investments are tied to an outdated status quo, they are predicated on the assumption that the town is secure, if not thriving - it is not - and so we need to recalibrate our immediate-term priorities.

Encouragingly, the majority of attendance at the Town Meetings has been in equal part families directly impacted by the childcare crisis and older generations who are inspired to do anything they possibly can to support us - who immediately recognised that this is an all hands on deck community issue. This good will, empathy and solidarity from the older generations is exactly what is needed as I believe many of the people most effected by these issues are at that brief but intense point in their lives where they are so tied up in just getting by - trying to be good parents, good at their work, good at covering huge rents/mortgages/living expenses - that they are often too busy to be heavily involved in committees, meetings or even in undertaking the often daunting/unclear path of self advocacy.

I am a good example - I can now see so many avenues out of these crises if only I had the time and resources. Instead, I still haven't followed up properly with a fraction of the ideas or offerings of those who contacted me. All my communication is done half assed in a rush as half of me parents, while the other half runs a gallery and tries to get this other stuff done. I have indeed been writing this piece on my phone at any given moment I can take, including as I let the kids watch way too much TV so I can get it done or as I lie in bed at 2am with my sick, fevering two year old.

And yet our voices are vitally important to solving the big issues the community faces. The last three weeks has shown me that our voices (and by our I mean those immediately impacted by the childcare and housing crises) are very powerful, crucial and sought after for finding solutions and making change happen. And so we need to come up with creative ways to involve us in shaping the future of the town: creative, practical, efficient, family friendly ways to get our voices heard. Social media is certainly helpful and I'm working on a forum we can all participate in. However, on top of and in conjunction this, we desperately need those with the time, resources and capacity to advocate for us for secure childcare and secure/affordable housing.

Anna McIlldowie.

Lorne Community House

5289 4383

lorne.communityhouse@gorh.vic.gov.au

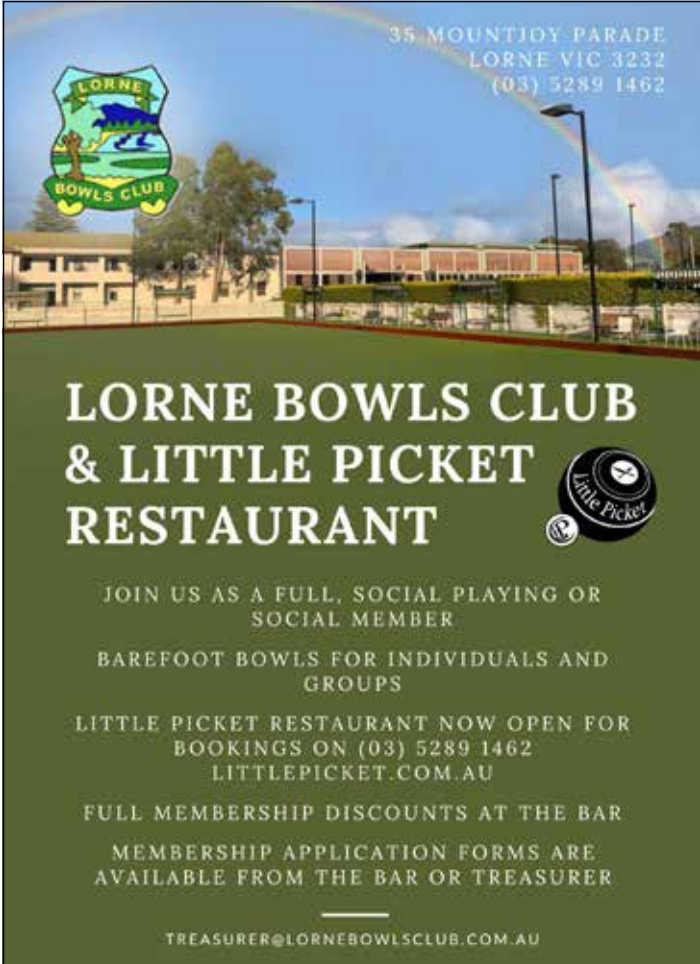
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THE LOUTTIT LOOP

It's hard to believe it is 40 years since the Ash Wednesday Fires. The Shire held a gathering at Aireys Inlet Community Centre as a tribute to those involved and to encourage survivors to meet over a cuppa and reminisce. These devastating times deserve to be remembered and talked out. So very many different, sad and interesting stories.

Congratulations to Leon and Katie Walker who somehow found time to write a full page article in the Surfcoast Times on Friday 10th Feb. on tough and serious times for our little town. In a nutshell they addressed the big change in housing availability – a crisis! Houses have become investments; no homes; no permanent rentals or affordable rentals anywhere in Lorne for essential workers and community; hospital staff, teachers, café staff, chefs, local and new families, etc. Fourteen families have already departed. As a knock-on effect child numbers dwindle and our day-care has closed for lack of qualified staff, and some classes at our wonderful school have classes of only one or two students. One local working family with a 4 year old have no option but to move elsewhere. If you missed this most important article. You could hopefully read it online or contact Committee for Lorne – info@committeeforlorne.org.au. Leon is always available to hear your ideas at Café HAH on the beach.

Just a reminder to our community that it is ILLEGAL to dump your household rubbish in bins in public places!! We are always seeing this happen and an observant local commented last week that it always seemed to be those in very flash ladidah cars dumping bagged rubbish from their boots into public bins!

