



LORNE

Independent

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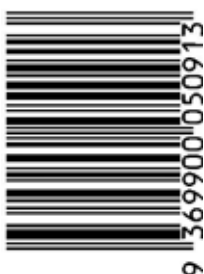
No 289 December 2025

Produced as an independent newsletter by Lorne Independent Inc.

THE AVENUE OF HONOUR
'REIMAGINED' More... P3

Important bushfire information P25

Lorne's future water options P37



Lorne Independent Inc.

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IN THIS ISSUE...

- P3 Lorne P-12 College News
- P5 Editorial
- P6-9 Letters to the Editor
- P10 Lorne Gardeners Annual Trip
- P11 Here We Go Round The Mulberry Bush
- P12 Fireworks on New Year's Eve
- P13 Lorne Surf Lifesaving Club
- P14-15 Arts in Lorne
- P16-17 From The Deck: The Boobook Owl
- P18 Christmas & January Church Times in Lorne
- P19 Great Ocean Road Health News
- P20 Op Shop Buzz
- P21 BitterSweat Wood-Fired Sauna
- P22-23 Clementine Calling
- P25 Lorne Bushfire Place of Last Resort update
- P27 Blues Hit the Strib
- P28-29 Sportsbriefs
- P30-31 Shavings from the Shed
- P35 SES report
- P37 Lorne's Water Options
- P38-39 Edited highlights of Commodore's report

**COVER STORY**

LORNE P-12 COLLEGE

Inspiring Excellence by the Sea



A community legacy to live on



The Avenue Of Honour 'Reimagined'

The Lorne-P12 College over the years has always had the community as its focus for its VCE VM projects. From 'A Pot Holed History – The Making of the Great Ocean Road' documentary to last year's 'Community Connections Dinner', year after year our students continue to work on leaving a legacy - to contribute to their community and at the same time meet their curriculum outcomes in an Applied Learning way.

This year was no exception. From a chance meeting in the street with Gary Fenton who explained the long-standing plight of our local treasure, Doug Stirling, an idea for this year's project was born - 'The Avenue of Honour-Reimagined'. The students held meetings with Doug and other stake holders to learn about the lost history of our town. He told of how over a century ago, 32 former Lorne School students left their seaside town to serve in World War I. Their service came at great personal cost, leaving lasting impacts on their health, wellbeing, and families.

Community Spirit & Generosity

We give thanks to Robyn Saunders (PDS teacher) and to our incredible sponsors – Lorne Community Opp Shop (our main sponsors), Bendigo Community Bank, Lorne RSL, Lorne Aquatic and Angling Club, Lions Village, Winchelsea Lion's Club, Surf Coast Shire Council, and our private donors – Garry Fenton and the Chant family.

Please come and visit the memorial and hear the stories for yourself. Located on Grove Road at the front of the Lorne P-12 College.



After the war, the town planted an Avenue of Honour of flowering gums with brass name plaques to commemorate their sacrifice along what was then known as the 'Library Paddock'. During the 1950s, the avenue was lost to redevelopment when the Stribling Reserve oval was constructed and was never reinstated.

Doug Stirling (103 years young), a former student of Lorne School explained how even now he has never forgotten and has campaigned for years for the memorial to be rebuilt.

As always, the town has rallied behind their local school and the VCE VM project. Meetings were held, Surf Coast Shire compliances were met, money was received from our incredible sponsors and help was given by kind volunteers.

In the end, the students experienced something that cannot be marked, they learnt what it feels like to be a part of making someone's long held dream come true.

In the words of one student, Logan, 'It has been very special to me to learn about the stories behind the soldier's names and the fact that they have not been forgotten. That is why the QR codes are so important'.

The legacy of both students, past and present, will go on.

- Cherie Osta-VCE VM Coordinator

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www.lornep12.vic.edu.au

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	am	am	pm	pm	pm
Colac Train Station	7:10	10:00	12:30	4:00	7:15
Colac Bus Interchange	7:15	10:05	12:35	4:05	7:20
General Store, Birregurra	7:30	10:20	12:50	4:20	7:35
The Store, Deans Marsh	7:45	10:35	1:05	4:35	7:50
Lorne Visitor Information Centre	8:10	11:00	1:30	5:00	8:15

LORNE to COLAC via DEANS MARSH and BIRREGURRA Monday to Sunday

	am	am	pm	pm	pm
Lorne Visitor Information Centre	8:15	11:15	1:45	5:15	8:30
The Store, Deans Marsh	8:35	11:35	2:05	5:35	8:50
General Store, Birregurra	8:50	11:50	2:20	5:50	9:05
Colac Bus Interchange	9:10	12:10	2:40	6:10	9:25
Colac Train Station	9:15	12:15	2:45	6:15	9:30

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GO WHERE THE TRADIES GO

EDITORIAL

By Janet Goud, Editor

It's that time of year again!! Holidays, people, traffic, parties! Here at the *Lorne Independent* we celebrated in gourmet style at the Bowls Club after a quick AGM.

Our writers remain very loyal and as you may have noted we are pushing out further into the wider community for Traveller's Tales and more. Some, like the well-informed Clementine have done the impossible and filled the great hole left by our popular Lillian. Contrary to our belief that people who leave Lorne won't thrive, Lillian is alive and thriving as she has told us.

Likewise, our long-time designer and printer, Stuart, had a change of direction in his career. After working since 2010 with Jo and continuing patiently with me (on a steep learning curve) he handed in his notice. He had been such a reliable fixture, you can imagine my panic mid-Egypt. You may have thought the Nov issue looked a little different. True to Stuart's reliable nature he had organised a new designer, Jarrod from Witsell Media to take over. Thank you, Stuart, from us and the readers for your support and hard work, especially dealing with editorial peculiarities and annoyance of last-minute changes. You might miss us!

A few sad moments to reflect on, as our trampolines are removed for ever. Although the ones we bounced on were not quite the same as these, enjoyed by children and grandchildren, the fun of flying high was part of a Lorne holiday.



Also, as others will write more about, there is a sense of betrayal for many as GORCAPA dissolves our previously silenced, Community Reference Group, leaving us again without recourse to discuss the most precious of our Point Grey buildings. The COOP! The public meeting left no doubt about their feelings on this issue.

Lorne says "No!" to the proposed replacement small shed. The overall shape looks good, but the size and design is definitely not adequate to encompass the understanding of the dramatic stories of history this area contains. Up and down the country we find examples of beautiful local tributes to the stories of their towns. Why can't this spectacularly beautiful and special place have one too?

We need to keep up the pressure, as you will read many others are doing, in the best way we can. Do not give up!



We must stand together and get a positive outcome for Lorne.

I wish you all, faithful readers, the happiest of festive seasons. If it ever decides to become Summer, I'll see you on the beach! ☺

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR...

Swing Bridge Café

Hi Janet,
We love your work.
Can we start a conversation about why the Council put the Swing Bridge Café lease out to tender without a requirement for the Café to be opened in a reasonable time after the Lease commencing?

The previous tenants were fantastic, always open, friendly and providing a wonderful service to the community, restoring this iconic café, attracting tourists and many locals after an extended closure.

The council in their wisdom have chosen a different tenant, no doubt to make them more money, yet this icon is closed through the Amy Gillette Weekend, Cup Weekend, etc, etc.

Andrew Stevenson

Point Grey – What Now?

As a long-term resident of Lorne and like so many others in Lorne, permanent or intermittent, I have expressed many concerns about the proposed development of Point Grey over too many years. I have tried through consultation opportunities, webinars, and in writing directly to GORPACA, the Minister for The Environment, Stephen Dimopoulos, and the Minister for Planning, Sonya Kilkenny. Ministers are clearly incredibly busy, as they both have an extraordinary range of portfolios. Stephen Dimopoulos is the Minister for The Environment, for Tourism, for Sport and Major Events, and for Outdoor Recreation. So, I figured he'd be the one to go to, but my goodness, the guardians at the gate certainly do their job! Sonya Kilkenny as the Planning Minister, seemed equally well placed to present our plea for a rethink of the Point Grey development, but as she is also the Victorian Attorney General, that didn't go so well either.

So, my attempts to speak with either of them directly has failed miserably, leaving me to ponder – "Who the hell do I think I am?"

Following an extremely well attended and passionate community meeting on November 8th my concerns remain. At that meeting I did make a very impassioned, and somewhat impulsive, call for an on-site public protest, as I felt that we as a community, were just not being heard.

I still feel like that, but nor do I want to sabotage any meaningful dialogue that may be happening right now. What to do? So for what it's worth, here's what I'm really concerned about.

The Consultation Process

Whilst GORPACA has provided some consultation opportunities, many of them are not sufficiently

transparent and the response following community input is often hidden away within websites that are not familiar sources of information to the community at large.

An example of this would be, the recently extended lease for the Pool Precinct to the current lease holder, which was bitterly opposed by the community at a very large consultation gathering in Lorne some 18 months ago. The GORCAPA feedback over many months, was very disappointing or non-existent – slow, invisible, opinions ignored, and the final outcome, appears to be exactly as GORPACA and the lease holder had planned all along, with all input from the community ignored.

Administrative Inconsistency

The Point Grey project, with its process of consultation, application, objections and proposed plans for over almost a decade, has seen so much money and effort wasted.

There has been significant change to the structure of the GORPACA administration over the years, and it would seem that with every new reincarnation, no doubt with the best of intent, seem to bring differing opinions, processes, rulings and dismissal of previous decisions and commitments. To be fair, the new executive do seem to be trying much harder than previous regimes.

It remains sad and unproductive, that these vital decisions about the town in which we live, are often made by administrators who are far from Lorne and some who seldom visit. We often wonder if there is sufficient empathy or understanding of the essence of our Lorne lives, and what we value and hold dear.

Historical Choices

Recognising and acknowledging history is essential and respectful for any future progress. The acknowledgement and respect that will be shown in the proposed UDF, to the First Nations people, and their connection to the land of Point Grey, is totally appropriate.

However, who decides which aspects of history are relevant and which are not? The Timber and Fishing industries are vital parts of the European history of Lorne. Whilst there is a gesture towards the historical Timber and Fishing Industries, it is token at best, in comparison the thoughtful design of the Indigenous Garden.

