

No. 291 February 2026

Produced as an independent newsletter by Lorne Independent Inc.

LORNE *Independent*

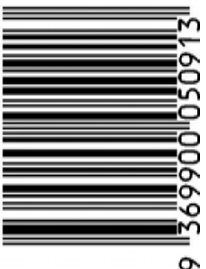
\$4

DELUGE!!

Lorne rises to the challenge!

Photo by David Johnston

See pages 3,4,7,8 & 26



Lorne Independent Inc.

Published by Lorne Independent Inc.

No. A0041756Y

ABN: 54 724 981 550

COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION of VICTORIA
the voice of the community**MEMBER 2026****Published monthly****The LORNE Independent acknowledges our team:****Editor:** Janet Goud**Email:** editorlorneindependent@gmail.com**Special Writers:** Douglas Williams, John Agar, John Ford (Sports Editor).**Contributors:** Sandra McComb, Gary Allan, Garry Fenton, Keith Miller, Peter Spring and Harri Muller (Distribution Manager)**Distributors:** Post Office, Shell Service Station, Op Shop and Foodworks.**Design & print:** Jarrod Witcombe – Witsell Media**Treasurer:** David Stribling – PO Box 213 Lorne, 3232

Phone: 5289 5355 Mobile: 0408 546 424

Email: treasurerlorneindependent@gmail.com**Accounts:** Keri Cachia - Tel: 03 5289 4277

Mob: 0491 033 598 Email: Keri@hlgaccounting.com.au

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

Contribution deadline: 20th of the month**Subscription charges.**

A yearly electronic subscription \$40.

A yearly hard copy subscription mailed \$75.

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

Pay electronically: BSB 633 000 Acc 198 744 542

Send your details to Accounts: Keri Cachia

Keri@hlgaccounting.com.au

Any Inquiries and contributions to:

Janet Goud, Editor

PO Box 213 Lorne VIC 3232

Tel: 0412 929 953

Email: editorlorneindependent@gmail.com

LORNE

Independent

IN THIS ISSUE...

- P3..... When will the locusts come?
 P4..... Rescue from the Ocean: Extraordinary pictures
 P5..... Our old furry friends
 P6..... Lorne P-12 College
 P7..... Flash Flood in Lorne at Kiora
 P8..... Nature's fury hits the coast: SES report
 P10-12..... Letters to the Editor
 P15..... A New Year's Letter from the Chief Fire Officer
 P19..... Potatoes
 P22-23..... Arts in Lorne
 P25..... Councillor Column: Leon Walker
 P26..... From the Deck: Fire, then Flooding Rains
 P27..... Great Ocean Road Health News
 P28-29..... Clementine Calling
 P32-33..... Why do GORCAPA leave some removed weeds on the ground?
 P34..... Op Shop Buzz
 P35..... Shavings from the Shed
 P36-37..... Sportsbriefs
 P38..... Edited Historic Club last News
 P39..... Shark Swim/GORCAPA Report



Music quiz

*By Ray Sutton****Did you get the answers to last months music quiz?***

The love story was made up entirely of Beatles song lyrics (except for one sentence) but there are no prizes for working that out. To win the prize you had to identify the odd sentence, the song it came from, and who sang it. The story was of course a dream which gave a clue to the name of the song from which the sentence came from.

It was "I can make you mine, taste your lips of wine anytime, night or day" and these lyrics come from the song "All I Have to Do Is Dream" by the Everly Brothers.

Congratulations to Professor Richard de Steiger and Peter Hunt who were the first to get the right answer and will each receive a years electronic subscription to *The Lorne Independent*.

A little bit of music trivia; Did you know Paul McCartney wrote a song for the Everly Brothers? Which one was it I wonder?..

When will the locusts come?

By Janet Goud, Lorne Independent Editor

Of the ten plagues of Egypt we have had a few in Lorne. We'd been warned to expect thunderstorms. We waited, hoping for rain all morning. Not much happened. Some far off rumbles were heard, but people continued with their golf games and finished dry.

I glanced at my phone and saw huge floods sweeping through Wye River campgrounds wrecking tents and carrying lots of debris before them. Where had this water come from? Next was footage of cars bobbing past on their way out to sea. This was some powerful force of water.

Slowly the realisation built that I must check out our river. I walked down the hill to see the still rising water, the bridge closure, and answered a phone call from the Op Shop telling me they were giving clothes to people who were arriving wet and cold.

Traffic was held up at the bridge and Lorne was cut in two for a few hours. Sad tales and pictures of amazing scenes of cars and vans at Wye and Cumberland floating out to sea emerged on social media and all traffic was stopped from Lorne to Apollo Bay; also from Fairhaven to Lorne.

Fires we feared, hot winds we feared and expected. This was totally unexpected.

For a short while the town scrambled to understand what was happening. The Surf Club was quick to open its doors as a place of refuge and later as comfortable bunk rooms for sleeping. The Op Shop became a mini information centre sending people to the Surf Club and later Stribling Reserve, after clothing them. Buses went out to ferry people from Wye and Cumberland into Lorne. Families arriving at Stribling looked shell shocked. By this time, it was cold and many had only bathers and damp towels.

The shire eventually set up its full evacuation centre at Stribling Reserve, which came into its own again with its kitchen, hot showers and space for sleeping. The Salvation Army team came to feed everyone. The youth camp teenagers from the church were eager helpers. The Lorne Op Shop was kept busy clothing various sized people, and putting together many bags of warm clothes, dry towels and blankets to Stribling. Carly Stafford, school principal extraordinaire brought all the school resources needed into play including the school bus. The Anglers took their bus. Eventually the buses and SES evacuated about 400 people, mostly from Cumberland River. Although many had lost cars, vans and tents and their gear, unlike the fires, they still had homes to go to.

The little family who run the Cumberland Camping Park lost their home and are presently



"Fires we feared, hot winds we feared and expected. This was totally unexpected."



living in a cabin, supported by many in Lorne.

During the night many lovely Lorne townspeople came to offer families beds and donated bedding and clothes to all evacuees.

The next day the footy and cricket clubs decided they could be useful trying to clean up the Cumberland beach. So they did! Along with the CFA, the Live Wire Park workers, the Clean up Lorne people plus extra Lorne volunteers they filled many utes and trailers with debris. The cars and vans in the sea, generally had to wait for the massive Black Hawk helicopter rescue later, but the beach was much safer.

Well, done Lorne!! You have been tested many times! You are certainly good in a crisis!! ①

COVER STORY

Rescue from the Ocean: Extraordinary pictures

Photo essay featuring photos from the internet, Geelong papers and social media. Thanks to all.



WALSH & HAY
ACCOUNTANTS & ADVISORS

- Income Tax Return Preparation
- GST Compliance ▪ Business Advisory Services
- Preparation of Financial Statements
- Cashflow & Budgeting ▪ SMSF Administration
- Year End Tax Planning ▪ Cloud Accounting Solutions

T: (03) 5232 1365 15 Connor Street Colac Vic 3250
E: reception@walshhay.com.au W: www.walshhay.com.au
Apollo Bay Office: 93 Great Ocean Road, Apollo Bay



Where everybody counts

Our old furry friends

By Liz Bown – local Vet

Aren't we lucky to be able to share our lives with our old furry friends? They love us unconditionally and teach us how to age with grace. If only we would take more notice of them. As they get older and sag a little closer to earth. They start to smell a little bit and sometimes engage less and less. It will be our lot soon, so it may be worth making a few adjustments to see how we could make the final years more comfortable.

Observation is a powerful tool. It's worth noting if our old pets prefer warm beds or cold floors, maybe their appetite has diminished, and their breath prevents us from being in small spaces with them. Are they drinking more or less and is their urine plentiful and light or reduced and dark? How about their coat. Has that lost its gloss, or started to thin, are there greasy patches or is it grey? Then there are the stairs. Does our old pet bounce up them or prefer to stay at the base?

There are many ways we can help as fellow residents and as vets. The most effective action we can take is making a bit of effort with how we feed our aging friends. They are unable to digest their meals as easily and those convenient bags of dried kibble are the hardest to digest. The body has to provide both the moisture and the heat to break those hard pellets down and if the kidneys aren't functioning as well as they did then your pet will struggle even more. If dried dog food is your preferred feed, then soak it in boiling water for half an hour before offering it as dinner. Your pet may appreciate some extra topping of warmed meat and veg. You could sprinkle some turmeric on each meal as it is a powerful anti inflammatory and if your pet feels cold and enjoys snoozing in warm spots then add some powdered ginger in too. Several small meals a day may be better for digestion and if your old friend is known to have the odd brown accident over

night then perhaps breakfast should become the main meal of the day. They will drink more than in the past and if alzheimers is afflicting them they often return to the drink bowl because they forget they've already been there. It all sounds a bit like our aging parents!

Arthritis can progress at variable rates. One day you'll notice that those back legs are positioned under their tummies instead of standing strong and proud behind them. The stairs will be taken two back legs together instead of one at a time and maybe there'll be the odd stumble. There are many glucosamines supplements you can get from pet shops, or injections from vets, which help improve the quality of the joint fluid in all joints. Other natural supplements are also available and if they aren't enough then there's a clinic full of drug alternatives at any vet clinic. Often the drugs have side effects. Alternatively you could try an adult panadol for a border collie sized dog and see if that helps. Most of these anti inflammatories are best given sporadically if possible. They tend to reduce the blood supply to the inflamed areas and sometimes these areas need the blood to help heal. As the saying goes "if you don't use it you lose it." Keep those daily walks up and if one long one is too much then go for three short ones. It's good for the brain to get all that sniffing in.

Decline isn't a constant gradual occurrence. It tends to go in steps so you may get taken by surprise when there's a sudden change, but this will even out and everyone will become accustomed to the change and then get a surprise when the next step is reached. Luckily for our pets, euthanasia is an option that their human companions can organize for them when the time is right. Every veterinary clinic can help with that part of your journey. The deep grief, when your pet goes, is a testament to how true a friend they were and it's a gift to know we can also love another being so unconditionally. Colours do return after the loss and you never know, one day you may be ready to welcome a new pup or kitten into your home and the whole process starts again. ①

"Observation is a powerful tool. It's worth noting if our old pets prefer warm beds or cold floors, maybe their appetite has diminished, and their breath prevents us from being in small spaces with them."

**Your town.
Your bank.**
Everything you need

We deliver the products and technology you'd expect from a big bank, plus the personal service you wouldn't.

As one of Australia's biggest banks, our heartland remains firmly local. As does our focus on you and the quality banking products you need.

Feel good about who you bank with. Try Bendigo.

Find out more. Call 03 5289 1787 or search Bendigo Bank Lorne.

Bendigo Bank



**An Exciting
Year Ahead**

LORNE P-12 COLLEGE

**Inspiring Excellence
by the Sea**



2026 Set to Be Our Best Year Yet

We have launched into 2026 with energy, optimism and one of our strongest starts in recent years. Enrolments have continued to grow, reflecting the school's increasing popularity and the confidence local families place in the college's programs and culture. This growth has enabled the school to establish a stand-alone Prep class, giving the youngest learners a dedicated space to build early literacy, numeracy and social skills in a nurturing environment.

In another exciting milestone, the College has welcomed two Year 7 classes for the first time in its history. This expansion allows for smaller class sizes, strengthened pastoral care, and a broader range of learning opportunities as students transition into secondary schooling. Staff have worked hard to ensure a smooth beginning to the year, creating a positive atmosphere where students feel supported and can thrive. Across the school, classrooms are buzzing with enthusiasm, new friendships are forming, and extracurricular programs are already underway. With a strong sense of community and a dedicated team of educators, Lorne P-12 College is well positioned for its best year yet. We would also like to introduce our College Captains for 2026. Our Senior Captains are Finn Day and Janahli Trezise, while the Junior Captains are Stella Talimanidis and Jarrah Pickering. We are thrilled to have such wonderful students to represent the College and know they will do a wonderful job.

Hola to New Language Program

Lorne P-12 College is excited to introduce Spanish as its new language program, now offered from Prep to Year 10. The addition broadens students' global perspectives and strengthens the school's commitment to cultural learning. Leading the program is Erika Ripa, who brings passion and expertise as a native Spanish speaker. Erika's enthusiasm and cultural knowledge will provide students with authentic language experiences. The College looks forward to seeing Spanish thrive as a vibrant part of its curriculum.