Last week there was a well publicised Town Meeting with the theme of Dial a Grandparent. Seven turned up, including the Kinder Teacher and the organiser Anna McIldowie. Discussed many problems, but bottom line seemed to be that families had little or no support – community or parental, and the occasional care had closed so what to do? A move to use the Uniting Church Hall at least to take kinder kids over the road for an hour or so for mothers collecting school and kinder kids do not to have to make two visits is being investigated.

Babysitting was also on the above agenda, and this new generation of busy Mums had never heard of the Babysitting Clubs which unofficially operated within kinder and school groups in the 60's and 70's. "You mind my kids for an evening, then I owe you an evening!!!" The three Grannies and one Grandpa present all nodded wisely, smilingly remarking on how well this worked, and were stunned that it wasn't still operating!! So simple.

So much weekend activity over summer on the main beach! Not just beach lovers and surfers, but many surf related competitions attracting thousands of onlookers, cars, trailers and punters for the town. Marvellous and beautifully organised by the Surf Club and its many volunteers. The recent Life Saving competitors had to be evacuated from the ocean as a hammer head shark was spotted hanging round the pier and heading into shore! Officials in rubber duckies tracked its course and it seemed to be heading out to sea – but not so fast! Back in it came and this time officials called it a day and closed the beach and the unfinished comp.

Very interesting to Google hammerhead sharks and find that the odds of being killed by one is 1 in 8 million (same odds as being knocked off by a roo). In fact these Kings of the Ocean or Cephalofoil have never had a human fatality recorded against them! They have 360 degree vision but actually cannot see right in front of them. The females fertilise their own eggs – no male required - !? No comment.

Kate Lambroek sounded off on The Project about big op shops who pay CEOs and valuers etc, putting prices up and even buying stock in. Needs saying that the awesome Lorne Shop of Opportunities pays no wages, prices things thoughtfully, leaves room for a mark up on bigger items, and hopes to fulfil everyone's dream of having a win at the shop albeit in Knicknacks or clothing! Our huge list of great Volunteers deserve big thanks and also respect. They are extremely offended at folk who try to bargain the price down! "You're not in Bali now Madam!"

The team from St Cuthberts Uniting held their annual Pancake Day and had fun raising over \$700 towards all the amazing things the Uniting tries to look after – aged care, disability, housing and homelessness, early learning, emergency relief, etc. etc. The yummy pancakes were thanks to Louttit Bakery who donated the pancake mix, Foodworks for plates, milk, drinks, and maple syrup, and Qdos for the lemons. All the usual local legends!!

Mega thanks to Jason Cichocki of Surfcoast Wildlife Rescue team for all the hard work over the busy summer. The number to call for help is 042 2048557. Many of us remember dear Bill Fulton who would come and remove dead (or almost dead) and injured creatures for us. He did a great job in his quiet strong way and without the wonderful team of helpers Jason has assisting.

This month we farewell Keith and Jeannette from Hall Street. They held a most unusual garage sale with all proceeds being donated to the Lorne Op Shop! The coffers were swelled to the tune of around \$500 which thrilled everyone!! All the best you two and Lorne will miss you and your gorgeous dog Gertie. Folk from Big Hill have purchased the house and as we can imagine, look forward to being able to walk into town!

A book called Learning to Speak Alzheimers was donated to the Op Shop. It has an inscription inside which reads: "I can't remember who loaned this book to me".

A recommendation for party givers in Lorne: Surfcoast Party Hire are excellent, punctual, good value and have everything you could possibly need.

Have you got the Snap Send Solve App? It's free and very very handy for overflowing bins, badly parked vehicles, or suspicious activities. Take a photo and send it off, and the app sends it to an appropriate authority. Having rung Lorne Police several times and called in twice, all to no avail, this little duck is off to "snap send and solve" the mystery of a little white car parked nose in in the 50 kph zone which seems to have someone in it. For the last ten days.

Still the scammers attack us. Do not press one key if you get the vibes, or if something is slightly misspelled, or what ever! Ring a mate and ask if they think it's a scam? Or just delete. Give them no time, energy or space. And don't be like me who stupidly pressed JUSTANSWER to get a tradie to help fix a problem and then remembered in 2020 I'd done just that and they continuously took \$40 from my account month after month without my permission. This time I rang the number on the back of the credit card to block the small first payment – which was successful!

SeeyaLillian

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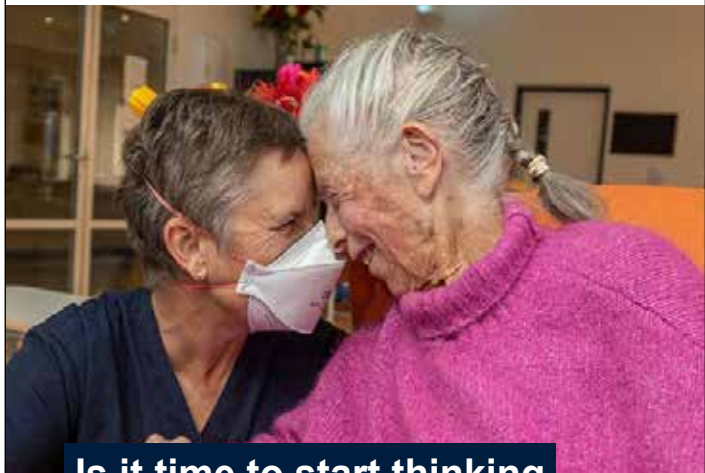
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VISITING LORNE WEEKLY

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FROM OUR COUNCILLOR

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

Day Care

There has, for some time now, been concern expressed by families in our community at the lack of daily day care for children who are of kindergarten age. Great Ocean Road Health has not been able to deliver regular childcare, which in turn impacts on many of our local parent's ability to work.