The new design that replaces the old Co-op Building, with "Food and Drink Premises" containing seating for 10, with a toilet block attached, seems soulless and completely inadequate. The GORCAPA nod to history is leaving the tram tracks and using a large steel beam from the old Co-op. Why not source the stored old timbers of the original pier and use them in the creation of something meaningful linked to the past? Why not listen to the knowledge of the Lorne Historical Society? Design an integrative, inclusive space for all to enjoy and learn from? Maybe utilise a

replica of an old couta boat, or the superb modern take of the original Couta boats that was designed and created by the Lorne Men's Shed for a recent Lorne Sculpture Exhibition?

Don't build a generic building with no connection or meaning! Make the work, money and effort mean something! The new design of the precinct should be inclusive of all of the past, and welcoming and informative for the future.

The LAAC connects the people

In the recent UDF, the LAAC was described as 'sheltered seating and a bar'. This description initially showed a lack of understanding of the social significance of the LAAC, and how unaware the UDF planners were. This has, however, been recently rectified and the LAAC is now embracing of GORCAPA's new plans.

In the general society where loneliness, anxiety, care and support are said to be sadly lacking, the LAAC is a prize beyond measure. It is where the local people gather, with friends and visitors alike. It's where care and support for each other is willingly offered with an awareness of the needs of others. It's where significant funds are raised and donated to local charities and those in need. It's where people have a sense of belonging and a willingness to give and share. The LAAC is so much more than "sheltered seating and a bar"!

Angling and Boating Practicalities

I know nothing about fishing and boats, but I do know that the LAAC is an Angling Club and many of its members go fishing. When they return they need to wash their boats down and clean the fish. Why on earth would there be no provision for boat washing and fish cleaning right next to an Angling Club?

Yes- there is a suggestion of fish cleaning but only in an alternative site. Why would you not design these facilities in duplicate? One for the regular fisherfolk and another next to the boat ramp, for the visitors who also enjoy their fishing?

The cost of such duplication is minimal in comparison to the significant overall, cost of the project, especially when reflecting on the money that has already been wasted over the past decade. If you're going to build it, why not get it right?

Parking and Traffic Movement

The local fisherfolk and others who visit to fish, either from the pier or from a boat, drive down the one-way entry, park their vehicles and then leave the one-way exit. The carpark is regularly full, showing that there is need for more parking, not less.

To deplete the existing carpark to create more open recreational space when there are already pathways, beaches and an ocean, just doesn't seem to make much sense.

In conclusion, may I add that, whilst I may appear to

be saying 'keep it all as it was', that is not the case. I understand that there are more up to date rules and regulations to which some existing structures and movement patterns, can no longer apply. All that I ask and implore is that the planners create a unique space that aligns history past, a seaside and simple present, and a true Lorne vision for the future.

Thanks for listening.

Maz Church

The reward for success is punishment

The Lorne P-12 College has made outstanding improvements in student learning outcomes and increased enrolment. What is the response from the Victorian Education Department? Reduced supplementary funding. The cuts come in two ways. Firstly, in the hard fought for P-12 Complexity Allowance. When I was appointed principal of the school in 1990, the Kirner Labour Government agreed that P-12 Colleges saved the government funding for two stand-alone schools, and acknowledged that managing two sectors with differing cultures was a complex matter. We gained an agreement that included the allowance, at the time \$30,000.

Secondly, the school negotiated a user agreement for the

Continued page 8

DAN TEHAN
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR WANNON



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use of the adjoining Stribling Reserve Pavilion and the oval. Essentially it covered the cost of cleaning the facility after school use and for maintenance. The department regarded the facility surplus to entitlement space and therefore the cleaning was not included in the funding agreement. At the time I was there the amount was approximately \$19,000 per year. This funding has also been cut.

Since that time the Reserve has been significantly upgraded and it provides the College with, for example, specialist physical education facilities. Along with the oval, it is a vital space for the children to play and learn. The Reserve is also an important community hub. In my time as the Lorne Ward councillor on the Surf Coast Shire, I witnessed its value to the community evolve. Any loss in income for the running of the facility will have broader repercussions.

Editor, your readers may wonder when driving past the magnificent recreational facilities at wealthy private schools, significantly part-funded by both federal and state governments and larger government schools, where is the equity? The College will not reduce its core teaching program, but it will be forced to assess how these two cuts will impact the students and the broader community. As usual it will be to the “non-essential” programs like the school production, the school musical offerings, or travel to arts and cultural programs. All these things I contend are essential to provide for students in smaller remoter settings.

I say shame on the department, the ministers and premier of the Victorian government who are all big on the rhetoric of inclusion and equity, but quick to cut the resources of the perceived powerless.

I say watch this space. Our smaller coastal townships are suffering enough from the lack of essential workers impacting businesses, the high cost of living impacting residents that often don't have the option to shop elsewhere, and now the state government want to punish their children.

Gary Allen – Secretary, Committee for Lorne

Open Letter to the Premier of Victoria – Point Grey Project

Dear Premier,

I know that you and your colleagues give a high priority to Government projects and take great pride in projects which are delivered professionally.

You may not be aware of some local minor projects and I would like to bring to your attention the Point Grey Project at Lorne. This is a Geelong City Deal funded project being delivered by the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority (GORCAPA). The total project budget is \$12.59 million.

You will be disappointed to learn that a recent public meeting in Lorne saw 180 persons angry and dissatisfied with the final project plan.

Point Grey is the most historic site in Lorne. It was seasonally occupied by Aboriginal inhabitants prior to European colonisation. After colonisation it became a vibrant hub for sailing ship and maritime activities associated with the Otway timber industry, early Victorian tourism and a unique fishing industry.

There are historic shell middens on the site and three buildings. Only one building, the Lorne Fishermen's Cooperative building constructed in 1948, is of historic and cultural significance.

GORCAPA took the project over in 2023 and was directed by the then responsible Minister to set a high mark for community consultation. Prior to GORCAPA's management the project had been botched by a previous Government agency that proposed construction of a “Beacon” building which VCAT determined had a form and functions not permitted under relevant Marine and Coastal legislation.

One good thing that GORCAPA did achieve was a Community Engagement Study. This showed that 78% of respondents thought that the look and feel of current precinct buildings “give Point Grey a strong and unique character which must be preserved”, and 86% thought “that it is important for Point Grey's fishing history to be represented within the precinct.”

So what went wrong?

Project implementation to date has featured a lack of transparency and shabby consultation which excluded most of the Lorne community from having its voice heard. Many project decisions have been made behind closed doors. GORCAPA's final plan has a demolition/construction phase due to commence in February 2026.

The most controversial aspect of the project relates to the focal area of the precinct directly adjoining the Lorne pier. This area, which is occupied by the historic Fishermen's Cooperative building, encapsulates the character and history of the site. GORCAPA say this building must be demolished and cannot be saved. This is strongly disputed by a growing number of highly qualified historians, architects and builders who think this building must be retained.

A fallback position held by some is that if the building cannot be retained, any replacement building must provide significant space for a dedicated display of historic photos and artifacts related to the vibrant past of the precinct.

Unfortunately, GORCAPA's plan is to replace the historic building with public toilets and a minor café with no provision for significant historic exhibition space. This not only insults past character and history, but it has also led to community claims that the project will actually devalue the site precinct.

Concerned citizens of Lorne would like to invite you to take an interest in this project. It would be greatly appreciated if some senior government intervention and assistance can

be directed at the project to ensure that GORCAPA delivers a final project which meets community expectations and retains the unique character and history of the site.

The following approach is recommended:

1. There should be no demolition or construction commenced on the site prior to final plans for the precinct being shown to and broadly accepted by the Lorne community.
2. A credible panel of independent government experts should be convened to quickly and truthfully report on whether it is possible to preserve the original 1948 Fishermen's Cooperative, and at what cost;
3. If the historic building can be saved, part of it should be dedicated housing an ongoing display of the history of the site, with toilets conveniently but discretely located out of sight behind the building.
4. Advice should also be provided on whether a minor cafe is justified in the prime focal area of Point Grey given that the Pacific Hotel, which is a major hospitality provider, is only 100 metres away; and
5. In the unlikely event that the Cooperative building cannot be saved, a major component of any replacement building should include significant dedicated historic display capacity.

John Barker

• John Barker is well known to us all as a former local fisherman and Historian.

‘Point Grey is the most historic site in Lorne. It was seasonally occupied by Aboriginal inhabitants prior to European colonisation.’ – John Barker

The 2026 Surf Coast Community Arts Calendar is here!



Celebrate local creativity all year long with our new Community Arts Calendar, featuring 12 stunning winning artworks plus a special People's Choice cover.

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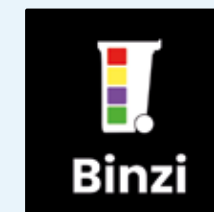
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LORNE GARDENERS ANNUAL TRIP

By Barbara Barber

On a recent wet and windy Monday, thirty-four members of the Lorne Gardeners Club left on their spring trip into the lush green, rolling hills of South Gippsland. Our comfortable accomodation was at the RACV Club Inverloch.

“Thank you” Lisa at Lorne Lunch Box for packing a lovely picnic lunch which we enjoyed before our tour of the world renowned, Cranbourne Botanic Gardens.

Next Day, on cue, the rain stopped and the wind blew us around a variety of Inverloch gardens. We were Hosted by the Uniting Church Open Garden Scheme and made a contribution to their fund raising The Inverloch gardeners were welcoming and very generous with their time as we wandered in and out of their properties.

We were also privileged to visit private gardens in the Meeniyah and Fish Creek districts each time making a contribution to the Foster Hospital Auxiliary and Wilson Promontory Age Care. At Fish Creek the Celia Rosser Art Gallery and Alison Lester Book shop opened especially for us to visit, both joyful experiences and ideal for a special purchase.

“Thank you Lisa at Lorne Lunch Box for packing a lovely picnic lunch...” – Barbara Barber

This day was completed with a guided tour and tasting at the Gurney family Cidery and a wander in their extensive sculpture garden with beautiful views as far as Wilsons Promontory.

Each night we dined, casually and happily at the Cape Paterson Tavern and the Inlet Hotel Inverloch.

Our bus journey home took us further north to Broughton Hall, Jindivick. We arrived for morning tea, the sun shone, we wandered acres of beautifully terraced garden rooms and lawns overlooking Tarago Reservoir. Following another picnic lunch on the terrace, many of us shopped for rare and unusual plants in Musker’s Nursery.

A special “thank you” must go to Jay, our bus driver from Hutchinson Buslines, Birregurra, who took great care of us all the way. ①





2026 Calendar
\$20 at HAH Lornebeach
Photography: Leon Walker Photography

HERE WE GO ROUND THE MULBERRY BUSH

By Doug Williams

It’s Springtime it’s a lovely, wonderful time of the year. The foliage is bright and shining and flowers are everywhere and when it’s not raining the skies are a magnificent cerulean blue. Greek gods and goddesses are peering down at us from heaven. Birds are flapping around and when we get days with dragonflies rocketing about and flying ants wandering through the air we know we are going to have hot weather.