Merle & Len Wilson Scholarship Recipients

Lorne P-12 College is proud to offer the annual Merle and Len Wilson Scholarship to support senior students, who demonstrate a positive attitude toward learning, uphold school values, and show great potential in a particular area of talent or passion. At our Presentation Night held back in December, for the first time, two recipients were presented with their scholarships.

Noah Thieme and Frazey Horsburgh-White were awarded the extremely generous bursary of \$10,000 each, which they will use during their final years of schooling here at Lorne P-12 College. We look forward to sharing with you the valuable ways they will use the scholarships to grow their areas of passion and expertise.

Flash Flood in Lorne at Kiora

By Bernie Blackall

Thursday 15th January, 2026 promised us a little rain and a few thunderstorms. The sound of thunder late in the morning did not prepare us for the sudden drama of the flash flooding from the huge downfall on Mt Cowley and the catchment flooding.

It was a narrow miss for the hundred-odd Annual Permit holders in Kiaora caravan park on the southern side of the now wild river. I was one of those.

The timber footbridge acted as a dam wall for the torrent of water, trees, branches and tons and tons of tangled detritus. The water level mid afternoon was lapping across the decking of the walkway.

The water level banked up to the point where it appeared that the walkway might give way.

This damn wall caused the inundation of the Riverside café and PizzaPizza.

The water level at the boom gate at the Park entrance was about 40 centimetres.

There was degree of panic as we located cars, furniture and surf gear to higher ground.

Fortunately, the water pressure somehow cleared a stream under the bridge which lessened the water level. After peak level at 4pm we saw a steady drop of about 50cms over the next hour.

To get some perspective...

The massive log that had provided a natural shortcut to the supermarket across the river was totally swung around to the north riverbank. And the brick barbecue beside the river was totally submerged.

Clean up days were Friday and Saturday with community spirit on display. They had to clear what must have amounted to mega tons of a stinking tangled mess of trees, mud and rubbish.

Heavy machinery, tip trucks, chainsaw assembled. Shopkeepers and Kiaora park campers all pitched in. ①

“It was a narrow miss for the hundred-odd Annual Permit holders in Kiaora caravan park on the southern side of the now wild river. I was one of those.”



Nature's fury hits the coast

By Chris Jones

On Thursday, 15th of January, a sudden, intense storm cell over Mount Cowley produced more than 180mm of rain in a few hours, turning creeks and rivers into destructive floodwaters.

It is now history that the Wye, Kennett, Cumberland, Erskine Rivers and Separation Creek were turned into torrents. The townships of Wye River, Kennett River, Cumberland River and Lorne being impacted by flash flooding. Sections of the Great Ocean Road were closed, caravan parks inundated, and local services/businesses were temporarily shut. Hundreds of people were evacuated and displaced. SES and other crews carried out multiple rescues, including people trapped on roofs or in caravans. Local residents and holidaymakers also helped pull people to safety and moved vulnerable belongings to higher ground. Fortunately, there were no fatalities. The floodwaters left mud, debris, weakened bridges and contaminated water. Multiple vehicles were washed from caravan parks and roads at Wye River and the Cumberland River.

VICSES, in conjunction with SES Lorne Unit and specialist crews using helicopter operations (Blackhawk), safely removed flood-impacted vehicles from coastal areas at Wye River and Cumberland River.

Fourteen cars and one caravan were plucked off the rocks and pulled out of the water, then placed back in the Cumberland River Caravan Park for loading onto tray trucks. At Wye River, the two vehicles were treated the same way.

Having been to all the flood-impacted locations, what was amazing was how quickly the communities pulled together to offer blankets, accommodation, meals and transport. Most importantly, physical and emotional support. This was quickly followed by organising a large number of volunteers to do a clean-up. A true Aussie Spirit of standing by others in their time of need. You are legends.

Credit must be given to those displaced surviving a flash flood, which, in the short term, is frightening and disorienting. To varying degrees, we saw a range of emotions: shock, numbness, grief, frustration, sadness and loss. Overwhelmingly, there was a sense of relief at being safe and gratitude for any assistance they received. The SES were busy with dozens of calls for assistance; the Lorne SES Unit alone reported responding to 19 requests in the first 24 hours.

Stay Safe, Stay Well. 🇦🇺

Stay safe from the SES Lorne Unit.

For VICSES emergency response, call 13 25 00

If your situation is life-threatening, call 000

Follow us on our Facebook page – SES Lorne Unit.



"Fortunately, there were no fatalities. The floodwaters left mud, debris, weakened bridges and contaminated water. Multiple vehicles were washed from caravan parks and roads at Wye River and the Cumberland River."

(Below): 400 people evacuated from the Cumberland.





PINK STUMPS MATCH

LORNE VS APOLLO BAY

Ladies Day

**Wear Pink
for a Purpose!**

**Supporting the
McGrath Foundation
Now for All Cancers**

TICKETS VIA
TRYBOOKING



**Saturday
14 February 2026**

3 - 6 PM

**STRIBLING RESERVE
OUTDOOR MARQUEE**

Letters to the Editor...

Lorne Theatre

Dear Editor,

I have been visiting Lorne since I was a baby it is a beautiful place with great beaches that are great to swim at. I have especially always loved the cinema which is an astonishing building that stole my heart the moment I saw it. And since I was very young I still have memories of going to see wondrous films. But, one day I was astonished to find that it was not open to play films anymore. It felt like a piece of Lorne had been torn away. But, it still played movies on occasions, but it felt like it wasn't enough. Recently, when we were down in Lorne visiting my grandparents we saw that *Zootopia 2* was on, so we went to see it, and it was a great movie! I wish that in the future that the Lorne cinema will open fully once again and restore Lorne to its full potential.

Jem Goud Cassidy

RB Heritage Architects on Point Grey

Dear Editor,

The Lorne Fishing Co-op awaits its final hour as the redevelopment of Point Grey looms. Promises of coastal protection, increased amenities, and supposed 'revitalisation' of public space have been touted to justify the demolition of the historic co-op building – but is this truly just?

Introduction

RBA Architects and Conservation Consultants have a deep understanding of the heritage significance at Point Grey and believe that the Lorne Fishing Co-op should be retained as a distinctive and defining piece of coastal Victorian history. Our involvement began in 2021, when residents of Lorne approached us to assess and review the heritage value of the Fishing Co-op. As we began to uncover multiple layers of significance, we realised that the story of Lorne's Fishing Co-op extends much greater than area of Lorne - leading us to embark on a vast body of research detailing the history of Victoria's Couta Coast. This research was presented by Roger Beeston at the APT (Association for Preservation Technology) International Annual Conference in November last year, bringing the heritage of Lorne and the Couta Coast into a global spotlight.

Brief History

Built in 1949, the Lorne Fishing Co-op is an integral part of Victoria's historic and cultural landscape known as the Couta Coast.

The Lorne Fishing Co-op was constructed as part of a broader scheme when the State Government announced a subsidy to cover 75% of the costs for installing refrigerating plants and freezers at four of the seven couta ports. The plants were built by the local fishing co-operatives to overcome difficulties with the transport of fish, stabilise supplies and prices,



and benefit towns by providing local businesses with a freezing facility.

Demolition Resistance

In recent decades, the Lorne Fishing Co-op has somehow become a target for demolition proposals. In 2006, in 2011, and in 2020, the building was slated for demolition. . During 2021, Laurie Baker AM collected over 1700 signatures from residents and visitors in support of retaining the co-op building. Additional matters regarding the proposed redevelopment were addressed at VCAT in 2022 which served to prevent construction of a large-scale restaurant in place of the co-op.

More recently, GORCAPA have sought to progress the demolition plans under Clause 52.30 – a planning pathway intended for streamlining state projects falling behind due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Heritage value

Considering the community's longstanding and continued commitment to saving and retaining the Fishing Co-op, this building is undoubtedly an exemplar of social significance at a local level. Further to its local significance, the Fishing Co-op could be a candidate for state level heritage recognition due to its connection to Victoria's history of the Couta Coast. The Lorne Fishing Co-op serves as Point Grey's only remaining historic building representative of the area's timber and fishing industry. Though the form of the co-op has been altered over the years, the **original brick masonry core of the building holds substantial historic value.**



Evaluation

We understand that the Lorne Fishing Co-op is currently subject to several issues that need to be addressed – however these can be resolved without the need for a full demolition, and it is misleading to represent such issues as insurmountable.

Upon review of the available engineering reports, we found that the areas experiencing structural disrepair are generally confined to later additions (which are not of heritage value). Isolated removal of these areas would result in a positive heritage outcome, as the building would be returned to its historic form.

Coastal erosion has caused some instability for the original footings which can be easily mitigated through existing and well-known architectural conservation techniques. In architectural building conservation, it is standard practice to stabilise heritage facades with temporary supports while new foundations are laid – therefore allowing the façade to be subsequently attached to the new structure.

Additionally, the necessary introduction of coastal protection for this area is not dependent on demolition of the co-op building (though it appears that the two separate issues have been inappropriately treated as a single matter).

Discussion

We do not believe that the coop must be demolished, furthermore proceeding with a Premature demolition is irresponsible and unsustainable in contemporary building practice. Late last year, our office met with GORAPA and the projected team to share this perspective. Despite this, GORCAPA have communicated that the decision to demolish the building is final.

What we find particularly concerning is the misguided willingness to regard the proposed works as a positive heritage outcome. During our meeting, the demolition was repeatedly and inaccurately described as a “dismantling and reconstruction” - we found this statement rather facetious as **the proposal does not constitute a genuine reconstruction.**

Furthermore, the existing proposal exhibits a fundamental misunderstanding of heritage conservation principles, as it suggests that material salvage and reuse in this instance is a sufficient means of achieving heritage value retention. Misuse of the idea that new buildings can be imbued with heritage value by using salvaged materials sets dangerous precedent that demonstrates a false compatibility between unnecessary demolition and heritage conservation.

The demolition of the Lorne Fishing Co-op building would instead sanitise the site of its heritage significance, potentially providing an avenue for further and more invasive redevelopment schemes to take place in the future.

Having invested a great amount of interest, care and effort into researching the history and heritage of the Lorne Fishing Co-op, we had hoped that any proposals

for the site would first undergo earnest investigation into the possibility of retaining its historic built fabric. Considering that this does not appear to have been a priority for the current plans, our office has taken the liberty of visualising alternate adaptive reuse schemes which detail viable options of retaining the fishing co-op while introducing a separate structure for exhibitions and amenities.

As the Lorne Fishing Co-op has been subject to a series of repeated demolition proposals, we are alarmed that this disturbing pattern may be indicative of a continued disregard for heritage authenticity. Unsettled by the unwarranted insistence to demolish a building fundamental to both the character of Lorne and the history of coastal Victoria, we are worried not only for the future of the Lorne Fishing Co-op but for all the ports within the Couta Coast.

We strongly encourage anyone who wishes to see the Lorne Fishing Co-op retained to participate in the petition to save the building at the following website:

parliament.vic.gov.au/get-involved/petitions/lorne-fishermens-cooperativebuilding

Friends of Lorne response to Point Grey

Dear Editor,

The recent floods have shown us what happens when people worked together across organisations, interest groups, businesses and community support services to help those in need. We all benefit from that collaboration.

But navigating conflict in small communities is often more challenging. Over a number of years the varied plans for the redevelopment of Point Grey have certainly created a lot of discussion and opinions. When intense emotions are stirred, the sequence of events can be forgotten in the heat of debate. It can be helpful to step back and review the timeline to understand how we got to where we stand now and how we find a way forward. To clarify we provide the following timeline of events as they have unfolded since September 2025 in the hope that this can defuse the tension and give us all a chance to take a breath.

Continued on page 12

Solve the Simple!

Solve your Bin Day angst

- Bins left out ?
- Bins not put out ?
- Bins always full ?