I am very pleased to announce that the Surf Coast Shire officers have for some months been liaising with the Lorne Kindergarten to seek their capacity and willingness to operate an additional day of unfunded kindergarten care. Much to the credit of the staff at the kindergarten, they are willing and able to do so. It is a complex matter which must consider current operating licences, award conditions and staff availability. As a result of this work the Council will be able to provide an additional day of six hours care.

The Council is not funded to offer this service, therefore it will require a minimum of ten children with a maximum of 22 to be cost-neutral, with the families paying a fee-for-service. The officers will run an expression of interest to gather feedback on the proposed day, which will include families currently not using the service. If the results of the EOI process are positive, with the minimum of ten children, we would expect to run this fee-for-service offering at the beginning of term2, 2023.

I am very grateful to the kindergarten staff and to Katie Reaper (Manager Community Strengthening) and Melissa Iannazzo from the Shire for their determination to offer solutions to this very real and pressing need.

Shire Structure Review

Residents of the Shire, along with thirty-nine other municipalities, were able to make submissions to the Victorian Electoral Commission on the future structure of the Shire – un-warded or wards of equal councillor representation, each ward having equal voter representation within an acceptable variation. The final say rests with the state government, after considering the report of an independent review panel. The purpose of the review is to ensure compliance with the Local Government Act 2020.

I wish to make several observations connected to the process:

- This review was mandated by state government legislation. Yet the Shire's ratepayers must pay for the operations of the independent panel. This is another example of responsibilities being devolved to local government, without the funding to carry out the responsibility.
- The process began for our shire on February 1 with inadequate time to inform our communities of the process required. An information webinar was held in late January, the day before submissions opened.
- It was not obvious that if you did not make a submission in round one of the process, you would not be involved in round two. It became clear once you began further reading, but I believe this should have been clearly stated when the two round deadlines were outlined.

The councillor group was advised not to make public our preference, as we may have a conflict of interest if deciding to stand in the 2024 council election. I complied, but I did make an online submission to the VEC. When completing the submission I was again reminded that, although submissions could be delivered to the VEC office, we effectively disenfranchise many in the community who are not computer literate, do not have access to the technology or the means to hand deliver submissions.



Point Grey

The additional funding for the Point Grey development is very good news, albeit at the expense of the Skenes Creek to Apollo Bay section of the Great Ocean Road Coastal Trail. The task for the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority, with input from the Lorne Co Design Group, is to work their way through the VCAT decision relevant to the development and the implications of the Marine and Coastal Act. This is not an easy task, but it is a pressing one. I am restricted about what I can say, in case the matter comes back to the Council, but I wish them well with their task.

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Where everybody counts

OP SHOP BUZZ

By Sandy Brown

Hello in March. Special thanks to our kind Melbourne friends who visit over the holidays and bring quantities of special donations with them for us to sell. This has enabled us to break our own record of sales over January.

Most of our Op Shop members and local shoppers are well acquainted with our hard working Committee members. Sandy Brown is a well respected art, jewellery and craft expert.

In between Melbourne visits and volunteering work at the National Gallery of Victoria, she finds time to check out our most valuable donations and recommend suitable prices. Here she tells you about her work in our shop.

This month's Op Art Buzz sees our indefatigable Pam Hill refusing to be vertically challenged by this generous donation. Note Jill Rees coming in at the rear to offer support. This very large Contemporary Art piece was a \$2200 purchase. Thank you for such a wonderful donation. Given its size, it is being stored at Judi Keneally (also Art expert and Committee member) and Ian Lovell's new Pop Up Art Bazaar at The pier. It will be available for purchase on line.

Also we have another very interesting donation. It is a large circular genuine African juju hat, with ostrich and chicken feathers, mounted as a wall hanging. As it is 30 inches in diameter, it is too large and fragile for display in our little shop, but is again stored and available on Facebook. The story goes that said husband just couldn't live with it anymore above the bed. So it was reluctantly donated by his wife. Check it out!



This month also sees a gorgeous little Sterling (800) Shell Cameo Brooch still in its original box stamped with the original name in gold 'The French Jewel Box', 2a The Block Collins Street, Melbourne, for sale. If like me when visiting Melbourne, The Block Arcade is a first port of call.

The beautiful architecture of times past is a draw card as is The Hopetoun Tea Rooms. The jewellery store our brooch comes from is still there. Window shopping in this store with all its treasures, is a favourite pastime.

Thank you to all our customers. We hope your experience in our little shop has seen you find 'your treasures' along with the opportunity at finding a bargain. Do plan your next visit soon!

COUNCIL GRANTS TO HELP GROW SURF COAST CREATIVE SECTOR

Australia's fourth largest regional creative hotspot is set to receive another boost through Surf Coast Shire Council's DEVELOP Arts and Creatives Grant program.