I’m hoping to find a productive mulberry tree — not one of the invasive varieties, but the classic red-fruited type, the kind that stains your fingers the moment you pick a berry. They’re unbelievably sweet and juicy, a real highlight of the spring harvest, and perfect for kids to climb, forage, and head home delightfully red-handed.

Mulberries have been cultivated for centuries, and their history is intertwined with one of the world’s most famous trade routes. Travellers journeying from Europe to Asia along the Silk Road were following a path that had long connected ancient Asia with the Western world — a route that first introduced silk, and the mulberry’s essential role in its production, to the West.

The silk moth caterpillar eats the leaves of mulberry trees exclusively and it is from these that silk from the cocoons is harvested to make the cloth. Strong but very fine paper has traditionally been made in Southeast Asia from the bark of the mulberry tree as well, so its industrial uses are historical, but the tree is not confined to this region. The mulberry tree is part of the Babylonian story of Pyramus and Thisbe a love story included in Shakespeare’s A Midsummer Night’s Dream. They were introduced to Britain about five hundred years ago to generate a silk industry and although this failed there are still scores of different types in the grounds of the gardens at Buckingham Palace. They are spread from the Middle East, across much of Asia and in North America. But only one variety is responsible for the whole silk industry.

Here we go Round the Mulberry Bush, is a nursery rhyme with an associated game which is not just English but is also common in Holland and Scandinavia (where mulberry grows as a bush) so no silk moths and no silkworms up there.



One interpretation of the rhyme is that it is referencing the difficulty of developing a silk industry in England.

Flag irises are blooming beautifully at the moment – at the bowls Club for example -and were a subject for Vincent van Gogh paintings. He may have known the nursery rhyme lyrics:

Here go round the mulberry bush

The mulberry bush, the mulberry bush,

Here we go round the mulberry bush

On a cold and frosty morning

He chose to paint The Mulberry Tree not long before his death when he was in the mausoleum at Saint Paul de Mausole. ①



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FIREWORKS ON NEW YEAR'S EVE

(As long as we get your support!)

Over the past two years, Committee for Lorne arranged to stage fireworks off the pier on New Year's Eve after a lapse of several years.

Everyone had been missing the Fireworks, but it wasn't until the Chairman of Committee for Lorne, John Higgins published his 'wish list' in his column back in August 2023 with one of his Christmas wishes being the return of the Fireworks, that people started to ask the question, "how do we make this happen?"

So, with the help of local businesses, local community organisations and the wider community, Committee for Lorne worked together to stage fireworks on New Year's Eve. We called out to the businesses in Lorne and the community to raise the necessary funds. Many Lorne businesses were very generous supporters of the project and through a GoFundMe campaign, we raised in excess of \$12,000 from the general community. The fireworks were regarded as a great celebration for New Year's Eve and then the questions came, "will you do it again next year?"

Last year we raised a little bit more than we needed for the event and we committed to our supporters that if that was the case, we would reserve the excess funds for another event. In the belief that we can raise the necessary funds, we have booked the licensed company again for December 31. We have approached GORCAPA for the necessary permits, and like previous years, they have not only granted permission for us to use the pier, they have waived permit fees and offered resources to cordon off the pier on the night.

In order to fund the event 2025, we are reaching out to businesses and community in Lorne. We want to have two sets of fireworks, one at 9.30pm for the younger members of our community and other members who are unlikely to be playing on till midnight and another event at midnight for those celebrating the "ticking over" to the New Year.

To have enough funds for two fireworks events of about 12 minutes each, we need about \$25,000. We will be approaching local businesses and like last year, we have set up a GoFundMe project so that everyone in the community, if they wish, can contribute to make this plan for Fireworks on New Year's Eve a reality.

You can scan the QR Code below with the camera on your phone and it will open up the page where you can make a donation. Alternatively, you can visit the GoFundMe page directly with the following link - <https://www.gofundme.com/florne-fireworks-new-years-eve-2025>

If you wish, we can send you an invoice.

Just email info@committeeforlorne.org.au and let us know to whom we make out the invoice and for how much.

So, if you want New Year's Eve to be like the good old days, with a major spectacle of fireworks and lots of "oooh's and aaah's", please support this fundraising project. Lorne always digs deep for a good cause and hopefully this project will continue the tradition.

Committee for Lorne



This season has kicked off with strong community spirit and plenty to celebrate.

Twelve local students are taking part in Bronze Camp, building vital lifesaving skills and confidence. To help make this possible, the club has contributed \$4,200 to subsidise camp fees for local families. Local business Kaigan Architecture has also kindly donated two scholarships, ensuring more young people can access the program.

Volunteer patrols are well underway, with two strong weekends already covered by our dedicated lifesavers, including our very own Olympian, Nick Sloman. Our professional lifeguards returned on 17 November and will keep Main Beach safe Monday to Friday through to mid-February.

A special mention goes to club member Michael Garbelotto, recently awarded Victorian Lifeguard of the Year at the LSV Awards of Excellence. It's a tremendous achievement and a credit to Michael's skill, leadership and service.

Congratulations also to past president Nick Newton on completing his fourth English Channel crossing. An incredible effort.

We also farewell long-serving member Sam Brooker, who sadly passed away. Sam patrolled our beach for 56 years and was one of the kindest people to wear the uniform. He will be deeply missed.

Our cultural exchange program with Gunbalanya Community School continues to grow. Eight members recently travelled to Arnhem Land and we look forward to hosting Gunbalanya students and staff for five days in December to experience Lorne and the Otways. Thank you to Powercor for supporting this incredible program.

If you spot a surfboat, surf ski, or racing mals on the water and want to get involved, email competition@lornesurfclub.com.au. We have great coaches, training programs and plenty of gear to try.

Looking forward to a safe and busy summer ahead.

Heath Armstrong
President

published with the support of
 GreatOceanRoad
REAL ESTATE

Patrols

November 22 to December 25

Saturday 1:00pm to 5:00pm
Sunday 10:00am to 4:30pm

December 26 to January 26

Saturday 1:00pm to 5:30pm
Sunday 10:00am to 5:00pm

January 27 to April 19

Saturday 1:00pm to 5:00pm
Sunday 10:00am to 4:30pm

Calendar

Sunday 28th December

- "Otway Harvest Trail"
Indoor Market

Friday 2nd January

- Comedy Night with Peter Helliard

Saturday 3rd January

- Careers Evening

Friday 9th January

- Powercor Lorne Mountain to Surf

Saturday 10th January

- Powercor Lorne Pier to Pub



www.lornesurfclub.com.au

GRAEME WILKIE OAM

22 Nov - 12 Dec
To think you are not is a delusion

Artist's Statement

My understanding of delusion began in the paling fenced backyard of my suburban childhood when shattered by the discovery Santa was a lie. Conditioning starts young, creating toilet-trained infants our expanding little minds are naively exposed to a universe of influencers. We assemble a persona, richly adorned with beliefs and biases, long before the development of reason. And go on living in the comfort of our self-denial.

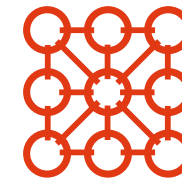
I never heard a prejudiced remark from my parents, though I gleaned from my father a silent dislike for America. I learned quickly as a skinny kid that the obligatory brutal schoolyard sports was not for me, finding refuge instead in gentler pursuits and friendships with immigrant Greek, Lebanese and Italian kids. Their families and culture seemed more interesting to me.

To mirror...the unicity amongst ALL humanity.



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ARTS IN LORNE



**LORNE
COMMUNITY
CONNECT**

Last month we held our annual general meeting at which Lesley Goldsworthy was re-elected as our president. We are so grateful that Lesley will continue to lead the organisation, which has grown to be an effective and dynamic hub for a range of local artistic endeavours, under her leadership. Lesley is supported by a hardworking committee including Lesley Thornton as secretary, Clive Goldsworthy as treasurer and Wendy Hutchison, Suzanne Diviny, Mandy Calder and myself as vice-president. Lesley expressed her thanks to Jan Spring for her contributions to the centre, as Jan left the committee to focus upon her commitment to the Lorne Historical Society as president.

Tide to Treetops

Our thanks to Dee Matheson and Veronica McDonald for their work to mount the Tide to Treetops exhibition. It was an artistic collection of sea, landscapes and our beautiful birds. They were very pleased with the response to the exhibition over the three weekends from the Melbourne Cup weekend. The committee extends our deepest sympathy to Dee and her family, Dee's husband Rob, sadly died the day the exhibition opened. Veronica decided that she would continue with the exhibition, which we appreciate was a difficult decision.

Christmas Market – features a range of local art and craft by local artists

Please join us for the Christmas Market to help support our local art and craft artists and at the same time to help solve the eternal question “What do I get Fred for Christmas?”

The market is to be held on December 6 and 7 at the Lorne Community Connect, opening at 10am until 4pm. Refreshments will be available on both days.

The committee wishes to extend to our members and supporters a very happy Christmas and a rewarding new year. The past twelve months has seen a deepening of our connections with local creative residents, which in turn is validated by your support.

Gary Allen, Committee Member



Qdos Fine Arts Lorne



Ray Firth
Dec 13 - Jan 2 2026
These thoughts make us

Opening Saturday 13th December at 3:00pm

The world we love tells us how to behave, how to understand, how to love...
It forms us as we live.
The world gives everything, takes everything, rewards, and has no favourites.

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Opening Friday 2nd January at 3:00pm



Poppies, Ranunculus and Mandarins and Succulents with an orange 10x10cm

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Joanne Sisson

with her latest series of paintings
Bloom
27 Dec - 16 Jan 2026

Opening Saturday 27th December 2025 at 3:00pm

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From the Deck

THE BOOBOOK OWL

By John Agar

One of Lorne's exquisite joys is to wake each morning to a near-infinite variety of bird calls. Galahs, kookaburras, cockies [inevitably], pied currawongs, pardalotes, honeyeaters, wattle birds—the list is near-endless. But, for mine, the mournful, lonely call of a Southern Boobook owl in the darkness of night has to take the cake.

"Mopoke"... then a few seconds of silence before "Mopoke" again... and again, and again. The sound repeats in the blackness with mournful, metronomic regularity, though its melancholy call for friendship or a potential mate is usually left unanswered. They are such elusive, beautiful birds!