Try us with a FREE service

- Sign up with code “Simple”
- Use us when you need us



When bin day is here, but you're not.



www.binzi.app



Continued from page 11

8 September 2025	Draft plans of the internal layout of the new co-op building are shown at a public meeting/webinar.
20 September	Community response at that meeting and subsequent submissions, including from Friends of Lorne, were submitted to GORCAPA. Friends of Lorne asked for fewer toilets, more dining space and confirmation about the crane and couta boat being returned. It was also recommended that GORCAPA seek input from consultants in historical curation for the history of Pt Grey.
16 October	GORCAPA responded by reducing the number toilets and expanding the kitchen. There is dining inside and out and that they are looking to accommodate a crane and couta boat.
19 October	The confirmation email about the above from GORCAPA was sent by Friends of Lorne to the Committee for Lorne as an FYI.
4 November	News that changes were secured to the draft plans is shared by Friends of Lorne with 155 Friends of Lorne members as well as people on our affiliates list (e.g. Committee for Lorne, Otway ward Councillors, etc). The title is 'Feedback from the GORCAPA CEO.'
9 November	More than 175 people attend a public meeting at Stribling Reserve. The meeting was very angry about the draft plans for an oversized toilet block at Pt Grey with a kiosk attached. The Friends of Lorne president, as the first speaker from the floor pointed out that changes had already been agreed to (toilets, hospitality, boat, crane.) That input is not included in a report of that meeting. The organisers secured agreement from attendees for a better internal layout of the building with more scope for history telling.
22 November	An article in <i>The Age</i> regarding the 9 November community meeting repeats misinformation implying that GORCAPA has not made any changes to the proposed size of the toilets or the kiosk.
2 January 2026	Committee for Lorne announces that "following the community meeting that they organised on Sunday, November 9th, a small group has been working with GORCAPA and the project architects to significantly change the internal layout of the building that will be known as 'The Co-op' to shrink the space allocated to toilets, increase the café space and provide the opportunity to showcase the rich history of the Point Grey precinct and Lorne." They "thank GORCAPA for being willing to hear the voice of the community and to revisit the precinct plans."
	The GORCAPA website states that "in mid-October, we increased the size of the hospitality space and reduced the number of toilets following feedback from the community on the concepts released in September."

This timeline reflects tensions over who contributes to achieving an outcome. When communities are heard and compromise is achieved surely that is a win for everyone not a time for point scoring. Friends of Lorne welcomes the willingness of GORCAPA to listen and make changes in response to ALL input.

We understand that there have been long-standing tensions and frustrations in the community generated by the feeling over several years that we, as a community, have not been heard. This has overshadowed the significant progress made over recent months by input from community groups and individuals. If we can acknowledge this progress, we will be able to avoid remaining stuck in conflict. Change is difficult. We can never achieve outcomes that please every person in a community, but we can celebrate the fact that after a long and painful process, we have finally been listened to and changes have been achieved, and respect for and courtesy towards each other can prevail. 📢

Friends of Lorne Committee

Mary Rose Yuncken

Lindy Pearce

St John Sutton

Jo Dunin

VIEW OUR WEEKLY CATALOGUE SPECIALS

AVAILABLE INSTORE AND ONLINE



SHOP ONLINE AT
lorne.myfoodworks.com.au

FOODWORKS
LORNE

1-3 Great Ocean Road, Lorne VIC 3232
03 5289 1645 | Open 7am - 8pm daily

Your dream wedding at The Lorne Rooftop



Winner of the Best Wedding Venue
– Boutique Hotel in the Geelong
and Surf Coast Wedding Industry Awards.

THE LORNE
ROOFTOP

merivale

Enquire now: 02 9114 7398
salesandevents@merivale.com



Breath testing millions of drivers this year.

Police are out there to keep our roads safe. If you've been drinking, don't drive. Getting caught with a Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) of 0.05 and over will result in loss of licence and significant fines. Chances are you will be caught.

Anywhere. Anytime. Anyone.

TAC

VICTORIA
State
Government



A New Year's Letter from the Chief Fire Officer

By Chris Hardman AFSM – Chief Fire Officer Forest Fire Management Victoria

Happy new year, Victoria. I hope your 2026 is one full of hope, happiness and good health.

Personally? I am thrilled by a summer that has not yet delivered the harsh conditions we might have anticipated; that we have remained largely unscathed by the threat of bushfires; and that our people have had some chance for downtime as we reset for another busy year.

But, I am also cautious about what might lie ahead and want to urge caution and continued vigilance in these 'lazy, hazy, crazy' days – these latter months of summer.

How you can prepare?

Bushfire management is a shared responsibility. It is one we (FFMVic) share with other agencies (such as CFA), but it is also one we share with you. There are some simple steps you can take to help reduce your risk from bushfire.

1. Visit the CFA website to help you get started on a Bushfire Plan so you know what you will do in case of fire
2. Download and get to know the VicEmergency app – then set up 'watch zones' and turn on notifications to be kept up to date wherever you are
3. Get to know the Australian Fire Danger Ratings System – and work out what fire danger rating will trigger your Bushfire Plan
4. Plan your travel – head to Explore Outdoors to help you stay safe when visiting state forests
5. Never leave a campfire unattended – if they are cool to touch, they are safe to leave. And always put your campfires out with water, not soil.
6. Understand our Essential Water Replacement policy. In a bushfire, FFMVic and CFA may take water from private land to help us fight fires. You can request any essential water be replaced. Check out the Public Land Recovery page on the FFMVic website to see our policy and download the form if you need it.

How we are prepared?

Of course, I want you to know we are prepared too; that FFMVic works year-round to ensure we are well positioned to protect communities, assets and the environment from the threat of bushfire.

We have more than 1800 personnel on the frontline, including year-round and seasonal firefighters, fire lookout observers and support officers, together with hundreds of emergency and incident management staff, firefighting equipment (including hundreds of ultralight and heavy tankers, and more than



1000 additional plant and trucks, including dozers, tractors, graders, loaders, forklifts and excavators); as well as support from the state's aerial firefighting fleet, comprising a mix of firebombing aircraft, air supervision and information-gathering aircraft.

Our program of bushfire risk reduction includes planned burns, mowing, mulching, slashing and spraying – 'fuel management'. Fuel management reduces the amount of vegetation (e.g. grass, leaves, bark, shrubs and small fallen branches) available to 'fuel' a fire, thereby reducing the likely speed or intensity of a bushfire. These qualities can help fire crews to respond to and put out fires while they are still small – before they can impact on communities, assets, infrastructure and the environment.

But fuel management is not our whole program to reduce risk. We work closely with our emergency sector partners to reduce risk in many ways. From preventing new ignitions through fire bans and campfire controls, early detection of bushfires from fire towers and aircraft, to aggressive first attack using aircraft and ground crews and emergency warning and information systems.

If you are curious about more of this work, the Office of Bushfire Risk Management last month published Victoria's Bushfire Management Snapshot. The snapshot reports on the broad range of activities our sector undertakes to help reduce bushfire risk. You can find it online at vic.gov.au/victorias-bushfire-management-snapshot.

Whatever this season holds, I wish you all the best for it and thank you for your continued support. 🙏

Chris Hardman AFSM

Chief Fire Officer
Forest Fire Management Victoria

LORNE STORAGE CENTRE

Looking for a secure place to store your things in Lorne?



Locally owned and operated, Lorne Storage Centre is your place for safe and secure storage of your belongings.

With 24/7 security surveillance, your belongings are safe with us. Our convenient location and flexible access hours ensure easy retrieval whenever you need. Count on our friendly staff for expert advice and assistance. Experience hassle-free storage and reclaim your space with confidence at Lorne Storage Centre.

Contact us today for a free quote.

0493 811 925 • lornestoragecentre@gmail.com

LORNE HOME TIMBER HARDWARE & LEISURE For All Your Hardware & Leisure Needs

**LOCAL DELIVERY
AVAILABLE**

• FIREWOOD

Bulk redgum, sugar gum, bagged redgum, kindling & charcoal

• RETAINING WALL SUPPLIES

TP Sleepers, H&C sections, all lengths, bagged concrete & cement

• HOMEWARES

Kitchen & electrical appliances

• GAS

Refills, agent for SUPA GAS

• TIMBER

Small & bulk lots. Call for availability/quote

• HARDWARE

Tools, power tools & key cutting

• FISHING

Fishing gear & bait

• GARDEN

Potting mixes, sprays & tools

• OUTDOOR

BBQs, tables, chairs & camping gear

• LEISURE

Umbrellas & beach gear

Lorne Home Timber Hardware & Leisure

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

MON-FRI: 7:30am-4pm SAT: 9am-4pm SUN: 9am-3pm

58 Mountjoy Parade, Lorne 3232 Ph: (03) 5289 1329

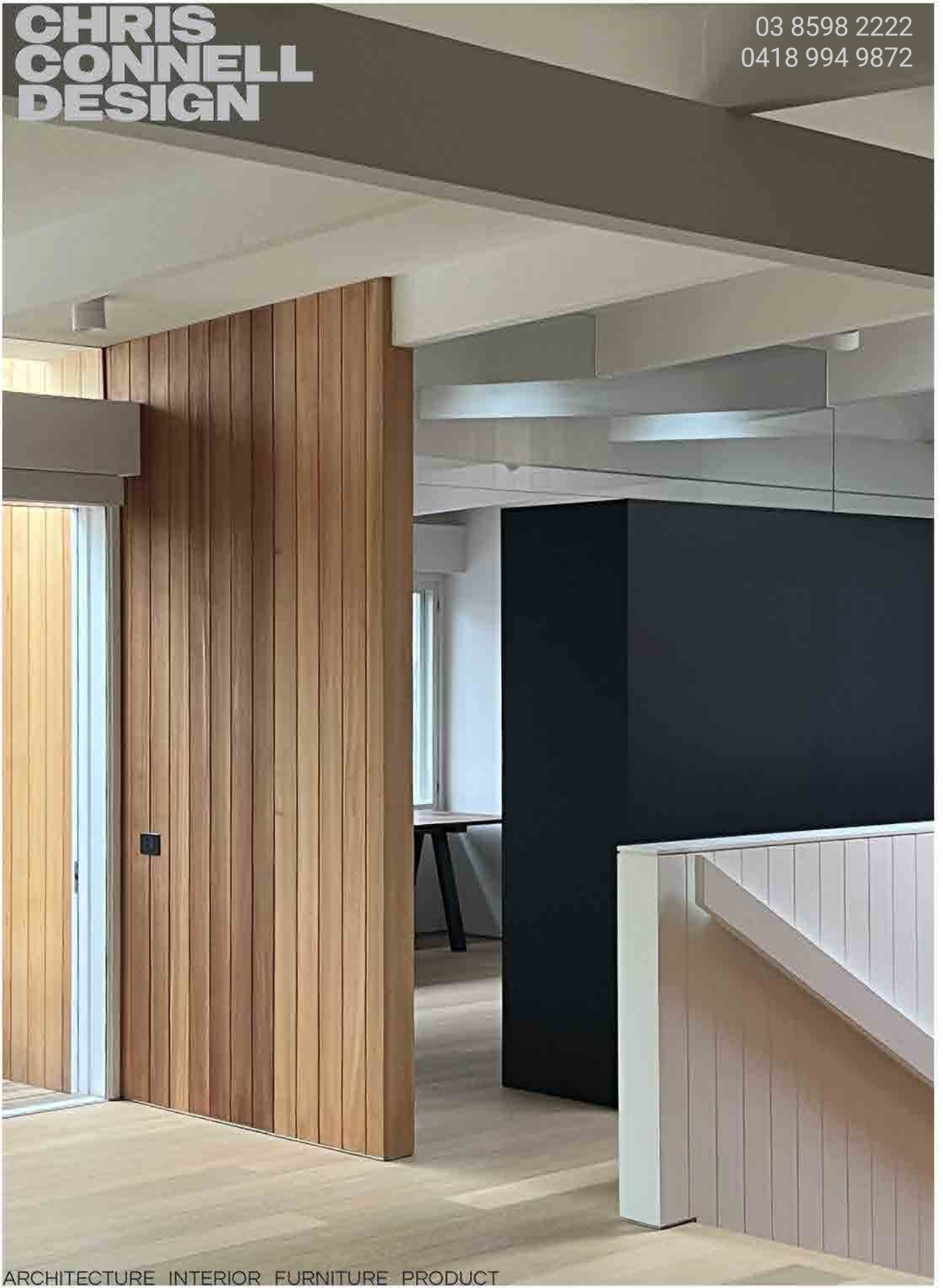
HOME
TIMBER & HARDWARE

GO WHERE THE TRADIES GO

**CHRIS
CONNELL
DESIGN**

03 8598 2222
0418 994 9872

ARCHITECTURE INTERIOR FURNITURE PRODUCT



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.