Grant applications are now open, inviting locals from all artistic disciplines to be bold and innovative. Grants of up to \$3,000 to support individual professional artists and producers and \$5,000 for collectives are available.

Surf Coast Shire Councillor Gary Allen said the grant opportunity was another step towards helping to foster the rise of the shire-wide Surf Coast creative sector.

"The Surf Coast has long been known as the home of surfing," Cr Allen said.

"We've got the waves, the walks, the waterfalls and all the country style of the hinterland - and to top it all off, dotted throughout this shire, we've also got one of the most

innovative Creative Industries sectors Australia has to offer."

"We understand it's not easy being in the creative industry. Money and time are always an issue - that's why these Council grants support artists of all disciplines to keep going, to increase their skill set and to keep making their mark.

"We know that if artists are supported here in the Surf Coast Shire, we all stand to benefit - creatively, culturally and economically."

Submissions open Wednesday 1 February and close at 5PM on Tuesday 28 February. Successful recipients will be announced in late March.

Council strongly encourages First Nations artists and artists from groups such as LGBTQIA+ and culturally and linguistically diverse communities to apply.

For more information visit: surfcoast.vic.gov.au/creativegrants.

SPORTSBRIEFS

By John Ford

Cricket Season Ends

Lorne's team in the Colac and District Cricket Association competition has had quite a good season, with the last match being played on February 25th. The team had been in recess since 2016, partly due to major renovations of Stribling Reserve and then with COVID causing cancellations of sporting competitions from 2020.

Darren Baldaras worked hard to piece together a committee to allow the team to be registered, and some senior players answered the call to be available to play. A group of enthusiastic younger players joined in to form a team that combined well, supported each other and played some very good cricket.

Throughout the season Lorne had some good wins and were in winning positions in many other matches. For much of the season it appeared that Lorne would make the finals, but the team was hampered by injuries and unavailability of players at crucial times. Spectators who came to watch remarked at the very good batting of Mike Brennan, Jack Belsar-O'Connor and Harley Davies, supported by good bowling efforts from Louis Coates, Ryan Heathcote and Peter Bracken. There were many other good contributors, but in cricket it frequently happens that not all players fire on the same day.

Had Lorne made the finals I think they would have acquitted themselves very well. The team, committee members and a large cast of volunteers are to be congratulated on this successful season which will provide a springboard to build upon next summer.

Women's Golf

The Women's 2023 Golf year began on Tuesday, January 31st with some gentle warm up yoga lead by member Anne Maree Kennedy. Then around 20 keen - and now limber - Women played nine holes for the first official round of the Women's comp this year - followed by lunch and cake.

February sees the 3 week annual competition of Women's Summer Cup, where each player's best 2 x 18 hole rounds account for their result. Watch this space for this year's winner.

To start the year off, our Lady President Sue Neill, organised a social lunch for the group at Qdos. We have a number of social events throughout the year, which are great opportunities to get to know each other better, and especially for the newer members to make connections. At the lunch Sue set a challenge to us all to each set a golfing goal that is achievable and challenging. Some examples of the goals we set are: to win a monthly medal, to play a round with no scratch holes, to play consecutive rounds to Handicap, to play 18 holes until 80 years!! We all really like the idea of challenging ourselves - perhaps that's why we all love Golf!!

We have had a number of new members join us over the summer - some new to golf, and some returning to the game.

The more the merrier.

Towards this, we hold an annual Women's "Get into Golf" day in March where we encourage any Women who are thinking of giving golf a go to come up and play. We make it as easy and fun for new participants, providing clubs, instruction from Anglesea Golf Pro Vicki Uwland, and an easy 6 hole round with some of the women members, followed by lunch in the club house.

The date this year is Tuesday March 14th. We have included the "Get into Golf" flier in this month's Independent with all the details. Please let us know if you are keen.

Vicki will then also be running a 4 week series of coaching on consecutive Thursday mornings, here at Lorne Country Club, starting from Thursday March 16th, for both beginners, and those working on improving their golf. Please call Vicki if you are interested in booking into these sessions.

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.

Lorne Country Club – Golf and Tennis

There is a number of events to look forward to over the next couple of weeks: Firstly on Saturday March 4th is the annual golf day where Lorne Aquatic and Angling Club takes on Lorne Country Club for bragging rights. This amazing fun day starts at 11.30 am, but you must book your place by contacting the club on www.lornecountryclub.com.au. On Sunday March 5th is another members and guests day where both golf and tennis are to be followed by a gourmet barbecue. To register you must book and pay by midnight on Friday March 3rd. On the Labour Day long weekend on Saturday March 11th there will be a round-robin mixed tennis tournament with morning tea. This will make up for the Australia Day tennis tournament which had to be cancelled due to strong, dangerous winds sweeping over the courts. To secure your place in the tournament contact Kevin Diviny on 0407 829 296.