You can hear the sound of a Boobook call in the following YouTube audio clip [<https://tinyurl.com/5ae3vkpn>], where, if you listen carefully, you will note that its persistence is rewarded near the end with a faint reply from a faraway tree. Contact established — mission accomplished! It is likely 'the missus' as Southern Boobook owls are monogamous and usually stay together for as long as both partners live.

Whether to attract a mate, defend its territory, or simply to stay in touch with other owls, I find the sound of a boobook owl is just as quintessentially 'Australian' as the distinctive laugh and chatter of a chorus of kookaburras at dawn or before rain.

The Southern Boobook Owl [*ninox boobook*]... variously known as a Mopoke, a Morepork, or a Boobook ... is sometimes confused with the tawny frogmouth, although they are different species, the frogmouth being more closely related to nightjars than to owls.

Averaging some 30cm in length, they are not considered a small bird but are nonetheless the smallest and most common of the Australian owls. When it comes to size, I still hope I may yet live to see a Powerful Owl, the Australian owl that occupies the top spot in the size and weight division, being twice the size with a wingspan of up to 1.5 metres. However, while I think I once heard one after night fell on a family barbecue at the Sheoak picnic ground, I didn't get to glimpse it. Meantime, the boobook remains my favourite.

Boobooks frequently patrol Lorne's nocturnal canopy, but while you can often hear them through the night, never try to 'spot them' with a torch as the bright and direct light can cause them temporary blindness or disorientation, and lead to unnecessary harm. It is enough to enjoy their calls, watch for the black silhouette of their wings against a starry sky, and marvel at the near-perfect silence of their flight ... at most, you may hear the merest 'whoosh' as they pass overhead ... but please be thoughtful and leave your torch in your pocket! As it is all too easy to injure an owl by exposing it to a sudden beam of bright light, experienced owl-watchers take great care to use a red-filtered light to avoid harming the super-sensitive eyes of nocturnal owls and other night birds, like the nightjars and stone-curlews.

Most owls are nocturnal creatures with huge, forward-facing eyes that are uniquely adapted to hunting at night. Their fixed, 'all-knowing' stare—it is as if they are looking deeply into our souls and reading our innermost thoughts—has led humans to revere the owl down the ages as the font of all wisdom and intuition.

In its section on owls, the British Trust for Ornithology... <https://tinyurl.com/yzn9bnpn> ... notes that owl eyes are "... so well developed that they are not eyeballs as we might think them to be, but elongated tubes that are so firmly held in place inside the skull that the eyes cannot "roll" or move but only look straight ahead. Furthermore, the size/relativity of owl eyes is quite staggering — between them, the two owl eyes occupy at least 70% of the skull's volume".

The Southern Boobook [the Mopoke], the smallest and most common owl in Australia, is identified by its dark chocolate-brown head, wing, and shoulder plumage above and its

lighter-brown chest feathers spotted with white beneath. Feeding on insects, moths, microbats, small mammals, and other small animals, they are equally adept at seizing their prey in mid-air or pouncing on an unsuspecting animal on the ground. Their flight is so silent that their prey is often gobbled up before being aware of the danger.

Their call is among the easiest bird call for a human to imitate. Years ago, when my kids were little, I would sneak into the garden after tucking them in and do my best "mopoke, mopoke" impression outside their window. I would return to see them both sitting bolt upright in bed, their "mopoke eyes" the size of saucers, as they strained to hear another call.

I have bittersweet memories of visiting the West Lothian Scottish Owl Centre on one of my many trips to Scotland. With its live collection of 140 of the roughly 250 known species from around the world, it definitely showcased the wonderful diversity of the birds. However, their caged habitats were small, their perches mainly consisted of local trees rather than those of their native environments, and almost all the birds looked forlorn. While I understand the educational reason for such places—zoos are similar—I couldn't help but feel sorry for them. While the centre has made an effort to give each owl some flight space and offers an informative program for visitors, the birds remained caged.

There were two Southern Australian boobooks there, but—not surprisingly—they wouldn't "mopoke" back at me, despite my attempts to start a meaningful chat. As they seemed understandably depressed, I couldn't hold their lack of engagement with a fellow antipodean against them.



I will never tire of their sorrowful sound as it echoes in the night. Just like the calls of the wattlebirds, the pied currawongs, the kookaburras, and the cockatoos, the mournful call of a mopoke will always connect me to the Otways and to home. ❶

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CHRISTMAS & JANUARY CHURCH TIMES IN LORNE

All Welcome.

All Saints Anglican Church Christmas and January Services

5pm – Christmas Eve Carols and Holy Communion

Sunday 28th December 11am – Holy Communion

Sunday 4th January 11am – Morning Service

Sunday 11th January 11am – Holy Communion

Sunday 18th January 11am – Morning Service

Sunday 25th January 11am – Holy Communion

Acting Vicar: Bishop Stephen Hale

St Cuthberts Uniting Church Carols on the Lorne – 20th December

BBQ 6.30 / CAROLS 7.30

Service times: Christmas Eve 7.00pm

Christmas Day 9.00am

January Sundays 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th 10.00am

Pastor Alanee Hearnshaw

Our Lady of Fatima

24th December – Christmas Vigil Mass 6pm

25th December – Christmas Day Mass 9am

January Sundays – 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th Mass 9.00am

Father Micheal O'Toole



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Farewell & Good Luck Sandy Chamberlin

Last week we said Farewell to our CEO Sandy. It is difficult to put into words the value Sandy has brought to GORH in her six years as our CEO. Her many contributions to our health service cannot be measured, but it is seen and felt across our organisation, our culture, our people, our partnerships and our community.

Sandy is dedicated to growth, managing change for the future, project managing for success, with a vision for future health and community engagement. Sandy embodies and lives our GREAT values every day. She is genuine, respectful, empathetic, accountable and values teamwork.

Thank you Sandy for your compassion, care, leadership and dedication. You inspire us all to be our best selves and encourage those around you to live meaningful purposeful healthy lives. You lead by example, advocate for innovation and champion equal access to the best possible healthcare close to home for every person in our community. Thank you for all of the extra things you do, going above and beyond to support your colleagues and team. Thank you for pushing us to do better and be better. You will be missed.

Good luck for your next venture, as the Chief Executive Officer at Swan Hill District Health.

Coming Up At GORH

4th DEC: Lorne Aged Care Residents and Family Christmas Themed Lunch

25th DEC: Christmas Day—Public Holiday *

26th DEC: Boxing Day—Public Holiday *

1st JAN: New Year's Day

*On **public holidays** our Medical Centre is closed and our Community Services provide essential services only including: nursing, personal care, respite services and delivered meals. Urgent Care remains open 24/7



Please Support our Annual Appeal

At Great Ocean Road Health, we're proud to provide compassionate, high-quality healthcare every day, right here in our own community. From Urgent Care and Community Services to our Acute and Respite Wards, Medical Centres, and Aged Care facilities in Apollo Bay and Lorne, we're committed to making sure you and your loved ones receive the care you need, close to home. As our community grows, so do our healthcare needs. That's why this year's Annual Appeal is focused on raising vital funds for infrastructure upgrades and essential equipment, investments that will directly benefit both our Apollo Bay and Lorne campuses.

To continue to improve health care closer to home we need your help. Every dollar counts—and every dollar stays right here, helping to support your local health service.

Donate today at:

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OP SHOP BUZZ

By Wendy Jarratt

Meet the Volunteers...

This month, I thought I'd like to introduce you to two of the Op Shop volunteers, Colin and John. What follows are their own words...

COLIN

“My Op Shop career dates back three or so years to when I was living out of town. On Friday mornings I'd do a Qi Gung class with Bruno and follow it up by cruising the main street. The Op Shop was always an hilarious highlight, and I got to know the morning shift of Sue, Patricia, Marsha, Frances and Pam. One morning I was asking how Pam was getting along after a nasty fall and sadly was told she had passed away. What followed came out of left field – the suggestion that I will fill her vacancy.



It actually took quite a while to find my groove, but we've established rules that suit our personalities. I'm front of house, doing the meet and greet part of being in the shop. I'm a terrier for creating order out of chaos and not afraid to clear out stuff that's not selling. The terrier attacks menswear, framed artwork, kid's books and kitchen wear but steers well clear of women's clothing, grownup's books and window dressing.

I love the weekly catch up with my shiftees; they're such darlings! I depend on them to find out what's really going on in town.”



JOHN

“I became an Op Shop volunteer about 10 years ago, initially whipper-snipping the grassy slope behind the shop. A short time after that I started helping out within the shop, eventually settling into a regular Monday morning shift. I am really enjoying volunteering with our team of Wendy, Jill and Pam.

The shop raises money for a broad range of causes including the hospital, school, kindergarten, fire brigade, SES and so many others. It is wonderful to see so many quality items being donated every day that the shop is open. But for me the real pleasure is serving the customers.

There are many locals who are regulars, most realizing that as the stock is replenished daily that there could be a new treasure waiting. There are also tourists in town – some needing something as basic as a tea towel, cutlery or a wine glass. I really enjoy helping these customers, frequently describing Lorne's attractions and offering travel assistance. I have met and chatted (though briefly) with tourists from every part of Australia and many countries of the world.

The satisfaction that I get from having helped customers and knowing that the takings are assisting such important projects IN LORNE is so rewarding. I sincerely hope that the incorrect expression 'ladies of the Op Shop' can be revised to VOLUNTEERS of the Op Shop as many men are contributing to the successful operation of this dynamic little shop!



BITTERSWEAT BRINGS WOOD-FIRED SAUNA & OCEAN RECOVERY TO LORNE SEA BATHS

Q&A with Owner, Paul O'Brien

Lorne has a long history of bringing people together around nature, wellness and the ocean — and this summer, a new experience has arrived that blends all three.

BitterSweat, a wood-fired mobile sauna and cold-immersion station, has officially set up a summer residency at the Lorne Sea Baths, offering locals and visitors the chance to embrace the benefits of hot-cold therapy right by the sea.

What makes the experience unique is its simplicity: Sit in the heat. Plunge in the ocean. Reset by the water. With the roar of a wood stove inside the sauna and the sound of waves rolling in outside, it's a coastal ritual that feels both ancient and very Lorne.

Why Lorne?

Owner Paul O'Brien says the town was a natural fit. “Lorne has this special energy — the water, the cliffs, the community. It's the perfect place to slow down, breathe, and look after yourself. When the chance came up to set up here for summer, it just made sense.”