Potatoes

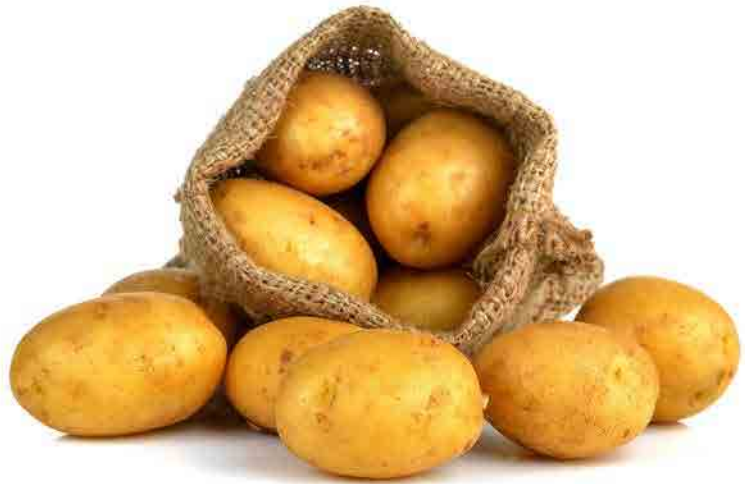
By Doug Williams

Using the trade winds to point their craft in the right direction for home the wooden ships of the early 16th through to the 18th centuries carried oodles and oodles of booty from Central and South America back across the Pacific. There were rousing tales of pirates and privateers and merchant traders and feudal lords and swashbuckling freelancers who plundered, rampaged and sacked countries from Mexico to Chile. Some wearing tarnished armour like Cortez or swashbuckling about like Blackbeard, Errol Flynn and Jack Sparrow on the Spanish Main after treasure chests.

A lot of the fabulous booty raided from these cities of gold lies at the bottom of the ocean or ended up in the treasury of Spain and we don't know with whom the remaining precious pieces lie now. Meanwhile in Bolivia and Peru there was another buried treasure that had been in use for thousands of years, known to the Incas and part of the diet of those who ran Machuu Pichu. It was a great Peruvian energy source. Spanish raiders raging after jewellery, gold and silver had to eat. They came across the spud in the sixteenth century and sent tubers back to Spain. It also appeared in Britain around the same time, possibly coming over from North America. Sirs Francis Drake and Walter Raleigh get the credit for putting them on the dining table in England but it wasn't the famous and influential characters who should get credit here because it's more likely to have been Spanish fishermen who landed in western Ireland to introduce them there, before they were grown in England.

Yet is it true to say that potatoes are the food of poverty? Well, no. Before they took off to become the number one foodstuff in Europe in the nineteenth century, becoming the staple food there, They had once only been the prize for the upper classes for their novelty. Gradually they were popularised and it made sense for farmers to grow them in a countryside frequently troubled by invading armies sweeping through and stealing any available crop like barley or wheat. It made mass nutrition possible – the potato was huge on energy and fairly easy to grow. During the Little Ice Age of the seventeenth century cooler weather meant its cultivation became easier than growing cereal crops and it became a European staple food. It is number four in the list of the major food sources of the world after rice, wheat and maize. At first initial resistance to eating it was because, like tomatoes, it is in the same family as deadly nightshade (hemlock is a cousin) and eggplants.

There are thousands of varieties of potato, and I grew



Pontiac, Sebago and Kennebecs at Benwerrin forty-five years ago for the Melbourne market. However, reliance on the Irish Lumper as the main variety grown in Ireland as a subsistence crop meant that when potato blight took hold in the countryside a million people died as a result of crop failures in the middle of the nineteenth century.

And the future is bright because today we have fish and chips and potato chips and there are sixty-odd ways you must prepare them in order to qualify as a French chef. Thirty years ago a potato was the first vegetable to be grown in space. Rockets which include potatoes in their fuel mix were V-2 rockets during WW2 and of course you can make vodka from them too. So for this alone they make the world a better place. Nowadays we can drink vodka martinis in Lima, Peru. ①

“...And the future is bright because today we have fish and chips and potato chips and there are sixty-odd ways you must prepare them in order to qualify as a French chef.”



MARSHALL WHITE

**53 RICHARDSON
BOULEVARD, LORNE**

 4  3  2  750 approx.

For Sale

Inspect
By Appointment



HUGH TOMLINSON

0409 427 483

JAMES TOMLINSON

0408 350 684



Arts in Lorne

Qdos



GREG DALY JEFF MINCHAM AM
24 Jan - 13 February
DIFFERENCE IN COMMON
Celebrating the artistic diversity
of two of Australia's most esteemed ceramic Artists

Launched by David Walker, a great patron of the Ceramic Arts in Australia.
Saturday the 24th January at 3:00pm

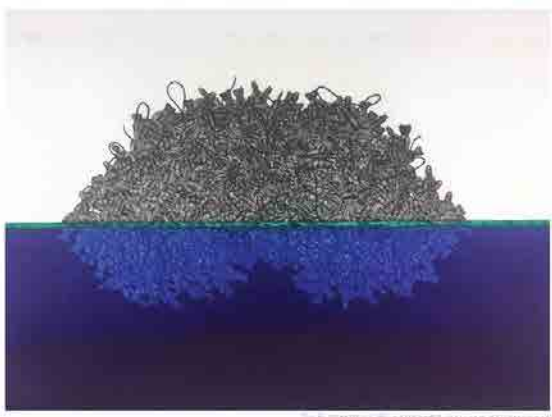
Qdos Fine Arts, Lorne  www.qdosarts.com
Hours: 9:00am - 5:00pm TFSSM or by appointment
Exhibition concludes 3:00pm 13th February 2026



JEFF MINCHAM AM GREG DALY
24 Jan - 13 February
DIFFERENCE IN COMMON
Celebrating the artistic diversity
of two of Australia's most esteemed ceramic Artists

Launched by David Walker, a great patron of the Ceramic Arts in Australia.
Saturday the 24th January at 3:00pm

Qdos Fine Arts, Lorne  www.qdosarts.com
Hours: 9:00am - 5:00pm TFSSM or by appointment
Exhibition concludes 3:00pm 13th February 2026



GRAEME PEBBLES
7 - 27 Feb 2026
Australian's leading Mezzotint Artist

Saturday the 7th February at 3:00pm

Qdos Fine Arts, Lorne  www.qdosarts.com
Hours: 9:00am - 5:00pm TFSSM or by appointment
Exhibition concludes 3:00pm 27th February 2026

EARTH EMOTIONS

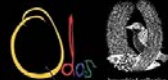
Music & philosophy for nature

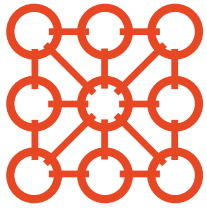


Simone Slattery | violin - Anthony Albrecht | cello
featuring... Professor Glenn Albrecht | environmental philosopher

Qdos Gallery, 35 Allenvale Rd, Lorne
Sunday, 1st of February, 4-5pm

Tickets from \$5-\$60 via:
www.bowerbirdcollective.org



LORNE COMMUNITY CONNECT

Lorne Community Connect Arts Hub

By Gary Allan

KAREN STONEHAM EXHIBITION

Over January, Karen Stoneham's exhibition included her new sea window series, alcohol ink jewellery, surfboard art, popular fruit beach bum ladies and 3D resin porthole works. I trust you were able to see Karen's work. She is a regular supporter of the facility, staging the exhibition with little support from committee members who take a break during the holiday period.

2026 EASTER PHOTOGRAPHIC PRIZE & EXHIBITION

This year the Easter Photographic Exhibition with the theme "Becoming and Belonging" will be curated by Pia Johnson. The photographers are invited to explore the intimate spaces between who we were and who we're becoming, seeking images that reveal the moments of transformation and the places where we finally feel at home. The exhibition is open to both amateur and professional photographers with entries closing mid-February. This year the prize money has been increased; with the first prize of \$2,000, second \$1,000 and third \$500 being possible by the generous sponsorship of Mantra and the Lorne Aquatic Club. Following the success of last year's Lorne P-12 student photographic display, the student exhibition will be held again.

We also wish to acknowledge the support of Bells Fine Arts and the Great Ocean Road Real Estate. Vist LCC: lornecommunityconnect.com.au



- Better Standard
- Better Technology
- Better Advice

74 Dennis Street,
Colac Victoria 3250
watersupplycolac.com.au

f i y



ARTIST IN RESIDENCE (AIR) – SPONSORED BY MANTRA

In March we are excited that Aboriginal artist Joshua James will take up our first AIR program for 2026. Starting in 2020 the program supports the development of the artist's practice and creative engagement between artist, community and place. Joshua will be the seventh AIR since 2000.

Joshua is a proud Noongar Wardandi, Bibulman Maaman from Noongar Wardandi Gnaala Karla Booja & Bibulmun Boojarah Boodja in the Southwest of Western Australia. He was born and raised on Noongar Country learning the ways of his people, his culture and his connection to the land and sea as salt-water people of Noongar Boodja. Joshua has lived and worked in remote Aboriginal communities across the Northern Territory and Western Australia including, Larrakia, Tiwi Islands and Nhulunbuy in East Arnhem Country. Josh now calls Winchelsea home and lives there with his wife and two children. Joshua has artwork on display at galleries throughout the country. He was a finalist for both the Yapang Emerging Artist National Awards and the Noongar Boodia design exhibition in 2023 and the AFL has commissioned his work for the design of umpire tops during the Indigenous round in 2023. 🏏

A Gang Gang Blessing for Graeme's Sculpture

By C.J. Cairns

Work of art on a work of art
The gang gang alights.
His soft personal croaky call
Alert, alive, unthreatened though.
The crest of the wave you cast
In hard wrought metal
Stands gracefully waiting to break,
Above the dark reflecting pool.
This red-capped fellow
Crowns your best effort

In endemic glamour
No hand could shape.
Safety checks all done,
He glides to the bluestone ledge
Dips his cup shaped beak,
Stands and tilts it back
In a cautious swallow
Once, twice, three times, then off.





STIBLING RESERVE, LORNE

SPECIAL
COMMUNITY
RATES
AVAILABLE



A modern, versatile venue in the heart of Lorne, perfect for functions, sporting events, community gatherings, pre-season training camps and personal court hire.

BOOKINGS & ENQUIRIES



0409 180 328



bookings@striblingreserve.com.au



45 Otway Street, Lorne

Facilities

- Function room – seating up to 200 people
- Onsite commercial catering partner
- Modern AV & large screen TVs
- Netball pavillion & outdoor court
- Full-size Indoor multi-purpose court
- Oval with night game lighting
- 2 x Change rooms
- Meeting & work from home offices

Councillor Column

By Leon Walker
Otway Ward Range Councillor

January and the peak of tourists has passed, and what a January to remember. The saying of 'rain, hail or shine, Lorne is open', can be replaced with 'fire, floods, sharks and landslides, Lorne is open'.

We are so lucky with all these natural incidents that no one was injured. All through these events, the one thing that stands out is our community spirit of everyone coming together in support and the resilience of the Surf Coast and Great Ocean Road towns.

Having been an active member in our community through these challenges; at the relief centre, the beach clean up, and being able to talk to everyone, my thoughts are with those affected. I sincerely thank all those who chipped in to help without even asking, especially our emergency services and community group volunteers.

The Surf Coast Shire economic team will be collating feedback from businesses on their heavy financial losses from these emergencies, to see what support is and will be available for tourism in Lorne and the Surf Coast and beyond.

In the first few weeks of January, we're at bumper capacity time for visitors to Lorne. It's great to see January visitors enjoying Lorne's hospitality. January maybe over, and definitely one to remember.

However it's still summer, which we all love. Please keep the Vic Emergency App active and encourage all our visitors to also download it.

One lesson to take on board. Use the official emergency channels and resources and do not rely on social media and not mainstream media unless it's verified information.

Let's all help get Lorne and the Great Ocean Road back on track!

We are lucky to live in a wonderful natural part of the world, which also comes with its challenges.

Again, thank you to our wonderful community, stay safe, smile and give your neighbour a hug. 🤝

"Having been an active member in our community through these challenges; at the relief centre, the beach clean up, and being able to talk to everyone, my thoughts are with those affected."



LORNE · COUNTRY · CLUB



*Welcome to the Lorne Country Club
- Visitors always welcome-*

BOOK - PAY - PLAY

online at www.lornecountryclub.com.au

: Golf Green Fees

\$40 18 holes, \$30 9 holes

Clubs & buggies available for hire

: New Tennis Courts

\$30 per court

Racquets & balls available for hire

Non members welcome



www.thepeaklorne.com

*: Catering, Functions & Weddings any time
by arrangement*

0473 381 400

keep updated at

www.lornecountryclub.com.au



From the Deck

Fire, then Flooding Rains

By John Agar

There will inevitably be some recriminations directed [on this occasion, a mite unfairly] at ‘the authorities’—and especially the Bureau of Meteorology [BoM]—after the damaging flash floods along the GOR ... especially as they occurred synchronously with a destructive and conjoining duo of bushfires at nearby Cape Otway, Carlisle River, and Gellibrand.