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



LORNE COUNTRY CLUB

Women's Get into Golf Day
Tuesday, March 14th 2023

Cost:	Free
Who:	Women keen to give golf a go in Lorne
Time:	9.00 am - Welcome and cuppa
Program:	* An introduction to golf led by Anglesea Golf Pro Vicki Uwland * An easy game of golf, played in small groups, over 6 holes
Lunch:	* Lunch provided
What to bring:	* Golf clubs if you have a set, otherwise we have clubs for you to use. * Water bottle, sunscreen, hat * Walking shoes/runners.
What next?:	* An opportunity to join a Golf Clinic with Vicki Uwland, at Lorne, for 4 weeks commencing the following Thursday



Please contact us if you'd like to take part, or if you have any questions.
 We look forward to meeting you.
 Sue Neill 0418674062 Chris Angus: 0439008167

MUSIC QUIZ

Answers and Winner *By Ray Sutton*

I am sure some of you will relate to the following quote I read recently: “My ability to remember songs and lyrics from the 60’s and 70’s far exceeds my ability to remember why I just walked into the kitchen”

Well done to everyone who had a go. I hope it provided some relaxation and fun over the holiday period and not too much frustration when some of those lyrics were familiar, but you could not quite connect them to the song.

Congratulations Linton Ferguson who is the winner. He identified ten songs and artists and knowing Linton, I am sure he always remembers why he walked into the kitchen. Answers are below with the lyrics in red and the artist and song in brackets.

It Was a Time I Remember Oh So Well (Joan Baez, *The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down*)

I was lying in bed looking out the window and I remember all the leaves were brown and the sky is grey. (Mamas and the Pappas, *California Dreaming*) It was a starry, starry night (Don McLean, Vincent) and you can hear the boats go by. (Leonard Cohen, Suzanne) My Dad came into my room and said keep your eyes open as the chance might not come again (Bob Dylan, *The Times They Are A Changing*) and I said I’m going to be just like you Dad. (Harry Chapin, *Cats in the Cradle*) Every Sunday, they told me there is a code you can live by (Crosby Stills Nash and Young, *Teach Your Children*) and that heaven holds a place for those who prey (Simon and Garfunkel, *Mrs Robinson*) where we’ll all get together and have a good time then. (Harry Chapin, *Cats in the Cradle*)

So, I got up to wash my face (Simon and Garfunkel, Cecilia) and looked through the bathroom window. (Beatles, *She Came in Through the Bathroom Window*) You could hear the train whistle blowing (Seekers, *Morningtown Ride*) and I could see the narrow streets and cobblestones. (Simon and Garfunkel, *Sounds of Silence*) There was ten thousand people, maybe more (Simon and Garfunkel, *Sounds of Silence*) gathered in the square. I thought to myself I know I have to go away. (Cat Stevens, *Father and Son*)

I sat at the breakfast table with my mother and told her of my plans to which she responded, hope you have a lot of nice things to wear but if you want to leave take good care. (Cat Stevens, *Wild World*)

My mother is a modest lady, a stranger to blue water (John Denver, *Take Me Home Country Road*) but I could search the whole world over until my life is through (Seekers, *I’ll Never Find Another You*) and not find a more loving, caring mother. We talked about my father, and she told me when he first came to the mountains his life was far away (John Denver, *Rocky Mountain High*) but they met with friends around the campfire, and everyone was high. (John Denver, *Rocky Mountain High*) They have been a loving couple ever since.

I asked my mother how does it feel (Bob Dylan, *Like a Rolling Stone*) when you fall in love and she said it is like you are



Ray presents a delighted Linton Ferguson with a \$50 Lorne Books voucher from the Lorne Independent.

only waiting for this moment to arrive (Beatles, *Blackbird*) although now I am old but I am happy (Cat Stevens, *Father and Son*) and I just like watching the ships roll in. (Otis Redding, *Sitting on the Dock of the Bay*) Sometimes I can feel like a drunk in a midnight choir (Leonard Cohen, *Bird on a Wire*) as a man hears what he wants to hear and disregards the rest. (Simon and Garfunkel, *The Boxer When*) I asked what she meant she just posed the question, how many times can a man turn his head and pretend that he just doesn’t see? (Bob Dylan, *Blowing in the Wind*)

I didn’t ask my mother any more questions because it felt like a friend of mine hit me from behind. (James Taylor, *Carolina on my Mind*) As I left the kitchen, she told me all your dreams are on their way (Simon and Garfunkel, *Bridge Over Troubled Waters*) but don’t be a bad girl. (Cat Stevens, *Wild World*) Sometime friends just can’t be found, or they sail on by. Simon and Garfunkel, *Bridge Over Troubled Waters*

I then got dressed and went down to the square. All around me a voice was sounding. (Woody Guthrie, *This Land is Your Land*) There were plants and birds and rocks and things, and the air was full of sound. (America, *A Horse With No Name*)

Then I saw her. She was wearing rags and feathers from the Salvation Army counter. (Leonard Cohen, Suzanne) I thought if I had a bell, I’d ring it. (Peter Paul and Mary, *If I Had a Hammer*) I could not stop looking at her. Then with her ivory skin and eyes of emerald green (Dolly Parton, Jolene) she looked at me. I said to myself take your time and think a lot (Cat Stevens, *Father and Son*) but she was like flaming flowers that brightly blaze. (Don McLean, Vincent) Just relax, take it easy (Cat Stevens, *Father and Son*) I said. My mothers’ words echoed in my head, and I thought now I understand what you tried to say. (Don McLean, Vincent)

My senses have been stripped (Bob Dylan, *Mr Tambourine Man*) by her beauty and then she came to me and said kiss me and smile for me, hold me like you’ll never let me go. (John Denver, *Leaving on a Jet Plane*) I am ready to go anywhere, (Bob Dylan, *Mr Tambourine Man*) have tea and oranges all the way from China and I want to travel with her. (Leonard Cohen, Suzanne)

Together they would leave on a boat with billowed sails. (Peter, Paul and Mary, *Puff the Magic Dragon*)

MAP ART

Recently I was approached by this Deans Marsh local who wanted to advertise in the Lorne Independent. In line with our policy of encouraging all things local, I asked her to explain her business here, before advertising in later editions if she so chooses. I love maps so I am very happy to present Ruth Gazzard to you all.