What's the experience like?

- Guests move between:
- A traditional wood-fired sauna (80–90°C)
 - A cold ocean dip or ice bath
 - Rest & recovery in the salty sea air

Sessions run in the mornings and evenings, most days of the week, with both shared and private bookings available.



The atmosphere is relaxed — a mix of surfers warming up before a session, runners recovering after a long coastal loop, or visitors trying contrast therapy for the first time.

Why hot and cold?

Contrast therapy has become increasingly popular for its wellness benefits, including:

- Improved circulation and faster recovery
- Reduced inflammation and muscle soreness
- Strengthened resilience and mental clarity
- Deep relaxation and improved sleep

“It's not just a sauna,” Paul says. “It's a reset. People finish a session glowing.”

A growing community ritual

Since opening in November, BitterSweat has already seen a stream of enthusiastic locals, early-morning swimmers and holidaymakers. Many have been returning multiple times a week.

“It's been incredible to see people come out of the water laughing, bonding, and feeling better than when they arrived. That's what we love most — it brings people together.”

Where to find it?

BitterSweat is located right beside HAH Café at the Lorne Sea Baths, overlooking the main beach. Sessions can be booked online at BitterSweat.com.au

Paul adds: “We're here all summer and would love to become part of the rhythm of Lorne. If you see us down by the water, come say hello — or jump in for a session.”



Let's get festive!

Share the Surf Coast Spirit

Changes to our Torquay Council office opening hours:

- Closes 4pm Wednesday 24 December. Reopens 8.30am Monday 29 December.
- Closes 4pm Wednesday 31 December. Reopens 8.30am Friday 2 January.



CLEMENTINE CALLING

Marcel Proust – one of the greatest French authors of the early 20th century wrote: “Let us be grateful to people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners of our soul.”

A bunch of Lornies were given much happiness by Barb Barber, Lou Davies and Beverley Allen who organised a Garden Tour gallivanting around Gippsland in a splendid bus and staying in luxury at the RACV Resort at Inverloch. On hearing that the first stop was at the Cranbourne Botanic Garden, Angelo Kambouris decided to ask his brother’s son, who has an egg farm at Cranbourne, to provide 36 hard-boiled eggs for lunch. Luckily, they didn’t arrive, as Lisa from The Lunch Box had made delicious lunches which were eaten whilst sitting like school kids on benches overlooking the fascinating Red Sands Garden. Kevin Diviney was there and we visited his sister Ann’s divine hilltop garden in Meenyan: roses in full bloom and iris were much admired. Gary and Monica Gratz missed all the fun as Gary had seriously hurt his hand necessitating plastic surgery. When down that way don’t miss the Cape Tavern at Cape Paterson – the best pub meal ever.

Sadly, dear Patsi Murray died. Michael, her loving husband of 61 years described her in his obituary as “beautiful, gorgeous and talented” and indeed she was. There wasn’t a dry eye when Michael spoke at her funeral. Luke Morgan had adorned her coffin with red and white Waratahs. Many of us will remember when she chose great books for us to read from her bookshop. She attended Margaret Duncan’s super Tai Chi classes, and I remember that her movements were slow and elegant as she gently stroked the peacock and enjoyed the beautiful flow in harmony of the Five Elements. Patsi worked for many years in the OP shop charming all the customers with her sweet way. You will be sadly missed Patsi.

I get *The Age* delivered daily; every morning it’s a mystery to find it. It can be anywhere. The other day it was high in a tree, and I had to get a stick to knock it down! But. Shock horror!! When *The Age’s Goodfood Guide* arrived in my garden on Tuesday October 28; I turned with haste

to Geelong and the Surfcoast page which was in a ghastly shade of yellow!! They got as far as the cellar in Anglesea, Winespeake and then gave up. How dare they leave Lorne out!! There was no mention of our Greek taverna Ipsos with its taramasalata, octopus and slow cooked lamb, Totti’s with its yummy antipasti served with woodfired bread, good pizzas at The Anglers on a Friday night, Wednesday pie night at The Pacific, pasta night on a Thursday at In The Skies, delicious home-made soup at Qdos and our new deli Le Comptoir with its artisan French breads. We will have to write our own column for them. Get busy writing Lornies! Lorne is awash with good food.

The thoughtful residents of George Street made Halloween so wonderful for the kids by putting out pumpkins and showing them that they were welcome by giving treats. The little kids that were there were accompanied by mothers dressed as witches and were well supervised. Dear little Gus was dressed as a pumpkin, and his sister wore the most beautiful long blue dress. Finally, they assembled with their parents down at the Bowls Club with all the kids showing of splendid outfits especially the little witches in their enchanting dresses. Well done Lornies – a true community event and such fun for the kids. Another example of people giving happiness.

A tradie working on the Wade house on the corner of Beale Street and Mountjoy Parade parked his ute right in front of the Mountjoy Parade path. One pedestrian had to leave a wheelchair with an elderly person behind and go to the site to find the young tradie. When asked why he had done that his excuse was that his tools were heavy. It was suggested to him that he could drive up to the site, leave his tools and then park legally or give up his work as a tradie!! (if his tools are too heavy for him).

Great news!!! Erin and Robbie McIlldowie gave birth to their twins Stella and Sydney in October. They were 32 weeks prem and were being carefully looked after in Geelong in humicribs. Two siblings for little Olive and more grandchildren for lucky Marian McIlldowie to love and care for.

Our own Harry Mammos (brother of Stavroula), and once a fish and chips provider, who now enjoys his garden which

is full of roses, came from Lemnos; a Greek Island where the Australian army based their nurses and hospital In World War I. It was the nearest Greek Island to Gallipoli, being located 100 kilometres from the Gallipoli peninsular. It is said that some of the nurses based there were from the Colac/Ballarat area – Dickie Davies aunt was one of them. Harry claims that it was his grandfather who sold his donkeys to the Australian Army. Perhaps Simpson’s donkey once belonged to Harry’s and Stavroula’s grandfather?

Festive season again! Cup Eve up at the Golf Club was a pleasant evening. Guests were greeted warmly by chic Sally Young dressed as a jockey. The girls did a great job with organisation and arranged for some interesting food. Keith Miller, looking like a bookie was seen wandering around in a strange hat and a very colourful tie with lurid Flintstone characters all over it!! Carly Stafford won the award for the best dressed female; she was the whole package with everything matching. Rex Neil in a posh jacket and eye-catching scarf was awarded the best dressed man.

Brian Tickle has been very busy building one of those beloved yachts that the Men’s Shedders construct and sail. Brian has painted his yacht a bright pink and yellow calling it Tickled Pink. You can’t miss it! The yacht took 11 months to complete, and Brian is so proud when he sees it sailing competitively on the Erskine with his mates.

Dining at Totti I was helped by sweet Costanza from Argentina, part of our beautiful lively group of Latin Americans who contribute to our community. She is

friendly with Santi from the Ice Cream shop and Celeste from the Pizza place down on the Erskine banks. Every Thursday night Totti’s has provided a \$25 pasta and the Gnocchetti with scallops, prosciutto and asparagus is truly delicious. Yummy or squisito as the Italians would say. The \$25 bargain pasta offer will end with the busy season.

Whilst the Garden Group were having their minutes silence for Remembrance Day in the streets of Inverloch Doug Stirling had prepared himself, new haircut, best suit flush with medals to go to the Lorne Remembrance Service. Panic set in when he realised that he had lost his keys to white Mary. Salvation was close at hand as Mary Rose Moon came to the rescue and drove him. His keys were later found in his drawer in the Nursing Home. Doug you are a champ!

We won’t forget the sacrifice made by those who served in World War I especially as we now have the remarkable curved memorial site with its red flowering gums and small plaques naming all the men who attended Lorne School and who served in World War I. Bravo Lorne School. No panic this time. Alan Walls drove Doug most efficiently to the opening of the memorial at the school. Sitting in the sun in the front row next to Gary and Marny Fenton Doug spoke most eloquently on the history of the memorial. 🍷

Editor note: Clementine reminds me that she has been at work finding out local interest stories for over a year now. Thank you and have a happy summer season.

‘The thoughtful residents of George Street made Halloween so wonderful for the kids by putting out pumpkins and showing them that they were welcome by giving treats.’ – Clementine

In the Skies

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LORNE BUSHFIRE PLACE OF LAST RESORT UPDATE: Point Grey site to temporarily close for works; Lorne foreshore stays open

To allow for construction works on the redevelopment of Point Grey in Lorne, the site will be temporarily closed to the public and unavailable as a Bushfire Place of Last Resort.

This means that from one week prior to Point Grey becoming a construction site – expected to be in late January or February 2026 – until the redevelopment is completed, the foreshore area along Mountjoy Parade will remain open and serve as Lorne's sole Bushfire Place of Last Resort.

The Point Grey redevelopment is being managed by Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority (GORCAPA).

While residents and visitors are always encouraged to enact fire plans and leave early, Bushfire Places of Last Resort are places to attend only when all other bushfire plans have failed. They do not replace a well-thought-out and practised plan; they are simply designated clearings that provide separation distance from the bushfire hazard.

“Due to construction materials and access restrictions during the Point Grey redevelopment works, the site will not meet legal requirements to be a Bushfire Place of Last Resort,” Surf Coast Shire Cr Leon Walker said.

“We – along with other agencies, GORCAPA and the local CFA – will let the community once we can confirm the date this change will take effect, but it will likely be in the early months of 2026, potentially in late January or February.”

“However, Lorne currently has two designated Bushfire Places of Last Resort, so the foreshore area along Mountjoy Parade will continue to serve this role while the Point Grey site is not available.”

“I want to stress that Bushfire Places of Last Resort are just that – a last resort when all your plans have failed. We still urge everyone to have a solid fire action plan and leave early,” he said.

Council approval is required to commission and decommission a Bushfire Place of Last Resort.

Once the Point Grey redevelopment is completed, the site will be assessed for suitability before Surf Coast Shire Council can recommission the site.

Following the 2009 Black Saturday fires and the recommendations from the Bushfires Royal Commission, Victorian councils must identify, designate, establish and maintain suitable Bushfire Places of Last Resort locations that may provide some protection from direct flame and heat from a fire, but they do not guarantee safety.

Stay informed and prepare for the fire season: surfcoast.vic.gov.au/FireReady.