Even as lurid red skies and plumes of superheated smoke were blanketing the ranges from the west, it seemed unthinkable that coincident and highly-localised flood epicentres might hit the eight eastern slope rivers from Kennett River to the Erskine. But it did happen and will not easily be forgotten.

On ‘Deluge Day’, I posted a possible mechanism on the Lorne Facebook page—a theory that was later separately confirmed by the CFA fire chief. The post read as follows:

“The deluge was likely the chance coincidence of a plume of superheated air from a bushfire in the western half of the Otways meeting wet, cold, heavily spray-laden air from a seasonal easterly sweeping in and up over the steep eastern slopes, the two colliding at Mt Cowley, the Otways’ highest point. When the hot bushfire air blocked the usually harmless dispersal of the wet easterly front across the ranges and stopped it at Mt Cowley, it condensed it into a dense fog and sudden heavy rain that fell without warning in a very localised area at the top of the eastern slopes. The water then barrelled back down the short, steep ravines that form the Kennett, Wye, Separation, Jamieson, Cumberland, Sheoak, George, and Erskine rivers, turning their seasonal near-dry beds into eight raging torrents that then rushed to the sea. This rare combination of a western slope fire and an easterly slope storm translated into a sudden, highly damaging flood event that caused unparalleled coastal mayhem, the likes of which few [if any] can recall. I feel for all those affected—especially the campers along our usually pristine streams—but it is highly improbable that there will be a repeat occurrence.”

I do pity the BoM and the emergency service personnel who do their best to predict, warn, and respond. While I am loath to use that profoundly overused word—unprecedented—this recent flood event has been truly so, at least in the recorded history of our region. While floods similar in water height and campground destruction occurred in 1946, 1973 and 1985, it was ‘speed’ and ‘ferocity’ that will stand

2026 apart. As for the hapless folk at the BoM?... it is another undeniable case of “be damned if you do or be damned if you don’t”.

It is easy to be critical—but much harder to be grateful—for the best efforts of our fellow humans, fallible as we all are, in their constant struggle to ‘keep us all safe’. Indeed, they do try, and they do warn—and warnings did go out, albeit they were too late for any coordinated action to be taken. However, the unique circumstances that gave rise to this ‘event’ occurred so abruptly that the emergency systems did well to get any warnings out at all.

What, then, of our warning systems? While these are now generally well established, perhaps more thought should be given to their nuancing, triaging, grading, and targeting. Blanket alarms—now endlessly broadcast through the Vic Emergency app—can perversely have a reverse effect. If overused—especially as high wind warnings seem to be—minds dull when looking out the window at leaves still deathly still. Overused warnings risk desensitising the community by ‘crying wolf’. Then, when an alert really matters, it may be ignored or sent to smartphone trash cans, negating its relevance.

Pairing the Aesop phrase ‘crying wolf’ and ‘weather warnings’ in the now-ubiquitous Google AI, the following [significantly abbreviated] response returned:

“The BoM issues a specific and serious ‘sheep grazer warning’ when a combination of cold temperatures, rain, and wind chill is expected—conditions that pose significant risks of death from hypothermia, particularly for freshly shorn sheep and new lambs.

There is, however, a potential danger of issuing too many warnings ... of ‘crying wolf’ ... that desensitise the general public to real threats, reduce the effectiveness of future alerts, and lead to public complacency and inaction when genuine, life-threatening events occur.

A nuanced warning system is likely a hellishly difficult task, and as a simple Joe Citizen and IT Luddite, I certainly don’t have any right answers, but it seems we badly need a more targeted approach.

One option might be to provide users of the Vic Emergency app a tick box option that appears during the initial download and which indicates personal relevancies. Alternatively, alerts could be selectively beamed into our personally selected ‘Watch Zones’.

In the end, count two blessings ... no lives were lost, and we can be thankful it didn’t happen at night! But because our topography is prone to flooding, it will happen again. ❶

“The BoM will never get it right every time... they are but human and can only interpret their best responses to the ever-changing data and the ‘algorithms and models’—love ‘em or hate ‘em—they use as predictors.”



GREAT OCEAN ROAD HEALTH

NEWS

LORNE 
medical centre

Albert Street, Lorne VIC 3232

Phone: (03) 5289 4300

Email: enquiries@gorh.vic.gov.au

www.greatoceanroadhealth.com.au

Lunch on Lorne—Friday 27th February 2026

Look Good, Live Well, Support Local

Gather your friends and join us for an unforgettable afternoon of great food, wonderful company and community generosity at our Lunch on Lorne Fundraiser.

**Lunch on Lorne
Friday 27th February 2026
12pm—4pm
Lorne Bowls Club**

Purchase your ticket today at
www.trybooking.com/DHUEx

Celebrating community connections in support of great healthcare right here in Lorne. Spend the afternoon in great company, relax over a beautifully curated long-table lunch featuring local produce, live music and entertainment, in a warm atmosphere.

We encourage you to support our incredible community by wearing an outfit from one of our local retailers, enjoy food prepared locally and help raise funds for our community hospital and health service. Tickets are \$95 per person includes entry, food and entertainment. The day will feature a silent auction and a fashion parade from Deluxe. Drinks will be available at bar prices.

A huge thank you to our lead sponsor the Lorne Op Shop.

Sponsorship opportunities available, please speak to Jessica Culhane—fundraising@gorh.vic.gov.au

2026 Summer Raffle

Our Summer Raffle has started, get your tickets today for your chance to win one of our incredible prizes and help support our great health service. All proceeds from the raffle will go to the Great Ocean Road Health 2025-26 Annual Appeal - raising money to keep great health care close to home for our community. **WE CAN'T DO IT ALONE— WE NEED YOUR HELP.**

Tickets are sold online and in person at our Main Reception at the Great Ocean Road Health Lorne Campus. In person ticket sales will also be available in Lorne main shopping strip, please see our Facebook for dates and times. To purchase tickets, scan the QR Code or follow the link: <https://www.raffletix.com.au/?ref=h27zb>

1st Prize - \$800 gift card for Great Ocean Road Resort, Anglesea

2nd Prize - \$700 voucher Deep Blue, Warrnambool

3rd Prize - \$500 experience in Port Campbell staying at Sea Foam Villas and dining at 12 Rocks Cafe and Bar.



Tickets available online \$10 each or 4 for \$25 at
www.raffletix.com.au/?ref=h27zb

Tickets are available online for \$10 each or discounted for multiple purchases. 2 for \$15, 4 for \$25, 10 for \$50.

The raffle will be drawn on Friday, 27 February 2026 at 5:00 PM



Lunch on Lorne 27th February 2026



Tickets are \$95pp
available online scan the QR code
or visit www.trybooking.com/DHUEx



**GREAT OCEAN ROAD
HEALTH**

Clementine Calling

We are told that when the French monk at Hautervilliers, Dom Perignon (1638-1715), created champagne, he called all his brother monks together and told them; "Come quickly. I am tasting the stars".

So many of us Lornies had a good festive season, plenty of parties and some of us were lucky enough to taste the stars. Hope you didn't see too many....

Thanks to a huge effort by our own angel, hard working Pam Stanhope Plum and all her energetic assistants, the Carol Service was a huge success. Our very own Kindred Choir, school and kinder kids were inspirational. Special guests were a father and daughter duet from Geelong who sang beautifully together. All over town the well-known old familiar tunes could be heard. Even Santa made an appearance bringing joy to all the kids. Who would dare go to the Sidney Myer Music Bowl?

Santa made another appearance on Christmas Day down in front of the Lifesaving Club – He could be seen distributing gifts to all the little kids on the beach. I was wondering if Nick Newton, our famous swimmer who swam the English Channel last year had anything to do with it... Then on New Years Eve the fireworks were a true spectacular thanks to the donations of many Lorne citizens.

In late December some garden enthusiasts had a great time with Stephen Ryan who owns and runs a rare plants nursery in Macedon Village. His partner Craig Lidgerwood is a well know Botanic Artist, who also works as a tutor of Botanic Art at both the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne and the Geelong Botanic Gardens. It would be such fun to go on one of their tours that they lead on behalf of Australians Studying Abroad.

Go out to Qdos and see the very creative Graeme Wilkie's lovely new area. He has built it for the display and sale of ceramics.

Just before Xmas I spied a bunch of Buckles enjoying pizzas at Salonika. This happy family group were celebrating the 40th birthday of Fraser's brother.

The handsome young men like the plumber Tommie Curran were all surfing off the Point over Xmas. Very athletic local lads. Meanwhile those sand grabbing cabanas were being left overnight on the beach much to the annoyance of some Lorne residents.

Down at the beach in front of the pines at the Fat Ladies Beach, dear little friendly Olive Mcildowie can be seen swimming. She is fearless, loves the waves, tells everyone her name, her age (4 ½) and shows off her gorgeous bathing costume.



Sadly, the committee of the Bowls Club has voted against the local Lorne market which was held on Monday nights last summer. It's practice night for the bowlers so they want the carpark. Come on! It's public land and such a shame as it was a truly local event. A sad loss.

Oh, dear what an endurance the first Friday night in January was down at the Aquatic Club – so many people and so hard to find a familiar face. Now it is closing and Clive Goldsworthy is negotiating with Mary Anne to use the Fisherman's Bar at the Pacific Hotel. Soon Jason will be serving coffees 4 days a week down at the Bowls Club.

Some people thought that the Aquatic Club was perfect as it was.

It's a joy to see the Fulton's old George St. home being restored by Will Beveridge and his family. I remember the days when one would greet Bill. He often had an abandoned baby kangaroo in one of his overall pockets, his white cockie Tony out front and his dog too. A great family life has always been part of that home. Good luck Will – it is a huge endeavour but well worth it.

On the main drag if you had visited Deluxe you would have seen Renea's smart black Lorne T-shirt for sale. On the back is a cockie and a plea, "Don't feed the cockatoos". The tourists keep on feeding them.

Renea and Randall's dear little white dog Maggie may be pregnant. No fun for her as it was all done artificially!!

"So many of us Lornies had a good festive season, plenty of parties and some of us were lucky enough to taste the stars. Hope you didn't see too many..."

On Thursday, January 18, 180 millimetres of rain in the Mount Cowley area found its way unexpectedly into our rivers. It was a rare event. After climbing up to a safe spot high above the George River two elderly hikers and a dog were stranded above the west side of the river. They were found by Mathew Hayward and his wonderful neighbour Garry Clarke who had to hack through dense bush. The dog sensed their presence and began to bark, alerting them to the position of the two hikers. Then the remarkable Fraser Buckle (CFA) came to cut a way through the dense bush above the river. The local volunteers with the SES and CFA were fantastic. They followed Fraser's path wearing their bright orange uniforms. After placing one of the hikers on a stretcher, they all walked very carefully to safety the George River paddock avoiding falling down the steep slippery surface into a torrent below. Friendly faces included . Jenny Cerins, Katie from Hah, Di from the exercise classes, Dee from Beachhouse Gifts and Ralph de Bon. Thank you to all the marvellous volunteers who helped to rescue two people.

At the mouth of the Erskine after the deluge, the wreck of the schooner Osprey was revealed. Beached in 1854 and now an amazing wreck showing bits of brass rivets and copper pipes one could just imagine it with its sails packed with wood sailing to Geelong. It soon vanished under sand.

On a gorgeous summery night, some Lornies went to Anglesea to hear the Cologne Chamber Philharmonic perform some wonderful music in the Catholic Church. There was an excellent rendition of Antonio Vivaldi's Four Seasons, a little spoilt by the audience clapping at the wrong time! That never happened when they performed in St Cuthberts pre-Covid! The baritone Jaime Segrelles sang a solo from Handel's Messiah, and we enjoyed Mozart's Salzburg Symphony. A great night for classical music lovers.

Mother of three dear little girls, talented nurse, constant help in Ipsos our own Millie Tahlamanides is now Lorne female tennis champion. There's nothing that young woman can't do! ①

• *Clementine hopes that we can all use the beach safely in February and that there are no bush fires.*



- Complete Home Maintenance -
Plumbing - Carpentry - Painting
General Home Repairs
Friendly Advice
No Job Too Small
Ph: 0478 000 730 Licence VBA 19409

Community Satisfaction Survey *On now*



You may be contacted by an independent researcher during February/March as part of the 2026 Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey.

The annual survey, commissioned by the state government, will ask for your perceptions of Council's performance.