Ruth Gazzard
GIS consultant
Email: mixitmaps@bigpond.com
Website: www.mixitmaps.com
Mob: 0428 930 480

Ruth's story:

I was recently approached by a local farmer who asked if I could make them a farm map. I said "of course"! Being a freelance mapping consultant allows me to dabble in many different fields. Some of my clients include the CFA, the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, Landcare, Catchment Management Authorities, Parks Victoria and the Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation. The work is interesting and varies widely from waste management and bushfire preparedness planning to maps for bushwalking and cultural heritage. A few years ago, I also launched an artistic branch to my business. I make customised, colourful



posters of places that are special to people. It might be a favourite holiday spot, or the village they grew up in, or an outback station. Often purchased as presents, Mix It Maps make affordable, personalised gifts. Maps can be customised by highlighting individual properties in a complementary colour. On my website you will discover many different colour schemes to choose from as well as size and printing options. For examples, see <https://www.mixitmaps.com/gallery>. And being a Deans Marsh local, I have enjoyed experimenting with maps of Lorne, with each trying to capture something of it's essence. Find my Lorne prints for sale at <https://www.mixitmaps.com/shop>

REPAIR CAFÉ NOW IN AIREYS INLET HALL

Did you know?

The Repair Café is now operating out of the Aireys Inlet Hall.

The Repair Café aims to reduce items sent to landfill by repairing them.

At the first event for 2023 on Sunday 5 February a total of 28 volunteers saved 110.9 kg from landfill.

70 visitors brought in 80 items to be assessed.

Of these 48 were repaired and advice given for 22 of them.

Volunteers complete the repairs for free however a donation is appreciated to cover costs. Visitors need to supply parts if required, and while we can't always fix everything, we can always give advice.

We fix:

- Electrical and mechanical items (eg; vacuums, blenders, clocks)
- Clothing and textiles
- Jewellery
- iPads and iPhones (Apple products)
- Toys
- Furniture
- Chainsaws and outdoor equipment
- Sharpen Knives, garden tools, chainsaw & saw blades



A Kids Tinkering Zone operates where kids from 3-15 can have fun dismantling and reassembling household items.

Recycling. The Repair Cafe accepts bottle tops off milk etc, must be clean and plastic disk removed – they go to Lids for Kids. Also, Bread bag tags, toothpaste tubes and toothbrushes, razors

Tech Deck Repairs for kids will operate next meeting!

THE NEXT REPAIR CAFÉ IS ON 5 MARCH FROM 10AM – 2PM

(Last repair items accepted at 1.30pm)

APPLY TO JOIN KARAAF WETLANDS COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP

Council is seeking expressions of interests from community members to join its Karaaf Wetlands Community Reference Group.

The group will work collaboratively with Surf Coast Shire Council and other stakeholders to help develop stormwater solutions to ensure the future health of the Karaaf Wetlands is the best it can be.

The group will be advisory in nature and comprise Council staff and up to 12 community members, who meet every eight to 10 weeks approximately, with additional meetings from time to time in line with key milestone deliverables under the program of works. The initial period of membership is two years.

Candidates are required to complete an expression of interest form explaining their skills, knowledge, experience or passion for one or more of the following areas:

- Cultural heritage
- Climate change
- Hydrology / stormwater systems

• Environment and sustainability

Surf Coast Shire Mayor Cr Liz Pattison said the group was being established following the release of independent assessments late last year, which showed that stormwater from north Torquay is having an adverse impact on the Karaaf Wetlands.

“Our community has been very active in caring for the Karaaf, which we’re really grateful for, so we want locals to be involved in the next steps to improve the environmental health of the culturally and environmentally significant Karaaf Wetlands,” she said.

“We’d love to hear from passionate locals with good knowledge of the area, our environment, hydrology and stormwater systems, who are strategic thinkers and good problem solvers.”

To find out more and to apply go to surfcoast.vic.gov.au/Karaaf. Expressions of interest must be submitted by 5pm Sunday 26 February 2023. You can also pick up a hard copy form at Council offices, 1 Merrijig Drive, Torquay.

GAMES LEGACY FLOATS INDOOR POOL OPTION FOR SURF COAST AQUATIC AND HEALTH CENTRE

Surf Coast Shire Council will consider changing scope for the Surf Coast Aquatic and Health Centre to include an indoor 25-metre pool.

A report to be considered at Council’s meeting on 28 February outlines a shift in dynamics surrounding the project with the creation of a new Commonwealth Games aquatic facility at Armstrong Creek.