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BLUES HIT THE STRIB

By C.J. Cairns

Late in November is the time when AFL stars and hopefuls get down to some serious training. This often involves a fitness camp away from home base. Over the last few years several league teams have realised the value of Lorne’s own Stribling Reserve for such a camp. This year it was the Carlton Blues who hit the manicured grass of our town oval. The facilities are first-rate and a dose of clean Lorne air would do wonders for any AFL player’s aerobic capacity.

To supporters of my vintage, football training used to mean a session of kick to kick followed by the inevitable circle work and then the climax of a sprint to the rooms to be first in line for a beer. From what I saw on Wednesday morning, things are markedly different now. The oval was awash with witches’ hats and marker poles. Assistant coaches and physios almost outnumbered the players.

Building player fitness is a prime aim at this stage of the year, but it was a little surprising to see how many of the team drills involved close in work and handball. The Carlton boys were certainly a chatty lot. Ability to call to your mate is obviously a valued team skill.

It wouldn’t be a proper hit out without a large whiteboard



on show and one of the coaches pointing at it. Sure enough, the Blues had a large one propped up in the forward pocket. It was interesting to hear the shouted instruction, “If you’re not in the re-hab group, your name is either above or below the line, so check which activity you are down for. Re-hab? Surely the Blues aren’t intending to field a bunch of crocks this year!

The training camp co-incided with schoolies week here. Looking at some of the fresh-faced young men running around in Blues’ jumpers made me suspect that perhaps a few schoolies had infiltrated the group. Perhaps that’s just a function of age, though. After all, the police often look like work experience kids now. A final thought from a football tragic. They all look so tall and trim. Is there no place in the modern game for a player carrying a few kgs around the middle? 🍷

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SPORTSBRIEFS

By John Ford

Cricket Season Underway

The Colac and District Cricket Association summer season began on 25th October but Lorne did not actually get to take the field until Round 4 which was Saturday 15th November. In what was a very unusual start to the season, Lorne's first three matches included a walkover, a forfeit and a washout!

So Lorne first saw action against Irrewarra at Colac Secondary College Oval in Round 4. Irrewarra won the toss and sent Lorne in to bat. The Dolphins batsmen made an excellent start with Ed Erftemeyer making an unbeaten 50, Matt Cash 40, Harvey Atwell 35 and young Xavier Hollmer 25. At the end of the allocated 40 overs Lorne had posted 5 for 189.

Irrewarra began their run chase quite well but Lorne's bowlers were able to take early wickets and keep pressure on their batsmen. Lorne rotated 8 bowlers, with five of them taking wickets. Lorne's pressure meant that Irrewarra was restricted to 8 for 150 from their forty overs. Xavier Hollmer finished with the impressive figures of 3 for 17 off 8 overs!

Lorne's next match was at home against West Warrion on Saturday 22nd November. The visitors won the toss and elected to bowl. Lorne's batsmen made a fine start and at 2 for 97 it seemed that a very big total could be scored. However, the Dolphins middle order failed to capitalize on this great start and wickets just kept on falling. Lorne ended up slumping to be all out for 154. Ed Erftemeyer with 64 not out, Jack Belsar-O'Connor 30 and Brett Carey 28 made the majority of Lorne's total.

Lorne's bowlers worked hard at restricting the West Warrion batsmen, but in the end, they were able to overhaul Lorne's score with only a couple of balls to spare. An impressive bowling performance from Zav Hollmer taking 4 for 22 off 8 overs kept pressure on the visitors who finished with 8 for 158.

Lorne's next matches are as follows: 29th Nov Lorne at home to Tomahawk Creek; 6th Dec away to Apollo Bay; 13th Dec home against Stoneyford. On 9th January, which is the Friday of the Pier to Pub weekend, Lorne will take on Forrest in a day/night match starting at 3.30pm. This match will have a picnic atmosphere with a barbecue and is a great opportunity to meet the players and is a charity event. I look forward to seeing you all there!

Social memberships are still available being great value at just \$50, which entitles you to discounted bar prices. For more information contact the club at lornecricket@gmail.com GO DOLPHINS!

Surf Lifesaving

This year the Lorne Surf Lifesaving club is again holding

its Nippers program. This is much more than just being taught how to swim. Youngsters learn a broad range of water safety and lifesaving skills to help keep everybody safe at the beach. The lifesavers are there to help keep us all safe while at the beach, and the best thing we can do to help ourselves (and them) is to swim between the flags! Most of us simply love our beach but too few of us have the swimming ability and experience to read the conditions well enough to keep safe. The surf is fantastic but there can be rips and undertows that can be perilous. Be aware, keep safe and enjoy the beach this summer.

Women's Golf Report

Club News

We're back in full swing... lots of golf both here in Lorne and around the region...with the Lorne girls doing very well...

- "The Miss Lascelles Silver Salver" Lorne's women's SWGA event, was held on Nov 7th. as part of the Lorne Country Club Open weekend. This annual event does seem to strike some fear into the hearts (and legs!) of the women who "brave" our hills to come and play our hallowed fairways!! This year's team winner was 13th Beach - with all 3 players actually Lorne residents!!

Congratulations to Lynda Stewart, Sue England and Jenny Downey. Lynda was also the "A grade" winner on the day! This was the 40th year this event has been held at LCC since 1986, when Helen Stewart - the then Lady President asked Cicely to endow a shield to be part of the golfing calendar at Lorne Golf Club. Who was Cicely Mary Lascelles, I hear you ask?? Here is a short outline of her golfing prowess and adventurous spirit!

- Born 1895, daughter of Edward Lascelles of the Geelong Wool Broking firm, Dennys Lascelles. The Lascelles family owned the property "Waverley" in Lorne from approx 1908 - 1996. Her father encouraged Cicely to play golf. She won her first tournament in 1915 (20 years of age).

- Her father then signed her up as an Associate at the RMGC (Royal Melbourne Golf Club). She won the Victorian Open in 1922. At Royal Melbourne, she was Captain of the Associates in 1921 and 1922 and Club Champion in 1920, 1926, 1930 and 1931. She played in England from 1923 to 1929. She declined to turn professional.

- *The Courier and Advertiser* - 15 May 1929, reporting on the second round of the British Ladies Golf Championship being played at St Andrews, reported (amongst other results), that "Miss Cicely Lascelles, Royal Melbourne, Australia, beat Miss Winifred Clark, Troon, 3 and 2". Cicely travelled between the United



Kingdom and Australia every year from 1922 - 1930. Amazing, as we assume that she travelled by ship. Cicely led the Australian Tasman Cup Team in 1934, played in New Zealand. Apart from golf, Cicely is also remembered as being the first female to drive the Great Ocean Road from Geelong to Lorne in 1922 - a very bone rattling journey! Cicely died in 1989, and she is today remembered as one of the pioneer Australian female golfers. Cicely was also very proud to call Lorne her home, and we are very proud to hold this event in her memory and honour. She still has relatives that live in Lorne - Tony Elder is her great nephew.

SWGA News

- October 28th The Colac Perpetual Plate was won by Chris Angus, Jan Borwick and Tina Walker - the first time we have won this event! Sue Neill also played well winning the "C grade" division. Well done all.
- Nov 14th at the Birregurra Open 4BBB event, Chris Angus partnering with Jenny "from Colac GC" won this event.
- Nov 20th - We did it again! Winners of the Bannockburn Noel Tanner Silver Salver. Chris Angus, Tina Walker and Rose Lloyd combined to win the event, with Chris also taking out A grade with 40 points and Tina runner-up in B grade on a count back with 42 points!



A special shout out to Chris and Tina who have been on a long winning streak this year. Well done to you both - we are very proud of you, and of all our women that support other Clubs and play in the events in our region.

We are a friendly group of women, at all different levels of golf skill and experience, and we love to welcome new members/golfers to our group, and also welcome back those that may be "lapsed" golfers... over the summer period, our club competition pauses - but we still play socially and it may be a good time to come up and have a hit with us - just ask at the Tee Box. If you're interested in joining our group, whether new to golf or with some Golfing experience, or if you have any questions, please call Chris Angus on 0439 008 167, or Rose Wyles on 0407 860 980.

Happy Golfing! - Danni De Bon.



AROUND THE GREEN at the Lorne Bowls Club

By Brendan Tunstall

We are nearly at the half way mark of the Club's season having completed 6 of the 14 Rounds. And contrary to last month's report, the Competition's home sides don't

necessarily have the advantage! We have been winning away and (unfortunately) losing some at home.

Weekend Division 2 is presently 3rd on the ladder sitting below Camperdown Magpies 2 and Cobden-to whom we have had narrow losses. Last weeks match against City 2 earned us a narrow win. Two of our teams making every shot count winning 22-20. A strong side ethos.

The Competition player leader board sees our Coach Leigh Mc-skippping by example at no.1. Peter Steven is no. 2. Amazing, considering Peter's shoulder surgery forced him to bowl with his non-preferred arm. Well, he is just such a well lubricated machine. Others not far behind include Steve Donne, Col Weetman, Stack Staley and Brad Weetman.

Round 7 is away against Camperdown Magpies 3 where we look forward to our continuing winning form.

Weekend Division 3 is presently 7th on the ladder. A heart-breaking loss to Cobden at home by one shot tested the sides confidence given that 3 of the 4 teams won on the day. This week we are venturing to Simpson who are 3rd. The two top sides Birregurra and Colac are clear competition leaders this stage but we have the opportunity to improve our ladder position. TravBall mindset? Our leading players to date are John Bliss, Jeff Reddie, Lizzie Lugg, Karen Ridgeway, Doug Williams and Andrew Briggs. Midweek Division 2 after dropping the first round have won all matches since and deservedly sit 2nd on the ladder. Next up is against Derinallum at home. Given our form to date we look forward to pencilling in another win. The competition is still relatively even as not a lot separates the top five sides. Our leading players are Dale Ridgeway, Jeff Reddie, Duncan Leckie, Pearl McIver, Heather Olney and Karen Ridgeway.

Club Championships continue and our congratulations to (youngish) Caitlin McComb and Karen Heathcote who defeated Marilyn McKenzie and Rose Lloyd in the Women's Pairs.

The Men's and Women's singles are being completed this month.

Our next Club Championship is 3 Bowls Triples which starts on Sunday 30th November. At a loose end? Come to the Club and see what Lawn Bowls is about. Socially (and a touch of competitively), we are hosting a 2 Bowl Triples Invitation Day on Wednesday 26th. We appreciate the sponsorship of Great Ocean Road Real Estate to promote this event. The following Wednesdays will revert to Social bowls as usual.