Interviews are via phone and online. You'll be asked for basic demographic information, but not personal details such as name and address.

For more information please call 5261 0600.



Lorne Accounting Group

**HELPING
BUSINESSES LIKE
YOURS ACHIEVE
LONG-TERM
SUCCESS**

- Accounting, taxation and bookkeeping services
- Individuals, partnerships, trusts and companies
- SMSF administration and SMSF auditing
- BAS preparation
- Tax planning and advice
- Budgeting and cashflow forecasting
- Business advisory

Lorne
Level 1 / 136 Mountjoy Parade Vic 3232
Ph: 03 5289 4277

Highton
Level 1 / 2A Bellevue Arcade Vic 3216
Ph: 03 5245 8949

Email
admin@hlgaccounting.com.au



5 MOORHOUSE STREET, LORNE A RESIDENCE OF GRAND DESIGN

A timeless, ground-up architectural renovation by renowned architect Zarinan Gurrie, this exceptional home blends soaring rooflines, expansive timber and glass, designer joinery, stone benchtops and polished timber floors—crafted for generations. Set on an elevated 1,100sqm (approx.) allotment, the balcony delivers breathtaking panoramic views across Lorne and along the coastline to the Aireys Inlet lighthouse.

The home offers five bedrooms, with the fifth ideal as a home office, and a luxurious master suite featuring a walk-in robe, floor-to-ceiling tiling, bath, shower and heated towel rails. The main living level also hosts an opulently appointed kitchen with indoor and outdoor dining zones, seamlessly connected yet thoughtfully separated from the living room, where ocean views, an open fireplace and stone surrounds create a refined retreat. A powder room and home office complete this level.

Designed for flexibility, the lower level includes three generous bedrooms, an additional living room, bathroom, laundry and a coastal viewing deck—perfect for large families or year-round guests. Below, abundant storage, a covered carport/activity area and an “off-the-beach” bathroom add practicality. The fully fenced grounds offer ample off-street parking, established gardens and a five-star environment for pets.

Expressions of Interest close 12 Feb (unless sold prior)

Ian Stewart 0418 522 571
Tyrone Provan 0405 124 799



LORNE TEREMOANA

Escape to a stylish retreat nestled in the heart of Lorne, where modern coastal living meets natural serenity. This architecturally designed townhouse offers a perfect blend of luxury, comfort, and tranquility. Just moments away from Lorne Beach, shops, and cafés, it's the ideal spot for those looking to immerse themselves in the beauty of the Great Ocean Road. Whether you're enjoying a morning coffee on the private balcony or relaxing in the spacious living areas, every corner of this retreat is designed to help you unwind and enjoy your stay.

Inside, the home boasts four beautifully furnished bedrooms, each with a private balcony, ensuring peace and privacy for every guest. With spacious en-suites, air conditioning, and large windows offering leafy views, you'll feel connected to nature. The open-plan kitchen, lounge, and dining area create a welcoming space for socializing, while the kitchen is fully equipped for all your culinary needs. Perfect for groups or families, the home includes modern conveniences like a Smart TV, dishwasher, washing machine, and more.

Outside, you can enjoy the fresh coastal air on any of the three balconies, or relax in the private courtyard.

www.greatoceanroadholidays.com.au

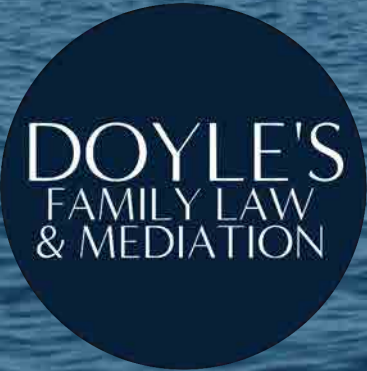
LORNE HOLIDAY RENTAL

RENTAL

LORNE PERMANENT RENTAL AVAILABLE

1/7 William Street, Lorne
3 bed, 1 bath, \$685 pw, available now

From the team at Great Ocean Road Real Estate



DOYLE'S
FAMILY LAW
& MEDIATION

WE CALM THE COMPLEX

www.doylesfamilylaw.com.au
Melbourne & Lorne

BORTOLOTTOINTERIORS.AU
0418951155



BORTOLOTTO
INTERIORS

**Country
and Waters**
SURF COAST SHIRE COUNCIL E-NEWS



**SCAN THE QR TO
SUBSCRIBE**

Want to know what's happening across the shire?

From local legends and events to Council decisions and engagement opportunities, our monthly electronic newsletter is the best way to stay across Council news.

Subscribe at
news.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/cw-subscribe.

surfcoast.vic.gov.au



In the Skies
RESTAURANT & BAR



@ LORNE BOWLS CLUB
35 MOUNTJOY PDE LORNE, GADUBANUD COUNTRY
BOOKINGS VIA
intheskies.com.au ~ or text 0474260746
social media: @intheskieslawn

Why do GORCAPA leave some removed weeds on the ground?

By Penny Hawe

Periodic grumblings about Lorne’s vegetation management prompted Friends of Lorne and Friends of Queens Park to ask GORCAPA to explain the logic. Here is what we learned from Scott Hives and Kim Hammond in a recent webinar.

Why is the coast tea tree ultimately to come out of most places? Wasn’t it planted to stabilise the soil?
Yes. But after a while it did more harm than good. In some situations, when it’s young it is dense and provides great habitat. But as it ages, nothing grows well beneath it. It creates great voids where understory species should be. This means that a fox at one end of the stand can easily see all the way through to the small mammals and birds looking for a place to hide. Removing Coast Tea Tree increases overall biodiversity and dune health, and enables complex vertical structure in our vegetation, crucial habitat for native species.

GORCAPA will keep a green screen to maintain privacy to the dog beach, yes?
Yes. We will start thinning the tea on the dog beach from mid next year onwards. But we will be careful to do in a way to make sure we create no more gaps. We know you don’t want to see more traffic.

You revegetated some areas where the tea tree was. Things seem to be springing back pretty well. So why are you now wanting to allow things to regenerate naturally rather than planting out new seedlings?
Previously after the removal of large stands of woody weeds (Coast Tea Tree, Sweet Pittosporum or other species) we would revegetate immediately. This was to establish ground cover to minimise weed regrowth and re-establish the site as quickly as possible. Over time we observed several indigenous species germinating naturally after the weeds were removed. Nature doing what it does best. We have found that by letting the site naturally regenerate for the first year we are seeing the natural seedbank bounce back. This decreases costs and staff time and minimises soil disturbance, which is important in these sensitive areas. But we still conduct revegetation in areas where natural regeneration struggles (old kikuyu patches) and in the second year of sites when natural regeneration hasn’t succeeded.

It’s been frustrating in Queens Park to hack out pittosporum and then see GORCAPA leave it there (continuing to drop seeds) instead of carting it away.
We acknowledge this. But from our point of view,

we need to manage a large landscape with limitations in staffing and time. The time we could spend driving in (if access allows), dragging it out and carting it away would be better spent cutting down more mature pittosporum. Yes, it will seed one last time while it’s heaped up. But the time not spent dragging material out can be dedicated to removing more mature plants, decreasing the overall seed produced over the site. We can remove the seedlings, which won’t produce seed for a couple of years, that result from this quite easily – all of this follow up work is fed into our works plan, ensuring all sites started are followed up, either at 6-month, 1 year or 2-year intervals.

Why do you leave dead trees and shrubs everywhere? It’s pretty unsightly.
It provides habitat. That’s what matters. It does not take long for new growth to cover things up. We try to keep things natural. It’s not managed like we would manage an urban public park. In some areas (such as the Swing Bridge site) we remove the material cut to create space of revegetation and minimise fuel loads. In other, more ‘natural’ areas we leave the cut material, which creates habitat and allows the team to cover a larger area.

Can you give us a ‘health check’ on the sections you manage? What are you pleased about? What is concern? What is to happen next?

Doug Stirling track	Species list developed for revegetation of Periwinkle patches which have been controlled. Waiting on soil testing to determine if gums can be replanted. Indigenous grassland species continue to be supported through brush cutting and herbicide application.
Foreshore, main beach	This area is maintained for public use and access by our Coastal Operations team.
Foreshore, in front Mantra	As per above. We’ve controlled weeds in the areas that the hooded plovers are breeding but have no scope to remove Coast Tea Tree.
Swing Bridge and Erskine River	Swing Bridge site is looking good, continuing to weed and monitor vegetation growth.
Erskine River, north bank near the supermarket	Contractors have conducted small amount of work. This site is extremely weedy. Due to proximity to river and topography weed management is limited.
Bert Alsop	This site is coming along wonderfully – most objectives in the Coastal Vegetation Strategy have been met and sites where Coast Tea Tree were removed are becoming quite established.
Stony Creek	Site is looking ok – still ongoing weeding occurring.
Queens Park, George St	The team have completed works in the area, making a significant difference to weed coverage. South African Weed Orchid popping up in areas.
Queens Park, Slaughterhouse site	Works continue – significant decrease in weed coverage on this site.
Other	Note – the Lorne conservation team also conduct weed control in Aireys Inlet. We prioritise High and Medium rated sites within the CVS first.

“Removing Coast Tea Tree increases overall biodiversity and dune health, and enables complex vertical structure in our vegetation, crucial habitat for native species.”



Marram Grass Adjacent The Bert Alsop Track

You said that one of the best things we could do is pull out marram grass on the beach and replace it with spinifex, why?

Marram grass was introduced to stabilise the sand. But it turns out to do more harm than good. It puts down a vertical root which means that as the sand moves it creates shelves, cliffs or drop off. Too steep for beach nesting birds. Spinifex, by contrast, provides a place to hide and nest and the roots hold the sand in a more dynamic way.

How do you monitor your effectiveness? How do you know when to change tack or alter the strategy?

Every 5 years the Coastal Vegetation Strategy is reviewed by an ecologist. They provide overall decrease in weed coverage and provide status updates on the objectives set. During this 5-year period we conduct internal reviews of objectives, ensuring high priority sites are being completed. Added to these we conduct vegetation transect lines to monitor vegetation diversity and growth where large stands of weeds have been. What we mean is, we lay down a line of string across a plot and systematically measure what grows around it. The Conservation Ecology Centre (Barbara Wilson) also conducts research on whether what we are doing is right.

Can you give us some examples of where you have changed your mind and altered the vegetation management strategy?

The Lorne Swing Bridge site is a good example of this; through consultation we altered our approach. We took out just half of what we planned at first. Replanted. Now we are monitoring the regrowth. It's going well.

Some of our volunteers are getting on a bit. It can be daunting to show up and find we are pulling out ivy, for example. Would it be possible to provide a rating scheme for sites? That way we know in advance if it's easy, medium or hard.

We could investigate a rating system. We make an effort to provide activities that are accessible for all. This allows everyone to participate. On each site there is usually a mix of easier or harder tasks. We can make that clearer. We have highlighted the key sites that most people can help with. Lorne is a beautiful area, but its diverse landscapes and rolling hills makes weeds hard to access in places.

In your view what are some of the best things for volunteers to do?

Well, that's your choice. I will just say that we would not be able to do half as much of what we do along the coast if it were not for our dedicated volunteer groups. We really thank you for that. Some groups decide to concentrate just in one or two areas and that becomes "their spot." That can be really satisfying. For example, now that hoodies have started coming to Lorne you might want to concentrate on the marram grass. Stony Creek is a Lorne Care success story because of the concentrated effort there. But it's up to you.

Many thanks for the detail, Scott and Kim. Find out more about Lorne's environment on our website. ⑩

*Penny Hawe. Friends of Lorne
friendsoflorne.org.au*

"Every 5 years the Coastal Vegetation Strategy is reviewed by an ecologist. They provide overall decrease in weed coverage and provide status updates on the objectives set."