The Victorian Government has announced that a ‘community pool facility’ will remain as a legacy asset from the 2026 Games.

Expert industry research indicates that use of that facility will impact patronage of the Surf Coast Aquatic and Health Centre.

The growth areas of Armstrong Creek and Mount Duneed had been anticipated as key catchments for the Surf Coast Aquatic and Health Centre.

“These Commonwealth Games announcements, and our research findings mean that the landscape has changed considerably since Council approved existing plans for the SCAHC in June,” Mayor Liz Pattison said.

“Early modelling indicates that the Armstrong Creek centre would reduce our catchment and demand, particularly for activities like Learn to Swim, warm water exercise and hydrotherapy, impacting our visitation and revenue.

“We said late last year that we would need to seek better understanding of how the two centres might be able to complement each other, and how the Armstrong Creek centre might influence our project.

“Expert industry research has provided us with better perspective and a report will go to our 28 February Council meeting for consideration, putting forward options including changing the scope of our project.”

Existing plans for the Surf Coast Aquatic and Health Centre include two indoor warm water pools for learn to swim, warm water exercise and hydrotherapy, and a 25-metre outdoor pool intended to be enclosed as soon as feasible, along with allied health suites, program spaces, a gym and supporting amenities.

An alternate scope option being considered includes an indoor 25-metre lap pool and one 20x10-metre indoor warm water pool which can be programmed for learn to swim, exercise and hydrotherapy, with option for addition of a further indoor learn to swim pool.

This option includes the same overall components, but re-prioritises and alters the sequencing of delivery to better meet the needs of our community given the impact of an Armstrong Creek community pool facility.

Council is continuing to seek funding to bridge a \$3.57 funding shortfall for the project.



Keith Miller
Commodore



Well January is done and dusted and what a month it was. We were finally blessed with a nice summer after enduring three duds in a row. It was our first good summer operating with our extended outdoor area the now famous 'Lazarus Lounge' and its popularity was sensational. The inside of the clubhouse was completely empty on a few occasions with everyone outside enjoying the sunshine. We only have a lease for the Lazarus Lounge until mid September this year so it's fingers crossed that we can extend it for another year. It's become invaluable to the safe operation of our club.

We had our biggest January crowds ever by a long shot but were never overcrowded. This was for a couple of reasons: being members only for the month and the near perfect weather allowing everyone to venture outside.

Hutch once again waved his now famous magic wand and rounded up the best crew of bar staff in the world. A huge thank you to them all. They were sensational. We ran our traditional free sausage sizzles every Wednesday and Friday nights along with our local crayfish and/or box of prawns raffles. This now goes back to just Friday evenings. The generosity of our members who come along and support our club and local community by buying heaps of raffle tickets never ceases to amaze me.

A big thank you to Jody Beaton and Luke Nisbet for their hard work with the raffle sales and Ric, Kevin, Marshall, Flea, Dave and Ann with their superb BBQ cooking skills. Our club stomach pump was only needed 3 or 4 times this year.

The Club Bus was running 7 days a week so a big thank you to our volunteer drivers; Bill, Tony, Leon, Mick, Dave and Garry. Also a special mention to our Vice Commodore Ric Addison who in between his sausage cooking duties was on the gate checking memberships. Ange and Bridget did a great job on the gate helping people with their digital membership. We are open 7 days a week until Easter and our happy hours will return soon. Don't forget!

Vale Sam Flanders

Sadly we lost one of our own recently. Our popular, regular, much loved and respected member Sam Flanders. Sam was a great bloke, always happy and friendly. He had a great night at our Pier to Pub after party enjoying a couple of sherbets with his mates and family. He then went back to his caravan and tragically died during the night. Our deepest condolences go out to his wife and family.

Important Membership Information

Remember that next year the process will be even simpler for existing members as renewal of your subscriptions is all that will be required. One area of misunderstanding has arisen with Family and Boat memberships. These two membership categories allow for the primary member and ONE secondary member. Children 17 years and under are admitted to the club along with their guardian members, but adult children (18 years and over) require their own membership. Our apologies if this was not made clear in our previous communications. We have also noted that some people with Family or Boat Memberships have only signed up their primary member. Jim Rothel, Club Secretary

UPCOMING EVENTS

Major Fishing Comp Number Two
Sponsored by Western Insurance Brokers Colac

Sunday 12th March 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 roast 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 weight in one fish each so anyone can win on the day and it's a environmentally friendly. Come and have a crack. It's great fun.



A big day on the snapper. Carolyn Griffiths, Me, Richard Sibly (our merchandise man and sponsor), Wayne Griffiths and Richard Coghlan.

Continued page 27

CHRIS
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DESIGN

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CUMULUS HOUSE, WYE RIVER

ARCHITECTURE INTERIOR FURNITURE PRODUCT

From page 25

Fads are Back

Fish Aggravating Devices (FADS) are back in the same two locations as the last few years. The coordinates are displayed in the club house. They were deployed a bit later than usual this year due to weather and other commitments by Fisheries Research.

Cup Cake Cup Lawn Bowls Comp

Sponsored by Grandma Shields & Lorne Celebrations
Wednesday 5th March @ 5pm.

Put this date into your calendar! The annual lawn bowls comp between us and the Cup Cakes at the Lorne Bowling Club. If you can bend down without falling down we want you on our side. Put your name down at the Anglers or the Bowls Club. Free BBQ.