Remember to sign up at the Club for the Christmas Breakup Dinner on 17th December. Music will be provided by our local RockWiz Donne. Was that our Greens Keeper Peter Ironmonger wearing his new T-shirt recently? Mind the Ditch! Halfway through the season and every shot counts - no bias about it.

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

SHAVINGS FROM THE SHED

By Allan Walls

Just amazing things happening at the Shed. Our membership continues to grow. And so do our attendances in fact last Tuesday Morning at the Shed there were 26 Shedders lining up for a coffee. I think “we’re gunna need a bigger Shed”. So before you start thinking of reasons why we can’t, can I assure you that we have adequate space and are investigating opening on more days to accomodate our 120 plus membership.

Christmas is approaching very quickly, and we have the perfect gift for your grandchildren. A sensationally restored vintage rocking Horse for sale (\$4000 advertised in our very own *Lorne Independent*) Thank you to Janet and the team at the *Independent* for generously donating the cost of advertising as a Christmas present to the Shedders.

We never stop in our pursuit of another project that will be of value to the Community so, after much research and assistance from Jan Spring at the Lorne Historical Society we have located the very first Surf Rescue Boat ever used in Lorne. The boat has a name and “Marion” was located at Adrian Elliot’s home in Benwerrin and kindly donated to The Mens Shed who are about to embark on a complete restoration. This, when completed, will live at the Lorne Surf Club either hanging from the ceiling or encased in glass as a table in the Surf Club. Heath Armstrong, President do the Surf Club has offered on behalf of the Surf Club to fund the restoration. The Mens Shed have agreed to donate the Marion to the Surf Club, back to where she began.

A little history of the Marion. Hector Stribling purchased the Marion for around 50 pounds in 1948 when she was offered for sale after being built by Lierch boat builders in Mornington as a display for 5hp Seagull outboard motors. The Marion was used to net around 50 boxes of fish using a 33metre net in Loutitt Bay. The Marion was loaned to the Surf Club for around 2 years and Don Stewart (Dec) was in charge of the Marion. Success was limited as Seagull motors with outboard motors with exposed spark plugs and sea water did not mix, hence more oars and with Don as the Sweep Oarsman life went on until along came Frank Beaurepaire who donated the first purpose-built Surf Boat to the Lorne Surf Club. A very generous Stewart Stribling, who in fact provided me with a lot of this information, (A fellow Shedder) has now donated 6 Surf Boats to the Surf Club.

During its time in Lorne, the Marion was loaned to several



local fishermen to shoot nets and provide food to the Lorne Community. This included the famous Henry Love boxer, fisherman and friend to many in Lorne. Henry is not travelling well at the moment, and we wish Henry all the very best.

‘Our 103-year-old Shedder, Doug Stirling continues to attend almost everyday we are open and his memory for joke telling is amazing.’ – Allan Walls

More to follow as we follow up on the History and Restoration of the Marion.

At our recent AGM our current President David Lawler was re-elected as president, Kevin Riley Vice President, Clive Goldsworthy Treasurer to the world, Rod Smith Secretary, Gary Norton, Allan Walls, Rod VanIngen and Bob Sinclair as Committee members.

At the upcoming market at Lorne Community Connect The Mens Shed will have an amazing display of chopping/cutting boards for sale. I think they are works of a Master Craftsman. In fact they are. The craftsman being Bob Sinclair. The prices will be reasonable so again another great Christmas gift.

I almost forgot to mention, Heath Armstrong of Sam I am builders gave a conducted tour and information session of a Sips method of building. Almost like a Lego set, 7-star

efficiency rating, modular in construction method and imported from Ukraine. A modern and very quick building method which is ideally suited to today’s housing needs.

President Davis Lawler has just purchased an electric branding iron, not sure who the first victim is (joke) but ideal for putting our brand on products we produce in the Lorne Mens Shed.

Our 103-year-old Shedder, Doug Stirling continues to attend almost every day we are open and his memory for joke telling is amazing.

Our Christmas Party is being held at Stribling Reserve on 11th December and already we have a pretty large attendance of Shedders and Partners.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL! 🎅

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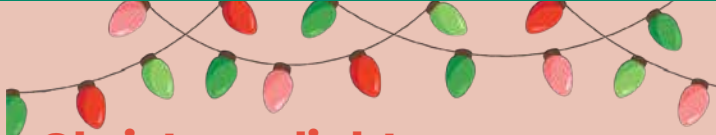
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This festive season, the Surf Coast and hinterland will come alive with sparkling Christmas trees, colourful decorations, carols and family fun.

- We've installed a new 4-metre lit Christmas tree next to the Lorne Visitor Info Centre.
- Drop your letter off for Santa untill December at the Lorne Visitor Info Centre to get a reply by Christmas.



Christmas lights map

Decorate your home and share it on our interactive Christmas lights map, where you can also discover the best displays around the shire.



Show us how you're getting festive – and win!

Share how you're getting into the spirit – Surf Coast and hinterland style. We'd love to see your decorations, celebrations and festive pets!

Tag us in your photos (Surf Coast Shire Council on Facebook, @SurfCoastShire on Instagram) and use the hashtag #SurfCoastSpirit for your chance to win one of two \$100 local prizes!



Take your own free photo with surfy Santa at the Lorne Visitor Info Centre 10am-1pm on Saturday 13 December. There'll also be free face painting and a giant colouring wall.

Gather your family and friends for Carols on the Lorne next to St Cuthbert's Church from 6.30pm on Saturday 20 December – with Santa making a special appearance.



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A short drive leads to the cafés, shops and long sandy beaches of Lorne and Eastern View, while nearby walking trails wind through the forested ridge above. Native birdlife and wildlife are frequent visitors, adding to the property's tranquil atmosphere.

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Whether you're curling up by the fireplace, enjoying the sea breeze or preparing meals in the fully equipped modern kitchen (complete with breakfast bar), comfort and relaxation come naturally here.

surrounded by nature, Sandbanks places you within easy reach of Wye River, Kennett River, and the lush trails of the Great Otway National Park. Whether it's a coastal adventure or a tranquil retreat you're after, this unique property offers the best of both worlds.

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SUMMERTIME IN LORNE

By Christopher Jones

Staying safe over Summer on the roads

Most Victorians do the right thing on our roads, but when crashes happen, they have devastating impacts on individuals, families, and communities.

Victoria Police advise that you can take several steps to ensure summer road trips are safe and enjoyable. Some of these tips include:

- Before setting off on a long journey, have the car serviced and give a proper safety check-up. Make sure the caravan and trailer are checked as well.
- Map your trip and allow plenty of time to reach your destination. Make sure you include plenty of rest stops –enjoy the scenery and any attractions along the way.
- Try to limit driving in busy areas to off-peak periods.
- If possible, restrict your drive to mainly daylight hours and avoid driving at sunset or sunrise, which are periods of high glare and poor visibility.
- Never drink alcohol, not even small amounts, before or during a long trip

VICSES has the largest road rescue network in Australia, with 104 of Victoria's 133 road rescue service providers. Our local unit responds as a highly trained crew with a range of skills, providing extrication and emergency life support services to the trapped or injured.

Please be realistic with your journey deadlines, be extra alert, drive to the conditions, take breaks more often and stay safe! We want you to arrive safely and not meet you by accident.

SES Emergency Response Vehicle Driving – Lights and Sirens and All That Jazz

Summer is one of the best times in Lorne, with thousands of holidaymakers, day trippers and those attending events such as Mountain to Surf and Pier to Pub. With this comes a few weeks when we have a significant amount of traffic coming into town, traffic jams, slowly navigating around Lorne and attempting to park. This is a real challenge for the SES Lorne Unit and the other emergency services agencies. When you see us with our red and blue flashing lights operating (with or without a siren), please be aware we will be trying to reach an emergency. You can assist us by moving out of the way of the emergency vehicle, giving way, and stopping if necessary.

If you come across our vehicles stationary or moving slowly under lights, it is the law that you must slow down to a speed that would enable you to stop safely when approaching and passing enforcement or emergency vehicles that are stationary or moving slowly (less than 10km/h). You must not exceed 40km/h when passing the vehicle and not increase your speed until you are a safe distance from the scene.

Having a safe and enjoyable bushwalking experience

The SES Lorne Unit assists Ambulance Victoria in extracting injured bushwalkers every summer. In most cases, it results from an unforeseen accident or medical emergency.

To avoid such incidents and ensure a safe and enjoyable bushwalking experience, here are some essential tips:

- Plan ahead: Always inform someone about your planned route and expected return time. Research the trail and make sure it's suitable for your fitness level and experience.
- Stay on marked trails: Venturing off marked paths can lead to getting lost or encountering hazardous terrain. Stick to designated trails to minimise risks.
- Check the weather: Weather conditions can change rapidly. Check the forecast before you set out and be prepared for sudden changes.
- Carry essentials: Pack a first aid kit, sufficient water, snacks, a map, a compass, and a fully charged mobile phone. Also, consider carrying a whistle and a flashlight.
- Wear appropriate clothing and footwear: Dress in layers to accommodate changing weather conditions and wear sturdy, comfortable hiking boots for support and traction.
- Be aware of your surroundings: Look for potential hazards such as loose rocks, slippery surfaces, and wildlife. Remain cautious and avoid taking unnecessary risks.
- Stay hydrated and nourished: Drink water regularly and take breaks to eat snacks, especially during longer hikes.
- Respect the environment: Leave no trace by carrying out all rubbish and being mindful of local flora and fauna.
- Know your limits: Don't push yourself too hard. If you feel tired or unwell, take a break or turn back.

Have a fantastic Lorne Summer, and we wish you all the best during the vacation period.

Stay safe from the SES Lorne Unit.

For VICSES emergency response, call 132500

If your situation is life-threatening, call 000

Follow us on our Facebook page - SES Lorne Unit.



LORNE’S WATER OPTIONS

By Mary Lush

In about 2021, all water authorities in Victoria were directed to develop water supply plans for the next 50 years. With climate change expected to bring hotter and drier conditions to the State, additional supplies, or at least a re-think of how we use water, will be needed.

Lorne’s water supply depended on water drawn from the Erskine River and stored in the interestingly named Rough and Tumble Reservoir on the Erskine Falls Road. Today the reservoir and the offtake from the Erskine River (shown in the photograph) are almost completely overgrown.

This Erskine River system stopped being the source of town water in 1958 when the Allen Reservoir, on the St Georges River, came into use. In 2018 the reservoir’s capacity was increased by raising the wall, but at predicted usage rates, this is not expected to meet future need. Both Lorne and Apollo Bay have unusual water supplies in that they depend entirely on local sources. Aireys Inlet and Anglesea, by contrast, draw water from the relatively distant Barwon and Moorabool Rivers and the Melbourne to Geelong pipeline.