Op Shop Buzz

By Wendy Jarratt

The Quiet Achievers

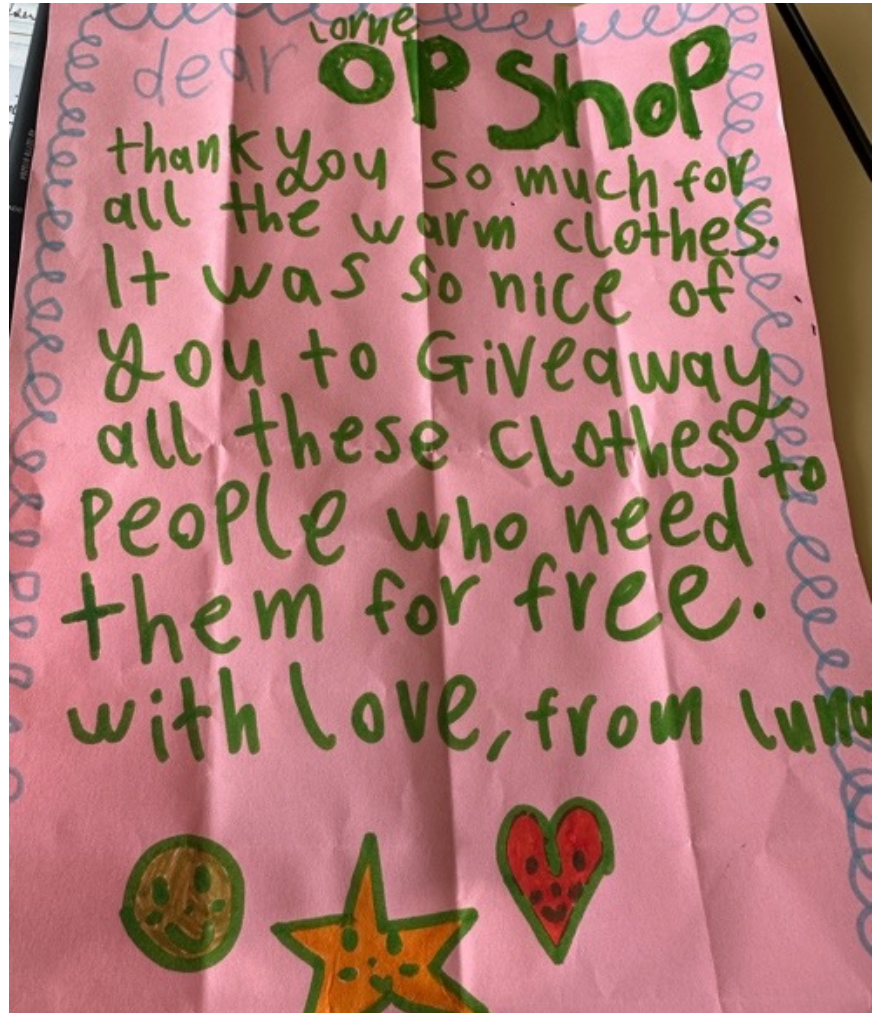
From its earliest days, the Lorne Op Shop has been an integral part of the Lorne Community, both before and after we had a stand-alone shop.

We are quietly proud of what we achieve, providing funds to help a multitude of health-related causes in Lorne and often a much broader area. However, you are unlikely to read about us on Facebook, other than showcasing the lovely donations we receive. We do not blow our own trumpet and hopefully we never will.

Throughout our long history the Op Shop has been staffed and served by volunteers who are happy to get on with the work at hand and so are the real quiet achievers. One of these is Cal Purdie, who celebrated a milestone birthday this week. Sweet sixteen Cal and wishing you a HAPPY HAPPY BIRTHDAY. Cal would not like to be made a fuss of but I can by saying she has been an Op Shop member for over 30 years. She and Helen, her Op Shop buddy are an institution on their weekly shift with their inimitable style.

All along the volunteers have kept out of the limelight. Even when they built and opened their first (and only) shop in 1971 there was no party or formal marking of the occasion. It was work as usual. We have more of a "profile" these days but hopefully not too much.

In this day and age of self-praise - before, during and after an event - you will find us, heads down just getting on with it. We are too busy for self-promotion. However, we don't mind receiving an unsolicited thank you. ①



(Above) A letter was given to us by a young girl in appreciation of goods given to flood affected people in mid-January.



NICHOLLES
Family Lawyers

(03) 5292 8881

Melbourne, Geelong, Surf Coast, Bellarine

- Separation & Divorce
- Binding Financial Agreements
- Property Settlements
- Family Violence & Intervention Orders
- Children & Parenting Matters

nicholeslaw.com.au

SHAVINGS from the SHED

By Allan Walls

Welcome to the first Shavings from the Shed for 2026.

I don't know where Christmas went to but it seems a distant past event with so much happening in and around Lorne in what would have to be described big events such as fire and flood all happening at the same time.

One day we were thinking of evacuating as our house was enveloped by smoke and the Vic emergency App was going berserk. It's hard to think what items in your home can be evacuated (saved) and what can be left. Next day flood warnings everywhere.

On that Thursday I had driven our Barista, aka John Bliss to Geelong for his last but one treatment for his illness, only to arrive at Aireys Inlet to be told by the Police "Do a U turn and sort yourself out".

Great ideas came quickly. Head to the store, purchase some sausages and wine in case we got stuck in North Lorne. The store was closed due to no power. Then off to Deans Marsh to purchase the required items in case we had to spend the night in a fellow Shedder's House in North Lorne as the Erskine River Bridge was closed.

With further quick thinking we decided to take the Mt. Sabine to Benwerrin Road and come back down the Erskine Falls Road. John was delivered home safely, I had wine to spare, and so to the end of a very interesting Day.

Some will remember the Readers Digest where they had a section called "Life's Like That". I had a call from a fellow Shedders who had a slight problem. Having Family to stay when bushfires threatened his son in-law had a lightbulb moment to put tennis balls in the downpipes and fill the guttering with water. A great idea but the slight problem was that the down pipes were larger than the tennis balls. Not once, not twice but three times. I wonder who will pay a rather large plumbing bill to rectify the problem.

Speaking of floods, we have had what only could be described as a disaster in the Shed. The famous Coffee Machine sprang a leak. To solve this problem an unnamed Shedder turned the water supply off at Stribling Reserve. The next problem was that the Reserve was being used as a Relief centre for the campers who lost their Vans, cars and possessions at the Cumberland and beyond. Therefore, they had to turn the water back on. The Shed spent Friday and Saturday morning being flooded from the water now pouring from the coffee machine.

Our floor coverings were destroyed, our coffee machine rendered broken beyond reasonable repair. All need replacing and as I am writing this a new coffee machine is coming and floor coverings arriving soon.

A fabulous offer from the Op shop to assist financially combined with offers from several members and an insurance claim means we will be back on track sooner than a month passes and I need to do another Shavings. I'll let you know how it goes.

Meanwhile Members are still fixing, planning and tinkering with many and varied projects at the Shed. We have engaged a company to remove the lead from the "Marion" boat to keep our members safe and away from potential lead poisoning. As in life, "Timing is everything".

The day before all the above-mentioned events happened, our President suddenly fled the Country for holidays in far unknown places thus avoiding all these dramas at home. I wonder how did David know.

Looking forward to hearing "Coffee's On".

Keep safe and well. 🇺🇸

"Our floor coverings were destroyed, our coffee machine rendered broken beyond reasonable repair. All need replacing and as I am writing this a new coffee machine is coming and floor coverings arriving soon."

DAN TEHAN FEDERAL MEMBER FOR WANNON



*My office can assist you with information about
Federal Government services including:*

- ✓ Centrelink
- ✓ National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)
- ✓ Pensions and My Aged Care
- ✓ Medicare
- ✓ Australian Taxation Office (ATO)
- ✓ Veterans' Affairs
- ✓ Immigration, citizenship and passports
- ✓ Australia Post
- ✓ Telecommunications (broadband and mobile coverage)



Please fill
out my
30 second
survey



Dan Listens, Dan Cares, Dan Delivers!

Hamilton: 190 Gray Street, Hamilton VIC 3300

Warrnambool: 158 Koroit Street, Warrnambool VIC 3280

📞 1300 131692 📧 dan.tehan.mp@aph.gov.au

🌐 dantehan.com.au 📘 DanTehanWannon 📺 dantehan

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

Sportsbriefs

By John Ford, sports editor

Mother Nature – she’s not a good sport!

The week leading up to the annual Pier to Pub swim saw very hot weather and dangerous winds causing the declaration of Extreme Fire Danger days. There were also numerous bushfires across the state with some serious fires within our own district. Sport is low on the list of priorities when it comes to lives and property being threatened. There is never good timing for these weather events, but Mother Nature dealt out some cruel timing when it came to sport!

The annual Mountain to Surf run from Lorne to Allenvale and return via the St George River track was cancelled. This had been scheduled for the morning of Friday 9th January but the extreme conditions meant it would have been totally unsafe to venture into the forest – in fact the National Parks had been officially closed. While some intending competitors decided to do a ‘virtual run’ at another time and record their efforts, this is a poor imitation of a run where you should be competing with other runners alongside you.

On the same day Lorne’s cricket team was to play against Forrest in a day/night match at Stribling Reserve. This was to be a real ‘marquee event’ for the club including being an important fundraiser with a large number of spectators expected. This match was postponed and held the following Saturday – see Cricket Report below.

The following day, January 10th, the 46th annual Pier to Pub swim was held in slightly better conditions, but into quite a strong northerly headwind. Despite the weather in the days leading up to the event the sea on the day was relatively calm offering good conditions for the 5,000 or so swimmers. Lani Pallister was the outstanding achiever by winning the Open Female category for the seventh successive time! The 23 year old Pallister’s time of 12 min 50 sec saw her come in ahead of Dakota Mathers and Sophie Jacka who also recorded excellent times. The Open Men category was won by Sam Short in 11min 52sec ahead of Nick Sloman and William Petric. Well done to all participants, organisers and sponsors for the great success of this event. Meanwhile the Lorne Surf Lifesaving Club is to be congratulated on conducting another very successful beach patrol and Nippers program again this year.

Lorne Cricket

Lorne’s cricket team was able to play their day/night match against Forrest on Saturday 17th January after having been postponed from the previous week. Lorne won the toss and elected to bat first in breezy overcast conditions. Lorne was quickly in trouble losing three early wickets due to some fast accurate bowling. At this stage Lorne was needing to stabilize

the innings, but it was not to come yet. When captain Jack Belsar-O’Connor was dismissed, the score was 5 for 56, and Lorne appeared to be headed for a paltry total. The innings was rescued by Ryan Heathcote and Alex Marchesani who put on an impressive 114 run partnership. This was followed by important contributions from the lower order batsmen who were able to take Lorne’s total to 7 for 209 at the end of their forty overs. Ryan Heathcote with 47 and Alex Marchesani in his first match for the club with 50 not out were the key batsmen for Lorne.

Forrest’s innings was quickly put under pressure by strike bowling from Brett Carey and young gun Zac Hollmer. Alex Marchesani and Vinith Andaraweera were the next line of bowlers to keep applying pressure to the Forrest batsmen. These bowlers were greatly aided by good field settings and high-quality catching – in fact six of Forrest’s batsmen were out caught! This pressure from all over the field meant that Forrest was unable to create even one meaningful partnership, eventually falling for just 47 runs!

Zac Hollmer finished with the figures of 3 for 20, Brett Carey 2 for 20, with Vinith and Alex also contributing 2 wickets each. The final scores show a massive win by Lorne, but for much of Lorne’s innings it seemed as though it was going to be a real struggle. The enthusiastic crowd was treated to a barbecue, snack foods and drinks from the bar. The raffle conducted during the match raised money with proceeds shared by Lorne and Forrest CFA brigades – a great initiative. Well done to both clubs.

Lorne’s next matches are 31st Jan at home against City United, 7th Feb away to Simpson and 14th Feb at home against Apollo Bay. It would be great to see a large crowd on 14th February where Lorne take on Apollo Bay at Stribling Reserve in the annual ‘pink stumps’ match raising money for cancer research and support. We will see you there!!!

Tennis Results

The Lorne Country Club held their annual singles tennis championship during January. Previous champions in Steph Fry and Josh Frydenberg could not play this year due to injury concerns and the new champions are the younger and up and coming guns of the club. The women’s champion is Amelia (Millie) Talimanidis who beat Issy Fry 6-1,1-6,6-1. The men’s champion is David Sousa who was runner up last year. David beat Stephen Gorenstein 6-2,6-1.



“Sport is low on the list of priorities when it comes to lives and property being threatened. There is never good timing for these weather events, but Mother Nature dealt out some cruel timing when it came to sport!”

AROUND THE GREEN at the Lorne Bowls Club

By Brendan Tunstall

12 of the 14 rounds have now been "completed" and Finals games (and wins) are well and truly in the thinking of both the Midweek Division 2 side and the Weekend Division 2 side. As a Statewide Total Fire Ban was declared, Round 12 was cancelled and match points were shared between the competing sides.