Boat Licence Course

I've finally found a bloke who will travel to Lorne and run a Boat Licence Course. To do it he needs a minimum of 10 and he charges \$130 each. If anyone out there would like to do it, drop into the club and give Hutch your name and contact details. If we get 10, I will get it organised and let you know a time, date and location.

Recent Events



Our Lady Winner Vicky Kwar with our World Champion Raffle Lady, Judge, Gazman Manager and Committee Member Jody Beaton.

Major Fishing Comp Number One

Sponsored by Lorne Automotive

We had an Easterly so only one brave sole and his son ventured out in their boat.. The winners were Senior Winner, Andrew Clarke with a Whiting off the Pier = 2628 points, Senior Runner Up, Paul Staley with a Flathead in tough conditions = 2412 points, Senior Third, Bill Staley with a flathead = 2296 points, Junior Winner, Jack Hunter with a Salmon off the Pier = 1716 points

Pier To Pub After Party With The Sensational Vulcans Sponsored By Villawood Properties



Probably our best one ever with Members Only, the Lazarus Lounge in full swing and the weather perfect.

Lorne Fire Brigade Cfa Fundraiser Sponsored By Great Ocean Road Bakery

This year it was an absolute cracker of a day. Lots were digging into their pockets in support of our bunch of wonderful CFA Volunteers. We raised the biggest amount ever for them and the Worlds Best Blues Band the 'BLUES BUS' were sensational once again. The CFA crew cooked up a ton of snags with onions and coleslaw all donated by FOODWORKS LORNE and all the bread was donated by GREAT OCEAN ROAD BAKERY so a big thanks to them.

Fishing Report Boat Fishing

We've just had one of the best January's fishing for decades. That's when we could get out. It's been a tad windy a lot of the time so you just had to be ready to go when there was a lull. When we did manage to get out the fishing was sensational. Big Snapper up to 80cm and bag limits reached on several occasions, Flathead have been jumping into the boat with an unusually large amount of big Tiger Flathead amongst them. There's been plenty of big Whiting, Gummy Sharks, School Sharks, Nannygai, Flying Gurnard or Latchet, Teraki, Salmon, Trevally, Kingfish and the odd Tuna.

Pier Fishing

The Pier is still fishing quite well with decent catches of Salmon, Whiting, Trevally, Mullet, Snapper, Flathead, Calamari and the occasional Gummy Shark. Last week we had an unusual thing happen. One of our resident Smooth Stingrays and a visiting seal took a dislike to each other and had a bit of a blue which lasted for quite a while. I don't know who the victor was but I haven't seen the seal for a week or so.



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The waves crashing 100 metres in front are complemented by a beautiful outlook across Separation Creek beach towards Wye River point. A striking design featuring sandstone feature walls and expansive glazing. "Sandbanks" is one of the most recognisable houses in this region of the coast! Other features include timber flooring, wood heater, split systems, stone benchtops, massive secure storage areas, elegant cabinetry throughout and very well-appointed kitchen.

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55 POLWARTH ROAD LORNE

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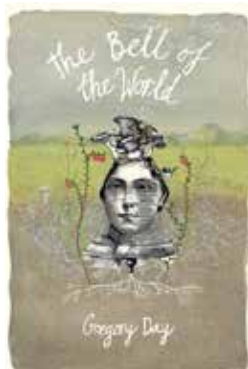
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Picks of the Month



FICTION: *Bell of the World* by Gregory Day



Troubled Sarah Hutchinson is sent to live with her eccentric Uncle Ferny after returning to Australia from her English boarding school. With the sound of the ocean surrounding everything they do on the farm, Sarah and her uncle form an inspired bond through art and the natural world.

Gregory Day's new novel embodies a cultural reckoning in a breathtakingly beautiful and lyrical way. *The Bell of the World* is both a song to the natural wonders that are not yet gone and a luminous prehistory of contemporary climate change and its connection to colonialism. It is a book immersed in the past but written very much for the hearts of the future.

NON-FICTION: *Coping in Good Times and Bad* by Erica Frydenberg

Coping in Good Times and Bad brings together what we know about coping so we can create a life of health, joy, satisfaction, resilience and wellbeing. 'Coping' and 'resilience' have become very commonly used words, in our COVID-impacted world, but what's needed is a template for a good life.

Decades of research, teaching and professional practice have provided psychologist Erica Frydenberg with intimate insight into how and why we cope well and not so well, and practical ways of developing and refining our coping strategies. Integrating coping with key proven ideas in contemporary psychology, such as emotional intelligence, mindset, mindfulness and grit.



CHILDREN'S FICTION: *The Ultimate A to Z Guide to Dogtopia* by Grace Jackson

THE ULTIMATE A to Z GUIDE TO
DOGTOPIA



A debut book from local author, Grace Jackson, aged just 9 years old. It was inspired by Sugar, her ball of furry love, who flew her to "Suggy Bug Land" (Dogtopia) and showed her all its wonderful secrets one holiday when she was missing her.

This is a full colour, beautifully illustrated guide to another multiverse for children, aged from early childhood to late primary, and dog lovers of all ages. This book is a testament that any child can be an author and illustrator, at any age, if they just have the courage to follow their dreams.

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