What are our options for an adequate water supply?

- 1. Use what we have more effectively
- 2. Take more water from the St George River and possibly other rivers in the region
- 3. Connect to the network that supplies water to Anglesea and Aireys Inlet
- 4. Desalinate sea water
- 5. Recycle water

These options are not mutually exclusive and all of them come with environmental and economic costs.

We could save water, by identifying and fixing leaks, watering gardens according to need instead of a fixed timetable and using water saving appliances. Even if we conserve a lot of water, we will probably still need more in the summers to come.

More water could be taken from the St George River if the reservoir wall were raised, and water could once again be drawn from the Erskine River. Both of these options, however, are probably ruled out by their environmental impacts.



Becoming networked involves laying a pipe from Aireys Inlet to Lorne and would come with associated environmental damage. In the long-term, the water supplied might include both desalinated and recycled water (together called ‘manufactured water’) produced somewhere in the network’s catchment.

Desalination could be done in a local plant. Although desalination raises fears of substantial damage to marine environments, impacts of existing plants appear to be minor.

Recycling water to a highly purified standard for human consumption makes sense to me, but it raises concerns for-others. How pure would it be? According to Barwon Water, recycled water is now processed to drinking-water standard by reverse osmosis, the same technology used for desalinated water. There is probably not enough demand for irrigation in Lorne to justify producing and distributing lower grade recycled water.

In its work in the Lorne community, Barwon Water has established that we place a high value on the natural environment. Perhaps this is the reason that many people indicated that they are prepared to accept (or at least contemplate accepting) recycled water. Barwon water will be carrying out further studies, particularly on options 1, 3, 4 and 5. ①

Barwon Water Community Update

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

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

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

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



Lorne: Water, Your Say

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



We’re here to help

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



Be waterwise every day

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





Keith Miller LACC
Commodore



CLUB NEWS

Everything is running along smoothly at the club with our marquees having the walls down and the heaters running at full blast on the wintery days and removed completely on the sunny days. This is keeping Hutch in shape. Everyone is warm. Hutch has everything organised for what promises to be an action packed lead up to our closing on the 27th January for the demolition and rebuild.

We will be having more live music than ever before along with lots of other fun events. Remember it's members only in January and we've dropped our fees by about half so join now.

Pier and boat channel access

There is a strong possibility that access to the pier and boat launching channel will be closed off during the redevelopment. I've been in constant contact with GORCAPA explaining that access is extremely important for many reasons. They have promised to ask the chosen builder this but it will ultimately be the builder's decision. Hopefully, it's someone who cares about tourists and anglers.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Live Music for January

Strictly Members Only. We will be having Bands perform every weekend in January. The sensational Vulkans will be playing on the night of the Pier to Pub which is on the 10th January 2026.

Ronny Hollmer who is our local rock legend will be getting his band back together for the very last time on Sunday 25th January. Don't miss Ronny's last ever gig.

There will be another two bands performing in January with details to come.

Lorne CFA Fundraiser

SATURDAY 24th JANUARY, 2026

It's on again. We usually have it on Australia Day, but that's on a Monday this year which isn't ideal for a lot of our members. The LORNE FIRE BRIGADE/CFA run a sausage sizzle and we help them out with a raffle, an auction and other fun stuff. Our 'FROZEN FEW' swimming group also help out with the day.

Auction Sunday

25th JANUARY, 2026

We will be auctioning off most of our inside and outside

furniture, the planter boxes that surround our Lazarus Lounge along with some of our memorabilia. There will be a full list of items listed in next month's notes, on our website and on our inside notice board.

Time TBA.

Australia Day Monday

THE LAST DAY IN THE OLD CLUB HOUSE EVER, 26th January 2026. We are planning something special for this momentous but sad day. Details in next month's notes.

Functions, while we are closed

We have a sub-committee working on this and if we are successful we will have all the details in these notes next month.

RECENT EVENTS

Meeting regarding the design of the Co-Op replacement building

Last Sunday morning, on 9th November, 180 members of the Lorne community gathered at a meeting called to enable the people of Lorne to have their say on the internal layout of the proposed new Point Grey Co-op building. Regrettably, GORCAPA had not provided this opportunity and declined to attend the meeting. The proposed GORPACA plan put to the meeting, met with overwhelming disapproval and disappointment. Our thanks to all who attended. Your interest, show of support and the expression of your many and varied opinions, were greatly appreciated. More than 20 community members spoke passionately about their history and feelings towards the Co-op building and many useful suggestions were raised which will be factored into future discussions.



The Frozen Few's Annual pre-Cup swim & lunch

Back in 2020 during the lockdowns this group was formed, calling themselves the Corona Crew which has now morphed into the almighty Frozen Few (FF).

Dozens of hardy swimmers braving the elements throughout the year and putting the word 'Aquatic', back into the Lorne Aquatic & Angling Club. Their 5th annual Pre-Melbourne Cup and lunch was held recently.

Established traditions were upheld with glorious swim conditions and a hearty lunch being followed by Anson Cameron's 'Annual Pointless Awards'. These were well received (and mostly returned to the Op Shop the following day). The FF swimmer of the year has been known the SOY and the inaugural winner was the famous Leon Buchanan, followed by Belinda Langdon, Michael Syme, Sarah Morrison & Anson Cameron.



The outgoing SOY, Jenni Jenkins presented the magnificent new perpetual trophy to our in-coming SOY, Sally Heath a resoundingly popular choice.

Sally is sure to inspire the great influx of swimmers who now gather to join the FF each year at 8am over the summer holidays.

Fittingly Nick Newton became our inaugural inductee into the FF Hall of Fame.

Nick recently completed his 4th English Channel Swim at the age of 71.

It was an experience he described as 'brutal' but is now a feat that will be hard to top.

A thorough Q&A grilling from the FF was held, led by Anson Cameron and Michael Syme. Currently FF members are now stumped as to what it will take to become the second Hall of Fame inductee.

Written by Jenni Jenkins

Donations

Our latest donation went to the Lorne P-12 College for their new Avenue of Honour.

Final Fishing Comp for 2025

Sponsored by Lorne RACV – Adam McLindin

The weather was perfect with heaps of boats heading out to sea and many others fishing off the Pier and off the rocks. We had 22 Anglers with 20 fish weighed in.

We served up a magnificent batch of roast beef and gravy rolls with salad. This was all supplied for free to all the

Anglers. A special thank you to Hutch, Clive and Sue for organising the feed. Thanks to our sponsor Adam McLindin who presented the prizes.

We moved the Big Rock in the Channel

Recently a very large rock appeared in the channel and it was only a matter of time until someone who didn't know it was there would have hit it and probably damaged or even destroyed their outboard motor. We waited for an extra low tide and Tom Curran, Bill Fry and myself moved it out of the way.

Melbourne Cup Extravaganza

This was easily our best one ever. We ran sweeps on every race, a free champagne on arrival, free chicken lunch, fashions on the field and several novelty prizes. To top it all off the winning horse in the cup is part owned by Janet Higgins's brother David Canny. David and his family are regulars at the club each summer.

FISHING REPORT

Boat

he weather has improved a lot so there's been quite a few boats getting out. There has been heaps of huge school and gummy sharks being caught. Some up to six foot long. It's been the best shark fishing we've had for many years. Other than that it's been a bit patchy with a few nice Snapper, Flathead, Nannygai, Teraki, Swallowtail and the odd Whiting being caught. The water is around 15 degrees which is about normal for this time of year but there's a lot of activity out there with lots of dolphins, gannets and albatross. There's been a couple of schools of tuna spotted but none caught recently.

Pier

The Pier has been producing some big snapper, along with School and Gummy Sharks, Salmon, Trevally, Garfish, Whiting and Calamari.

Coffee

Jason is creating his world's best coffee, hot chocolate, tea and home made bickies. He'll be there Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday until the summer when he'll be back to seven days a week after Christmas.

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lorne books

Picks of the Month



FICTION: *The Long Night* by Christian White



The Long Night is a gripping thriller that delves into the lives of two women, Em and Jodie, whose worlds collide under harrowing circumstances.

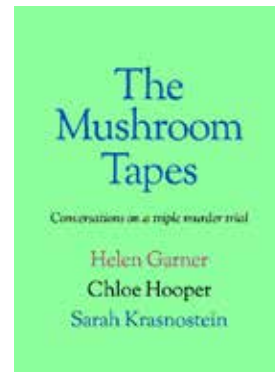
Em meets her online date at a pub. Everything seems to be going well, maybe too well, until the night takes a dark and unexpected turn on the way home. It's a gripping tale about surviving the night until daybreak, confronting trauma and abuse, and finding strength in the most terrifying circumstances.

Bold, vivid and heart-racingly intense, This is the darkest and most exhilarating novel yet from bestselling author Christian White.

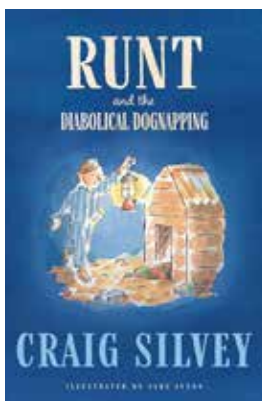
NON-FICTION: *The Mushroom Tapes* by Helen Garner, Chloe Hooper & Sarah Krasnostein

The Mushroom Tapes is a true crime book like no other, an unputdownable record of the writers' private conversations about their impressions from inside the courtroom. They explore the gap between the certainties of the law and the messiness of reality, their own ambivalence about the true crime genre, and all that remains unknowable about Erin Patterson.

If you read one book about how Erin Patterson was convicted of triple murder make it *The Mushroom Tapes*.



Children's Fiction: *Runt and the Diabolical Dognapping* by Craig Silvey



The sequel to *Runt*, the phenomenal bestseller and family favourite, by award-winning author Craig Silvey.

Six weeks have passed since Annie Shearer and Runt competed valiantly at the Krumpets Dog Show. When Runt is seemingly kidnapped it is young Annie Shearer who again needs to be the one to save the day, with the ransom note saying she will only see Runt again if she wins an event at the Tournament of Champions dog show. But without Runt does Annie even have a chance?

Endlessly charming, deeply funny and bursting with heart, *Runt and the Diabolical Dognapping* is an engrossing mystery filled with twists and surprises. A beautiful, tender and moving sequel to the bestselling, multi-award-winning classic, *Runt*.

www.lornebooks.com

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