In Round 11, the Midweek Division 2 side defeated Colac City in what has become our customary type of win-another "nail biting" finish -74 to 70. Lorne is second on the ladder and we are patently aware that Cressy deserves to be the top team given that Cressy convincingly defeated us in Round 10. But that was then! Round 13 is away at Derrinallum and hopefully the long journey will be comfortable enough for us to be at our Bowling best-assuming no Total Fire Ban!

Lorne still has four of the six top ranked Midweek players all of whom play in a very settled team-Duncan Leckie, Jeff Reddie, Dale Ridgeway and Pearl McIver.

Weekend Division 2 is currently on top of the ladder by the barest margin. But we are very happy to be deservedly sitting there! Cobden showed us how tight the competition is at the top having defeated us at Cobden in very trying conditions in Round 11. Round 13 will be at home against 5th placed Colac City.

This Div 2 side currently has four of the eight leading players in this Division namely Peter Steven, Leigh McIlvenny, Steve "What's a Hot Dog made from" Donne and Brad Weetman.

After Weekend Division 3's convincing win in Round 9, losses in Rounds 10 against Colac Lake and 11 against Cobden have positioned us one win ahead of the bottom side. Round 13 will be away against Camperdown Magpies who are one rung above us on the ladder. An achievable win.

The Div 3 side leading players are Lizzie Lugg, Jeff Reddie, John Bliss and Karen Ridgeway. We anxiously look forward to John's healthy return next Round.

Congratulations go to our playing coach Leigh McIlvenny on winning the Club's Mens Singles Final and as a result being eligible to compete in the Corangamite Playing Area Champion of Champions Men's competition. Likewise, our Club's Women's Singles winner Donna Issell is competing in the Women's Champion of Champions competition. We can proudly report (or is it boast) that both of our Champions are winners and are competing in their respective semi-finals. Really we can boast on their behalf as they are competing against champions from Division 1 sides.

On Sunday January 18 the Annual Invitation Open Triples Day sponsored and so terrifically supported by the Stribling Family was played in perfect conditions at the Club. The winning team was from Colac Lake while the second and third teams were from Lorne-phew. Birregurra and Winchelsea were not to be denied-they won the magnificent raffles.

Next up is the Mixed Pairs competition which is being held at the Club on Australia Day. Looking ahead, the Men's and Women's 21 Up in which all playing members compete, is being conducted throughout February.

Recent events in and around the community of Lorne have impacted our members in various ways. Dorothea Mackellar, "My Country" ring a bell?

A listening ear or a helping hand might just be what is needed by those who have witnessed the loss of treasured things and possibly more, those of us who volunteer in the S.E.S and the C.F.A and other helping organisations, those who quietly go about assisting at the Relief centres or host families affected by "flooding rains".

Remember, that a welcome break can always be had at the Lorne Bowls Club where Simon and Crew can provide a coldie of whatever you fancy, a meal or for the more adventurous-a game of "barefoot"bowls.

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

"A listening ear or a helping hand might just be what is needed by those who have witnessed the loss of treasured things and possibly more, those of us who volunteer in the S.E.S and the C.F.A and other helping organisations, those who quietly go about assisting at the Relief centres or host families affected by "flooding rains".

SUPERCHARGE THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

LIVE WIRE PARK




Visit Lorne's outdoor adventure park
Pricing and bookings: livewirepark.com.au



HANDY MART

LOCAL LORNE HANDYMAN SERVICES

- RETAINING WALLS
- SHED CONVERSIONS
- DECKS/PERGOLAS
- REPAIRS
- RESTORATIONS
- LANDSCAPE CARPENTRY SPECIALIST

HAVE HAMMER, WILL FIX!

FOR FRIENDLY LOCAL
TRADES ASSISTANCE

CALL MARTY TODAY!

0450 155 427

martinjrolfe@hotmail.com

ABN: 98 369 095 104



Keith Miller LACC
Commodore



CLUB NEWS

Last Summer In The Old Girl Ever

The countdown has started for us closing. On the day of writing this GORCAPA still hasn't signed up a builder for the redevelopment. Our sub-committee had a meeting with them to ask for an extension so we could stay open until a builder has been appointed and was ready to start but unfortunately our request was turned down so we are still closing on the 27th of this month.

In the mean time the club is firing on all cylinders with Hutch and his gun team being kept busy behind the bar serving up our world famous coldest and best beer, wine and mixed drinks. Something that has surprised us is that the average age of our members this summer has plummeted by about 25 years.

This has changed the type of drinks being purchased considerably with Aperol being the go this year. We have set up a dedicated Aperol bar in the BBQ area and Kate who is one of our new young ladies is mixing them at a pace that could get her a place in the *Guinness Book of Records*. Committeeman BT and local legend Tommy Curran have been helping her out. Kate, Ben and Josh all looking gorgeous with their Leis on our first Hawaiian Shirt Wednesday. I don't know who the old bloke is in the background. Probably just some photo bomber.

Reminder. It's members only until we close
You can still purchase a membership.

Fishing Comp News

We will be holding our first Fishing Comp for the year on Sunday 25th January 2026.

We have decided to run the Major Fishing Comps only this year because after the first one we won't have our clubhouse and will have to set up a marquee and BBQ somewhere nearby which will mean a lot more work for our wonderful volunteers.

The fishing comp calendar for 2026 is as follows:

25th January
8th March
5th April
7th June
20th September
1st November



(Left): Our first ever working pier back in 1961.

RECENT EVENTS

Our First Hawaiian shirt Wednesday For 2026

Sponsored By Lighting Options Geelong & Surf Coast

It was a great night with a huge crowd. We had about 100 Hawaiian shirts being worn with some rippers amongst them. Jody was our judge for the night.

Maz & Baz Honorary Members

Occasionally we award members who help out around the club above and beyond with an Honorary Membership. For this they get free membership for a year and their names printed in gold leaf onto our Honorary Members Board which is displayed above the bar. These two are exceptionally wonderful, generous, popular, loved and hard working members. I've run out of nice words. So a big congratulations to Marijon & Barry Church. AKA, Maz & Baz.

FISHING REPORT

There were big snapper everywhere around Christmas time with lots being caught. They are still about but not as prolific. Still lots of Gummy Sharks, Flathead, Pinky's, Nannygai, Sweep and Blue Mackerel coming in. The King George Whiting are about but not in big numbers yet. The water temperature is down slightly compared to the last few years but it's a beautiful blue colour and very clear. I noticed large areas of the pink plankton gathering out wide a week ago but luckily we've had some offshore winds since so hopefully it gets blown away from us.

Ed the Machine with the biggest Red Mullet I've ever seen PIER

It's still extremely well with lots of big Calamari being landed along with the usual, Snapper, Salmon, Mullet, Whiting, Trevally and Flathead. It's also had a couple of big White Pointers having a sniff around the pylons.



(Above): This bloke was our winner for the night. Unfortunately, I didn't get his name, but if you look closely you can see that he had it especially made with our logos on it.



(Above): Honorary Member, Marijon & Barry Church.



Shark Swim

By Bernie Blackall

Funny Thing... 3 days Before Xmas

I have a permanent caravan in Kiaora park by the Erskine River and my favourite fortnight each year is mid-December. I'm a teacher of more than 40 years experience, formerly PE and presently Geography in Melbourne.

Every morning when I'm in Lorne I swim out to the pier and back with the Lorne deep sea swimming group. We assemble at the Lorne Lifesaving Club at 8am each day and the size of the group varies from day to day.

On the morning of December 23rd, we swam out. Strangely enough all our group of 20 odd turned back halfway at the pumping station.

This is where we stop and those who swim on to pier keep going and the rest return.

I was feeling good and swimming strongly, so I kept going. I became aware I was alone...strange because there's nearly always a small pod who crack on for the full "out and back experience".

Not so on Tuesday. It seemed a little bit weird. But I swam on. I reached the pier like everyday.

It's always beautiful out under the pier. I rest on my back and I watch the swallows dart about overhead. I watched a large stingray below. I floated serenely and admired the sea life. I gathered my strength for the return swim.

Then I swam back to the surf club, showered, and was in Moons having coffee when I received this from my mate.

And...

I realise might have bumped into a large (ish!) predator.

A large ish 4 metre... white pointer! Missed by moments.

The top of the food chain. OMG.

(As a friend quipped – Bernie you've lost lots of weight since last summer Big White clearly prefers fat bastards) 🐾



GORCAPA Report

Experienced Victorian construction company Bowden Corporation has been appointed to deliver the Point Grey redevelopment project in Lorne.

Selected through a competitive tender process, Bowden Corporation brings a strong track record in delivery across the Great Ocean Road region and will support local jobs during construction, with offices in Geelong and Warrnambool and through the use of local sub-contractors.

The project is funded through the \$676 million Geelong City Deal, an investment between the Australian and Victorian Governments and the City of Greater Geelong to unlock the potential of the region's visitor economy.

Construction will begin in early February 2026.

Redeveloping Point Grey will revitalise the iconic site for local residents and visitors, with new and improved facilities, including:

- improved traffic flow, parking and public open space, walking paths and new facilities for visitors, community events and fishing
- a new Co-Op that includes a vibrant new hospitality offering, display spaces for the Lorne Historical Society and accessible public toilets
- a new Aquatic and Angling Club building that includes an outdoor area and a public fish cleaning facility
- recognition of the Eastern Maar people's connection to country, as well as the site's maritime, and timber history through display spaces, signage, sculptures, and other design features.

Bowden Corporation will explore all options to maintain community access to the Doug Stirling Track, Lorne pier and boat ramp during construction where feasible and safe.

Stay up to date with the project here: <https://tinyurl.com/ydmcdbmc>



**Wise Heart
Eco-friendly
Cleaning**

wiseheartservices.com.au

Phone 0419 687 019

**DAWSONS
CONCRETING
LORNE**

DRIVEWAYS SLABS PATHS
ALL TYPE OF CONCRETE
RETAINING WALLS

No job too big or too small
Free quotes

Phone 0404 892 204

TrickeyBros.

PLUMBING | EXCAVATION | ROOFING

info@trickeybros.com.au

03 5289 5211

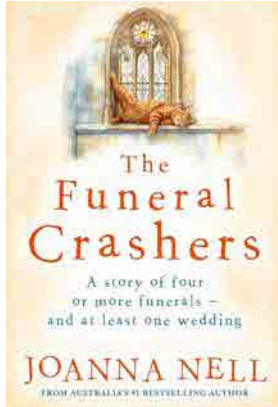


lorne books

Picks of the Month



FICTION: The Funeral Crashers by Joanna Nell



A delightfully heartwarming story of four or more funerals and at least one wedding, from the bestselling author of *Mrs Winterbottom Takes a Gap Year*.

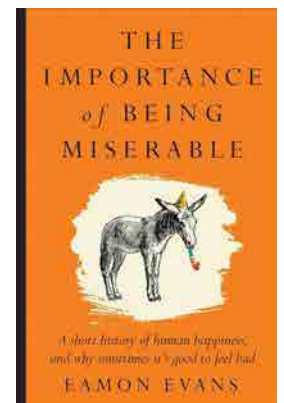
Told from the dual perspectives of Grace and Martin, who lead very different lives but who are on paths that will intertwine along the way. Grace is a retired teacher that is struggling to fill in her days. Martin is a retired university professor trying to cope with having his mother Edwina living at his house.

Yes, it is a book about death and dying, but also about grief and learning to live and love again. Joana Nell tackles these subjects with sensitivity and just the right amount of humor to keep the reader invested.

NON-FICTION: The Importance of Being Miserable by Eamon Evans

It turns out that, for a huge chunk of history, feeling good was the furthest thing from our minds. Expecting life to be fun and fulfilling (or, if all else fails, fine) is actually a very recent phenomenon. And there's every reason to think that it's making us sad.

A playful tour of Western 'progress', from ancient philosophers to modern-day pop stars via pills, priests, Proust and the plague, *The Importance of Being Miserable* explores how, why and when we all started to pursue happiness. And why feeling bad may not actually be all that bad.



Children's Fiction: Hello Cockey by Hilary Bell and Antonia Presenti



From treetops to rooftops, follow Australia's most mischievous bird in this exuberant celebration of the cockatoo.

Who rules the skies from back garden to bush, Launching from trees with a screech and a whoosh? Bossy and smart, loves to put on a show, Who could it be now? Why, Cockey - hello!

With playful rhyming text and bold, graphic illustrations, award-winning creators Hilary Bell and Antonia Pesenti celebrate the unique spirit and curiosity of the cockatoo.

www.lornebooks.com

108a Mountjoy Parade, Lorne

Free local delivery

Ph: 5289 2489